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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1915.

WILL SPEAK FOR THE WEST.

The opinion of the West on water-power legislation will be expressed by the conference of delegates representing twelve states which is to meet in Portland in September, not by conferences packed with Government officials and with advocates of the Pinchot policy of conservation. The readiness with which eleven other states have accepted Oregon's invitation is an earnest of their deep interest in the subject. We may expect from the conference a clear, firm statement of the right of the states to control their own water and the declaration of a policy for the maintenance of that right. The West can fairly attack the policy embodied in the Ferris bill on the grounds of both state rights and public expediency.

The Ferris bill violates the rights of the states because it assumes to dispose of the property of the states. Courts, both Federal and state, have repeatedly declared that the waters of each state are the property of that state, subject to disposition according to its own laws. The Ferris bill makes a pretense of recognizing this right by providing that persons or corporations which obtain leases of Government power sites must first obtain water rights under state law. Yet the provisions of the state laws are such that no person can comply with them until he has obtained a power site and has made expenditures on improvements which no man in his senses would make until he has a clear right to the land for his enterprise. The Ferris bill also proposes to exact a rental for both land and water to be fixed by the Secretary of the Interior and to be paid to the Federal Government, although the water belongs to the state. The ratio of land value to water value is about one to fifty, but the Ferris bill proposes to hand over to the state only one-half of the revenue and to restrict the uses to which this half shall be applied. The states deny the right of the Government to dispose of their property and of its income.

There is grave question whether the Nation has a right to lease the public domain without the consent of the states. When the Western states were admitted they agreed not to tax the public domain or to "interfere with the primary disposal of the soil within the same by the United States," but at the time that agreement was made the established policy of the Government was to transfer the public domain to private owners. That was the policy when the original thirteen states organized the Union. In accordance with that policy practically all the public land east of the Missouri River and most of the land between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains has passed into private ownership. It is an established principle of law that all new states shall be admitted to the Union on terms of equality with the already existing states. If the policy of leasing be substituted for that of selling or giving public land, the Western states are placed in a position of permanent inequality with the other states. A large proportion of their area is exempt from state taxation and from the operation of state laws relating to property rights, but the states must bear the burden of enforcing criminal law within these areas. How serious is this burden can be conceived from the fact that 60 per cent of the area of Oregon is in the public domain and is therefore exempt from taxation.

The Western states accepted the terms of their several enabling acts on the tacit understanding that the condition described was only to be temporary and that the public domain would gradually pass into private hands, becoming subject to state taxation and state law, as fast as settlers appeared to occupy and develop it. The leasing of public land would change the conditions governing a contract after the contract was made. This has been held a violation of equity by the courts in controversies between citizens. The same rule should apply between the Union and its member-states. Permanent adoption of the leasing policy would place the Western states in a position of permanent inferiority to those states which have full sovereign power over their entire area. The Western states would be retained in a species of territorial tutelage which is inconsistent with their equality as sovereigns with other states.

Were it possible to remove these serious objections to the Ferris bill, its adoption would be unwise on grounds of expediency. That bill proposes to entrust to the Secretary of the Interior the decision as to the terms on which power sites should be leased. He cannot possibly be familiar with local conditions in all the states concerned, which include the entire area from the Rocky Mountains westward. The office will be occupied by officials changing every four years, no one of whom is likely to follow his predecessor's policy. The Secretary must attend to these duties in conjunction with many others and must necessarily delegate a large part of his duty to subordinates. These subordinates are apt to be bureaucrats who know nothing of the West from practical experience or even observation. Men are not likely to be willing to invest capital in power enterprises when they are to be subject to the changing policies of changing officials.

Further, the effect of leasing by the Government would be to enlarge still further a centralized bureaucracy at Washington which is already swollen to unwieldy size. This machine has grown to proportions which render it inefficient and slow in operation. It performs unsatisfactorily the duties which it has already undertaken and could with advantage be given less instead of more work. The administration of water power can be conducted by the states with better results both to the Government and to the states under a general law governing the disposal of Government power sites. Such a law can contain ample safeguards against that improvidence of which the Pinchotites wrongly accuse the states. Machinery has already been provided by the states for grant of water rights and for control of public utilities and is in effective operation.

The West condemns the Ferris bill because it violates state rights and because it is vicious in itself. Now is the time for the West to unite for a fight to the end against Federal usurpation and centralized bureaucracy. With united forces the West can win and can break the deadlock which has arrested development.

WASTING DOLLARS.

The annual cost of meters—maintenance, depreciation, interest, recording and billing—is about $2.50 each per year. These are the figures given by E. G. Hopson, an engineer, and they are not disputed. Not a single one of these items is necessary under the flat-rate system, although the superfluous business of billing flat-rate consumers is now the practice. There is no good reason why.

The cost of meters for the city will be from $400,000 to $500,000, with an additional maintenance cost of at least $100,000 per annum.

There is not even the excuse of patronizing home industry to be made for the meter venture, since the meters are brought from the East. Not a dollar, except for labor and incidental cost of installation, is expended in Portland.

Who benefits by the $500,000 investment and the $100,000 fixed annual charge? Who pays it?

The reason advanced for meters is that they prevent waste by saving water. There is no excuse for waste under any scheme, and it can be reduced to a minimum under any proper system of inspection.

Portland does not need to save water. But it ought to use water freely, when there are enormous quantities to use.

Under the specious plea that he would not waste the people's water, Commissioner Daly coolly proposes to waste their money.

THE SLOTHFUL AND HIS GARBAGE.

Practically the only excuse for shouldering the expense of a municipal garbage system lies in the fact that accumulations of garbage are neither pleasant nor healthful, yet some persons permit garbage to accumulate.

But it seems that there ought to be some way to compel the neglectful to observe ordinary sanitary precautions such as disposition of table refuse, and still not impose a large additional burden upon taxable property.

The fact that garbage collection is free will not cause any less need of inspection of premises unless it be assumed that no brake is to be placed upon the collection process. Garbage collection must be systematized. The collector cannot hunt for it or go into out-of-the-way places for it. The person so slothful as to let garbage accumulate in his basement at present will be still so slothful under free collection that he must be forced to care for it in such manner that the collectors can get it readily and regularly.

Enforcement of existing laws will go as far toward preventing danger to the public health from garbage as will a properly conducted garbage collection system. Moreover, it will be far less costly.

MAKING DEALS IN THE BALKANS.

Russia's loss of Przemysl is the climax of the series of disasters she has suffered beginning with the battle on the Dunajec River. It comes at a most critical point for the fortunes of Russia and her allies, for Roumania and Bulgaria seem to be on the verge of settling their territorial disputes and, if Greece will but fall in line, of joining Russia in her attack on Austria, and Britain and France in their attack on Turkey. Prudence may deter them from going to the relief of a beaten army, but a longer view of their interests may prompt them to quick decision, for Austro-German victory would end their hopes of expansion at the cost of either Austria or Turkey. Italy was not deterred from joining the alliance by the spectacle of Russia's army driven from the Dunajec to the San, and Roumania, Bulgaria and Greece may be no more restrained by Austria's recovery of Przemysl.

The negotiations under way between Roumania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece promise to undo the work of the Austrian intrigues which brought about the second Balkan war and which provoked bitter enmity between Bulgaria and her recent allies. The original Balkan alliance gave Northern Albania to Serbia, Southern Albania to Greece and the bulk of Macedonia to Bulgaria. By a threat of war Austria deprived Serbia and Greece of Albania. They then claimed compensation in Macedonia at Bulgaria's expense, and Bulgaria began the second war. Alarmed at Austria's backing of Bulgaria, Roumania broke away from Austrian influence and became amenable to that of Russia. She joined Serbia and Greece in the war which caused Bulgaria to lose Macedonia to those two states, and the Dobrudscha to Roumania. She also lost nearly all the territory she had won in Thrace, and Greece took Seres and Kavala, Aegean ports which had been in dispute.

Bulgaria now claims the return of all that was taken from her at that time; in short, she asks for the undoing of all that Austrian interference then did. Roumania and Serbia are willing to make considerable concessions in Macedonia and on the Danube, for the former hopes to recoup herself at Austria's expense and the latter in Albania, but progress of the allied diplomats is blocked by the Queen of Greece, who is the Kaiser's sister, as it was when Venizelos was Premier. The latter advocated the cession of the district between the Struma and the Mesta Rivers with Kavala to Bulgaria, the allies guaranteeing to Greece Smyrna and its hinterland. King Constantine consented, but finally repudiated the Kavala concession.

The game of diplomacy is being played keenly in the Balkans by Germany as well as by her enemies. Bulgaria holds out for her price, for, unlike the other states, she cannot obtain compensation elsewhere for concessions she makes in the Balkan peninsula. Roumania can make large gains in Transylvania and Bukowina, Serbia in Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Dalmatia, Greece in Asia Minor, but the most Bulgaria can hope for is to regain what she lost in 1913 with Thrace down to the Enos-Midia line. The allies have most to offer, and the principal restraining influence must be doubt of their final victory and fear of German-Austrian vengeance. Hence the players watch the fortunes of war and see Germany score in Galicia, while the allies score on the Dardanelles. The latter scene of operations has more direct interest for Bulgaria and Greece, for that way lie the spoils of war for them.

YOUR CHOICE.

If you have a second choice or a third choice, vote it.

But if you have no second choice or third choice, do not vote it.

There is nothing compulsory about second and third choice voting. It is optional with the elector as to whether he shall thus cast an alternative ballot.

It ought to be clear to the voter that in case of a close election, second and third choice votes will decide.

By voting for a candidate as second choice, or third choice, therefore, when the voter has no such choice, or when he is actually opposed to such a candidate, he may aid in defeating his own first choice candidate.

Do not vote either as first, second or third choice for any man whom you are not willing to elect as City Commissioner.

THE CLUBWOMEN.

Persons who attended any of the sessions of the biennial council of the National Federation of Women's Clubs in Portland must have noticed the precision and grace with which the officials conducted their business. Prompt, ready for every emergency, shrewd and decisive, they made the programme move onward without hitch or friction, while at the same time everybody was pleased. Even the delegate who wanted to speak and could not accepted her fate smilingly, knowing that it was all for the best. The officials have been chosen from a membership of 2,000,000 women in the local clubs by a process of rigorous selection, and are naturally of exceptional grace and ability, but the visitor could scarcely help noticing a wonderful alertness and ready wit among the delegates on the floor. There may have been some of that timidity and shrinking futility which is supposed to be characteristic of women, but if there was it was not visible or audible. The speeches were delivered with exquisite clarity and point, and the presence of the speakers was as competent and dignified as one ever sees in public meetings of any assembly in the world.

We mention these matters not so much to compliment the women as to emphasize the progress they are making in public life. Just as the voice and manner of an individual betray unmistakably his origin and education, so the conduct of a business meeting gauges the competence of those who take part in it. The business which came before the council in the course of the Portland sessions was as varied as our National life. It is easy to remember a time when women's clubs were principally concerned with literature and art. The literature was not especially vital and the art was of the sort that one can discover in cyclopedias. Nothing of this sterile effort is discoverable in modern club proceedings. The women still cultivate literature and art. We think few audiences ever listened to a more impressive address on the charms of poetry and the great drama than Mrs. Winters delivered at one of the afternoon sessions. She not only knows about literature, but she knows the thing itself, which is far better. Her quotations from the Greek dramatists and the modern poets exemplified that kind of literary study which pays heavily in the enrichment of the mind and the uplift of the soul.

But the activities of the women's clubs have extended far beyond these interests. Their horizons have widened in every direction of late years. What subject can one think of that they did not discuss at the meetings of the council? Education, the conservation of forests and human life, the welfare of cities, eugenics, the health of school children, nothing human is alien to the keen intelligence and enlightened sympathy of these women. The problems of war and peace particularly claimed their attention. Dr. Jordan's advanced ideas on the prevention of war were addressed to minds that had already pondered the subject deeply. The audience that heard his views were prepared to weigh them as well as to appreciate his philosophy and sympathize with his broad humanitarianism. Not every man who ardently longs for peace is prepared to tell us how to secure it. A very different note was struck by Mrs. J. D. Sherman, of Chicago, who pleaded for a breezier outdoor life and the wholesome democratic influences that would flow from it. The cult of the forests and mountains was her theme. Sport, adventure, the charm of scenic beauty and the exhaustless fountains of health for mind and body that flow from the great outdoor world were the melodies she evoked. And it was interesting to observe that the delegates to the council were as much fascinated by her text and its elaboration as by the more spectacular visions of international politics. They exhibited that genuine catholicity of interest which culture in its best meaning bestows. The most severe critic of the women delegates could not accuse them of any narrowness.

Dr. Lillian Irwin's paper on eugenics led into still another line of thought. Again and again the old idea came out during the sessions that an ounce of prevention is worth tons of cure. Governor Lister expressed it in his remarks upon employing prisoners. It was the gist of all that was said about the welfare of school children. What is an education worth that ruins their bodies and dulls their brains? What is there to say for a home life that turns them out upon the world ignorant, diseased and teeming with criminal proclivities? It is to the credit of the women that they shirked none of these questions. All were faced boldly, and if we must still wait for definitive answers, that is the fault of science itself rather than of these eager students. Dr. Lillian Irwin sees the solution of many a social problem in the development of eugenic teaching and legislation. She holds it to be perfectly clear that the law can help immensely to prevent undesirable marriages and thus keep out of the world a great host of children who can never be of any benefit to society. We dare say we have not yet heard the last of this subject of applying selective principles to birth. It is one of those vital questions that cannot be suppressed. Shall we finally make up our minds that there are too many people in the world and that it would be better to have a smaller population of better stock? Dr. Jordan made much in his extremely illuminative address of the value of "chosen strains." He pointed out the undeniable fact that the world owes to these exceptional strains in the human and animal races all the advances it has made. If we permit them to be killed off in war, if we permit them to be swamped by the countless progeny of the scrub breeds, where shall we turn for hope and progress? It is one of the finest signs of the times that the women's clubs are studying such questions as these.

LIFE OF JITNEYS NOT INVOLVED.

If one will imagine Portland a city without streetcars one will be better able to consider the jitney ordinance on its merits. The jitney is a transportation device pretending to be a public utility. Yet it is operated without regard for public safety or convenience. There are exceptions, but this is the rule.

A city without streetcars would not tolerate such a service a moment. The public would demand to know that after it had accustomed itself to a service over certain routes the cars would not be withdrawn without notice and the public left to walk, the cars to resume the routes when the owners felt so inclined.

But we have the street railway. If the jitneys abandon a route for a few hours or a day or two the public is not inconvenienced. It falls back on the streetcars. We regulate the street railways by specifying a minimum service in the franchise. We regulate other railways by placing over them a state commission with power to require a service consistent with volume of traffic.

There is no particular virtue in the jitney which justifies its operation as an unregulated public utility—unregulated as to service, fares, mechanical defects, incompetency of drivers or interference with other traffic.

The ordinance will regulate jitneys in the particulars mentioned. It is not severe in its terms. It will permit the jitneys to live, else Portland is far different from other cities. Elsewhere they have not been put out of business by much more stringent regulation.

THE LIVE FORCE IN OUR POETRY.

George Santayana, the Harvard philosopher, writes in a discouraged mood about American poetry. The article of his to which we refer is in the current number of the New Republic. He closes it with the remark that "the average human, genteel person with a heart, a morality and a religion is left for the moment without any poetry to give him pleasure or do him honor." This implies that such poetry as we have nowadays is not written for the delight or honor of "genteel persons" with the usual characteristics. Most of it is, in fact, poetry with a purpose, and it is written for the mob who are far from being genteel and whose religion is too nebulous for clear expression. We can discern vague foreshadowings of their creed in the clouds of the human sky, and from their aspect we may make up our minds that it will include a great many things sadly foreign to the older creeds, such things as justice, decent treatment for workingmen and all women, and the like. But what form of words the creed will clothe itself with and whether it will be in prose or verse nobody is able to say just yet.

The most noticeable fact about our current poetry is that it is full of Walt Whitman's influence. The form of expression and the tone of thought and feeling are so manifestly his that we do not understand how Professor Santayana could write that "the manner of the great mystical tramp has not taken root." It certainly has taken root and is more alive than any other tree in the literary forest. We suspect Professor Santayana of a little shortsightedness, a disease which has always afflicted the Harvard sages and most others along the Atlantic Coast. He cannot see anything in the country westward of the Atlantic fog limit. If he could he would begin to appreciate more exactly what Walt Whitman's genius is doing for our literature. "The Spoon River Anthology," for example, which is a typical poetry book of the day, speaks with the voice and heart of "the great mystical tramp." It seems to us that Professor Santayana makes another mistake about Walt Whitman when he says that "the good, gray poet" was "simply mystical, missing the articulation of the great world as well as the constructive mind of his own age and country." In the same mistaken way he says again that Whitman supposed "what was vital in America was only what was absolutely modern and native." This shows how little our greatest poet is understood in our biggest university.

Whitman was not a scholarly man, but he never made the blunder of despising the treasures of the mind and soul that have come down to us out of the past. He declared his independence of the elder teachers, but it does not follow that he scorned them. Whitman's gospel was, like Jefferson's, that the earth belongs to the living, not to the dead, a gospel that the modern Italians have adopted in spite of all their monuments and ruins. But he was willing to take from the departed all they could give that would help him live his own life, and he says so more than once in his poems. The charge that Whitman was "not constructive" misses the mark badly. Whoever thinks the poet was "simply mystical" without a hold on practical questions and constructive thought cannot have read him understandingly. We should not be much surprised to learn that Professor Santayana had not read him at all. The Harvard intelligence has a high and mighty way of dealing with such phenomena as Whitman. It passes judgment on them without the formality of a trial, assuming that, inasmuch as they never graduated at Harvard, no trial is needed. The truth is that we find in Whitman the germs of all our current constructive thought. He foresaw the course democracy would take long before any other pilot.

Whitman wrote before the United States had become a solidly united Nation. The country was an assemblage of semi-independent states, each feeling its own sovereignty a great deal more vividly than the sovereignty of the Federal Government. But that did not keep him from proclaiming the doctrine of National unity with "barbaric yawps." It was his delight to call the men of the East, West, North and South together in the audience hall of the imagination and preach the oneness of the country to them. He had outgrown sectional distinctions years before anybody else but Lincoln had got so far. While the tinny New England poets were still tinkling their little lays, with longing side glances toward England for approval, Walt Whitman had become conscious of our larger life and begun to sing our world-wide destinies. The New Englanders did not know what he was driving at then and they do not understand him now, but the country is growing up to his measure and his fame is sure enough. Take again the matter of women's suppression, which has forced our generation into another constructive march. Whitman saw the wrong of it all and proclaimed the doctrine of liberty for them at a time when such poets as Longfellow and Lowell did not know that women had any minds. The most recent expressions of "feminism" in the current magazines are but weak dilutions of Whitman's mighty aphorisms. Finally, take the gospel of the "triple man," which our friends of the Y. M. C. A. make so much of. They tell us we are not merely minds or souls or bodies, but all three, and that one part of us is just as noble and worthy of cultivation as another. In Whitman's day religion had not become so sensible yet. It was our pulpit and literary fashion to reduce mankind to souls as nearly disembodied as circumstances allowed. Whitman boldly announced that the body was as clean as the soul and just as dear to God. He scandalized the chaste New Englanders. Emerson shivered and cried, "Avaunt," but the country has made up its mind that Whitman was about right.

PROGRESSIVE PRESBYTERIANS.

The Presbyterian General Assembly has wisely decided to let Union Theological Seminary "gang its ain gait." It would have been wiser still had it done so long ago. The theory that the seminary was legally bound to obey the authority of the General Assembly has turned out to be a fiction. It is by its constitution independent and is not obliged to bow to any external theological sovereign. The affairs of Union Seminary have come periodically before the General Assembly on one ground or another and have sometimes been handled discreetly, often foolishly. The complete severance of a tie which never really existed should bring relief all around.

The old enemy of the seminary is a man named Fox, a Presbyterian preacher who seems to have been a little too cantankerous to keep a pulpit. He has no pastoral cares and so he can give all his time to stirring up trouble, an employment which he appears to delight in. His latest move was to present new charges against the seminary, accusing it of heresy naturally, and urging the General Assembly to refuse its graduates the privilege of occupying Presbyterian pastorates.

It is cheering to learn that Mr. Fox' latest scheme has come to naught. The General Assembly acknowledges that it has no jurisdiction over the seminary and thus washes its hands of the miserable business of heresy hunting. No doubt the progress of enlightened ideas in the church is largely accountable for this action. Had a majority of the Assembly wished to torment heretics sufficient grounds for it could have been found readily enough. The encouraging fact is that the majority preferred peace and brotherly harmony. There is no historic or theological reason why the Presbyterian Church should be a reactionary body. Its founder, John Calvin, was one of the most progressive men of his day and his spirit has usually been dominant among Presbyterians almost everywhere except in parts of the United States.

The Scotch Presbyterians have been among the pioneers in Biblical criticism. The English Presbyterian Church has produced great scholars in the modern sense. In the United States the prevailing spirit was somewhat narrower for a time. Just as our lawyers thought they must adore the English common law with all its barbarities exactly as it came across the water, so the Presbyterians clung to "the old standards" as they called the antiquated British theology they had imported long ago. Happily this colonial feeling is now evaporating. The various Presbyterian bodies have ceased to throw excessive emphasis on the trifling differences of their theology and are coming together in one great union which promises to include the Northern, the Southern and the Cumberland branches. This is a good thing for the church and for the cause which it cherishes.

POISONOUS GAS AS A WEAPON.

The horror with which the world learned of the sinking of the Lusitania was equaled in Europe by that which was inspired by the use of poisonous gas in the last attack by the Germans on the allies near Ypres.

The terrible effects of this gas are described by a British army surgeon at the front in Flanders, who, in writing to a friend, was at a loss for language adequately to express his indignation. He says that "never in the course of experiences in savage warfare with the tribes of the Soudan, Ashanti, Northern India, etc., have I met with cases of inhuman torture to equal this poisonous gas procedure of the Germans."

He thus describes the effects of the gas:

> It is, in fact, a slow and painful process of drowning, brought about by total destruction of the lung-tissue, most easily realized by the lay mind by comparing it with the effects of injecting a burning acrid fluid into the lungs, and so killing your victim by long-drawn-out, painful suffocation.

According to this writer, the Germans had been carefully preparing a defense for the use of gas. They charged the allies with having first used it and thus justified their own use of it as reprisals. The surgeon we have quoted says it cannot be a reprisal for pretended British use of gas at Neuve Chapelle, because of "the elaborate apparatus employed and the organization necessary for such extensive operations." He then says, as showing how deliberately the Germans made up their case:

> I now realize why so many officers and men amongst the wounded German prisoners at Neuve Chapelle complained of vomiting and asphyxiation from the effects of the fumes of our shells; I always thought they were lying, as they ate and drank like Trojans, and one can but conclude their stories were prompted by those guilty of organizing this latest blot on European civilization.

In reply to the charge that the allies first used gas, he says:

> Let the world know we used lyddite, which is permitted by the laws of war, and though close proximity does give you a slight headache it certainly does not asphyxiate, and its effects wear off in a few minutes. This I can state from personal experience. With regard to men vomiting from the effects of lyddite shells, I fancy much of this is due to concussion; a high-explosive shell is apt to give you a nasty jar at the base of the skull, and as the concussion wears off nausea frequently supervenes. But the Germans also use high explosive shells; so on that ground we are equal, and the weakness of their claim to use poisonous gas as a reprisal is obvious.

The effects of the gas are more graphically described by a correspondent of the London Times, who went to a hospital to see some men who had been "gassed" on Hill 60. He says:

> When we got to the hospital we had no difficulty in finding out in which ward the men were, as the noise of the poor devils trying to get breath was sufficient to direct us. There were about 30 of the worst cases in the ward, on mattresses, all more or less in a sitting position, propped up against the walls.
>
> Their faces, arms, hands were of a shiny grey-black color, with mouths open and lead-glazed eyes, all swaying slightly backwards and forwards trying to get breath. It was a most appalling sight, all these poor black faces, struggling, struggling for life.
>
> There is practically nothing to be done for them except to give them salt and water to try to make them sick.
>
> The effect the gas has is to fill the lungs with a watery, frothy matter, which gradually increases and rises till it fills up the whole lungs and comes up to the mouth; then they die; it is suffocation; slow drowning, taking in some cases one or two days.
>
> We have lost hundreds of men who died in the trenches, and over half the men who reached hospital have died. Eight died last night out of the 20 I saw, and most of the others I saw will die; while those who get over the gas invariably develop acute pneumonia. It is without doubt the most awful form of scientific torture. Not one of the men I saw in hospital had a scratch or wound.
>
> A German prisoner was caught with a respirator in his pocket; the pad was analyzed and found to contain hypo-sulphite of soda with 1 per cent of some other substance.

A report to the Belgian government states that the gases appear to have been of various kinds—chlorine, vapor of formol, nitrous vapors, sulphurous anhydride and a gas not yet determined. They are diffused by fires lighted in front of the trenches, the gases disengaged being blown by the wind; by carboys thrown by hand or by mechanical means; by cylinders releasing the gases through pipes; and by shells containing gas. This report says the Belgians have known for several weeks that experiments with asphyxiating shells had been made on dogs.

The British are already devising means of defense against this new weapon. An Oxford man writes to the Times that a concentrated solution of ammonia sprinkled in or in front of the trenches as the gas is seen approaching or as soon as possible after its presence is first noticed, would render chlorine or bromine gas harmless. The action of the ammonia would form a thick white cloud. G. W. Blythe has offered to raise a corps of 2000 men from the mines who will go to the front to use various types of rescue appliances.

The hat feather may be attacked with perfect safety. It cannot defend itself and nobody can say a good word for it. Unsightly on the street, it is a nuisance in public halls and a peril in elevators. Mrs. J. D. Sherman's valiant sally upon it should bring about its speedy disuse.

We shall see today whether Mayor Albee would be able to make a living as a pencil salesman in case he lost his present job. Unless he has forgotten the tricks he learned as an insurance man, he should succeed.

Berlin is willing to pay for the Gulflight. The Lusitania, not the Gulflight, is the issue. And money can't pay for the scores of American men, women and children destroyed.

Many consider the dispensation of charity a Winter affair, which may account for the slowness of growth of the fund for present work. Need knows no season.

If there was any "bite" in the Wilson note to Mexico, Carranza failed to observe it. The semi-ultimatum appears to have overjoyed him and given him fresh hope.

Professor Taft points to the danger there would be in having a "jingo" in the White House at this time. Wonder who he's hinting about? And why?

Possibly the person who stole all the "literature" of a candidate a few nights ago wanted something on which to figure estimates of the vote.

Roseburg shows her confidence by voting railroad bonds. Therefore Roseburg will have good times. It's just a matter of confidence.

Bryan is keeping mighty low just at this time when his life work as a peace propagandist bids fair to get knocked into a cocked hat.

A lot of gentlemen will be disillusioned tomorrow when the votes are counted. Only three out of the whole field can possibly win.

No doubt Bryan is keeping his prince of peace chautalk in cold storage until the dispute with Berlin has cooled off somewhat.

And there are roses enough this year to carpet every street in the city and provide a petaled girdle for the earth.

Anent our warning to Mexico, has any one heard of the American flag being saluted down at Tampico yet?

If that meter hoax gets through it will encourage a whole multitude of other useless and expensive fads.

But will the Mexican factions take our latest warning seriously, with Vera Cruz so fresh in mind?

The United States Steel Corporation seems to have things coming its way in more ways than one.

After this week we shall begin looking up boat and train schedules to the San Francisco fair.

We fail to see that Italy's fall into the war pool has made very much of a splash.

However, it is not to be expected that Berlin will back water or mince words.

And just to think, every last one of them expects to be elected tomorrow!

Cheer up. The graduate will soon be at hand to rearrange the universe.

The weather has hit its stride for the Rose Festival.

Portland is climbing into her glad rags, so to speak.

Better rest up today. It's a busy week ahead.

The "Bowls of Joy" are the bowels of death.

"Shemesel" gets it going and coming.

Swat the meter craze tomorrow.

Gleams Through the Mist

By Dean Collins.

They have taken you again,
Przemysl;
With their troops of German men,
Przemysl;
First the papers all announced
O'er your walls the Russians bounced,
Then the Germans on you pounced,
Przemysl.

They have taken you again,
Przemysl.
As they have done now and then
Przemysl;
Since the war was first declared,
And the battle trumpet blared,
By both parties you've been shared,
Przemysl.

In the headlines, more and more,
Przemysl,
Have you stood than Theodore,
Przemysl,
But to little this amounts,
And it very little counts,
For they're few who can pronounce
Przemysl.

For there's one pronounces you
"Przemysal,"*
While another's wedded to
"Przemysl,"*
And among the gen'ral herd,
We are sure to find a third
Who will call the tricky word
"Przemysl."*

Others also may declare
"Przemysl"*
Or pronunciation dare
"Przemysal,"*
But howe'er it may occur
That your consonants they slur,
I have always thought you were
Przemysal.*

Yet howe'er they sound your name,
Paremysl,
One fact will remain the same,
Przemysl,
Though the consonants I pen
Cannot be pronounced by men,
Still, we know you're took again,
Przemysl.

*Note—Use your ingenuity and imagination.)

* * *

We wonder what a bunch of college students would do if they were obliged to carve out a yell for such an institution, say, as the Przemysl Institute of Technology.

* * *

Or the Preznasnyz Polytechnic Institute.

* * *

Or the Przehedborz Academy.

* * *

Or the Preszemyslanz High School.

* * *

Maybe that is one reason why higher education hasn't taken more hold with the young folks of Eastern Galicia.

* * *

Solemn Thought.

The whole world knows the Portland rose
Wherever you may seek;
But, say, who knows, do you suppose,
If it will rain next week?

* * *

J. W. M. suggests for Eastern Galicia a college yell somewhat after this model:

Pinky-pankhy, where's my hanky?
Ke-choo; ka-cha!
Przemysl!

Or:

That's the stuff! Pass the snuff!
One-ah-ha! Two-ah-huh! Three-uh-huh!
Przmasnyz!

* * *

"Sir," said the Courteous Office Boy—"Ah-ha," I cried, "another capsule classic for the Five-inch Bookshelf for Busy Men?"

"Yep," said the C. O. B., "it is Enoch Arden, by Alf. Lord Tennyson":

Enoch leaves;
Annie grieves;
Bad luck;
Enoch stuck
On desert isle
Quite a while;
Gone until
Ann weds Phil.
Enoch saw!
Unwritten law?
Nope! He hies
Forth and dies.
Funeral fine—
Band in line.

* * *

Besides being active in many another line, George Baker is, at times, unconsciously poetic.

Applauding the participation of the society women in the floral parade of the Rose Festival, at a meeting of the Ad Club the other day, George said, in part:

Credit must be paid
For the int'rest they displayed
In the floral parade.
We must confess
That, without their aid,
The floral parade
Could not be made
A success.

And having rondelled thus, George rambled right on and didn't realize what he had done.

* * *

J. C. Cooper has started to catalogue mundane intelligence with:

The whole world knows
The Portland rose.

* * *

Milt Seaman, going further in the study of the scope of cosmic knowledge, suggested yesterday:

The whole world knows
Pavlowa's toes.

* * *

Another item about the world's fund of information comes from C. B. Moores:

The whole world knows
Our Teddy's pose.

* * *

And over the signature of E. K. H., who has become cynical through having to attend too many women's conventions, comes:

The whole world knows
The hen now crows.

* * *

While "L. H. G." writes: "After viewing the present fashion, I desire to remark that:

The whole world knows
Milady's hose.

* * *

And as for ourselves, we round out this catalogue of terrestrial intelligence with the remark that

The whole world knows
We've got to close.

On Property Deeded to Wife.

PORTLAND, June 5.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly publish answers to these questions: If a man deeds a piece of property to his wife, can she sell it without his consent? Can she give it to one of their children of legal age? R. M'V.

No. The husband's inchoate right of curtesy must be signed away before the wife can give a clear deed to the property. (2) Not without the husband's consent.

Illegitimate Child's Name.

PORTLAND, June 5.—(To the Editor.)—What is the legal name of a child born illegitimately? Is there any law regulating same? READER.

An illegitimate child bears its mother's name and is its mother's heir.