STEP BACKWARD IS VIEW TAKEN OF FEDERAL FARM LOAN ACT

(The following criticisms on the joint committee's rural credit bill are offered by C. R. Cottrell, of Kent, Wash., Washington State Commissioner of the Rural Credit League and National Marketing of the Washington State Grange.)

AFTER a careful study of the above-mentioned bill, the short title of which is "The Federal Farm Loan Act," I fail to find any relief for the farmer from existing condition, in fact my belief is that were this bill to pass, as a Nation we would be taking a step backward.

To begin with, this bill proposes to establish another complete system of profit-sharing, dividend-paying banks known as Federal land banks; the creation of a "Federal Farm Loan Board" consisting of five members, appointed by the President of the United States, and who shall receive a salary of $12,000 each and office for a period of ten years; the creation of "National Farm Loan Association," together with a multitude of officials, all of whom receive compensation at the will of the Federal Farm Loan Board.

This bill would place the farmers in the position of competing with one another in the sale of their securities, but would not give them any effective competition in interest rates on their loans. It will not provide an adequate system of credit for the farmers of the United States.

It provides for the division of the United States (Alaska excluded) into 12 districts, and these bond-issuing banks will reduce the credit extended to agriculture and increase the rate of interest paid by our farmers on their farm mortgage loans.

It does not establish a maximum or minimum rate of interest for loans. Section 12, fifth paragraph, states: "The rate of interest charged for such loans shall not exceed the legal rate fixed by law for loans by National banks."

Under existing conditions the majority of our farmers do not make application for loans unless in financial distress and as a last resort. Instead of relief from this situation, this bill provides that in addition to giving a first mortgage on his farm as security, he must purchase stock in the Farm Loan Association to the amount of 5 per cent of the face of the loan. "Said capital stock shall be held by said association as collateral security for the repayment of said loan." "Whenever any farm loan association shall desire to secure for any member a loan on first mortgage from the Federal land bank of its district, it shall subscribe for, and pay for in cash, capital stock of said land bank as collateral security for the payment of said loan."

This system of procedure must of necessity work a hardship, inasmuch as the individual farmer must purchase for cash 5 per cent of his loan in stock of the local association, and then as a member of that association must stand his per capita of the purchase by the association of 5 per cent of the amount of his loan in stock of the Federal land bank.

The National farm loan associations are divided into two classes, limited and unlimited, and known as division A and B. Division A: "Shareholders shall be held individually responsible, and not one for another," and division B: "Members shall be held individually responsible, one for another." So-called benefits are equal in both divisions, the only difference being in limited and unlimited liability.

"Funds transmitted to farm loan associations by Federal land banks to be loaned to its members shall be in current funds, or farm loan bonds at the option of the borrower or of the farm loan association."

Of what use are bonds to a farmer if he must sell on the open market to the present Napoleons of finance, who govern the expansion or contraction of the present commercial currency?

Section 13, fourth paragraph, relates to the powers of Federal land banks. They shall be empowered "to receive and to set apart for expenses and profits the excess of interest payments on indorsed mortgages above the interest payments on farm loan bonds for which said mortgages are held as collateral security, said excess of interest in no case to be more than 1 per centum of the amount of principal remaining unpaid on said mortgages."

Why are the profits of this land bank specifically provided for? Has not the farmer been exploited these many years to secure profits and dividends for bankers and money lenders under the present commercial system? Are we to receive under the cloak of a semi-Governmental banking institution relief in the shape of more profits for the capitalist?

Seventh paragraph: "To accept deposits of securities, or of current funds from farm loan associations holding its shares, but to pay no interest on such deposits." Why should such an association tie up its liquid securities with a land bank or any other bank, and not receive a reasonable rate of interest for same? These securities would not be available elsewhere for credit purposes.

Section 28: "That if there shall be default under the terms of any indorsed first mortgage held by a Federal land bank under the provisions of this act, the National Farm Loan Association or agent through which said mortgage was received by said Federal land bank shall be notified of said default. Said association or agent shall thereupon be required, within 20 days after such notice, to make good said default, either by payment of the amount unpaid thereon in cash or by the substitution of an equal amount of farm loan bonds, with all unmatured coupons attached."

Is this particular section intended to benefit the "little fellow," who is struggling on his few acres to maintain home and family? He must become a member of the farm loan association and land bank and his property is liable as security for any brother member who defaults! How does this question of unlimited liability strike you, Mr. Farmer?

Section 39: "That every Federal land bank and every National farm loan association, including the capital stock and reserve or surplus therein and the income derived therefrom, shall be exempt from Federal, state and local taxation, except taxes upon real estate held, purchased or taken by said bank or association under the provisions of sections 11 and 12 of this act."

Why should the capital stock and reserve and surplus of a semi-private banking institution be exempt from taxation, especially state and local?

In conclusion will state that there are many general objections to this bill, and if it should become law would retard the growth of agriculture in place of assisting to promote same, and would work hardships upon the small farmer especially, who is the backbone of the Nation and whom our Government should aim to assist. The bill is not practical for various reasons, some of which are:

1. Impossible to administer economically.
2. Too complicated for the use of the average farmer.
3. Too many creative departments.
4. The establishment of another system of banking for revenue purposes.

Now, farmers of the United States, I have asked some pertinent questions, and I wonder if you realize the necessity of your waking up and taking an interest in and helping to solve this most important question, that involves your future prosperity. Organized farmers, you are confronted with a serious problem, and your duty is plain. A letter to my office will bring forth an explanation of how you can assist as an organization or individual in solving this problem.

C. R. COTTREL.

FILM PICTURES ARE HISTORICAL

Educational Value of Movie Lauded by Sacramento Writer.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—On January 9 you reproduced part of a letter from Geneva from the newspaper "Die Post" (Germany) about the films for the camps of prisoners.

It is a duty for educators to thank you for making known the pictures already on the market suitable for families. A vast number of parents, girls and boys have read your reproduction, and are watching for further particulars. "Die Post" indicated the original appointment of the films after this manner:

(1) Mottu's ("The Lantern") "Decandolle Perforation," for schools of photography and faculties of sciences.

(2) Vogt's "Haughty Confession," for high schools and conservatives of music and of elocution.

(3) Debran's "Human Sacrifices," for young ladies' academies.

The best of the films shown in Germany was:

(4) J. Neue's "Honor and Coal," for commercial and professional schools.

"Honor and Coal" is the story of a coal dealer who gradually became a thief, libeler of a yellow newspaper, clique's dog ("chien de parti"), electoral agent, legislative representative and vice-president. But when he tries to rob the job of counselor of state the nation rejects him and returns him to his coalpit. Shame and affliction kill his wife. Everybody ridicules him. His life-story is told by Flavon and Biret in "The Justice," a play, and, raving mad, he dies of apoplexy.

J. New, the writer of "Honor and Coal," was a friend of Bismarck. Wilhelm II, Berlie, Mayor, Jacquemot and other remarkable personalities. He owes his fortune to his system of weights and measures. Under the title of "The Carillon," he originated a "singing school" (Florentine's method). Bismarck gave him the photograph of Madame Lucca, which served to the "Decandol Perforation." A pious church member, J. New, loaned the pew which Jean de Chagrin, in "Haughty Confession," used on rehearsals. He paid all accessories of the Biblical drama "Human Sacrifices." He actually prepares a Greek photoplay entitled "Bromb Ecopn," which shall be played before the body of foreign Ambassadors in Berne.

All the celebrities of the "Circle Democratique" of Geneva are passing on the screen. That fashionable Genevan society is a most austere guardian of Geneva's reputation. Most of its members obtained the "Prix Monthyon" and the "Couronne de Rosiere." For example, Mottu, Friedrich, Darbigny, Trachsel, Des Goutres, Burgy, Barbault, Calame Jr., the sociologist; Jaquemot, who negotiated many loans in the university; the capillary artiste, Dr. Strochlin; the scrupulous numismatologist, Van Muyden; the upright museum director, Jacques Mayor; the actress, Tervet, with the attorney, Clairette, the latter writing the political speeches of J. New.

But the most virile of al the personalities of those photoplays is the meek and subtle Lucien Decandol. His "Appeal to the Stranger" (1907) and his "Eulogy of German Troops" (1915) will ever remain a model of neutrality, opportunity and patriotism.

To conclude, these films are a real course in history. Such was Geneva made by its "Cercle Democratique." By the dignity of her life, the austerity of her morals (those of the "Village Suisse") and her political disinterestedness, these members have vindicated the splendid praise of the historian Cingria.

After having seen the moving pictures of "The Lantern," "Haughty Confession," "Human Sacrifices" and "Honor and Coal," you must not fail to read the seven chapters of "The Republic of Geneva" by Alexandre Cingria. Only then will you realize the happiness one may be blessed with by living in Geneva.

W. JACOBY.

EVOLUTION THEORY IS ASSAILED

Faults of Men Emphasized By Contrast With God's Art.

PORTLAND, Jan. 29.—(To the Editor.)—It is a singular fact that a few men having found out how any thing has been done their first conclusion is that God did not do it. No matter how wonderful, how beautiful, how infinitely complete and delicate has been the machinery which has worked for centuries, possibly for thousands of centuries to bring about beneficent results—if they but catch a glimpse of the wheels, its divine character disappears. The machinery has done it all. It is superfluous to look further, it's all "evolution." But creation and a creator fit like a man and his shoes. See, for instance, how admirably the birds are adapted to flying, shaped feathers, hollow bones and powerful wings; fishes designed for swimming and life in the water—shape, smooth, scales, fins in pairs and gills for breathing under water; land animals for walking and running on solid ground, feeding on the grass or catching special prey; wings for air, fins for water and hoofs for solid ground. The trees, made to stand firmly by their roots, with perpendicularly balanced branches, moderate flexibility adapted for shade, or bearing fruit, abating the violence of wind and good for lumber or fuel.

Consider the bark of these trees as related to their nourishment and growth. Can any fair-minded reader of The Oregonian bring himself to believe that some blind mechanical law planned and worked all this out?

Take again the human eye: An organ constructed with reference chiefly to things external to itself. Placed in the most elevated part of the body, in front, the direction in which we move, with a strong bony socket to protect it from injury; imbeded in a soft cushion, so its delicate texture cannot be injured by the bony walls enclosing it, fixed so as to turn easily and swiftly in any direction; furnished curtains or lids to enclose it while sleeping, to smooth or wipe the eyeballs every few moments, the ball having just that shape which mathematics demonstrate to be the only one that could possibly refract all the rays of light to a single surface, and a retina or natural canvas on which pictures can be formed of just the right size and just the right distance behind the lens of the eye, rigged with ligaments and pulleys that at a moment's warning alter the convexity for objects near or far; and greater than all, provided with that means of expressing the mind itself—scorn, love, alarm and every mental or spiritual state. Did some self-constituted "law" or "force" plan all these amazing congeries of adaptation? Is there no evidence here of a divine contriver?

Let the reader imagine himself some fine June day standing on the highest point of Mount Hood, with unobstructed view of the landscape from the Blue Mountains on the east with the Columbia River like a silver thread coursing its way to the Pacific Ocean on the west. An untold variety of mountains, hills, valleys, brooklets and trees north, south, east and west, as far as the eye can reach. What vastness and variety. What exquisite details of work in all this landscape!

What refinement of workmanship! Scan that alder leaf: what exquisite finish in its minutest parts. Examine the wing and throat of that humming bird. Subject his tinted and polished antenne to the microscope. Push the inspection as far as possible and let the searching continue to your heart's content. Wonderful!

Now let some master artist from Mount Hood's summit paint this landscape. The general effect is beautiful, but if you examine the foliage on the trees in his painting or the green fields the artist has made, they will prove to be the clumsiest daubing. Submitted to the miscroscope all traces of thoroughness and skill are absent. Not so with God's work in the real landscape.

Inspect its details critically, aided by the most powerful magnifying apparatus, and it becomes more perfect the further you push the inquiry. The same minute filling-up, as far as the utmost optical power can carry the investigation, wrought with the same boundless outlay of attention and skill.

Well, the divine artist could with the same minute perfection of detail put a thousand such landscapes on the point of a cambric needle. The method of his workings are as operative today as when a few of them were first observed by Kepler and Newton. The planets shoot around the sun and are circled by their own moons in the same orbits and times as in the days when Homer lived and sang. Some of these heavenly bodies have a Winter longer than 40 of our years. A year on others of them is longer than 30 of our centuries, while on some of the suns out in yonder vault a year is 10,000 of our millenniums. What amazing longevities! What bewildering distances! Riddles? Yes; profound and high in every ray of light and in every blade of grass. Only a few of the coarser facts in a few of these things have been picked up and systematized, and this is what all this blare of trumpets over "evolution" is about.

This universe is so choked with mysteries that science, the handmaid of divine truth, will hardly in the next thousand years get over even the doorstep of the great temple. All honor to the painstaking, tireless seekers after light, Darwin, Tyndall, Huxley and Spencer; others, including Bergsen, being only second-hand dealers, but they should not, any of them, have thought to crowd out of business the Christian God, nor hurtled rotten eggs at evangelical faith.

So far astronomers can only account for the movements of a system of two bodies. A system of three is quite beyond them. And yet since the morning stars first sang together clusters of such systems have been flying like sparks from the blacksmith's anvil from the hands of him who nourishes every rose in Portland; these, all of these stars, suns and countless planets, coming and going at inconceivable speeds and immeasurable distances. What a bewilderment of unsearchable complexities, arguing, not the power of matter, per se, but a being incomprehensible, mysteriously self-existent. Mysteriously all-knowing. Mysteriously unfettered in the application of his power and knowledge in all space and duration, and personal presence.

C. E. CLINE.

ARGUMENT IS FOR EMBARGO.

America Has Right to Stop Munitions, Says Correspondent.

PORTLAND, Jan. 29.—(To the Editor.)—In an editorial January 25, under the caption, "Munitions and Neutrals," The Oregonian takes the often reasserted stand that persons advocating a munition embargo fail to see the logic of our position, that such a step would be unneutral as defined by international law and that a neutral country cannot change those conditions without making itself liable for reprisal or war, as an unfriendly act towards a belligerent so affected.

As a person of limited knowledge, I will not try to dispute the stand taken by the able editor of The Oregonian, but will refer to such eminent authorities as ex-Governor Geer, of Oregon, and Samuel Pennypacker, former Governor of Pennsylvania, who have taken a different view on that question; and when we read in the Congressional Record the speeches of Senators Works, Spafford, Shakleford and others, openly denouncing the unneutral and one-sided attitude we are taking in the European war.

Senator Shakleford refutes as absurd the stand taken by our Administration: That we cannot recede from the position we have taken in regard to shipments of arms as a defensive measure; that because the allies have gained the advantage in driving the Germans from the sea they now have the beneficent monopoly in buying ammunitions in the American market and for us to impair that monopoly by an act of legislation would be an unneutral act, even though such legislation were enacted for our sole benefit. He cites that our legislation has already taken an opposite view of this question during this war; that on March 4, 1915, a fleet of German cruisers was afloat on the high seas and on account of the superiority of the British navy the German fleet could not get to the home port to get supplies, but had to rely solely on neutral ports, mainly those of the United States.

The German fleet became a serious menace to British shipping and transportation of soldiers from British colonies to the seat of war. This was a condition brought about by the progress of war which was favorable to the Germans and to the disadvantage of the British. On that day, March 4, our Congress changed that condition, which had been brought about by the progress of war, and a resolution was enacted which made it impossible thereafter for those German cruisers to get supplies from our ports, as it had been lawful for them to do so. Germany did not raise any protest nor go to war with us.

The United States, by passing that resolution, foreclosed the question whether a neutral power has a right to amend its laws suited to its own interest, change conditions which have resulted from the progress of a war between other powers.

As a precedent only recently a small country like Sweden had the moral courage to put an embargo on wood pulp as a matter of retaliation against England for interfering with her mails.

Another reason for an embargo on ammunition which every American should consider: The material gain, the mercenary stand that we are taking in this war are only gaining us the contempt and hatred of all belligerents; in our one-sided policy we have acted the bully; we have sent ultimatums to Germany and Austria and taken every indignity from England. We soon put the lid on Hayti, when it takes but 2000 marines to do it, but observe our watchful waiting policy in Mexico for years and see hundreds of Americans foully murdered without raising a hand.

Senator Chamberlain recently said: "After the European war is over we will not have a friend on the face of the earth. We have offended Germany and Austria and if we do our duty we will offend Great Britain.

"The only friend America has today or likely will have in days to come is the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans."

If Japan were to undertake hostilities against us and England, treaty-bound, had to support her, our situation would indeed be critical. The millions of dollars worth of munitions and war supplies for preparedness would be turned against us.

From a technical point it might be right to ship arms from a neutral to a belligerent, but morally it is wrong. We may raise a precedent as an excuse for the traffic and say: "Germany, England, France and all civilized nations did the same and according to international law we have a right to sell and our markets are open to all who have the price."

We may not heed the specter of the maimed and killed, our own kindred, our own flesh and blood, as long as we can satisfy our fiendish joy in drawing large dividends.

The common American people always have been generous and fair and would cut off the shipments of arms to Europe if they could be heard and heeded.

But there is hope that the sentiment of an embargo is growing. The people have spoken through their Representatives in Congress against this inhuman traffic.

This war in Europe is not our war, still in a complacent way we, as supposed neutrals, virtually are helping to annihilate a kindred nation, so closely related to us with the strongest ties of blood. Germany has given us some of our best and noblest citizens, and it can be truly asserted that German frugality, industry and intelligence have done more to build up this country than any other agency.

For four years of relentless war this nation was drenched in blood to break the bondage, to obliterate the shame of slavery from the escutcheon of this fair land. The same moral that stood against slavery stands against the shipment of munitions from a neutral to a belligerent. There is an unwritten law which teaches us a higher, nobler neutrality than to contaminate our hands with the blood of innocent people; it is the brotherhood of man to man.

A. BENSCHEIDT.

BENEFITS OF TRAINING CITED.

Value of German Methods in War Given as Example.

HILLSDALE, Or., Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Responsive to the letter of D. C. Millican in The Oregonian of the 25th inst., headed "New Kind of Military Academy," permit me to say that the suggestion contained therein is not only a right step in the right direction, but it seems to me, that considering the present turbulent and restless state of the world, it is absolutely necessary. Just such academies has made the German army so efficient.

I beg to explain: Sixty years ago, or ten years before the consolidation of German states, we had military training in the schools I attended and about the same time the governments instituted training schools for non-commissioned officers—Sergeants and Corporals. A very large school of this kind was located near my native town—Mainz on the Rhine. Coming from a military family with decided military leanings, owing to its teachings of obedience, order, discipline, loyalty and manliness generally, I naturally desired to learn something more about it.

The candidates for non-coms. schools were selected from the ranks of such three years' service privates who proved themselves proficient and willing to make a military career their life work. The course was five years, during which time they were taught not only the curriculum of the high school and manual training school as far as it applied to military service, but were thoroughly trained and drilled for Sergeants and Corporals for life, from which rank they were only to rise in case of emergency and then return to their original ranks as Sergeants and Corporals.

In addition to their non-commissioned training, the last two years of their studies and training was directed to assume command and at any time, of companies, battalions and even regiments.

During our Civil War in 1861, we had a number of these German non-coms. commanding companies as captains. We had three in my regiment—the Fifth Missouri Cavalry—who received furloughs for this express purpose, and fine officers they made.

Military school training in my own case was of great benefit. I enlisted twice and owing to this training was rapidly promoted from private to Sergeant, then Sergeant-Major and then acting Adjutant and I was scarcely 20 years old.

I am for peace if possible, but not for peace at any price, while the horizon of the United States seems clear today, coming events cast their shadows before. I fear that the time is not far distant when commercial jealousy will darken our clear and peaceful existence and should not at all be surprised that notwithstanding the ill-feeling which exists between Germany and the United States today, that the coming Republic of the United States of Germany and the Republic of the United States of America would become allies for their respective national security and the 5,000,000 of Germans in the United States would again rally under the Stars and Stripes as they did in 1861-65.

HENRY E. DOSCH.

EVOLUTION ARGUMENT IS GIVEN

Views of Clergyman Opposing Theory Are Attacked.

DALLAS, Or., Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—In a series of letters to The Oregonian recently a distinguished clergyman of Portland has attempted to discredit the theory of organic evolution upon the grounds (1) "that one organ cannot be evolved from another organ, or one kind of animal from another kind of animal"; (2) "the failure of evolution in framing a conceivable hypothesis for the transition of consciousness from the rudimentary brutes to the human mind," and (3) "evolution—the real thing—is founded upon the hypothesis that deity has had nothing to do with the universe at any stage," etc. To be sure our critic refers to learned authorities who opposed evolution, but they were avowed protagonists of the special creation hypothesis and contemporaries of Darwin. He does not refer to a single recent authority.

In a recent issue of The Oregonian the writer endeavored to show from the evidences of paleontology that nature had, in the process of geologic ages, "evolved one organ from another organ," and "one kind of animal from another kind of animal." But the cause of such evolution is one of the many unknown factors of biology; the fact, however, is as indubitable as the evolution of a spreading maple from a tiny seed.

Bergson speaks of it as "the creative energy"; Huxley used the phrase, "the predestined course of evolution," and Osborn implies that it is something "directed." But words and phrases do not explain anything. The mysterious law or impulse is still hidden from the eye of science.

Does our clerical critic really expect the physicist to evolve life from inorganic matter in his laboratory, or to evolve "one kind of animal from another kind of animal?" If this is his meaning, why does he not require of the astronomer to construct a miniature solar system and set it a-going according to the laws of motion and gravitation? The one proposition is as illogical as the other. Individual human intelligence, with its brief span of life, cannot duplicate the processes of nature, which has practically infinite geologic time at her disposal. We know that plants produce protoplasm from inorganic matter, and science is familiar with its chemical properties, but all the skill of the laboratory cannot even create one speck of this life-giving substance.

Our friend's second criticism is "the failure of evolution in framing a conceivable hypothesis for the transition of consciousness from the rudimentary brutes to the human mind." Has anyone ever explained the nexus between the physics of the human brain, consciousness and thought? Of course, raising one difficulty does not explain another difficulty. It is known that consciousness exists in the brutes, but in man it has developed into abstract reason. Man is able to say, "I think, therefore, I am," and he is conscious of both his objective and subjective relationship to the phenomenal world.

The brutes, quite evidently, do not possess this psychical capacity, hence the enormous gap between them and man. Our critic quotes both Huxley and Tyndall to prove his contention. Huxley discusses this subject at great length and with remarkable perspicacity in his "Man's Place in Nature," but he does so from the viewpoint of physiology, anthropology and paleontology. He does not take up an extreme case, for example, he does not compare the low order of consciousness in the opossum with the lofty idealism of a Cuvier.

Now consider for a moment the idealistic hiatus between a Sir Isaac Newton, who discovered the laws of gravitation, weighed the mass of the planets and wrote the immortal "Principia," and that of the stupid mind and superstitious imagination of a savage who cannot count beyond four or five, and whose vocabulary consists of a few score guttural sounds. How enormous the mental gap! Again, imagine the psychical gap between this savage and the pre-glacial man, or the Neanderthal man, whose low brow, long jaw, tusk-like teeth, and crooked limbs mark him as being nearer akin to the simian than to the human family. What a distance between such a creature and a Charles Darwin! The distance is probably greater than that between the Neanderthal man and the gorilla. The line of demarcation between the unconscious and the conscious has never been discovered, they merge together like night into day.

Nor has any scientific evolutionist ever contended, unless it was Weismann, that man's descent came from any existing type of the simian family. "The order of the appearance of the sulci and gyri in the fetal human brain," says Huxley, "is in perfect harmony with the general doctrine of evolution, and with the views that man has been evolved from some ape-like form; though there can be no doubt that that form was, in many respects, different from any member of the Primates now living." Evolution, as an inductive hypothesis, is clearly proved, and I do not know of a living biologist, who has a reputation to lose, who denies this fact. Huxley in discussing this phase of evolution says: "An inductive hypothesis is said to be demonstrated when the facts are shown to be in entire accordance with it. If that is not scientific proof, there are no merely inductive conclusions which can be said to be proved. And the doctrine of evolution, at the present time (1876) rests upon exactly as secure a foundation as the Copernican theory of the motion of the heavenly bodies did at the time of its promulgation." And it is an indubitable fact that within the last 40 years there has been a rapid filling-in of the missing links in the chain of organic life. Of course there are certain unknown evolutionary factors, as there are also certain unexplained laws of motion. But who thinks of discrediting astronomy on that account?

It is an established biological fact "that life had to creep or swim long before it could walk, and it walked long before it could fly; it had feeling long before it had eyes, and it no doubt had eyes long before it could hear or smell. It was capable of motion long before it had limbs; it assimilated food long before it had a mouth or a stomach. It had a digestive tract long before it had a spinal chord; it had a nerve ganglia long before it had a well-defined brain. It had sensation long before it had perception; it was unisexual long before it was bisexual; it had a shell long before it had a skeleton; it had instinct and reflex action long before it had self-consciousness and reason. Always from the lower to the higher, from the simple to the more complex, and always slowly, gently."

This was the long road which life on this planet had to travel before it became a human soul. And yet some people cannot see "grandeur" in the marvelous processes of evolution! They fail to see evidences of an Eternal Mind working slowly but surely through the agency of natural laws. What sort of a mental vision have they of the creative processes anyhow? Perhaps—first, a blank space, nothing; then suddenly a pair of elephants! A kind of Alladin-and-his-lamp magic.

"Evolution — the real thing — is founded upon the hypothesis that deity has had nothing to do with the universe at any stage," says our distinguished clerical critic. Wonderful to tell! Surely this is a voice from the tombs of the old medieval theologians. Atheistic, materialistic and ungodly science is driving God out of his universe! When science proclaimed the rotundity of the earth, the motion of the heavenly bodies, geology, medicine and chemistry, the theologians of those times set up a wail like that which is said to have swept along the seashore at the death of Pan. Religion was be-fox conceptions of the deity were being driven out of the world, all orthodoxy being destroyed, and society would soon become chaotic. What was it that was happening? Why, broader and grander views of God and the universe were being introduced into the world. The mind of man was becoming more and more philosophic and scientific; yes, and more serenely religious, too. And what was it that was being destroyed? Why, the theologians' a priori notions as to the nature of natural phenomena. That was all.

J. T. FORD.

BOAT SHORTAGE LAID TO WAR

Fostering of Ship-Building by Portland Is Advocated.

PORTLAND, Jan. 29.—(To the Editor.)—The abnormally high freight rates that are being paid for all waterborne shipments caused by the world war are primarily due to a shortage of tonnage. When the Central European powers were driven from the sea about 5,500,000 tons disappeared for a time, except those vessels that took shelter in neutral ports. All captured German and Austrian vessels have passed through the prize courts. Those vessels that were forfeited through such procedure have again taken their places on the various ocean routes under other flags.

The commandeering of more than 5,000,000 tons of British shipping and a corresponding amount from England's ally, France, coupled with the destruction of tonnage by submarine warfare, is quite sufficient cause for the freight rates that are now being paid and proves once more the inexorable law of supply and demand. At this time there is no doubt that the world as a whole is in dire need of tonnage, with the result that any craft, ancient or modern, when offered for sale is eagerly snapped up, and at prices that are astounding.

It will be remembered by readers of The Oregonian who are interested in shipping matters that about five years ago Portland took one of her spasmodic convulsions to become a ship-owning port. There were elaborate discussions in the local press of purchasing vessels for the Alaska and Philippine trade. The writer obtained the offer of a number of steamships through his London correspondent and submitted them to S. C. Jackson, who seemed to be much interested, but nothing came to the surface and no vessels were bought and Portland once more became somnolent. An idea may be formed of the present price of tonnage from the record of a steamship that was offered to the Portland committee at that time.

A single-decked steamship, the Hilferod, built in 1892, with a dead-weight capacity of 4350 tons, could have been bought in October, 1910, for $9000, or, say, $45,000. Since the outbreak of the war she has changed hands three times and was recently purchased by a shipowner of Drau, Norway, for $221,250. When we take into consideration that this vessel was 23 years old and fell at least 15 years behind the times, as far as her up-to-dateness of engines are concerned, we cannot but marvel at what the lure of profit-making must be.

The small neutral ship-owning nations of Europe undoubtedly are reaping great profits from the war, and in like manner food-producing nations are seriously handicapped if they are deficient in ownership of vessels. On the other hand, to go into the market for ships at this time is like a chance throw of dice, for as soon as the war ends, and end it must, the market will adjust itself. England under normal conditions has an output of something like 2,000,000 tons of shipping per annum, and the wastage of war is even now being replaced by nearly 700,000 tons building.

What Portland ought to do is to foster shipbuilding; shipbuilding of a high order. We have more fine shipbuilding sites near Portland than any other Coast port. We have as fine a class of laboring men as are found anywhere, who would, under proper training, readily mold themselves into the equals of any nation, and in addition to this we have very large local wealth, and what is more, this wealth could not be employed to better advantage. A shipbuilding establishment, capable of turning out standard vessels on the Isherwood plan and marine engine works fitted for the highest kind of ocean craft would be of far more value to Portland than all the wind that is so often let loose on our long-suffering public. The taxpayers of Portland have paid for 38 acres of land near the drydock, controlled by the Port of Portland. It would make an ideal shipyard. It would not be too great a sacrifice if we gave a 50-year lease at a nominal rent to any firm or corporation that would establish a plant of, say, $5,000,000. This would be business.

GEORGE POPE, N. A.

IMMORTALITY IS DISCUSSED.

Writer Gives His Views on Origin of Man and His Soul.

PORTLAND, Jan. 29.—(To the Editor.)—Discussion of the origin of man and the immortality of his soul has been instructive. What is life and its beginning has been explained as having no end, but being eternal. While only a few have expressed themselves, the remainder are willing, too, and understand those things as well.

By most deep thinkers we are likened unto the ripened grain, the oak tree and vegetable life, that we live again. If life is the soul, where do they live when destroyed by being ground to dust? If they will live again, surely animal life and soul may live after we have been destroyed by being burned alive.

To get back to the beginning we should get Adam's autobiography for information on evolution to see who was the beginner and if we were created in his image.

When we look at the human race of today or any other day we have rather a strong comparison. We have record of only one act of Adam's life, and that is he was deported for cause. He is an undesirable ancestor.

The origin of man may never be acceptable from any of our theories. The fact will remain that the beginning and the ending and eternity are no more mystery to the child than it is to the old heads who make it a life study.

The inquisitive human mind demands a solution of the supernatural. We adopt a term as divine law, miraculous, or gravitation, and teach a theory, trusting that some day we may understand.

E. F. FUNK.

BIRTH CONTROL IS FAVORED

Mother of Family Says Advocates Benefit Women.

PORTLAND, Jan. 29.—(To the Editor.)—I read your editorial "Unwilling Mothers Not Wanted." No one would ever question for a minute that the article was written by a man.

Being the mother of a family of grown children I consider myself in a position to speak.

As I see it, these women who are advocating birth control are just as much benefit to mankind as the ones who worked for woman suffrage or prohibition. It has been a known fact for centuries that the rich and intelligent have known and used birth control, leaving the ignorant and poor to breed like cats and rabbits. Do we see any results of this state of affairs? Look about on the army of unemployed; look at the jails, asylums, etc. Does a man in the stock business increase his flocks and herds above his capacity to feed and care for them? No; it only applies to the human part of his interests. Why should the so-called better class have the sole right to educate and send forth into the world children fitted to cope with the hard problems of life?

You say a woman should know before she enters into marriage that she is not marrying an inebriate and a defective. How many people show their true characters before marriage? I know women of the middle class, fairly well able to raise three or four children, who when they gave birth to one child discovered by the neglect of the husband that it would be useless to try and have more children. In some cases the wife learned of the drink habit which had not developed far enough before marriage to be detected. More often the affinity, double set of morals, etc. Is a woman refusing to reproduce herself, or is she refusing to reproduce the man?

There is much written about wives being able to "hold a husband." Some have learned to know that with the physical requirements of motherhood and child-raising they cannot always look and appear at their best. We never see many magazine articles on "How to Hold a Wife"; is it because a wife is supposed to have common sense enough to hold herself?

Too many men think their whole duty is done when they provide the clothes and board for the family; their interest ends there.

It should be considered that women cannot pick babies off the trees; it is a long and serious process, and means as much danger and suffering as it would for a man to go into a hospital and have a leg amputated. Think you he would scheme to get out of the same process the next year? Say nothing of the fact that the amputated limb could take unto itself life and become a care for some years.

I, for one, am glad women are awakening and showing a desire to help the sister who is a step lower on the grade of life. It shows an unselfishness we have not hitherto seen among women. I am for fewer and better grade of human beings, and not let the "livestock show" have the monopoly.

CONSTANT READER.

MR. HOFF REPLIES TO CHARGE

Winch That Caused Fatal Accident Declared Properly Inspected.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian I notice an article stating in substance that the East Side Mill & Lumber Company was censured by a Coroner's jury for not having the winch that was responsible for killing a man last Monday properly safeguarded, and rebuking the State Labor Commissioner for not inspecting this plant.

Permit me to say that this mill has been inspected and that the winch in question was perfectly safe for the purpose for which it was generally used. It was not intended for and never had been used for the purpose nor expected to be subjected to the strain to which it was at the time of the accident.

It also seems to me that before the Coroner's jury censured the work of my deputy, either he or myself should have been summoned before them. We are liable to make mistakes, though in this case the fault was not with us. By calling our attention to these matters by summoning us at the Coroner's investitgation, it would do much to bring the facts properly before the jury and also furnish our department with information in connection with accidents of this nature without waiting for the same through the regular reports made of such cases.

In justice to the Coroner's office I wish to say that my deputy informs me that it has been the practice of that office to call his attention to all fatal accidents in plants under our supervision, but this information is seldom furnished until after the inquest.

O. P. HOFF,
State Labor Commissioner.

REPUBLICAN VOICES HIS VIEWS

Roseburg Man Holds Tariff and Extravagance Are Issues.

ROSEBURG, Or., Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—As one of the units of the Republican party, and not able to attend the club meeting in Portland, I would like to express a few thoughts in connection with the object of this gathering, which, as I understand it, is for the purpose of burying the hatchet and presenting a united front to the enemy.

I have noticed in the present European war that great stress is laid upon securing possession of information as to the enemy's resources and weak points, also in securing as many allies as possible, and in applying that principle to politics what do we find the situation to be in the Republican party? A house divided against itself and the leaders apparently only waiting the opportunity to begin hostilities.

It seems to me the most important step is to induce these leaders to smoke the pipe of peace and agree to stand by the wishes of the army of voters. Has the country ever had a better Administration than under Roosevelt's and Taft's terms of Presidency? I think not, and if they could be united with either in the lead the party would be invincible.

Now in regard to allies. What about the great army of voters not represented in meetings held or to be held? The farmers, the artisans, day laborers, etc. How are they to be drawn into the ranks? Not by ignoring them as has been done to a large extent in the past and which has been the main cause of Republican defeat and losses. It will not do "to throw a sop" to them, as they will not swallow sop any longer.

Representation will have to be granted them in order to secure their votes, and every state in the Union should send a proportionate number of delegates to the Chicago convention representing the producers of the country, in order that the party platform will contain the planks desired by them.

As to the attack. A great many people in the Republican ranks are for peace, not at any price, but for so long a time as we are able to obtain it without too great a sacrifice, and with a good, sweeping look before they jump into the fire.

This idea of criticising the Government for endeavoring to keep out of war, I do not think will "butter any parsnips" for the Republican party, especially when the idea is conveyed that we Republicans are dangerous men and full of braggadocio, going about with chips on our shoulders. If the party expects to win on this issue I for one think it a mistaken idea and will lose more votes than it will win.

Mr. Taft's course in support of President Wilson is much more patriotic and sensible than the various attempts made to discredit his policy. In fact Taft's silence is more eloquent than all the bear-baiting going on and would bring him more supporters from the independent voters of the country than any man heretofore mentioned as a possible candidate.

He has unfortunately left the impression on the minds of the majority of men I have talked with that he favors the non-producer. I think this is a mistaken idea also, as his Administration probably shows more laws passed for the benefit of all the people, and passed through Congress with less effort and opposition, than any President we ever had, not excepting Mr. Wilson, whom we must admit has been very successful in this line.

The main issue as I see it is the tariff and extravagance of Administration.

J. M. MOORE.

BRITISH SHOWING COMMENDED.

Facts Do Not Warrant Pessimistic View, Says E. B. Clarke.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 29.—(To the Editor.)—I compliment Mr. Frank on his discerning utterances. I have no doubt he speaks impartially, but why so pessimistic? Do the facts as they now stand warrant such morbid deductions? The big heart of Great Britain is surely well able to stand such minor consequences of a great war. Submarines, wireless and airships, not to mention problems of organization and unreadiness, to participate in so gigantic a struggle have had to be met, but their lesson is learned and they on their part have also been great teachers.

Considering the incubus of commercialism, the lack of an army and the surprising speed of the enemy's technique, I think they have just cause to be proud of the way they have performed miracles of valor and strategy.

We, as individuals, are all judged for what we are and I think that the British have cause for pride in the way the campaign has been conducted. Everything has its legal and humane aspect. They have so far waged the great strife, according to recognized international practice. Public opinion furthermore has a great bearing on events and in spite of much to the contrary, the judgment of the world supports and upholds the foremost democracy. Well it may, considering what these island people have done for the world's liberty and general uplift.

E. B. CLARKE.

HIGH SCHOOLS LOSE 200

(Continued From Page 10.)

sephine Quinn, Ida Refovich, Elizabeth Bauer Roberts, Herbert Rutquist, Leola H. Sihk, Fred C. Shere, Wilbur Brill Spady, Cyril Stevens, Eugene Sullivan, Monroe Swanson, Robert Andrew Varitz, Daisy Margaret Vinson, Gertrude Maurene Watson, Effie M. Worsham, Mildred Irene Zelms.

Woodlawn.

Elmer Herndobler, Perry Joy, Jessie Kubik, Ona Rankin, Rachel Thornton, Harold Graham, Lewis Green, Lawrence Williams, Edward Ketchum, Charlotte Blandford, Harry Land, Elsie Clodius, Roy May, Florence Gill, Raphael Torgerson, Frances Johnson, Thomas Wat