HAPPILY MARRIED FOLK, SOCIALISTS AND OTHERS PEN VIEWS

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—My wife and I read your editorial "How to Be Happy Though Married" with great interest. We thought we saw an implied invitation for happy, or otherwise, married people to write you.

A. L. in her letter, proves herself to be made of the average stuff, yet the cause of all her unhappiness is her desire to be above the average. In her desire to be something she isn't she is unhappy, and no doubt has made her family the same. Did A. L. think very much on the subject of married life before she was married? No doubt she didn't, or she wouldn't be writing The Oregonian about her unhappiness. She complains that there is nothing in married life to look forward to but raising children, and the prospects of basking in the reflected light of her husband's success.

My wife has been educated much the same as A. L. Hers was a business education. All through life she worked in the business world for support. She didn't need to get married to get someone to support her. She was 28 when she was married, so she had plenty of opportunity to acquire that independent, restless spirit so many of our business women have when they are forced to depend upon another to make a success in the world. Contrary to A. L., Mrs. S. is supremely happy and has contributed not a little in making me so.

From the day we were married we set out making much out of little. Each step in our married life has been fraught with interest and joy. Neither of us had a penny saved, as we were both burdened with the support of younger brothers and sisters. We decided to go in debt for our furniture, for we were reasonably sure of good health, and I was sure of my position. We selected the plain things we bought for the home with as great joy and pleasure as though we were able to select the best of everything. After the furniture was paid for we decided to go in debt for a small home. We went to a respectable neighborhood where prices were reasonable and taxes low. Here we selected a moderate priced home and made sure of our future peace of mind by not being in debt deeper than we could afford. Those days were the source of some of our keenest pleasure. The many nights we spent renovating and adding to the old place we purchased and the pleasure we took and take today in seeing it blossom out in a cheerful, cosy little home is a big part of our present happiness.

Now three years have rolled by and the home is nearly paid for. Our first born is about to arrive. Do we look forward to its arrival as an event that is going to herald more responsibility and more tying the wife to the house? Indeed not. The event to us is filled with happiness. A. L. would pity our foolish optimism and tell us when our baby comes our joy will soon pale, that the novelty of being a parent will soon wear off. We believe otherwise, and because we believe so our present joy is unalloyed. When night comes and I go home to the good wife and she brings out the little baby clothes we both examine them and take as much pleasure in these little things as A. L. would in receiving a handsome gift or in something else that gives her pleasure.

My wife's and my own advice to A. L. is to look in the everyday things in life for happiness. Cast aside discontent and make life what you want it to be. Live today and find in it the fullest measure of happiness that mortal can find. Live within your means. Let expensive pleasures pass you by, and don't envy your neighbor. Believe in the future. Acquire the faculty of believing there is nothing you can't accomplish when you set your mind to it.

If your mind is above your husband's—by your example coax him up to your plane, or if this is impossible, waste no precious time worrying about it. By being happy with what you have your sunny disposition will attract to you all the things you think should be yours. All things come to him who believes in God, and through him has learned to get pleasure out of the simple things of life. Pity the weak but don't encourage it in anyone. Be strong in your resolves and determined in their execution. Every day is a bright day for him who believes the sun is shining.

C. S.

BUSINESS BY WIVES UPHELD

Woman Writes That All Must Keep Pace With Progress.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—I did not mention my husband because he and my children are the only parts of my scheme of existence that I wouldn't change.

To follow your theory out logically would mean that, since for a woman to want to change her job in any respect means that she also wants to change her husband, every time that a man changed jobs, or bosses, or wanted a rise in salary, it would be because he wasn't happy at home and did not like his wife. Is that the best you can do—and you an editor?

It is our work that is wrong, not our husbands and children. They are the only redeeming features in our lives.

Did you ever notice the difference between husbands and wives at 40 or 45? The difference is because of their work. The reason older men, widowers, etc., marry young women is not because, as has been said to their disparagement, they want young bodies, but because they want young minds. And it is not to be wondered at, that men with active parts to play in life find little to say to women of the same age whose life work has been housework.

It is not motherhood or wifehood that wears us out. It is the drudgery of housework, garbage cans, dinner dishes, cleaning, over and over again, world without end, the same dirt, the same dishes, for that is the way we spend the most of our time.

Look at Mrs. Winifred Stoner and her splendid child. She is a working woman, working at what she is best fitted for.

Look at Mary Roberts Rinehart, she can be a real mother to her sons after they are men, not just a pillow to lay their heads on when they feel sentimental, but a guiding force in their lives because she is a successful person as well as a woman. And if they in their greater way can be busy women as well as mothers, why can't we, in our smaller way, each according to her talents. Some might prefer housework, some might want to run stores or write on newspapers.

How much better for the child of a born business woman to be under the care of a born child developer like Mrs. Stoner and numberless others, while the mother kept growing by working at her particular job, earning the money to pay for what part of her work she shifted on to some one whose talents lay in those directions.

Just work isn't enough unless it's the best work we can do, and who is to say that his mother was best fitted for scrubbing floors and doing the family darning instead of something else.

How would you, an editor, like to have complete charge of your department and have also to clean all the typewriters, clean the windows, scrub the offices and empty the waste baskets before you could write? If it were left to you wouldn't you work a little harder at writing and earn the money to hire an office boy, even if you were told that your sphere was in the realm of waste baskets and dust cloths?

Is a man any the less a good father because he is away part of the time? And is a woman less a mother because she doesn't follow her children to school and sit with them? If we could do what we want to do, and could earn the money to hire our heavy housework done, we could do it in our spare time, the time we saved, while our children were sleeping, or were in school or kindergarten. We would not be ahead in money, perhaps, but we would be ahead in happiness, and if the mothers of the race shouldn't be happy, who should?

If we stop working when we get married and wait till the children grow up, it's too late. Our children will leave us, our husbands far outstrip us, and we will be bereft indeed unless through it all we have some work that we can do that is best fitted to our individual talents. And if we have that, we will all grow old together, living alike a happy, useful life, and not be the hopeless misfits that we now are at 45.

A. L.

PAVING BIDS ARE COMPARED

Federal Money Not to Be Paid in Royalties, Says Spence.

OREGON CITY, Or., May 19.—(To the Editor)—Bids were opened by the Columbia County Court Saturday afternoon, April 21, for the construction of 8840 square yards of hard-surface pavement connecting the towns of St. Helens and Houlton, on the old county road. The specified types of pavement were bitulithic, asphaltic concrete and a straight concrete pavement. Only one bid was submitted on standard bitulithic and that by the Warren Construction Company, at $1.48 a square yard. Only one bid was presented on the asphaltic concrete, the non-patented bituminous pavement, at $1.38 per square yard, made by the Montague-O'Reilly Company.

There were three bids on straight concrete pavement. E. J. Mills made a bid of $1.36 a square yard, material six inches thick. Lees Dock Company made a bid of $1.60 a square yard, and Montague-O'Reilly Company offered to do the work for $1.55 a square yard.

In a copy of a printed letter dated April 26, 1915, addressed to F. S. Dement, Walla Walla, Wash., handed to Judge Hattan, of Columbia County, April 20, at St. Helens, S. Benson is quoted as saying, among other things, that: "I will further state that on heavy traveled roads having excess of 1000 vehicles per day I am firmly convinced that if you get Warrenite or bitulithic at their going price, or asphaltic concrete free of cost your maintenance over a 15-year period will make the asphaltic concrete the more expensive."

A copy of another printed letter handed to the Judge on the same date, addressed to C. C. Widener, Bozeman, Mont., states as follows: "Advise bitulithic over other pavements. First 60 miles bitulithic in Multnomah County, price averaging 30 cents over asphaltic concrete." This letter is signed by Herbert Nunn, present State Highway Engineer under S. Benson.

The bids on the Columbia county road, about one mile of pavement, between Houlton and St. Helens, as submitted April 21, were: Bitulithic, $15,506.46; Topeka mix, $13,963.68; concrete, $13,147.62.

The price on Topeka mix (asphaltic concrete unpatented) was $1542.78 lower than the price on bitulithic (patented). This is the type of pavement used in California, and also favored by the United States Government. S. Benson is against it and in favor of the patented article.

The bid on the straight concrete pavement was $2359.84 lower than the bid on bitulithic. S. Benson favored rejecting this bid and putting in bitulithic. This concrete specification is the same as that used in Wayne County, Mich., where there are more automobiles made than in any other place in the world. The best automobiles made are tested on this sort of pavement in and around Detroit. S. Benson is against this type of pavement. He will tell you so.

What do all our laws against collusion between bidders and in favor of open competitive bidding amount to when the chairman of the State Highway Commission and the Highway Engineer do not think that any pavement but bitulithic (Warrenite) is worthy of consideration?

Talk about open competitive bidding. In Columbia County there was only one bid on bitulithic and only one bid on asphaltic concrete. The bid on asphaltic concrete was $1.38 per square yard, just about double what Clackamas County and Marion County did the work for.

The voters of Oregon should know just what kind of a proposition they will go up against if the road bond issue carries. Here are some facts that should be borne in mind while considering the question:

First—The Federal department forbids the payment of Government money, either directly or indirectly, for royalty or premiums on any patented process or material.

Second—The Federal Government does not co-operate in any way in the expenditure of this $6,000,000 paving bond issue.

Third—The present Highway Commission and the Highway Engineer will follow the same policy as was followed in Multnomah County, a policy which cost the taxpayers more than $200,000 for patent royalties on some 60 miles of road.

Fourth—If the same policy is followed in the expenditure of the $6,000,000 bond issue it will cost the state $1,000,000 in royalties.

Fifth—S. Benson believes that Warrenite is a "perfect paving." He said so at Forest Grove, in a public meeting.

These statements are not intended as reflections on the members of the State Highway Commission, but they are facts, and should be considered as such. Safety first. Vote "No" on measure 315 on your ballot.

C. E. SPENCE.

CITY'S ADVANTAGES WEIGHED

O.-W. R. & N. Interests Favor Seattle, in Opinion of Writer.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—I have been giving considerable attention and thought lately to the expression that has been quoted more or less the past few years about what is the matter with Portland? I have been reading all the articles that came to my attention on this subject lately and was particularly impressed with two articles in The Sunday Oregonian—one signed by "A Portlander" and one by Max Hauser.

Judging from what I have been able to gather about the rate situation from the Inland Empire to Portland, Astoria and Sound points, I have come to the conclusion that Portland, by its location, both in distance and the fact that it has a practically water level haul from the Inland Empire down, is entitled to a better rate than any of its competitors, not only because it would benefit Portland as a shipping and trading port, but because it would give to the producer of the Inland Empire a cheaper freight rate, which would add to the value of all their products.

It seems to me that the O.-W. R. & N. interests are standing in with Seattle on a combination to keep up rates on local products for the advantages it gets on the long haul on the tonnage it receives at Seattle, and this, of course, is to the detriment of all producers of the Inland Empire.

I believe the time is ripe for coming out fair and square with the O.-W. R. & N. interests and giving them to understand that unless they break up this combination and give Portland the rate it is entitled to that Portland will immediately inaugurate and put in effect the means of bringing the O.-W. R. & N. to terms by water competition. I believe that if the O.-W. R. & N. will not give Portland the rates she deserves that the Port of Portland should immediately arrange to acquire enough steamers to put on a coast-to-coast line of ships that will take care of all the freight offered.

That Portland should unite in supporting the $3,000,000 subsidy bill, giving the Port of Portland authority to subsidize a line of steamers, either local or foreign, that they think will benefit this port, especially with the idea of river boat lines from the Inland Empire to Portland to connect with the foreign and Eastern coast line of steamers.

I think we have come to the parting of the ways. We should either go into this matter in a wholesouled way that will be sure to achieve results desired or we should give up the idea of spending any more money for public docks, elevators, etc., that under the present parity of rates would work for the advantage of Seattle and San Francisco at the expense of the producers and manufacturers of the entire Northwest that are naturally tributary to Portland.

I do not believe in the Port of Portland going into the shipbuilding game, but I do believe they should have the authority to build or buy ships, whichever they can do to the best advantage. I would much prefer to have the boats built under private interests, but to be owned and operated by the Port of Portland, for the interest of the Port of Portland, and as an evidence of good faith and to show the interest I take in the matter, I will pledge a subscription of 5 per cent of our capital to any well-financed shipbuilding plant that will agree to build ships for the Port of Portland at a cost not to exceed 10 per cent profit over cost, or on the same basis that private interests are now contracting to build ships for the National Government.

H. H. NEWHALL,
East Side Bank.

WARS ARE HELD UNNECESSARY

Socialists' Opposition Based on Scientific Principle, Says Writer.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—Since Socialists in peace conferences and war counsels in every belligerent country are playing their part in this war, it is but just that their case be understood, and this reply to your eight-line editorial inquiry, wherein it was asked if "Socialists opposed the war through love of peace or fear of Germany?" should be published that American socialism be not unfavorably suspected of disloyalty. We beg to say it was neither of which you accuse it.

Socialists' opposition to war comes of too scientific a principle to be biased by love or dominated by fear. It is they who know the needlessness of, and it might be said impossibility of, war if the laws that govern the social relation of men were adjusted to fit our modern economic lives. The fact remains that war does not settle anything that might not a thousand times better be settled by diplomacy, and would be so settled, regardless of alleged causes of war, if the social relation of individuals and nations were so modernized.

It is because the people are not educated in the prior cause of war that such wanton destruction as war brings to them can be put over on them by an ancient social regime. When war enters or obtains, intelligence is further destroyed by censorship favoring the war, and the generation that wages a war never understands the true cause of the war or why it was fought by them. It remains for history written by unbiased individuals in after years to give out true reasons and causes. A generation hence the true cause that brought about this great war will be given out and that generation will understand its uselessness and impracticability over that which might have obtained if the people of this day were living under economic conditions suited to their best welfare.

As to American socialism being Germanized, allow us to say it is, with a few exceptions, neither pro-German nor pro-British. It is, in distinct contrast to both allegations, pro-working class and anti-capitalist. While some of the declarations made by the late St. Louis convention, in view of the previous declaration of war, were futile and even childish, their opposition to war was biased by love or dominated by fear.

Socialists intellectually oppose war through a knowledge of the previous cause of war and its utter uselessness as a remedy for the evils that set it in motion. No amount of fighting and consequent suffering will stay the red hand of repetition of war, only as we may advance in knowledge of why wars are declared and proceed to eliminate the original cause. This is the true reason why Socialists oppose war and their co-operative participation in the conferences and counsels of this war entitle them to mutual consideration.

C. W. BARZEE.

PRISON FUND IS OPPOSED

Writer Thinks This Is No Time to Add to State's Taxes.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—It seems strange to some taxpayers that, under existing circumstances, the press should be boosting the $400,000 burden of a new state's prison, in addition to $6,000,000 bonds for roads, when, as a matter of fact, neither is a necessity.

True, a commission was appointed to secure a new prison plant.

After some of their number traveled through the East investigating model prisons in Minnesota, New York State and elsewhere and had done exhaustive (?) reading on penology, criminology and the like, they present a learned report in the way of a pamphlet of 76 long pages that would make the great Howard himself stare at what our commission appointed to investigate the Oregon State Penitentiary know.

These gentlemen do not have so much to say about our own institution as what theorists say and other states with a heavy population and vast resources in the way of taxable property are doing.

That a modern state's prison in Oregon would be well is not questioned, but what are the facts?

We have at Salem 300 acres of the finest land, where all the potatoes, vegetables and berries needed in the prison may be produced, with 27 cows, giving at the present time what milk and buttter the inmates need. The buildings, while out of date, in design and construction, are, nevertheless, adequate, plainly comfortable and sanitary.

This is proved by the fact that of 400 prisoners confined there but six are now on the sick list. Two are cases of tuberculosis, contracted before convictim. But two men are actually sick in bed in a hospital equipped for 40 times that number. The kitchen and dining-rooms are clean, well arranged, with as good food, cooked and served as well most likely as the reader of these lines has in his own home.

The grounds are ample, with divers buildings for manufacturing purposes standing unoccupied, with hundreds of idle men, as I saw them the other day, lying about on the ground with nothing to do, and for the reason that under existing laws the products of convict labor are not permitted on the market, a state of things that a new prison would be unable to remedy. Only a few were fiddling about with a little flax fiber.

With the great war we are now entering upon certain to tax to the limit every morsel of food and every garment worn, in addition to the fact that scarcely a business house or dwelling in Portland and other smaller cities of the state can now be rented for enough to pay the annual tax imposed, is it the time to pile on $400,000 more tax for a new penitentiary, to say nothing of $6,000,000 automobile road bonds, which it is figured the autos will pay, but a debt the taxpayer will be held for in any contingency, light and fact? Is this the time to be paying for frills?

C. E. CLINE.

WIFE'S RIGHT TO WORK UPHELD

Woman Declares Home Life Without Children Isn't Worth While.

PORTLAND, Or., May 19.—(To the Editor.)—In answer to "Twenty One" on the editorial page I would like to say a few words.

My experience has been quite similar to L. A.'s, except that I have no children. I am a trained nurse and had charge of a hospital and did private nursing for three years after finishing training.

I was married when 21 and have been married six years. We have no children and my husband does not desire to adopt any. My husband is a mechanic, and lives a life of little variation, seemingly having little higher ambition, almost no enthusiasm, but happy to fit in his notch, while I am the opposite. I do not mean that he is cranky, but so steady, so quiet and practical, unresponsive, although kind and intelligent. We have different opinions on politics and most of the questions of the day. My life is not half full enough and I feel that if I had L. A.'s children I could be much more contented, but in the absence of that I must work.

The housework for two, even though I bake and do the laundry, is so light that it is very nearly all done at 9 in the morning, and like L. A. I do not care for crochet.

Someone will say, why not plant a garden? We have 50x50 in and partly up, and now that the planting is done it will require an hour's work each evening, most of which will probably be done by my husband. Of late I give part of my time to Red Cross work, but I want to work regular hours, draw regular pay, and feel independent. I think the woman who wastes her time gambling for prizes at bridge parties should feel ashamed to waste the time given to do something that amounts to something in this world, for time is precious, and once wasted can never be recalled.

Why should a woman when she marries and does not have children give up her individual life and ambition? A man does not.

There is much difference between two years of married life and six. "Twenty One" should remember. At two years of married life I, too, was much more contented, but six years of washing dishes, the same dishes, the same clothes, sweeping the same floors gets tiresome. If one has children it is worth while, for she is giving the world something.

Then "Twenty One" must remember that what is good and sufficient for one is not for the other, that some are naturally more domestic than others, while some (like myself, I suppose) are too full of business, and have more executive ability than is used or is needed in three rooms and a bath.

EX-NURSE.

HUSBANDS OFTEN FORGETFUL

Wife Suggests Remedy for Hopelessness of Some Others.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian was a letter from an unhappy wife and mother. She considers herself a mere "slave" or "drudge"!

Only two days ago a neighbor came to me almost hysterical. She fancied herself simply a household "drudge." She has no children. Her husband's income is not steady, as he is a day laborer, but the wife is modest in her wants and doesn't require or ask for the best.

She was self-supporting before marriage; earned money enough to save up a little, besides keeping up a neat, stylish supply of clothing.

Now her clothes are getting shabby and her husband, she says, never thinks of her needs; she doesn't believe he has any love for her. So she cooks, washes dishes, scrubs and dusts, with no hope of brighter things. She is sad and hopeless and wishes she were free to earn her own clothing at least.

Isn't there something back of all these heart aches and disappointments? Hasn't the husband some duty he has forgotten? Does he think of the wife tenderly as he did when he was courting her. Didn't he anticipate her wishes and consult her tastes in every way, making her understand that he loved her?

Hasn't he become stolidly indifferent? Doesn't he selfishly think a wife should be satisfied that she has a household to look after and be thrilled with joy as she looks over his frayed underwear and mends his socks? I believe all would be well if each were willing to sacrifice a little and believe the other meant all right. There need be no worry and disappointments.

One grand thought that can be entertained by each and all is just this, believe others are wanting to do right and insist that all is well and that you are happy and try to make everyone realize the truth.

ONE HOUSEKEEPER AND WIFE.

FARM PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Writer Suggests Methods of Eliminating Some Defects.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—Your recent editorial, "Managing the Farm," holds out a truth that is not only of value at this time, but should be remembered with profit at all times. It is easily a fundamental and essential element in successful farming: "Careful planning," and not alone there, but applies with equal force in every other line of endeavor worth while.

I would not charge the farmer with neglect or inability to perform this important feature of farm work; my experience in touch with conditions in this state and elsewhere convinces me that the majority of farmers observe this as a very essential feature of successful farming and are fully awake to its practicability and results; thanks in a large measure is due the Department of Agriculture, the agricultural colleges and other Government agencies, directly and indirectly, for the ever-increasing effect of their work in this particular as well as in other lines. Contrary to the belief among many people that the farmer is a Rube and a hundred years or so in the rear of the procession, I will say without fear of successful contradiction that there is a big surprise in store for the man who will take the time and make it his business to acquaint himself with the "man on the farm"; he is easily the attacking force in the onward movement and is in possession of the means to keep him there, but certainly there are many who are not as thoroughly convinced of the value of intelligent farming as they should be or as imbued with its importance in the management of their work or take advantage of the means at hand to a better understanding of their calling, and because of that fact the Government is exerting every means possible to help where help is needed. The idea of planning for the conservation of energy and capital is of great importance now, when help and resources will be taxed to the limit in view of the magnitude of the work before us, and the one who will use a good deal of foresight now will be the one to meet the demand and be able to overcome many perplexing problems later on. As far as being equal to the problems incident to climatic and other conditions outside our influences is concerned, it should be no detriment to our purpose to push ahead as determinedly as ever, for be it known the most experienced and capable have not been entirely equal to the solution, however carefully they may have planned, but nevertheless many difficulties have been met by taking advantage of the knowledge we have and the means of obtaining it.

The full story of successful farming cannot be told, for there are many factors outside of careful planning and management that enter into it, which even science has been puzzled to explain, and the smallest farm may present problems too complex and multitudinous for the average mind to master; and it is not surprising to find the inexperienced who set out with lots of enthusiasm and imagination to conquer the earth, weaken and give up the fight when confronted with the daily problems of farm work. If there is any hope for one he will soon be conscious of a lack of knowledge and experience and apply himself to the acquisition of it, for let me repeat, farming demands as much intelligence and experience to its successful operation as any other line of work, and perhaps more, and for the encouragement of those who are taking the initiative in farming and who no doubt have bumped up against some real trouble already, let me say that patience and perseverance is the means to a successful issue and he who constantly applies himself will not only be enriched in larger independence, but in ennobling and health-producing experiences.

J. H. MOORES.

SOCIALISTS UPHOLD MESSAGE

Text of Note to Germans, However, Is Not Official, Says One.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—In the daily papers of May 12 there appeared the text of a message from certain American Socialists to the German Socialists calling upon them to put an end to Kaiserism as the only means "to bring the war to an early end."

With this message all Socialists are in accord. In substance it is an appeal to the German Socialists to overthrow the German autocratic and militaristic ruling class, and establish a greater degree of democracy. All Socialists, regardless of their differences upon other matters, are agreed that all over the world the rulership of the few must be ended and the rule of the people established.

It is unfortunate, however, that in this instance the message is not official, and will not be so treated by the German Socialists, as it does not come from the National executive committee of the Socialist party of the United States, whose members are as follows: Victor L. Berger, Milwaukee, Wis.; Anna A. Maley, Minneapolis, Minn.; John M. Works, Chicago, Ill.; John Spargo, Old Bennington, Vt., and Morris Hillquitt, New York City.

According to press reports, which were unfortunately erroneous, it was stated that the message to German Socialists was signed by "the National executive committee of Socialists of America."

Among those included as members of this committee were the following persons: Charles Edward Russell, J. G. Phelps Stokes, Rose Pastor Stokes, William English Walling, Winfield R. Gaylord and others. These persons have no official standing in the Socialist party of the United States at the present time and were not authorized by the regular Socialist party organization to send the message to Germany, admirable as it was.

Another error is to the effect that one of the signers, Henry L. Slobodin, is a former "National secretary of the American Socialists' committee." Mr. Slobodin never held this office.

It has become the established policy of the Socialist party of the United States to refrain from interfering in the affairs of the sister Socialist parties of other countries, assuming that each Socialist party in the respective countries is doing the best it can in the fight for victory over the ruling class.

VICTOR J. M'CONE,
State Secretary Socialist Party of Oregon.

CHURCHES THOUGHT INACTIVE

Complaint Is Made That Forms Are Preserved, but Life Is Gone.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—It appears to me that there is a formalism in the church that is somewhat oppressive. As I sit within its sacred precincts I observe a sort of staleness, lifelessness, and lack of a spiritualized vitality, energy, vigor, action and push which are so essential to the power and efficiency of a church.

Perhaps there is something wrong with my optics or the sense of perception, whatever you may call it. I hope so, for I should very much dislike to have such a valuable institution as the church misrepresented. For if the world is bad with the church in it, it would be much worse with the church out of it. As I think on this matter two passages of Scripture come to me which read as follows:

"Having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof."—Second Timothy, 3:5.

"Ye shall receive power when the holy spirit is come upon you."—Acts, 1:8.

The writer of this article is not a "ranter," nor does he believe that shouting and making much noise are the evidence of a deep-seated religion, nor does he believe that the shouts of "Amen," "Hallelujah," "Glory to God," "Praise the Lord" put beyond dispute a man's closeness to God. But the church should not be like the "Valley of dry bones."

I do not remember how Webster defines religion, nor do I recall the definitions of it by such distinguished theologians as Pope and Miley. Religion to me means two things, life and service. We must first be and then do. There is some good Scripture for this statement, namely: "Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"—John, 3:3.

We pick up the morning paper and read, "Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Jones, a boy," and we say, "Another life has come into the world." A natural birth suggests life in the natural world and spiritual birth suggests life in the religious world. But now what is the sign of life? A child lies before me. How am I to determine whether the child is alive or not? By its name or by its form? No. But by movement. When I see its eyes twinkle, its breast heave, its hands move, that is proof to me that the child is alive.

So we determine the spiritual life in man the same way. Not by name, a Methodist or a Presbyterian, not by form, being baptized or partaking of the Lord's supper, but by movement, by action, or, in other words, always busy doing something in the kingdom of God.

Some years ago a ship was stranded in the Arctic region. Some months later an exploring party sighted the ship. They noticed men on the deck, they started toward the stranded vessel, climbed to the deck; the men were there standing erect, but frozen to death. Their names were on the book in the cabin, their forms were there, but they were all dead.

So we may have our names in the church book and have the form of religion, but be dead. There is no such thing as being religious without being born again, and where there is life, real life, strong life, it will be evidenced in activity.

Now a word about service. "Go work in my vineyard." "We are co-laborers together with God." Christ uttered two sentences which should be hung on the walls of every Christian home, namely, "I have not come to be ministered unto, but to minister." "I am among you as one who serveth." There is only one way by which we can serve God, and that is by serving our fellowmen.

We should, as far as opportunity affords, be busy ministering to the needs of our fellows. It is said of the master, "He went about doing good," and I am happy to say to all classes and conditions of folk, and his command is to us, "Go ye and do likewise."

ISAAC PEART,
547 Yamhill Street.

PLEA FOR GOOD ROADS MADE

System of Modern Highways Held Oregon's Greatest Need.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—Most Oregonians are amazed and surprised at the rapid development and growth of California, but they don't seem to be able to grasp the cause of this development. There is one cause and one only and that is the facilities for the rapid transportation of people and commodities from one part of the state to the other by the means of railroads and paved highways.

California has today probably more paved roads for the number of square miles in its boundaries than any other state in the Union. This has attracted tourists by the thousands. These tourists become boosters for the state and finally settlers. They bring in great wealth and distribute it in the form of wages for labor and material in the construction of fine homes and country estates. Have you seen any of this in Oregon lately?

What a contrast we have in Oregon! Take the main Pacific Highway, which for many miles parallels the Southern Pacific Railroad, and what do you find? Mud, mire, bottomless pits, rotten bridges, heavy grades and a multitude of sins against man and beast. Jackson County is famed far and wide for its boosters and what do you find there? Why, the county has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on paved roads. Marion County and Linn County have a few miles, as have also Clackamas and Multnomah counties, but out of this small mileage what do we get when we have to travel the rest of the mire? A bad opinion in general of the good common horse sense of the people of the grand State of Oregon.

Do the good people of this state think that for one minute the Southern Pacific or any other railroad is going to boost for good roads and paved roads when they can get all this produce and passenger traffic, besides hundreds of automobiles moving north from the California state line just as soon as they strike bad roads? Do you think for one minute that any railroad in the state is going to boost for good roads, as long as they can get all the transportation of the produce from the ranches to the big towns and cities?

There are actually thousands of tons of perfectly good food allowed to go to waste and rot just for the reason that the roads of the greater part of the state are impassable for about nine months of the year. Ranchers become discouraged at the conditions that exist and leave for other states just on account of the conditions now existing in many parts of the state and some knockers, believe me, when they do go. Does this help the state? Not on your life. The State of Oregon has the most wonderful soil and produce-growing climate in the United States, and yet what should it profit a rancher if he raises his crops and then has to let them spoil for means of transportation?

I am not in the automobile business, but when our friend Henry made cheap transportation available to the average rancher he did a magnificent thing for the country. Of course we all will admit that there are a lot of wild, harem-scarem idiots running loose with machines who ought to be in solitary confinement, but we must admit that the average rancher in the State of Oregon has it now in his power to inaugurate a system of paved roads in this state that will be a monument to all posterity.

Get up and vote for the good roads bond issue. Don't worry about the cost. Every dollar spent will bring back two in prosperity for the entire state. Good roads means better times; your property will increase in value. Tourists will come and boost the state with good roads. They will stay at the hotels. The hotels will buy the ranchers' potatoes, onions, beans, cabbage, peaches, pears, apples, hogs, mutton and beef.

I am in no way connected with any automobile concern, Commercial Club, paving company or any other outfit directly or indirectly that has an eye to any profit accruing from the making of good roads throughout the state, but I do realize that my friends and myself will benefit by the prosperous times after these roads are inaugurated.

W. H. BANES.

CITY GARBAGE PLAN TOO COSTLY

Bruce C. Curry Points to System as It Is Enforced in Seattle.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—There will be submitted to the voters of the City of Portland at the next election a charter amendment providing for the establishment of a garbage collection system and as the adoption of this measure will mean first an issuance of bonds and thereafterr yearly taxation for its maintenance at an increasing cost, I believe the people should understand the measure thoroughly before voting upon it, as our taxes now are about all the taxpayer can stand.

The system now employed in Portland is what is known as the private or individual collection system and has given, as far as I am able to learn, very satisfactory service; the garbage now collected is all that the city is able to dispose of at its present incinerating plant, in fact, the plant is now working far beyond its guaranteed capacity of 150 tons per 24 hours, as it is taking care of about 185 tons per day. Under the present system the collector removes the garbage when and as often as instructed to do so.

If the householder wants to burn or otherwise dispose of his garbage he can do so without expense, but if the new amendment is adopted he pays anyway; if he does not have his own garbage hauled away he pays for the hauling of somebody else's garbage. His economy saves him nothing.

The City of Seattle, Wash., has the municipal garbage collection system, having adopted it in 1911, and owing to the fact that the City of the Seattle and the City of Portland are nearly of the same size, both in population and area, and have similar climatic conditions, we might, by an examination of the results there, know what to expect from the adoption of the same plan here.

The City of Seattle is now collecting and disposing of more than 400 tons of garbage per day; the cost of collection is $1.85 per ton and the cost of disposal is 22 cents per ton, making a total cost of collecting and disposal of $2.07 per ton. None of the garbage there is now incinerated, as the cost of incineration with the increase of garbage under the municipal collection system became prohibitive, and numerous fills or dumps were established in various parts of the City of Seattle and all of the garbage is now dumped into or upon these fills; the aggregation of flies and rats captured at these dumps is wonderful. If the garbage was incinerated it would cost 75 cents per ton more than by the fill disposal. In the City of Portland the garbage would have to be incinerated.

In order to establish this plan of municipal garbage collection the City of Seattle issued and disposed of $300,000 of bonds and the cost of collecting and disposal during the first year, 1912, was $338,020.32; at that time most of the garbage was incinerated; in the two years following, when a part only of the garbage was incinerated, the cost was for the year 1913 $272,850.57 and for 1914 $251,177.96 and in 1915, when practically none was incinerated, the cost was $229,792.25; if the garbage had been incinerated, as it would have to be in Portland, the cost would have been $339,792.25. The amount of garbage disposed of in 1915 was 131,250 tons.

The result of municipal garbage collection in Seattle has been to demonstrate that its collection and disposal has added about 1 1-10 mills to the tax levy and in order to keep the levy from going still higher it was necessary to abolish the incineration of the garbage and establish the dumps in the city parks and streets.

After the issuance of bonds for the establishment of such a plan in the City of Portland, as proposed by said charter amendment, it will require the expenditure of nearly $250,000 a year for the collection and disposal of the garbage of the City of Portland. This means a material raise in our tax levy.

It is doubtful if the adoption of such a method will improve the health of the city and it is certain that the increase of the tax would bring distress to that large number of our taxpayers who are now required to economize to the last cent in order to pay principal and interest on street and sewer assessments, library taxes, school taxes, road taxes, state, county and city taxes, Port of Portland tax and a water tax.

Under municipal collection of garbage the quantity to be collected and disposed of would increase from 75 to 100 per cent over the amount now collected, as much of the waste now burned by the individual, in order to save the expense of having it hauled away, would be given to the collectors to be disposed of by the city at the expense of the taxpayer. Many of the residences of the City of Portuand have their garbage removed twice a week. This would be impossible under the municipal collection plan and the accumulation of a week's garbage in the Summertime would not be beneficial to public health.

It would also be necessary to erect two or three additional incinerators in the city, so located that each district would have a plant in order to avoid long hauls.

The commission houses, hotels, restaurants, stores and apartment-houses under the municipal collection plan would receive a service entirely out of proportion to that furnished private residences and it would not be justice to anyone to tax the small homeowner, who destroys his garbage, for the collection and disposal of store and hotel garbage.

BRUCE C. CURRY.
446 East Seventeenth street North.

THANKS URGED FOR BLESSINGS

Correspondent Rebukes Woman Who Complains of Lot.

PORTLAND, May 19.—(To the Editor.)—I would like to answer the letter by A. L.

Now, dear A. L., you mention that you have all this world's blessings—good home, husband and two nice children. I am glad you have, and wish every woman had the same. Did you ever thank God for these same blessings? No, you simply took his good gifts for granted. Have you Christ in your heart? No, or you would have no time to give way to the gloomy thoughts you have. What is drudgery? I am sure not cooking or housework when done in a loving spirit. Christ washed his Disciples' feet. He was humble and yet a King. You are looking for a something that is not of this earth, and when you do accept it your discontent will vanish and in its place will come a well-filled life of good thoughts and deeds, and don't be selfish, as you are at present, but pass it on to your husband and children and all your friends.

You wanted work, now it is at your feet; if you pick it up it is one of the biggest jobs you ever tackled a life job, in fact, and when you come to the end you will think how little you have done and how much he did for you.

E. R.

ORIENTAL LABOR IS OPPOSED

Result of Cheap Workmen in Civil War Is Cited.

PORTLAND, May 12.—(To the Editor.)—I notice a letter from an Eastern Oregon bonanza farmer objecting to the employment of city men, as he would prefer Oriental labor on his ranch. This shows his caliber—it's cheap labor he wants. The South wanted cheap labor and got it from Africa. The result of which was a great civil war and riots, lynchings and attacks on women, both white and black, ever since, and, worse still, a bad blood mixture and un-American conditions there.

We should learn a lesson from their misfortunes resulting from greed and keep the Pacific Coast a white man's country. I have employed many city-raised men and boys in farm and ranch labor and found them generally satisfactory.

J. S. JOHNSON.

FARM WAGES HELD TO BLAME

Importation of Orientals for Laborers Is Opposed.

MONTESANO, Wash., May 11.—(To the Editor.)—I would like to say a few words in regard to the letter written by Eastern Oregon Farmer. If he needs more help on his farm than he has let him pay wages according to the price he will get for his wheat and he will get the help.

We don't need any more Japanese or Chinamen in the United States than we have now and the American people are not going to stand for it.

There are thousands of idle Americans in the United States today and if they were forced to work or join the Army there would be no shortage of labor at harvest time. America for Americans.

IRA I. FERRIER.

AIR AND SEA WAR THEATERS

Allies, With German Energy, Could Win by Aeroplane Attack.

OREGON CITY, Or., May 11.—(To the Editor.)—Replying to your editorial of recent date concerning attacking the strong and vital points of the German Empire, it occurs to me that if the allies had or even now should use the same energy that the German Empire is using in their under-water craft, that they, the allies, could with the same energy in aircraft strike the vital points in the German Empire mentioned in your editorial.

Everything so far, indicates that the wars of the future will be fought in the air and beneath the sea.

C. H. PIGGOTT.