

Sunday Oregonian

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THE PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTATION.

In suspending the rate of \$6.50 a ton on smelter products from Garfield, Utah, to San Francisco, which had been done by the Western Pacific road, the Interstate Commerce Commission has reopened the entire field of discussion on transportation by both rail and water.

The new rate was made in order that shippers might avail themselves of the low water rate from San Francisco to the Atlantic coast. On its face it is justified by the rate of \$7.87, which is made by the water line from Montana points to Tacoma, after deducting certain charges which those lines absorb the latter rate is somewhat lower than \$6.50.

Though distance and cost of service are greater, the new rate is not merely an equalization of rates, but from one smelting point to its nearest port with that from other smelting points to their nearest port.

By reducing this rate the Pacific coast takes away from roads extending eastward traffic which they must have and upon which they calculate to earn the minimum return of 3 1/2 per cent fixed by the transportation act.

If the westbound rate should stand, the eastern roads would receive their minimum return on the traffic. Probably the western roads would retaliate, and an old-fashioned rate war might begin, which would prevent either group of roads from earning the standard return.

The commission's plan is to preserve the solvency of the roads, to insure that they earn the standard return, in order that they may render efficient service to the people. Hence it must restrain rate reduction and must maintain an equality between traffic that goes eastward and westward from the mid-continent area, where there is an economic line corresponding to the mountain divide.

But more involved than competition between two groups of railroads. Behind the Garfield rate is competition between rail and water lines. In this competition the transcontinental roads having a short haul to the Pacific ally themselves with the ships plying from coast to coast and with the roads having a short haul to the Atlantic coast.

The roads through the intermediate belt have little of the traffic that is carried by the transcontinental routes. That does not worry the Atlantic and Pacific coast lines, but the commission cannot permit the roads through the central belt to be starved for their benefit.

Another problem is presented by the request of the public service commissions of Oregon, Washington and Idaho that the railroads restore temporarily the eastbound rates which prevailed before the general advance was made last August.

The increase in cost that is due to high railroad rates. The action of the three state commissions may help materially by inducing the railroads to talk what they can get rather than get nothing, and by tempting home consumers to buy, but far more can be gained by pressure on the government to adopt a policy which will break the blockade of world commerce and by assisting those who move to finance that commerce.

We have entered a period of readjustment in the transportation business, which is more complex than that of industry and commerce in general. It is complicated by competition of our new merchant marine with railroads just when the Panama canal has come into full use, and by competition of motor transport with the railroad. It is also complicated by the high cost of railroad service when price of commodities is falling.

The situation changes so rapidly that before a remedy that is sought can be applied it no longer fits the case. For example, when the last rate advance was asked last spring, the railroads were glutted with traffic and it seemed that any increase within reason could be paid.

When the rate advance was authorized in July, industry had already begun to slacken and volume of traffic has since steadily fallen until the railroads are scurrying for loads for their cars. Evidently the tendency of prices is downward, and the railroads must reduce their rates to meet the demand.

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IS WEALTH A HANDICAP?

Judge Elbert H. Gary thinks John D. Rockefeller Jr. is wrong in assuming that wealth is a handicap to a youth in making progress. The oil man's son had been quoted as saying that it is a disadvantage of inherited riches.

"He had to make his own way in the world," said the son, alluding to his father, "and I have never known what that was"; to which Judge Gary replied that the boy had been both ways, that those of the rich and the poor are different in kind, but not necessarily in degree.

The rich man's son may have to fight his way to the top, but the boy's own man's son might find it easier to get on. The individual is called forth to battle in both instances. It is the spirit that counts, not the things that bind others to him. It is the spirit that counts, not the things that bind others to him.

Judge Gary says he would not have felt handicapped if he had been born with a legacy of \$1,000,000. Here he strikes a popular chord. A youth who is not a millionaire, but who would not feel handicapped, while conceding that in the abstract much wealth may operate as an economic anesthetic by deadening the mind's capacity for striving.

give the United States power to prevent reckless lending and investment of American capital in ways which might become the cause of disputes between the two governments, and to prevent graft, which is rife and has checked oil production when an increased supply is needed throughout the world.

This is so rational a policy, so careful of the rights of both countries, that it suggests the question: Why was it not followed long ago? It might as well have been adopted at almost any time within the last eight years, certainly at several critical junctures.

THE EFFigy ON THE CENT.

A correspondent wants to know whether a real Indian posed for the figure on the copper cent coined prior to the Lincoln penny and the name of the tribe to which he belonged. The figure in question was not, as a matter of fact, modeled after any Indian, but the question recalls an interesting controversy.

The figure on the original of the figure—a controversy that raged, with some acrimony, in the administration of President Roosevelt, on whose direction the Indian head was abandoned in favor of that of the man in the center.

A story that derived vitality from popular reluctance to subject a pleasing recurrence to sordid scrutiny long was current to the effect that the figure was modeled after the six-year-old daughter of the chief engraver of the mint. She was Sarah Longacre, afterward nationally prominent as Sarah Longacre Keen, secretary of the Women's Foreign Mission Board of the Methodist Episcopal church and noted for her benevolences.

The story was that a delegation of Indians visited the national capital in the late fifties, and being entertained by Mr. Longacre, were struck with the winsomeness of the child. One of them, a chief, placed his hand on the child's head, the version ran, and some one who was present made a pencil sketch which afterward gave Mr. Longacre his inspiration for the head of the Indian figure, which was formally adopted in 1857.

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VERSATILITY OF GENIUS.

The death of James Huneker, widely known as a dramatic and musical critic and as an alert and sympathetic observer of art and the work of artists in many phases, is reminiscent of the striking capacity of the mind of a few men to perfect themselves in a wide variety of fields.

Mr. Huneker was not only a critic who comprehended principles and backgrounds, but he was a linguist with an intimate and idiomatic knowledge of four languages, a writer of the daily and weekly press, he found time to write nearly twenty books. He was the direct instigator of the Ibsen theater in America, after having written a remarkable book of literary criticisms of the playwright's works.

He was also a successful contractor, built massive public works, such as the foundation for the Bartholdi statue of Liberty, won honors as a painter of water colors, as a worker in charcoal and in illustration, and finally, as an author of books and stories, eclipsed the fame that he had previously attained.

William Wetmore Stone, who published five volumes of creditable poems, modeled a great number and variety of sculptures, and wrote numerous stories, also the author of a prosaic but authoritative legal treatise on the law of contracts and the law of sales of personal property.

He was engineer, architect, astronomer, geographer and writer, as well as painter and sculptor—a master of all. Michelangelo, sculptor, painter, architect and poet, and Cellini, goldsmith, sculptor and interpreter of men in the most noteworthy autobiography ever written, possessed the gift of intellectual divisibility less remarkable only in degree.

Benjamin Franklin was another such genius, who has told us in his autobiography how by his early methodicalness he so managed the disposal of his time that he was able to become master of many vocations. Let this man alone explain a phenomenon. Not all versatile geniuses have possessed the talent for reducing life to a routine that Franklin had, and a good many who live by rule and drum have not.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

It has become so common a practice to make a routine of the time of popular interest in churches that a canvass of church attendance in Baltimore made by a newspaper of that city on a recent Sunday is especially illuminating.

The city has a population of 500,000, and it is estimated that there are 600,000 persons of church-going age. The enumeration included 349 city churches, which were attended by 207,180. The secretary of the local federation of churches estimates that 80,000 probably attended the churches not canvassed.

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THE USES OF A LIBRARY.

Remember that the imperishables come to more in the final estimates of the value of a public library than does any statement capable of being made by statistics. It is contained in the unusually interesting report of Miss Cornelia Marvin, librarian of the Oregon State library, for the recent biennium. Although we may doubt that there is much danger in saying that libraries "may be of positive benefit to the community," there will be agreement that the measure of a library is not only service in the utilitarian sense, but also the inspiration and recreation to which it contributes.

Thus, while the library is a place of study, it is also a place of recreation. It is a place where the mind is refreshed and the soul is comforted. It is a place where the young find inspiration and the old find wisdom.

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for education which is characteristic of the age in which we live is still another phase which is touched on in the report, which relates to growth of the co-operative library idea. There must be co-operation in acquisition and lending of books, as well as in other community affairs.

"It has become apparent," says the report, "that it is folly to attempt to collect large libraries in small towns and to duplicate these collections in neighboring towns." An authentic investigator of library conditions covering a period of twenty years is quoted as saying that the small library standing alone in a town of under 2000 people must be inadequate unless it is endowed, "and then it is itself for it to accumulate books which are unused when neighboring towns and rural communities are clamoring for them."

SEVENTY YEARS OF STEAMBOATING.

Announcement of the withdrawal of the O-W-R-N company from steamboating on the lower Columbia recalls a period of frenzied romance in the history of western water transportation. Genealogy of the company's interest in navigation runs back in an unbroken line to the beginning of steamboating on the Columbia river.

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BY-PRODUCTS OF THE PRESS.

Fraud Advertising Saved Theatrical Venture From Ruin. Earl Carroll quite some years ago was a programme boy in a Pittsburgh theater. He became a composer, playwright and lyricist, related Raymond G. Carroll. His last venture was as manager of his own production, "Daddy Dimples," a comedy recently at the Republic theater, and "The Lady of the Lamp," a musical play which it succeeded. His other playwright efforts include "So Long Letty," "Canary Cottage," "Flora-Bella" and "Pretty Mrs. Smith."

When "The Lady of the Lamp" was in its 15th week, Mr. Carroll found his bankroll was shattered and he put out an advertisement labeled "My Last \$1000," a really truthful statement of his financial position at the time, he tells me. After stating that he was spending the money for the advertisement, which ran 70 lines deep in double-column measure, he said: "In the hope that I may reach the really fine theatrical public, if I don't reach you I shall at least know that I fired all my ammunition before the ship went down."

"The week before I advertised we did \$6400," he said. "The week after the advertisement appeared we took in \$1145, and the next two weeks \$7500 and \$7500, respectively. I am convinced that advertising pays. It pulled me off the rocks at a time when I was down to bedrock, and proved that away down deep there is sincere kindness among humans. One man came around with \$5000 and said he was one of a syndicate of 20 to finance a production. He brought to the theater four diamond rings which he wanted to pawn in my interest for \$22,000. Hundreds of sympathy letters poured in upon me. Of course, I did not avail myself of any of the offers, but I learned this great lesson: when in financial difficulties don't be afraid to let go in advertising, and confide frankly in the public."

When the army balloon hangar at Brooks field, near Fort Sam Houston, Tex., is finished it will be the largest in the United States, according to the War Department. It will cost \$450,000 according to Major John C. Thornell, commanding officer of the field. The section of the hangar now under construction will have an inside length of 270 feet. The inside width is to be 125 feet and the doors are to have a clearance for the admission of an airplane 15 feet in height. The hangar is to be of steel construction covered with corrugated material, a combination in which asbestos is the principal substance.

The roof is to be of gypsum and cement. The doors to the hangar are to be separate from the edifice proper in construction and the foundation is now being laid. They are to be in four sections and will be operated by electric switches. In laying the footing for the doors the largest concrete blocks west of the Mississippi river are being made, the officer stated. A foundation of concrete will be completed before the work on the steel part of the structure will begin. Between five and six months will be required for the erection of the hangar.

The section of the hangar now under construction, Major Thornell said, is as large as any in the United States, with the extension to 300 feet in length planned for the future will make it by far the largest in the country. Even the ouija board has come under the ban of certain lawmakers. The Kansas City Star, in considering a new bill to prohibit gambling, said: "The ouija board, the checkerboard, the dice, the roulette wheel, the cards, the dominoes, checkers or ouija boards. The country members denounced the amendment as an attempt to kill the bill by ridicule. 'Let's make Missouri a place where all the people will spend their nights with their families and cut out all forms of gambling, as well as crap shooting,' Ratzky said. Whitaker of Hickory county said he desired to aid in any movement to reform St. Louis. Speaker O'Fallon interrupted that he believed ouija boards should not be included properly in the amendment, as it is not a game of chance. But St. Louis is a city that 'one can not tell what the spirits may say.'"

There is, as the pessimists would insist, still time for a good old-fashioned snow storm, but the probability is strongly against it and it is much pleasanter to assume that spring is here. Congress, like the legislatures of the forty-eight states, has the habit of procrastinating in the early days of the session and then rushing business through at a made pace in the last hours. Housewives may need also to be reminded that the cheap egg is also the best egg. And that now is the time to provide against the dollar-a-dozen product later on.

One excellent way for the Pacific coast to get on the ship news map would be to enter a contestant for the King Albert cup race across the Atlantic in July. One way to discourage hunger strikers would be to forward their share to the starving children of Europe, who know how to appreciate food. Edison suggests that synthetic milk is entirely possible, thus indicating another step in the direction of the perfect chemical substitute for food. The French idea seems to be that Germany is no more to be trusted now than she was when it was held that a treaty was only a scrap of paper. Japan, proceeding to fortify the islands of the South seas, hopes to impress us, perhaps, with her Pacific intentions. It being almost time to pay our income tax, we know precisely how Germany feels about that indomitable tax.

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Romance: An Argument.

Think you that romance, sentiment, In this swift age where mankind worships gold? You are in error, for mankind, In his hunger for both, as knights of old; We see the starved heart in the empty eye of poetry, and romance sets them free. That was a man or woman, once, maybe, As lost to love a little while, the spell of poetry, and romance sets them free. From that staid dignity or air assumed, To the crude craving that but seldom dies, For sentiment in youth-time ever blooms, Though time may smother it or still its cries.

If you have doubt that hearts are beating still, With kindled warmth that first was kindled there, Go watch the crowds that never cease to meet, The seats before the alver screen; Compare their wailing attention as, with focused eyes, They watch the tale unfold as seeming fact. And you will know that many lives are lived, And love is what they've mostly craved and lacked! With such darkness they are safely veiled, And there, alone with self, and fancy free, They live again the romance that has but faded from the world.

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