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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT
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The Journal is the only daily paper in Portland that circulates freely and figures to the public, fully and freely...

The pastorate are like men standing on their heads; they see all things the wrong way.—Plato.
"BIG BILL" TAFT.

THE BULK of rumors and expressed opinions is that Secretary Taft is the president's choice for his successor. A great many Republicans, apparently an increasing number of them, persist in believing or saying that Roosevelt will be forced to run despite his refusal; but a majority of them seem to agree that if he should succeed in avoiding the nomination his first choice would be selected, and that Taft would be the man.

There is considerable present probability in this. Taft is undoubtedly a great favorite with the president. So is Root, though Root has always been a corporation man. But the president probably realizes that Taft would run better than Root. The president has kept Taft much in the public eye, and the people rather like his sort of a man, but nobody knows how much backbone he has. Unless Roosevelt should be swept into the position of candidate in spite of himself, it looks more like Taft than any one else.

If it were certain that Roosevelt is and would decidedly remain in favor of Taft, it might be said that his nomination is almost certain, for Roosevelt can certainly bring a great and probably a controlling influence to bear upon the convention. Possibly it was with this in view that Taft did not accept a position on the supreme bench.

But Fairbanks thinks he will have something to say. And others. A tremendous effort will be made to nominate a "safe and sane" man, and if Taft is Roosevelt's choice he may be considered doubtful. Much may happen in 15 months, but just now Taft looms up rather larger than anybody—except Roosevelt.

INTERIOR WATERWAYS.

THE CONSTRUCTION of the Panama canal, and the country-wide failure of the railroads to move the products, have brought the water transportation subject to the front again as it has not been for half a century. And in recognition of this fact President Roosevelt has appointed a national interior waterway commission, the first of its kind in the history of the country.

It is perceived as never before that inland waterways must be maintained wherever possible, not only because they are the mightiest lever that can be brought to bear to keep down freight rates, but because it is seen that it is and will be simply impossible for the railroads to carry the products offered them for transportation. The country must go back in some measure to the interior water transportation, which prevailed half a century ago. Not to deprive the railroads of business; they will still have all they can do and more; but as supplementary to them and regulative of them.

This commission, and congress acting on its suggestions, need to move swiftly in this matter. The states may have to help, as some of them are already doing or planning to do; but the main burden must fall on the federal government, and instead of spending a comparatively small sum, it ought to spend at the least \$50,000,000 a year for 10 years on the country's waterways.

WOMEN TEACHERS' PAY.

IT IS reported that women teachers, by a well-organized plan of visitation at the psychological moment, captured the New York legislature and secured pledges enough to pass the bill to pay women teachers the same salaries as men. A good many members who were really not in favor of the measure agreed to vote for it, partly because they could not say no to a squad of pretty and persistent school-ma'ams—for be it known that the majority of teachers are not elderly and ugly—and partly because the members realized at once that these teachers, if they chose to exercise their influence, could control a good many votes. Some of the male teachers were on hand to protest against the bill, but they were accorded slight consideration. The women-teachers are overwhelmingly in the majority, and though they cannot vote they can in-

ROOSEVELT'S GREAT TASK.

IF THE president succeeds in his project to eliminate stock watering in railroad and other corporations, the effect on his own place in history will be enormously consequential. The task is one that a few years ago would have been dismissed as impossible. Its accomplishment has been the theme of writers and the burden of economic orators for a quarter of a century. It has been dreamed of and chanted about by political organizations and civic societies through industrious and indefinite years. Its importance has never been misunderstood nor undervalued.

THE LAST CONGRESS.

COMMENTING on a light remark of The Journal, the Portland Tribune says: "The last congress did not 'do' the people in any particular and The Journal doesn't believe it did." Well, not much more than usual. It did a good thing in passing a liberal river and harbor bill. And in its first session, spurred by the president, it passed a law regulating railroads to some extent. But negatively, rather than affirmatively, it continued to "do" the people. It refused to do a little act of justice and "plain duty" to the Philippines, although urged thereto by the president and Secretary Taft, showing its subservience to the sugar and tobacco trusts. It refused to pass the La Follette amendments, necessary to deal with the railroads intelligently and effectively. It made no effort or motion to cut down the protective tariff support of the trusts, that have waxed gigantic through this species of indirect taxation of the people. Except for the filibustering tactics of the Democratic senators it would have passed the ship subsidy bill. And it passed the Aldrich-Rockefeller currency bill, granting very large additional favors and privileges to pet banks. It spent a vast amount of time discussing Smoot, but enacted no reform of the land laws.

WORD FROM COQUILLE.

SEVERAL traveling men, representing prominent Portland firms, writing from Coquille, say, as published in The Journal yesterday, that having visited that region for three years or over, they find an ever increasing request for Portland to aid the business men of the Coquille in establishing better transportation facilities. "Much business," these keen observers say, "is done with us in the face of heavy obstacles, and were Portland to awake to her opportunities by placing a steamer or steam schooner of light draft on the run into the mouth of the Coquille river to Bandon, the business could be more than quadrupled."

CONFLICTING DECISIONS.

AS FAR as heard from, federal judges are a tie on the constitutionality of the employers' liability law, relating to employment on railroads, passed by the last congress. The first two decisions rendered, one by Judge Evans of Kentucky and the other by Judge McCall of Tennessee, declared the law unconstitutional and void, because it was not interstate commerce legislation. A little later Judge Hanford of the state of Washington took the opposite view, and in what was said to be a strong opinion, upheld the law. Now Judge Emory Spear of Georgia, a jurist of national reputation, follows Judge Hanford's decision, and declares the law constitutional. When federal judges thus disagree, people less learned in legal lore must necessarily remain in doubt, and await the decision of the United States supreme court, members of which, it may be expected, from these conflicting opinions, will also come to opposing conclusions; but as this highest court is composed of an odd number of judges and the majority makes law, the matter will be settled one way or the other. It is possible that a decision sustaining this law would indicate that the proposed child labor law fathered by Senator Beveridge would also be sustained.

Colored Bottles for Milk.

French mothers are greatly interested in the advice which is being given them by physicians to have the milk which they give their children after they are weaned kept in colored glass bottles. Milk, they advise, was never intended by nature to see the light. Experiments have shown that milk which is kept in colored glass is far superior to that which is served in the ordinary white glass bottles.

Letters From the People

Humidity and Immortality. Portland, March 26.—To the Editor of The Journal—From Rotherham's translation of the New Testament, from the Greek text of Tregelles, I quote the following extract (see II Timothy, 1:8-11): "God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to a peculiar purpose and favor, that which was given us in Christ Jesus before remote ages times, but was made manifest to us now through the forthtelling of our Savior Christ Jesus; who, indeed, abolished death, but illumined life and incorruption, through the joyful message."

Handbooks For the Hurried

By Wex Jones. This is the age of handbooks.—Weekly paper. This is no book for "mollycoddlers." The man who is any good as a citizen should have one of these little booklets every year and this book will tell him how to do it.

Some Lines on Spring.

By James Montague. When the solemn night-lights found us with the covers tucked around us, Unguardedly but blithely we were breathing: "Spring has come!" For the breeze blew mild and mellow, and the moon shone warm and yellow. And the stars beamed forth benignly in tiny spots of flame. "Ha!" we mused, "Us for the barrel where we keep our spring apparel. Winter didn't last—forever, though we thought it might, at that." Then, so—show, the deal was shifted, and what time we slept there drifted. Neatly moidered snow heaps under every window in our flat.

His Narrow Escape.

From The Chicago Tribune. Mr. Ferguson, one of whose down-town friends had just dined with him, had taken them into the library for a smoke. "I must tell you a good one on my way home," he said. "She's been roasting me because I look at the headlines in papers once in a while to see if anything important is happening in the Thaw trial. Well, the other afternoon, when the first was away, she put a pan of biscuits in the oven to bake, and while she was waiting she picked up a paper and began to read the stuff herself. She got so interested in it that she let the biscuits burn."

Snoring No Excuse for Murder.

From The Albany Democrat. Snoring is undoubtedly a disagreeable sound, but it is no occasion for murder. Nor are a great many other things in life. In one's daily life one runs across a great many disagreeable things, and with murder in the heart there might be trouble almost any day. But one has no business to become impatient with the little things of life, whether that of snoring or anything else as filthy. Instead one does well to be philosophical, take the common things of life as they are, and be thankful because they are no worse.

Tip for Taft Et Al.

From The Memphis Commercial Appeal. If Messrs. Taft, Root and Fairbanks are not careful, a man by the name of Hights will be the next Republican candidate for president.

Always Try to Do Your Best

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox. It is sad that so many of us are content with our second best. We reach a certain point, and there we stay, amuse ourselves, and do not strive. Not one in ten of us is making the most of life and its opportunities. Moderate success seems to satisfy us and we sit back content with ourselves. We could all do better than we are doing if we had the grit and perseverance to keep at it.

Weakness of "Strong Men."

By Staff Surgeon A. Gaskell of the British Navy. In ordinary language one may divide strength into two varieties—physical and constitutional. The former is the strength of large kind to be desired. A man with large muscles and a heart strained by the improper use of dumb-bells is of but little use as regards endurance. If, however, his heart is not too big, he may be able to maintain in co-ordination may have been neglected, and so render his large muscles useless.

Today in History.

1520—Raphael, the painter, died. Born 1483. 1623—Governor William Kieft arrived at New Amsterdam. 1793—Thomas Worthington, the celebrated astronomer, died. Born 1715. 1802—The planet Pallas discovered by Dr. Olbers. 1814—United States frigate Essex surrendered to British ships Phoebe and Cerberus in harbor of Valparaiso, Chile. 1815—General Wade Hampton of the confederate states army born. Died April 11, 1902. 1826—Seneca treaty concluded. 1846—American army, under General Taylor, invaded Mexico. 1847—Great Britain declared war against Russia. 1862—Confederate steamer Iris taken by United States steamer Stetlin off Charleston, South Carolina. 1888—Earl of Cardigan, leader of the Light Brigade at Balaclava, died. Born 1797. 1911—Paris Commune proclaimed. 1891—Canadian Pacific railway completed from ocean to ocean. 1898—Resolutions declaring war with Spain introduced in congress.

All the Vowels.

From The Pittsburgh Dispatch. "Abeutmentous" and "faustionary" are the only words in English having the vowels in their order.

Small Change

Speaking of lively events soon to occur, don't overlook the St. Johns election. Secretary Taft doesn't see how he could "rattle around" in Roosevelt's place. If Honduras is really whipped, it is probably willing U. Sam should intervene. Foraker is no doubt confident that he and Little Dick could fix the Ohio primaries. Isn't Count Bond being shamefully neglected these days? Or is he too broke to notice? Still it isn't every farmer that would make a good president of an agricultural college. Now we will hear some more party talk, but most people won't pay much attention to it. March having been a pretty fair winter month, we may reasonably expect April to bring spring. "My colleague, Roosevelt," says Emperor William. So it is a trinity now, he, Gott and Roosevelt. After a little, apparently, the burden of proof will be on the state to show that a murderer is not insane. Henry Clews issues a warning against the man who habitually drinks alone. Mightn't he as well have left off the last word? Some old maids don't care much about who will be nominated or elected president next year, as they are interested in 1908 because it is leap year. What to do with Roosevelt? Why, elect him president again, send him to the senate from New York and appoint him chief engineer of the canal. An exchange says stopping a bad habit is as easy as rolling down hill. More like climbing up hill; keeping up the habit is more like rolling down. An Illinois man has organized a new sect, one tenet of which is "Know all things." Nothing more is needed to prove that the founder is a fool. All the trains will be running on time again before long—Salem Statesman. Verily, we have not heard such an expression of optimism, nay, not in Oregon. It is suggested that Rockefeller wants to civilize and Christianize the Chinese so he can "do" them more easily. He works us poor civilized, Christianized Americans all right. The price of coal oil has been raised again—of course. Couldn't an injunction be issued to restrain Rockefeller from giving away any more millions of the people's money without their consent? A Philadelphia paper speaks of the recent eruption of the Ohio river as "the western flood." That writer probably supposes that Cincinnati, St. Louis and St. Paul are on the confines of civilization.

Oregon Sidelights

Union will have a big new planing mill. Prineville real estate is rising in value. Milton people are moving for a new modern hotel. A ranch of 8,000 acres near Antelope was sold for \$25,000. Medford has three bank buildings erected within two years. Several families from Michigan arrived at Madras last week. Timber cruisers are still scouring the country west of Junction City. Ten years ago there were four cheese factories in Tillamook county, while today there are 28. Public ownership of waterworks is the paramount and indeed the only issue in the Eugene election. A Myrtle creek man sold his farm of 480 acres to five men, three of them new-comers, who will plant fruit on most of it. The county court of Harney county has made an order appropriating \$750 to the Harney county fair association to be used for premiums and to advertise the resources of Harney county. "Let us kick and kick hard," exclaims the Monument Entertainer, about the coal service. "Coal off! and let us go to work to fight for what the government owes us." Some people of The Dalles are considering the scheme of providing a summer camping ground along the river, that will be strictly a Dalles affair, where families may spend the heated term inexpensively and to which the "head of the house" may have easy access. Sheep men are experiencing great difficulty in securing sufficient help for lambing, says the Antelope Herald. Such is the scarcity of men this spring that boys are being pressed into service at men's wages. Usually, many men come in at this time of the year looking for work at good wages, but this spring few have put in an appearance. Myrtle Point Enterprise: The town should be made too small to hold the sneaking cur, the cowardly coyote, the dastardly snake who, for the profit on a bottle of poison sold by him for whisky or wine, would sell the soul and corrupt the morals of the smartest, handiest, most gentlemanly boy in town and brag of his achievement. Salem Statesman: The historic Long Tom river in the southern part of Benton county, may yet become famous in the annals of Oregon, as the proposed 30-mile canal connecting Eugene and Corvallis would have its outlet in that river and "the added water flows from the canal with such artificial impetus as could be added would make the Long Tom an avenue for the route" for steamboat navigation. All the Vowels. From The Pittsburgh Dispatch. "Abeutmentous" and "faustionary" are the only words in English having the vowels in their order.