EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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A noble nature can alone attract the noble, and alone knows how to retain them.—Goethe.

A SAMPLE "ANTI" ARGUMENT.

THE McMinnville News-Reporter has made a discovery. It is one not entirely original or new, but our esteemed McMinnville contemporary has thought it out rather farther than any other newspaper. The discovery, in brief, is that all movements, these many years, for any kind of a political or social change were for the purpose of breaking up and destroying the Republican party. That is, the movers had this object in view, rather than the accomplishment of the purported purpose. The News-Reporter says that "the greenback party soon turned into a side issue to help the Democratic party kill the Republican. The Populist (party) eventually fused with Democracy for the same purpose." This is true, to a certain extent; it happened naturally, and for reasons that are obvious. But the McMinnville paper brings its general proposition down to date, as follows:

At the present time the work of a Republican congress and Republican president are so satisfactory that Democracy in Oregon has no chance, but they, together with every other person who is ready for "anything to beat the Republican party" are striving with might and main to use Statement No. 1, with the same idea in mind. Like free trade and free silver, it will naturally appeal to many, and even some of the more thoughtful, who have failed to see "the Niggar in the woodpile." Democrats have, and are registering as Republicans so as to nominate the weakest man and then help to beat him at the polls. Kill off Statement No. 1, and this kind of contemptible trickery will largely be at an end. Remember Statement No. 1 is no part of the primary law. It can and should be killed and the primary law even made better.

Is the work of the Republican congress "satisfactory"? What has it done during the past four months for the people? Did not the Republican (?) president last week indict congress in a message in which he pointed out about 17 laws that ought to be passed which congress has not passed and will not pass?

But turning to Statement No. 1, why should that "beat the Republican party"? Did not the Republican party enact the primary law? Did not nearly all Republican papers of the state support it? Is not Statement No. 1 in it merely for the purpose of giving the people the chance to elect the United States senators? Isn't Oregon Republican by an overwhelming majority? Why then does this change of system "beat the Republican party?"

"Democrats are registering as Republicans." Well, only two men are candidates for the Republican nomination for senator. One of them will be nominated. Can't Republicans support and elect that man if they choose? Can the wicked little minority of Democrats prevent them? Who is going to beat the successful candidate but Republicans? And if they should choose to do so, why blame the Democrats for it?

"Kill off Statement No. 1, and this contemptible trickery will be at an end." So you want to go back to state conventions, and boss rule, and legislative holdups, and boodle and bribery, and corruption and scandal, and the sale of the senatorship, and vacancies, and elections on the morning of the forty-first day, do you? You think all this is better than allowing the people to go to the polls on the first Monday of next June, honestly, decently, soberly, conscientiously choosing between two duly selected prominent men which one shall be senator, do you?

Well, if you do, you are in a smaller minority among the newspapers of Oregon than the Democrats are among the people. If the Republican party with some three votes to one can't save itself in the matter of a senator, then it is fair to presume that the Democratic candidate will be the better man for the people.

SHALL 46, OR 46,000, RULE?

"MEN are born equal, and they die equal," said a French philosopher. "No man is good enough to rule over another man without that other man's consent," said Lincoln. Why a senator should be selected in Oregon to be set up in a position of lawmaking rulership without the consent of the majority of the people, expressed at the ballot box, is past finding out. Why it should be done with the consent of a select few, and the senator be elevated to rulership without the consent of the other people, lawfully expressed, is inconceivable. The principle is oligarchial, and results in an oligarchial United States senate, ruled by Aldrich and his clique. It teaches the spirit of oligarchy, as seen in the legislative candidate who, insisting on going to the legislature unpledged, in effect says, "I will do as I please, to hell with the people."

But, bad as is its tendency, rotten as it has proven in practice, corrupting as it has been to "men of the highest character in the state," as Senator Fulton says, contrary as it is to the every utterance and every teaching of the immortal Lincoln, baneful as the system has been in its effect upon the whole country, there are those who insist that the next senator from Oregon shall be named by the consent of 46 men, instead of rather than by 46,000. Was the immortal Lincoln wrong, and are Harvey Scott and Jack Matthews right?

PEOPLE RISING ABOVE PARTY.

OUR discouraged and disgruntled morning contemporary says: "The contest between Fulton and Cake is a useless one. The wrath raised in the primary fight will not be composed, and in the June election the friends of the defeated candidate, or large numbers of them, will not vote for the successful one. Truth is, that one half those who say they are Republicans have cut loose, or stand ready to cut loose, from party."

The latter statement in the above quotation is probably true, or largely so. We see no reason to complain of the fact, and believe it is a good sign. It indicates thought, inquiry, investigation, intelligence.

"There can be no party," moans the morning paper, "where there is no attachment to any clear line of principle or action." Partly true, again. The leading, dominant "line of principle or action" with the Republican party these 46 years has been a very high protective tariff. There has been no other of prominence enough to mention. Yet the Oregonian has all this time opposed this "line of principle and action." Hence if the Republican party has to some extent broken up, isn't the Oregonian considerably responsible? It did its duty, as we think, in opposing the protective tariff; why should it so bemourn the troubles of a party that has made that its paramount principle? "But the Democratic party isn't much either," is consolingly remarked. Again we agree, so far as Oregon is concerned. But cheer up, brother; if the people, growing wiser and more vigilant, are becoming independent of party, are turning from one to the other, and back again, and administering punishment on both for their sins as opportunity offers, let us not mourn as those without hope. Possibly the people can get along pretty well without bosses and party machines, after all; let us give them a chance.

THE COUNTRY "DOUBTFUL."

FOR many years the New York Herald has been noted as a shrewd, impartial political prognosticator in presidential years. It has sometimes been slightly mistaken, but usually guesses pretty accurately, and its predictions—something rare among newspapers or men—are independent of its own desires. It may oppose a man and yet predict his election. It is not blinded by its wishes. It is peculiarly unbiased, and it takes pains to be especially well informed. Hence some recent remarks of the Herald, while, thus early it makes no positive prediction, are of interest. It says:

There is to be noted a growing feeling of discouragement on the part of Republicans generally at the national capital as to whether the candidate to be nominated at Chicago will win. As Taft sweeps through 'the emeny's country,' picking up delegates here and there, it is evident that even some of his warmest supporters are getting in a state of what might be classed as 'blue funk.' On the other hand it is evident that some of his opponents are somewhat relaxing their efforts because they do not think that the party can make a winning fight unless the situation is changed. But what more than the troubles of Secretary Taft is exerting a disheartening influence on the party managers is apparently their incapacity to grapple with matters of pressing importance. They find themselves on the heels of a money crisis unable to pass quickly a simple measure of financial relief for an emergency currency. They find themselves unable to reach any agreement which will enable them to pass any legislation which will meet the insistent demands of labor, and they find themselves with congress and the president divided.

THE PARCELS POST EXPLAINED.

A COMPREHENSIVE parcels post system is in operation in most foreign countries. The limit of weight that is allowed in several of them is as follows: Great Britain, 11 pounds; Germany, 110; Austria, 110; Belgium, 132; France, 22; and Italy, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Chile and Cuba, 11 pounds.

The present rate in this country is 16 cents a pound, the limit of weight being four pounds, while the rate from the United States to 29 foreign countries is 12 cents a pound and the limit of weight to 24 of these countries is 11 pounds. Thus our own people must pay 5 cents a pound more for packages sent to one another than for packages sent abroad, and can send only four pounds at home instead of 11 or more if sent abroad. This arrangement was established and has been maintained and congress so far refuses to change it, merely to please and enrich the express companies.

In a recent circular the postmaster general again explains the rural delivery feature of the proposed law, as follows: "The department favors the establishment of this special service because of its ability to render it with great advantage to the farmer, the country merchant and other patrons of the routes, as the necessary machinery (over 38,000 routes now regularly covered by rural carriers) is in operation. There are some 15,000,000 people living on these routes, which shows the vast possibilities of the rural service." After showing that the service would be far more than self-sustaining, and would help to increase rural mail delivery, he says: "That a local parcel post would be of material advantage to the retail merchant in competition with mail-order houses is seen at once, when it is pointed out that the latter, at the proposed general parcel post rate of 12 cents a pound, would be obliged to pay $1.32 for sending an 11-pound package to a rural route patron, a difference in favor of the local storekeeper of about 10 cents a pound, or $1.07 on an 11-pound package." The department, the postmaster general says, has recommended provisions which would effectually prevent injury to rural merchants by the use of the parcels post by mail order houses; and in conclusion Mr. Meyer says:

With the adoption of new conveniences of life by urban residents, and the ever-increasing attractions of the city, especially potent in their influence upon the younger generation, the importance of affording farmers and ruralites generally every legitimate advantage becomes more and more apparent. The free rural delivery has improved materially and intellectually the life of great numbers of these people. Is it too much to ask that the department shall make a further use of this important system; a use which, while adding appreciably to the postal revenues, will directly and vitally benefit every man, woman and child within reach of a rural route? The countryman would have the necessities of life delivered at his gate at an average cost of 2 cents a pound, thereby facilitating and increasing consumption. This would mean augmentation of the trade of thousands of country merchants. The commercial traveler should appreciate the advantages of this system; it would increase his orders because the country merchant buys from the jobber or the wholesaler. Every component part of our commercial system would feel the effects of an increased prosperity. It would inevitably tend toward the improvement of the roads. Better roads and improved postal facilities in the rural districts would result in increased values of farm lands. The rural service as now organized has accomplished something in this direction; its enlargement will add to the good attained.

These arguments in favor of a parcels post are unanswerable, but there are still the old arguments against it that are all-powerful with congress, to wit: the express companies, backed by the railroads.

Mr. F. W. Gardiner of Astoria, writing to the Oregonian, says: "I certainly do not want to send Mr. Chamberlain to the United States senate to represent my views, and I am very sure that he would not do so." Very well, then, Mr. Gardiner; vote for Mr. Fulton or Mr. Cake, if the one nominated will represent your views better than Mr. Chamberlain. But are you not willing that your neighbors all around you, a large majority of them Republicans like yourself, shall have the same privilege as yourself? Why do you insist that only a majority of 90 men, instead of a majority of 100,000 men, should elect a senator? Mr. Gardiner also has a perfect right to think that this should be done, and vote accordingly, but we are quite sure that a large majority of his Republican brethren do not agree with him; that they prefer to have a direct personal hand in the choosing of a senator, and are willing to abide by the result of a popular vote.

Portland extends a cordial welcome to Paul Morton, as to all prominent or even more obscure men who have money to invest or have control of money seeking investment. Mr. Morton will find no solider, safer city, nor any with better, surer prospects, than Portland.

We have no doubt that Portland will give a very large majority vote in favor of the state university appropriation. Multnomah county pays somewhere near one third of the state's taxes, and it is willing to pay its share of $125,000 a year to support this institution.

The Oregonian thinks that Bryan may very likely carry Oregon. Let us hope that if he does he won't be counted out.

This Date in History.

1806—John P. Hale of New Hampshire, first anti-slavery senator of the United States, born. Died November 19, 1873.

1833—Treasury buildings at Washington destroyed by fire.

1850—John C. Calhoun, American statesman, died. Born March 18, 1782.

1855—Charlotte Bronte, author of "Jane Eyre," died. Born April 21, 1816.

1854—Commercial treaty concluded with Japan by Commodore Perry of the United States navy.

1866—Spanish fleet bombarded Valparaiso, Chile.

1891—Baron Fava, Italian minister to the United States, recalled.

Nearly everybody will be April fooled somehow.

Letters From the People

Time for People's Rule.

Eugene, Or., March 28.—To the Editor of The Journal—In the Oregonian of March 23 Judge M. C. George laments the fact that the people of Oregon have adopted the initiative and referendum because a majority of voters might use the law to encroach upon the established guaranties of the rights of individuals and minorities and "some one's fingers may yet get badly burned."

Mr. George thinks "it would have been going far enough to allow the initiative coordinate with, or in appeal from the legislature and only on general legislation, but it was unwise and dangerous to let the people amend the constitution." He says "It may be that wisdom belongs solely to majorities voting, but the experience of the past has been unable to so discover."

Now if Mr. George cares much about the rights of minorities he has a good show to prove it in a practical way between now and our June election. One of the amendments to the state constitution proposed, if adopted by the people and supplemented by law, will give proportional representation to political parties on all offices filled by two or more persons whose official duties, rights and powers are equal and concurrent.

At the last session of our legislature the Democrats of Oregon had but one member in one house of our legislature, when under proportional representation they would have had about one third of the members, as they cast about one third of the votes of the state.

In the southern states the Republicans are a minority and under our "out-of-date" state constitutions, whose provisions Mr. George calls "the experienced wisdom of ages" these Republicans of the south cannot get any just representation. The same with independent parties or other minority parties.

Let Oregon set the example by adopting this measure of fairness and justice and other states will follow. It will be something to advertise the people of Oregon as a class of people who believe in "fair play"—in the "square deal." It will be an act the people of Oregon will have cause to feel proud of. If Mr. George's talk in favor of minorities is more than pretense I expect to see him take the stump in favor of this measure.

Mr. George thinks our state initiative should have been only "coordinate with or in an appeal from the legislature." Such an initiative would not be considered worth going to the polls for by the average voter. Petitions sent to the legislature for action are too often thrown in the waste basket and to wait until the legislature would hand us the laws desired, however just, we might find life too short if corporations of great wealth were opposed to referring such laws to us.

We have this kind of a referendum now to amend our national constitution. The people have been demanding an amendment to the federal constitution "giving us direct election of United States senators" for 50 years. More than a generation of people have tired waiting for congress to refer the question back to the states for adoption. Finally the people got tired of waiting for Mr. George's kind of referendum to work and will get direct election of their supposed servants in the United States senate through Statement No. 1.

If any minorities are likely to get their fingers burned by the initiative and referendum it will be the minority of candidates and editors who in this age of progress, when voters read and reason for themselves more than ever before, keep on opposing real people's rule by opposing the initiative, referendum and Statement No. 1, and that monopolistic minority of the Harriman-Rockefeller variety which keeps on putting its fingers deeper into the pockets of the people than the traffic and patience of the American people will stand much longer. MAX BURGHOLZER.

The Deplorable "Age Limit" Rule.

Portland, March 26.—To the Editor of The Journal—Please allow me to call your attention to one of the conditions that cause qualified electors to neglect or refuse to register. As you are aware, the constitution defines a qualified elector as "a male citizen 21 years of age." Yet, when they apply for registration, their full and exact age is demanded, and if it is refused registration is denied and they are ordered to "move on." This, at least, is my own personal experience when I applied for registration. Now, many employers of labor have a very interesting condition which they term the "age limit." Why it exists no one can give any reasonable excuse. No attention is given to physical condition, mechanical skill or any other qualification the applicant may possess. If the age of 45 years has been attained employment is absolutely denied. Although this will appear to many as the uttermost depth of "dampfoolism," yet it is the position occupied by a majority of employers, and a large number of working men have learned it, to their sorrow. As a result many working men, both skilled and unskilled, when seeking employment, are obliged to resort to deception in regard to their age whenever they are able to do so, and consider themselves perfectly justified in so doing. They must either lie or go hungry.

After obtaining employment, if any suspicion is aroused that they have misrepresented their age or if any one desires to injure from any cause, the registration books can be consulted, and if they have been foolish enough to register as "required by law" they are out of a job. It is possible for men to lie for the purpose of obtaining needed employment. But few will make false affidavit for purpose of registration. So you can see the straits that confront one who is more than 45 years old and low enough down in the scale of humanity to be obliged to work for a living. Such men cannot afford to place their scant allowance of daily bread in peril simply for the sake of "lawful registration," and to gratify the small peanut politicians who advocate their entire disfranchisement if they fail to register. It is well enough for the "peanuts" to advocate such stuff, nothing better is expected of them, but it gave one a "joilt" to see The Journal indorsing this twaddle in its issue of March 24. Most working men look up to The Journal as a friend. E. E. PARKER.

328½ Russell street, city.

Party Politics.

Portland, March 31.—To the Editor of The Journal—I am only a common workingman, but have time to read The Journal and take a few observations. I also read the Oregonian some.

I appreciate more than I can tell the noble work The Journal is doing for the cause of humanity. You are building better than you know—building bulwarks for the people which the enemy will never be able to throw down. The work of The Journal in behalf of the people, viewed from the high plane of human liberty and justice, looks beautiful and clean. May it continue.

Especially is your stand commendable regarding the undue emphasis placed on party politics. We need less party politics instead of more; less ring rule and more people rule. You are wise in making Statement No. 1 the red-hot issue, and it needs to be kept the red-hot issue until the purpose of its inauguration has been accomplished—viz., an amended federal constitution, to the end that United States senators shall be elected by the people. I registered at the courthouse today, and the clerks were kept busy instructing the independents so that they would not disfranchise themselves at the primaries.

I think most of these independent voters are registering under the banner of the Republican party, but I believe this independent sentiment will find a way of expressing itself at the June election that will strike consternation to the hearts of old ring politicians.

The workingmen are with you in this movement. Let our motto be "No quarter or votes for the man who opposes Statement No. 1."

ONE OF THE HERD.

THE PROPER FUNCTION OF A POLITICAL PARTY

T. W. Davenport in the Silverton Silvertonian Appeal.

It is reported that several Republicans have been heard to say lately, "I believe the new way of selecting the people's representatives is better than the old, but I must go with my party." Oh horrors! Shouldn't a rational person stand aghast and groan aloud at such a confession of imbecile slavery?

What can be hoped for, as to the destiny of this great republic while any considerable number of its citizens surrender themselves like brute beasts of burden, to be led hither and thither, against their conscientious convictions as to what is for the general interests?

The sentence "I must go with my party" is never heard coming from the lips of a citizen who has any accurate comprehension of his obligations to society, and has sufficient spirit to be ranked among the class of animals called featherless bipeds. A man who goes with a party for merely personal profit does not merit our sympathy, rather our detestation; the one who goes with a party because he believes in its principles and policies, however mistaken he may be, is entitled to our esteem; the one who follows party thoughtlessly, is subject to reclamation, but of all the breed of partizans none are so hopeless and such a menace to the perpetuity of Republican institutions as those who knowing and feeling right, follow the party when they know it to be wrong.

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Suppose that Lincoln when his party fell into the control of the slave holding oligarchy and thereby became impotent to resist their demands, had said, "I know that slavery is inimical to republican institutions; I know that the extension of it should be resisted, but I must go with my party." Suppose that Seward, Greely, Sumner, Chase, Wade, Burlingame, and thousands of Whigs had consented to abnegate their conscience and manhood and follow their party, what would be the fate of our country today? My party! What is a party anyway, but a means to a desirable end, and that end such as commends itself to the rational consciences of citizens who are big enough and broad enough to place the general well being above mere personal and partisan considerations. But when the means become inadequate; in other words, when the party is diverted to other and unworthy purposes, then it becomes the duty of self respecting, public spirited partizans to exert themselves to reform the party as Roosevelt is now trying to do, or failing in this to abandon it as Lincoln, Chase and others did in the year 1856. Those partisans who cannot rise to such an emergency are scarcely to be recognized as men—only as excresions of parasites on the body politic. When a party is right in its principles and policies and shows itself competnet to enforce them, then it is worthy of support and its adherents can evince commendable party spirit, but the 'espirit du corps' should cease when the objects for which the party was formed are abnegated or accomplished. In truth, party spirit should have no existance, other than the love of great principles promotive of the general welfare. Blind party spirit has been the bane of American politics from the first. Washington saw it, in truth he felt it, and warned his countrymen against it, and now after a hundred years of costly experience, we are driven to the necessity of trying to abate the nuisance. And it has had a fearfully debauching influence unknown in Washington's time. Then, the virus of the spoils system had not been injected to any great extent; the political boss had not evolved, and the political combination, which now holds in its clutch the industries of the nation, had not assumed formidable proportions.

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People who cannot see that the spoils system of politics, which places the political machine between the people and the government, is legitimately responsible for the abnormal conditions in which we find ourselves, are indeed a hopeless lot; and still more hopeless if they cannot see that no reformation is possible while blind partizanship prevails. Many, however, do not, and so an emancipation proclamation was needed to set the party slaves free, and we have it in the direct primary with Statement No. 1.

Every American citizen should be far seeing enough and cool-headed enough to comprehend that the chronic conflict between the so-called conservative and progressive forces in society, is merely a contest between those who are continually grasping for power and those of a less selfish, less ambitious cast of soul, who are striving for justice.

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Read as we may the lore of the past, burden our minds to their limit in trying to descry the lesson contained in that dreary and endless round of conspiracy, ambition and blood, known as history, and we shall doubtless come to the conclusion that government, wherever we find it, in whatever phase of its existence, by whatever name it is known, in the last analysis, is a fluctuating strife for the privilege of exploiting "the laboring kind whose toil upholds the glittering show."

Admittedly, human brotherhood is the goal to which we tend, for only in that direction is a progressive social state provable, but how quickly the average man embraces any opportunity to rise from the plane of fraternity and stand upon the backs of his fellows.

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It is to remove such temptations and hold a tighter rein upon our representatives that the new method was adopted. One conservative Republican upon reviewing the last legislative assembly, remarked, "I don't see that these men are at all superior to those nominated by the old convention system." Assuredly, not; but they hold entirely different relations to the people; every one here is under personal pledges to his constituents; he is not beholden to the machine or its bosses for his place, and whatever he may be as to ability, he is a non-assessable political unit. It has been asserted by high authority that a personal pledge is incomparable as a director of official conduct, with that of a nominating convention. Bosh! a party resolution in our experience amounted to nothing. If you doubt this, turn to the present case in Judge Galloway's court, where the last secretary of state is on trial for taking exorbitant fees, and has been doing it for eight years in flat violation of the platform of the convention that nominated him.

The Oregon people should be deceived no longer. The convention system made blind partisans instead of thinking freemen, who will stand for the country first and for their party only as it is auxiliary to the general welfare.

Small Change

Even April fool day won't be what it used to be.

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Don't trust any politician, who won't trust the people.

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Improvement clubs are more useful than party clubs.

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We will surely have some nice spring fever weather soon.

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Bryan still prefers silver to gold; at least he keeps talking.

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It is a first-rate time to buy a suburban lot or a little farm.

• •

Bruin resigned, and has also been fired, so he ought to be out.

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Fulton has the floor; last chance for Heney—before the primaries.

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How are those 1,200,000 men out of employment going to vote next fall?

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Let nobody but the people of Portland get any water rights on Bull Run.

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Only a week more in which to register; the earlier now the better and easier.

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More evidence that Senator Bourne is not a Republican; he voted against the Aldrich bill.

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For once the council felt compelled to stand by the mayor—but it may change its mind.

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That Alabama congressman who shot a nigger probably thinks it was no offense, even if he had no legal provocation.

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Few if any anti-statement men will be elected, anywhere in the state, if opposed by either Republican or Democratic statement men.

• •

New York Democrats would not invite Bryan, but this won't keep him away if he takes a notion to go there. He is quite able to invite himself.

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In doing nothing, expecting thereby to make the Republican party safe in the compaign, congress is playing the fool. The president as good as says so.

• •

German troops have destroyed a Hottentot village, killing 58 natives. No German casualties. Brave Germany. Thus civilization and Christianity march forward.

• •

A dispatch says that the house of commons has passed, on second reading, a bill providing that all clocks be advanced 80 minutes in order to use more daylight by promoting early rising. This is interference with personal liberty with a vengeance. Will the great independent British people stand for such an encroachment on their sacred rights? We trow not. But how is the government to enforce such a law? Or if it could see that the clocks were all set ahead, how could it make everybody obey the early alarm? And does this law apply to the aristocracy, who don't rise till noon, and if not, isn't it unconstitutional? Either the house of commons or some correspondent is playing a very dangerous joke.

Claude A. Swanson's Birthday.

Claude Augustus Swanson, governor of Virginia, was born in Pittsylvania county, that state, March 31, 1862. At 16 years of age he became a teacher in the district school to obtain money to defray his expenses for a term at the Virginia agricultural and mechanical college. After leaving the latter institution he clerked in a store at Danville for two years, this time to secure sufficient funds to enable him to enter Randolph-Macon college. He graduated from Randolph-Macon in 1885 and a year later received a degree from the University of Virginia. His education completed, Mr. Swanson entered upon the practice of law in the town of Chatham. He soon became a Democratic leader of his section and in 1892 was elected to congress from the Fifth district of Virginia. He was five times honored with reelection to congress, and held his seat until 1905, when he resigned to accept the governorship of his state. In 1896 Governor Swanson, then a representative in congress, served as one of the delegates-at-large from Virginia to the Democratic national convention at Chicago.

Oregon Sidelights

Roseburg News: For paved streets—yes. For mud up to your ears for another 10 years—no.

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Half of the county offices will go by default, says the Medford Tribune. Citizens are so busy making money that they have no time for politics.

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George L. Neale, near Central Point, has 25 acres of watermelon land ready for planting, and expects to raise a bumper crop of melons the coming season.

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William Bogue, who resides on the east side of the Willamette about two miles from Corvallis, has 153 acres of land, and is now at work platting it for sale in small pieces.

• •

The cheese output of Tillamook county in 1907 amounted to more than $450,000. That one product alone is making Tillamook county famous, and the cheese made there has no equal.

• •

The city of Eugene has become a great town for drummers, and almost every man on the road makes regular stops here, says the Register. They all speak well of the city, and this is an advertisement which means much.

• •

Lincoln county timber is being bought by the lumber companies, and claims are selling at from $2,000 to $7,000 for a quarter section. This timber should be cruised so as to enable the assessor to intelligently assess, says the Toledo Reporter.

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Echo Register: In Benton county the farmers are going to raise thousands of crates of tomatoes for the new cannery. Around Echo tomatoes enough could be raised to choke up the Columbia river. The new lands coming under irrigation will soon bring canneries.

• •

Hillsborough Independent: Last Wednesday was devoted to planting nut bearing trees on the school grounds by the upper grades of the school, the trees having been donated by F. M. Heidel, who a year ago offered to give the district 100 nut bearing trees if the board would see that they were properly cared for.

• •

Like Israel Putnam of old, who bravely entered the she wolf's den to slay her, Frank Edwards of the Blue Ledge mine has just won fame by chasing into his lair a huge black bear that has long terrorized the Middle Fork country, says the Medford Tribune, and, armed only with a 22 caliber rifle and a knife, slaying at short range the monarch of the Siskiyous. After a hard two days' trailing tramp alone, he located the animal in a cave, and after trying fire and cayenne pepper ineffectually, he felt his way along the torturous subterranean passage in darkness for a distance of nearly 500 feet, where he was brought to a sudden halt by the hot, fetid breath of the great brute, and guided by the flaming eyes, he placed the muzzle of his rifle within a few inches of the gnashing jaws and pulled the trigger, killing bruin instantly.

Taxation in Canada.

A citizen of Portland has received the following letter from A. G. Harrison, secretary of the Board of Trade of Edmonton, Alberta, which in view of the present discussion on the subject of taxation in Oregon may be of interest here:

"The city of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, does not tax the improvements made on property therein. In other words unimproved property pays the same tax as improved property. The tax rate this year is 13 1-3 mills on the dollar. That this method has been of benefit to this city, I think the following statistics will prove:

Population.	Building Permits.
1901, 2,626	$.....
1906, 11,167	1,868,069.00
1907, 18,000	2,280,210.00
1908, 18,050, (estimated)	5,000,000.00

Of which 1,314,860 were taken out in January this year.

"In Alberta province, farm implements or stock are not taxed. The tax is levied against the land for road improvement and educational purposes. The local improvement district, or local school district fix the rate of taxation and it runs about $7 per quarter section for school district purposes and $10 per quarter section for road improvement purposes. In new districts the tax does not exceed $3 for both purposes."

The REALM of FEMININE

The Vacant Lot Solution.

A MOVEMENT which has been found entirely practicable in some eastern cities, notably in Philadelphia, is that of donating to the unemployed the vacant lots about the city to be cultivated by them. Last season 200 acres of land were thus utilized in that city, and 800 families were afforded not only a chance to earn an honest livelihood and to provide for their winter needs, but also to do so in a way that brought them health and independence and gave them a better hold on the principles of honest labor.

An astonishing thing is the estimate in figures of the value of such productive labor. The value of the land is not estimated, as that was loaned by those who desired to help the cause. The total cost of starting the laborers in their enterprise and maintaining the labor was $6,000. The value of the total yield of produce was $54,000. If that is not an interesting example of productiveness, what is?

The application of this principle to our own civic problem of caring for the unemployed who are now a burden upon the taxpayers, is one that is worth considering. In the City of Brotherly Love the movement was taken in charge by a society known as the Vacant Lot Cultivation association. Rather a big title, but expressive.

The same idea might with good results be worked out in Portland, where there are now hundreds of honest intelligent laboring men out of work through no fault of their own. Neither is there any doubt that the property for garden purposes could easily be obtained. There are many public minded property holders in our city.

Unless it could be made a city problem, and money appropriated by the council to start these men in seeds and implements, it would become a matter for individual contribution by generous minded citizens, who would be willing to allow their fellowmen to help themselves, the only kind of charity that does not smack of mendicancy.

It is estimated in the association which has been referred to that $5 will be enough to start one farm, so that every $5 piece contributed for the worthy purpose would mean the healthful and instructive occupation for one family or one individual. This sum might reasonably be made a loan to the workers, to be returned next year to the association to be used again for the same purpose. It is not often that one $5 piece is directly productive of so vast an amount of good.

A point which we cannot afford to overlook in this connection is that the workers so employed cease to become a problem. They are taken out of the ranks of the needy and made useful members of the body social instead of remaining charges, and becoming more and more incapable of contributing to the world's needs.

Although Portland's problem of the unemployed is not so great as that of many eastern cities, there are more men out of work today in Portland, and there have been more all through the winter dependent upon the associated charities than ever before in the history of the city. It is probable that the number will be materially reduced as spring conditions open throughout the country, yet there will remain a residue of men who might be made to support themselves by this method who have neither the initiative nor the means to go about the problem individually.

Another matter which should not be overlooked is that Portland is rapidly becoming a large city. We shall have to meet civic problems in the next 10 years which have had no place in the past 10. Thousands are coming to the city, the progressive are taking care of themselves, but the competition is pushing to the bottom of the social ladder those who through ignorance of our language, our customs or of life as a whole, are incapable of consecutive and diligent toil. These and their descendants the city will have upon its hands through the years to come. Some such association as this which would reduce the ranks of the dependent may reasonably be considered one of the important and vital measures before us as a city.

One of the things that we as a city cannot afford to have is tenements. With the vast opportunities which the most productive land in the world offers throughout the northwest only awaiting the diligent labor of the husbandman, a starving, unhappy and dangerous class of inhabitants swarming in foul, dingy quarters is an anomaly. Yet these we shall have unless as a city we take preventive measures.

The hopeful thing about this manner of employing the unemployed is that it brings together the laborer and the soil. With the taste for honest employment and direct results which this system inaugurated, many of those who would otherwise become a menace to the city will go out to the country and begin an individual self-supporting life. The lure of the city must be counteracted by the breezy, wholesome call of the country. But some agency must arise in to open their ears that the men who should shall hear it.

The Daily Menu.

BREAKFAST.

Apples. Cereal With Cream.
Broiled Bacon. Puffy Omelet. Coffee.

LUNCHEON.

Corned Beef Hash. Spinach.
Ginger and Rice Molds. Cheese Wafers.
Tea.

DINNER.

Lentil Soup.
English Pork Pie. Stewed Celery.
Asparagus, French Dressing.
Maple Cream. Sunshine Cake.
Coffee.

Ginger and Rice Molds—Boil one cup of rice 10 minutes, drain, add two cups of hot milk, cook in a double boiler until very tender, season with salt, add two tablespoons of sugar and a few drops of vanila. Wet small teacups, fill them with the rice, turn out on individual plates, make a well in the top of each mold, fill with preserved ginger and surround with whipped cream.

English Pork Pie—Take three pounds of lean fresh pork cut into strips as long as your finger, six large, juicy apples, two tablespoonfuls of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of butter, one cupful of sweet cider and salt and mace to taste. Have a good pie crust for an upper crust. Put a layer of pork within a pudding dish; season with pepper, salt, nutmeg or mace. Next a layer of sliced apples, strewed with sugar and bits of butter. Go on in this order until you are ready for the crust, having the last layer of apples. Pour in the cider, cover with a thick crust of good pastry, ornamented around the edge; make a slit in the middle, and bake in a moderate oven one hour and a half. Should the crust threaten to brown too fast, cover with paper. When nicely browned brush over with butter and close the oven door for a moment; then wash well with the white of an egg. Serve hot.

Maple Cream—Bring one cup of maple syrup to the boiling point, pour it over one scant tablespoon of gelatin softened in one quarter of a cup of cold water, stir until dissolved, then set away to cool place until it begins to thicken. Whip one half pint of heavy cream until stiff, fold it into the syrup, flavor with one teaspoon of vanila and turn into small wet molds.

Promising young senators like Bryce of Florida may die, energetic veterans like Spooner of Wisconsin may retire, but Platt and Depew continue to represent New York.—New York Evening Post. O, no, they don't. They only represent the trusts and interests.