EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

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Procrastination is the thief of time.
Year after year it steals, till all are fled,
And to the mercies of a moment leaves
The vast concerns of an eternal scene.
—Edward Young.

BIGGEST QUESTION IN THE STATE.

THERE IS comfort in the announcement that, after all, the railroads are not to advance freight rates. They might have done so the interstate commerce commission to the contrary notwithstanding, unless it could have been established that the new rates would be "unreasonable, unjust or excessive." It is claimed by experts that the proposed advance would have cost each person in the country $1.75 per year. The railroads in 1907 received 7.98 mills per ton mile for transporting freight. They received a passenger rate 50 per cent higher than in any other civilized country. Their earnings for 1905 was 4.4 per cent as against 4.1 per cent for 1900, notwithstanding an enormously increased wage and material cost and an equal or greater increased expense in paying dividends on overcapitalization.

To have levied a tax of $1.75 on each person in the country at a time when the trend of labor and material cost is downward would have been to have called down criticism on already widely criticised railroads. The fact that the step was contemplated and that there would have been no power to have stayed it, is a reminder of the urgency of devoting attention to the waterways. The average cost of water haul is about one eighth that of railroad hauls. The unimproved rivers are waiting for water transportation to be utilized in multiplied parts of the country.

Oregon of all states is a field where the opportunity for water haul is wide, and the need, because of railroad discriminations, is emphatic. When the people of the state grasp the situation, force the waterways issue and compel the railroads to compete with river hauls, it will be fair days for Oregon. It is the biggest question in the state, made so by recent threat of advance in railroad rates.

FEDERAL OFFICEHOLDERS' ACTIVITY.

IN THE southern states Republican organizations are maintained only by and for the sake of federal patronage, hence it is quite natural if not inevitable that federal officeholders in the south should take an active part in selecting a Republican candidate for president, especially when the president of the United States is strenuously endeavoring to compel the nomination of his favorite to be his successor. Yet this activity of federal "brigades," to the extent in many cases of nullifying the will of the masses of Republican voters, mostly negroes, seems to be contradicting in practice certain professions that have been made, and even of orders publicly announced.

Of Alabama's 22 delegates to the Chicago convention, according to the New York Globe, 16 are federal officeholders; so are 15 of Georgia's 26, 16 of Arkansas' 18, 7 of Florida's 10, 7 of Kentucky's 26, 6 of Louisiana's 18, 8 of North Carolina's 24, same in Tennessee and about the same in other southern states. Out of 980 delegates in the convention 125, mostly from the south, are federal officeholders, and all are of course for Taft. Yet we have read of orders that federal officeholders must not be active in politics. It is not strange that the anti-Taft "allies" complain that they are not getting as quare deal.

In some southern states the federal officeholders ran the state and district conventions in anything but a square deal way. In South Carolina the collector of revenue, after a physical fight, bossed the convention. In Florida force was also resorted to on both sides. In the Alabama convention there were 54 postmasters, 1 superintendent of malls, 1 lettercarrier, 1 distributing clerk, 1 watchman, 6 United States marshals and deputy marshals, 1 clerk of court, 3 internal revenue agents, 3 United States district attorneys, 1 receiver of public moneys and 3 referees in bankruptcy. Similar conditions ruled in Missouri, Iowa, Arkansas and in New York city.

Mr. Taft is very likely the choice of the Republicans of the country, and suits the people better than any of the "allies," but it is regrettable that he will win the nomination partly through this activity of the federal officeholders, and that the president should have so used them. It is a bad precedent.

TUBERCULOSIS IN CATTLE.

IT WOULD be interesting to know what the real situation is in Oregon with respect to tuberculosis in cattle. It is, in fact, a subject on which it is important that there be full information. The Journal knows of cases of very rare animals that had recently to be slaughtered on account of tuberculosis, and that the post-mortem disclosed grave conditions. The incidents leads to the surmise that possibly there is occasion for attention to be strongly directed into a proper and full investigation of the situation.

There is a great deal about tuberculosis that the most illustrious of the scientists do not know. That there is a close relation between the disease in the animal and in man, they positively assert. That human beings contract the malady to a large extent through the medium of milk is declared by the highest authority. That affected cows cough up the fecal matter from the lungs and swallow it, after which the germs pass into the milk in dust from excreta, is a favorite and plausible theory. Scientists have reported that poultry has contracted Avian tuberculosis from the sputum of human beings. There is similar authority to the effect that poultry fed on the livers of tubercular cattle also become affected. There are reputable scientists who hold that the tubercular germ is practically the same in man, animals and poultry, being changed to a degree by mere environment.

The subject thus opens up a field that assumes not only an interesting, but an extremely important phase. It is heightened by the knowledge that in Wisconsin, one of the great dairy states of the union, the prevalence of human tuberculosis became so widespread that the state authorities were moved to drastic measures in ridding the state of tubercular cows—a movemnt in which the investigation disclosed deplorable conditions.

There are sections of Oregon in which the dairy industry is to become paramount, and every consideration, not only of mere profit, but of the more important duty of protecting human life, suggests that common intelligence and some assiduity be applied to this subject. Are the authorities in the state, on whom rest the responsibility, alive and alert to the situation?

PROHIBITION PROCEEDS.

THERE IS no mistaking the drift in Oregon with reference to prohibition. The late election returns speak in a voice that can scarcely be misunderstood. With the single exception of Lincoln, the dry counties are drier than ever, and many wet ones have been added to the dry belt. More than half the counties in the state are to be without saloons, a result that three or four years ago would have been accounted preposterous. In the list are some of the most important and potential counties in the state. They are a character of county whose lead other wet counties will be apt to follow. What makes the case more significant is that in some of the counties that went wet the majorities are so slender as to make their position on the wet list extremely uncertain. In fact, it is probable that were the question of state prohibition submitted directly it is possible that a vote in favor of that order would be returned.

The new order in the state is the experience over again of other parts of the country. Wherever local prohibition has found a foothold the tendency has been to spread until most or all the counties or townships have become involved. It has followed this order until within a year five new states have been added to the prohibition list, making eight in all. The new ones are Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and Oklahoma. The former dry states are Maine, Kansas and North Dakota.

The Raleigh (North Carolina) News and Courier in commenting on the late prohibition results in that state voices a general expression in other states when it says: "The experience of those counties in North Carolina that for a long term of years have given prohibition a fair trial has shown that under the reign of prohibition conditions have improved so much in every way that yesterday the majority in those counties were so large as to show the entire satisfaction of the people with the working of prohibition."

FELL FROM ITS OWN ROTTEN WEIGHT.

THE LATE plan for corrupting decent citizens elected to the legislature seems to have been abandoned. The monstrous advice poured out from a certain quarter to these legislators to stultify their manhood and shame their families, probably by violating their covenant with the people, is no longer poured. It was found to be futile. Or perhaps it occurred to those who gave the advice that in the giving they exposed their own cheap estimate of what a man's word of honor is worth. No man can advise another man to do violence to a pledge without disclosing his own turpitude. The community discovers in a minute what character of man he is. If this is not the secret of why the plan was abandoned it is at least with most men sufficient reason.

It is well for such preachments to end. They never ought to happen. They lower the civic standard and tend to corrupt citizens and morals. Vile as they are and strange as it may seem, such teachers have disciples. That is the scandal of it and the menace of it, and hence, when there is surcease from the shame it is well.

STATE PROHIBITION UNWISE.

IT IS said that the Prohibitionists are so elated with their success in carrying the majority of Oregon counties and nearly carrying some others, that they will try for a state prohibition law two years hence. If they should take such action they would be unwise. They would be likely to do their own cause more harm than good, and if nominally and superficially successful would make actual prohibition more doubtful and difficult than it is now, and would encourage unlimited illicit traffic in intoxicating liquors. Local option, prohibition by precincts and counties, is partially successful, and probably can be made more so gradually, but statewide prohibition has never very fully or satisfactorily succeeded.

The larger part of Oregon is under prohibition now, or soon will be, and the prospect is good for most of the rest of it going dry in two years, by counties and precincts. Under the present law the Prohibitionists have made great gains, enough, in so short a time, it would seem, to satisfy the most zealous of them. They would better let well enough alone, and continue their efforts under the present law, which gives them every advantage they could ask. To propose state prohibition might provoke a reaction that would give not only the prohibition cause, but what is more important, the temperance cause, a backset—for prohibition is not always synonymous with temperance.

Let the counties decide this question for themselves, as now. One county should not be allowed to impose either prohibition or saloons on another county. That some precincts of counties can force prohibition on other unwilling precincts is certainly advantage enough for the Prohibitionists; but this is justifiable on the ground that the county is the proper unit of political action within a state. With this modification the principle of "home rule" should be strictly adhered to in this matter, and each county should be allowed to decide this question for itself and not in any degree for any other county. Many friends and supporters of the local option law as it is would not be favorable to and would not give their moral support to a state prohibition law.

The Medford city charter gives that town power to license saloons and to allow other things contrary to state laws or the county vote, and the question whether the charter or the state law is paramount is to be tested in the courts. Medford is seeking to do what the "Reddy" amendment proposed to allow all cities to do—have saloons and "wide open" towns if the local authorities so desired. The Journal is of the opinion that this question has been already settled by the supreme court against Medford's contention, but if there is any doubt about the matter it is well to take another case up to that court and get another decision. It is an important question, and if not fully settled let us have it settled, which will perhaps be accomplished by the Medford case.

The fearful and wonderful politics emanating out of Oregon may suggest to many familiar with that bower of beauty a comparison with the heathen paradise in the hymn—"Where only man is vile."—Indianapolis Star. And what in Oregon politics gives rise to the suggestion that the Oregon voter is any viler than the one in Indiana? Is it "vile" for a man given the right to have a share in governing himself to exercise that right and seek to better conditions for himself and the common mass of his fellows? And is it politically virtuous and saintly for the common voters to turn all their public affairs over to a lot of organized, unscrupulous, self-seeking politicians, as they do in Indiana?

The Pendleton Tribune says that in passing the law making Statement No. 1 obligatory upon members of the legislature the people of Oregon have merely "enacted a vacuum." Don't be too sure about that. The law was enacted by an overwhelming majority of men who meant that it should have the intended effect, and so it will, regardlessless of the probable fact that the courts would not uphold the law. The people don't need to go to the courts with this law. The candidate hereafter who tries to evade it will run up against something different from a vacuum.

Representative Hawley, when asked if he thought the legislature ought to elect Chamberlain senator, asked: "Wasn't that the question settled in the election?" Mr. Hawley evidently carries his code of morals into politics.

Small Change

Everything comes to him who works hard enough and has good luck.

* *

Now there's Harriman; why wouldn't he make a fine candidate for vice-president?

* *

It looks like Hetty Green was trying harder than Andrew Carnegie to die poor.

* *

Railroad passes and whisky jugs seem to have defeated Hoke Smith in Georgia.

* *

Seattle must have lost its celebrated spirit; no directoire gown has appeared there yet.

* *

Perhaps the Republican committee will finally decide to admit only sworn Taft delegates.

* *

A report from Mexico says the Yaquis have quit fighting. So they are all dead at last.

* *

It would seem that Taft would not be a man to be easily moved from a position he had taken.

* *

Won't there be some queer antics in newly dry towns that have a Fourth of July celebration?

* *

No wonder New Jersey coddles to corporations; they pay $2,500,000 taxes a year to that state.

* *

No, the Democratic platform is no great shakes, but it couldn't be worse than the Republican platform.

* *

There is not much time left in which to get mentioned as a probable Republican candidate for vice-president.

* *

The death of O. H. P. Belmont is heralded around the world—merely because he was very rich. So was Dives, in his day.

* *

Peary says that as soon as he has captured the north pole he will go after the south pole. The south pole need not worry yet awhile.

* *

Blizzards, tornadoes, floods and sizzards are year-round subjects of news from other parts of the country, while Oregon is free from all.

* *

The Salem Journal remarks that "the Republican party in Oregon has too many leaders with india rubber backbone and jellyfish principles."

* *

Horse cars have just been abandoned on some streets in New York City. Ryan liked horse cars because it was so easy to water—the horses.

* *

The lions and tigers of Africa would pay as much attention to special messages and appeals to be good and do right as the Republican leaders in congress did.

* *

Those neat water fountains will prove a valuable addition to the city's conveniences before the summer is over, and every year hereafter. More of them will be needed.

* *

The country now has statues to Marcus Aurelius and to Marcus Aurelius Hanna, both recently unveiled. We don't remember the former's political record very well.

* *

Provide places for the children to play, and teach them how to play, of course, but it won't hurt them to tell them to work a little and be useful between play spells, too.

* *

Not meaning to express any opinion as to the new land fraud cases, it may be remarked that if the government got $1.25 an acre for land up in that region, it got all that most of it is worth.

Oregon Sidelights

Dallas will have a three-days' street fair, June 25-27.

* *

The Alsea district is to have a new 20x30 schoolhouse.

* *

The first alfalfa crop is being cut around Echo; yield good.

* *

Most people in the newly dry towns are optimistic as to results.

* *

A great Fourth celebration is planned at Joseph, on Wallowa lake.

* *

The Town Cow has been banished from the streets of Philomath.

* *

Benton was the first Oregon county to go dry, and has been glad of it ever since.

* *

Hood River's Fourth celebration will be an exceptionally big one, because of the new county.

* *

Gate Creek precinct, in Lane county, gave 65 votes in favor of the university and only five against.

* *

Borers for oil north of Dallas got a slight flow at a depth of 300 feet, and will soon try blasting with nitro-glycerine.

* *

In The Dalles, many people build bird boxes and they are all used by birds for nests, showing that birds are lazier than supposed.

* *

Salem Statesman: No beter prospects for a heavy crop of hay were ever known in the Willamette valley. All other field crops ditto.

* *

The little town of Haines, about 12 miles north of Baker City, is growing very fast, says the Baker City Democrat, which gives a lot of particulars.

* *

A woman with three little children and a few effects in a push cart and entirely destitute passed through Eugene from Marion county to California.

* *

A woman 45 years old arrived in Mosier driving a team of three dogs that drew a wagon carrying 300 pounds. She had traveled over 200 miles.

* *

This year, as never before, says The Dalles Chronicle, the residents of the city are sleeping outside. Some have tents in the yard, others simply set a cot on the lawn.

* *

Woodburn Independent: Both Marion and Clackamas counties are too large. Woodburn should begin at once on asking the voters of Oregon, through the initiative, to give this section a new county.

* *

La Grande Observer: With the advent of warm weather comes a serious problem to the fruitgrowers of Union county. From every district in the valley come calls for cherry pickers. So bumper like is the crop that the growers feel assured they will be unable to care for the picking in the proper time unless there is an influx of pickers from points without.

* *

Estacada has been sued for the interest on its water bonds, no interest having ever been paid. One quite good reason, according to the News is that there have been no funds to pay with, and second, the present mayor and city council consider the bond issue illegal and are disposed to bring it to a test at law. It is claimed that the debt incurred by the issuance of these bonds is in excess of the amount which the charter says the city may contract.

* *

Gervais represents one of the very best agricultural sections in the wonderful Willamette valley, says the Star. Here is an old established settlement, well built homes, well established public school and business point. The town is flat and soil is rich and produces to the very best advantage and regularly all kinds of fruit and berries, hops, wheat, oats, potatoes and truck farming. Her dairy resources are unexcelled, and poultry plentiful and easily tended. Large farms unfortunately predominate and should be cut up into smaller tracts.

THE BIRTHDAY OF OLD GLORY

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.
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Washington, June 13.—One hundred and thirty-one years ago tomorrow congress, representing the thirteen federated colonies, legislated "that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." On that day the stars and stripes was first flown as a government flag by John Paul Jones on the Ranger. The flag had already been in semi-official use almost a year, thrifty Betsy Ross having supplied many ensigns to the nation, ensigns that were they now in existence would be worth their weight in gold.

It was not until September 3, 1777, that the action of congress on the flag question was made public through the press, though word of the new law had reached Colonel Ganseveort's command at Fort Schuyler and a drummer boy had made a flag after the prescribed pattern. For the white he took two old ammunition shirts; for the red he requisitioned on the wife of a private for one of her red flannel petticoats; for the blue he used an old coat that had been captured at Peekskill. On August 3, 1777, the first battle fought under the legally defined flag was that fought in defense of Fort Schuyler.

Nation's Flag Supply.

This was our first battle flag. Today the nation supplies to its defenders thousands of flags every year, flags that are made not of shirts, petticoats and jackets sewed by the clumsy fingers of a patriotic drummer boy, but of bunting that has borne stern chemical and physical tests, that has been cut and sewed by hundreds of experts. Last year to the army of the United States there were furnished 1,207 storm and recruiting flags, 342 post flags and 31 garrison flags. For the preceding year there had been issued 1,076 storm and recruiting flags, 355 post flags and 40 garrison flags. These sewed into a big coverlet would reach comfortably around the United States and give her the appearance of a giant harlequin.

Each battleship of the American navy is entitled to 250 flags every three years, though many are renewed oftener than this. The majority of these are signal flags, though each ship carries 43 foreign flags, measuring 35 by 13 feet. The cost of the flags for each battleship is about $2,500, no small item in Uncle Sam's bill for equipments, especially when it is recalled that he has 27 first and second-class battleships in commission. Besides these there are cruisers, torpedo boats, torpedo boat destroyers, submarines, monitors, gunboats, supply ships, colliers, training and receiving ships, some 265 all told, that must have a goodly supply of bunting for every-day use and dress-up occasions. For these naval flags Uncle Sam uses up about $43,000 worth of material every year, pays $17,000 in wages and produces an average of 59,000 flags of 198 different patterns.

Must Stand Tests.

The material of which the flags for general service are made must stand severe tests. The navy uses about 15,000 yards a year for Old Glory alone and the goods must be of superior grade. The bunting is American made, it must be all wool and 19 inches wide. It is washed for 24 hours in soap and fresh water, and next day given a like treatment with salt water. Then for 10 days it is exposed to the weather, 30 hours of sunshine being stipulated. And that is not all. The tensile strength must be proved, for there are storms to be weathered and a 60-mile gale can whip average cloth to ribbons. A strip of bunting two inches wide must have a strength of 65 pounds when proved on the testing machine. Two inches of filling must stand 45 pounds. When the bunting has been proved it is given over to cutters and sewers who, by rule and line, cut out and make the flags.

The president's flag requires the most time and money among the national designs made at the Brooklyn navy yard. It takes a woman working daily a whole month to make one. The design is the United States coat of arms on a blue field, and as all the stitches are set by hand and the embroidery done with silk at $9 a pound, each flag costs a pretty penny when done. It is the foreign flags that take most time and money in the making, for as each battleship must have its quota Uncle Sam must have them on hand. The Latin-American republics have flags that cost a great deal. San Salvador's emblem with its landscapes, seascapes, floral collection and caballistic designs keeps one woman busy for 16 days and costs Uncle Sam $52.50. Germany's eagle and scroll work is next highest in cost, and whenever the white elephant of Siam is made, Uncle Sam must hand over $38, while Mexico's serpent-eagle design calls for $39.50. The very largest United States flag, 36 by 19 feet, costs the government only $40.

Flags for All Services.

As to the rest of Uncle Sam's flags, official and semi-official, no census could ever be taken. Every embassy, legation and consulate abroad has its quota, every custom-house, postoffice and mint, every administration building that in any way touches the nation or a commonwealth has its symbol of liberty. Of the more than half a million public schools of the United States the majority fly flags in token of the spirit of patriotism which they foster.

Other educational institutions, companies of state militia, patriotic organizations, business houses, clubs, private residences, sea going vessels of every character, all displaying flags, bring the total number in daily use far into the hundreds of thousands. Big factories turn out countless numbers every day. During campaign years the output is greatest in private factories, for every speaker's stand, every train bearing political delegates, every hotel housing political bodies must burst out in a blaze of red, white and blue patriotism when occasion demands.

Because of the wide use of the flag for advertising purposes during the past 15 years a movement has been undertaken by the American Flag association, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the trades unions to secure national and state legislation for the protection of the flag against such degrading uses. While legislation has not yet been secured, public sentiment has been awakened and the flag is receiving more reverence.

At Prospect Hill.

The first time the stripes design was publicly recognized as the American flag was when it was flown from Prospect Hill, Somerville, Mass., early in January, 1776. Though a New York regiment had borne a 10-stripe flag, a design borrowed from the British East India company, its use had only been local. The Prospect Hill flag was the one selected by the committee that congress had sent over from Philadelphia to Cambridge to confer with Washington as to the adoption of some national emblem. Thirteen stripes were chosen to represent the 13 colonies, adopted, some say out of compliment to Washington's coat of arms. These stripes were made of the same width to express the equal importance of the colonies and were sewed together to express their unity of purpose. White was chosen to represent the idea of just and reasonable demands that might be secured by peaceable means. Red was chosen to represent the force and determination that must be used, if necessary, to secure justice.

The first flag bore the British union, the famous design that commemorated the union of the crosses of St. George of England and St. Andrew of Scotland under James I, giving the flag its name of Union Jack. Later stars, emblematic of the permanence of liberty were used, set in a circle to represent the endlessness of the colonies' federation. Some authorities claim that the stars, too, came from Washington's coat of arms, on which are displayed three "mullets" or rowels.

The men who carved the nation from the chaos of political strife did not foresee the possibilities of 46 commonwealths when they designed the flag. All the empire their minds could then compass was hedged about the territory of other nations. So when new states began to appear, Washington ordered that a new stripe and a new star be added for each newcomer. By 1818, when territorial expansion was proceeding on a stupendous scale, it was seen that the flag was about to become an unlovely, cumbersome affair, for it then had 20 stars and 20 stripes, so a law was enacted that gave us the flag of today—13 stripes for the original colonies, and stars arranged in parallel lines on the union, one for each state as it was admitted. The war department determines the order in which the stars are to be placed, and the revised flag comes into official use the Fourth of July following the admission of the state bringing the star.

Paul Jones' Flag.

In the national museum at Washington the government preserves some historical flags. Among these are the one carried by John Paul Jones' Bonhomme Richard, the one of the Atlantic Telegraph company that floated first from the Niagara and then the Great Eastern when the Atlantic cable was laid; the one made from the first silk raised and manufactured in the United States; the one carried by the Red Cross society's American ambulance in the siege of Paris; the garrison flag of Fort Moultrie; the flag of the Kearsarge; the first union flag that floated over Richmond in the civil war, and, most important of all, the flag which hung over Fort McHenry at Baltimore in September, 1814, inspiring the nation's hymn, "The Star Spangled Banner."

A Remarkable Library

From the New York Sun.

"One of the most remarkable libraries I ever ran across," said a woman of wide experience, "is the Forbes library at Northampton, Massachusetts. I spent six months there a year or two ago, and it struck me that if library methods should become much more liberal than they were at Forbes one could set up elaborate housekeeping pretty soon without much to draw on besides the town library.

"Northampton is a place of about 10,000 inhabitants, so that the mere size of the Forbes library is something to make other towns of that class feel humble. It contains more than 100,000 volumes, many of them of the most expensive class of books. It has books in all languages and many old and rare sets. It is endowed.

"There is another public library in town containing over 30,000 volumes. Here is a list of what we could have absolutely free from the two. I was with a friend, so that we had two cards between us.

"At each library each one of us could take out one work of fiction and two other works. These might be kept one week or two, according to the book, without charge. The fine for keeping them longer was the usual penalty of a cent a day.

"That made for the two of us from the two libraries 12 volumes at a time. But that was not all.

"Each of us could take out on what was called the study pocket 10 volumes at each library, and these we could keep indefinitely. That made 40 volumes which we could keep on our shelves without worrying about fines. There was only one restriction as to these. They could not be fiction.

"Our 52 volumes made a very respectable little library, especially as it could be changed a volume at a time to suit our needs. But this was not all.

"Forbes, as the library is generally called, had an excellent collection of photographs of foreign places, famous paintings and sculptures and great buildings and monuments. These were distributed in very much the same way as the books taken on the study pocket.

"Probably some discretion was used in the matter, but I know that persons living in the hotel where we were had beautiful carbons artistically framed hanging on their walls, and it was beneficent Forbes which had placed them there. If they wearied of a picture, got tired of the 'Mona Lisa' and decided to have the 'Venus of Milo' for a change, it was done. The Forbes library card was an Aladdin's lamp and a little pencil scratching on it worked the transformation.

"And there was more, too. The library had stacks on stacks of the best music, which was given out to students just as books were. Music is an expensive luxury, so that this was especially nice of Forbes.

"Certain copies of the magazines in the reading room could be taken out on card and kept a week, but these were always in demand, so there was another provision allowing any periodical, no matter if it had just that moment arrived from the publisher, to be taken out at 8 p. m. and kept until 10 a. m.

"All this was a year ago. I shouldn't be in the least surprised if by this time Forbes was circulating ferneries, palms, morris chairs, writing desks, umbrellas, afternoon tea and other desirable and ameliorating features of existence."

The Turpentine Supply.

From Harper's Weekly.

Within a few years the turpentine problem will come to the front. While the supply of this commodity is never likely to fail, an inevitable increase in price will go hand in hand with the depletion of the pine forests.

Turpentine can be distilled from all the pines; but the chief source is the pine barrens of the southern states, extending from North Carolina to the swamps of Florida. Already the best sections of pine lands have been worked out, and the distillers, creeping mile by mile down the coast in search of fresh supplies, are working on the last frontier—the barrens of the central Floridan peninsula.

The turpentine camp is, like the oyster grounds, the scene of much cruelty and hardship. Many camps are worked by the labor of convicts, leased out to the contractors by their state governments. These men are housed in strong stockade, on the four towers of which guards sit with loaded rifles. The free camps are recruited in the main by negroes from the coast ports. When a man is "wanted" for any crime, he generally strikes inland for the nearest turpentine camp, where, owing to the shortage of labor, he is sure of a friendly reception.

When the "drip rider" or mounted advance agent of the company has located a suitable site for a camp, the stockade is erected, or a row of cabins for the free laborers. The giant still of copper is set up, and day and night the work is kept in operation until the turpentine has been extracted from the trees. To obtain the sap these are scored with an instrument specially devised for this purpose, and the sap, trickling down into a receptacle, speedily evaporates, leaving behind a gummy substance which is subsequently scraped away, put into barrels and carted to the distillery. There it is converted into turpentine, resin and water. The resin adheres to the sides of the vat, and the fluids are drawn off into a barrel. The turpentine, rising to the surface of the water, is then drawn off into a second barrel, after which it is ready for sale.

Saved by Habit.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

Mr. Cannon was in an automobile, merrily breaking the speed ordinance.

"Mr. Speaker!" called out a policeman, raising a warning hand.

"Your motion is merely dilatory," said Cannon grimly, "and the chair declines to entertain it."

Most newly dry towns are considering an occupation tax.

Letters From the People

One Too Many Ciphers.

To the Editor of The Journal—In Tuesday's edition of The Journal I see that F. J. Haskin has an article under the heading, "Problems That Face Inventive Geniuses," in which he makes the statement that 142,000,000 tons of coal are wasted annually by the locomotives of this country and that each ton of this coal wasted gives off 65,000 pounds of carbonic acid gas. Now if we take a ton of coal and call it all carbon, leaving out moisture, ash, sulphur, etc., we could not possibly get more than 7,278 pounds of carbonic acid gas from it, because C. O2 is the chemical formulae for it, and its molecular weight is 43.67, which means in plain English one part of carbon at 12, and two parts of oxygen at 15.88, which makes the 43.67, or that 12 pounds of carbon combines with 31.67 pounds of oxygen from the air or the moisture therein to form carbonic acid or carbon dioxide. So we have 2,000 12ths, equaling 166.67X43.67, equaling 7,278 pounds in round numbers. If we take 85 per cent of the above (a few coals go more than that in carbon) we have 6,187 pounds, and not 65,000, as stated. Mr. Haskin has been giving us a good deal of gas of late, but of a harmless kind; but when he begins to pour out on us such a volume of a poisonous kind you must begin to look to the safety valve of his tank. You could not buy that much chemistry from a doctor or drug store for $5.

ENGINEER.

It Hits the Spot.

Kent, Or., June 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—We notice an article in your editorials of yesterday entitled "Prohibition." We consider this as one of the best articles we have ever read on this question. Our experience in business under the workings of prohibition coincides exactly with your statements. We think your article hits the spot and indicates a comprehensive view of the situation. LOUIS J. GATES.

Pure Food Law Checks

From the New York Press.

The business world no less than the general public approves the national legislation which has been enacted in the interest of pure food. Numerous producers, manufacturers and merchants, however, complain that they are embarrassed in their present business by failure to be enlightened promptly as to the requirements and desires of the officials charged with the duty of seeing that the laws and regulations are observed. These business men, as we understand their attitude, do not object to obeying the statutes. On the contrary, they wish to make sure of satisfying the authority to which they are responsible; but frequently where they are in doubt as to what they may do or may not do they are unable to get prompt information on the subject—that is to say, a ruling or an opinion that will enable them so to govern the manner in which their articles are labeled, for example, that there will be no question as to the legality of the course. Failing to obtain the instructions by which they are to guide themselves, wherever there is question as to the proper action to take, their business is hindered or stopped.

Undoubtedly the officials having to do with the application of the pure food laws are overwhelmed with the flood of inquiries which have come down on them in this task of instituting a new system of immense scope, but all possible effort should be made to unlock the wheels which are blocked through no fault of those who would keep them turning to the advantage of their own business and of the country. When we are all longing for the resumption of business under its former momentum there should be no obstructions to that which is ready and anxious to resume if they can be avoided.

Are Bound by Their Pledges.

From the Spokane Spokesman Review.

Intimations that something later may cause Statement No. 1 Republican members of the newly-elected legislature of Oregon to disregard their obligations and ignore the choice of the people for United States senator do not sound well. It is hoped that no Republican will stultify himself merely for party advantage. While it is possible that something might happen in the seven months intervening before the legislative session to show that Mr. Chamberlain is not entitled to the preference now expressed for him, that contingency is apparently so remote that to begin talking about it at once gives rise to a suspicion that a deliberate purpose exists in some quarters to find some sort of plausible excuse for going back on pledges.

Republican legislators may not enjoy the sensation of voting for a Democrat for the senatorship, but having pledged themselves to abide by the decision of the people, and having won their election on the strength of that pledge, they are under a moral obligation which should not be ignored. If they entertained any doubts as to "later events" they should have given expression to them before election. Having asked for and accepted the votes of the people under a definite promise to do a seciific act, they cannot creditably evade the plain duty they assumed.

From a party standpoint it is desirable that Oregon, a Republican state, should send Republican senators to Washington, but partisanship must not override the popular will, and since Mr. Chamberlain, because of his personal qualifications, apparently is the popular choice, the legislators have no honorable course open to them but to ratify his election.

Samuel Plants' Birthday.

Dr. Samuel Plants, president of Lawrence university at Appleton, Wis., was born at Gloversville, N. Y., June 13, 1859. He studied at Lawrence university and after his graduation in 1880 he took a course in theology at the Boston university. Later he spent a year in study at the University of Berlin. In 1885 he was ordained to the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church and during the next ten years he occupied several pulpits of that denomination. In 1894 Dr. Plants was elected president of Lawrence university, which position he still holds. Dr. Plants has traveled extensively and has gained prominence both as a writer and a lecturer. He stands high in the councils of the Methodist Episcopal church and at the recent general conference in Baltimore some of his friends suggested his name in connection with a bishopric.

This Date in History.

1841—Meeting of the First United Parliament at Kingston, Ontario.

1851—The famous marble arch removed from in front of Buckingham Palace, London, to its present location in Hyde Park.

1854—United States warships bombarded Greytown in retaliation for insult to the American consul.

1863—General Banks repulsed in the assault on Port Hudson.

1864—House of representatives repealed the fugitive slave law.

1898—Joseph Leiter's attempt to corner the wheat market collapsed.

1904—Nan Patterson indicted for the alleged murder of "Caesar" Young in New York.

1905—Assassination of Premier Delyanius of Greece.

Dusty.

That man is made of dust quite true appears.
Wives know—or should—
If they to gain their ends resort to tears
His name is mud.
—From the Catholic Standard and Times.

Making a Hit.

From the Baltimore American.

"You have been staying with James lately, haven't you, John?"

"Yes."

"They say his new wife has an awful temper. How did she strike you?"

"With anything that came handy."