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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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O, sir! I must not tell my
age.
They say women and music
should never be dated.
—Goldsmith.

HITCHCOCK AND THE SENATORSHIP

SO FAR as final results are concerned, it is not of the slightest consequence whether Chairman Hitchcock has or has not undertaken to meddle in the Oregon senatorial situation. It may be set down as certain that he has not advised and will not advise any pledged legislator to perjure himself. If he has done that, his advice, by its monstrous character, condemns itself as impossible to follow. If he has done less than that, his advice is worthless, because the defeat of the people's choice is only possible through perjury, publicly and perfidiously committed. This is the long and short of the situation and any connection Mr. Hitchcock may have with it.

For Mr. Hitchcock to ask a pledged legislator to enter upon a course of known and confessed perjury is a proposition too shocking to the moral sense of decent men to be for one moment worthy of consideration. The public sentiment of Oregon has already condemned it as an infamous proposition. The whole country has done the same. The conscience of every man rebels against it. The business hopes and social repute of every pledged legislator scorn it. What would the word of any pledged man who violated his promise be worth? Who would trust him in a financial transaction? Who would accept his word as trustworthy in any transaction? If he made oath in court and gave testimony at a trial what jury could believe him? If he stood up in church and protested his loyalty to the church relation and God almighty, who would for one minute trust his statement? In what relation in life could he appear in which so far as his veracity is concerned, he would not be a marked man—marked and scarred with a letter as livid and scarlet as that on the brow of Hawthorne's scarlet woman? All this is understood, confessed and accepted as true by legislators pledged and unpledged, and by all the people of Oregon. It is a matter about which there is no question or possibility of a question. It has been tried out and settled, and will remain settled, for which reason any expression of any character by Mr. Hitchcock, whether for or against the insurgents, will be without bearing and without consequence.

LEGISLATURE AND LOCKS

THERE is no probability that the legislature will refuse to extend the time for the open Willamette appropriation. Signs multiply that the state must help herself, at least to the extent of bearing half the cost, or go unpaid. The wait for the government to do something is now in its thirtieth or fortieth year. It is a generation old. Men have matured and died and children passed to manhood and old age without even evidence that there is to be federal aid. The petitions for it and prayers for it blew into the open doors of congress, swept through the chambers and out the back way without a qualm or quiver in that body. Standing in the aisles of those chambers were of Oregon have for two years held aloft an offer to bear half the cost of the project, and not one breath has stirred in acceptance. Our help evidently must be self help or no help at all. If we wait for congress to bear all the cost, apparently the rivers will run dry and the mountains fall before we are done with waiting. The one hope is that a continuation of the offer to bear half the cost may yet induce federal action. This is the view the legislature is likely to take, in which event an extension of the appropriation would be made. With freight rates in and out of the Willamette region as high as they were 30 years ago, what other course can the legislature take? With the railroads of the country advancing rates so that an added \$200,000,000 is to be squeezed out of the country's business every year, what else can the legislature do but inaugurate every possible measure of defense?

Taft and the South

IT is not altogether unlikely that if Mr. Taft fulfills expectations of him as president, and the south should be prosperous during the next four years, some of the states of that section of the country would be "doubtful" in the next campaign, especially if, as in all probability will be the case, he shall be a candidate for reelection. He received a good many votes, comparatively, in the south last November, indicating a possible breakup of the Democratic solidity of that region, and it will not be very strange if in four years not only Kentucky and Tennessee but Georgia and North Carolina should follow Missouri into the Republican column, and the same forces or reasons that will bring about this result, if it should occur, will operate also in Virginia, Florida, Texas and Oklahoma, and in a less degree in the blacker belt of Alabama and Mississippi. It is chiefly the "negro question" that keeps the south solidly Democratic, and there is really no hope for southern whites to fear

is presented should be passed. The state ought to adopt and pursue some definite, well-considered plan of aid to good roads.

A USE FOR WARSHIPS

THE WARSHIPS of the world are doing some good now. Several vessels built for purposes of war have arrived at ports of southern Italy and Sicily, or are steaming thither with speed, to do whatever may be done to aid the distressed, to relieve suffering, to distribute supplies, to engage in a peaceful work of charity. Every ruler of a nation with a navy has ordered whatever war vessels are able, to help to do so—car, emperor, king and president. Our president issued orders beyond his strict constitutional power, relying on congress, very soon to reconvene, to ratify his action, as was promptly done, and every good American citizen ratified it as soon as the wires reported it.

Here we behold an alliance of the fighting forces of the world to minimize disaster and mitigate suffering, to save instead of to kill, to succor instead of to maim and impoverish humanity. As one writer has said, "It is a holy alliance of humanity in wrestle with the harsh and inscrutable powers of the earth." Yet when we come to think of it, our battle-ships are built to do just what the earthquake did. What an inconsistency is here presented. Civilized humanity spends hundreds of millions of money to do an earthquake's work among mankind, and yet when an earthquake comes it sends these same great engines of destruction to help, to relieve, to save!

Should not this incident teach a great lesson to the rulers of the world—to construct vessels of peace rather than of war, of aid instead of injury, of salvation and not of destruction? May not this race of battleships on an errand of mercy foreshadow the time when destructive, cruel and barbarous war among civilized peoples shall cease and when all shall vie with one another to do good and not evil to their fellowmen? Prophets have, foretold, poets have sung, of such a time, and it will surely come. This occurrence will hasten its coming.

LOST SUPREMACY AND WHY?

THE DECLINE of New York city as a grain center is threatened. The receipts of grain in that port for 1880 were 140,542,291 bushels. For 1907, the receipts were 112,897,811. The exports for 1880, not including flour, were 114,647,425. For 1907, they were 81,928,287. The business went to Montreal, which in 1907 led all Atlantic ports combined in grain shipments. The New York World says the result was caused partly by lower freight rates on Canadian railroads, and partly "by government enterprise in developing Canadian canals." American railroads meantime were planning to raise rates and to squeeze more money out of an already declining business.

The folly of New York state in permitting the Erie canal to fall into ruin and disuse aided in New York's loss of supremacy. The grain shipments through the canal in 1880 were 67,191,740 bushels. In 1907 it was but one ninth of that amount, being only 9,856,000 bushels. The development of canals in Canada and the decay of canals in New York state caused a direct loss of nearly 90 per cent of New York's grain business. "The Erie canal," says the World, "made New York the empire state, and made its chief city the metropolis. Rough commerce on the docks, not the great White Way, the theatres and the whizzing automobiles, will keep New York great. It must look to its docks that should feed Europe. It must reduce port charges. It must check monopolies. It must maintain and develop its water route from the great lakes and the west."

As in New York, so in Portland. The figures of New York's loss of business are as burning pillars of fire. The causes that made them are effective under every sky, as certain and swift in Portland as in New York. Our docks, our waterways leading into Portland and our channels to the sea are agencies to make Portland great. Such is the logic of New York's costly experience.

Alcohol as a Chief Cause of Crime.

Dr. Henry Smith Williams in McClure's Magazine.
The famous investigation of the Massachusetts bureau of statistics revealed the fact that 84 per cent of all criminals under conviction in the correctional institutions of that state were drunk when they committed the crime to which they were sentenced. The investigation included the inmates of all minor correctional institutions as jails and workhouses, a very large proportion of whom were arrested for being "under the influence," and a number were excluded and attention confined to charges other than drunkenness, all alcohol still being made responsible for 68.88 per cent, or more than half, of all crimes. An identical result was reached quite independently by the investigators of the committed records of 13,462 convicts in 17 correctional institutions scattered through 12 states. The investigation did not include ordinary jails, and therefore took no account of "persons convicted for" more misdemeanors, drunkenness or violation of such laws. The average, however, was 89.95 per cent, a percentage which the committee puts forward with much confidence as representing "an approximate expression of the truth."

or negroes to hope for in a Republican than in a Democratic administration.

It might be a good thing for the country if the south would cease to be surely solid in presidential and congressional elections, and then again it might also be well if the northeastern states, from Maine to Illinois, were sometimes to go anti-Republican, at least to the extent of breaking up some of the party machines and securing better representation of the people in congress. For it is true that while in the south Democratic nominees have practically no opposition, the men chosen from that section are almost invariably free from adherence or servitude to any grasping or corrupting "interests," while it is well known that many northern congressmen have almost solely served such interests.

ANDREW JOHNSON

NEXT MONTH the country will celebrate the centennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the American who above all others is held in most cherished memory, but a few days ago the centennial of the birth of the man who became president on Lincoln's death passed almost without mention or notice. Andrew Johnson was born December 23, 1808, being a month and a half older than Lincoln. He was a noted man in his time, filled many high positions, succeeded Lincoln to the presidency and was afterward a senator, yet his hundredth birthday was "unhonored and unsung." He was a man of lowly birth, his childhood was passed in extreme poverty, he could not read and write till he was grown and married, and that under such circumstances he rose to high distinction shows that he had some admirable qualities and possessed elements of greatness. He became governor-representative in congress, and military governor of Tennessee during the war, espousing the union cause, and in 1864 was put on the ticket with Lincoln to strengthen it in the border states. Johnson was honest, and within certain limits able, but he was not suited to the great task devolving on him as president. He was irascible, stubborn and revengeful, and overindulgence in strong drink accentuated his natural faults of temperament. He was the only president ever impeached, and he escaped conviction and loss of the office by a very narrow margin. Johnson has been censured more than he deserved. He had infirmities of temper, he lived and acted in a time of violent passions, he made serious mistakes; but he was no doubt an intense patriot, according to his lights, and meant to do good in many respects did serve his country well.

BLESSED JOAN OF FRANCE

THE CONGREGATION of Rites of the Catholic church, at a recent sitting presided over by the pope, decided to proclaim the beatification of Joan of Arc, and the ceremony has been fixed for the coming Easter. She will then be given the title of the Blessed Joan, and will be proclaimed the patron saint of France. And though France has unyoked itself, in the matter of civil government, from the church, her people will surely sympathize with and appreciate this ceremony and what it signifies, for of whatever religious faith they still hold the Maid of Domremy in affectionate and reverent memory, for her apparently miraculous work in delivering France from the hand of the British invader.

Freight Rate Increase.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.
The new rate act conferred on the commission the power to prescribe and fix charges, but only after a hearing and a trial. The act actually charged an excessive and actually unfair rate. The right to initiate charges is still in the carriers, and they can hardly be restrained from exercising an unquestioned right. Of course the proposed rate is a "reasonable" one, and carriers are fully aware of this, and it is to be presumed that they are prepared to justify the increases by convincing figures. The proposed action is too serious and has been under earnest consideration too long to admit of the notion that it has been lightly undertaken.

But there is a distinction to be drawn between legal right and general policy. Granted that the carriers feel that the law, as it stands, is unreasonable, and that they are entitled to a voice in the matter, owing to the advance of prices and of wages that has made present freight rates inadequate, as they claim, are they equally confident that the proposed rate is a "reasonable" one, and that it is in their interest to finally approve of their action? But the proposed increases have brought their carriers nothing except criticism and dissatisfaction. Assault has been invited, and the carriers are, as they claim, one that did not deserve such a one that did not deserve such a one. And hasty legislation reducing rates and imposing burdens "on general principles." Only imperative and unmistakable necessity can justify the rate increase in the name of the public interest and public policy. If such a necessity exists the carriers are entitled to say that the event will vindicate them in the eyes of all fair minded men of affairs. It is not impetuous or arbitrary course which possibly they may prove wholly inexpedient. There should be an entente cordiale between shippers and carriers and such an understanding presupposed not only justly, but mutual forbearance and generosity.

There can be no great improvement without the investment of a good deal of money. The main question is not, how much money? but, will it pay?

Chamberlain in congress could not do worse than to fall in getting a river and harbor appropriation this

winter, as our four men now there are likely to do. They will do their best, of course, but they haven't the Chamberlain way.

One trouble is there are too many appeals. If a thing is true and certain, why not wind it up and done with it? The courts all along the line are overloaded with needless appeals.

Letters from the People

Letters to The Journal should be written on one side of the paper only, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer so that it will be possible to return to him if he wishes. The Journal is not to be understood as endorsing the views or statements of its contributors. Letters should be made as brief as possible. Those who wish their names returned when not used should inclose postoffice address.

Says Game Laws are Ignored.

Portland, Dec. 23.—To the Editor of The Journal—Having been out on a hunting trip in the mountains, I am interested in hunting as well as anybody. I think that there should be some steps taken to protect the deer. These animals are being slaughtered in great numbers and are being hunted by dogs in the mountains. I am sure that I could mention names of people who make it a practice to hunt with hounds, but when the season is closed I believe in enforcing the law, or there will soon be very few deer left in the mountains. I could mention names of people who call somebody's attention and something will be done.
E. A. H.

"Mr. C. S. Wood of San Francisco."

From the Spectator.
In the name of Portland, in the name of Oregon, and in the name of this great and growing northwest, the Spectator protests against the almost irreparable wrong my brilliant contemporary, the New York Herald, has done city, state and territory. My brilliant contemporary, the New York Herald, has done city, state and territory. My brilliant contemporary, the New York Herald, has done city, state and territory.

Senator Heyburn in rushing back to Idaho to aid his reelection. This ought not to help him.

Eugene newspaper speaks of the "insupportable rain." Maybe Arizona would suit it better.

Maybe the junketing fleet can be of some real service now.

Castro is reported to be worse. Perhaps he has missed drinking his seven bottles of booze regularly.

Billy Sunday says smart set women are silly. Very likely. What's Billy? asks the Spokane Spokesman-Review.

H. L. P. to H. W. S.: "What in blarney blank is the matter with our circulation? Cut down Portland's population 100,000 or so."

Salem Journal: Bill Sunday, the reformer baseball player, is afraid thugs will kill him, and those who have heard his lectures are afraid they will not.

Miss Elkins is going to become a trained nurse. Perhaps she expects Abruzzi to fall from a balloon or airship, and then she can have an excuse to see him, and—this isn't a novel.

The Salem Statesman's New Year edition, printed on heavy book paper and profusely illustrated and filled with valuable descriptive matter, was one of the best publications of the kind ever issued in Oregon.

A man writing to the Salem Statesman says: "In addition to the bounty of \$25 for the killing of a panther, the hunter should also be licensed to kill at least 10 deer for each panther he kills; 5 deer for each bear he kills; 10 lynx, and 10 wildcats; and he should be allowed to kill as many of each as he wishes." But it is unlikely that the legislature will consent to the killing of "dears."

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Knock the knocker.
Venezuela should have had a happy New Year.

Already begins the strain on those resolutions.

Of course America will lead in relief work in Italy.

Are you sticking to that resolution to buy Oregon produce?

Most legislatures met yesterday. Oregon's waits a week.

The king and queen of Italy have won the esteem of the world.

Big and necessary improvements cannot be obtained without money.

Why not tell the people why they want to be president and speaker?

Forty days are enough, but there is no time to fool away playing politics.

Two years hence, Brother Charles may conclude to wait awhile longer.

The morning newspaper is determined to do all it can to keep Portland a village.

It will be just like some women to propose any other year except leap year.

Any old day, or rather any new day, is a good one for a good, honest resolution.

A town can't be built up by running it down in print and constantly complaining.

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OREGON SIDELIGHTS.

Though Pendleton is dry, considerable building will be done there this year.

A 64 acre orchard tract near Grants Pass, over half in bearing, sold for \$3,000, and the buyer probably got a big bargain.

A Myrtle Point sawmill boiler burst, shaking the machinery of the mill and throwing two men 30 feet or more, but neither was killed.

J. H. Koontz, pioneer of Umatilla county, and the first man to go into business in Echo, donated the site for the scouring mill to be erected there.

Of Herman Wise, who has retired after serving four years as mayor of Astoria, the Budget says: "He has shaped one of the best chief executives Astoria has ever had. He returns to private life with assurances from all sides that he has fulfilled his duty faithfully as a public officer and carries with him the best of good will from each and every one of his constituents."

The year 1909 promises to be one of great activity, development and progress for The Dalles, says the Chronicle. The city doubled in wealth and improvements will be made here that will do wonders in building up the city, making it a city of the future.

Neither Grand Ronde nor Wallawa can long remain bottled up, says the Star. Electric power and other improved facilities will laugh at distance and mountain grades. An electric line connecting Grand Ronde and Wallawa will do this.

Medford's postal receipts for the year 1908 totaled \$14,697.65, as against \$10,484.08 for 1907, an increase of about 40 per cent. For the same year the dollar total was \$12,300.00, as against \$8,900.00 for the same year, an increase of 38 per cent.

The growth of Wallawa and its surrounding country has been marvelous within the past two years, says the Sun. The city doubled in wealth and population in 18 months before the advent of the railroad and although the road reached this point late in the fall of 1907 since that time has been all that could be expected.

During this year, the Salem Statesman the local business, and the city will have been 25 years under the same management. It now owns, besides the Daily Statesman, the Oregon Statesman, the Pacific Homestead, Northwest Poultry Journal, Oregon Teachers Monthly, and a job office.

Charles Meserve says in the Medford Tribune that sales returns have proven year after year, since fruit began to be raised in Oregon, that the fruit valley can grow more kinds of fruit than lead in making record prices in the world's market. The fruit of this district in the United States, and that the profits on some orchards and vineyards are so big as to sound like fairy tales to eastern growers.

Ex-Cashier Scriber of the La Grande Farmers & Traders bank destroyed a book of accounts in the winter of 1907, which leads Receiver Neider to say: "If any man attempts to take advantage of the law, he will find that it is not so easy to get away with a crime. It is a crime against the people and the law, and it is a crime that will be punished."

It is a lack of perspective that gives rise to so much of this discontent with women's work as such in the home. Some women are so busy with their trifling duties, all of them simple, primitive, if you like, but indispensable, these things that they get from within and come to nothing. Just rise and work all day, cooking meals, cleaning up the house, washing, ironing, and so on, and only to get them out again and do it all over again, and varying this only with waiting upon babies, sweeping floors, dusting, and so on. It is a snobbish and unworthy way of looking at life.

The labor of a farmer is no less so, signified and signified in the same way as the labor of a banker. Each is contributing to the needs of the human family. And the work of a housekeeper, as home as the work of a farmer, is no less so than that of a poet or a jeweler or a textile worker. Each is contributing to the needs of the human family.

Children reared in an atmosphere of discontent, and in a world where the father is so busy with his trifling duties, all of them simple, primitive, if you like, but indispensable, these things that they get from within and come to nothing. Just rise and work all day, cooking meals, cleaning up the house, washing, ironing, and so on, and only to get them out again and do it all over again, and varying this only with waiting upon babies, sweeping floors, dusting, and so on. It is a snobbish and unworthy way of looking at life.

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THE REALM FEMININE

What Home Does.
THERE are homes and homes. That is to say, there are temporary shelters where everything but the barest necessities of life are absent, where members of one family gather, where children are employed, and where the sleeping and most essential things are done. From such a shelter, each one who enters it escapes as soon as he can. The children go anywhere else so long as something bright and comfortable can be found and seek the shelter of home (in name only) only when all other avenues of sensation or brightness are closed.

From this place the mother goes out when she has to. It is only to walk the streets and look into the world, because life must hold something else than this barrenness. From such a place the husband comes to find a place to make his escape to a saloon where he can spend his leisure time in an atmosphere of excitement and comfort. It brings out the best that is in us, moves us to greater kindness, fills us with higher thoughts, and makes us more out again into the world with courage and with clearer conscience.