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EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

Mr. Cushman's illustrations, an eight rail, or a seven rail fence is about as good for the steel trust as a nine rail fence. It enables the trust, or the few manufacturing concerns, to fix the price at a large percentage above what it would be if only reasonable profits were taken.

It seems certain that the law will not produce nearly enough revenue, unless the expectations of the corporation tax are fully realized. That will be a very expensive tax to collect, and will add largely to the number of official tax collectors. On the whole, as a rough estimate, it may be said that the new law is but little if any improvement over the Dingley law, not enough of an improvement to entitle it to be called a reform measure, nor one that will result in any direct appreciable benefit to the people.

SPEED LUNACY

THE CAREFUL autoists suffer for the sins of the reckless. It ought not to be so, but it is so. The head-on collision between two machines Wednesday night was easily avoidable. Ordinary prudence by the driver who took the wrong side of the road would have prevented it. The woman killed and the little girl made an orphan by a speeding auto the same evening were the product of reckless driving. The machine, according to the account, was going at a high rate of speed. The victim was thrown 20 feet through the air, and fell to the ground a corpse. At sight of his work the driver bent low in his seat and drove his machine ahead at increased speed. Under the New York statute defining murder as recently interpreted by a New York court, he is guilty of murder. What he may be under the Oregon statute is worth finding out.

The automobile is a new and dangerous device. It adds another peril to the long catalogue of dangers to which human life is exposed. In careful hands it is a new comfort for mankind. In the hands of the irresponsible, it is a constant menace. If death results from reckless driving the recklessness is as culpable in its effects as though the life was taken by a shot from a gun in the hands of an assassin. If recklessness in the driver becomes habitual and is oblivious to the hazard to which it exposes others, the killing of a human being by autoists becomes almost premeditated murder.

Every few days the fruit of this recklessness is made manifest. There is no misunderstanding of the situation. It is impossible for the speed maniac to know that the time will appear when his recklessness will claim a life. When that time comes he should be fully punished, just as was Darrows, whose machine killed a boy in New York recently, for which the reckless driver was sent to Sing Sing for 10 years. Most of the autoists are sane and sane, and it is to their interest to join with the public in dealing vigorously with speed lunacy.

A HINT

THE LATE Oregon legislature voted down a proposition to hold "assemblies" in connection with the open primaries. Its judgment was that the primary law needed no amendment of the kind, but is good enough as it stands. Perhaps it also reasoned that the law was made by the electorate, and that if it is to be changed, it should be done by act of the electorate. What political insanity would it be for a bunch of politicians to attempt by high handed and unlawful methods to effect a change in the law that the legislature itself refused to make? Could any party undertake so insolent a program and expect to succeed at the polls? Can any party, in the very attempt of taking away from the people the right to nominate officials, expect the people's endorsement at the ballot box? When a man's house is robbed or his pockets picked does he praise or does he condemn the sneak thief?

There will be volcanic times in Oregon next year if the plan succeeds of committing the Republican party to the program of scuttling. There are 50,000 Republicans in the state who want the primary law protected, and who have no sympathy with the distempered crowd that are plotting its overthrow along with other popular privileges. They can not be robbed and then be lined up like sheep for a count by the bosses.

AS TO VICE IN PORTLAND

THERE OUGHT to be harmony among the officials in dealing with vice conditions in Portland. Suppression and control of vice is a herculean task, and at best the united efforts of all officials is necessary in order to secure results. The objective point should constantly be the cleanest possible conditions, and to this end every official hand should aid every other official hand in a policy of betterment. Otherwise the grip of control will be loosened and the consequence will be a drift backward.

Portland is a city of homes and home building. It adds to its atmosphere of business stability an air of clean living. It nestles in a spot where nature's appointments are beautiful and uplifting. The rivers, mountain peaks and forest growth are the call of nature for a

city of cleanliness. The roses that are cultivated in every dooryard are a protest against polluted living. The effort of the hands that in every home are beautifying and cleaning would be belied if Portland authorities should permit the city to drift backward in the direction of former wide open conditions of vice. If such a drift should be allowed to set in it would be a blow to the city's welfare and an insult to nine-tenths of the population.

For four years the city has steadily progressed in cleanliness. The vice life has more and more disappeared and more and more been relegated to the background. In contrast with other cities of the country it has approximated a paradise. It is a condition that has been gratifying to all people, and that is here pointed to with justifiable pride. A continuation of the policy is so universally desired that an abandonment of it would be severely punished.

As to the means and expedients to be employed, it is the business of officialdom to get at the best, to agree upon them, and bring results. That is what they draw salary for, and when they fail in results their pay is unearned. The main objective in the premises is that there must be no lessening of alertness or energy in dealing with every kind of vice, and that under no circumstances must a backward step be taken.

THE LIVING COST

ACCORDING to Bradstreet's latest index number the prices of staple goods in the United States are again at about the figures at which they stood in the autumn of 1907. They were then at the highest figures known in the history of the country. It then took \$1.31 to buy the same quantity of food, clothing, fuel, metals, lumber, chemicals, house furnishings and kindred staples that could have been bought for 89 cents in 1897. There are omens that seem to foreshadow a still further advance in the living cost. High prices are an invariable accompaniment of active commercial and industrial conditions, and there is promise that such an activity will soon be at a maximum. The new tariff bill has been signed and such dampening effect as it exerted on the country's business will at once disappear. The schedules of this bill, according to the statement of Senator Cummins and others, will not reduce the cost of living, but are so framed as to open the way for further inflation of prices.

In addition the world is pouring gold into the channels of trade in quantities never before known. From Alaska to South Africa, and in all gold producing countries between them, the output is in a volume surpassing the wildest dreams of man. The inevitable effect of the abundance is the lowering of the purchasing power of money, and the corollary of the increased prices for products. There is no sign that this flow of gold from the bowels of the earth into the channels of trade will decrease, but many indications that it will increase. A consequent reduction of money's purchasing power and advance in the price of products is to be expected.

In the meantime the man of moderate salary and the unorganized laborer on an humble wage must have concern for the future. The salary of \$100 per month will buy but about two thirds what it would procure 12 years ago. The laborer must have nearly \$3 a day to maintain the same standard of living that prevailed in his home in 1897. The farmer must have \$1.50 for the products that he marketed a dozen years ago at \$1 in order to profit as much now as he did then.

THE HONGKONG-CANTON RAILROAD

THE BRITISH are building an interesting railroad from Kowloon, a point on the mainland directly across the harbor from the island of Hongkong, to Canton. The island of Hongkong, the site of the city, became a British colony in 1843, but it became apparent as time passed that acquisition of territory on the mainland across the harbor was desirable, for the island is very small and mountainous, and the mainland commands the harbor. So in 1860 Great Britain secured a perpetual lease of four square miles on the extremity of the peninsula of Kowloon, and it is from this point that a railroad to Canton is being built. This railroad will be allied in a measure with the Canton-Hankow road, and together with this and the Peking-Hankow road will form continuous rail transit between Peking and Hongkong. The original concession for the Canton-Hankow railroad was granted to the American-China company (J. P. Morgan & Co.) in 1898, its plan contemplating the development of a deep water harbor in Canton, in opposition to that at Hongkong, hence the activity of the British in building from Canton to Kowloon (Hongkong). The American company, owing to certain pressure, gave up its concession, and in consideration of such relinquishment was to receive \$6,750,000, to pay which the Chinese government had to float a loan, which was made by Great Britain, in the name of Hongkong province, in 1905. The British also have concessions for four or five other railroads in China, a fact among other things indicating the "awakening" of that

country, and, it would seem, affording American capitalists and railroad builders a hint that they might find a profitable field of operations there.

It is to be observed that most of the Republican members of congress from Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska, hot to mention some from other states, are "insurgents," and several of them did not vote for the Payne-Aldrich-Taft tariff bill. None of these men will approve it for their constituents. Under such circumstances, it seems doubtful if any protection congressmen will be elected in those states next year.

Among other provisions, the new tariff bill authorizes the secretary of the treasury to issue Panama bonds to the amount of \$290,669,000. The bonds are to run 50 years and are to bear 3 per cent interest. The present Panama bonds run but 30 years, and were floated at only 2 per cent interest. The longer time and the higher interest are food for interesting conjecture.

Senator Cummins estimates that the tariff bill is only a 10 per cent fulfillment of the Republican party's pledge to revise the tariff, and he refuses to accept such a small fractional payment. But considering how completely that party has ignored or broken former pledges, keeping one to the extent of 10 per cent is quite a reform.

The Louisville Post, a republican newspaper, thinks that the republicans are short of courage to tackle the plumb line.

The Astorian heads an editorial, "The Trust Question," in which it says that the republicans are a bunch of cowards.

If the mayor succeeds in breaking up the plumb line, he will bring an end to the republicans' trust.

Porter brothers didn't do a lick until Herman began. But maybe Harrison would not have begun unless he knew that Porter brothers were going to do a lick.

The Spokane Spokesman-Review is of the opinion that "with hides on the market, the tax on grain bags, and the fact that the Idaho stock men and farmers will not be out with mass bands to celebrate the homecoming of their congressional delegation."

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COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

In one sense, J. J. Hill is busted. Hurrah! Congress is going to adjourn.

It will soon be the merry hop-picking time again.

Most of the trusts in chorus: "Never touched."

The paving trust is presumably a hard thing to smash.

Great is young John D. He helped elect some school directors.

It is safer and nicer to be a pretender to the Spanish throne than to occupy it.

Hawley is to be rewarded for standing in with Uncle Joe against the people.

What a fine summer climate it is indeed; there has been no frost at all for weeks.

Roosevelt says he has had a thoroughly good time. By "thoroughly" he means "bully."

Teddy is banqueting in East Africa. What chance there must be there for courses of wild meats.

It looks as if prosperity were coming back so soon they don't want to bring an end to car shortage with it.

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