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That person is blest who does his best and leaves the rest, so do not worry.—A. E. Winship.

UNDUE FUSTIAN

THERE SEEMS to be undue fuss and fustian over the appointment of committees at Salem. The legislative committee has ceased to be the finality of legislation that it once was in Oregon. It has but a fraction of the importance that formerly attached to it. The question of who is or who is not to be on committees is not of vast consequence.

The old game of killing good bills by smothering them to death in committee is becoming more and more impotent in Oregon. It worked perfectly for a long time, but the days of that plan are numbered. If "the interests" or other sinister influences are expecting to strangle good bills to death by skulduggery in the committees at this session, they are likely to be fooled. If the legislature rejects bills that ought to be passed, the people will pass them over the legislative refusal later. Four of the greatest measures now in effect were thus passed after rejection by the legislature. What has been done before will, if occasion requires, be done again.

No matter who may compose them, the committees should be watched by each chamber. Nor should either body be very largely influenced by committee reports. The better way is to introduce few bills and thereby have ample time for full discussion on the floor. To permit a tyranny over it by undue respect for committee reports is for a representative body to surrender its independence and self respect. Each member will be answerable to his constituents when he goes home, and he would better suffer no mere committee to think and act for him by proxy.

In any event unless there is some plan for legislative skulduggery in committee there is no reason for so much heat and hysterics over committee assignments. And so far, this legislature gives token of earnest mood, and honest purpose.

FOODS AND HEALTH

ONE MAY readily believe with R. A. Maynard, a health lecturer, that over-eating causes a vast amount of disease and a great number of premature deaths. He says, bread and meat are unhealthy if eaten in too large quantities. One might perhaps drink too much pure water. But an enthusiast along one line, especially one who gains a livelihood by exploitation of his pet ideas, is prone to be extreme. Certain truths are magnified and others minimized, to his vision. "Starchy food," says Mr. Maynard, "anything made from the grains, potatoes, rice, hubbard squash, dried peas and beans, are the curse of humanity"—that is, "when eaten at every meal and in large quantities." And "only one starch should be eaten at a meal, and never more than twice a day." That is, if one eats bread at a meal, he must not eat potatoes also.

We are not disposed to dispute the lecturer; but while it is important to choose a healthful diet as far as possible, it may not be well for people to be constantly worrying about what they eat and whether they are taking a grain or two of starch too much. Few could regulate their daily diet to suit exactly the dietary experts; and if they could there would be little time to do anything else.

The food reformers have done much good, but can we afford to follow them to the extreme of holding a potato as a deadly enemy, the lowly bean as a dangerous weapon, or a loaf of bread as a deceptive instrument of death?

A CHANGE

ACKNOWLEDGING his election Wednesday as the new United States senator from California, John D. Works said: "I accept the office absolutely independent of any domination by any man or corporation. There are certain important fundamental principles that affect everyone in this country. Among these are election of United States senators by direct vote of the people, conservation of natural resources, elimination of boss rule, restoration of government to the people, and direct legislation including the initiative, referendum and recall."

These are strange utterances by a newly elected senator from California. Under government dictated by the Southern Pacific that state has for years sent a different type of man to Washington. Former senators did not "accept the office absolutely independent of domination by any man or corporation." They did not declare for "direct election of United States senator," and for "restoration of government to the people." They were universally for election of senator by the Southern Pacific and for government by the Southern Pacific.

The change is the product of the direct primary, employed in California for the first time in the election last November. Senator Works' speech of acceptance is the knell of political doom for Senator Perkins who has been a senator for many years by the grace of railroad government in the Golden State.

Oregon frequently resounds with protests against the Oregon system. Every few days, orators foresee ills that are to overtake us. The changed aspect of government in California explains why.

NO PLACE FOR POLITICS

THERE IS printed statement that Mr. Bowerman will "attack Bourne" and play a "big game of politics" in the legislature. The Journal gives Mr. Bowerman credit for better judgment. The legislature is not the place to "play politics." At large expense, men are sent there to engage in creative and conscientious endeavor for the welfare of the state.

Nor is the legislature in the slightest degree related to Mr. Bourne or concerned with Mr. Bourne. Mr. Bourne has nothing to do with the legislature, nor the legislature anything to do with Mr. Bourne, neither Mr. Bourne nor any other man is an issue in the legislature. The issue and the only issue there, is the great commonwealth of Oregon and all its people, and it is an issue bigger than a thousand or ten thousand Mr. Bournes or any other ten thousand citizens.

The session will have no time and probably no patience with any man or men in the body or out of it who attempt any game of partisan or petty politics. Back of the session is the electorate of Oregon with referendum and recall in hand. Because of too many past political games in the legislature and past partisan flapdoodle at sessions the people took the power of reversal and recall into their own keeping, and wise legislators will keep the fact in mind.

In any event, it is unbelievable that by any long distance process Mr. Bowerman will attempt the far cry of holding up Mr. Bourne as an issue at Salem. His killjoy experience of that sort in the late campaign would seem to be enough.

THE TARIFF COMMISSION BILL

A PERMANENT tariff commission seems probable. Its creation would be one of the most important civil events in the country's history. It could, in a few years, practically "take the tariff out of politics," and place it on a scientific basis.

The bill for such a commission was introduced by Senator Beveridge more than three years ago, and it was referred to the finance committee, that is, to Senator Aldrich, where it has since slept. Early in this session Senator Beveridge made pointed if polite inquiries of Senator Aldrich as to a report. Mr. Aldrich said the committee had not yet had time to investigate, but on incisive prodding promised that it would be considered "before the end of the session." Beveridge replied that at the end of the session would not do, and he plainly notified the Rhode Island senator that the bill would be passed. He may be mistaken; Aldrich is on guard for the protected interests till March 4.

The present tariff commission is only temporary, and is doing preliminary work, which will be useful both to a permanent commission and to congress; but a permanent, non-partisan, non-"interest" commission is what the country demands.

THE MILLER RESOLUTION

THE MILLER joint resolution for direct election of senator has passed the Oregon senate. To make it effective, scrupulous care is necessary in its preparation and presentation to congress.

Of the 29 states that have passed similar resolutions, it is said that 12 will be thrown out on the ground that the legislatures did not apply to congress. Of four other states that adopted resolutions, there is doubt as to whether their action will be resultful, as their applications do not seem to be on file at Washington.

Thus of the entire 29 there is a probability that on account of irregularities but 13 will meet the congressional test. The Oregon resolution should be so handled as to meet the minutest requirement of the senatorial formula.

It is possible, however, that a constitutional amendment for direct election will yet be secured, not by action of the states, but by a revolutionary change in the character of the senate. The leaven of change is already working.

SOMEBODY MUST PAY

A PERFECT macadam road under the system of construction proposed in Oregon would cost abutting property 17 cents an acre. The benefit that would result is estimated at $20 per acre.

Such is the belief of J. A. Perry, ex-secretary of the Washington Good Roads association. He asserts that in its proposed plan Oregon is avoiding the mistakes of Washington in the latter's recent road making experience. Washington undertook the construction of big state roads; Oregon is planning to construct on the basis of a county unit.

In the past 50 years, Oregon people have spent enough effort and money on the roads to have had a reasonably good system of macadams. Unless there is a change from the old plan, we shall go on spending time and money without getting the roads. The principles we have applied to road making would, if employed in it, bankrupt the best business in the world. After 50 years of deep dust in summer and sticky mud in winter, are we not ready for a change?

Perhaps our present roads are as good as in some states. Perhaps they are as good or a little better than the roads over which grandpa used to haul products to market. Perhaps we could worry along with them another 50 years or so. But, will it pay?

We know that Oregon is losing $2,000,000 every year on account of inadequate roads. Two million dollars is a great sum to lose, and somebody has it to pay. It comes out of somebody's pocket in money that would otherwise be saved.

We are told that about 17 cents an acre is what, under the proposed Oregon plan, a perfect macadam road would cost. We know that in that plan Oregon is avoiding the mistakes that Washington made. Had we not better go ahead and make the change? Is there anybody in Oregon that wants bad roads?

CONVICT LABOR

THAT STATE convicts should all be kept regularly at work is a proposition with which everybody will agree. Humane considerations alone would require convicts to labor. As a matter of policy, without reference to any profit to be gained, they ought to work. In idleness they would be far more troublesome. From either a physical, hygienic, mental or moral point of view idleness would be harmful to the convicts themselves.

The problem not yet satisfactorily settled in many states is the nature of their employment. To what work should they be assigned? This has been answered in different states in various ways, never, perhaps, with entire satisfaction, but on the whole progress toward a solution of the problem has been made.

In Oregon, for many years, most of the convicts have been employed in a penitentiary foundry, their labor being sold at a very low price to a stove manufacturing company. This may have been the best available plan for the past, but it is unsatisfactory in two respects. One objection is that the convict labor comes into competition with free labor. Another is that the state is getting only a fraction of what the convict's labor is worth. The convicts having forfeited their labor for a period to the state, which has been put to much trouble and expense on their account, the state should get the proceeds of their labor.

Now it is proposed to use convict labor to build good roads. The state needs the roads; they will be extremely valuable. At that work, if the plan can be carried out without too great expense, the convicts could earn what would be equivalent to a great amount of money for the state. The plan is to a degree experimental, but those who have given much attention to the subject insists that it is practicable, and it is probably advisable for Oregon to make the trial. Anything that promises improvement of the roads is worth trying.

THE REFERENDUM JUST ONCE MORE

OREGON HAS the admitted distinction of having originated and set working what is rightly named the referendum. Imitation being the sincerest flattry our state modestly bows assent when her ideas are adopted, her methods followed, from ocean to ocean, from the lakes to the gulf.

But lest the referendum be wounded in the house of its friends it is well, when the Oregon legislature has begun its session, to look back to the essence of the far reaching reform that it has effected, and will effect if rightly used.

It is an appeal taken from the lower court, the legislature, to the higher court, the people. This higher court differs, however, from others in that the lower court, the legislature, has from the higher court, the people, derived its being and received its mission.

But the essential fact remains—that the referendum is an appeal. Whether or not an appeal be necessary is determined simply by the meed of satisfaction that the people accord to the actions of their representatives, the legislature.

The only real criticism made, the world over, on the Oregon ballot of November 8, was that, the tools, being new, the people were too ready to use them for small purposes. The legislature can help greatly in the cure; first, by straining through its own net, and refusing admission to the statute book of Oregon, of measures for trivial or unworthy ends; second, by so plainly seeking the public good, and to the public satisfaction in the laws they pass that recourse to the referendum may be needless or disapproved.

Some 40 years ago directors of the Athanaeum in Copenhagen refused members of the first women's club, just formed there, the loan of books. The women said they would have an Athanaeum of their own some day to which no man would be admitted except on special invitation. They kept their word, though it took them a long time, for there was recently opened in Copenhagen a spacious five story structure costing $250,000, built by the women of Denmark, known as the "Women's Castle," and containing a library of 62,000 volumes. Frau Zahle, who made the principal dedicatory address, was one of those who started the movement, and is 90 years old. She has lived not only to see the "Frauenberg," but to see eight women members of the Copenhagen council.

The observance of "Commonwealth Day" begins at the state university today and continues over tomorrow. Speakers and personages of note will be in attendance, and subjects bearing on the welfare and life of Oregon will be discussed. The plan has been employed effectively by the universities of Wisconsin and Illinois. The effort is to direct the thought of students and citizens to great problems whose solution may be helpful to the development of the commonwealth.

Letters From the People

Common Sense a Fine Remedy.

Potrland, Or., Jan. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal—Having read many articles in regard to health etc. in your paper, and wishing to make a few suggestions on that subject, I will say, impure milk is only one cause of disease and I believe if people in the dairy business were obliged to protect their cows from the elements and give them warm, dry stables during the rainy season, there would be very little tuberculosis. Exposure to cold in unsanitary surroundings and poor food, are the causes of tuberculosis in man or beast. Imagine horses or cattle standing in a cold rain, their coats and bodies wet and a cold east wind blowing on them and with no shelter. It is worse than dry cold.

One of the greatest sources of disease is unsanitary basements. There should be inspectors appointed to go through them three or four times a year. I think we would all be more careful what was kept in our basements if that was the case. Dogs, cats, and even chickens, and many other things are kept there and any one passing when a basement window or door is open can tell that disease germs at least are housed there. Another bad thing for baby is the go-cart. The little, tender body is jogged and jostled by every little obstruction on the walk. These carts are not easy, or comfortable and might even cause paralysis. I have often wondered at mothers letting the blinding sun shine in their babies' eyes in a way that would have been intolerable to their own. A little common sense with plenty of nourishing food and there would be less mothers mourning the loss of their little ones. Yours for health. MRS. M. J.

Copartnership Between Capital and the People.

By Lincoln C. Cummings in Baltimore American.

The man who suggests the fairest, squarest copartnership, between capital, so-called, and the people will find his prescription in demand in the United States.

Regardless of any political lines, Woodrow Wilson hits the nail on the head, and suggests fundamentals of such a firm, of national economics: "It will not do to exploit the public." "It will not do to make the workingman—a mere instrument instead of a partner." "It will not do to dominate markets and prices."

What then will do? The people of the United States have given legal notice, that they will not stand for these conditions longer. They have served long and patiently, and as long as they intend to, in the minor part. They have learned—the business—and seek to obtain a fair partnership in the prosperity (to which they have contributed) of the nation. They have tried to live on the small pittance allowed them, and have waited patiently to be invited into the "private office." They want to examine the inventory, and have a word to say about the valuations, and a determining voice in the distribution of the dividends. They well know that they are riparian owners of the golden stream of equality and fair play (and incidentally realize that they have only had "skim milk"). They insist upon the square deal, not alone for themselves, but for all American citizens, poor or rich, employer or laborer, and will as ever resist all communism socialism, or highway robberism of any and all combinations hostile to these incarnate principles of justice, and any further exploitation of conditions which divert the full fruition of their common inheritance of equal opportunity, constitutionally guaranteed them.

The great prosperity of the country speaks for itself and for them; and, as one of our greatest of presidents has said, there is as great or greater promise in the future, but the people themselves have noticed a little shyness in the dividends thereof coming their way, and in the present and the future aim to secure for themselves and their firesides a more equal disbursement, which they firmly believe is the epitome of justice.

The members of this proposed national copartnership are, in fact, brothers, and should become interdependent reciprocating parts of the great machine of human progress, oiled by the frictionless lubricants of equality and justice. This machine will build up, and not tear down! The capacity of its product is incalculable, and this firm will own the "good will of the business."

The Morganization of America.

From the Twentieth Century Magazine.

At last some of the great metropolitan journals are becoming alarmed at the evident mastership of America's millions owing to the daring and the avarice of a few individuals and the criminal indifference of the people's servants in not safeguarding the interests and rights of the wealth-creating and consuming masses. With a dozen men acting in unison and together controlling at once the great life insurance companies, several of the most powerful metropolitan banks and the great railways of the country, the enslavement and spoliation of the millions is an easy matter so long as the masters of industry are also thoroughly entrenched in all the ramifications of government. The New York World recently contained the following editorial which is one of the most truthful and suggestive of a number of recent journalistic utterances on the overshadowing menace to the prosperity of the whole people through the arrogant assumptions of Wall Street interests:

"The life insurance interests have undertaken to champion the cause of the railroads in their efforts to increase freight rates. The concentration of financial power in the hands of a few men is bearing its natural results.

"The Morganization of the railroads and the Morganization of the life insurance business produces beautiful symmetry of action. With Morgan ownership of the Equitable and Morgan domination of the other big life insurance companies, Morganized transportation has no difficulty in maintaining perfect harmony.

"If Morganized railroads want to sell their bonds, what is more logical than that Morganized banks and Morganized life insurance companies should procure the money by underwriting and buying and passing on the securities to the public? It is like passing dollar bills from one hand to the other, and infinitely more profitable. The profits are secured the more easily because policy-holder and depositor and the nameless small investor constantly furnish the funds used in the Morganization process.

"But on the other hand, if Mr. Morgan is permitted to raise railroad freight rates so that Mr. Morgan may guarantee that life insurance company investments are more sound, obviously policy-holders themselves will be paying the higher freight rates, for the kind of people that pay freight rates are the kind of people who take out life insurance policies. After he pays his life insurance premium to Morganized insurance, the policy-holder then pays higher freight rates to Morganized railroading in order to make his life insurance more secure, thus facilitating the glorious process of Morganizing industry, transportation and the daily business of living and dying."

Keeping Resolutions.

From the Christian Register.

The late Professor James, in his admirable text book of psychology, urges the necessity of breaking bad habits and forming good ones by action, and not by empty resolves to act. "Seize the first possible opportunity," he advises, "to act on every resolution you make, and on every emotional prompting you may experience in the direction of the habits you aspire to gain. It is not in the moment of their forming, but in the moment of their producing motor effects, that resolves and aspirations communicate the new 'set' to the brain." "Abrupt acquisition of the new habit," he further declares, "is the best way, if there be a real possibility of carrying it out." This possibility, we should add, is greatly diminished by any uncalled for preliminary expenditure of precious energy in proclaiming one's intentions. In further counsel on this matter of forming new habits, the same writer says, in somewhat technical phrase, that "it is not simply particular lines of discharge, that seem to be grooved out by habit in the brain." And still further: "As a final practical maxim, relative to these habits of the will, we may, then, offer something like this: Keep the faculty of effort alive in you by a little gratuitous exercise every day. That is, be systematically ascetic or heroic in little unnecessary points, do every day or two something for no other reason than that you would rather not do it, so that, when the hour of dire need draws nigh, it may find you not unnerved and untrained to stand the test."

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Beveridge is likely to come back.

The more snow, the more wheat.

Now for a 30 foot channel to the sea.

Sunshine and snow seem to be having a game.

The Lorimer whitewash didn't work as expected.

Oh, it isn't such terrible winter weather, after all.

Everywhere the standstillers are falling down and out.

Mr. Selling's term as governor was the shortest on record.

Now the sheepmen want a tax on dogs—except shepherd dogs.

Nearly everybody wants a law—for this, that or the other thing.

Possibly Astoria expected its request for $100,000 to be cut down a little.

Women seem to be worse about registering, when granted suffrage, than men.

President Selling and Speaker Rusk are busy with a job conducive to gray hairs.

The only time hopgrowers can get big prices is when they have no hops to sell.

Of course, the tariff should also be raised on mohair; every goat raiser will tell you so.

This is another year when, in all probability, the fender question will not be settled.

An Indiana man writes to know what is the most interesting object in Oregon. The Dalles Observer informs him that it is W. S. U'Ren.

Governor Harmon was probably the only governor recently inaugurated who did not consider it necessary to deliver an inaugural message.

Those steam power trains are still running on Fourth street, and water mains are occasionally bursting, causing thousands of dollars' worth of damage.

Oregon cities are not as big as they wanted to be, nor even as they thought they were, but they show a large growth, and have no reason not to be cheerful and confident.

Many residents who like to sleep late Sunday morning will be in sympathy with Councilman Annand's anti-noise ordinance. But some would want to amend the hour from 8 a. m. to 10 or 12.

The famous Ton family of Chicago, which numbers over 500 members, has joined forces in a cooperative store to reduce the cost of living. This may be a hint to the Smith, Brown and Jones families.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS.

Corvallis may get a truck factory.

Merrill will have a $25,000 national bank.

Medford Methodists may build a $25,000 church.

Grain looking exceedingly well in Benton county.

A Sam's valley man keeps a dozen hunting hounds.

Clatskanie Commercial club is active and enthusiastic.

Postal receipts of Burns increased 27 per cent for 1910.

Vale Oriano published a big, fine special New Year number.

Moral conditions of Burns have improved steadily, reports the News.

Joseph council has passed a stringent anti-vagrant and bootlegging ordinance.

Oil well near Bandon is now down more than 900 feet; prospects encouraging.

A lost River, Klamath county, man is going into the chicken business on a large scale; has 700 already and will import 1000 more in the spring.

Let's raise a joyful paean of praise, exclaims the Pendleton Live Wire. The American Express company will spend no less than $300 in real money in improving its palatial skyscraper of an office building.

Lakeview Examiner: Despite the rather cold weather and the rough traveling at this season of the year, applications are coming in steadily at the local land office, and the officials are kept busy taking care of them. Many letters of inquiry are also being received from all over the country.

Gold Beach is in a thriving condition, reports the Globe, and its population has been swelled by some good families. The Curry County bank, one new general merchandise store, a blacksmith shop, a sawmill with a door and sash factory in connection, and a large plant for saving the values from the beach sands—the only one of its kind in existence—are some of the business enterprises that have been launched here during the last year. A $3000 schoolhouse and several residences will be built this year.

Myrtle Enterprise: A Roseburg firm is advertising Rock Springs coal for sale. It is a ridiculously unfair proposition that Roseburg should be compelled to use coal hauled over a thousand miles and pay freight on it when millions of tons of coal almost as good as that of Rock Springs underlie Coos county, within less than 60 miles of Roseburg, and that town is only one of hundreds that could and would use Coos county coal if the rails were laid over which to haul it. And coal is only one of the magnificent resources of southern Oregon waiting for a means of exchange.

SEVEN LITERARY PRISONERS

Hugo Grotius.

The annals of the literati in prison present no better example than is furnished in Hugo Grotius, the Dutch publicist, who had been sentenced by his government for life, but escaped by an ingenious method, assisted by his wife and a maid servant.

Grotius was an able statesman, and one of the most extensively learned among the Hollanders of his day. He was a profound theologian, a distinguished scholar, an acute philosopher, a judicious historian and a splendid jurist. Is it any wonder that a man so endowed should sooner or later find himself in trouble in the restless period in which he lived, 1583-1645?

When Grotius was only a little more than 30 years old, with Barneveldt and Ledenberg, two others whose names form a considerable part of Holland history, he entered actively into theological strifes that had a political significance as well. They were subsequently arrested, Barneveldt was beheaded, and Grotius was sentenced to imprisonment for life in the castle of Loevenstein.

In spite of the fact that the commandant of the fortress made the prisoner's situation as hateful as he could make it, yet Mme. Grotius was allowed access to her husband, and was privileged to cook for him.

Thus shut up in a prison, and debarred from physical exercise, which his robust body demanded, Grotius procured a huge top which he employed himself in whipping several hours a day.

But his friends had not forgotten him. Some of the most learned men of the country were allowed to correspond with him, and the celebrated Orientalist, Erpenius, sent him, from time to time, a large chest of books. From these books he still further added to his store of knowledge, and to employ his active brain he began making translations of some of the most important of them. He made a masterly rhymed translation of the "Theban Brothers" of Euripides into Dutch, and in legal sentence he completed an "Introduction to the Jurisprudence of Holland," a work which, as soon as published, became thenceforward a text book and an oracle in the law courts and the high schools of the country.

Not forgetting theology, he composed, for the use of the humbler classes, a work on the proofs of Christianity in easy and familiar rhyme, and later completed a masterly commentary on the four evangelists. And thus nearly two years wore away, Grotius spinning his top for exercise, and soothing his active and prolific brain with almost incessant literary work.

But Grotius rose superior to his doom and took captivity captive. Through the suggestion of his devoted wife, a plan was devised whereby he should make his escape. In the trunk of books that came to and from his prison a means for this escape was found. At first the trunk was carefully searched, but as it was found to contain only Hebrew, Greek and Latin folios, this vigilance finally ceased. By curling himself very closely, Grotius found that he could just lie in the trunk with the cover closed. Very secretly he many times rehersed the scheme.

When the day came for the trunk to be returned with the books previously sent, for a new invoice, it was Grotius himself who occupied it, and it was accompanied by his maid, with the key in her possession as usual. Thus he escaped, and his absence was not discovered for some time. Mme. Grotius was held prisoner as an accomplice, but she was finally released. Grotius fled to France, and from there to various European countries. He pined, however, for his native land, and as he had gained permission to return, he started for home. But enroute, he died at Rostock, in the 62d year of his age.

Tomorrow—Charles I.

TANGLEFOOT

By Miles Overholt

HIS TENDER FEELINGS.

"A line or two
I'll write to you,"
Is what the geezer said to her.
"I like your style,
I like your smile,
And funny feelings in me stir."

She said: "You bet
I much regret
That you were forced to raise the question.
The feelings, sir,
That in you stir
Must be a case of indigestion."

"She cut him as he passes by;
And see! the poor man staggers!"
"What, she? She wouldn't hurt a fly."
"Oh, yes, her eyes shot daggers."

Bank Deposit Guaranty Law.

No recent decision of the supreme court of the United States is more important than that handed down Tuesday fixing the constitutionality of the bank deposit guaranty acts of Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska. The economic value of the finding is almost immeasurable, as it paves the way for other important reforms not altogether restricted to the banking business.

With the constitutionality of the guaranty plan established, nothing remains to be done but to correct whatever defects may from time to time develop in the details of a scheme that appears stable in principle.

When a Democratic legislature in the young state of Oklahoma took the initiative in establishing the bank deposit guaranty plan as now in operation in this and other western states it was made the object of ridicule, not only by the opposite political party in this and other states, but by the national banking interests everywhere. Particularly severe were the strictures emanating from Wall street, where financial wiseheads are wont to take affront at any suggestion of reform in banking and money matters that does not find its origin in that financial holy of holies.

The Oklahoman has recently quoted a Wall street financial publication's admission that, after having been in operation three years, the deposit guaranty law had been so successful as to prevent loss to any depositors having funds in state banks operating under the system and had caused many national banks to surrender their charters and become state banks. While thus admitting that the law had exactly the effect intended by its enactment, the New York publication nevertheless captiously criticised the law in peevish generalities, intimating that it was crude and defective, though neglecting to specify the alleged lame features. It at the same time took occasion to intimate that it would be the part of wisdom for the national bankers to evolve and put in operation some system offering protection to depositors to prevent flight of their deposits to banks conducted under the guaranty plan.

The supreme court decision just handed down establishes a principle that should not be lost sight of—that the banker is held responsible for funds which he borrows from depositors just as he holds responsible those who borrow money from his bank.

An Alaska Government Railroad.

From Collier's Weekly.

The Wisconsin Republicans, always to the front in political progress, last fall published a platform, in which they said:

"The attempt of private monopoly to steal the Alaskan coal fields was defeated for the time being through the efforts of a few courageous officials, whose sacrifice and devotion to duty furnish an example worthy of emulation in every department and rank of the public service. Failing to secure the coal fields through perjury and fraud, special interests will exploit them through a monopoly of transportation. The title to the coal fields of Alaska should be forever retained by the government subject to lease under proper regulation. The situation of Alaska is exceptional. Transportation is the basis of control. It is the key to this vast territory of treasure. As exceptional conditions in Panama required the government of the United States to own and operate a railroad on the isthmus in order to protect its interests and the interests of shippers, so we hold that exceptional conditions in Alaska require that the federal government should construct, own, and operate the railroads, docks and steamship lines necessary to the opening up of the Alaskan coal fields and other natural resources."

The Democrats will have to show whether they have gained any instinct for government. If they have, they will follow the hint of the Wisconsin progressives and solve a complicated situation by a stroke of statesmanship.

The Voice of Massachusetts.

From the Boston Post.

In the aftermath of the official election returns in this state one fact shines brilliantly and suggestively. That is, that the people of Massachusetts want direct nominations.

In 16 districts, senatorial and representative, the question was submitted as called for by petition under the new law. In every one of them the direct nomination system was approved by simply overwhelming majorities, more than five to one in most instances. The total vote for the plan was 33,455 and against it only 4772—decisive enough to satisfy even the most pig-headed opponent of the system.

Clearly the people of this commonwealth desire to name their own candidates for office. They desire to name more of them than they do, or than the present law permits, and they are going to do it before long, as they are doing it in New Hampshire. The howls of the reactionists which, being interpreted, mean that the voters cannot be trusted, but that convention can, are growing less effective every year.

Good Roads.

From the Corvallis Gazette-Times.

Many issues of public importance are to be considered by the coming legislature, but none is more vitally related to the interests of the people of this county, or to the general development of the state than the matter of good roads. The necessity for good roads in Oregon is at last realized. The demand for them was voiced at the polls in the November election. The constitutional bar to good roads building which heretofore existed was forever lifted as a result of that election.

The Good Roads convention, composed of men from every part of Oregon who have studied the state's needs, meeting in Portland, decided that the five measures which were prepared for submission to the legislature will, if adopted, furnish a method for permanent highway construction.

Neither the need for permanent roads, nor the demand for them should be forgotten by the legislature in their consideration of these five measures; by virtue of the fact that in the appointment of a state highway board and a highway commissioner the factor of personal contact with the situation is obtained. This bill should be considered first of all as most important, but the bills contemplating the use of convict labor on the roads, the division of the burden of road building between the state and the counties, and the bonding act which makes it possible for each county to pledge its credit to get money for road building should not be forgotten. Let the legislature at least see to it that their opportunity to provide Oregon with the development influence of permanently constructed highways is neither wasted nor lost.

Carnegie's Gift

(Contributed to The Journal by Walt Mason, the famous Kansas poet. His prose-poems are a regular feature of this column in The Daily Journal).

The Laird of Skibo, noble soul, believes the world is in a hole while war drums throb and cannon crash, and so he gives a wad of cash, to end the reign of blood and woe, and give the White Winged Dove a show. He dug ten million from his shoe, and sprung it, with a howdydo. Far be it from a grass-fed bard to say things critical or hard, about a princely gift like this, designed to further human bliss. But where will all this money go? And will the White Dove have a show? Methinks I see the highbrows meet, and make long speeches and repeat; I see the long-haired, four-eyed sports hold congresses of divers sorts; they'll file reports that no one heeds, they'll write long books that no one reads, they'll junket here and junket there, and "resolute" and paw the air, and write peace anthems, full of thrills, while he of Skibo foots the bills. Methinks that when Peace doth appear, and earth has lost the battle fear, 'twill be because men grow more wise and gentle as Time onward flies; 'twill be the harvest of the tears that men have sown in bitter years. This boon will have no branded hide; no Skibo cost mark on its side.

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Walt Mason