THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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Honest labor bears a lovely face.—Dekker.

WHO'S WHO

THE FARMER'S free list bill removes the duty from agricultural implements, barbed wire, cotton bagging, cotton ties, leather, boots and shoes, timber, lumber, sewing machines, salt and other articles. It is an effort to undo to a small degree the iniquities of the Payne-Aldrich bill so far as it affects the farm.

It is a plan to untax certain articles of necessity in daily use among our agricultural population, and is a concession to the farmer for whatever real or fancied loss he may fear from the application of reciprocity. It is an endeavor to take from the trusts some of the powers of extortion by which they over charge for necessaries those who grow the wheat, produce the corn, rear the livestock and supply forty per cent of the raw materials that keep the mills going.

It is an honest measure originated by the Democratic house for an honest, albeit a limited revision of the tariff. It is a sane effort to give a squre deal to the farmer by placing a slight measure of restraint upon privilege.

A vote is to be reached on the bill in the senate on August 1. If it be beaten, the senate will go on record as still under the domination of the trusts. If it be passed by the senate and vetoed by the president, the White House will go on record as under the domination of the trusts.

The farmer's free list bill is a test of how things stand at Washington, and by its success or failure, we shall soon know who's who.

BASEBALL'S DIZZY FIGURES

THE RECENT sale of a minor league pitcher for $22,500 is reminder that the market value of an A1 baseball player equals that of several live congressmen. The earnings of Frank Chance, manager-player for the Chicago Cubs, is $30,000 a year, or as much as the combined salaries of four United States senators. Fielder Jones is reputed to have refused, as player-manager of the Chicago White Sox, a salary of $25,000, or the amount received by George Washington and numerous other presidents of the United States.

On the test of what the public is willing to pay for it, baseball beats statesmanship. McGraw, manager for the New York Giants, receives $15,000 a year, or $2000 more than the chief justice of the United States supreme court, and Christy Mathewson, pitcher for the same team is paid $12,000, or the same salary as the speaker of the national house of representatives or the vice president of the United States. Ty Cobb, center fielder for Detroit, and regarded as king of the diamond, is paid $9000 a year for his hitting, base running, and fielding, while the Honorable Philander C. Knox, secretary of state, is paid but $8000 for his services in conducting the diplomatic affairs of the United States. Hans Wagner, Pittsburg shortstop, kicked about his salary and was given a blank check and told to fill in whatever figure he required. He modestly inserted an amount greater by $1000 than paid the Honorable Mr. Knox.

The baseball world thinks in big figures. The market value of Mr. Cobb is anywhere between $50,000 and $100,000, which is a great deal more money than anybody would pay in cold cash for an average cabinet officer. It is estimated that Pitcher Gregg, who went to Cleveland from Portland this spring, would bring $50,000, or more than the market value of half a dozen governors.

When it is borne in mind that the sale price of a player is merely a bonus for the right to his services and that the salary and advances of salary have to be paid in addition, it will be seen that it would take a forty acre lot full of mere judges or college presidents to really be worth as much as one good "southpaw."

THE AUTO CRAZE

"WHAT STRUCK me most on this visit to America," writes Sarah Bernhardt, "was how the Americans got about. Never in my life have I seen a country with so many automobiles. Nobody can understand how one can move otherwise. As soon as they have a bit of money, Americans buy an automobile; it serves them as a bed room, a dining room, a means of distinction and for business. I have seen people depriving themselves of food and wearing out clothes in order to be able to buy an automobile. An American who has not his auto would consider himself as dishonored as a Spaniard without a mantilla, a German without a pipe, an Englishwoman without her overcoat, or a Parisienne without a pocket mirror."

It always takes a foreigner to read our character for us. Madame Bernhardt has succeeded nobly. The automobile is common and commonplace. It is no longer a distinction. It is of a kind with "the pipe, the overcoat and the pocket mirror." Every Tom, Dick and Harry can maintain a "bubble." True, they "deprive themselves of food" and brave debt and disaster; in fact, they sell their souls for the pride of possession, but the fact remains that "everybody has 'em."

In that aristocracy of birth and breeding, that aristocracy that is always in search of exclusiveness and always out of sympathy with the masses and their "common" and "vulgar" pastimes, the automobile bids fair to be sanctioned only as a utility. It has lost caste. It is neither distinguished nor extraordinary.

Added to this unfortunate condition, is the crushing blow dealt the automobile by royalty. To quote from accounts of England's coronation:

"Then, with a measured solemnity that hushed the crowd, state landaus, drown by pairs of bay horses, clicked over the asphalt. In a perfectly gold carriage, all trappings and embossed work and symbolism, drawn by eight cream horses, came King George and Queen Mary. No gasoline after all for grandeur; no automobile procession of potentates, but horseflesh and plenty of it, skipping, glossy, exquisitely groomed."

And, so the horse remains still the epitome of dignity, ceremony, pageantry, grandeur, blood royal.

CONTROLLING FOREST FIRES

OREGON HAS reached the end of July without a repetition of the terrible scenes that have marked past years, in vast areas of timber burned over, homesteads destroyed, vacation camps surrounded, lives lost. This does not mean that we are yet out of the wood. But it makes it reasonable to take time to seek the causes of this comparative immunity.

Better organization of fire fighters, to begin with. Better connected work by the United States forestry department, the state forestry officials, and private timber owners, leading to earlier reaching of danger points, and more prompt extinguishment of small blazes.

Then the year's work of the forestry department in cutting and clearing trails through the forests along strategic lines has brought results.

One consequence of the widespread conflagrations of 1910 has been the clearing from inflammable stuff of those areas. A good deal has also been done by private owners in burning trash and loppings from logged off lands.

Much weight must be given to the awakening of the public conscience to the duty of preventing fires from starting at the camping places of travelers and hunters. This has been very noticeable in the big timber, in the carefully extinguished camp fires, where a patch of cleared ground and trampled ferns and brush, and a few carefully separated blackened ends of firewood tells the story of the recent party.

No opportunity should be lost of enforcing this simple and easily performed duty. To the breach of it untold losses and irreparable damage are attributable.

To forest protection the ancient motto "in time of peace prepare for war" is very applicable. Fresh trails and wider ones must be constantly cut and dug. Telephone wires must be run through the forests without stint, connecting officials and workers at all vital points. Accumulations of loppings and trash must be destroyed at such times as conflagration is not threatening.

Above all it must be published far and wide that the laws of the state for forest protection will be rigidly enforced—and enforced they must be.

SPEECHLESS CLIENTS

IN A PORTLAND court Thursday an advocate pleaded for the protection of seven speechless clients. He was Colonel Robert Tucker, president of the Oregon Humane society, and no fee of dollars rewarded him for his efforts.

His clients were horses and mules, seven in number, whose shoulders were raw and marred by the marks of harness. In the testimony, a policeman said he was told that one of the mules would kick if approached, and the reply was that from the huge abrasion on its shoulder the animal ought to kick.

It is a cruel sight to see a team struggling to draw a load to which the faithful animals are unequal. The blows and curses of a driver often heighten the brutality of the scene.

It is a cruel sight to see a horse fall to his knees on the slippery pavement when trying to move a load on a frosty morning. It is a cruel sight to see a horse that from lack of nourishment or over work is dead on his feet.

Yet, all these sights are frequent in every city, Portland among them, and they would be more frequent but for the thoughtful men and women who do gratuitous work for speechless clients.

The horse in all his nobility is revealed in the great animals seen every day on the streets hurrying with all the spirit and all the fidelity of human beings to extinguish fires and save property and life. Contemplating them as they rush, at a swinging gallop, with fire appliances along the street, who is there that has the heart to be cruel to our "speechless clients?"

The work of the humane society is extremely worthy, and the organization deserves the public's unqualified approval and encouragement.

CONSERVING HEALTH

IT IS STATED that American life insurance societies are paying out $150,000,000 yearly for death claims, and that this is a rate of about $12 per thousand on insurance in force. The only way these companies can save money is by postponing deaths of the assured—in which result the policy holder is first benefited. This fact gives weight to the advice of the insurance companies, since the aim of the companies and the interest of the public are identical.

Professor Irving Fisher of Yale has estimated that 600,000 human lives are needlessly sacrificed in the United States each year, since over 40 per cent of the annual death roll is chargeable to preventable or postponable disease.

It is further said that the loss of life in America, through non-communicable diseases is rapidly increasing. Allowing for the increase in population it is stated that about two persons annually die now from diseases of the heart, kidneys and brain where one died thirty years ago from those causes. These diseases are classed as either preventable or postponable by proper hygienic measures or by effective medical treatment available in early stages.

Thus the movement is justified for the strengthening of all departments of the national service that bear on the public health. In passing it may be noted that the instinctive protest against the displacement of Dr. Wiley, and his assistants, or any weakening of the activities of the pure food experts of that department, is entirely reasonable.

No doubt additional expenditure will be involved. But, bearing in mind the willingness with which abundant funds are found for maintenance of other departments less immediately bearing on the public good, any reasonable increase over the $15,000,000 which represented the total appropriations on public health and hygiene for 1909, will, or ought to be cheerfully borne.

A NEW BOSTON

THEY SAY Portland is to be a new Boston, as respects wool manufacture. The early erection on the Peninsula of a huge wool warehouse, 620 by 310 feet, is occasion for the prediction.

Why not? We have the white coal of the mountain streams for cheap motive power. We should ultimately have cheap coal from Alaska for other inexpensive power.

And we grow the wool. The best long wool in the world is produced in the Willamette valley, and eastern Oregon is a vast wool empire. The total production of the state in wool is about 15,000,000 pounds.

Besides, Oregon is the center of the wool producing states, and has a splendid outlet to the sea. The following group of states are the largest wool producers in the union: Wyoming, 36,000,000 pounds; Montana, 34,000,000; New Mexico, 19,000,000; Idaho, 19,000,000; Oregon, 15,000,000; Utah, 14,000,000, and California 13,000,000.

For forty years we have been shipping wool by rail and otherwise to Boston, paying the freight cost for the long haul, and bringing back the finished fabrics on which we pay another freight charge and the various commissions and profits of middlemen.

The Panama canal means a considerable shifting of the world trade centers. The ocean commerce of the Pacific by the logic of fitness should more nearly approximate the commerce of the Atlantic. The tide of civilization and trade has been rolling constantly westward ever since the appearance of man.

Out of the changes, Portland ought to become a new and greater Boston.

SIR WILFRED LAURIER'S WELCOME HOME

A PRESSING PROBLEM is as to the adoption by the Dominion parliament of the reciprocity treaty after its stormy but ultimately successful passage through congress.

A sidelight on probabilities is thrown by the hearty welcome accorded to the Canadian premier, Sir Wilfred Laurier, on his recent return home after attending in London the colonial conference and the coronation. Canadian papers report a reception at both Quebec and Montreal more enthusiastic than has ever been given to any other man.

These eastern provinces are the seat of opposition to reciprocity, its stronghold being the great prairie provinces of the west. Jarring notes in the premier's welcome would have been noted and made the most of by supporters of the opposition. The absence of any protest, on the other hand, may be taken as an indication that his strong influence in Canadian politics, and especially on the burning question of the day, still holds its own.

When in these water-shortage days in his happy home, a busy gentleman has to wait ten or fifteen minutes for enough water with which to perform his morning ablutions, the thrilling thought seizes him that perhaps foresight of this slowly trickling stream from the faucet was what convinced Mayor Simon in his reign that there is no need for meters to prevent waste.

It has been a long time now, at least two or three weeks, since the colonel had a long distance encounter, and life at Oyster Bay must have become irksome. With what agreeable anticipations T. R. must have read in the dispatches that he is likely to be summoned before one of the house investigating committees.

A German newspaper says American "dollar diplomacy" will never bring peace, and cites the Boer war as a "dollar" war. Still what is all the present fuss in Europe about, but German "dollar" diplomacy with bayonet backing in behalf of a few mining speculators in the Atlas mountains?

Plans are being made for the enlargement of the Illinois penitentiary at Joliet. In view of the testimony before the Lorimer investigating committee, and of other circumstances, care should be taken to see that there is ample accommodation for all.

This ominous silence, now reaching a period of several weeks, leads to the horrible thought that something may have happened to the strenuous one at Oyster Bay.

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should not exceed 300 words in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender.)

New Way to Boost Oregon.

Portland, Or., July 27.—To the Editor of The Journal—In his answer last night to my recent communication, Mr. Denton was illuminating. Except the intimation that I am a doddering idiot to expect the railroads to contribute to the single tax propaganda, he was considerate of me, though he expressed intense hatred for railroad policies. He agrees that the single tax would be beneficial to these corporations were their interest confined to the operation of their plants. But he insists ownership of valuable water front and other unused lands precludes their remaining even a passive onlooker in the coming fight against monopoly. This I shall not dispute. When I think of railroads it is as public carriers. If they are in the land business, another phase of the question is presented. In my opinion they should be prohibited from monopolizing land as they are from operating coal mines.

But I do not share Mr. Denton's hatred of railroads. In fact, I am indebted to an official of the Southern Pacific for the lesson that led me to the single tax. Shortly after making my home here last spring, I read a warning from Mr. McMurray cautioning operators against boosting land values too high during the immigrant season. At that time it struck me as an unreasonable request. It seemed that the price of land was governed, as is that of other articles of exchange, by what can be obtained for it. And I still think so. But I have found a method to greatly reduce the price of land.

But as Mr. Denton and I are so nearly agreed as to railroads, let us take another factor working for the state's development, one whose sole purpose is to bring settlers to Oregon, and can have no other object—the Portland Commercial club. Like the railroads, it is spending annually large sums in showing eastern residents the advantages of getting "back to the land" in Oregon. This, too, is one of the objects of the single taxers as I understand them.

Now, if I could go on the road with my present line and cut the prices in half I am sure my sales would be greatly multiplied. So it seems to me the Commercial club could interest a multitude of people now entirely beyond reach by announcing "Oregon lands at half price!" That the application of the single tax would accomplish this there seems no doubt. I have never seen an opinion to the contrary. To this end it has occurred to me it might be advisable for the Commercial club to contribute to the Fels fund. I understand Mr. Fels duplicates all contributions, and for this action to be taken by the club would virtually double their good work. Of course, other hands would have the disbursement of it, but as the results are obtained any objections would be trifling. If jealousy should develop it could be silenced by the fund's trustees, including as members an officer or two of the club.

If for any reason this should not appeal to the club, it might be well for the fund to declare war and undermine its rival by going after its source of supplies. It could explain to club contributors that by transferring their support, contributions would be increased by 100 per cent—that $100 given to the Commercial club means only $100 in an effort to bring settlers by a doubtful method, while a like amount to the fund means $200 in a cut rate proposition as to the merits of which there can be no doubt.

If "Brother Denton" is a member of either organization I should like to have him present this suggestion or learn the reason for refusal.

R. C. LASCOMB.

A Protest.

Portland, Or., July 28, 1911.—To the Editor of the Journal.—There seems to be some misunderstanding relative to Oregon products with merchants here in Portland. We have several salesmen calling on the trade with reference to our Rubel loose leaf binders and supplies. In a great many cases they have been flatly turned down as not being a Portland concern, and therefore they, the merchants, could not buy from us.

Wherein do we fall short of being a Portland concern any more than all the saw, automobile, adding machine, furniture and dry goods concerns, and thousands of others doing business here in Portland, who in most cases are strictly agents carring a stock here, purchasing their own supplies here, paying rent and living here.

We can not see wherein we are unlike every stationery house in this city. Where do they get their Twinlock or Jones binders and supplies? Where? From the east. They carry a stock, so do we; probably not on so large a scale, but $1000 worth.

We live here, purchase here, pay rent and taxes here, and yet when we call on some merchants we are told that they must purchase from stationery houses here. Is this fair? Is this a square deal? Do you think this sort of boycott will last amongst reasonable and sensible men? I think you will agree with us that it will not.

I personally belong to the Portland Ad club, Commercial club and others. Have always been a booster for Portland and Oregon, which my record will show. Does this Oregon product idea mean that all of the eastern representatives of large concerns in the east carrying stock here are not wanted here? You start this boycott on eastern goods and what would all of your large houses in Portland that purchase the majority of their goods from the east do? Why, they would go out of business, because they can not possibly buy here in Portland, much less in Oregon, one-eighth of the amount of goods needed by them.

All we ask is a fair and square deal. If our prices, quality and workmanship can not procure us the business, we don't want it. But if they are lower, we would have it, and to this end we will win in the end. We are here in Portland to stay and no amount of boycott will displace us.

W. B. COLE.

Weighing an Elephant.

From the New York Press.

There is a story often told in India of Shajee a Hindu prince, who on a certain occasion showed himself almost as clever as Archimedes.

A high official had made a vow that he would distribute to the poor the weight of his own elephant in silver money. But the great difficulty that at first presented itself was the mode of ascertaining what this weight really was. All the learned and clever men of the court seem to have endeavored in vain to construct a machine of sufficient power to weigh the elephant.

At length Shajee came forward and suggested a plan which was simple, and yet ingenious in the highest degree. He caused the unwieldly animal to be conducted along a stage specially made for the purpose by the waterside into a flat bottomed boat. Then, having marked on the boat the height to which the water reached after the elephant had weighted it down, the latter was taken out and stones substituted in sufficient quantity to hold the boat to the same line. The stones were then taken to the scales, and thus, to the amazement of the court, was ascertained the true weight of the elephant.

50-Mile Shadow.

From Scientific American.

The peak of Teneriffe projects a huge shadow stretching upward of 50 miles across the deep, and partly eclipsing the adjoining islands. Exaggerated shadows of immense size are commonly seen in many other places. On the Harz mountains the so-called specter of the Brocken throws gigantic shadows of mountain climbers into the sky, repeating every movement made by them.

The same occurs on the summit of Pambamarca, in Peru. On the tops of Alpine peaks, and on the summit of Ben Lomond, in Scotland, mists in one case and rarefied air in the other explain these optical illusions. The same causes produce also colored shadows, varying at each hour of the day, and traceable to the dispersion of the solar rays.

My Neighbor's Roses.

Abraham Gruber in New York Times.

The roses red upon my neighbor's vine
Are owned by him, but they are also mine.
His was the cost, and his the labor, too,
But mine as well as his the joy their loveliness to view.

They bloom for me, and are for me as fair
As for the man who gives them all his care.
Thus am I rich, because a good man grew
A rose-clad vine for all his neighbors' view.

I know from this that others plant for me,
And what they own, my joy may also be.
So why be selfish when so much that's fine
Is grown for you, upon your neighbor's vine?

The Penalty.

From the Houston Post.

"There seems to be a penalty provided for everything but stealing a man's daughter."

"There's a penalty for that, too."

"I'd like to know what it is.'

"Hard labor for life."

Epilogue to the Coronation.

From the London Saturday Review.

Woman charged with being drunk and disorderly (to Magistrate)—If I can't get drunk when the king is crowned, when can I?

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

That garbage crematory is a malodorous subject.

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Manufactured political booms are not worth much.

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Whatever is reformed, there will always be need of reforms.

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Heat of 100 in the shade don't kill people, in lucky old Portland.

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The Broadway bridge will soon grandly rise to mock the finally defeated obstructionists.

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Texas is an immensly big addition to the legally dry territory, but not all Texans will forego booze.

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As long as there are forests, and hot, dry weather, there will be forest fires. A problem is to minimize them.

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That is a good job—boys clearing off lots in some parts of the city—good for the neighborhood, the city, and the boys.

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Some one advertises a business opportunity for a "man and wife, or lady." But it wasn't meant that a man's wife couldn't be a "lady."

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It is not so very long ago that voters were called upon and expected to vote a straight party ticket, put up by a bossed convention, even in city elections.

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Again somebody has languidly remarked that Portland might do a large trade directly by water, with Alaska. True, and often said but "nothing doing."

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A local paper tells of a Husum Indian who saw the Lewis and Clarke expedition pass down the Columbia, and says "it is believed that he is over 100 years old." If he saw the expedition probably he is.

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The young banker of Richmond who is supposed to have killed his wife smokes a great many cigarettes. The ignorant fellow Hammond who brutally murdered a man in Douglas county is an incessant cigarette smoker. Instances could be multiplied.

• •

The summer time is in its prime—(Hurrah for the golden reaping.) Full of delights are summer nights—(When sweethearts trysts are keeping.) Each day brings youth, and love, and truth—(Don't think of pain and sorrow.) Gay songs are sung, the world is young—(Never mind about tomorrow.) Old ocean's story, the white-peaked glory—(They're new-born every day.) New is the grain, new is the gain—(New faith have those who pray.)

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

The Presbyterian Daughters at Wallowa have undertaken to raise $200 of a fund for a new church.

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Astoria's auditor reports that the city's indebtedness has been reduced in the past year by $17,625.37.

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It is reported that preliminary steps are being taken for the establishment of a national bank at Huntington.

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A temporary band organization has been formed at Huntington, to boost for a permanent organization and equipment.

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New equipment for the light and power plant at Burns, sufficient to bring it up to the needs of the city, is soon to be installed.

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Nineteen girls and 17 boys were born in Linn county during the month of June. There were 15 deaths in the county in June.

• •

Albany's Commercial club is concerned with the question of employing a manager to raise working funds and to have charge of publicity.

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A third rural delivery route out of The Dalles will be in operation September 1. A route will also be established on that date out of Astoria and one out of Echo.

• •

Corvallis Gazette-Times: The receipts from fees at the county recorder's office for the past six months total $1240, about $640 above the running expenses of the office. This is the best showing ever made by this office.

• •

The Dalles Chronicle: Harry F. Mercer is experimenting with the growing of the persimmon tree. He says the tree he has is making a phenomenal growth and in his opinion the fruit can be successfully raised in this vicinity.

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Prineville Review: Lake county has several artesian wells. One valley has wells at from 122 to 260 feet deep and other valleys have strong flows. In one instance the water pours from a well that was driven only 30 feet. Crook county has no artesian water.

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The Sunset correspondent of the Burns Times Herald says: The rabbits are getting to be thick in this part of the country and the coyote is missed. When the bounty was placed on coyotes we traded one pest for a worse one, and the bounty ought to be repealed or a bounty placed on rabbits or they will increase faster as this country develops into a grain and alfalfa country.

SEVEN POPULAR PASTIMES

Chess.

Notwithstanding the many conjectures which have been hazarded, the origin of the game of chess is unknown; though it is certain that it is of very remote antiquity, and more than probable that it first made its appearance in Asia.

John de Vigney wrote a work which he called "The Moralization of Chess," in which he assures us that the game was invented by a philosopher named Xerxes, in the reign of Evil Merodach, king of Babylon, and was made known to that monarch in order to engage his attention and to correct his manners.

"There are three reasons," says De Vigney, "which induced the philosopher to institute this new pastime: the first, to reclaim a wicked king; the second, to prevent idleness; the third, practically to demonstrate the nature and necessity of nobleness." He then adds, "The game of chess passed from Chaldea into Greece, and thence diffused itself all over Europe." The Arabians and Saracens, who are said to be admirable players at chess, later remodeled the story of De Vigney, and adapted it to their own country, changing the name of the philosopher from Xerxes to Sisa.

Though it is not known when the game of chess was first brought into England, yet there is good reason to suppose it was well known there at least a century before the conquest, and that it was then a favorite pastime with persons of the highest rank. Mr. Singer thinks that the game was unknown in Europe previous to the crusades, and that it did not reach England before the twelfth century.

The game is one of extraordinary complication and difficulty. It has been generally practiced by warriors and generals; and some have even supposed that it was necessary for a military man to be a perfect master of it. The interest which it excites is such as usually to engross the attention of those who engage in it, to the exclusion of all other objects, even of the most pressing moment. We read that Tamelane, who was a great chess player, was engaged in a game during the very time of the decisive battle with Bajazet, the Turkish emperor, who was defeated and taken prisoner. It is also related of Al Amin, the khalif of Bagdad, that he was engaged at chess with his freeman, Kuthar at the time when Al Mamun's forces were carrying on the siege of that city with so much vigor that it was on the point of being carried by assault. Dr. Hyde quotes on Arabic history of the Saracens in which the khalif is said to have cried out, when warned of his danger, "Let me alone, for I see a checkmate against Kuthar!"

Daniel relates that Prince Henry the youngest son of the conqueror, afterwards Henry the First, who, with his brother Robert, went to the court of the French king, after dinner won so much money of Loius the king's eldest son, that he lost his temper, reproached him with the base birth of his father, and threw the chess men in his face. Henry took up the chess board and struck Louis with such force that he drew blood, and would have killed him, but for the interference of his brother Robert, who got him away.

We are told that Charles the First was at chess when news was brought of the final intention of the Scots to sell him to the English; but so little was he discomposed by this alarming intelligence, that he continued his game with the utmost composure; so that no person could have known that the letter he received had given him information of anything remarkable.

King John was playing at chess when the deputies from Rouen came to acquaint him that their city was besieged by Philip Augustus, but he would not hear them until he had finished his game.

The following remarkable anecdote we have from Dr. Robertson, in his "History of Charles V." John Frederic, elector of Saxony, having been taken prisoner by Charles, was condemned to death. The decree was intimated to him while at chess with Earnest, of Brunswick, his fellow prisoner. After a short pause, and making some reflections on the irregularity and injustice of the emperor's proceedings, he turned to his antagonist, whom he challenged to finish the game. He played with his usual ingenuity and attention; and having beat Earnest, expressed all the satisfaction that is commonly felt on gaining such victories. He was not, however, put to death, but set at liberty after five years' confinement.

Benjamin Franklin was the first American to bring the game into prominence, both as a player and as a writer; but its practice was confined to a few until the early part of the nineteenth century. 1857 there were sufficient chess clubs to justify a national congress. From that time chess has had a settled place among our pastimes; and Americans, in all phases of the game, in international contests, have held a high place.

Next week — Seven champions of christendom.

Spokane and the Rate Decision

From Speech of H. M. Stephens, Celebrating Decision.

"It affords me great pleasure to congratulate you and all the people of this great city and the entire people of this matchless Inland Empire, upon the results in what is known as the Spokane freight rate case," said H. M. Stephens at the open air rate celebration at the Masonic temple last night. "The fight has been made by this fair city singly and alone against the combined wealth of the great trancontinental carriers of this country. You may be sure that the fight has not been an easy one, but it has been a consistent and harmonious one, so far as the committee and your legal representatives are concerned. The result is not all we hoped for, but is so substantial, and the reductions are so great that to this great Inland Empire and other intermountain country to the south of us will be saved millions of dollars annually.

"This saving and retention in midst of large sums of money will be in line with the policy which has been adopted and pursued by the organized bodies of this city under the name of 'buying at home.' It will be better, from an economic point of view, to have this money in our midst than sent to Wall street. It will be better because it will develop our country, our industries. It will be advantageous because it will bring people to our midst, and we will grow and thrive.

Asks Only Square Deal.

"We have never asked for anything but a square deal. We believe that the members of the commission have concluded that they have given us a square deal, although not to the extent that we had hoped, looking at matters from our own point of view. You must bear in mind that this great body has the interests of all industries to consider.

"Remember that the interstate commerce commission has complex questions to deal with, that there are two sides to all lawsuits, and they have gone a long ways in the direction of giving us equity and justice.

"The commission has, in its wisdom however, said that for the present at least the carriers may charge seven per cent more to Spokane and the Inland Empire, from Chicago and common points, than they charge the Pacific coast, on account of the fact that the carriers which terminate at Chicago claim that they are meeting New York water rates at Chicago.

"Commissioner Prouty expresses the hope that in the future the carriers will see that it is to their interest to develop the interior instead of coast cities; and if the carriers adopt that suggestion, as I believe they will in the near future, then the prosperity of this great inland country and this great intermountain country will be without limit.

"The demonstration which the good people of this city this morning indulged in is evidence of the fact that this case has been a living, burning issue, and a favorable termination thereof meets a representative echo in the heart of every man, woman and child. We hope and trust that the time has arrived when the carriers will deal with the public in such a manner that the friction will not be such as it has been in the past; but the result of this fight has shown that there are times when rights can not be secured except at the ultimate conclusion of hard fought battles. We hope and trust that the equity and justice of our cause, which has been demonstrated by the decisions of the interstate commerce commission, will be appreciated by the carriers and their representatives.

Tanglefoot

By Miles Overholt

HOT WEATHER VERSE.

A chantauquer talked in his sleep one night
In words worth a dollar apiece; his plight
Scared him so that he died from his terrible fright—
Dear father: Send me fifty.

A sheep herder herded a big band of sheep
Till he got so blamed crazy he barked in his sleep
And he herded a snowbank on wild mountains steep—
Come out, Bad Bill, we know you.

A teacher thumped kids till his head had grown bald,
And children ran, frightened, whenever he called;
And he licked postage stamps when old age came and palled—
Maria, bring the 'taters.

A barber shaved men in the old fashioned way,
But he went raving crazy one hot sultry day
When a new tasteless soap was established to stay—
Hush, children, there's the ice man.

Where Scotty Belongs.

From the Detroit News.

Scotty, of Death Valley, has picked up $11,000 at Goldfield and is coming east on the rampage again with a special train. This man's originality ought to be diverted into the department of the interior where he could produce a new sensation every day.

Woodrow Wilson

(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.)

One more illustrious recruit has joined the the shining talksmith band; the people heard his larynx toot across this sad talk-ridden land. He talked upon the eastern shore, he talked beside beside the western sea, the prairie lands have heard him roar the platitudes that make men free. He talked so loudly as he went that people said: "This noisy man is just the stuff for president, and we'll elect him if we can." And I've no doubt that he will win if ever he should have the chance; for he who makes the loudest din is always certain to advance. I'd like to see before I croak one president of giant size; some man who left a trail of smoke and scrawled his name across the skies. Some builder who has laid his rails across the desert and the hills; some strong man who has filled the vales with clanging of a hundred mills. The labors of the builders can but little please the voting host; we heap the honors on the man who talks the loudest and the most.

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