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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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If on creation's morn the king of heaven
To shrubs and flowers a sovereign lord had given
O, beauteous rose, he had anointed thee
Of shrubs and flowers the sovereign lord to be
The spotless emblem of unsullied truth,
The smile of beauty and the glow of youth
The garden's pride, the grace of vernal bowers,
The blush of meadows, and the eye of flowers.

—Bohn.

MR. WHEELWRIGHT ON TOLLS

IN yesterday's Journal, Mr. Wheelwright quotes the Hay-Pauncefote treaty to prove his contention that American ships in the coastwise trade should not have free tolls. It says:

> The canal shall be free and open to all vessels of commerce and of war of all nations observing these rules on terms of entire equality, so that there shall be no discrimination against such nation or its citizens or subjects in respect of the conditions or charges of traffic or otherwise. Such conditions and charges of traffic shall be just and equitable.

If British ships engaged in American coastwise trade, Mr. Wheelwright would have a case. Under those circumstances, he could impress on others his fear that British interests would be harmed by free tolls.

But British ships do no business between American ports. They are forbidden to do so, by law. The carrying business from one American port to another is strictly reserved to American ships, and for American ships alone.

How can high tolls or no tolls on American ships in that trade affect British ships? How can British ships, the British nation or British subjects be affected by something with which they have nothing to do?

British ships have not one single right in American coastwise commerce. How could free tolls be discrimination against them in a trade in which they have nothing in the world to lose? How can they be discriminated against in a business in which they have nothing to be discriminated against? How can Cock Robin be killed when poor Cock Robin is already a long time dead?

As the London Post said editorially last January: "The proposal—the free use of the canal to American ships in the coastwise trade—does not really concern other countries, since the coastwise trade of the United States is already restricted to native shipping." Has Mr. Wheelwright set out to prove that white is black or that two plus two is not four?

As President Taft, a notable jurist and judicially minded executive, said, "I am confident that the United States has the power to relieve from tolls any part of our shipping that congress deems wise."

The house deems it wise to exempt American coastwise ships from tolls and has passed a measure to that effect, and a senate committee has recommended passage of the same measure by the upper branch.

Mr. Wheelwright's program as to tolls is not unlike his plan when, as president of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, he urged repeal of the exclusion act and the unrestricted admission of Chinese to the United States.

THE COMMERCE COURT

THE decisions of the supreme court handed down three days ago, and delivered by Chief Justice White, make it clear enough that the instinct of the house divined correctly that the commerce court was a very costly and obstructing fifth wheel to the coach.

The interstate commerce commission was rightly named. It was deputized by congress as a commission to ascertain facts in the variety of cases arising on the construction of commerce law. Then its duty was to apply the law to those facts and decide how it should be made effective. It was provided with an elaborate machinery of experts through whose inquiries and calculations the facts between the corporations and the people should be ascertained. It had the power and the duty to transfer its sitting and hold its inquiry wherever results should be most quickly and easily arrived at.

After years of experience the commission is not only better qualified for its work but commands more general confidence than ever.

The original constitution of the commission provided for appeal to the federal courts against its decisions if objected to by any of the parties. But appeals were based on facts ascertained by the commission.

But since these federal courts were anchored in different districts, and as the various judges were not always agreed on the law they administered, and as much delay was involved in the procedure, the commerce court was created, to hear appeals from the interstate commission, filling the stages between it and the supreme court.

But the new court quickly proceeded to invade the sphere of the commission by stretching its inquiries into facts, when suitors before the commission were dissatisfied on that score. Appeals to the supreme court quickly followed and with uniform results namely that the commerce court was refused the right to make independent inquiry into facts. After various examples of such action congress was put on inquiry how to mend or end the interference of court with commission and final action is imminent, being stimulated by these latest supreme court decisions.

THE PESTIFEROUS WEST

THE dispatches tell us that Governor West is to blame for Sunday's riot by prisoners in San Quentin.

Of course he is. Several months ago, there was a similar outbreak in the Nebraska penitentiary. West was to blame for that.

Several months ago, there was an outbreak in San Quentin. West caused it.

West was to blame for the outbreak in which Sontag escaped from one of the California prisons a dozen years ago. West was the baneful influence that caused the outbreak of Tracy and Merrill in the Oregon penitentiary in 1902.

Until the wicked West appeared on the scene, all the prisoners in the world were docile. There was scarcely need of steel bars or locks or bolts in penitentiaries, because convicts never had a thought of trying to escape. They loved confinement so much that the bars, bolts and locks were needed to keep them from breaking into prison. The presence of so many jails was all due to the fondness of men for incarceration, solitary confinement, bread and water diet and the like.

But the pestiferous West has spoiled everything. Like a fleeting thing, the docility of our lamblike prisoners has vanished, and our peaceful penitentiaries have become hotbeds of unrest and of dangerous heresies respecting escape.

But if Governor West has done all this, what a thunderingly powerful man he is!

THANK YOU

HOW easy for a corporation to be other than soulless! How mistaken is the judgment of most managing men in corporations as to what the attitude of their companies toward the public should be!

About Portland during the Rose show there are neat little booths into which the uninformed stranger can step and secure free information. They are exactly the thing that meets the need of persons who are in a crowded city for the first time. They are a guide book, a free information bureau, a railroad time card and many other things for the benefit of the public, all supplied free as an aid to the visitors and the festival.

It is a splendid service to the city. It helps feature the festival. It is impressive in its effect on visitors.

For it, the Home telephone people deserve much credit. It is a new, but a reassuring, role for a corporation.

A BLOODLESS PENALTY

FIFTY-THREE years is John Warren's record as a life termer in the penitentiary at Wethersfield, Connecticut. He entered at 21, and is now a snowy haired man of 74. In point of service, he is the oldest convict in the United States.

He killed his young wife. For the act he has already forfeited 53 years of liberty. He has spent every day since in a barred and bolted prison. He has been absent every day since from the workaday world.

The birds, the flowers, the streams, the forests, the meadows, the home, the family and friends have been denied him. The music, the sunshine and the air itself came to him through steel bars.

Seven times efforts have been made to secure his pardon, and seven times they have failed. At 74, all he knows of freedom is a dim memory, and all he has had of free life is a bitter recollection.

Does anybody doubt the tremendous effectiveness of such a record as a warning to criminals? Does anybody doubt that 53 years of listening to the click of locks and bolts and 53 years of hearing the ceaseless tramp of the guard are a more terrible deterrent than the single second in which a rope breaks the neck?

And the state of Connecticut punished John Warren without dipping its hands in his blood.

MEN OR MONEY?

THE senate committee on labor and education when reporting on the proposed eight hour law for government contract labor, denounced labor conditions in the plants of the steel corporation as "a brutal system of industrial slavery." A steel trust stockholder named Cabot insisted on an investigating committee of stockholders being appointed, to examine matters affecting the conditions of labor.

This stockholder committee, now reporting, admits that in some of the plants the men still work seven days a week, and that of 175,715 laborers whose records were examined more than a quarter of them are working 12 hours a day.

The committee apologizes for the trust, and alleges that the blast and open hearth furnaces call for less expenditure of labor and energy today than in past years. Yet the report proceeds, 12 hours absence from his family is, approximately, involved for every such workman and leaves but scant time for family life, for leisure and recreation.

Chairman Gary reported that a copy of Mr. Cabot's article on labor conditions had been sent to 15,000 steel stockholders and only about 90 replied, of this negligible number only 22 per cent desired a reduction in the hours of labor, and a small percentage of the 22 desired reduction in hours at expense of dividends if necessary.

So the corporate action is for money against men.

Is it very wonderful that the officers of that corporation made ready to answer the accusations of the government by burning all evidence that might serve to sustain the attack and might embarrass the defense? The campaign of the people through their agents is to be so long drawn out that in weariness the suit may pass into oblivion. It is in such processes that material is found for the labor war and its excesses.

HER NEW THRILL

MONKEY dinners by the idle rich have been followed by a lavish banquet in honor of bull pups.

Now Mrs. Lars Anderson, the $17,000,000 wife of the American minister at Brussels, is to give society a different kind of thrill. She is to transport 20 poor girls from the ranks of factory workers and for 10 days entertain them lavishly in her Massachusetts castle.

As if with a magic wand, they are suddenly to become princesses and live a most luxurious existence. They will be bedecked in ravishing toilets, and obsequious servants, maids and liveried attendants will be at their beck and call. Horses, splendid equipages, automobiles, coachmen in tall hats and chauffeurs will be always waiting their pleasure.

For 10 fleeting days, they will be rushed through a phantasmagoria of luxurious living, indulging in every variety of lavish amusement and entertainment that the inventive genius of the idle rich has so far devised. Dainty foods to delight the palate of epicures will be before them, and life will be as in a fairyland. Nothing that an immense fortune can command will be beyond their desires.

But—

After 10 short days, they will go back to their attics, their looms and their life of poverty. It will be back to the poor food, the squalid home, the lean environments and the whirr of wheels by day. There will be cotton and rough shoes instead of laces, linens and silks.

In contrast, the girls will be subjected to refined cruelty. The change back to the old life after a glimpse of fairyland will have every factor for evil.

In doing this, Mrs. Lars Anderson says she wants to arouse new ideals in the girls and stimulate their ambition. If so, why doesnt she give the 20 girls, not 10 short days of folly, but a comfortable existence for the rest of their lives?

Why must a $17,000,000 woman so often be a mild lunatic?

A DUEL OF MILLIONS

NEW train schedules which greatly shorten the time between Portland and Willamette valley points have been put into effect on the Southern Pacific lines.

It is a part of the duel of railroad millions now being fought out in Oregon. It is a step in the struggle between the Hill and Harriman people.

It is more. It is a conflict of survival between the steam and electric line. It is effort to hold passenger traffic by the installation of better cars, better tracks, swifter trains and better service. It is the acknowledgment that to meet the competition of the electric lines, the steam road must, while it lasts resort to heroic measures to hold business, and that in the end, it must meet electricity with electricity.

The stakes in this conflict, are the rich traffic of western Oregon. The trained vision of railroad captains foresees its splendid rewards. The record of the Oregon Electric as a new property with unexpected profits is before them. The transformation from two or three lean trains on the old Southern Pacific to heavily laden trains running here and there on every track and siding is sign of further increases in business the future is to bring.

The western Oregon of today is only the beginning of that enormously increased population and railroad business of tomorrow.

To seize and hold the largest possible share of it is the impulse behind the present conflict of the railroad giants. It is the secret of the better trains and better time. It is the cause of the shortened schedules. It is the fruit of competition.

It is the beginning of a new order.

PARIS AMUSEMENTS

IT is doubtful if Paris, which is reputed as the most mirth loving of all big cities, can match New York in the sums she spends on these pleasures.

Four Paris theatres receive subventions from the government, and 40 regular theatres take their own chances. In addition there are 13 moving picture, or large cinematograph theatres, 38 cafe concerts, eight music halls, 10 skating rinks, velodromes, and circuses. Does this seem a very great supply for a wealthy city of 2,700,000 people?

The municipal administration keeps account of all receipts collected by these amusement places. For 1911 the figures given are, in round numbers, for all $11,300,000. The four subvention theatres took in just over $1,800,000, the 40 independents $6,500,000. The cafe concerts $1,350,000. The skating rinks and circuses $840,200. But the cinematographs only $541,000 and the rest of the amusement places much smaller sums.

One regular and traditional tax paid for many years by all these places is for what are called "the rights of the poor." The poor fund in 1911 totalled to $1,225,000. This figure is derived from 10 per cent of gross receipts of regular theatres and daily concerts, five per cent from receipts of casual concerts by artists or musical associations, and 25 per cent of receipts from balls, races, and various other amusements.

So that if these figures are averaged over the population of Paris we may agree with the old description that "though on pleasure they are bent, they have a frugal mind."

There is in Paris no parallel to the "Great White Way." Nor, as the Paris theatres close, is there a scene like the inrush into Broadway restaurants of a lavish, excited and luxury seeking crowd. The type of Parisian theatre goer is the contented city resident with his family—who goes quietly home when the play is over.

Letters From the People

Articles and questions for this page should be written on only one side of the paper and be accompanied by the writer's name. The name will not be published, but is desired as an indication of good faith.

U. of O. and O. A. C.

Portland, Or., June 10.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In as much as the publication of my former letter, deprecating the entrusting of the future control and management of the state university and the state agricultural college to the same board of management, has brought me several unasked indorsements from men of weight and experience in this state, I think it my duty to persevere in my effort for reconsideration of this feature of the new plan.

It is to this part of it and this only that I object. I consider that the mill-age support of the two institutions by a fixed apportionment of the entire sum raised will serve to do away with whatever cause for jealousy may have been felt, and also will eliminate undignified scrambles before the legislature for appropriations. But if the ground taken in my former letter stands discussion and argument, then I believe that the fear of duplicated studies is exaggerated, and certainly should not cause departure from a policy of independent management essential on other and much larger grounds.

The basis of my contention is very plain. I consider that both institutions stand on widely different foundations, appeal to different strata of students, and have divergent issues for the results of their four year courses. In the case of the university, rounded and balanced education is demanded for the lawyer, the doctor, the minister, the writer, the teacher and the professional man or woman in general. Devotion of that crucial term of young life to what are well recognized as "culture studies" is required. The university course should cover the wide spaces of a general education, where all the major studies should be consecutively and diligently followed throughout the entire term.

If this is so, then the university student is entitled to instruction in both literature and science and art, to the degrees marked by the general definition that I have given. He is not entitled to ask from his alma mater the long continued, exact, and thorough instruction in any practical line that he may have determined on as a life work to be entered on immediately after his graduation. Especially is he not to expect advanced teaching and laboratory work in agriculture, mechanics, engineering and other technical lines in the university when ample provision has been made in the agricultural college for those studies, carried to their advanced stages by means of most special and costly equipment.

That student is, in my opinion, entitled to have such teaching in mechanics, chemistry, applied or theoretical, in botany, and biology as lays foundation for a well rounded general education, and no more. The aim is to give the needed opportunities at the university for the graduation of a well equipped, generally educated man. That student should not be driven to go elsewhere for whatever rightly falls within these lines.

Because several or all of those scientific studies are provided for in the agricultural college it is not duplication that they should be taught in the university to the degree described. The university student should be cared for at home to the full extent needed.

The agricultural college stands on equally plain ground, as I see it. The student here is grounded on the common school course and must be so prepared for the special practical studies ahead. The early terms of the college course supply instruction that shall aid the student to keep in mind and develop what is already learned in the public or the high school. This is vital if the student is to receive here the teaching needed to qualify the future citizen for his or her place in the state, the county, and the home.

If some of the grades in these studies of general education are also taught in the university I insist that it is not duplication to enable the college student to qualify himself at home in them.

But to the special work of the college the force of the institution must and will be directed. Therein the whole range of such studies must be fitted into place, and followed throughout the entire college course. The graduates of the agricultural college must continue to hold the admirable place that they now occupy, sought for in their special lines of work as experts and qualified workers, ready to put on the whole armor of life at once.

For the details of "citizenship" studies required by the college student he should no more be driven to the university than the university student to the college for instruction in the early scientific branches which he must have. That is not duplication when taught at Corvallis.

The clearer the demonstration of the distinction between the two institutions the more impracticable is it that both should receive equal and earnest support from one small board of regents responsible for both. Another point has been overlooked, I think. The student attendance at both is so large that there is no real economy of effort in piling on the teaching force of the university, already organized for a higher general grade of studies, the limited instruction in culture studies required for the college student. Nor should the university students be drawn away from their own alma mater to engage in technical and practical studies of the depth and scope provided in the college course. If these principles be admitted then the adaptation to them of the college and university courses present no very great difficulties—certainly none to call for the drastic measure of destroying the independent governance of both.

WALLIS NASH.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Like's not worry about anything during this joyous festival week.

• •

Money alone doesn't always tell fully whether something has "paid" or not.

• •

The weather this week will do as it durn pleases, but it will displease many.

• •

Reed Institute will be one of Portland's greatest assets for all time to come.

• •

The country has its eyes on Portland this week and millions wish they could be here.

• •

Politicians who ignore or flout the people's expressed will are committing political suicide.

• •

There may have been cases where a boy mayor could not have done worse than the real adult mayor.

• •

Don't imagine that a small farm will be profitable unless its owner sticks close to home and attends to it carefully.

• •

As usual, officials are laying bad conditions on one another. Like boys, each one protests his innocence and accuses others.

• •

Crime and misery seem peculiarly out of place in June, amidst roses and strawberries, exultant birds and blushing brides.

• •

A president, or his manager, and an ex-president, are calling each other "thief." Maybe some people will believe them.

• •

The right sort of a probe properly injected far enough into school district affairs might run into things more naughty than vice.

• •

A festival week can't be pulled off successfully without hard work on the part of many. But work can be cheered by the festival spirit.

• •

Heat will continue to increase during the next week in a certain locality in Chicago, but there may be no physical fatalities. Some political ones, probably.

• •

Both Taft and his leaders and Roosevelt and his lieutenants are trying to kill the Republican party, each faction asserts. Whether meaning to do so or not, they are pretty surely wrecking it, at least temporarily, but the country will survive, even then.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

McMinnville people believe their half mile racetrack is the finest of its class in the entire northwest.

• •

Eugene has a curfew ordinance and it will be enforced hereafter. At 9 o'clock the fire bell will give the warning.

• •

The Brownsville Times has just celebrated its twenty-third anniversary. It's present management has been in charge 14 years.

• •

Gladys Carpenter, a graduate of the eighth grade in the Estacada schools, won the highest grade standing in Clackamas county, her percentage being 96 1-3 per cent.

• •

Silver Lake Leader: We have gone through the experimental stage and it has been demonstrated that grain can be raised. The transportation jigs see this and are gathering data.

• •

Bend Bulletin: From the first of the year to June 1 the precipitation has been 10.86 inches. There is every reason to suppose that this year's precipitation will exceed 20 inches, most of it coming when it will do the greatest good.

• •

Fossil Journal: The banquet served the Oregon Threshermen by the Condon ladies in the burg last Friday night, was one of the niftiest affairs it was ever our good fortune to sit down to. The Condon ladies have no superiors in getting up an affair of that kind.

• •

Grants Pass Courier: Grants Pass will add this year nearly two miles of paved streets to its already beautifully finished thoroughfares. It can be successfully claimed that this city has at least one of the finest streets in the state.

• •

Canby Irrigator: The sale of our school bonds was a good indication of our standing in the financial world. While the issue was small, the premium paid was the largest ever received for a similar issue in this part of the state. All told, it figured about $450 on the amount of $20,000.

• •

Prineville Review, quoting from its files of 26 years ago: Prineville wants a large, comfortable school house and a sufficient amount of money to run a free school nine months each year; daily mail communication with The Dalles or some other point on the railroad; a bank with a limited capital, and a woolen mill to work up a portion of the surplus wool grown in Crook county.

SEVEN ECCENTRIC WOMEN

Madame Tussaud.

Madame Tussaud's was one of the most unusual vocations for a woman to follow—the making of wax figures of assassins and those assassinated, yet he was so successful at this work that although most of it was accomplished during the French revolution, her collection today is still exhibited in London and large crowds visit it annually.

Marie Gresholtz (Mme. Tussaud) was born in Switzerland in 1760, and as she did not die in London until 90 years later, she actually lived among the celebrated men of the French revolution, Paris being her home for many years, and framed their portraits from direct observation. It was her business one day to model the horrible countenance of the assassinated Murat, whom she detested, and on another to imitate the features of his beautiful assassin, Charlotte Corday, whom she admired and loved.

At one time Madame Tussaud was herself in prison, in danger of the all-devouring guillotine, having there for her associates Madame Beauharnais and her child, the grandmother and the mother of the Emperor Napoleon III. Escaping from France she led for many years a life of struggle and difficulty, supporting herself and her family by the exercise of her art.

Once she lost her whole stock by shipwreck on a voyage to Ireland. Meeting adversity with a stout heart, always industrious, frugal and considerate, the ingenious little woman at length was enabled to set up her models in London, where she had 40 years of constant prosperity and where she died at the age of 90 in the midst of an attached and grateful family, extending to several generations.

Madame Tussaud was the daughter of an aide-de-camp of General Wurmser in the Seven Years' war and was born after the death of her father. Her mother was the sister of Dr. John Christopher Curtius, of Berne, Switzerland, who had made many anatomical and other models in wax, and had attracted the Prince de Conti. This nobleman urged Curtius to come to Paris and establish himself as a modeler of wax.

The Curtius studio became the rendezvous of the fashionable world and in connection with this he had a museum of curiosities. Among his patrons were Voltaire, Jean Jacques Rosseau, Mesmer, Paul Jones, Mirabeau, Diderot and Benjamin Franklin. Marie received instruction in the art from her uncle and showed so much ability that Dr. Curtius adopted her. She became so dexterous in the modeling of wax flowers that that art became a craze, and she gave lessons to Mme. Elizabeth, the young sister of Louis XVI.

When the Revolution broke out Dr. Curtius took the side of the people and sent for Marie to come from the palace. It was rather singular that two of his wax figures should have played a foremost part in the opening scenes of that awful period. In his collection of models was the bust of the minister, Necker—father of Mme. de Stael—and one of Philippe, Duke of Orleans. Two days before the storming of the Bastille a mob took these two busts from his museum, draped them in black crepe, to show their sympathy, and started to parade the streets with them.

At the taking of the Bastille Dr. Curtius was active, and for his services to France he was rewarded by the national assembly. A gun of honor was presented to him, and his house was a favorite place of meeting of the revolutionists. It was her uncle who succeeded in securing the release from prison of Mme. Tussaud, and she came out in time to see the downfall of Robespierre, Danton and Desmoulins. In the days of their power she had been called to model heads of many who fell by the guillotine. She was obliged to take them just after the fall of the fatal knife. She did this awful work with the heads of Marie Antoinette and of the Princess Lambelle, the queen's friend. When the leaders suffered by the guillotine in their turn, she modeled their heads.

It was not until after the revolution and the death of her uncle that Marie Gresholtz married M. Tussaud. She could not forget her experiences during the revolution and she persuaded her husband to take her and the valuable collections of wax models to England. It was established in the Strand. The collection was taken all about the country and has been permanently established in London since 1833. Her sons conducted the business, and she took an active share in this till she was 80 years of age.

Tomorrow—Pamela Fitzgerald.

Always in Good Humor

A BANK OUT OF POLITICS.

From Salyersville (Ky.) Mountaineer.

Notice is hereby given to all that no candidate for office will be accepted as surety on any note to this bank. So it is needless to present any note to this bank with any candidate's name to it. Salyersville National Bank.

RESULT OF JURY SERVICE.

From the Chicago Post.

"Could you tell us how far it is to the postoffice?" we asked of the man standing on the railway platform.

"I have no idea," he replied.

"Well, in which direction is it?"

"I have not formed an opinion."

"Can we walk there or should we take a car?"

"I could not say."

"There is a postoffice here, is there not?"

"I would not decide that with my present information."

"But every town has a postoffice, hasn't it?"

"I have not talked with anybody on the subject."

"Is there any one around here who can tell us?"

"I have not read any of the newspapers."

"But, man, you surely know whether or not there is a postoffice?"

"I could not give a decisive answer to that."

"But don't you live here?"

"I have never given the matter any thought."

"Where do you live?"

"I have no mental bias in the matter."

"Great guns, man! You know you're alive, don't you?"

"I should be guided entirely by the evidence."

Here a listener plucked our sleeve, smilingly. He took us to one side and said:

"You won't get anything out of him if you quiz him all day. That's Pete Hobawot, who's been on so many jury panels it has affected him."

THE UNREASONABLE THING.

"Is your fiance exacting?"

"Oh, very. He doesn't want me to be engaged to anybody else."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Conspiracies.

From the Chicago Tribune.

There's a familiar odor about the latest development in the Oregon land fraud cases. The prosecution was a conspiracy. In these days there never is a conspiracy against the state, against its people, or against its laws. All the Guy Fawkeses unaccountably, miraculously, obtain commissions as prosecuting authorities before they take up with stratagems and plots.

The Oregon story setting forth that Willard N. Jones was convicted by unfair and improper methods and that the whole prosecution was directed towards the breaking up of the "Mitchell faction" in the Republican party so impressed President Taft that an unconditional pardon has been granted. No doubt the president has convinced himself as to the facts.

Noting a possible exception in this Oregon case, it may yet be pointed out that somewhere between the police station and the criminal court all men become innocent.

Humanity in the Congo.

From the Chicago Tribune.

The great light of reform is touching the dark places of the Congo. A dispatch from Consul Lamont at Boma to Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign minister, reports new laws affecting the natives, and quotes one dealing with punishment.

"Flogging is limited to 12 strokes, old men, the sick, women, and children being entirely exempted, and if fainting or the appearance of a wound supervenes as the result, the application of further punishment is forbidden."

Only able bodied men have to stand the lash, and if they do not like it they have the privilege of fainting and avoiding some of the strokes. Reform certainly is entering the Congo.

He Was the Best Man —Once

From the Detroit News

President Roosevelt had come to the end of a hard seven years' war, with many things done and many things to do. The powers that prey were gloating over the prospect of once more having the White House for their own. And Roosevelt was on the job to stop a White House steal. He looked about him for a candidate. He sounded many, tested not a few, and his choice fell on William Howard Taft, then secretary of war. Mr. Roosevelt said unqualifiedly to Mr. Taft that he believed him to be "the best man for the place." Mr. Roosevelt has plainly stated that conviction to the country. He made that belief dynamic in the convention, and during the ensuing campaign he never ceased to say that he believed Mr. Taft to be the best man for the place.

And the fact is—and here is the sub of the matter—that at the time and under the circumstances Mr. Taft was the best available man. Mr. Roosevelt's friends all over the country heartily acquiesced in this.

Consider the conditions in 1908. Do you remember who was then being touted as presidential candidates? Think about it a moment. Do you remember what a stir there was for old Joe Cannon, who so loyally served the interests as speaker of the house? Do you remember that Joe Cannon received indorsements from Representative Fordney's district right here in Michigan? Do you remember, also, that Philander C. Knox was edging up towards the candidacy with much money and prestige? Do you recall that the Michigan delegation went to the Chicago convention in large part reactionaries "agin" Roosevelt?

Anyway, the country seemed alive with candidates willing to take the tack opposite to Roosevelt. You know how strong they were in the convention. You remember that a reactionary vice-president, "Sunny Jim" Sherman, was given them as a sop. You remember waking up one morning and asking who "Jim" Sherman was and you learned in common with the rest of us that he was a cannery man who didn't like the pure food laws and who was an expert collector of campaign funds in Wall street—and you didn't like it. But it simply showed how strong the reactionaries were in that convention.

Mr. Roosevelt foresaw all this. He had seen it two years before. He had seen the moment he stepped out of office there would be a mad rush to tear down every vestige of his work. He looked long and studiously at Elihu Root—and his first conclusion was that Root might make a good president, but a very poor candidate; and his second conclusion was that Root was a better secretary and lawyer than anything else, because of his brilliantly aristocratic ideas of representative government (for which he is not to be censured; they were a part of his times and training). Roosevelt then looked at some of the younger men, but could not find the necessary seasoning and experience. Then he turned back to his study of Taft. Taft wouldn't set the world on fire—that much Roosevelt saw. He wouldn't be heavy in initiative—that much was plain. He might not be overly progressive—he had always been a better man at carrying out the suggestions of the president than in originating plans of his own. All this was as clear as daylight to Roosevelt. But in cabinet meeting and private conversation, in letter and in speech, in action an in what enthusiasm he could muster, he had always seemed a sincere advocate and defender of what was then known as "the Roosevelt policies." The future of those policies was President Roosevelt's dearest concern. He was not sure that Mr. Taft could go very far in pushing them to completion, but he did verily believe that Mr. Taft would sit tight and keep the reactionaries from disemboweling them. Mr. Taft's temperament did not lead him to expect great activity, Mr. Taft's words and attitudes led him to at least to expect loyal defense, even if such defense resulted in a purely stationary administration. Moreover, he believed that Mr. Taft's personal integrity made it forever impossible for anyone to appeal to baser considerations and so move him.

So, with the reactionaries behind Cannon and Knox and others, and only Taft available to represent the Roosevelt side, President Roosevelt wrote, and was justified in writing, "You are the best man for the place."

At the time and under the circumstances, this was absolutely true. Taft was a bettter man than Cannon, he was a better man than Knox, he was a better man than any of the reactionaries of 1908. Perhaps, in justice to the country during the last four years, we should sometimes reflect of what would have happened had old Joe Cannon been chosen as president. In some particulars he could not have done worse than President Taft has done, it is true, but his choice would have marked a retreat. The country, in choosing Taft on Roosevelt's recommendation, thereby committed itself and Mr. Taft to the progressive program.

Of course, Mr. Taft has fallen away below the expectations of the country and Mr. Roosevelt. Left alone, his inherent weakness became very apparent. His own brothers supplied the unexpected influence which turned him from the right track. At no time did he dare strike out for himself. He did not even have the saving grace of sitting tight. Personally honest, personally amiable, he always was, but he couldn't tell a suave political trickster at a glance. He took men too easily at their word. All the qualities which would make a sweet and gentle personality in private or professional life, made a weak figure in the constantly besieged position of president. And that is about the worst that can be said for President Taft.

Beautiful Things

(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 beautiful things are the things we do; they are not the things we wear, as we shall find when the journey's through, and the roll call's read up there. We're illustrating the latest styles, with raiment that beats the band; but the beautiful things are the kindly smiles that go with the helping hand. We burden ourselves with gleaming gems, that neighbors may stop and stare; but the beautiful things are the diadems of stars that the righteous wear. There are beautiful things in the poor man's cot, though empty the hearth and cold, if love and service are in each thought that husband and wife may hold. There are beautiful things in the lowest slum, where wandering outcasts grope, when down to its depths they see you come with message of help and hope. The beautiful things that we mortals buy and flash in the crowded street, will all be junk when we come to die, and march to the judgment seat. When everything's weighed on that fateful day, the lightest thing will be gold. There are beautiful things within reach today, but they are not bought or sold.

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Walt Mason