THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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It is a good divine that follows his
Own instructions; I can easier teach twenty
What were good to be done, than be one
Of the twenty to follow mine own teaching.
The brain may devise laws for the blood; but
A hot temper leaps o'er a cold decree.

—Shakespeare.

WHAT'S THE USE?

A SPEAKER at the anti-commission government meeting at the Armory Saturday night clamored for the proposed charter to be voted down so another committee could be appointed to prepare another charter.

What is the use of preparing another charter? It could not be prepared in a way to silence the opposition of the paving companies without sacrificing provisions in the pending charter for protecting the people's interests.

It could not silence the opposition of the public service corporations without sacrificing provisions in the pending charter by which the people's interests are conserved.

Another charter could not silence the opposition of the tax eaters without sacrificing provisions protective of the taxpayers in the pending charter.

No charter can be prepared on which taxpayers and taxeaters can agree. No charter can be prepared on which home builders and paving companies can harmonize. No charter can be prepared on which plain people and public service magnates can unite. If we try to prepare such a charter we shall still be waiting for commission government in Portland when Gabriel blows his horn.

Commission government is commission government. The pending charter is commission government as distinguished from the present checks-and-balances system.

The pending charter has the big central principle embodied in the charter of Galveston, Des Moines, New Orleans and the other 300 cities that have adopted the commission plan. Its central idea is accountability, responsibility and publicity as to all his acts by the official, the short ballot, and complete simplicity in every governmental process. All this is faithfully preserved in the proposed Portland charter, a fact that makes it a widely different system to that now in operation, a system of non-accountability for the official, of non-publicity for the acts of the official, of non-responsibility for the official, and a system of long ballots, complicated processes and random results.

If a thousand future charters were prepared, they could not be commission government without carrying all the features of the central idea in the proposed charter. If a thousand other charters were prepared, not one would, if it retained the commission idea, differ in the slightest in other than trivial matters from the present charter. Those who talk about naming another committee to prepare another charter, either do not want commission government at all, or do not comprehend what commission government is.

Many of the gentlemen who profess great concern about civil service are not at heart worried about civil service at all, but are disturbed because the paving companies are disturbed.

Most of the patriots who are agitated about the direct primary under the proposed charter are not concerned at all about the direct primary but are disturbed because the public service corporations are disturbed.

Most of those distressed by the so-called powers of the mayor are not worried about those powers at all, but are disturbed because those who live by politics are distressed.

CURE FOR PNEUMONIA

THE public has learned to give credence to announcements made by the scientists of the Rockefeller institute, since information has been customarily withheld until the institute authorities have gained confidence in the results published.

Consequently when we read in the New York dispatches that a serum has been discovered for pneumonia we take courage in believing that one of the most suddenly dangerous and painful diseases has at last been mastered by human research.

It is noticeable that the composition of the newly discovered serum is being kept a secret, at present. In this decision also the public will cheerfully acquiesce, in full confidence that no commercial or interested motive lies behind this veil of secrecy.

The investigators of the Rockefeller institute prosecute their long continued and delicate work in perfect reliance that no means will be wanting for their success which money can provide, and that, as the old saying goes, their bread and water is sure. Hence they work on unwearyedly and with entire patience to their end, having no personal aim save the purest ambition of all—that of adding another relief, another cure for human ills.

A VICTIM'S COMPLAINT

AN up-state victim writes The Journal requesting that the public be warned against agents who sell suburban lots in Portland at prices far beyond their value.

He purchased a lot on representations of boom literature sent broadcast to all kinds of people. The literature contained gilded statements of glittering profits to be made by a purchase.

The purchase was made, and afterward an investigation. The investigation revealed that the lot was miles distant from the city and that it had been purchased at several times its true value.

There is one rule that buyers should adopt. First, they should bear in mind that Oregon has been passing through a period of inflation and speculation, and that the process has brought on a vast crop of boomers with various plans of getting rich quick and easy by real estate manipulation.

They are not legitimate real estate agents. There are many realty firms who are substantial, stable, and dependable. They do a square business and patrons are perfectly safe in their hands.

It is the cormorants and camp followers of the business that must be avoided. They are harmful to the business and harmful to Portland. Their game in some instances is nothing short of a confidence process.

There is, however, one rule that will save buyers from being victimized. They should make it a rule never to buy a lot without first personally inspecting it. To buy without such inspection is to take a chance, a chance that has yielded many a victim.

THE NATION'S RAILROADS

TO ascertain the figures of the physical valuation of the railroads of the country is a tremendous work. The Interstate Commerce commission has been charged with the duty and is already busy on the figures.

The mileage is 359,000 miles of which 114,940 miles are in second tracks and sidings.

The capital stock exceeds $8,500,000,000, and the bonded debt nearly $11,000,000,000. In addition there are over $400,000,000 of unfunded debt, over $1,000,000,000 in current accounts, and in sinking and other funds over $230,000,000.

In these great totals there is included a vast amount of watered stock, for which, at the time of issue, there was no visible value.

It has been asserted, and in many instances proved, by the railroads, that so much of their earnings has been invested, continuously, in permanent betterments that the water has been absorbed and has disappeared. The facts on this score are to be ascertained by the commission.

According to figures filed by the railroads with the commission in their annual reports the corporations have these outlays and assets to show. Cost of railroads and equipments nearly $16,000,000,000, other investments $4,500,000,000, sundry assets $1,000,000,000 and over $700,000,000—total over $22,500,000,000.

To carry the traffic of the United States demands, in rolling stock, locomotives now in use 65,310, passenger coaches 40,430, and freight cars 2,354,682.

The cost of this investigation will be enormous, the time needed will be counted by years. The difficulty will be to find trained experts in railroad valuation in number sufficient for the task, for mere accountantcy is by no means all that is required. Judgment and experience are demanded.

SUFFRAGETTE STRIKERS

WHOEVER suggested the hunger strike for English suffragettes in jail showed shrewd knowledge of English human nature, both female and male.

It takes a woman to resolve, in modern days, to go down to, or even through, death's doors for the sake of an idea in which public, not selfish, interest is at stake.

The hunger strike calls for defiance of the most elementary need of human nature. Can one imagine the male convicts in a penitentiary punishing themselves by starving to death in order to compel the grant of a vote, say for argument's sake, for all boys between 20 and 21? If they went hungry all day and then plates of good roast beef and potatoes were set before them is it imaginable they would turn aside and let the food go untasted?

Yet the women have done that and more.

These women knew that by the hunger strike they would win. They knew that English men would carry the forcible feeding just so far and no farther. When the point of torture was reached it would stop. They also knew that English men would not doom their womankind to death by operation of a sentence of imprisonment. And they knew that when the force of imprisonment had reached its limit nothing lay behind it that could, in England, be inflicted on them.

The best the government could do was to invent a special ticket of leave for their benefit—to let them loose when the hunger strike had done its worst, to allow them to recover and then lock them up again, to begin the round of hunger strike, get sick to death, go free, be locked up again, and so on ad infinitum. They have succeeded admirably in making the government ridiculous, and they care not a whit that they make themselves ridiculous too.

They have invented a new profession and a new name, hunger strikers—for they're surely good for nothing else. Are there many of them?

THE REAL BENEFICIARIES

ONCE more The Journal submits to the intelligence of the special committee that the money for the promotion department of the Commercial club should come from big realty owners.

They are the people who reap the great profit. There is only one reason why a Portland lot that was formerly worth but a few hundred dollars now brings $200,000. That reason is—growth. It is the multiplication of people in the community and the erection of great buildings in the vicinity.

But for the population of Portland, the Washington street lot that brings several hundred thousand dollars in the market, would not be worth $100. Before the population arrived, it was not worth $100. If the population should suddenly disappear, it would not be worth $100.

The only beneficiary of these great increases in value is the lot owner. The tenant is more penalized than benefited by the increase. His rent is raised until in some instances he is driven off the street. In other cases he is forced out of business altogether. In every instance, he is put to his wit's end to make the profits of his business meet the exorbitant rentals.

He should not be asked to pay the cost of promotion. It is a cost that should be borne by the wealthy owners of valuable realty. They are the real beneficiaries, and they ought to bear the expense of the publicity.

WOMAN'S VOTE

A FAVORITE anti-suffrage argument was that by entrance into politics women would lose their influence on men and therefore on legislation. It was said that influence, not power, was their real stronghold.

It was answered that, contrariwise, the instincts of women would bind them into common action for the welfare of the child, the protection of the home, for public education, for common health, for constructive rather than punitive legislation.

Colorado women are fair examples. Ellis Meredith cites various instances of their common action, when party designations have been absolutely ignored. An attempt was made, she says, to create a political board to remove control of the state bureau of child and animal protection from the non-political Colorado Humane society. Every federated Woman's club in the state besieged senators and representatives to vote against the bill. The women vice-chairmen of the Democratic and Republican state central committees went together to members of the legislature to protest.

Women of all parties sought the same things. For them they worked in harmony. They wanted a pure food law, and got it. They desired civil service reform, and got it applied to officers of all state institutions. Colorado men understand that in opposing women's demands they oppose all women, and that with the women goes the independent vote of the state.

The general protest of women voters of all parties and all over the United States against the removal of Miss Julia Lathrop from the headship of the children's bureau is the most recent instance.

So it will be. When the women unite in pursuit of any purpose within the lines of their natural province men will hesitate greatly before opposing them. The masculine conscience presumes that in such matters the instinct of the women works rightly to good ends.

Napoleon, who said that "an army fights on its belly," must sneer in his grave over the parisomy of the German government. The German private gets only $1.50 per month, out of which he must partly feed himself, or starve. No complaint on this side of the pond, however. The United States will continue to welcome the young German immigrant.

A splendid outing is planned for the forestry students of the O. A. C., who will cruise and estimate 2500 acres of timber. The college grows in practical usefulness, and its students are well trained for their life work when they leave its halls.

An Oregonian Washington news dispatch says that, because he is an advocate of smaller navies and international peace, Secretary Bryan is greatly embarrassed by the belligerent attitude of Japan over the California land laws. Fudge!

The sudden passing of A. F. Hofer at Salem yesterday, is a shock to his many friends throughout the Willamette valley. As secretary of the Salem Board of Trade, as associate with his brother, Colonel E. Hofer in the publication of the Capital Journal, and later as one of the figures in the Salem campaign for a greater endowment for Willamette university, he contributed a full man's part for the upbuild of the state.

Mildly critical, and at times gracious, toward the new administration, the Oregonian has begun to "see red." Wilson wields a club, he has become a despot, we are approaching the dreadful days of "one man rule," etc. The Oregonian is as nimble as a flea, but after its hop-skip-and-jump will always scamper back to the partisan pillow.

Baltimore has a bank on wheels which collects deposits at the doors of its patrons. Commonplace. What's really wanted is some kind of a device to generate deposits.

Spokane is after the speed maniacs. Shake, sensible sister. Carry the torch of sanity, and perhaps Portland may also see the light.

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender. If the writer does not desire to have the name published, he should so state.)

The Preferential System.

Portland, April 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—Recently Gay Lombard, while addressing the Rossmere-Hancock Street Improvement league, defended the preferential system of voting and stated that it would save the cost of the primary election. He then was speaking to the writer in favor of commission form of government. Of late he has been endeavoring to make a mare's nest of that which he formerly favored.

The preferential system of voting was a feature in the long charter submitted last November to the voters and it has been under consideration by our charter board ever since. It may be a fact, but I never heard of Mr. Lombard's appearing before that board and asking that the preferential system of voting contained in the long charter be eliminated from the charter. Mr. Lombard has put himself before the public as an authority on commission government. If he knew of vicious features being considered he was remiss in his duty, to say the least, in not pointing the same out when the charter was in a formative state. At this late date, after the charter has been printed and cannot be changed, it ill behooves any honest supporter of commission government to assail it because of features the same charter contained last November and to which he made no protest earlier in the game. I cannot but think Mr. Lombard has been ill advised by his political associates, or that his discernment is not keen if it has taken him all this time to find out his fancied ills of preferential voting.

But is it an ill? It does away with the cost of a primary election—about $15,000. It does not enable a minority party choice to ride into office on the party ticket through that minority choice, as is mostly the fact now. That only office seekers fight it. Mr. Lombard has made much of a possible minority government under the preferential vote, but he fails to state that we are governed now, under the primary system, mostly by a minority choice.

Remember, that preferential voting does away with party lines. Each candidate must stand on his ability to discern right from wrong, and on the record he has made. It is not possible, as under the primary party system, to elect a minority choice, undesirable man through the party name and regularity whip, as happens at every election under the party primary system. Good government can never be had in any city until party lines are eliminated, and that is what the preferential system of voting accomplishes. So, vote for the new charter and its preferential system of government. Don't let old party bosses fool you, for their own interests, to retain the old party primary system.

As to the powers of the mayor in the proposed new charter, they are the same as those of the long charter voted on last November. To get results an executive must have power. With the preferential system of voting a good man can be elected mayor, as he must be the majority choice, and he cannot ride into power through the party name and whip, as under our present party primary system. So, vote for the new charter. It may not be perfect, but its main featutres are as far above the old system as heaven is above the pit. And it can be amended if need be.

J. WALTER SEABERG.

The English Suffragette.

Salem, Or., April 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—There has been unfavorable comment in The Journal concerning the militant suffragettes of England. Seemingly we forget that every great movement has its audacious advocates. Before the Civil war our whole country was full of lawlessness. The Quakers were running off the negro slaves by the wholesale. Levi Coffin told the writer that over 3300 passed through his hands on the underground railroad to freedom. It was against the law, of course. Then there was old John Brown, whose "body lies a-mouldering in the grave, but his soul goes marching on." He is now one of our national heroes. A few years ago a vice president of the United States went to his old home to do honors.

Then it should be remembered that old John Bull is the world's great robber, and without heart or conscience. Whether it be robbing the Boers of their diamond mines, forcing opium on China, ruling India by a military despotism while making the Indians pay for it, it all shows he is not the kind that is moved by 'sweet reasonableness."

The militant suffragettes are the quickening thorn in the side of the hardened old despot. Before they begun operations even Lloyd-George was asleep. Let us do justice to women who are willing to sacrifice all comfort for a cause.

L. D. RATLIFF.

Red Flag in the Window.

Portland, Or., April 17.—To the Editor of The Journal—An east side merchant has a red flag flying in his window. Why does not President Wilson call out the national guard, the navy and the army of job hunters and annihilate this awful thing before the foundations of our government are overthrown and this union becomes a discard on the scrap heap of nations? Is Governor West sleeping, that he does not order out the state militia, the forest rangers and the boy scouts to march in solid phalanx upon this red flag and tear it from its staff? Shall Oregon be named as a state that permits the flaunting of the emblem of universal brotherhood? Perish the thought! And Mayor Rushlight—has he not seen—does he not know—that Liberty is reeling on her pedestal and that civilization is tottering to its fall, while the red flag flies in Portland? Does not the G. A. R. know that if the world adopts the red flag of universal brotherhood, there will be no more war? Have they forgotten that their chief duty is to protect the national flag? Let them look to their laurels, or too late they may learn that a new idea has been born and that one flag flies over the entire world—the red flag of universal peace.

And where, oh where, are the militia of Jesus and the Religious Men's Forward Movement—the twin brothers of the militant branch of the organization which claims for its chief the Prince of Peace? They should be singing, "Onward, Christian Soldiers, Marching as to War. With the God of Battles Going On Before." The God of battles will find his occupation gone when the red flag of peace enfolds the world.

And where is the protestant branch of the Catholic church, which, on May 29 or thereabouts is to take another step towards the outstretched arms of the mother church? Are its members so busy that they will do nothing to save us from the corrupting influence of this emblem of a world's peace? Why are they not shouting that the purity of the home is being desecrated, that the doors of civilization have been unhinged, that unless the red flag be torn down Christianity will become a hissing and a byword among the heathen they hope to save.

Rouse, ye citizens! Waken, yet sleepers! Blow the bugle! Beat the drum! Cry aloud and spare not, or the first thing anybody knows some unterrified west side merchant will be whistling the Marseillaise.

I am so scared! Brethren, ain't it awful?

JOHN FARADY, Sr.

The Conditions of Purity.

Portland, Or., April 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—The timely editorial on "Pestilential Woman" in Thursday night's Journal is, in my opinion, well meant, but too mild. I was stirred to great indignation recently over the acts of the hypocritical prudes who objected to the perfectly decent "New Life Beer" sign at the east end of the Hawthorne bridge. I had read, just previously to that brilliant exhibition of false modesty and goody-goodiness, about the Ohio solon who had introduced a bill prohibiting women from wearing dresses cut lower than two and a half inches below the chin, and I was congratulating myself that such things didn't happen in the west, when my feelings were jolted by the "beer sign" episode, and following that, the announcement that some dear souls were subjected to the horrible spectacle of Y. M. C. A. boys coursing the streets in running costume. Ladies! If you never see, nor have ever seen, any worse sight than the clean-cut limbs of some young athlete, you are indeed fortunate, for if you will look in the window of any art stores you will find things which are much closer to nature than either the beer signs or the Y. M. C. A. boys, and in the window of most postcard shops things are thrust under your notice which are infinitely more obscene.

The California bill prohibiting the showing of pictures which depict girls whose skirts are blowing in the wind shows great intelligence and breadth of mind and should gain for its author the notoriety he undoubtedly seeks. To the gentleman from Ohio who sees nothing but evil in the beautiful contour of a woman's neck, to his friend in California who cannot gaze upon the accidental blowing aside of a girl's skirt without seeing (or thinking) evil, and to the prudes of our city who have seen fit to condemn things which are blameless while passing over things which are execrable, I would say: "To the pure all things are pure," etc., and suggest that they occupy their time cleansing their own minds instead of besmirching those of others.

C. F. B.

A Lonely Boy's Appeal.

Scappoose, Or., April 19:—To the Editor of The Journal—I am a poor, lonely little country boy, and, in fact, most of us are lonely down here. We have so many boys here that we can't even get a girl to take to church, and at our dances we have to stand around and sit out nearly all the dances because we haven't enough girls to go round. We are all good dancers, but we can't dance alone, so please—oh, please—send us down some girls, and I and, in fact all of us, will remember you in our prayers.

A. C.

A chicken hawk or any large bird floating overhead the coast near the mouth of the Columbia would be taken by some imaginative people for an observing balloon of some hostile nation.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

The best way to swat the fly is to prevent her birth.

• •

Poor teaches and pupils; no vacation throughout the baseball season.

• •

The wool growers think the sheep is being made the goat by the Democrats.

• •

This time Mr. Charles R. Crane expects not to be called back before he gets there.

• •

Portland is growing very fast, but can't grow as fast as taxes, under the present system.

• •

Neither will there ever be a tariff bill that will suit everybody, nor, perhaps, a majority.

• •

Perhaps the protest of other countries beside Japan will cause the California legislators to pause.

• •

Weather Bureau Chief Moore has been discharged but not for guessing the weather wrong half the time.

• •

Anybody could have predicted it; no sooner is one cross-town carline assured than another one is called for.

• •

Is it possible that Jack Johnson is comparatively behaving himself, that he hasn't been mentioned for several days?

• •

Though only vice president, Mr. Marshall is talking some, and saying some very good things, worthy especially of consideration by big corporations and very rich men.

• •

Everybody knows that Portland's system of government is bad—exceedingly wasteful for one thing; but no opponent of the commission charter proposes anything better.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

The hotel at Elk Creek, Clatsop county, that was burned recently, is to be replaced with one that will cost $10,000.

• •

The Curry county court has appointed Frank Caughell county treasurer to succeed his father, a pioneer, who died recently.

• •

A branch of the Oregon Retail Merchants' association has been organized at Woodburn, with a charter membership of 13.

• •

Hitching racks and feeding grounds for animals will henceforth be provided by the city council at Pendleton for the convenience of farmers resorting to that city for trade.

• •

The county court of Klamath county has forwarded to Mr. Carnegie the evidence necessary to show that provision has been made for maintaining the expected $20,000 Carnegie library.

• •

During its 30 days of existence the Eugene Coffee club has found jobs for 148 men and 11 women, and has provided for working people a free reading room and good food at low prices.

• •

Banker Schmitt of Albany has established a prize of $25 to be awarded annually to that pupil in the Albany schools who makes the best showing in a "general information" test prescribed by the donor.

• •

Cottage Grove Sentinel: The largest shipment of poles ever to leave this station will be made when the Burkholder-Woods company makes shipment of an order received this week from California. The order is for 40 double loads, 80 cars being required in handling the shipment. The poles are to be 130 to 140 feet in length, thus taking two cars for each load.

NEW YORK DAY BY DAY

By Herbert Corey.

John Craig Hammond, who steered publicity for Wilson during the campaign, has just returned from the flood district of the west. Mr. Hammond is about as heavy set as a hairpin. Any time that he can get properly startled he can sink the intercollegiate sprinting record on a route of ground.

"One day," avers Mr. Hammond, "I walked through a street in Columbus, Ohio. Ahead of me I spied a man hobbling painfully on two crutches. Suddenly I heard the cry:

"'Dam's busted!! Run for your lives!'"

"So I ran for my life. On ahead I could see the cripple getting over the ground like a giant swing. By and by I caught up to him. In natural compassion I sought to aid him, but he shook me off.

"'You carry these crutches, Mister,' said the unfortunate, 'and give a cripple a chance.'"

Mr. Hammond further alleges that it was almost an hour later before he finally succeeded in running down the cripple in the uplands of Columbus and returning his crutches.

Gouveneur Morris recently published an imaginative bit of New York fiction, in which the leading figure commanded an army of bandits. Each bandit maintained himself in his own way—by driving a taxicab, or waiting on table, or shortchanging college students on sociological expeditions, or what-not—but when the signal came all were prepared to join the army.

"We will explode a bomb in every public building in New York on the stroke of 12," said the leader. "While the police and firemen are thus engaged, we will sack the banks and jewelry stores. In three hours we can loot New York."

That's very pretty imagining, of course. Here's what a high police officer said the other day:

"In that district of Harlem lying between One Hundreth and One Hundred and Twenty-sixth street, and running east from Fifth avenue to the river, half a dozen distinct feuds between as many distinct bands of Camorra are now in progress. These bands are responsible for the 60 bombs that have been exploded for blackmailing purposes in the first 100 days of 1913, and for the innumerable other bombs that have not exploded, or have not been reported by the police. Within the past two years fully 150 feud murders have been committed in that district. Not one satisfactory witness has been found in the 150 cases. It is perfectly understood that blood will be had for blood. No one—at least, no policeman—knows how many Italian women have been stolen into slavery, or how many bambinos kidnaped, or how much money has been extorted by blackmail in that district in that period.

"I do not pretend to know how many banditti are operating there. But suppose that the half dozen bands of thieves and blackmailers who are now fighting each other were to unite to plunder the city? Remember that they do not value life, and that they operate under a crude but effective discipline. Suppose that a great leader should be found—a genius of war—and then guess at what might be the result."

The fishing season has fairly opened along Long Island, and each evening gentlemen covered with scales and exuding an atmosphere of pinch bottle Scotch and complete content may be seen traveling homeward in the subway. Because they carry baskets and rods and a certain out-of-door defiance they are given a wide berth by the slaves of the tube. The true born clerk cannot understand wherein is the happiness of getting very dirty and grubby and wet and odorous and generally uncomfortable, just to catch 40 cents' worth of fish.

One of the scaly brotherhood returned from The Raunt with a story the other day. He left instructions with his boatman to call him at 3 o'clock in the morning. Long before it was light he heard a hammering at the door.

"That you, John?" he called sleepily. The German man of all work at the little hostelry answered.

"Hoo," said he, "John an hour ago ias already half an hour up downstairs yet."

Walter Hines Page, the newly named ambassador to the court of St. James', lives at Garden City, L. I. Years ago Garden City was founded by A. T. Stewart, the great merchant. Mr. Stewart hoped to make it a center of religiously inclined persons. To that end the first building erected was a great cathedral.

"Then," said Mr. Page's friend, "Mr. Stewart had built 12 big, hip roofed, high ceilinged, wide floored, ugly, old fashioned houses. No houses could be more comfortable, provided their occupants do not unduly worship beauty. Garden City promptly named these the Twelve Apostles. Then Mr. Stewart built 123 other houses on a lesser plan. They are known as the Minor Prophets."

Mr. Page lives in one of the Twelve Apostles.

"His friends used to know it as St. James," said the informer. "But last winter the furnace blew out, the pipes were frozen and the roof sprung a leak. Whereupon it was rechristened Judas Iscariot."

M. Jacques Worth, the man dressmaker of Paris, has been entertaining the ladies of New York by his disquisitions upon dress. M. Worth holds that the slash to the knee is not artistic, that the old balloon skirt and the leg-o'-mutton sleeve will never return, and many other things of interest to those they interest. Between times Mr. Worth is at times quite candid.

"That," said an acquaintance, indicating a young woman passing, "is a beautiful costume."

"La, la," said Mr. Worth. "The dress ees beautiful, true. But eet ees the lady who wears eet that makes eet so. Anyone can design beautiful costumes for ladies that are young and divinely slim. Ah, eet ees so grreat a pleas-urex to do so."

Then M. Jacques Worth struck his forehead.

"Eet ees the young, slim ladiees that make the grreat name of the designer," said he, with pathos. "Then—alas—the elder ladies that are no longer slim demand that he make them beautiful, too."

BELGIUM'S PEACEFUL STRIKE

From the New York Globe.

Belgium, in proportion to population, is the most industrial of nations. It is one huge factory. It has a small middle class, and the remainder of its swarming people are industrious wage-working proletarians. Its institutions, for the most part, are democratic, and the country has traveled far along the road of state Socialism.

But a few political privileges have remained with the governing classes. Besides the king and a somewhat make-believe aristocracy (tolerated if not popular) there is plural voting. Every male citizen over 25 years of age, married or widower, who has legitimate issue and pays as much as five francs a year house tax, has an extra vote. An extra vote also goes to landowners and to those who have an income of at least 100 francs a year from invested funds. Two extra votes are given to male citizens who have received a diploma of higher education, or a certificate of higher secondary instruction, or who have filled offices or who are members of a learned profession. No person has more than three votes, and failure to vote is a punishable misdemeanor.

The Socialist party (with greater accuracy it could be called the Democratic or Progressive party) has long objected to the way the electoral dice have been loaded against it. Their program has demanded one man, one vote. But the landed, the learned, and the wealthy have combined against them. It has been impossible for the majority of the Belgian people to secure political control over the popular branch of the legislature.

In olden days, when intolerable political abuses existed and the rulers denied relief, it was customary to rebel and fight for the reform. Philosophers arose who were able to justify what was called the right of revolution. But the reformers of Belgium think there is a better way to secure redress of grievances than to appeal to force. They have called a peaceable strike. They ask their fellow workers to stand idle for a few days in the hope that the ministry will be led to reconsider its decision to prevent the abolition of plural voting. It is believed that without the effusion of a single drop of blood, or the raising of even a hand in menace, the asked for change can be secured.

In Belgium was first raised the banner whose inscription implied that the people had a right to rule and that public officers were servants and not masters. This was in Bruges, when a stout-hearted burgomaster rallied his fellow burgesses. It was in Belgium that the burghers for the first time dared oppose the feudal knights and whipped them. It is thus appropriate that Belgium should be the first to try the experiment of using the machinery and the methods of trades unionism to effect political action. Here is a policy antipodal to the so-called syndicalism, with its advice to the worker to abstain from political action.

Pointed Paragraphs

An egotist is a man who thinks he is better than you are.

• •

A platonic lover is usually a quiet chap who saves his money.

• •

When a young man thinks a girl's piano practice is music—that is love.

• •

There's room at the top, but the experienced traveler prefers the lower berth.

• •

When a man lives a double life he may have to do two men's work, so what's the use?

• •

A married woman thinks she is being neglected unless her husband lets her buy his socks and ties.

• •

The fickleness of fortune is generally equal to the faithfulness of misfortune. But the wise man hustles for himself.

Where the Church Has Failed.

(From the Christian Herald.)

It is a good saying, and believed by many, that the day is properly divided into three parts—eight hours for toil, eight hours for rest, eight hours for meals, recreation and refreshment. What is good for one is good for another, and if that be, as most asume it to be, a good standard, then surely we should strive for it for the laboring man.

And precisely here is the point at which the church has failed the workingman. Instead of laboring to secure for him a higher wage, shorter hours of labor, an assured day of rest and recreation, it has devoted its attention rather to providing crumbs for Lazarus, lying at the gate. Let us give his children a summer outing, poor man! Let us give him some old clothes to keep him warm, poor man! and make a Christmas tree for his children, poor fellow! Let us build a hospital in which we may put that boy of his who is a cripple, or a sanitarium to which we may send that girl of his who has broken down from overwork!

Now, all those things are good in themselves, but the workman has said: "What I need is more than that. Help me to get shorter hours of labor; help me to get a wage that will let me buy for myself those things that I need." And the church has been inclined to say: "Ah! but, my man, those are economic questions. You must settle those for yourself. We are concerned with the eleemosynary side, we are concerned with charity. Charity is a beautiful thing. We will give you all the charity that you want, but when it comes to the economic question, that is out of our province."

We drove these men to organize labor unions in order to secure these things, because we stood so far aloof from the whole business. The result has been that, as the labor unions grew up and grew stronger and took in more and more workmen, they alienated the workman from the church, becoming to him church and lodge, religion and society.

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