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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Sensible men show their sense by saying much in few words. If noble actions are the substance of life, good sayings are its ornament and guide.—C. Simmons.

WHICH?

THERE is no way to misunderstand the charter issue.

It is a choice between the old charter and the new. It is a choice between government with officials under cover by the old charter, and government with officials in the open by the new.

Those who are against the new charter, are standing for a charter that has been condemned by every Portland mayor for the past eight years. Those who are for the new charter, are standing for a change that is advocated by every candidate for mayor but one, and that one advocated it until a few days ago.

The new charter provides a shorter ballot and thereby removes an enormous strain from the principle of the primary law. It reduces the number of elective offices in an average city election to four or less, and will correspondingly reduce the number of candidates. It will give citizens a chance to know the merits and demerits of those who seek office.

There is scarcely a voter in Portland who knows each of the present fifty-five city candidates. Thousands never heard of most of them before and will never hear of them again. It is an awful strain on the primary law. Its cure is a reduced number of elective officials, and this is one of the great merits of the new charter.

There has been protest against the old charter ever since 1907. A commission was appointed then to revise it. The agitation against it has been going on ever since, and it is now crystalized into the pending commission charter.

Such is the issue. The paving trust is trying to beat the new charter. The public service corporations are trying to beat it. Those who live by politics are trying to beat it.

The "Taxpayers' Association" so-called, is trying to beat it. Its fight is conducted from ambush. Nobody knows where it gets the large sums of money it is spending in the fight. It refuses to tell the names of its members. Its attacks on the new charter consist of lies, slanders and misrepresentations.

Such are some of the influences that are striving to retain the old charter. The very character of the opposition is a powerful argument for average men to support the new charter.

Incidentally, not a man of those attacking the new charter defends the old one. The only candidate who ever did that was J. E. Werlein in his candidacy for mayor two years ago, and he was so badly beaten in the primaries nobody has since lifted a voice in defense of a system condemned by every one of Portland's mayors for the past eight years.

The issue is so plain that nobody need be fooled. It is a question of whether we are to continue under the present system, a system that nobody defends, a system that nobody apologizes for, a system that is fought for by those acting in secret, a system wanted by practical men who know exactly what they want and how to get it, a system condemned unqualifiedly by all the recent mayors of Portland.

ALASKAN RAILROADS

THE long delay in taking any decisive step towards construction by the United States government of railroads designed to open up the resources of Alaska, has been broken by the introduction of identical bills of wide scope by Senator Chamberlain in the Senate and Representative Wickersham in the House.

These bills are evidently based on the reports of the commission sent by former President Taft to Alaska last year. The authorized mileage —733—corresponds with the commission's advice, and will reach both the great coal fields, connecting them with tide water, and also opening a route by railroad through American territory between tide water and the Yukon valley.

The powers to be conferred by these bills on the president are most extensive, leaving in his discretion methods both of construction and of subsequent operation. Special permission is given for the transfer to Alaska of the plant of the Panama canal works of all kinds and its use there in construction.

Although the invasion by the government of the field of railroad construction and operation on a large scale is a comparative novelty, yet a precedent in many respects is found in the purchase and operation by the government of the trans-isthmian railroad at Panama.

Private capital has surrendered attempts to complete all or any of the Alaskan lines. Construction by the ample means of the government is the only alternative. Experience at Panama has proved that government engineer officers are most fully competent for the heaviest engineering and constructing exigencies.

MR. LOMBARD IN 1911

IN AN address last night, Mr. Lombard again denounced the commission charter.

But recently Mr. Lombard thought he knew that the commission charter was splendid and was advising his audiences to support it.

Now, he thinks he knows that it is not as good a charter as the old one, and advises his hearers to vote it down.

Matching up what Mr. Lombard thought he knew about the commission charter recently and what he thinks he knows about it now, can anybody tell with safety just what Mr. Lombard does know about commission charters anyway?

Meanwhile, Mr. Lombard, two years ago, was bitter in his attacks on the old charter, and clamorous in his demands for commission government. In an address in Portland in his campaign for mayor Mr. Lombard said April 26, 1911:

> Where does Mr. Rushlight stand on the commission form of government? Mr. Werlein is defending the old charter, and placing the blame for conditions on the shoulders of past mayors of the city. I say a complete revision of the charter is needed, that will do away with antiquated methods and bring responsibility home to each officer of the city. If I am elected mayor I will at once appoint a committee to prepare a draft of a commission form of government to be submitted to the people not later than June, 1912.

A DARING COUP

KING NICHOLAS of Montenegro has the reputation of being the most astute politician among European monarchs.

Europe, through its ambassadors' conference, agreed to support the demand, voiced by Austria, that Montenegro recognize the boundaries of new Albania, including Scutari. Europe was to support the Albanians in forming an independent government and choosing a prince for themselves. Whereupon divers European princelings began pluming themselves for office, hoping that lightning might strike them.

Meanwhile King Nicholas went on with the siege.

The commanding general of the 40,000 Turkish soldiers in Scutari was Essad Pasha, an Albanian by birth, and a chief among that bold but half savage people. The majority of his 40,000 soldiers also were Albanians, the Turks having a great liking for them. The majority of Essad's forces were Mohammedans.

Of the besieging forces at Scutari about 40,000, or one half, were Montenegrins, the other half Servians. Dispatches told us that the two halves did not agree very well and that the Servians were going home—and they did.

But the Montenegrins, being left alone, redoubled their attacks and captured the heights overlooking the defenders' trenches. Then followed a fierce assault. Essad Pasha surrendered, and the Montenegrins marched into Scutari. Austrian papers prophesied a massacre of Albanians in the city. But no—victors and vanquished were seemingly on good terms, and Essad Pasha, the Albanian, with his 40,000 soldiers, marched out in peace. Scutari was very little hurt by all the bombardments.

Nicholas was left in the city with his Montenegrins, vowing that none of the powers should put him and his men out while life lasts.

Austria ground her teeth and put 10,000 men on shipboard at Trieste, to occupy Montenegrin ports, and cross the mountains to Cettinje the capital. But now Essad Pasha plays his strong card. He announces himself as prince of his native Albania and he has 40,000 arguments to back him in his soldiers' rifles. The chances are that Albanian opposition to him will not be very serious.

If it turns out, as probably it will, that Scutari is left to King Nicholas, and the new Albania establishes its capital, and gets compensating territory farther to the south, while the Albanians announce themselves as satisfied, what can Austria do about it? Non-interference and neutrality are the ties that bind the European concert, and that Austria cannot afford to break. Then the coup of King Nicholas wins.

DARK LANTERN METHODS

WITH what alacrity the well known "Taxpayers' League" hastened to assure the public that it is not the "Taxpayers' Association," and did not send out the lying circulars about the new charter.

There is not an organization in Portland except the "Taxpayers' Association" that would stand sponsor for the circular for one moment.

The so-called "Taxpayers' Association" could do it because it is without pride of ancestry or hope of posterity. It sprang into existence over night, and will vanish with next Saturday's balloting. In effect, it is a doorstep foundling, with only two men in all Portland willing to appear as its sponsors.

It was formed to do just such things as issuing the lying circulars which the Taxpayers' League has hastened to disown. There is other campaign dirty work that it was formed to do for the benefit of men who remain in ambush and refuse to make their identity known.

What better argument for the adoption of the new charter than this over-night dark-lantern "Taxpayers' Association?"

When the opposition is cloaked, masked and ambushed, when it is ashamed of its methods and ashamed to be known in its work, how fitting for honest men to be for the new charter?

WHEN, THEN?

SPEAKING of the reports of the Bureau of Municipal Research on Portland's governmental system, the Oregonian says:

> Still it seems that the bureau might enlarge its own efficiency by conducting surveys only at such times as its reports are not likely to be suspected of political coloring.

Of what "political" purpose does the Oregonian suspect the bureau. The bureau favors no candidate, but strictly confines its reports to questions of how Portland can better its organic system of government.

Is the Oregonian not interested in such questions? Does the Oregonian think it wrong for the means of bettering government to be discussed in campaign time?

At just what time does the Oregonian think it would be proper for the bureau to make reports as to the defects in Portland's old charter?

Does the Oregonian think it would be better to withhold the reports until after election, when there is no chance to vote to abandon the old charter, thereby insuring two years more of a system that has been denounced by every mayor of Portland for eight years?

Or, does the Oregonian think it would be more fitting for the bureau never to submit the reports at all, a consummation so much desired by the public service magnates, the paving trust and the tax-eaters.

The bureau is the highest authority on city government in the world, and its work in Portland is at the instance of a committee of patriotic Portland citizens interested only in better government for this city.

Seriously speaking, if the findings as to the old charter by such a bureau are not to be considered when a new charter is pending for adoption, when, in Heaven's name, is the proper time for them to be considered?

THE VOICE OF A PISTOL

WHAT happened when the voice of a pistol whispered appealingly to a weakminded boy is recounted on this page.

It occurred in the Elgin tragedy, in which a defective boy of fourteen shot and killed a mother, and then, with an ax, slew her two small children who were eye witnesses to the shooting.

The act was without provocation. The boy had found the pistol in a cupboard a few days before. Sight and subsequent possession of the weapon aroused a latent suggestion in the weak mind to use it. Mrs. Sleep happened along at the psychological moment, and became the target and the victim.

The case is not isolated. In varying degrees, there have been thousands like it. The graveyards are crowded with victims of those in whom possession of a pistol was the suggestion or temptation to use it.

The new pistol law of Oregon is sound to the core in principle. It is founded on common sense, and is bound to become a part of the criminal code of every state. The Elgin tragedy is so clear and so convincing as to press forward restriction of pistol sales and pistol carrying as a basic reform.

There are provisions in the Oregon law that functionaries cannot afford to overlook. If these functionaries permit sales and carrying of revolvers in violation of the law, how can they explain when a homicide is committed with a weapon so bought and carried?

RESOURCES OF OREGON

THE State Bureau of Mines was a creation of the last legislature, and a worthy one. The governor was charged with the selection of the seven members, and combed the state over in all districts to make worthy choice.

The work was distributed, each man being a specialist in his own line. The very variety of the departments is indication of the varied character of the resources of Oregon.

Metaliferous and hydraulic mining has been followed in Oregon since the early days when the pack trains at Corvallis were loaded with the flour, and bacon, and apples of the Willamette Valley to supply the gold miners at Jacksonville and the foothills of the Siskiyous. The placers were rich in those times of recent discovery. Subsequent developments in quartz mining in gold and copper, in iron mines, in silver and platinum, in quicksilver, and in various new metals of the present day, have justified wide prospecting and promise rich returns.

Oregon is rich in widely scattered deposits of clays of all kinds, fire clay, building clays, pottery clays, of cement rock. Yet we still import our building materials from sister states, and even from abroad. There is a great field for domestic manufacturers.

The next branch — fuels, salines and fertilizers—will find ample employment for more than one expert. Not one Oregonian in a hundred has more than the vaguest idea of the riches of the state in these departments of enterprise.

The bureau has assigned materials and forestry relations to a special department. No department will better repay prompt and vigorous work than this, if the demand for good roads is to be met.

A president who is a mining engineer has been elected, while the heads of the State University and of the State Agricultural College have been given charge of conservation and transportation.

Thus the work has been divided up. The time of planning ahead is past. The day for development has arrived.

An I. W. W. speaker at Portland said Sunday night that his people are silently organizing in the lumber camps, and that when strong enough they will demand and get shower baths, reading rooms and pianos. Sensible ambition, this. And the bosses may well afford to grant such boons if by so doing it will lessen the booze evil and other brutalizing influences.

One wonders how the Portland scribblers happen to know anything. They don't want to know history. They sprung the gong on L. M. Lepper, East Side booster, just as he had flung out his verbal skirmishers for a masterly oration on the battle of Waterloo.

The Harney County News says that "the Bend Bulletin is an interesting and amusing little cuss, even if it is a slippery and artful dodger." Trap it, brother, and ship it to Portland. There may be room for it in the monkey cage at the city park.

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.)

Commission Exegesis.

Portland, April 28.—To the Editor of The Journal—There is a story of a young modern preacher who was appointed on a certain occasion to give an exegesis of a text of scripture. When he had concluded a brother of the old school remarked that there was no question as to the completeness of the "exit Jesus."

In all of the speeches I have heard and in most of the articles written, explaining the provisions of the proposed charter, there can be no question as to the lack of a studious digest of its contents. If not too late to shape it up before the primary election, would it not be a good and helpful plan for someone of your capable men to prepare and you publish a terse and unprejudiced statement of just what is the plain, the obvious intent of the commission charter? It could start out something like this:

Under the new charter we propose to elect five citizens to run the affairs of the city. One of these we elect mayor. These five are to work at this one job during business hours and be paid for it. No one elected can qualify unless he can furnish a satisfactory moral bond in the sum of $25,000 to protect the city in case he fails to properly discharge his duties. It is intended that the surety companies having $125,000 at stake, will scan with considerable vigilance the fitness of each of the five applicants for a bond. The city has no such protection now.

The mayor will have no veto power. All business done must be a matter of record, whether orders or ordinances; no secret meetings, and all meetings as well as records open to the public.

Every three months there will be issued a statement of the business done and at the end of the year the Portland clearing house will furnish an expert to audit the year's accounts and certify as to their correctness, etc., etc., etc.

Note: If a business vision, a big and ever increasing future; if love of his city and pride in his work; if a good salary and the feeling of power, won't give the city a clean cut business management, then the voters who opposed the incumbents, the citizens at large and the tremendous force of a $25,000 bond and the inspiration that will arise from the fact that the city hall, on the adoption of the new charter, will ever after lie directly in the protecting 50 mile shadow of Oregon's strongest institution—all these will.

The proposed charter is drawn to get better results for the city, on the policy that "you can't keep a bad man up nor a good man down," and "there is always room at the top."

So everybody is protected, as far as can be foreseen at present, and the citizens can change—add to or take from —this first document as experience will surely point out.

It seems to me that when old Pontius Pilate of the bonding company gets the new mayor spiked to the cross of responsibility for his acts, and with an inscription that begins, "Know all men by these presents that we bet $25,000 to a buffalo nickel that this man is a good man and will stay good," the mayor will look at the gentlemen occupying like prominent positions on either side, with like inscriptions over them, and he will say, as his ears take in the strange languages of the mob—"malfeasance," dereliction," "neglect," "corruption," etc.: "Verily, you are with me this day in Paradise." Q. G. HUGHSON.

Where Does Olson Stand?

Portland, Or., April 28.—To the Editor of The Journal—I noticed in the Sunday issue of the Oregonian a two column illustrated eulogy of Fred Olson, candidate for municipal judge at the coming primaries. While it comprehended the history of his life from the log cabin to the mansion in which he now resides, and also chronicled the narrative of his six years' tenure as justice of the peace, during which he failed to accomplish anything or evangelize the whole world, as he now declares, if elected, he will do, why did he so artfully dodge any issue that he thought would hinder or injure his candidacy? Will The Journal do quite a favor to a considerable number of voters in this neighborhood by asking Mr. Olson publicly if he is for or against the commission form of government? Will you please ask him further how he expects to parole prisoners after sentence is imposed, when he knows, or else is very vaguely posted on his authority, that, after sentence, the case is entirely out of his jurisdiction and in the hands of the parole board. J. L. QUINN.

A Farmer's Complaint.

Sidney, Or., April 28.—To the Editor of The Journal—A great deal is said about the rates transportation companies charge, as discouraging the farmers from shipping produce, but there are other causes that are more discouraging than transportation charges.

A short time ago I shipped a coop of 14 chickens to a commission merchant in Portland. When I shipped the chickens they weighed 82 pounds, but when the returns came back I was given only 71 pounds. The distance from Portland was only about three hours. One might expect a small shrinkage, but 11 pounds was surely a pretty big rakeoff. The producers of farm products seem to be mulcted by everyone with whom they try to do business, and are looked upon as a legitimate subject for exploitation. If these conferences that meet to study rural conditions and high cost of living and our good professors at the college who "do so much for the farmer" would investigate these small matters, it would do more good to the farmers than land banks and expensive college professors. J. F. D.

Marriage Law Complications.

Beaverton, Or., April 29.—To the Editor of The Journal—I would like information through The Journal concerning a new law. I see by the papers that after June 3 one has to get a certificate to get married, and it has to be 100. Now that means perfect, and how many can be found who are perfect? Probably one-half of our men are afflicted with rheumatitsm, and the other half have catarrh; and that is not being perfect. Then, why should a woman be allowed to marry who is half dead with some malady? I think the result will be that the majority of them will go out of the state to marry. If they have the same law in Washington they will go to British Columbia, and then, could a woman sue a man for breach of promise if he could not get a license?

Then I see there is talk of taxing bachelors. Can they tax them when they refuse them a license? This looks like a mixed up mess, and probably the result will be ten times more bachelors. No one will be allowed to marry only the high toned. Is that constitutional? A READER.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Is everybody some sort of a kicker?

• •

Being president is no easy job—for a fit man.

• •

Beats all how much some people know that isn't so.

• •

A man fit for mayor is a man to be trusted. We have to trust somebody.

• •

There is scant originality of thought or expression in the average candidate.

• •

The hen that lived 25 years and laid 4500 eggs deserved an honorable funeral.

• •

My! What ravishing heads of hair some of those candidates show in their pictures.

• •

Having nothing better to do or talk about, some people are predicting a big June flood.

• •

The Republican party may "come back," but if so it will be a very different Republican party.

• •

Some nations, like some men, appear to think that their main object of existence is to borrow money.

• •

Maybe the owner of the Beavers will have to lay it on to the '13 year. But '12 was nothing to boast of.

• •

Bah! What a fickle-false spring, to allow Jack Frost to come sneaking around o' nights the last week in April.

• •

It may be a debatable question whether we need a good deal more government or a good deal less. One or the other, apparently.

• •

Orchardists cannot complain this year of buds and blooms developing too early. But the prospect is fine for a big crop in due season.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Headquarters of the Whitman forest reserve will be removed from sumpter to Baker.

• •

The Hillsboro Argus congratulates Washington county on its $2,000,000 of deposits banked in home towns, besides what the east end deposits in Portland.

• •

Boys taking domestic science in the Hood River high school course are giving dinners, cooked and served by themselves. At a recent dinner there were on the menu "light biscuit, roast beef, jellies, asparagus tips, baked apples, vegetables, peaches and cream and angel food."

• •

For a number of years Albany has enjoyed the distinction of being the railroad hub of the Willamette valley. A few weeks ago the Misfit Man of the Democrat asserted that the city may rightfully claim an additional distinction of being the "dog hub" of the same territory.

• •

Pendleton East Oregonian: Though there is no shouting about it, Pendleton is enjoying a good period of advancement and it is fast making this city a better, more modern and more wholesome place in which to live. The improvements are coming as the result of natural demand, not from agitation. Pendleton is not getting ahead of itself. We are just catching up.

• •

Alta Hiatt of Lyons won two prizes at an educational rally contest, held recently at the Jordan Grange hall, in Linn county. One prize was for the best map of Oregon and the other for the best solo, given to pupils below the seventh grade. Alta is a bright pupil in the fifth grade. Alta's brother, Roy, also won a prize. The Lyons school secured more prizes, including the special prize, than any of the other five schools in the contest.

NEW YORK DAY BY DAY

Hear Joseph Sechler Coxey:

"Blood will run in the gutters in 1914. Capital will try to crush strikers by the use of soldiers. It will be worse than war."

Sounds a good deal like a Mother Shipman prophecy. But Coxey means it so hard that after you talk with him you feel like buying a rifle and a lot of buckwheat on the way home. He's the man, you'll remember, who led the Army of the Commonweal across the grass to Washington in 1894.

"Dissatisfaction always follows a new tariff. The workingman is discontented now. That means strikes. With the I. W. W. leaders in the saddle—the radicals of the A. F. L. are joining them—strikes mean violence. Witness Lawrence, and West Virginia, and Paterson, and the skirmishing by villages in Colorado. The I. W. W. either win or lose a strike. They never split the difference.

"The tariff, the strikes, and the dissension over the suggested changes in the monetary system will aid the I. W. W. leaders toward their ideal—the solidarity of labor. The moment they come near enough to cripple the means of communication in any state the troops must be called out. That's what the I. W. W. want. They sincerely believe they are engaged in a war, and that their victory depends upon their opposition of the force of labor to the force employed by capital. It seems to me these rays of discontent are being focussed on the body politic as through a burning glass. Next year I think the body politic will begin to wiggle itself where the rays meet."

Coxey has been called a crank because of his good roads and flat money ideas, and because he was the first to advocate the radical ideas that have found recent favor with the voters. But he is so little of a crank that he has built up a sound, well-banked fortune—although he doesn't believe in banks—and therefore is not looking forward to solidarity and bloodshed with any true joy.

"The best wish I have is that I'm a poor prophet," said he.

Cab-using New York is pulling for Mayor Gaynor's new taxicab ordinance. If it becomes law, it will reduce the high cost of taxicabbing and eliminate certain dangers of the present. The police are frank in declaring that 200 of the public chauffeurs are graduates from Sing Sing. They warn against taking a taxi which carries an extra man on the driver's seat.

"Because the odd man is apt to be a stick-up specialist," the policemen say.

Overcharging by taxi robbers is an old story. But now and then an anecdote is worth recounting. One of Broadway's most prominent actors objected last week to a charge.

"Why should I pay you $4 when last night I paid but $2.50 for the same ride?" he asked. The chauffeur replied with unexpected kindness.

"Boss," said he, "the only reason is that I need the money."

The fare is usually helpless. He doesn't care to go to a police station to have the dispute arbitrated. And he is just as apt to be overcharged by the chauffeurs who have places upon the hotel stands as by those who bargle for business up and down Broadway. The theory that the $500,000 which the cab companies pay to the hotel keepers for their occupancy of the city's streets ensures the cab user against overcharge is a mistaken one.

"Gentlemen," said the manager of one of the greatest hotels to an investigating committee, "I give you my word that we make only 10 per cent on the business we give the taxi company at our hotel. You do not grudge us that pitiful little sum, do you?"

That pitiful little sum proved to be $34,000 annually.

Where do relatives come from, anyhow? Not long ago an old man died in Philadelphia. For three years he had been a patient in a hospital there. The hospital authorities had tried their best to find his kin and failed. They traced his life from the day that he landed from an immigrant ship, and they could not learn that he had ever written a letter or received one.

"Three weeks after his will proved that he had saved up $7000 there were 11 claimants," said Dr. O. C. Lane, who tells the story.

Last year an old woman died in New York. She had been known as an apple seller to an earlier generation. They held some faint recollection that when her daughter died, she told them that she had neither kith nor kin alive. But she had more than $4000 in bonds. Of the 63 claimants more than 30 were able to prove that they actually had a slight relationship to the deceased. But the prize story of all is that of Daniel Creedon, who lived in an old mill at Woodside, L. I. In some way he managed to put away $50,000. More than 1000 persons in all parts of the world put in a claim for that money. Only four made good.

Those who are fighting against the present habit of permitting certain classes of work to be done in tenement rooms have pleasant little stories to tell. Mrs. Florence Kelley of the Child's Welfare league recalled one. She found two small kids with whom she had become acquainted staggering along West Nineteenth street. They were so completely overshadowed by their burdens that Mrs. Kelly could just see two stubby little legs wagging studily on under each bundle.

"What are those bundles?" she asked.

"Pants," said the youngsters, succinctly.

"And why are you not in school?" she demanded.

"Aw," said the elder, "have a heart. Can't yuh see we got scoilet fever?"

And they had, too. Or they had had not long before. The joke is that both were supposed to be strictly quarantined.

"I don't know how many dozen pairs of those pants were finished in the three or four flats in which persons were sick from scarlet fever," said Mrs. Kelley. "Perhaps the worst of it is that they were all knee pants—intended for the use of healthy little youngsters.

Little attention is paid to the shots fired now and then in the bomb belt. The police take the attitude that firing revolvers at each other is an eradicable trait of the Italian. Now and then a story develops. Salvatore Varisci was arraigned on the charge of shooting three times at Herman Knepper.

"Sure I shot at him," Varisci told the magistrate, calmly. "But I missed him."

"And why did you?"

"Aw," said Varisci, "it was awful quiet that day. I thought I'd have a little fun."

It recalls Don Marquis's story of the negro who was arrested for shooting a friend.

"S'possin' I did shoot him?" he said, indignantly. "I didn't huht him none. De bullet hit him in de haid."

Wall Street Wisdom.

From the Omaha World-Herald.

The Wall street journals are forever talking about the demand for increased wages regardless of "the value of the product," which is about as evasive a way of meeting a proposition as could be invented. They never attempt to tell what the value of the product of labor is, for they would meet with insurmountable difficulties in that direction. What is the value of the product of a fireman or engineer on a railroad? Will these journals endeavor to tell? The wage workers know that the value of the money they have been receiving for the last few years has been constantly decreasing, that is, it purchases less and less as the years pass by, and they can estimate accurately what the loss has been to them. Moreover, the product of their labor has been increasing all the time for the engines are larger and the trains are hauling more freight with the same number of hands.

According to Wall street papers, all wisdom is located there and never escapes from its precincts. One of them says:

"The most dangerous threat overhanging every branch of business is that of legislation by politicians who take some sort of pride in admitting that they do not understand the intricate business processes for which they propose to legislate."

Members of congress are generally spoken of by these men as the scum of the ignorance of the whole country, whereas there are men in congress of the widest and most profound culture, in whose presence these speculators would appear as mites of the gutter. Most of Wall street could not pass a kindergarten examination in political economy and know as little about the science of government as a wild Sioux Indian. In a crowd of nine of them the question was asked: "How many members of the cabinet are there?" and not one could answer. There is no "intricate processes" about stock gambling that a school boy could not understand.

THE ELGIN TRAGEDY

Dispatch to Chicago Tribune.

This is the story of the murder on the Sleep farm as it was told by Herman Coppes to his mother and father:

"I found the pistol on a shelf in the cupboard several days before. There were a lot of bullets with it. I put the pistol and the bullets in my pocket. I thought I would have some fun. I never thought of hurting anyone. When I came into the house I saw Mrs. Sleep. When I got home from school, something seemed to keep telling me to shoot Mrs. Sleep and I just pulled the revolver from my pocket and shot her. I didn't want to kill the kids, but they had witnessed the shooting and I had to."

A pistol, left carelessly in an easily accessible spot, fell into the hands of a degenerate boy. The weapon carried with it its own latent suggestion to kill.

The boy kept it in his pocket for a few days, fondling it constantly, examining it occasionally in secret. And all the time his thought were dwelling on the weapon and the power which its possession conferred on him. Finally the victim, Mrs. Sleep, and the opportunity to kill presented themselves. The pistol's latent suggestion to murder became active. The boy's weak will succumbed to its power. He killed the woman and then the little eye witnesses.

It is probable the Sleep tragedy, in addition to prompting legislation for the scientific care of defectives, will arouse agitation in this part of the state for more rigid laws regulating the carrying of firearms. It now is realized that the mere possession of a pistol in the Coppes boy's case was an incentive to use it. His emotions, according to his own statements made here in the jail, were like those of a man standing on the edge of the top of a high building. The man with difficulty represses a desire to jump; the boy, being a mental weakling, was unable to repel the suggestion to kill.

The boy told his story of the murder after the first manifestation of emotion he has exhibited since his arrest. His father and mother had come to Elgin from Plano to talk the case over with him.

When the father and mother walked into the jail corridor the boy burst out crying. It was several minutes before any one of the three could talk. The father began crying when he drew tears to the boy's eyes. Deputy Sheriff George German took the boy out of his cell.

"Hermy, Hermy, did you do it, did you do it?" the mother asked as she clasped the boy in her arms and kissed him.

"Yes, mother; I did it. I shot Mrs. Sleep and then killed her babies," he sobbed.

"But, my poor little boy, you did not do it alone; someone must have helped you," the mother pleaded.

"No, mother, I did it all alone, no one told me to do it and no one helped me," he cried, and then threw his arms about his mother's neck.

"Hermy, what made you do it? Why did you do it?"

"Mother, mother, I just shot her, that is all," he answered.

Then he detailed his meeting with Mrs. Sleep and his yielding to the passion to kill.

Mr. and Mrs. Coppes announced they had retained the law firm of Alschuler, Putnam & James of Aurora to defend the boy. The senior partner in this firm is Samuel Alschuler, recent candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor.

Detective Edward Held, to whom Herman confessed, today told the state's attorney that so far as he was able to estimate from all the evidence he had heard, Mrs. Sleep and her two children were all murdered within six minutes.

Pointed Paragraphs

There is less fun in gambling if you can afford to lose.

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A woman seldom knows what she wants until she discovers that she can't get it.

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With riches some men imagine that they can gild a lot of vices until they look like virtues.

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The difference between the average young woman and a suffragette is generally about 20 years.

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When a small boy overhears the doctor telling his mother to take plenty of exercise, that's his cue to be good.

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After a woman has spent 20 years trying to make a man of her son, along comes another woman who proceeds to make a fool of him in 20 minutes.

Intervention in Wall Street.

From the San Francisco Bulletin.

Revelations are piling up that show the imperative necessity of intervention in the affairs of Mexico, not on its soil or in its domestic matters, but in Wall street, New York, and Lombard street, London. There the work of pacification must be done. Certain great financial interests need to be choked until their tongues protrude a foot or so; then perhaps they will loosen their grip on unhappy Mexico. So far the conflict of contesting greed has cost something like a hundred thousand lives, hunger and misery to untold thousands more, money losses running to hundreds of millions, the utter ruin of a nation and the disturbance of the world's peace. Beyond a doubt this kind of intervention is demanded. It should not be delayed a moment.

138 Years Ago To-Day

One hundred and thirty-eight years ago today Paul Revere took the famous ride that linked his name forever with the heroes of American Revolutionary history.

A lone man on horseback stirred up a whole countryside —"every Middlesex village and farm," as we are told.

If newspapers had been more generally circulated the Middlesex folks would have known all about the movements of the king's troops. They would have been prepared for the news that Revere might have sent over the phone to ten times as many in one tenth the time.

In every corner of this great country people know what's going on in all other corners through the medium of the daily newspaper.

And the newspaper is the medium that the business world employs to bring together buyer and seller.

When you read the advertisements in THE JOURNAL remember that this department represents a distinct service to you. It is the means of communication between the reliable store and your home. Use it carefully and systematically.