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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Labor with what zeal we will,
Something still remains undone,
Something uncompleted still
Waits the rising of the sun.
—Longfellow.

ABSORBING CITY BONDS

SEATTLE banks have come to the rescue of Seattle by taking $975,000 refunding bonds at par, thus making unnecessary a sale at 98, the price offered by one, and only one, bond house. The refunding bonds pay 5 per cent interest, an advance of one half of one per cent over the bonds they retire. The Seattle banks have negotiated a good bargain while performing a civic duty, the duty of maintaining the integrity of Seattle's credit.

While the lesson taught by Seattle's sale does not cover the entire problem of bond sales, it goes to the question of local capital permitting its own city to be made the prey of general financial conditions having no basis in the city's ability and willingness to discharge all its obligations promptly and in full. Local capital is inseparably tied to its own locality. If it seeks investment elsewhere, it is not local capital as a practical proposition. A city's credit cannot be impaired without injuring local capital.

There is a distinction between Seattle's refunding bonds and Portland's water bonds that sold last week at 88. The Seattle issue pays 5 per cent, while the Portland issue pays 4 per cent. The Seattle issue will net 5 per cent, while the Portland issue will net slightly over 4½ per cent, indicating that Portland's credit is superior to Seattle's. But the fact remains that Seattle bankers stepped in and saved to the city an interest bonus of one tenth of one per cent, and a principal bonus of 2 per cent, demanded by the bond house. It may appear to be a small matter, but civic patriotism, even when stirred by sound business judgment, is not a small matter.

There probably would have been no occasion for Seattle to pay 5 per cent on long time bonds or for Portland to sacrifice one eighth the face value of her water bonds had the people been given an opportunity to buy in amounts they could handle. It is robbery of the future to tie up a city to long-time bonds paying high interest rates without giving the city's people an opportunity to invest in their own bonds at reasonable rates. It is robbery of the future to sell bonds at a discount without giving the people the opportunity to buy. American cities are coming to realize that they have been guilty of watering their stock in the identical manner that railroads have watered their stock.

The fact is, the bond market generally is glutted at the present time. Prices have no relation to intrinsic worth. The general market has reached the point of saturation, and prices in the usual markets have fallen. Railroad, industrial and government bonds have suffered. City bonds have gone down in price for the same reason. The general market is unable to absorb the flotations, and word comes from London that banking underwriters have agreed to discourage further bond issues until the present surplus is absorbed and the congestion in the investment market is relieved.

Sound financing demands that cities refrain from watering their stock. Sound financing is imperative in prohibiting issuance of long-time bonds at higher interest rates than an open market demands. Cities may not have the opportunity to tide themselves over periods of stringency by the issuance of short-time notes at high interest rates, a device employed by railroads. But cities can and should offer their bonds in an open market. Cities should quit going to one market simply because it is more convenient.

If anybody is to profit from a city's necessities, the city's own people should have the opportunity. Under the present method of sale, bond houses make their purchases with the expectation of collecting a rich bonus from the people themselves. It is wrong to impair the present or to rob the future.

ADVICE TO BRIDES

REPORT from the county clerk's office says that Portland brides are going to Vancouver to be married because of Oregon's new law requiring bridegrooms to secure a physician's certification of freedom from specified diseases. As a general proposition, it is the height of folly to attempt advice to a bride. If she were given to taking advice many married men would not be married. But the call is urgent.

Miss June Bride, a physician's certificate will cost your bridegroom $2.50. If he is unwilling to pay that sum for a clean bill of health, is it worth while to marry him? If he is unable to pay the price, is it advisable to marry just now? If he refuses to submit to the examination, is it safe to marry him?

The Oregon law was enacted in the interest of brides. If they decline its protection, they should remember that the state did what it could to make brides happy.

BE HOSPITABLE

PORTLAND is host and hostess this week, and should have the manners of hospitality. Guests are coming—let them go away friends. A friend will come again; he will make other friends. The guest may try to forget.

Rose Carnival week should be an investment in hospitality, an investment that always pays regular dividends. The bother and work and worry were not assumed for self enjoyment alone. Portland wants to enjoy herself, but more than that, she wants Portland's friends to enjoy themselves. There is no better time for impressing a person than when he is contentedly happy, when he feels welcome, when his is the larger share of choice dainty.

Hospitality does not end with decorations, parades and excitement. It has a more friendly aspect. Little personal attentions count for more than elaborate entertainments. Portland should not neglect these little things—they are the essence of hospitality.

Make the stranger welcome. Throw aside formality and when you meet him on the street, act the part of host or hostess. The reputation of Portland roses will be maintained; the reputation of Portland people will not suffer. It is to be a glad week of fun and frolic, but the serious duty of hospitality must not be forgotten.

Portland has never forgotten, and will not forget.

AIDING NATURALIZATION

PACIFIC coast states are directly interested in Congressman Murdock's suggestion for the appointment of a commission to investigate practical operation of the naturalization laws. The west is already attempting to absorb a large body of foreign immigrants, and with opening of the Panama canal, making European immigration to Pacific ports almost as convenient as it now is to Atlantic ports, the proportion of aliens will be greatly increased. These people should be Americanized in the shortest possible time. When citizenship is conferred upon them, they should be intelligent and loyal citizens.

The statement is made that there are now 4,000,000 adult male residents of the United States who, though eligible under the laws, have not taken out citizenship papers. The benefits of citizenship have not appealed to these people, but there may come a sudden change of attitude, involving the potentiality of such a large vote, should it ever come under a concentrating influence, adverse to good government.

Of late years the government has been paying more attention to the naturalization process, but the chief defect of the present system is lack of any means by which the alien can be prepared for citizenship. The alien is still left to his own devices. If he has initiative and opportunity he may succeed within the required time in sufficiently informing himself on American institutions to pass some sort of examination. But the courts find they must often make examinations so rudimentary that they are of little value in determining a man's fitness for citizenship. Examinations are too formal; they are confined too closely to educational limits.

Naturalization should not be made a difficult process, but it should be a thorough process. The five years' residence requirement is arbitrary. It may serve a good purpose in some cases, but it serves no purpose in most cases. Educational requirements may be all right, in a way, but how can they appeal to the alien who is left entirely to his devices to meet them? It is difficult enough for an alien to become acquainted with his day's work.

Along with a better process for Americanizing the alien should come a practical plan for demonstrating the advantages of citizenship. Before blaming the 4,000,000 aliens for not becoming naturalized, it would be well for the average intelligent citizen to ask himself what advantages, other than suffrage, his citizenship confers.

HYSTERIA A HARM

EVENTS are bringing the conviction that the Illinois senatorial vice commission's investigation of conditions affecting men and women workers will unearth little of dependable value. The commission started out on the theory that low wages are responsible for immoral girls, jumped from that to the proposition that wages of men should be regulated by law, and now announces that profits of legitimate industry should be limited by law.

The commission may be satisfied with its own work, but the chances are that thinking people will place little credence in its final report. The commission has undertaken too big a job for it; its investigations have been pursued too much in the glare of publicity; members of the commission have shown too keen interest in what is being said about them. There has been too much hysteria.

At Saturday's hearing Lieutenant Governor O'Hara, after a mere suggestion by a witness, jumped to the conclusion that what is needed is a law limiting profits of any business to a certain percentage of the actual investment. It need not be denied that such a law, if enforceable, might be a good thing. A law requiring the sun to shine on rainy days, if enforceable, would be welcome. But if a law limiting profits is desirable, how about a law guaranteeing legitimate profits?

Wages, profits, hours of labor and conditions of employment are proper subjects of investigation, but the investigation should be made by men competent to investigate. Conclusions are not available upon mere suggestion. England and Australia have made exhaustive studies of the wage question, and minimum wage laws have been framed along industrial and not sex lines. The investigations were thorough, not hysterical. They were made by men equipped for the work, by men not surrounded by press agents.

It is unfortunate that the Illinois commission has forced itself into the limelight. The value of some future investigation should not be discounted.

DISCIPLINING LANE

THE senate Indian committee, rather than meet Senator Lane's charges of gross misappropriation of Indian expenditures, decided Saturday to discipline the Oregon senator by cutting out an appropriation for the Modoc Point irrigation project. The Indian bill will be reported to the senate tomorrow, and there Senator Lane will continue his fight for a plain statement as to how the money is to be expended.

The fight is in a good cause. If the Indian commissioner is unable to explain items in the bill, a thorough-going probe into his department is imperative. It has been impossible to discover in the Indian Bureau how some of the $9,000,000 or $10,000,000 appropriation is to be spent. Senator Lane says that appropriations are accompanied by rights of absolute control over millions of dollars worth of property, no accounting for the management of which appears anywhere.

Senator Lane was right in refusing to be placated by a promise to have the next Indian bill framed on business principles. Should he abandon the fight now, to resume it later, he would discount much of his usefulness. It is high time for the Indian department to be forced into making an accounting, not only with the Indians, but also with the entire people. Refusal to account for public money implies the strong probability that an accounting will get somebody into serious trouble.

Meanwhile the Modoc project stands in little danger. Senator Lane is not a member of the Indian committee. He could be muzzled by that committee, but he cannot be muzzled in the senate.

PRACTICAL PHILANTHROPY

NEW YORK now has ten additional pasteurized milk stations, the gift of Nathan Straus as part of his campaign to protect the lives of babies during the hot summer months. This is practical philanthropy, for the difficulty of securing pure milk in cities adds to the death rate among infants.

Milk will be served by the glass or in nursing bottles at a minimum price. The milk served in glasses will be properly pasteurized, and that supplied in nursing bottles will be modified for infants according to ages and also pasteurized.

It is inspiring to see a man of Mr. Straus' business capacity apply common sense methods to caring for the helpless. Mr. Straus, the man, may be judged by the fact that he declined a nomination as mayor of New York and later accepted appointment as president of the board of health.

The nomination for mayor came four years after he had established, at his own expense, a system of distribution of sterilized milk to the poor. That system has saved thousands of infants' lives.

His system of distribution of coal to the poor in winter months has been eminently successful, and in the panic winter of 1893-4 his lodging houses for the homeless saved many from perishing.

Public attention cannot be called too often to men like Nathan Straus.

GOOD ROADS YEAR BOOK

THE official Good Roads Year Book, issued by the American Highway Association, is a publication that should materially aid in promoting better methods and greater uniformity in road building. It is the second year book issued by the association, and in it is collected information from all states, to the end that road making may be harmonized throughout the states.

Figures on percentages of improved highways disclose the fact that while Oregon is well up to the general average, this state is lagging behind Washington and California. Oregon's percentage of improved highways to total mileage is 9.45 per cent as compared with 31.7 per cent for Washington and 17.8 per cent for California. But Oregon is far ahead of Pennsylvania's percentage of 3.97 per cent and equal with Illinois' 9.47 per cent.

The Year Book is to be published annually. It should help in reducing road building to an exact science.

With the Japanese war bogey reduced to a manikin and the tariff sounding like a thrice-told tale, somebody ought to start something at Washington. Secretary Bryan might invite Colonel Watterson to a grape juice dinner.

Andy Carnegie need not have demed at London the story of Miss Scott Troy that he was trying to annex the United States to the British empire. Although he has been a busy little annexer, there's a limit, even, to Andy's acquisitive powers.

Mrs. Lillian Stuart, lecturer on dress and hygiene, has declared at St. Louis that men are more shapely and graceful than women. Bet there would be a domestic insurrection if her husband dared to say so.

Professor Walter Sargent of Chicago advocates a law requiring a national costume for women. Brilliant idea. Make 'em all wear red, white and blue, and let every day be Fourth of July.

Those stranded and frightened Americans in Mexico should reflect that they need never have crossed the border. A restless and adventurous spirit must expect tribulation.

"Vibrant snores leap from porch to porch," says the Philadelphia North American. Knew the old Quaker town to be somnolent, but didn't expect such a frank admission.

It was currently rumored that Adolphus Busch would give a million dollars as a wedding present to his granddaughter, but he handed her $20,000 and kept the change.

Anyhow, one may easily change those freakish gold pieces, if he doesn't like the looks of a dropsical eagle in ruffy fluffle pajamas. Getting 'em is harder.

Now and then the humble pedestrian has his innings when he is able to view with unmixed delight the fragments of a busted motorcycle.

San Francisco women are investigating its police courts. However much emancipated, they will likely need their smelling salts.

Paterson, New Jersey, has let several days go by without sending out any trouble news. Perhaps even the clocks have struck.

Objection entered against any reference to "the beautiful Willamette" when it gets full and crawls into the basements.

A good many men get yanked off the water wagon by dangling their feet around the wheels.

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 Confession of "A. H."

Portland, June 7.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Allow me to say a few words to "A. H.," the man who made such a noble confession in the Journal of June 2. This world is in some need of men like "A. H.," who have awakened, who have been through the fire of remorse and come out purified. The world needs him to help educate other men. I think educate is the term to apply, for it must be ignorance that impells men to forget everything in their desire to satisfy the baser nature.

How many wives are white slaves, their conditions looked upon as respectable because of marriage? It is not marriage in the true sense; it is little more than legalized prostitution, in any number of cases. Indeed it is.

No wonder our divorce courts are full, for it takes an iron will to live on day by day feeling that one is a slave to some man's baser self, knowing if you assert our right as mistress of our own body he will fulfill the oft made threat to "go elsewhere."

How few wives would dare confess to their husbands the fact that selfishness was killing love for them, for do they not know that should they lose their self-control and tell what is in their hearts their husbands would sacrifice everything they should hold sacred, to satisfy their baser natures? "The other woman" is a damnable reality, and she is just around the corner, waiting, and this class of men put her there.

So our lips are sealed and it remains for men like "A. H." to help men up to this purer, nobler life that God meant for everyone, and which, if lived by all, would make a heaven of earth.

The great heartbreaking pity of it is that most men do not awake until the women they have wronged are dead or living a life wherein is no longer the love and trust that should fill life with happiness, but which has been betrayed and become a mockery. M. B.

Stay-at-Homes Denounced.

Portland, Or., June 9.—To the Editor of The Journal—Allow me to most strongly indorse your editorials regarding punishment for those who do not vote at elections. This kind of people, drones, have been living too long among us, neglecting all public duties, and it is time to point the finger at them, that they may at least feel that we are after them. Such people will not spend an hour to register and another hour to mark a sample ballot, without which no one can vote intelligently. They are bad citizens. Someone is bound to vote, if we are to have an organized society, and why should we work for the loafers, the lazy ones, who are too soulless to vote? Such people should lose their franchise, should not have a chance to make a living in this country, and should be pointed out to everybody as not trustworthy. They are all for themselves. Yet they feel very sore and bitter if you tell them what kind of people they are. But they need to be told that we know they are egoists of the worst kind. They are a drawback to the progress of society.

OBSERVER.

The Work Day in Oregon.

Perry, Or., June 7.—To the Editor of The Journal—Kindly advise whether there is a law in this state that prohibits a person from working more than ten hours in one day.

Z. O. WISEMAN.

The people passed a law last November prohibiting anyone from doing state or any other public work for over eight hours in one day, except in the case of an extreme emergency, when no other person can be hired to do the work. A law was enacted by the legislature last winter prohibiting persons working more than ten hours a day in mills, factories or manufacturing establishments.

It Is the Amazon.

Ilwaco, Wash., June 7.—To the Editor of The Journal—Kindly settle the following dispute:

A says more water flows from the Columbia river into the ocean than from any other river in the world. B says he thinks the Yukon has the greatest flow. No particular ocean is designated. Who is right? W. C. BRUMBACH.

[Neither is right. Consider the basin area of the Amazon—2,500,000 square miles, estimated. Compare it with some well known area, say that of the United States, a little more than 3,000,000. Then compare with this the areas of the Columbia and Yukon basins. The immense disproportion is manifest. Consider also that the basin is of tropical value.]

No Old Age Pension.

Friend, Or., June 7.—To the Editor of The Journal—Is there an old age pension in Oregon? If not, is there a fund from which old people can draw their support when too old to work and haven't any income? SUBSCRIBER.

[There is no old age pension enactment on Oregon's statute books. Neither is there any fund for the indigent aged. Oregon has the widow's pension act, but that, in the nature of things, can scarcely avail, even incidentally, as an old age benefit, since its purpose is to enable the widowed mother of helpless children to keep her children about her until they become self-supporting.]

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Even picking strawberries is work, not play.

* *

Jack Johnson should be happy, instead of kicking; he got off easy.

* *

After July 1 the eyes of the country will be on Portland more than ever.

* *

Wonder what is the consensus of opinion of the June brides of yesteryear?

* *

Taken all around, the crops in the Pacific northwest are always good, and sometimes better.

* *

People of Portland don't believe in voting more bonds when they can only be sold at 11 or 12 cents discount.

* *

The Columbia and Willamette rivers are like the cost of living—rising; but unlike that, will soon go down again.

* *

Warships could pass through the Panama canal on 24 hours' notice. Japan has put off Hobsonizing us too long.

* *

Though the election Monday was vastly important, nearly half the eligible voters did not vote—not an agreeable fact to contemplate.

* *

Of course no Portlander will think of beginning his vacation elsewhere next week, but thousands living elsewhere will vacation then in Portland.

* *

A. B. and D. won—Albee, Brewster, Bigelow, Daly and Dieck. Perhaps Carpenter hoodoed C., though Clyde ran well, as did one other B., Baker.

* *

If that man Darling is so set on going clothless and cooked-foodless, why can't he stay down in the South Sea islands, where he properly belongs.

* *

The council will have a banquet at its last session, which will be appropriate, according to a Bible text: "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow ye die"—officially.

* *

There is also a constitutional lawyer knocker at Salem, one L. H. McMahan. He did defeat the Crater Lake road appropriation in the courts, but it remains to be seen whether he can succeed as well in the Columbia Southern reclamation case.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Work on Albany's $26,000 public library building is now in its initial stage. Completion early next fall is expected.

* *

Postmaster Reitzenstein of Roseburg will soon be drawing $2500 a year, an advance of $100, in accordance with growing business.

* *

Salem Statesman: In seven years Salem has built up a high school with an attendance of over 600; and it is now one of the very best high schools in the United States; and that is saying a good deal, for this is distinctly the country of high schools.

* *

Boosting for Eugene's rose show the Guard says no city can boast of more beautiful roses than Eugene, and the spirit that backs the annual show is the kind that makes cities out of villages. Wherefore the Guard exclaims, "All honor to the rose spirit!"

* *

A percentage of attendance of 95 per cent out of a total enrollment of 613 pupils, 79 of whom were neither absent nor tardy during their attendance, 26 attending every day of the year without being tardy, are some of the records that are the proud boast of the Cottage Grove schools for the past school year.

* *

A small ranch in Wheeler county that was offered for sale at $1000 less than a year ago has just sold for $1600, and a year hence, the Fossil Journal predicts, will probably bring $2000 or more. The Journal says there are still many more good ranches, big and little, for sale at prices that outsiders would consider ridiculously low.

* *

An amusement famine is sweeping over Stayton, of which the Mail says: "Now that the billiard halls have been closed on Sunday, the men are talking of forming a "horseshoe club." Seems like they just must do something. Most of us are too lazy to hoe the garden, and don't care to attend church, so there you are. Let 'er buck!"

* *

A unique fly swatting record is held by a woman of The Dalles, who reports to the Chronicle that she killed 4000 flies during the month of May. Hers was a novel method of attack. Instead of waiting for the flies to come into the house she went outside and got 'em. She didn't find more than two dozen flies in her home during May.

COMMENT ON CONGRESS

Mark Sullivan in Collier's Weekly.

Of all the men in the United States senate, the one who comes as near as any other to deserving to be called a statesman is John Sharp Williams of Mississippi. There are many senators whose names are more frequently in the papers, many who are more conspicuous on the floor of the senate, and many who have a greater capacity and devotion to the drudgery of legislative detail, but none who so invariably combine learning and original thought in their contributions to the debates. Any person reading the Congressional Record is conscious when he comes to an utterance by Senator Williams that the type seems to raise itself above the rest of the page. What he says is always based on the fundamental philosophy of government. In a long experience of reading the Congressional Record the present writer has never seen an utterance in which Senator Williams appeared merely as a partisan. He never states merely his own case; he always states the other side just as fairly; he never takes a dialectic advantage. He has the air of putting everything from every side on the table, and then sifting about to find the combination with its truth. Frequently he speaks with deep conviction, but in his utterances there is always that which indicates study of all points of view and tolerance even for a point of view which he strongly disapproves. Senator Williams, for example, knows that free sugar means the doom of the sugar raising industry in his own state and in the sugar states generally:

"I am perfectly willing to admit that free sugar will dismantle every sugar house in the state of Louisiana. I know it as well as I know my name is John Williams."

Mr. Williams sees there is tragedy in doing this, but he knows where the original blame for the tragedy belongs:

"It is pathetic to me to think that these people have been invited to come in and walk in deep water on stilts and that when they are now asked to walk without stilts they must be drowned."

Senator Williams is sorry for this and would have prevented it if he could by a reasonable duty. Nevertheless he sees the problem not as a present injustice alone; he sees the case as a whole, and harks back to the underlying economic evil:

"After all, the sugar duty is a special privilege, because no man has a God-given or a natural right to make money out of an industry of any sort except where he can stand upon his two legs without legislative help."

Senator Williams sees the unpleasant effects of tariff revision downward, not as a primary harm, but as a necessary incident of the surgery that is necessary to cure a long-standing and deep-seated economic error.

Any person whose moral sense has average acuteness will have no difficulty in recognizing which man came out best in this colloquy:

Senator Ransdell of Louisiana— * * * Is it or is it not a fact that when our campaign speakers were sent to the western states they were told not to discuss the question of free sugar; and is it not a fact that if they had discussed free sugar and intimated that we were going to have free sugar we would never have carried those western states?

Senator James of Kentucky—No, sir; I deny that the Democratic party is guilty of such duplicity as the senator suggests. If I believe it was, I would withdraw my allegiance from it and take my seat upon the other side of the chamber. I spoke in the west, and everywhere I went I advocated free sugar, and I got more applause for free sugar than for any other schedule which I said we would revise for the relief of the American people.

In a very clever bit of senatorial sword play, Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Nebraska forced Senator William Alden Smith of Michigan to put into words the extreme standpat position:

Senator Hitchcock—I should like to ask the senator whether it is not a fact that we now export about ten times as much furniture as we import?

Senator Smith of Michigan—Oh Mr. President—

Senator Hitchcock—Will the senator kindly answer the question?

Senator Smith of Michigan—I say that the genius of our furniture workers has crowded the foreign manufacturer very severely and our products do enter into competition in almost every country in the world.

Senator Hitchcock—Then I should like to ask the senator if we are selling, say, six or seven million dollars' worth of furniture made in America in other countries in competition with those other countries, why it is necessary to maintain the present high tariff of 35 per cent?

Senator Smith was finally cornered into saysing: "I am not pleading for any duty on furniture at all."

He then had recourse to the argument that under the new tariff there will be less demand for furniture in the United States:

"Because in other lines labor will be cut down; because labor will be out of employment; because laborers will be turned from workingmen into wanderers and furniture will be the last thing they will buy."

This is a frank statement of the Chinese wall theory of protection. Senator Smith wouldn't have any use for a tariff commission. Just put everything at 1000 per cent, and let us all start off in an experiment of what Congressman Kent calls "boot strap aviation." Senator Smith ended the passage at arms with this argument:

"They (meaning the consumers) will use the old bed and the old chair and the old table in preference to new ones until they get a surplus of money."

Without admitting Senator Smith's logic at all, it may be said in passing that it would be very wholesome if every person in the United States would resolve to get along for a while with the old chair and the old table until we recover from a decade of wanton extravagance, individual and national. This is not the popular thing to say; but truth and unpopularity are old acquaintances.

The attitude of the members of the Progressive party in the house and senate, and, to a certain extent, also of those men who do not call themselves Progressives, but are progressive Republicans, is this: If the tariff bill can be passed without their votes, they will vote against it, as an indications of their belief that the bill could have been framed better than it is, and that all tariff revision should be done through a nonpartisan tariff commission. But if there should be in the senate so many Democratic traitors that the bill is threatened, enough Progressive, or progressive Republican, votes will be furnished to pass it.

This colloquy took place between the Democratic and the Republican leaders of the senate:

Mr. Penrose—I should like to ask the senator one question, and then I shall be through. Is the Democratic caucus to be open to the public or is it to be a secret proceeding?

Mr. Simmons — Has any Republican caucus in this country ever been open to the public?

Mr. Penrose—We were criticised for not having them open, and we are now repentant, and hereafter they will be open.

It really seems pretty trite to recall the old couplet about the devil sick and the devil well, but there is nothing else that seems quite adequate. Incidentally, Senator Penrose is getting very anxious about his reelection next year, and has been traveling up and down the state of Pennsylvania indorsing the direct election of senators (which is now in the constitution, in spite of years of opposition from him), and advocating woman suffrage with the vehemence of a recent and ardent convert.

It is the present intention of the administration to put through both houses at the present session of congress the banking and currency measure which President Wilson, Secretary McAdoo, Senator Owen, chairman of the senate banking and currency committee, Representative Glass, chairman of the house banking and currency committee, and some others have been framing for several weeks past. The hope of doing this is not so rash as it may seem. A currency measure can be passed through congress much more readily than a tariff measure, for a tariff measure must resist a very large number of separate local influences which are hurt by it. A currencey measure, on the other hand, does not excite local opposition, and merely requires time for debate on its merits. Moreover, President Wilson, as well as his secretary of the treasury and the administration generally, command public confidence to such an extent that a currency measure which bears the administration's O. K. is less likely to excite great opposition. If the administration succeeds in passing a good banking and currency act, it will be the first one we will have had in 125 years of American history. To do this, and also pass a new tariff bill, in a single special session of congress, within six months after the administration has come into power, will be a unique triumph.

IN THE WAKE OF DAYTON'S FLOOD

From the Lewiston Tribune.

Some two months ago the fine little city of Dayton, Ohio, was well nigh wiped off the map. At that time the news of destruction, of death and misery occupied first place in the eyes of the world, but by a strange lack of balance in the organization of the news business, nothing has since been heard of what is occurring there as a sequel to so great a tragedy. The baseball season intervened at about that time and it is conceived that the nation must be regaled daily with columns of specifications concerning the exploits of employes of the diamond rather than with the substantial achievements of mankind along the enduring lines of civic and constructive development.

Dayton, it appears, was confronted with two sinister problems coincidentally—physical devastation and political corruption. The first was simpler than the second, because more easily recognized and more personal. Briefly, a public fund of $2,000,000 was immediately raised, the subscription list corresponding practically with the directory of the city and in which each gave according to his means. With this fund engineering projects are in process by which no similar flood can again overwhelm the city. Private work of restoration and improvements has proceeded apace and soon Dayton will be a far better city than it has ever been before.

Ethical and political rejuvenation has been more difficult and indeed is yet to prove itself, but a heroic effort has been made to install a municipal system that gives promise of doing the work necessary to be done on the same sort of single-minded and effectual lines as if done for private business. Dayton has suffered more from inefficient and corrupt government than ordinarily falls to the lot even of American cities of its class where every man is too obsessed in the work of grafting for his own pocket to have time or inclination to concern himself with matters of common welfare. Adversity has, however, chastened and sobered men who have been heedless. Excited to this mood and with the influences for evil cowed by the calamity that surrounded all, it was determined to attempt a scheme of reconstruction that would have been futile if the forces of the plunderbund were not suffering a momentary loss of hardihood. The exact plan of government worked out is based upon that of Galveston, evolved at the time of the epochal catastrophe there, but with important differences. It is first proposed that the citizens shall elect a board of five commissioners, reserving to themselves the power of the initiative, referendum and recall. These commissioners are to employ a general manager, dispensing with the mayoralty, and he need not be a resident but the best man to be found anywhere for the job. He is to be responsible only to the commissioners and the commissioners to the citizens, and will have exclusive authority in the employing and discharging of all persons whatsoever engaged in the municipal service.

Thus do adversity, travail and necessity operate to the end of ultimate salvation. The world compassionates any community that is stricken as Galveston, San Francisco and Dayton were stricken. But a colder philosophy beholding in larger perspective could find more reason to envy the community that has undergone the refinement of spirit and made the discovery of its powers that come of these great upheavals.

The "Present" Question Before Us

"What in the world shall I give her?"

How many times have you said that as you read an invitation to a wedding?

Your dilemmas are no different from a thousand other people's. We are all in the same boat when it comes to deciding on a wedding present. It is a human failing for the imagination to balk at that point.

Next time you get an invitation don't cudgel your brains and confuse your mind with worry. It is a waste of time and takes away all the pleasure of giving. Just pick up THE JOURNAL or any other good newspaper and run carefully through the advertisements. The first thing you know you will exclaim, "That's the very thing!"

There are many useful and beautiful articles, and there is no quicker way of choosing one that suits both your taste and your purse than to glance over the countless suggestions offered daily in our advertising columns.

Pointed Paragraphs

The actor who is a frost cuts no ice.

* *

A contented man may be too lazy to kick.

* *

A theory is always all right until tried.

* *

You can't beat some men at your own game.

* *

Never argue with a man who owns a loud voice.

* *

Every man is a coward—if you can only discover the particular thing that frightens him.

* *

Father and mother may not know the meaning of daughter's graduating essay, but they are proud of it just the same.

* *

An Indiana woman is married to the meanest man. He got her to held save up money for an automobile, and then he bought a home with it.