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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON ..... Publisher

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Admonish your friends privately, but praise them openly. —Publius Syrus.

THE MEXICAN ELECTION

THE presidential election in Mexico yesterday resulted in no choice. Probably it is the result for which Huerta planned. It is better for his purpose than his own election could have been.

It leaves him a dictator still, unbound by constitutional restrictions. He is the state. His sword is the legislative department. His cannon are the constitution of Mexico. His bayonets are the ballot boxes. His artillerymen are the supreme judges.

The republic is dead. Mexico is an empire, with Huerta on its throne. He is a new Maximilian, and Sir Lionel Carden's lightning-like recognition of Huerta's dictatorship is almost renewal of the policy of Napoleon III. England's sympathy with Huerta's program because of oil concessions is almost a new edition of the France of 1864.

We refused in 1867 to permit a throne to be permanently set up in Mexico. We sent Civil war regiments to the Mexican border. We sent ultimatums to Napoleon III. We threatened and warned. We forced the French to withdraw their troops, and, unsupported by his European allies, Maximilian, a man of rare and beautiful character, a ruler as far superior to Huerta as the eagle to a jaybird, was driven from his capital, captured and shot.

How strange, in view of American history and precedents, that there should be those in this country who want the Washington government to recognize Huerta. To do so would be an insult to the best traditions and the most sacred covenants of the nation.

Thus, Huerta has issued a decree raising the Mexican army to 150,000 men. He asked the Mexican congress for such an army, and it refused. It limited him to 80,000. Then he sent 105 congressmen to the penitentiary and suspended the whole legislative body. It stood in his way.

His rule rests on the army. His throne is planted on siege guns. His empire is supported by soldiers, and he wants more of them with which to enlarge his sway and lengthen his tenure.

With a brazenness never before seen on this continent, he has suspended the republic; he has suspended the constitution; he has suspended the legislative branch; he has suspended free speech; he has suspended everything but himself and it is such a Cæsar that President Wilson is asked to support with American recognition.

Every added step in Huerta's conduct is an unanswerable proof of the wisdom of Woodrow Wilson's Mexican policy.

DR. ELIOT ON WAR

DR. CHARLES W. ELIOT, president emeritus of Harvard university, is an able champion of world peace in a pamphlet just issued by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Dr. Eliot visited the far east last year under auspices of the Carnegie Endowment, and his report has to do with China and Japan.

Concerning Japan, Dr. Eliot says that country has no thought of dominating the Pacific, as is asserted by men promoting militarism. Japan's statesmen recognize the practical impossibility of a successful military campaign against the United States, or of a winning campaign against Japan, under the conditions of modern warfare. War between the two countries is not to be thought of, says Dr. Eliot, for there is no interest in either country which could possibly be promoted by war.

As to China, a great handicap to that country is the absence of any knowledge of modern medicine. Hospitals are practically unknown, and epidemics are frequent and terrible. The western world, he says, ought to stand by China with patience, forbearance and hope while she struggles with her tremendous social, industrial and political problems.

Dr. Eliot concludes his report by suggesting lines of action for the Carnegie Endowment, and because he is such an excellent observer, possessed of a sound philosophy and a deep knowledge of human nature, his program will appeal to all intelligent men and women.

He suggests support of all agencies competent to reduce or prevent the wrongs and illusions which have caused and still are causing wars. He urges stronger public opinion in favor of publicity in governmental and commercial transactions. He advocates universal elementary education, libraries, hospitals, dispensaries, training schools for nurses, and technical and professional schools in countries which lack these promoters of civilization.

But Dr. Eliot frankly recognizes the present necessity of maintaining in all countries armed forces for protection against aggression from without or disintegration from within. His program is essentially constructive, for instead of urging that people be taxed for promoting self-destruction, his plan is for the United States to adopt a policy looking toward the upbuilding of humanity. There is no denying the strength of a national policy which stands for sound progress, for law, justice and righteousness.

A TURKEYIZED OREGON

SOME of the steel workers are fighting the workmen's compensation act.

Why oppose it? Why should any workers try to beat the law and thereby deny the blessings of automatic compensation to the thousands of other workers who want deliverance from ambulance lawyers and lawsuits?

There is not a reason in the world for any worker in the world to fight the compensation act. There is every reason for an ambulance lawyer to fight it. But when a worker goes into the campaign and opposes the compensation act, the issue instantly becomes, what is his motive? How and wherein is he to profit from denying automatic compensation to the wives and little ones of brother workmen who are appealing to the people of this state to give them the blessings of the present pending compensation act?

Outside of the United States, the only civilized nations on earth that are without workmen's compensation are Russia and Turkey. Why do some of the workers of this town want their fellow workers in Oregon to remain Turkeyized and Russianized?

There is no explanation. There can be no explanation.

What a powerful argument such an attitude is for passing the compensation act!

IN DARKEST RUSSIA

RUSSIA is engaging the world's attention because of the Kiev ritual murder trial. People are wondering how it is possible to stage such a proceeding in any country calling itself civilized, but perhaps figures of the 1912 Russian census explain the riddle.

The population of the empire is now about 172,000,000, the increase since 1897 being fully 75 per cent. Nearly four fifths of the people are illiterate. In the villages and small towns rowdyism and drinking are increasing. The government's liquor monopoly, established ostensibly to promote temperance, is yielding larger and larger profits. The prisons are overcrowded; discontent is widespread, as also is religious fanaticism.

Russia seems to have no governmental policies. The Chicago Record-Herald summarizes significant current events in that country as follows:

Existing side by side are a solemn and absurd ritual murder trial; recognition of trades unions; police interference with union meetings; woman suffrage in Finland; efforts to revive censorship of the press; collapse of nationalism in politics and a steady trend toward radicalism in the duma; attempts by a reactionary minister to prevent the teaching of European history in the schools; increased appropriation for elementary education; efforts to build up a peasant proprietary.

Liberals charge the government with merely drifting, while the government charges liberals with lack of patriotism and undue regard for European culture. George Kennan once wrote of Darkest Russia, confining his record principally to Siberia. Apparently the gloom has not been lifted. And yet Russia is classed a great power, qualified, according to European diplomacy, to pass judgment upon other nations struggling toward civilization.

IN MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS will elect a governor next month. There are four candidates in the field, and the campaign has taken on national significance.

The Republicans have nominated Congressman Gardner, a son-in-law of Senator Lodge. The Progressive nominee is Charles S. Bird, a wealthy paper manufacturer with a reputation as a philanthropist. D. J. Walsh, who was elected lieutenant governor on the ticket with Governor Eugene N. Foss, is the Democratic candidate. Governor Foss is seeking reelection as an independent.

In the Maine and West Virginia special congressional elections the Democratic candidates held their party vote, but complaint is still made by stand-pat organs that had it not been for the Progressives the Republicans would have won by big majorities. No such claim can be made when the returns from Massachusetts are in.

Governor Foss was originally a Republican, but went over to the Democrats on the tariff issue. After being elected governor three times as a Democrat, he deserted that party because he did not like the Underwood bill. He became a receptive Republican candidate for the nomination and flirted with the Progressives, but both parties would have none of him. A few days ago he announced his candidacy as an independent.

If, as the stand-pat organs claim, Gardner and Bird will divide the former Republican vote, Walsh and Foss will divide the Democratic vote. Neither Gardner nor Walsh has a tactical advantage. The tariff is the principal issue, and all parties are sending speakers of national reputation into the state.

THE INTERSTATE BRIDGE

IT HAS been said that the completion of the interstate bridge will add $10,000,000 to the value of Multnomah county property.

It is also said that $3,000,000 a year is spent in Portland by the Vancouver district.

Here are two unanswerable reasons for Multnomah county to vote the bridge bonds. If the estimated increase in wealth caused by the bridge were but $2,000,000 instead of $10,000,000, the bridge would still be a splendid business investment.

If the estimated trade of the Vancouver district with Portland were only $1,000,000 instead of $3,000,000, the bridge would still be a splendid investment.

Since the sum now spent is $3,000,000 a year and will be heavily increased by building the bridge, a failure by Multnomah county to vote the bridge bonds would amount almost to a crime.

A ten million increase in Multnomah county property would mean something added to the value of every small home. A heavy trade increase with the Vancouver district would mean more money with which to pay salaries to the workers in every line of trade in the city.

There is not a worker, not an employer, not a salaried man, not a salaried woman, not a bread winner, not a home owner, not a rent payer but will indirectly be a beneficiary through the building of the bridge.

Convenience for passing from place to place makes trade intercourse. An interstate bridge will bind all Southwestern Washington closely to this city. No state line would exert the slightest influence against a splendidly convenient bridge. A state line is only thin air, while a bridge is a great viaduct over which Washingtonians can quickly and conveniently journey to Portland, and that is exactly what they will do.

The arguments for the bridge are unanswerable. No public measure in a decade has presented a more powerful or more popular appeal.

STRUGGLING ALBANIA

A WRITER in the Christian calls attention to the distressing condition of Albanians impoverished by the Balkan wars. In many places the people managed to secure seed and prepare parts of their fields for planting. These people have prospects of living through the winter unaided.

But there are large numbers of refugees driven out of territory given to Servia and Montenegro who are without land to cultivate, houses to live in, or any means of sustenance save what is given them by charity. Some of these people were among the most prominent families of northern Albania. They owned large estates, with thousands of sheep, goats, cattle and horses. They had large houses, in some of which as many as 100 people lived like a patriarchal family.

All these people owned has been taken away from them; for ten months they have been living in the mountains dying of hunger and exposure. Those who would renounce their race, country and religion and be baptized in the Greek church received favors, but most of them preferred the other alternative. Many of these people must perish unless the governments represented on the international commission for Albania supply relief.

This writer says the Albanians are trying to organize a provisional government throughout the country. They waited for Europe to send them a government, but they wanted a British commission rather than an international one.

Call is made to Christians to come to the relief of Albania. They want educators. School buildings once occupied by Turkish schools are vacant. The people want new industrial conditions established. Bad sanitary conditions prevail; contagious and infectious diseases run their course like a forest fire. Infant mortality exceeds 50 per cent, and the percentage of deaths in maternity is appallingly large.

The call for help should be answered. Christendom should not stand idly by and see a people struggle only toward death. War brought this disaster, and nations which countenance war should be the first to offset its consequences.

A bachelor recently died in New York worth $45,000,000. He was a recluse and known to only about 100 persons. With all that money, what a lot of fun he could have had, and didn't!

It is an appetizing thought to read that a Berkeley man has asked permission of the California state board of health to operate a factory for the manufacture of sausage out of horse meat.

In Sacramento, they have under arrest a Mexican "who acts queerly." That's no unusual sign in Mexicans if the daily news from the Aztec capital be true.

Anyway, few persons look as important as the average hotel clerk. Anybody could almost swear that most of them must have been eugenics children.

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.)

"Discussion is the greatest of all reformers. It rationalizes everything it touches. It robs principles of all false sanctity and throws them back on their reasonableness. If they have no reasonableness it ruthlessly crushes them out of existence and lets up its own conclusions in their stead."—Woodrow Wilson.

Protest Against Hangings.

Portland, Or., Oct. 27.—To the Editor of The Journal—The calendar is smeared with blood; two men sentenced to be hanged October 31, and the execution of Lem Woon scheduled for November 14. From our first advent into school, if not earlier in life, we are taught that this is "a government of the people, for the people, by the people," and that the laws are made for us, and by us, to suit us. I do not believe in capital punishment, therefore, in that regard, the laws do not suit me. The old Biblical laws were modified by the teachings of Christ, and "an eye for an eye" was done away with. But here in the twentieth century we do not stop with the taking of one eye for one eye, but we take two for one, as will be the case if the death penalty is meted out to Mike Spanos and Frank Seymour for the alleged murder of George Dedeskalous. Surely, someone blundered when he said, "The world is moving," unless he meant backward.

For five terrible years a thin little Chinaman has been behind prison bars for the supposed killing of Lee Hai Toy. Even if our laws do demand "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," surely they do not demand that that eye or that tooth be removed by slow degrees. Such slow torture harks back to the inquisition; to the time when hands were lopped off for crime, when ears were slashed and noses split; when men were broken on the wheel and women burned at the stake. A couple of policemen walking through a blind alley in the San Francisco Chinatown were drawn to a ramshackle house by the joyous shrieks of some Chinamen. Peering, the officers saw six or seven Mongolians of the lowest type sitting around a table. Each held a long straw. In the center of the table was a large rat tacked to a board through the delicate skin of his feet. Successively the Chinamen jabbed their straws into the animal's sides, ears, or eyes, and when it jumped, tearing its tiny feet, then came the shouts of joy. People shuddered at the fiendishness, the devilishness of the Mongolian. Such hellishness could be perpetrated only by Chinamen! But lo! in a jail in the center of a great commonwealth the laws of our country have tacked a helpless Chinaman. For five years straws of hope have been poked at him, and now, after all that waiting, the hysterical shouts of joy go up—"Lem Woon is to hang November 14." Protesting his innocence, he waits for the law to murder him; protesting their innocence, Spanos and Seymour bow in submission to the majesty of the law. Protesting their innocence—for this reason alone should every person who has a soul rise up in arms. Many an innocent man has given up his life to satisfy the law's call for blood. Better that a thousand guilty men go free! No man should ever be condemned to death on circumstantial evidence. In the case of unnaturalized inhabitants of this country and of orientals the people's money should not be expended for their trial, their imprisonment, their execution, but they should be deported, freeing us of such obnoxious duties.

Hanging will not reform a man. In the institution of laws and of prisons a contemplation of reformation was insinuated into them, as well as a contemplation of punishment. To work a reformation life must continue; a new standard of morals must be built up; normality and equilibrium must be restored. Neither will hanging punish a man. The interim between the death sentence and its execution is fraught with a thousand deaths, but in the end, the body at the end of a rope or in a chair is not a man reclaimed. What a sickening thought that this is the law.

But if law must be carried out—the law before which we bow, the law which we are taught to respect, the law which is held up to the children as the supreme power of the land—then let us have a lesson in applied civics. In establishing principles, theory is not half so efficacious as practice. Texts and charts are being used less and less as our schools advance, and practical demonstrations are replacing them. The schools are in session now. Let us have special trains for the school children. Let the prospective mothers, let those who believe in eugenics and parental influence, congregate in Salem. Let the scaffold be erected in the most spacious place, and as all stand in respect and reverence for the law, let this trembling Chinaman and these two men from Medford be led out and "hanged by the neck till they are dead."

And why not? Is this not the law? Are the children, the mothers, the citizens of the state not to see and know the workings of the law? Are we ashamed of the law? Shall we relegate to the hangman a duty at which we shudder, a duty which we would not do ourselves, a duty we would not with pride permit our children to do? If so, then must the law be changed. In the name of progress, in the name of humanity, I protest the hanging of Lem Woon and Spanos and Seymour.

H. F.

Proposes Timber Lands Policy.

Portland, Oct. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal—Much interest is being shown of late in the question of taxation of our timber lands. No doubt much injustice has been handed out to our timber-owners in the past. I think I may be able to present some views from a new angle.

Virgin timber, like the land on which it stands, is a natural resource, and, in economic terms, is land; but, unlike land the earth, it is subject to destruction or depreciation by fire, tornado and decay. The owner or holder of timber land takes all the risk in such holdings that he would in holding personal property or buildings, and without the advantage of revenue from use of such property; he depends rather upon the constant accretion of value by growth of timber and increased demands of society. If, after holding his land for 5 or 20 years, it is swept by fire, his investment is often a total loss. He may, under our present system of taxation, have paid in taxes an amount equal to one third or one half the value of his holdings. Alas! that fact avails him nothing. The state has not shared in the risk except perhaps to help maintain a fire patrol which has proved inefficient. His is a total loss.

Is there any relief for him? Is it fair for the state to compel him to assume all the risk, and at the same time pay taxes on property which may become a total loss, and from which he has no revenue or use until it is either sold or logged? Cannot the state adopt a system for obtaining revenue from our timber resources that will at once be fair to the holder of forest property and at the same time protect his rights in natural resources?

The tree standing in its native forest is in its true sense land. When separated from the stump it at once becomes personal property, but the right to so separate it should be a function of the state, and so recognized. The state should have an accounting for such act from the beneficiary of such act, and it is this point I wish to bring to your attention. The owner should not be compelled to pay a tax upon the thing he cannot use and that it may be against an enlightened public policy to allow him to use. The state should use its proper function in the mutual protection of both itself and the owner in a manner that will conserve the highest interests of its whole people. The owner should be protected in a just return for his capital invested, but not be allowed to absorb more than a fair proportion of the social value or increment produced in his timber by social growth or demands of society through growth of population.

No doubt it would be considered an equitable division of the yearly increment of value to allow the owner to retain 65 per cent and the state 35 per cent, said amount to be passed to the credit of the state each year in the same manner in which taxes are levied, to be paid over to the state on computation at any time when sale of any specific part or quantity of such property is made, or in case timber is cut, the state always being a party in interest in such transaction as its interests may appear. Thus the owner becomes exempt from all taxes until returns are had for his timber, and the state shares the risk of loss in case of its destruction, thereby removing the usual temptation to force timber onto the market.

This should involve, first, a true record of the present cost, including purchase price, interest on same to present time at, say, 10 per cent less taxes, and any other expense to present time, as a basis of true present value, same to be entered upon the books of the county in which said timber is located; second, a true record of all subsequent sales or cutting of timber or loss by fire or otherwise.

By this plan of handling our timber we may bring order and efficiency out of chaos.

ALANSON M. HINES.

The School Survey "Scoop."

Portland, Or., Oct. 27.—To the Editor of The Journal—The Oregonian says it had "ample and direct authority" to publish the school survey. If it had such authority, it is susceptible of proof. Let the public have the proof of such authorization, or the Oregonian will stand convicted in the public mind of a grave infraction of journalistic ethics.

Its cheap sneers at the Oregon Daily Journal, which caught it "with the goods," will not tend to mitigate the seriousness of its offense, in the minds of right-thinking people.

The Oregonian would have a "release" of the report at the same time as other papers, but it wanted a "scoop"—to steal a march, and be first with the "news," and it succeeded, but at what a sacrifice of principle! The Oregonian may cherish the hallucination that it can "fool all the people all the time," but that has never yet been accomplished, and in making the attempt it only makes itself ridiculous, and gains nothing but the contempt of the public. In conclusion, I say to the Oregonian, "Let us have the proof."

NEWSPAPER READER.

Commission and Salaries.

Portland, Oct. 27.—To the Editor of The Journal—In your issue of October 23 I see Commissioner Bigelow disagrees with the rest of the council in the matter of cutting and raising salaries, and he is right. The place for salary reduction to begin would be the big ones, and in all fairness they, the mayor and commissioners, ought to commence on their own, cutting them in half, and then they would have good, fat salaries. I wish you had given the name of the member who resented his interference. It may not be a parallel case, but it puts me in mind of a story of a mate of a vessel who was giving his opinion to the captain on some matters relating to the sailing of the ship. The captain told him to go and attend to his part of the ship and he would attend to his part of the ship. The mate went forward and cast anchor and came back and reported to the captain that he had anchored his part of the ship and the captain could do as he liked with his part.

GEORGE OLDRIGHT.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Evidently Sulzer's borrowing capacity is not exhausted.

• •

Mrs. Pankhurst can't reasonably complain of American newspapers; they all notice her extensively.

• •

The glamorous, sun-glinted haze of languorous autumn days turns leisurely, behold, to every hue of gold!

• •

Isn't the immodesty or evil-mindedness in the carping critics of women's apparel rather than in the women?

• •

No doubt the Lord loves the Methodists and so do most other people, but somehow they can't all love one another all the time and under all circumstances.

• •

President Wilson is not avowedly in favor of women suffrage, but he is well supplied with common sense, so at once overruled the New York immigration officers and ordered Mrs. Pankhurst admitted.

• •

The Portland morning paper assumes that ex-Ambassador Wilson performed some exceedingly patriotic and even very "heroic" services in Mexico, and insists that his advice should have been followed. But most Americans are probably pleased that Assassin Huerta was not "recognized," and believe that President Wilson has done about as well as any man could with a very difficult problem.

• •

Very flossy and jet is your beaked head-dress, audacious jaybird fair; very variedly blue is your back, I confess; you're a beauty that one might think to bless, as you preen in the gold-glinted air. But they say you're a thief, and cruel and mean, and as bad as a ravening hawk, and I know, though your eye is clear and keen, and your dress almost the finest seen, you have a horrible squawk. But say, brilliant jay, a few posts away, sweetly warbles a tiny brown mite; he cannot boast fine clothes, but his song cheers my heart just right. So, squawking jay, you may hike away, when winter's storms are heard; you may starve for me, but crumbs there'll be for the sweet singing little brown bird.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Baker's new municipal lighting plant is all but finished and the Democrat says it seems the next few weeks will see the plant and power line to the city ready for business.

• •

Going back to the days of 1888, the Prineville Review's old files disclose that banjo picking was a fashionable and very popular accomplishment for young ladies, and Professor William Summers was prepared to give lessons in the art.

• •

One of the most important institutions in Albany, the Democrat says, is the public library, which is well supplied with the best literature, is under capable management and will soon be housed in a neat and attractive building.

• •

The library spirit has made itself manifest in the east side school at Grants Pass, which has instituted a library day. One day each week all pupils contribute one or more pennies for the public library, the money to be used for the purchase of juvenile reading matter.

• •

Newport News: The city council has shut the cows out of the town, has passed an ordinance to keep the chickens shut up, is preparing another ordinance to prevent horses running loose and it will now be in order to pass another measure to keep the dogs chained and the cats muzzled and then maybe we'll have peace.

• •

"Residents of Umatilla county, accustomed to the delightful fall weather which usually prevails there," says the Pendleton East Oregonian, "may not appreciate the brand of day which is being served up now, but visitors from other sections of the country are unstinted in their praise of what they consider ideal weather."

• •

Eugene Register: E. J. Finneran, proprietor of the Eugene Guard, who recently purchased the San Jose, Cal., Morning Times, yesterday purchased the San Jose Evening Herald. He at once announced his intention to combine the two papers, issuing them as the Times-Herald. The transfer to the new owner will be made on November 3.

PRESIDENT IN LEGISLATIVE ARENA

From the Lewiston Tribune.

Many of these persons who complain with frequency and fierceness of "executive interference" with congress seem to have grotesque ideas of the constitutional division of the powers of government and the resultant doctrine that neither branch shall interfere with the other. They characterize it as interference if the president shall endeavor to give counsel or advise congress, or if he shall attempt to acquaint that body with national opinion as distinguished from the local opinion of the member's district. Evidently they believe it the office of the president to sit like a bump on a log, twiddling his thumbs and silently praying, notwithstanding that congress may be rushing itself or the country to the demnition bow-wows.

The people of this country have long since ceased to hold any such conception, if they ever had it, of the president's duties, nor do they understand the word "interference" as do these touchy critics. They have learned from a rather close view of the national sport that to interfere means to "obstruct improperly the course of a base-runner between bases." Catching a man out isn't interference, nor is coaching the player to enable him to reach the home plate interference.

President Huerta certainly interfered with the Mexican congress when he threw 110 of the deputies into prison and dissolved the body. Governor Sulzer would have been interfering had he been convicted of using the veto power in order to procure or to defeat legislation. President Roosevelt probably interfered when he put the secret service on the tracks of members opposing his policies, unearthing circumstances which exist in pretty nearly everyone's life which it were better not to drag out, especially when distorted and colored by prejudiced hands. There are a great many other unfair and mischievous means of controlling some members of congress, which do not imply violence, fear or blandishment.

But the people look to the president for leadership, even in the matter of legislation. He is the one man in position to lead; the one man who represents all of the people of all the states. His power arises from the very fact of the universality of his representation. It is peculiarly his duty to overcome, by counsel and advice and open methods, deadlocks in congress resulting provincialism, or other cause. If to that end he shall invite the expression of public opinion, it is fitting.

In parliamentary nations, when the government suffers a defeat of its policies parliament is sent back to the electors to ascertain their will. In this country we have not that method of ascertainment, and therefore it devolves upon the president to represent the electors to that extent.

No president, so far as the record shows, has more faithfully performed this duty, nor has any performed it with greater tact, patience and kindness, than has President Wilson. Nor are his activities confined to his party, but constantly it is announced that conferences are held with leaders of the opposition party on the same terms as with those of his own party.

There has been no instance yet disclosed in which he has fouled or tripped a base-runner.

YOUR MONEY

By John M. Oskison.

The leaders of new Ireland are an able and enlightened group of men. They have expressed themselves most characteristically in the Irish Agricultural Organization society, and their purpose is to turn a pessimistic and poverty burdened people into a hustling and prosperous people.

One of the by-products of the big movement is a system of small loans to Irish farmers by special cooperative credit banks. The system, as it has been worked out, is simple—simple enough, one would think, to be copied by any rural community in this country.

All that this sort of a cooperative bank is can be stated very briefly: A number of responsible neighbors come together and agree to make themselves responsible for a certain sum of borrowed money—say, $5000; they agree to pay interest on that sum at 5 per cent, and when it is in their possession they lend it in small amounts to other neighbors who need money to make some needed improvement, to buy a cow or horse, or a piece of machinery which will save labor or increase production.

The small loans are made at a slightly higher rate of interest than the associated neighbors pay for the lump sum, and this difference is figured to be sufficient to pay for the needed blanks, the required bookkeeping, and to meet possible losses.

But losses ought not to come, though delays in repayment of some of the small loans would have to be counted on. Small fines for failure to repay loans promptly would meet that situation.

The plan works in Ireland. It is informal enough to please the farmer, the cost of credit is cut to the lowest notch, and getting the loans, as well as repaying them, is made convenient for the borrowers.

A similar plan ought to work in the majority of American communities. No elaborate government investigation is needed to show that it is a simple and sensible solution.

To Raise Strike Fund.

The convention of the United Association of Plumbers, Steamfitters, Gasfitters and Steamfitters' Helpers of the United States and Canada, which has just closed its sessions in Boston, authorized the raising of a defense fund of $225,000. All the members of the organization are to be assessed for the fund, which is to be used in case of big strikes. The convention voted also to increase the death benefit from $100 to $1000.

IN EARLIER DAYS

By Fred Lockley.

"I am 65 years old and I am a native son of Oregon," said F. M. Wilkins, of Eugene. "In 1875 I went into the drug business with Dr. T. W. Shelton, whose daughter, Mrs. R. M. McMurphy, was born here and is still a resident of Eugene. After clerking for Dr. Shelton for some years, I bought him out. When I first went to school at Eugene in 1863 and 1864, Eugene had about 600 people. Eugene, as you know, was named after Eugene Skinner, whose daughter, Mrs. John Kinsey, lives in Portland. Mrs. Kinsey's daughter is the wife of Mr. Krausse, who, with his brother, owns a wholesale shoe company in Portland.

"Quite a few of the old-timers are still left. Prior F. Blair, who came here in 1848 and was one of the earliest settlers, has two daughters living here, Mrs. Charles Croner and Mrs. Mary Huff.

"In 1862, when my father was in the legislature, he introduced a memorial attempting to lay the foundation for a state university to be located at Eugene. Judge Bean was in one of the first classes to graduate from the university.

"You hear of a good many of the depredations and outrages committed by the Indians in the early days, but my father and mother always disagreed with the sentiment that the only good Indian was a dead Indian. As a matter of fact, when my parents came here in 1847, the Indians treated them with unfailing kindness. One of the Indian troubles that occurred shortly after the arrival of my father and mother took place at Marquam in 1847. An Indian had erected a framework and was drying some meat and some berries. A white man came along, tore down the framework and gave the stuff to his hogs. The Indian tracked the white man to his cabin and took some split peas from the cabin. The white man followed the Indian's trail and when he came up with him he killed him. The Indians gathered to avenge the death of their tribesman, but the matter was finally compromised. If you will go into the matter carefully, as I have done, you will find that in no single instance were the Indians the ones to violate a treaty or to break their word. The whites have rarely kept faith with the Indian. An Indian is like a child. Any man who has ordinary shrewdness can defraud an Indian just as he could a child. Take for example the promise we made to the Nez Perce Indians that they could have the Wallowa country as long as grass grows or water runs. We kept our promise until we wanted the land and then without any compunction broke faith with the Indians and told them to leave the country which had been solemnly ceded to them by a treaty ratified by the Indian commissioners and the Indian chiefs. It is not to be wondered at that they resented the violation of the treaty. This is just one instance of which you can find scores of similar instances. My mother always became indignant when the Indians were cheated, defrauded and imposed upon.

"I am very much interested in the forthcoming referendum on the state university appropriations. I hope that the people will prefer to put money in educational institutions rather than the same money in jails, insane asylums and other correctional institutions. It is a well known fact that a large majority of prisoners are men who have had no education. Oregon needs a high type of citizenship and it is false economy to refuse to support her educational institutions. For many years I have been chairman of the promotion committee of the Commercial club here. In fact, for the past 15 years I have given most of my time to the work of advancing Eugene's interests. A man should have some altruistic work, some interest in life to keep him active and vigorous and working for the advancement of Eugene has been my job for many years."

Pointed Paragraphs

Some home runs are made on sewing machines.

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When you search for honor among thieves take a policeman along.

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Love couldn't be otherwise than sweet, as its principal ingredient is taffy.

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If there were no women in the world, there would be no bad husbands. Nor good ones.

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Don't waste time explaining your actions; people prefer to draw their own conclusions.

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There's always room at the top—which reminds us that ball gowns should be revised upward.

• •

Nine out of ten men who claim to have been driven to drink trotted up to the trough of their own accord.

A Good Eye.

From the Chicago Post.

The Youngstown Telegram recounts, in the spirit of jest, the visit of a little Ohio boy to New York.

"Well, son," asked his mother when he returned home, "what impressed you most in the city?"

After a moment's reflection the boy answered: "While we were riding on the elevated one evening I saw a fat man on a little second-story back porch dancing up and down with a chair on his head, trying to amuse a little baby in a swing."

That boy ought to make a great reporter. He got a "human interest" story out of New York that has all the "white lights" banalities neatly "scooped." It is a revelation to most of us to learn that there are fat men in Manhattan who care to amuse their children by dancing on back porches with chairs on their heads.

The Woman's Page

DAILY FEATURES THAT ARE WORTH WHILE

"Illustrated Fashion Chat."—By Lillian Young.

"Little Stories for Bedtime."—By Thornton W. Burgess.

FREQUENT FEATURES OF WIDE APPEAL

"Hints for Girls."—By Jessie Roberts.

"For Shopper and Housekeeper."—By Vella Winner.

"Health and Beauty Helps."—By Abigail Moore.

"On the Human Side."—By Edna K. Wooley.

"Fairy Stories Retold."—By Anne Bunner.

"In Our School."—By Paul West.

In The Journal