

THE JOURNAL

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with the present red tape and endless delays, which are both needless and unjust.
Senator Root told the committee that present codes of procedure have created "acute, adroit lawyers" who are able to hinder justice with trivial technicalities.

Mr. Taft said there is nothing in the constitution to prevent radical reform of federal jurisprudence. He declared that lawyers are practically a unit in favor of simple rules of practice for all courts, federal and state.

The opinion of these men, prominent in national affairs and leaders among lawyers, should have weight. There should be a radical change, as they suggest.

THE attention of the Democratic members in the American senate and house is called to the following utterances in the Baltimore platform:

Our platform is one of principles which we believe to be essential to our national welfare. Our pledges are made to be kept when in office, as well as relied upon during the campaign.

There are open records of the 1913 session. There is no room for debate over what transpired. A sample occurrence is a message sent both houses by the Governor February 25, 1913.

Mr. Bryan was right. The Democratic party was right at Baltimore in declaring "our pledges are made to be kept when in office, as well as relied upon during the campaign."

Repeat of either will be a policy of surrender, of un-Americanism and of scuttles.
TAXING REAL ESTATE

NEW YORK'S legislature is considering a bill, the purpose of which is to lessen tax burdens upon improvements to real estate. If the measure becomes a law, land will be assessed at its full value and the assessment placed against improvements will be gradually reduced to 50 per cent of their true value.

The bill has aroused a vigorous protest from influential sources, the Wall Street Journal, taking up the cudgel against it. The claim is made that New York cannot afford to wipe out any portion of her assessed valuation because of the influence it would have upon New York City's ability to bond itself.

The purpose of people behind the bill is to encourage the improvement of real estate and to discourage speculative holding of land. The speculator's profits represent unearned wealth, and the Saturday Evening Post distinguishes between gratuitous and earned property.

THE United States senate by a vote of 47 to 14 refused last Monday to table Senator Chamberlain's resolution proposing a woman suffrage amendment to the federal constitution. This action does not necessarily mean that the resolution will pass in the senate, but it has large significance in showing the trend of sentiment.

Only once in the history of the country has a resolution for equal franchise rights been voted on by the United States senate. That

was in 1887, when the senate by a vote of 16 for to 34 against, with 26 absent, rejected a proposed amendment. It is possible, of course, that the Chamberlain resolution will not pass that body, but the vote on tabling it indicates that if woman suffrage is rejected by the present Congress, the resolution will meet defeat in the house of representatives.

Whatever happens to the measure in this Congress, the fact is apparent that the movement in behalf of votes for women has demonstrated its growth and present strength. A woman suffrage measure has been reported favorably by a majority of the senate committee on six different occasions. But only once has it received a unanimous report, and that was last June when the Chamberlain resolution was presented.

The house has been less favorable to the movement. In 1890 the house judiciary committee by a majority vote recommended action on the subject, and prior to that time several minority reports favoring passage were made to the lower chamber.

It is only a matter of time when women will secure the necessary two third's vote in both senate and house. They can well afford to follow the policy of watchful waiting.

Wool men are compelled to repeat their prejudices. They predicted that the sheep industry would be ruined by free wool. We have free wool and the first sale of wool is one cent a pound higher than a year ago.

Wool buyers started the season with an attempt to purchase fleece wool on contract at two cents below last year's market, but failed to make the scheme work and are now endeavoring to buy wool on contract at two to three cents per pound higher than the price at which they started the season.

THE BLUE SKY LAW
THE constitutionality of Oregon's blue sky law is being tested in the courts. It is alleged that the act impairs the freedom of contract that it violates the interstate commerce provision of the federal constitution, and that prescribed penalties are excessive.

Pleadings filed in circuit court cover practically every accusation which could be brought against the law, and for that reason the pending case is important. Its final determination will fix the status of the measure. The complaints are comprehensive, and it should be possible for the courts, if they find defects in the act, to point out its weak spots.

The United States court for the eastern district of Michigan has declared that state's blue sky law in conflict with the federal constitution. On the other hand, another United States court has held that Iowa's law does not violate any provision of that instrument.

Attorneys for the plaintiff in the Michigan case claimed that the blue sky laws of Oregon, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Ohio, Vermont, North and South Dakota and West Virginia were open to some or all of the objections held to be fatal by the Michigan federal court. It is therefore evident that the United States supreme court must finally determine constitutional questions growing out of allegations concerning interstate commerce.

But blue sky laws are here to stay. There is no virtue in the assertion concerning Oregon's law that there is no adequate reason for the police powers delegated by the act. The statement that "there does not exist any necessity for the law for the health, safety, morals or essential welfare of people of the state" will not bear scrutiny.

Nobody questions the constitutionality of laws which seek to prevent highway robbery. Why should the state be prevented from safeguarding people against daylight robbery by conscienceless corporations which are organized to prey upon the unwary? If such a law is unconstitutional, the constitution should be changed.

There are three fatherless children and a widow at 1456 East Harrison street, Portland. William Sutton was the bread winner and protector, and he had a pistol last Wednesday evening, and Sutton was in his room. There was a report, and they found him on the floor with a wound from a pistol bullet that entered the right temple and passed out the left side of the head on the floor yesterday. Whether from suicide or accident, three fatherless children and their widowed mother know to its depth the misery that the pistol brings. It is the great tool of death, made to widows women and orphanize little children, and it does its work with frightful efficiency.

Though absent on account of being quarantined, Mrs. Frank Myers was unanimously elected by delegates from the Parent-Teacher Association to represent that organization at the National Congress of Mothers to be held in Washington April 22 to 27. The election is a tribute to Mrs. Myers for her record as president of the Parent-Teacher Association. During her term she has brought every Grammar school in Portland into the organization, and by her achievement has given Portland a distinction beyond that of any other city in the country in that field.

The Retail Grocers' Association has asked for passage of an ordinance to require the closing of all grocery stores on Sunday. Regardless of any other reason, those who keep places open Sundays and thereby toil seven days a week ought to be saved from themselves. Society harms itself and the race by permitting a business slavery that knows no day of rest.

Letters from the People
(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length, must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender, and should not be returned unless the name published, he should so state.)

Discussion is the greatest of all reforms. It rationalizes everything it touches, it breaks down the barriers of prejudice, it throws them back on their reasonableness. If they are reasonable, it rubs them out; if they are unreasonable, it rubs them out. It is the only way to get to the bottom of things. —Woodrow Wilson

Hay-Panucoite Interpretation.
Portland, March 4.—To the Editor of The Journal—Your recent editorial comments touching the controversy over the question of tolls and national honor now being waged against the exemption law in favor of American shippers in coastwise traffic through the Panama canal, so far, I have failed to notice in all that has been said in construction of the terms of the Hay-Panucoite treaty, and the genuineness of the treaty. That portion of the treaty in controversy reads as follows:

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

While in a sense this is in part a treaty, yet it is more strictly a concession, specific in its terms, and a traffic through the canal, on the part of the United States. Ownership in construction and maintenance is in the United States, and the right of tolls to foreign shippers, is a concession to such on equality each with the other, on just and equitable charges. The concession is not a general one, but is specific only as to foreign shippers, and have no application directly, specifically or implicitly touching American shippers or the canal by the government of the United States.

The only guarantee to foreign shippers as to equal privileges is that the terms shall be just and equitable, while to American shippers the question of tolls is one of domestic policy to be adopted by the government. The terms are specific only as to foreign shippers, and have no application directly, specifically or implicitly touching American shippers or the canal by the government of the United States.

Temperance, Not Prohibition.
Gervais, Or., March 4.—To the Editor of The Journal—Though it be but a nom de plume, we lift our hat to the fair name "Mother." No mother's name need be put on the list of drunkards for drunkards can be put on the blacklist and anyone giving them liquor prosecuted.

Agreeing with O. E. Frank of Hood River, we believe that the law, designed to cooperate with the law, disposes should be forced to a higher level, saloons should be limited, and licenses abolished as a graft. Any man who has a saloon should be a member of the prohibitionist. I did not nickname, as did she, quoting Josh Billings, the "Mother" who had a saloon, but she was a wife—for drunkards can be put on the blacklist and anyone giving them liquor prosecuted.

Taxes and City Payrolls.
Portland, Or., March 6.—To the Editor of The Journal—I am a working man, and I pay taxes. Last year I was \$60 less. I pay taxes on \$2000 worth of property, my home. I pay by installment, \$100 a month, and about \$200 in street improvement, and my taxes are about \$60. I think this is too heavy a burden to carry, having a \$2000 worth of property, and working 40 hours a day and not always steady work.

Free Tolls.
Martin's Bluff, Wash., March 5.—To the Editor of The Journal—According to the Panama Canal Act, the Panama canal was built for the benefit of American shipping and the lumber trusts of Washington and Oregon. The people of the east are not considered. If they

A FEW SMILES

Visiting New York for the first time Uncle Henry happened to figure in an amusing runaway accident. When he was in the city he naturally rescued his anxious nephew exclaimed: "You must have been frightened half to death!" "No, indeed," replied Uncle Henry. "To tell the truth, I hardly knew the difference. I've been traveling at a pretty lively pace ever since I struck town."—Judge's Quarterly.

"Did I understand you to say you had an alibi?" "I am a poor man and my lawyer wanted \$25 extra to furnish one," Judge's Quarterly.

"The breakfast had been a silent one, and Mr. Crabshaw failed to eat his scattered oats, a fact that did not escape his better half. The conversation took the following form: Mrs. Crabshaw—According to you, the writer does not desire to be in the United States. Crabshaw—Not at all, my dear. I think it would be fine to stuff to perfect the sidewalk during slippery weather.

A little girl had sent back her plate for chicken two or three times, and had been helped bountifully to all the other rich things that go to make a good dinner. "Final," she observed, looking rather disconsolately at her unfinished plate of pudding. "What's the matter, Dora?" asked Uncle John. "You look mournful."

St. Johns, Or., March 2.—To the Editor of The Journal—Your recent editorials criticizing the president's change, or stand regarding the Panama tolls proposition constitutes most wholesome and refreshing reading, and certainly demonstrates the independent character of The Journal. Much could be done to save the day and to encourage congressmen to stand firm for the right in this matter, if persons acquainted with eastern members would write to them along the lines of your editorials. Both senators and representatives appreciate letters of the above suggested character, and they would be glad to have constructive matters by a letter writing campaign, the same furnishing the members food for reflection.

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By John M. Oskison.
In January and February of this year, there occurred a mild stampede of investors toward the bond markets. A lowering of the interest rate on borrowed money, and a consequent expansion of credit, acted as a panic on the average observer have predicted, at the same time, an extraordinary rush of depositors to the savings bank.

Washington where a man could buy a home and where there are mills or mining. Would Centralia be a good place? Kindly inform me through your paper of some good, live town in Washington. M. A. ROY. [Centralia has both mills and mines. The same advantages are possessed as for the family who live in Oregon. The Inquirer might do well to address the Commercial clubs of towns in which there seems a probability that he might become suitably located.]

White Was an Architect.
Preston, Or., March 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—To settle a dispute, I should like to know the name of the architect who designed the house that was built by Harry K. White? V. J. ANDERSON.

Seeks Good Location.
Portland, March 5.—To the Editor of The Journal—I would like to know of some good small, growing town in

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE
Too many unemployed men really want to remain unemployed, but to be well fed.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS
Street paving and a municipal light plant are the new spaces being considered by the Better Wallows club.

HUERTA AND HIS YEAR OF CHAOS
Written in four parts for the United Press by an American in Mexico. Part III.

With the two Maderos and Suarez murdered, and countless others who opposed him "mysteriously missing," Huerta's dictatorship developed into a police department, the fire department and the street cleaning department, etc., are overladen with men, and half the forces would do just as well. This applies also to the working departments in all departments. Let the taxes be raised, the votes be counted, and let us cut the coat according to the cloth. CITIZEN.

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IN EARLIER DAYS

By Fred Lockley
Mrs. Jacob Kamm, who has lived in Portland all her life, is the connecting link between today and the way of the missionary, when Oregon was considered foreign territory.

Dr. Marcus Whitman, in the autumn of 1832, went east to secure additional missionaries for the work in Oregon. One of the first to enlist in the missionary work was Miss Narcissa Peenick of Frattburg, N. Y. Dr. Whitman and Miss Peenick were married in February, 1836. Within the next few weeks Dr. Whitman met Rev. H. Spaulding and his bride, who were by law to enable him to go to Oregon. Dr. Whitman told them of the greater need of the Indians beyond the Rockies, and they changed their destination and decided to go with Dr. Whitman. They were joined at Liberty, Mo., by William H. Gray of Utica, N. Y., the father of Mrs. Gray, who was also a missionary.

The Estacada fair committee has selected September 8 and 9 as the days for the fair, so that winning exhibits may be sent to the county fair, Canby, September 16 to 20.

Hood River's fire bell presents an unusual occasion. It only rings once in a year, and it is a very loud one. It is a bell which has been used for many years, and it is a very loud one. It is a bell which has been used for many years, and it is a very loud one.

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