THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON .....Publisher

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A firm faith is the best divinity; a good life the best philosophy; a clear conscience the best law; honesty the best policy, and temperance the best physic; living for both worlds is the wisest and best life.—Sir M. Hale.

YESTERDAY

NO LARRY SULLIVAN sat all day yesterday at a Portland polling place, gun in hand. No body of voters, held at bay by him, waited all day for a chance, and finally left the polls without voting, as used to be done in the old days.

No voters were bought at $1.50 to $5 per head and herded to the polls in groups of five and ten. There was no $20,000 of Lotan money and $15,000 of Simon money on hand to be used in carrying the primary.

No Simon supporters broke into a voting place where Mitchell men were canvassing the ballots in the belief that the Mitchell men were counting out Simon officials. No bunch of policemen, on orders from higher-ups, raided a voting place where the count was going on, and after arresting the election officials on trumped-up charges, carried off the ballot boxes, as was once done on the East Side.

It is different now. Riot and fighting, bribery and lawlessness on primary day have been superseded by tranquility, peace, good order and good manners. Every voting place in Portland yesterday was as orderly as a church service. No ward heelers stood around to buttonhole and bedevil voters. Any lady could go to the polls and deposit her ballot with as little molestation or embarrassment as in dropping a letter in the neighborhood mail box.

Everything was regular, orderly, dignified and tranquil. There was so little buzz about them that in some cases it was difficult to locate the polling places.

It is a mighty change from Larry Sullivan's day to yesterday. It is a long step in civilization. It is a splendid purification of the ballot and a marvelous fumigation of politics.

It is a change brought about in the face of heavy odds. Every inch of progress from the bribery and riot of a few years ago to the tranquility of yesterday was disputed. It was only by dint of perseverance by the forces of progress that peace and good order at Oregon primaries were finally achieved.

The Journal points to yesterday with a glow of satisfaction in the fact that it helped to bring about such a day.

MELLEN'S COMING EVIDENCE

REVELATIONS that will startle the country and be a dreadful indictment of certain American financiers, are expected when Charles S. Mellen returns to testify before the Interstate Commerce Commission next Tuesday.

His anxiety to testify leads to the expectation that he will tell all he knows. He has for months been under fire and humiliation on account of the near wrecking of the New Haven railroad, and it is assumed that he will bare all the details of the frenzied operations and place the responsibility where it belongs.

Enough is already known to make certain that if Mellen tells all he knows, modern manipulations of some great railroad properties will receive a shock that will shake the whole business world to its foundations.

The fall of the New Haven road from a position of primacy to bankruptcy has already amazed the country. It was one of the most splendid properties in the railroad world, but under a system of stock jobbing and dizzy manipulation that Mr. Mellen is now to tell about, it has sunk to the level of the lowliest and most famished railroad line, and that under the pilotage of J. P. Morgan and the Rockefellers.

One of the things already known by which the New Haven was brought to ruin is the case of the Westchester road. It is illuminative of the process of the looting.

The old Westchester Company, formed in 1872, went bankrupt in 1875 and did nothing for 29 years. Early in 1904 the Westchester Company received a franchise from the New York Board of Aldermen; vetoed by Mayor McClellan, the franchise was again passed. About that time $100,000 in a down town New York bank changed possessors, and immediately after a six-million-dollar contract for work on the New Haven was secured by a Tammany concern.

About this time, the stock of the Westchester road had been bought by the late J. P. Morgan, William Rockefeller and George Miller for the New Haven. They paid more than $5,000,000, though less than $500,000 had been expended; though the road had slept 29 years; though President Mellen himself protested in vain that the stock was worth "ten cents a pound," and the New Haven already too heavily loaded.

As a final act in the transaction, the Westchester road, which only cost $22,000,000, went into the New Haven system at $33,000,000—the difference, as Interstate Commerce Commissioner Prouty said, "vanishing into thin air."

As to how the money vanished and where it went, is expected to be a part of the story of Charles S. Mellen will tell to the world in his testimony before the Interstate Commerce Commission next week.

In all, 336 subsidiary corporations were joined to the New Haven before Morgan and Rockefeller finally accomplished its ruin. The financiers seem not to have run the New Haven railroad as a railroad, but as a bank, a stock broker, a trust company, a gas works, a steamship line, a trolley system, and everything else but a railroad. If all the facts come out, Mellen's testimony will constitute indictment of Big Business that will outrage decency and add enormously to the impulse for a national house cleaning.

THE REED CONFERENCE

IT IS a good thing to have conferences like that at Reed College.

Its purpose is the uplift and welfare of mankind. It deals with issues for forwarding social and industrial betterment. It concerns itself more with man and less with property.

We have been interested more in the conservation of our hogs than with the conservation of our people. Ohio recently appropriated $25,000 for hog serum and nothing for diphtheria serum. In Portland during 1911, we spent 13 cents per capita for protection of health and $1.95 for protection of property from fire. We are, this year, spending 25 cents for health and $3.75 for prevention of fire losses.

We quarantine the state against diseased sheep. We forbid importation of infected fruit trees. Our bent has run for so long a period on the side of property that we have almost forgotten the hopes and health and needs of men.

Three million people are sick each year and their maladies shorten their lives 15 years. Of the 1,500,000 who die in the United States annually, 630,000 are carried off by diseases that are preventable.

These ponderous facts raise questions of proper housing for the poor. They appeal for wider public attention to sanitation. They challenge public interest in building regulations by which to safeguard the lives of families whose lack of information denies to them the knowledge so essential to perfect life conditions.

In the present conference, Reed College is radiating all that science has yet revealed, and science has revealed much for the protection and uplift of human lives. Science made the Isthmus of Panama a health resort, and the rendezvous of tourists. Panama used to be a slaughter house of men.

A WOMAN'S EXPERIENCE

HAS the Reed College Conference heard of the dependent Chicago woman who, during 18 months, received less than $300 in aid, while $5000 was expended inquiring into her condition?

The details of the case are illuminating. Seventeen charitable organizations, two courts, 82 individual investigators, 11 physicians, and three nurses shared in the treatment of her case. There were no less than 105 visits and interviews regarding it. The facts were brought out in a legislative investigation. It seems incredible that there could be other cases like it. Yet it is common observation that the whole tendency of institutional charity is to expend much to do little. Overhead expense and red tape eat voraciously into charitable funds.

Among the institutions of Chicago, there is a United Charities to co-ordinate the work. It was through that body that the woman referred to was given aid. In discussing the various activities on the list of its topics, Reed College Conference might emphasize in a general way the simplification of the processes and an increase in the efficiency in all expenditures of charitable funds.

ANOTHER SHRUNKEN FORTUNE

IT BEATS all how fortunes shrink when the tax collector comes in contact with them. Take for instance the fortune of Charles W. Murphy, who achieved fame by being manager of a Chicago baseball club. When he was forced out of the club he boasted: "I ran a shoestring into a million dollars and sold my stock in the club for half a million." He is now called upon by the tax assessor to reconcile his boast with a schedule he filed with the assessor listing personal property to the value of $6650.

It is probable that Murphy now appreciates the virtue of silence.

A TEMPLE

AT SHEDD next Wednesday, there is to be a school rally, in which several districts will participate.

It is a splendid purpose when neighborhoods gather to emphasize the rural school. The whole story of the little red school house has never been told. Its glory in the service of the republic is immeasurable.

No investment is comparable with the money spent on the common schools. Every school house is a fortress for the national defense. The school books are the artillery and the rifles with which to defeat foes from without or within. The classrooms are the recruiting stations for drilling the real soldiers of the nation. The common school teachers are the recruiting officers and drill masters of the grandest army the world has ever seen.

It was not Bismarck's army so much as Bismarck's school houses in Prussia that gathered the little neighboring kingdoms under the leadership of Prussia, and created out of the German speaking peoples, one of the greatest nations of the world.

It was the training in the school houses that produced German soldiers who went to the front and defeated the Austrians in a six weeks' war and the French in a six months' conflict, and it was out of those campaigns that Germany was born.

Bleeding Mexico is unanswerable proof of what neglect of the little red school house leads to. Of the Mexicans, 75 per cent, according to a late report of the minister of education, are illiterate. It was because of that illiteracy that an assassin was able to climb over the corpse of Madero to a throne, and able to overthrow the national constitution, imprison congress, abolish the supreme court and trample the ballot boxes under foot.

Let us forward the American school house. It is a temple of civilization.

WHY TAXES ARE HIGH

THE New York Voter's Legislative Association has published a bulletin which brings out in bold relief the need of legislative reform.

The recent short session of the New York legislature resulted in the passage of nearly 800 bills of which the governor vetoed 223. Of those that passed muster many would probably have been killed by him had he sufficient time to examine them more thoroughly. The legislature was faction ridden and far from harmonious and it failed to pass the essential supply bills, making an extra session necessary. Yet it put 500 enactments on the statute books.

Is it to be wondered at that there should be talk of commission government for states, one house legislatures, the initiative and referendum, and agitation for other drastic reform?

The inefficiency of legislatures will not be tolerated much longer. A fit executive will not be compelled to veto hundreds of ill digested bills and bills with jokers and then be charged with responsibility for excessive taxation.

A SENSIBLE RESOLVE

THE girls of the 1914 graduating class of the La Grande public schools have decided that their graduation dresses shall be limited in cost to $5 each.

The La Grande girls are to be congratulated on their possession of good horse sense and it is hoped that they have established what will prove to be a precedent for the entire state. The theory of graduation day is that all are starting out in life on an equal footing and in keeping with this thought there should be a modesty of dress within the means of all. A poor girl should not be embarrassed by her lack of an expensive gown.

The La Grande girls have shown wisdom by initiating the reform themselves. Reforms thus begun are reforms that reform.

CHANGING CONDITIONS

THE merger of two large newspapers in Chicago is not only significant of the waning strength of the morning newspaper but it also indicates the gradual revolution in American political conditions. For the first time since the Civil War Chicago has no straight-out Republican paper. Its journalism now is independent or opportunist. Only a few years ago every newspaper in the city was an organ of the Republican party.

The drift of the Chicago press is but a reflection of that greater current of political independence among the voters at large. The barriers of party organization are crumbling on every hand and party prejudice is losing its force.

OTHER EXPLORERS

COLONEL ROOSEVELT'S discovery of a Brazilian river is rivaled in South America by the University of Pennsylvania museum's Amazon expedition under the leadership of William C. Farrabee. He has reported the discovery of a dozen unknown native tribes, the navigation of a number of unknown rivers and the placement on the map of South America's new territory in northern Brazil and southern Guiana.

The expedition spent a year in the Amazon basin and encountered severe hardships emerging from the jungles bareheaded, barefooted, hungry and fever stricken. Its experience was similar to that of the Roosevelt party. Like Colonel Roosevelt, Dr. Farrabee had a narrow escape in navigating rapids and falls and like the colonel he lost 50 pounds in weight.

The rivalry of the two expeditions will be continued on the lecture platform and in the publication field in the future.

A strong reason for avoiding war with Mexico is the protection of the 15,000,000 gum chewers in the United States. Chicle the base of gum is secured from a tree in central Mexico and a war would cause a most distressing famine.

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 sets up its own conclusions in their stead."—Woodrow Wilson.

Declares Kansas Dry.

Portland, May 15.—To the Editor of The Journal—Referring to the article in Wednesday's Journal entitled "A Kansan on Kansas" by Charles Schmidt, I wish to correct what might otherwise be an erroneous impression. There may have been many saloons in the town of his birth; he says there were 150. If so, we cannot wonder at the position he takes on the prohibition question. It was, however, more than four years ago, as he states, that Governor Stubbs put the padlock on the saloons. Since that time Kansas has been a dry state.

For many years before that the prohibition law was enforced in the rural districts of the state. These same prohibition people caused laws to be enacted by which the evil effect of the use of alcohol was taught in the public schools of the state. During this time thousands of boys grew to manhood without knowing the taste of intoxicating liquors. About the time these young men were casting their first ballot Mr. Stubbs became a candidate for governor. He made the campaign pledge that if elected he would drive the saloons from the few remaining wet cities of the state. These cities were principally Wichita, Topeka, Leavenworth and Kansas City. Most of the violations of law were in the latter two, which border the at that time totally wet state of Missouri.

It was here doubtless that "Kansan" was born and reared. Considering his early environment, we may in charity excuse the attitude he assumes. When Governor Stubbs became a candidate for governor the young men rallied to his support. Stubbs was elected.

Governor Stubbs began to fulfill his campaign pledge by first putting the padlock on every saloon in Wichita, in regular order he did the same in Topeka, Leavenworth and Kansas City. The work was quickly done. It only took a few weeks. The liquor interests looked at the beginning of the work at Wichita as a joke. At Topeka the saloons began to close and hide their liquors. At Leavenworth, in their haste, they hired teams to transport their wet goods across the state line into Missouri, in the night. Their stampede was on, to get out of Kansas. The governor had named Kansas City as the next point of attack. A more stubborn resistance was made at this place, but the governor kept his pledge, and the padlock went on every saloon in Kansas City that did not vacate before his appearance.

It was a glad day for Kansas, but not for all. Owners of saloon buildings howled, said their property was rendered useless. In a few months, however, the good buildings were filled with legitimate lines of business. Property in those cities very soon made a notable advance in values. The undesirable and criminal class had followed the saloons across the line into Missouri. Bank accounts increased and taxes decreased perceptibly.

"Kansan" has the audacity to say that blind pigs and bootleggers took the place of the law breaking saloon. This is not true.

I am a Kansan by adoption only, but I heartily resent the insult that our native son has hurled at this progressive, independent, sober, hospitable and prosperous people.

GEO. C. SHEFLER.

Mr. Hollis' Figures Assailed.

Portland, May 15.—To the Editor of The Journal—W. S. Hollis must be a comedian with an awful disposition. Those who disagree with him are "maudlin Baalites," and he "would hang the liquor traffic as high as Haman"—meaning, I suppose, all who engage in its manufacture or sale. As a comedian, Brother Hollis "put a good one over" when he said, "I have lived in three states at the times they changed from saloons to prohibition, and know whereof I speak." But he got right away. Couldn't he make a living? If Oregon should go dry, he'd probably move again. This is not asked in a spirit of criticism. I'd go myself, as I also have a delicate stomach that rebels at prohibition whiskey.

Mr. Hollis says in his communication to The Journal, dated May 8, that "the tax rolls of Kansas are over $1,000,000,000 larger than tax rolls in Missouri, while Missouri has twice the population of Kansas, and in addition has the largest brewery this side of Milwaukee." He uses the tax rolls in this instance as a measure of wealth and seeks to convey the impression that Kansas has more wealth than Missouri. Now, let him take the World's Almanac for 1914, turn to page 229 and he will find, by consulting the two columns headed "Total Assessed Valuation" and "Per Cent Actual Value," that Missouri has property valued at $4,391,192,475, and Kansas has property valued at $2,746,865,967, or $3,052,073,297, depending on whether you use 90 or 100 per cent as the ratio of assessed valuation. Giving Kansas the benefit of the doubt, Missouri then has over a billion and a third more wealth than Kansas, instead of over a billion less, as he stated, or a slight difference of over two and a third billions between his assertion and the truth. If he is not satisfied with the World's Almanac, let him consult the latest government statistics on wealth, debt and taxation and he will find he is in just as bad a coat as by using the World's Almanac.

A. S. RUTH.

Wants a Sunday School.

Sherwood, Or., May 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—I live in a community not 25 miles from Portland, across the river in the hills from a place called Butteville. Here we live, on the west side of the Willamette river. There are no Sunday schools nearer than from six to nine miles that I know of, except to cross the river at Butteville and pay 15 cents ferry fare on each child. A poor family could not do that. We have a nice schoolhouse, called the West Butteville schoolhouse. If only some one would start a Sunday school here, there are at least 25 or 30 children attending school who are growing to manhood and womanhood without any study of the Bible or Christianity. While I am the mother of quite a large family and do not have time, or at least don't take time, to try to interest anyone, if only some one would start it and get the parents interested in sending the children, I think our community would be much better off. We ought to have a minister to come and preach to us at least once or twice a month. We live close to large cities, such as Portland, Oregon City and Salem, yet are far from civilization. My children are really getting skeptical on the subject, and I wish you would print this so others may unite and advise what to do in a case of this kind, also how to get a church or Sunday school started.

This letter is from a mother who was reared in a Methodist church and would really like to see her children grow up in the Christian faith.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Kansas—Wet or Dry?

Reedville, Or., May 14.—If Kansas is wet, as Carl Schmidt tells us then why don't the liquor interests quit aiming their shafts of ridicule at it? If Kansas is wet, why is it that the liquor interests dispose of their goods in a sneaking, under-handed way there? The argument that prohibition doesn't prohibit, and that it brings about "blind pig rule," has been shot to pieces. The law against the sale of booze is just as binding on a state as the law against murder. The great trouble is to enforce it. We can see law meted out to the letter against the poor, while too often the rich escape. The liquor business is a mighty business, and, like the Rockefeller interests, wants to run the country. They have become bigger than the law and the country. When we send these people to the penitentiary or deport them out of the country instead of imposing fines, which in the end the people must pay anyhow, we will begin to get some measure of relief. Kansas, according to its laws, is a dry state, and because of the notorious lawlessness of the liquor traffic, Carl Schmidt is in a position to tell us that Kansas is wet and always has been. What would Carl Schmidt have us do? Vote to perpetuate this notorious outlaw?

Ella M. Finney advances some tremendous figures in her argument for booze. Really, one would think the financial welfare of the entire country depended upon the existence of a business which depends upon human weakness and error for support.

O. E. FRANK.

"On Which Side?"

Sherwood, Or., May 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—The wets and the drys are very busy trying to prove they are both on the right side. There is only one right side, and that is the side God is on. We know that God is on the side of right and against all sin, so he is surely against such an awful sin as the liquor traffic. There can be no doubt about it.

The temperance cause has come to stay. God is the father of the thoughts and works of his people, and he will never forsake their just cause against such an awful monster of sin.

MRS. JANE REISER.

No Sympathy for "Victim."

Portland, May 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—"A Victim of a Dishonest Contractor," in Wednesday's Journal, is to be pitied, but he got what was coming to him, all right. The writer knows, for he is in position to know, and he also has been stung. If "Victim" will think back, he will recall that the lowest bid of the responsible men who gave him an estimate was $3000 or $3100, about 10 per cent higher. This is about the difference between the class "Victom's" contractor belongs to and the members of the Builders' Exchange, who are responsible. But just as there are such contractors who beat the owner and the material man, so there are such people as "Victim" and the writer, who think they can beat the contractor and get something for nothing, or a better job for less than it is worth, and they get soaked, though only once in a while one of them will have the nerve to "holler."

The very moment the contractor hedged on a bond, "Victim" should have dropped him, or at least asked him to show his card as a member of the Builders' Exchange, when he would have had some assurance that he was on the square.

Of course, there are many good contractors who are not members of the exchange, but how does the average "victim" know they are "good"? While a member has something worth while in the way of a guarantee, and he can be got at without "consulting the district attorney."

Any man who attempts to build a home or a house or any other building without a responsible architect and a responsible contractor in a city where the architects are as fine a class of men as can be found, and where there is a strong Builders' Exchange that only responsible contractors can join, and getting harder to pass examination for admittance all the time, deserves to get let down, and his futile wail against the "dishonest contractor" and the "law and its administrators" who have "robbed him" is as music to the honest, reliable contractor whose bid was only 10 per cent higher.

O. G. HUGHSON.
Secretary Builders' Exchange.

Newspaper Vilification.

Portland, May 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—I am only a private in the ranks, but I am a full blooded American, and my father helped preserve this Union. Therefore my blood has been made to boil when reading some of the editorials in the Oregonian. I have always been a Republican, but not the Oregonian stripe. The Oregonian is for everything against the United States government and common decency. It has been saying all manner of things against our president and Secretary of State Bryan, and if that is not aranrchy then I don't know what the word means. I was never of Bryan's political faith, but I lived within about four blocks of him for eight years and I can truthfully affirm that there is not a cleaner or more conscientious man in the United States. The Oregonian would do well to take some lessons of a man as good. I also have found our president has a record above reproach. But the Oregonian has villified him and made all manner of evil remarks about him.

Coming down to our own state, see how the Oregonian has censured our governor, all because he wanted to enforce the laws of the state and make it a fit place for respectable people to live in. The Oregonian, in my estimation, and also in that of a great many others that I know of, is the little end of nothing whittled down some, and I, with others, think if they can't be loyal to the old Stars and Stripes and to our president it would be better for our country if they would leave it.

A PRIVATE.

Concerning the Rose Festival.

Portland, May 15.—To the Editor of The Journal—I suggest that the Rose Festival management set the time for the show in April, instead of October, because they might not be so apt to miss the prime of the rose season a half a month or more. It looks now as if they may find it expedient this season to send to Alaska for a cargo of roses for the show or else confine the exhibit mainly to rose-petal beads.

A LOOKER-ON.

A FEW SMILES

"India, my boy," said an Irishman to a friend on his arrival at Calcutta, "is just the finest climate under the sun, but a lot of young fellows come out here, and they drink and they eat, and they drink and they die, and then they write home to their friends a pack o' lies and say it's the climate as has killed them."

Loads of instances have been told of the speaker's misinterpreting the look of interest on a hearer's face. But one of the best and most recent instances of that, in which the fall of the speaker's pride and inspiration was hardest occurred to John D. Wells of the Buffalo News, who does platform work. Once at Sherman, N. Y., he was pleased to notice an old lady who never took her eyes from his face. Afterward she said:

"I was mighty interested—"

"Yes, I was so glad you seemed to be enjoying my lecture."

"Oh, sir, it wasn't anything you said, but I was wondering if you were any relation to the Wellses in Jamestown."—Woman's World.

"I wish you to understand," he said, addressing his 10-year-old son, "that I am still the boss in this house."

"All right, dad," the boy replied, "but you're a coward to make the boast behind mother's back."

Two hard citizens were standing in a secluded spot talking confidentially. One of them suddenly sneaked away while the other stood on guard. Soon the first one was seen to emerge from a window and join his pal.

"Did yous git anyt'ing?" whispered the one in waiting.

"Naw, de guy what lives in dere is a lawyer," growled the other.

"Dat's hard luck," said his pal. "Did yous lose anything?"

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Selfishness—another name for self-love.

• •

The long distance phone makes the heart throb faster.

• •

If you don't want people to like you criticize what they do.

• •

All successful candidates are sure that the best men won.

• •

There's always room at the top—and always a crowd at the bottom.

• •

One of a boy's first ambitions is to get all the pie he can eat.

• •

A bunch of women don't seem to be having a very good time unless three or four are talking at once.

• •

Now the numerous "rallies" are all over, and many sad candidates will look back upon them as vain and delusive things.

• •

The many automobile wrecks and consequent injuries and even deaths seem to have no deterrent effect on the reckless driver.

• •

Niagara Falls is a much pleasanter climate in summer than Vera Cruz; but ambassadors and soldiers are quite different persons.

• •

The majority of Mexicans are landless, ignorant, "downtrodden," practically serfs; who can blame them much for whatever they do?

• •

The mystery of the "Mona Lise" smile has at last been solved. The artist caught her expression when she was trying to laugh at one of her husband's jokes.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

The Sentinel claims that Coquille's per capita of automobiles still remains the highest of any town in Oregon of no greater population.

• •

The Weston Leader is "glad to observe from the Democratic registration that there are at least 2360 intelligent voters in Umatilla county."

• •

A meeting of the Klamath Falls chamber of commerce at which the question of disbanding was to be considered was turned into a revival meeting, and a campaign of rejuvenation is now in progress.

• •

By recent order of mayor and council, members of Hood River's volunteer fire department are to be paid $2 per fire at which water is thrown, and also to be reimbursed for hospital or physician's bills as a result of any injuries received while fighting fire.

• •

Citizens of Metolius and farmers of the vicinity have installed telephones and formed a company known as the Metolius & Farmers Telephone Co. They will have free service to Madras, Prineville and Lamonta.

• •

Canyon City Eagle: This spring has seen a revival in government land locations. The Bear valley country is attracting attention. From present indications it is a safe prediction that during the next two years practically every foot of the open lands in the county will be taken up.

• •

"Two young women from the east, one a former stenographer in Minneapolis," says the Enterprise Record Chieftain, "have just finished building a barn on their homestead in the Three Lakes district. The homestead is in the name of Lucile Parent, and her sister Rosa formerly operated a typewriter. The girls constructed the entire building without help.

AN OREGON SENATOR ON OREGON

From Equity.

It is quite common for opponents of the initiative and referendum movement to refer to the experience of Oregon as a sort of "horrible example," of the excessive use of the initiative and referendum. In varying degrees of scorn, these critics point to the Oregon ballot, which carried along with the list of elective officials 32 legislative acts or proposals at one election on which the voters of the state were expected to express their final verdict.

Having this in mind when recently the writer met Senator Chamberlain of Oregon in Washington, the question was put to him frankly as to how he and the people of Oregon now look at the matter. And this is what the senator from Oregon had to say:

"In the first place, even the presentation of that large ballot, which has caused the unfavorable comment to which you refer, came along with the flood of ideas naturally connected with the transition from the old to the new system. This meant a tremendous amount of study on the part of the people about public needs and public remedies. If you could have seen, as I did during that campaign, thousands of people spending their evenings and spare time in study groups, with the list of propositions before them, reading the pamphlet explaining the proposition and formulating their opinions on the questions submitted, you would never have doubted the tremendous educational value of that referendum campaign to the electorate of Oregon.

"From that point of view alone it was worth all the cost. But anyone who imagines that the adoption of the initiative and referendum is going to mean the continuous and extensive use of that process upon a large and increasing number of public questions each year is entirely mistaken. We in Oregon know that the number of questions submitted at that election was due to the fact that the legislature had failed to respond to the progressive demands of the people. We know that a majority of the legislature was still in the hands of the corporate and predatory interests.

"We know that this is only a temporary condition, and that in a few years at the most it won't be necessary to use the initiative and referendum at all, or very seldom, in our state, for the legislature will have become responsive to the needs of the people. The initiative and referendum are not intended for constant use nor for use at all so long as the law making representatives do their duty. They simply stand in reserve as the weapons with which to express or enforce the reserved rights of the people.

"But there are no regrets over the adoption or the use of these instruments in my state. See the great steps in progress they have given us, such as the direct primary, the corrupt practices acts, workers' compensation and many acts for the improvement and extension of the public service."

And even though the use which Oregon has made seems to some to have been excessive, yet the referred measures have been inconsequential as compared with the total number of bills, resolutions etc., passed by the legislature; and the initiated measures have numbered only a small percentage of the total number of bills, resolutions, etc., introduced into the legislature for consideration. As these facts are squarely faced, it is evident that the use which Oregon has made of these instruments has not been excessive.

DON'T INVEST ON SNAP JUDGMENT

By John M. Oskinson.

First, here is a quotation from a thrift preacher:

"Many fortunes have been made, and many more will be made, through wise investments. Many fortunes are lost, too, through unwise investments." But thrifty habits and consulting with experienced persons like conservative bankers will give one the wisdom necessary to handle money wisely.

"Second, I set down a quotation from the advertisement of a wise and conservative investment banker:

"In loaning or investing money, all possible care should be taken to guard against hasty or impulsive decision. Every endeavor should be made to assemble such reliable information as will permit of the exercise of intelligent judgment. The man who assumes this attitude toward all investment propositions comes to have an increasing regard for the element of conservatism, and is ordinarily the first man to seek the cooperation of investment experts."

Conservatism in investment means, first of all, keeping the principal sum safe. What profits it to get 7 or 8 per cent a year on your money for three or four years if at the end of that time misfortune of any sort overtakes the company you invested in to such an extent that you would find what you have paid $100 for is only worth $75? And when you leave the road of conservatism in putting your money out to work this is exactly the experience you are likely to have.

Better keep your money in the savings bank, where it will earn about 4 per cent, and where if you wish interest will be compounded, until you are positively certain of the soundness of the investment advice you receive. Adding to the saved sum in a savings bank, too, is a mighty good way to fasten the thrift habit upon yourself. Choose as your first adviser in investment some one who has selected investments for the savings bank. From him learn what the elements of sound investment are. Go slow!

IN EARLIER DAYS

By Fred Lockley.

Alonzo Perkins, a Mexican war veteran, living at 346 Morris street, has led an adventurous life. The story of his adventures in the Mexican war and on the frontier are like an echo from the past, and are as interesting as the pages of any 'best seller' or historical novel.

When I had been introduced to Mrs. Perkins she excused herself to finish the dinner dishes, and Mr. Perkins and myself settled down for an afternoon talk.

"Some folks feel sort of proud over celebrating their golden wedding," said Mr. Perkins. "My wife and I celebrated ours 15 years ago. We were married in La Salle county, Ill., Sept. 22, 1849. Her maiden name was Samantha Jenkins. I was born in the village of Waterloo in the state of New York on August 11, 1826, John Quincy Adams then being president of the United States. There were 13 children in our family. I was about the middle of the crop, and though there were as many younger as older than myself, I am the only one of the 13 left.

"What have I done? Well, I served in the Mexican war; I have forted up against Indians; I was a member of the territorial legislature of Nebraska back in 1857; I was deputy United States marshal, county judge and mayor.

"Somehow or other it doesn't seem as if I am 88. When I was younger, say 40 years ago when I was approaching 50, it seemed to me that a man of 88 was an old man.

"Seventy-five years ago when I was a boy all water wheels were made of wood and all the work was done by hand. It was just about 75 years ago that I went to work with my father to learn his trade, that of mill-wright. I worked with him until I was 18, when I went out west. There were no railroads west of Buffalo, N. Y., in the early forties; so I took a boat on the Erie canal to Buffalo, where I took passage on a steamer for Chicago. Chicago was a pretty good sized place for a western town. It had about 6000 people, I should judge. From Chicago I went about 100 miles to the southwest to Ottawa, the county seat of La Salle county. One of my older brothers lived near Ottawa. He was a millwright like myself. I worked with him for 1844 to 1846.

"In those days there was constant discussion about Mexico and Texas. At first the United States claimed that Texas was a part of the territory she had bought in the Louisiana purchase. She gave up that claim along about 1820, at the instance of Spain, which owned Mexico. A couple of years later, in the spring of 1822, our country recognized the independence of Mexico. I was, when a boy and am yet, for that matter, a great reader. I read history and travel mostly. I read of the voyages of Columbus, the Conquest of Peru and the Conquest of Mexico. I was fascinated by the story of Texas. Texas and Coahuila, as you probably know, were together made one of the northern states of Mexico in 1827.

"An American, Moses Austin, settled in what is now Texas in 1820, and started a colony of Americans. In 1833 Texas had about 20,000 settlers, who adopted a constitution which the Central Mexican government refused to recognize. Two years later Santa Anna, the president of Mexico, abolished the states of Mexico and made them departments instead of states. Texas seceded in the spring of 1836 and became an independent republic. On April 21, 1836, Sam Houston with about 700 American residents of Texas, defeated Santa Anna with his army of 1500 men. General Sam Houston became president of the Republic of Texas. Eight or ten years later, or, to be exact, in December, 1845, Texas was annexed to the United States.

"About a month before the annexation of Texas President Polk had sent John Slidell of Louisiana as United States minister to Mexico with instructions to try to buy California. President Herrera of Mexico had been deposed and the new president refused to receive Slidell. President Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to occupy the disputed territory. Taylor's forces, while camped on the Rio Grande river, near Matamoras, were attacked on April 23, 1846, by Arista, in command of the Mexican army. Meanwhile General Stephen W. Kearney conquered New Mexico, winning the battle of San Pasqual and establishing a provisional government at Santa Fe. He went on to California and sent Colonel Alexander Doniphan to join General Wool at Chihuahua.

"On May 8, 1846, while General Taylor, with 2300 troops, was marching from Point Isabel to Matamoras to go to the help of Major Brown, he encountered the Mexican generals, Arista and Ampadia with 6000 Mexicans. After fighting all afternoon the Mexicans were defeated and retired to Resaca de la Palma. Next day General Taylor attacked him. Captain May of Taylor's dragoons charged the Mexican battery and silenced it. The Mexicans fell back, leaving their baggage, guns and ammunition and supplies in the hands of the American troops.

"Today, with our telegraphs, wireless, and railroads, we know things as soon as they happen, and when our troops capture Vera Cruz we learn of it before the surgeons have finished bandaging the wounded. But 68 years ago it was a different story. The story of the fighting and the result of the battles were sent to President Polk by a courier on horseback.

"Congress, which was in session, immediately upon receipt of news of the battles, authorized President Polk to call for volunteers. Illinois was assigned three regiments of infantry. The governor of our state notified the officers of the militia to enroll volunteers for service. Word came to me that C. R. Potter, a militia officer at Ottawa, 12 miles out, had issued a call for volunteers and set a certain day for them to assemble. I was 20 years old, my parents were in New York, too far away to do any objecting, and I was as a boy rather fond of adventure and romance. So it was a foregone conclusion that I would enlist to go to Mexico.

"I walked in to Ottawa. Everywhere was excitement; the town was full of farmers and every hitching rack was full. I heard a fife and drum, and, hurrying forward, I saw about 40 men following the music; I fell in line and we were marched to the recruiting office, where I signed the muster roll and was duly enlisted.

The Ragtime Muse

Perils in Plenty.

I have heard the Mausers whine
Their curt messages malign,
I have heard the Maxims snarling on the hill;
And the barking of the Krags
'Neath the bullet-riddled flags,
And the burden of each utterance was "Kill!"

I have faced a watery grave
On the sad and salty wave,
In a lug sailed tub as weedy as an ark;
And sought what men called "sport"
In a semi-tropic port
That was playground for the ever hungry shark.

I have leaped and fled afar
From the honking motor car,
In a cyclone I have turned a trifle pale.
For an office I have run
And esteemed it merely fun,
I have even braved a Monday bargain sale!

But these dangers are all time,
To the fateful parlor game
Where the sexes meet in desperate, deadly strife;
For if one has not a care
One will be entangled there—
Sure! Marriage is the only happy life!

Pointed Paragraphs

Many a man who has that tired feeling did not acquire it legitimately.

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A bully is a man who is always wanting to fight some other man half his size.

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However, the woman who marries a preacher doesn't have to nag him in order to get him to go to church.