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THE BEER AMENDMENT. THE proposed change in the prohibition amendment will, of course, meet with bitter opposition. It will be charged that it is proposed too soon after the dry law went into effect.

There will, on the other hand, be those who will insist that if beer is to be sold in Oregon to Oregon buyers, it might as well be brewed by Oregon manufacturers. As the measure is apparently to go on the ballot, we shall see later which side is in the majority.

The proposed change would authorize Oregon brewers to manufacture beer with no greater than four per cent of alcohol content for shipment into other states in any quantity. It would authorize them to sell direct to customers in Oregon the amount of beer permitted under the state prohibition law, that is to say, 24 quarts in 28 days.

As to sales made in Oregon, there would not be the publicity attending sales that there is at present, unless by later act the legislature should so ordain. The legislature would have the right, lawyers say, to prescribe any restrictions desired on the new plan of sale, or even to abolish it altogether by legislative act.

Under the change, an Oregon brewer could establish a supply depot for sale of his beer at any point or at numerous points in the state. The sales would be in original packages, and could not be made by agents, but only by employes acting directly for the brewer.

To a slight extent, the proposed change would undoubtedly be a partial relaxation of the stringency of the prohibition regulations as to beer, and as a result it may be expected that we shall soon be in the midst of another vigorous controversy.

The circuit court of appeals at San Francisco has asked the supreme court at Washington, D. C., to instruct it whether Federal Judge Wolverton of Portland has been able to correctly understand the meaning of the Oregon-California land grant decision. The clerk of the supreme court says that tribunal will not be able to answer in time to give consent any light on the question. It is possible that the decisions now having grown cold, the high court, like a stenographer, can not make out its notes?

A BAD LOT THE New York Evening Post flatulently takes it for granted that the Shields bill must be a good measure because the national conservation congress has approved it. As a matter of fact the national conservation congress was captured and engineered by the water power monopolists. It endorsed both the Shields bill and the Myers bill aimed against the people's rights, and as the New Republic well says, it "failed to indorse any measure looking to public control." The conservation congress, thus positively hostile to the welfare of the country, can not have much influence upon the minds of honest men.

The Shields bill gives to the monopolists all they have ever asked and a good deal more than they themselves hoped to get. It binds the hands of the government for fifty years and then gives it the empty right to take back its own waterpowers at a valuation fixed by the monopolists. This iniquitous bill makes it just about impossible for any city to take over water-power rights for the public good. Its effect is to enslave the people to the big interests forever.

The Myers bill is still more infamous. It hands over to the monopolists every waterpower on the public domain. The Grand canyon of the Colorado is included in the grab. Every shred of valuable power property the public has left is seized and donated to the barons

by this bill. No matter how injurious to the public any proposed grab may be the Myers bill obliges the government officials to consent to it. These two bills are monuments of treachery to the public. They rob the people to enrich monopolists. But they have not been endorsed by the national conservation congress. The committee which recommended the indorsement was controlled by representatives of the Utah Power company, the Georgia Power company, the General Electric company, the Alabama Power company and the Aluminum Company of America. From such a source what could be expected but plunder of the public?

The Oregonian says it is completely dissatisfied with the election returns as printed in The Journal. It is a most discouraging task to try to conduct The Journal to please that paper. However, there is the comforting thought that it is not so much the way The Journal printed the election returns as the way the voters made the election returns that accounts for the Oregonian's fury.

THOSE who clean windows while hanging on narrow ledges at dizzy heights are entitled to a chance for their lives. Five of them have perished as a result of falls in Portland within a comparatively short period. There are safety appliances by application of which owners of high buildings can minimize this mortality. Though these appliances are on most of them, strange enough there are a few high structures that are without means of safety for the men who constantly expose themselves to danger at great heights.

If, for lack of these appliances, a window cleaner should be dashed to death in a fall to the stony pavement, it would seem as if the owner of the building could never divorce himself from a feeling that he was responsible for the horror.

One of the misfortunes of the primary election is the defeat of T. K. Campbell for railroad commissioner. No man in public life has been more devoted to his duties or more conscientious in their performance. His experience and fine knowledge of the technical requirements of a commissionership can not be well spared from the commission.

AMENDING THE LAW THERE are too many laws, said Justice Thomas A. McBride one day when confronted with the construction of a newly enacted statute. "If the legislature and the people," he continued, "were to repeal the constitution and all the statutes, enact the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments and tell the supreme court to administer them the state would have all the law it needs."

Justice McBride was doubtless in a philosophical mood when he made his statement, but there is much of reason and common sense in the thought that comes from it. During the late campaign one of the candidates for the legislature confided that he had a plan for revamping our state government of boards and commissions and welding the now heterogeneous jumble into one harmonious whole. The plan may have been good, but it was based on theory, for it is very probable that the candidate had been inside few, if any, of the offices of the boards or commissions.

The supreme court has been construing the corporation laws of the state for 60 years and the books are full of judicial rules that bind and circumscribe and make definite the meaning of those statutes. Yet there is a move on foot to splice them up with extracts here and there from other statutes and other jurisdictions.

The Oregon code is a legal crazy quilt, patched by each succeeding legislature with new statutes framed by individuals who have individual ends to accomplish and without regard for or thought of what laws may be in force. This hit or miss system is one reason why the dockets of the circuit courts are congested and the supreme court is a year behind in its decisions. If the laws are wrong, if they are weak, or indefinite, or ambiguous, they should be corrected, or strengthened or made certain, but the legislature owes a duty to the people to tread with caution in the field of amendment.

The ever active East Side Business Men's club has elaborate plans for establishing and encouraging new industries. If all Portlanders were as active in the public interest as are the members of that club, this would be a greater Portland.

WOMEN IN OFFICE WOMEN are coming more and more into prominence as office holders in Oregon. In Umatilla county Miss Grace Gilliam, of Pilot Rock, has defeated G. W. Bradley in the contest for the Republican nomination as county treasurer. Mr. Bradley has held the office for a number of years, but he went down to overwhelming defeat before the campaign of the Pilot Rock miss. In Polk county Miss Almida Fuller has been nominated for the position of county school superintendent.

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We see nothing in any of these planks which good citizens should reject. The first plank is particularly acceptable to our way of thinking. "The chief function of a government is to protect its citizens." This is admirable. To protect them when they are sailing in the high seas and traveling in foreign lands? Yes, indeed. And to protect them when they are working in mines and sawmills? Certainly, though this may not be the plan in mind. To protect the babies from poverty and disease and their mothers from killing toil? Most assuredly.

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It is to be hoped that the Ristman-Jennings murder may not turn out to be another Hill murder or Holzman murder or another green trunk mystery.

LOJIMER REDUX ONE of the political oddities of the day is the resurrection of William Lorimer. He was expelled from the senate for the best of reasons and afterward prosecuted for irregularities in conducting his bank. On the latter charge he escaped conviction and his ardent admirers gave him a great reception when the officers of the law finally released him.

It is now announced that Lorimer will run for the senate again and, in spite of his record, he is likely enough to be elected. One of Lorimer's most trusted henchmen, Mayor Thompson of Chicago. This politician went into

office with a majority of 150,000 votes and the confidence of his whole country. He is now disliked by most people. His grand play for popularity was the Sunday closing of the Chicago saloons. This was done to befool the "pious element" and it worked for a little while. But not for long. Thompson kept the saloons closed for a Sunday or two and then gave out word secretly that they might open again. His popularity with the "pious element" did not survive the trick. Thompson made the mistake of his life when he took it for granted that the ministers and their congregations were dunces.

Thompson is playing to reinstate Lorimer and get what he can from that statesman's return to the senate. To accomplish this noble purpose he stops at nothing. The reader will remember how he drove Dr. Theodore B. Sachs out of the Chicago tuberculosis hospital. Sachs founded the hospital and by his labors made it a monument of usefulness. Thompson crowded him out by thrusting in his own creature. Dr. Sachs was so wounded by his expulsion that he committed suicide. For this and like reasons Chicago has revolted against Thompson and all his works. He is especially disliked by the teachers whose federation he has tried to break up in the interest of tax dodging corporations. He and Lorimer should have full opportunity to admire each other in private life.

Today there is to be held a meeting at Goldendale, Wash., at which there will be men from the whole Yakima country, all clamoring for direct railroad connections with Portland. A delegation of Portland business men will meet with them, and a case will be made up to present to railroad officials. It is an agitation that railroad people can ill afford to ignore.

WHEAT IN BULK CLOSE to \$8,000,000 will be absolutely wasted by Pacific northwest grain growers this season if they are compelled to again resort to the use of Calcutta bags for the shipment of their cereals. For many years the grain growers of the Pacific coast states have been paying tribute not only to the Calcutta jute growers but to the speculative interests for their bags.

This season there has been considerable agitation among grain growers who wanted to utilize the bulk system of handling grain, such as is in vogue in most of the leading grain producing centers of the world. They wanted to use the bulk system not only because it would save them the annual worry and excessive cost of the sacks used under the present system, but the cost of sacking in the fields. Besides, many a boy has left the old farm because he has been compelled to lift these heavy sacks from morning to night under the hot rays of the sun.

Most of the cereals of the world are shipped without the use of sacks and the system of bulk handling has never been replaced by the bag system after being once tried out. Not only would farmers save money by adopting the bulk system of handling grain but exporters at tidewater would also profit both in the time consumed in loading the vessels and the cost of handling at the ports. All of this cost is borne by the Pacific coast farmer because other sections use the cheaper method of handling and competition determines the price that farmers receive for their grain.

Many and divers are the explanations of how it all happened. Generally speaking, however, the dependable conclusion is that the defeated candidates did not get votes enough.

TRUE AMERICANISM A NEW society is forming in our larger cities to stand for the principles of "true Americanism." Its platform is simple and courageous. It runs in this wise: "The chief function of a government is to protect its citizens. Candidates for office should make their position clear in all matters concerning American rights. Congressmen who delay preparedness measures should be held responsible for it."

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