Oregon Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

S. JACKSON.....Publisher

Published every day afternoon and morning (except Sunday afternoon) at The Journal Building, Broadway and Yamhill streets, Portland, Or.

Entered at the postoffice at Portland, Or., for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

TELEPHONES — Main 7173; Home, A-6051. All departments reached by these numbers. Tell the operator what department you want.

FOREIGN ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE: Benjamin & Kentnor Co., Brunswick Bldg., 225 Fifth Ave., New York. 1218 People's Gas Bldg., Chicago.

Subscription terms by mail or to any address in the United States or Mexico:

DAILY (MORNING OR AFTERNOON)

One year.....$5.00 | One month.....$ .50

SUNDAY

One year.....$2.50 | One month.....$ .25

DAILY (MORNING OR AFTERNOON) AND SUNDAY

One year.....$7.50 | One month.....$ .65

Scoff not at the natural defects of any which are not in their power to amend. It is cruel to beat a cripple with his own crutches.—Fuller.

OVER THE MOON

THE Oregon cow has jumped over the moon, figuratively speaking. The statement is backed up by the market quotations on beef.

Two loads of steers from the Prineville country sold at $9.60 per hundred pounds in the North Portland yards Monday. This was the highest open market transaction for steers ever obtained on the Pacific coast. Show stuff has sold higher than this, but for such offerings a premium is always paid by packers to advertise the industry.

For one carload of steers sold in the yards Monday the average value of the animal was slightly better than $112.

On the same day North Portland livestock traders were startled by the sale of hogs in carload lots at figures as high as $12.60 per hundred pounds. This, too, is a record price and eclipses all previous figures. A carload of these hogs averaged 202 pounds, which means that the average value of each animal was a fraction better than $25.

Again, recent sales of lambs in the stockyards have been made at $13 per hundred pounds, still another record-breaking price for the Pacific coast trade.

There are various reasons for these advancing prices in the livestock market. First of all is the fact that supplies in the United States have decreased in late years. Then again prosperity is so pronounced in the east that the public there is figuratively buying its head off, which means advancing prices. Europe has been a persistent buyer of pork and pork products in America. In fact, the Atlantic coast trade some time ago threw up its hands because it could not supply the demand. Then began for the first time in the history of the Pacific coast hog industry the sale of pork products direct to Europe.

Ben Bingham got $85 of state money as clerk to his father, who was absent from Salem throughout the session. When the legislature is in session, much public money is free money.

GENERAL FUNSTON.

GENERAL FUNSTON lived an unusually interesting and varied life, though not a long one. His death at 51 years of age from arterial disease was as premature as it was unexpected by his intimates. It seems to indicate that army men are not exempt from "diseases of middle life" which wreak such havoc among the masses of the people.

General Funston's rise to high military command is all the more interesting because he was not educated in the military academy at West Point. He was a University of Kansas graduate and received his first military command from the governor of that state.

But he had enjoyed plenty of previous experience both in war and in those hardy adventures of peace which require as much energy and vigor as active campaigning, or more. As a botanical explorer he saw all there was of excitement and risk in Alaskan life. He even made his way down the entire length of the Yukon in a canoe. This sort of experience admirably qualified him for those romantic exploits in Cuba and the Philippines which have given him a place in history.

The Twentieth Kansas regiment of volunteers, of which Governor Leedy appointed Funston colonel in the Spanish war, was ordered to the Philippines. The wild campaigns that followed interested and thrilled the country. His capture of Aguinaldo received fully as much attention in the press and the public schools as it deserved. His crossing of the Rio Grande with a detachment on bamboo rafts in the face of the enemy aroused wild enthusiasm everywhere. It was indeed a Kiplingesque adventure which none but a born hero would have undertaken.

What Funston might have achieved had events opened a path to his legitimate ambition nobody can say. Happily the United States has been free from the curse of war since peace was concluded with Spain and our soldiers have been able to plan campaigns and win battles only on the innocent fields of imagination. Military genius may have been stifled in this way, perhaps, but the country has thriven and the welfare of the people has been exalted.

The Coos Bay wagon road grant has been put by federal court decisions in the same category with the railroad grant lands. Congress will undoubtedly have to make disposition of them under suggestion of the federal supreme court when a decision is reached by that tribunal. The action of the late legislature on the Bean bill leaves the inference that if that body had thought of the Coos Bay case it would have protested against restoration of the excess proceeds to the public.

HOW TO END IT?

ATTEMPT was made to pay Senator Bingham's son $85 of state money for alleged services as clerk to his father from January 9 to 25 at the late legislative session. Senator Bingham was not at the session. He was in New York buying horses for use in the war.

Senator Bingham's son was put on the state payroll by Senator Moser, president of the senate. In a letter to Secretary Olcott, President Moser wrote:

> As a courtesy to Senator I. H. Bingham and his constituents, I believe he should be allowed, by the state, a stenographer to attend to his business during the present session.
>
> GUS C. MOSER, President.

It was as president of the senate and in his official capacity that Senator Moser made the request and naturally the "courtesy" was extended.

The attempt was frustrated by Senator Dimick. After President Moser had approved the $85 allowance for Ben Bingham, Dimick moved to have Bingham's name stricken from the roll and the motion was adopted unanimously by the senate.

As an additional clerk to absent Senator Bingham, Walter Griffin of Eugene was put on the senate payroll, and as clerk to a senator who was not present and did no service of any kind in the legislature, was paid $185. The amount was not large as legislative transactions go, but in principle it amounted to a great deal. It was the people's money.

Through his power as president of the senate, Senator Moser allowed his stenographer $10 a day, or $410 for the session. Many of the best stenographers in private employ do not receive $100 a month and multitudes of them render excellent service for $50, or a little more than $2 per day. The pay of a legislator is $3 per day and mileage.

These are small matters. But they are a test of men. Public officials who are false to the public interest in small things which we know about create distrust of their acts in large things of public character.

These abuses of the clerkship privilege are sample of the line of action into which the legislator has fallen. It has been the practice so long that some men look upon it as legitimate, and yet it is evil, vicious and demoralizing. Legislators who stand by and make no protest against such abuses may naturally be expected to vote for such monstrosities as the Bean bill and against such measures as the bill to abolish the delinquent advertising graft.

How to put an end to such things is a problem to which the people of Oregon will sooner or later address themselves.

The legislature refused to submit to the people a proposition to have a legislative session but once in four years, and instead, submitted a proposal to double the pay of members and increase the length of the session. How interesting!

"PICKING THE BONES"

AT NEARLY a dollar an inch, the seven-page story of people who haven't the money to pay their taxes appeared a second time in yesterday's Oregonian.

Though another taxpaying time will be here in a few days, the hard-pressed delinquents of last year are having added to taxes they owe, newspaper charges that are often greater than the amount of their taxes. Financially, the delinquent is hors du combat, and the harpies are picking his bones.

The tax printing graft is so despicably mean that we should have predicted, before the event, that even a Moser-bossed legislature would have cut it out for shame if not for justice. But the graft is to go on and in its modified form it is meaner than before, if possible.

Formerly if a person was, for the moment, too poor to pay his taxes the ravens descended upon him and devoured him at once. This was cruel, of course, but it had the merit of frankness. There was no sneaking whine of hypocrisy about the cannibal feast. The victim received no mercy and his destroyers did not pretend to show any.

Under the modified form of the tax graft, with a hollow pretense of mercy, the prey is allowed to exist for thirty days before he is dispatched. If he does not pay up within that interval he is handed over to the executioners as before. Of course nobody lets his taxes become delinquent if he can pay them. Is it to punish the poor man for his poverty that graft-hunting newspapers are allowed to pick his bones?

THE LENROOT PROTEST

ALREADY there is a protest from Washington over the passage by the legislature of the Bean bill. The protestant is the ranking Republican member of the house committee on public lands. His protest is voiced in the following news dispatch to yesterday's Journal.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Congressman Lenroot of Wisconsin, ranking Republican of the public lands committee and probable leader of that party in next house, today declared that any action by the Oregon legislature directing that the Oregon and California grant lands be placed on the state tax rolls would "be most unfortunate for the state of Oregon, in that it is in contravention of action by congress."

If the supreme court, through any technicality, should not uphold the Chamberlain law revesting title in the government and the matter comes back to congress to settle, I for one, would be less disposed to be liberal to the state if the legislature takes that position, he said. I will, in that event, favor recouping the government for the loss it has suffered on less liberal terms than we have heretofore dealt with the state of Oregon. I am sorry the legislature should take such a view of the matter, for Oregon will be the loser by it.

The effect of the Bean legislation on congress is obvious. It is a direct attack on congress in its action in passing the Chamberlain-Ferris law. Thus, the Bean bill says:

> Whereas, the supreme court of the United States holds that the complete and absolute title to the lands granted by the acts aforesaid passed to the Oregon & California Railroad company and further holding that there were no conditions imposed in the granting act upon which a forfeiture of the grants could be predicated:
>
> Whereas, notwithstanding the DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE CONGRESS HAS PASSED AN ACT DECLARING THE TITLE TO THE UNSOLD PORTION OF SAID GRANTED LANDS TO BE REVESTED IN THE UNITED STATES, etc, etc.

That is to say, in language almost as plain as it can be written, the Oregon legislature through passage of the Bean bill holds that congress had no right to declare "the title to the unsold portion of said granted lands to be revested in the United States."

That is to say, the Oregon legislature through passage of the Bean bill has proclaimed that congress was wrong in attempting to take over the title to the excess proceeds, and should not have attempted to do so.

It will be an unexpected note for congress to hear from Oregon. In taking over the excess proceeds, congress gave half of them to Oregon irrigation, Oregon roads and Oregon schools. The effect of the Bean bill is an expressed insistence by the Oregon legislature that the excess proceeds of the grant lands should not have been given by congress, half to the federal government and half to Oregon irrigation, roads and schools, but all to the railroad.

Congressman Lenroot, who is likely to be the Republican leader of the next house, and who is ranking Republican member of the very committee that would deal with the grant lands should an adverse decision by the supreme court invalidate the Chamberlain act, perfectly understands the meaning of the Bean legislation when he says:

> If the matter comes back to congress to settle, I for one WOULD BE LESS DISPOSED TO BE LIBERAL TO THE STATE IF THE LEGISLATURE TAKES THAT POSITION. I WILL IN THAT EVENT FAVOR RECOUPING THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE LOSS IT HAS SUFFERED ON LESS LIBERAL TERMS THAN WE HAVE HITHERTO DEALT WITH THE STATE OF OREGON. I AM SORRY THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD TAKE SUCH A VIEW OF THE MATTER, FOR OREGON WILL BE THE LOSER BY IT.

It was not very long ago that public bodies, granges, business organizations, chambers of commerce, city councils, county boards, school boards and people all over Oregon were petitioning congress to give to Oregon a large part of the excess proceeds from sale of the grant lands. That was while the Chamberlain-Ferris bill was pending in congress. At the end of that strenuous campaign, extending over a period of several months, a campaign in which state societies in Portland wrote asking congressmen from other states to support the Chamberlain bill, congress finally passed the Chamberlain-Ferris act giving Oregon half the excess proceeds from sale of the grant lands.

After such a campaign by Oregon people, the Bean bill appearing as the voice of the Oregon legislature will make extraordinary reading for congress. If, by the decision of the supreme court, the grant lands should again be thrown into the hands of congress, the Bean bill will confront the members of the Oregon delegation at every step. When they ask for liberal treatment for Oregon, the Bean bill will be pointed to as the spoken expression of the legislature against giving the lands to Oregon irrigation, roads and schools and in favor of giving them to the railroad.

No better stroke was ever made in a legislature in behalf of a railroad company. If railroad lawyers did not actually frame the bill, it has to be confessed that they could not, with all their acumen, have fashioned it to more completely serve the interests of their employer.

The more the effect of the Bean legislation is studied, the more it surpasses the "midnight resolution" of the 1915 legislature in infamy, and up to its time, the "midnight resolution" was the most extraordinary action ever taken by any legislature in any state.

Letters From the People

[Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender. If the writer does not desire to have the name published he should so state.]

The Innocent "Delinquent."

Portland, Feb. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have noted with a great deal of interest your splendid fight against the present method of advertising delinquent taxes in the newspapers. I think every business man will agree with me that a notice by postal card would be altogether more efficient than a publication in any newspaper.

One of the prominent dailies of this city has used the argument that taxpayers will the more readily pay their taxes to save exposure if they know publication will follow delinquency. I think this statement is erroneous.

In one of the delinquent tax lists published recently I notice that I was listed 12 or 15 times as delinquent for certain properties. As a matter of fact, in every case this property had been deeded, and in some cases several years ago, but the purchasers of the property have simply been negligent in recording their deeds. This undoubtedly happens in many cases.

I think The Journal has the approval of a large majority of the taxpayers of Oregon in its endeavor to bring about this amendment to the present tax law.

If it is a mark of dishonor to appear on the delinquent list, then certainly an injustice has been done in similar cases to that taxpayer who has paid all his tax and yet appears in the delinquent list through no fault of his own.

Yesterday a prominent taxpayer, with a substantial bank account, was notified over the phone by a neighbor that a tax was delinquent and published. The party was humiliated. A postal would have saved expense to taxpayer and county.

H. G. THOMPSON.

Mainly About Public Schools.

Denzer, Or., Feb. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have been reading the letters in the Semi-Weekly Journal about the tax publication graft with great interest, as I am one that has been hit with it twice, and I want to say that the voters should watch the legislators who vote to perpetuate that graft and all other grafts and remember them at the polls next election.

I also want to say a few words in regard to our school system. I understand that the legislature has passed a minimum eight months' school term, but have not seen where they have made any arrangements for paying for the extra time. If it has to be paid by extra taxes on each district it will take some people's places away from them, for they can hardly meet their taxes now. To illustrate: In my school district we have a 17.5 mills county tax, a 10 mills special school tax and a 10 mills special road tax—37.5 mills in all — and we have only six months school and can only pay $45 a month for a teacher, and half of the repairs and work on the school house and grounds has to be done by volunteer work or go undone.

Also, by putting the money into the clerk's hands and the spending of it into the directors' it is direct cause of graft, because they all want to get some of it back in return for the taxes they pay. Or else the clerk may decamp with the funds, as one did in an adjoining district a few weeks ago.

Why can't we have a school law like the one in Maryland? There, as I understand it, each district in the state has nine months' school and each school district is allowed the same amount of money for each teacher that is required. It is all paid from a state school fund and each county clerk cashes the warrants for the teachers' salaries and other expenses, the board of trustees in the district having nothing to do but O. K. the bills and see that the school is carried on properly.

Our public schools are supposed to be a democratic institution, to give all classes the same chance for an education, but when run on the Oregon plan the system is far from being democratic, as it is not only a hardship on the children in a poor district but also on the taxpayer. For why should the taxpayers of one district be compelled to pay twice as much as the taxpayers in another district? If the school is a state institution it should be financed by the whole state and not by each district separately.

I would like to hear from other people on this, one of the most vital questions of the nation.

I am strictly in favor of the proposed law for legitimizing illegitimate children, for the man is more to blame in most cases than the woman and should be held accountable for his deeds. I am absolutely against a double standard of morals.

Your editorial, "Medieval School Ballot," in the Semi-Weekly Journal of January 30, hits the spot, as in fact, all your editorials do. Keep the good work up.

Like "Babe," spoken of in The Journal's Rag Tag column, "I am not an Oregonian. I am a Journal."

GEORGE A. MELVIN.

Favors State Commission plan.

Albany, Or., Feb. 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—The following selections show that Oregon is not the only state afflicted with a "freak" legislature. They are not extreme types of bills on which these legislators fritter away their time. More radical ones often appear.

Minnesota—To force lumberjacks to bathe, and furnish tubs in lumber camps.

Wisconsin—To prohibit normal and university instructors from smoking cigarettes.

Texas—To compel churchgoers to leave their firearms outside.

Colorado—To provide that bulls out walking at night shall wear tail lights.

The foregoing serve to illustrate the kind of intelligence that makes up the average state legislature. It reminds one of the laws passed by the negro legislatures of the south during reconstruction days, when they spent their time passing laws to compel their members to wear shoes while attending the legislature, laws that whites and blacks should marry, etc.

It seems to me that states are as badly in need of a new form of government as our cities. Why not devise a commission form of government for the state, of half a dozen competent men at the heads of various departments, something like the commission plan in use in the cities? Make the salary large enough to attract men of ability and make the tenure of office long enough so that experience will count. As it is, we have bankers, farmers and business men who, while they may be successful in their own line, do not know the first principles of government. They give their first and best efforts to their own business and give what little time is absolutely necessary to the business of the state.

J. N.

Difference Between Thieves.

Portland, Or., Feb. 13.—To the Editor of The Journal—I would like to ask through The Journal if any of its many readers can explain to me the difference between a horse thief and an automobile thief. A horse thief who steals a horse worth from $60 to $100, if caught stands about one chance in a thousand of escaping the penitentiary, and the strong arm of the law generally gets him there in quick time while an automobile thief who steals a car worth $1500 gets a lecture from the judge or perhaps a 10 days jail sentence. Is it considered a joke if a young man 18 years of age steals a machine? It appears to me that there must be two classes of thieves—the bad thief and the respectable thief. It seems to me it is about time these young thieves were given to understand the joke part of it had been eliminated; otherwise it will never be stopped. It seems to me if a boy is too young for a prison sentence he should be put to work good and hard until he had earned enough money to pay back for all damage to the car. This perhaps would start the boy to thinking, and no doubt think twice, before launching out upon another joke expedition.

I do not own a machine myself, but if I did own one and it were stolen or an attempt made to steal it and I should happen upon the scene, I think it would be a very strong inducement to take the law into my own hands, as too many miscarriages in law breed a disrespect for it. E. F. MANN.

The Semi-monthly Pay Bill.

Drain, Or., Feb. 15.—To the Editor of The Journal—Being a wage earner I am always interested in anything for the good of the working han. Therefore, I feel it my duty to express my opinion on the one good bill for the laboring man, and that is the one compelling corporations to pay employes twice a month. I noticed in yesterday's Journal that the bill has been killed or indefinitely postponed. It is a deplorable and wholly unwarranted action, to my notion. The bill was, as I understand it, sponsored by most of our southern Oregon representatives, but it seems that it has all been in vain. I think, and I am sure most all laboring men are with me, that when a man does a day's work he is entitled to his pay. It is sometimes a long time between pay days under the present system. It is not only too long to wait, but the employer has the use and interest on your hard earned cash during this time. Such large corporations as the Bell Telephone company pay twice a month and I challenge anyone to come through with a plausible excuse or reason why others can not do the same.

Let the laboring man remember these little slams against us and when election day rolls around vote for men who will not kill a bill that gives the right to receive our money semi-monthly at least.

I am no I. W. W. or Socialist, neither am I a union man; nevertheless, I believe in our getting our just dues.

JUST A WORKING MAN.

Chides Mr. McLarty.

Vancouver, Wash., Feb. 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—I would like to answer Mr. McLarty's article of February 16. By his statement he went through a training camp where they take raw recruits and make trained soldiers out of them in 60 days. I have followed this war in Europe and notice they give their men at least six months' training before sending them to the firing line. Even at that they only consider them feed for machine guns.

It seems by Mr. McLarty's statement he became very efficient in a very short time, even in diversified maneuvers. He believes that under compulsion, at a call for immediate action, such is the intelligence of our average citizen, that we could turn out the finished product in 60 days, as the larger percentage of our people are familiar with firearms. The fact is that not 2 per cent of our young boys that are joining the army today ever fired a gun.

The only ones that want war in this country are those who are looking for big army and navy contracts, and let George do the fighting. But George is on a strike until 1920.

I hope Mr. McLarty nor anyone else will think I am too proud to fight, for I am not. G. W. LOUDEN.

Calls Conscription Unjust.

Alicel, Or., Feb. 8.—To the Editor of The Journal—In reply to a writer in The Journal from Bend, Or., on January 4, I am square against conscription. This man, who enlisted for the Spanish-American war, spoke about hundreds of boys telling him: "Kill one for me, Jack." And if Jack had known what he was going into he would have been seen on the bank when the boat started. I have talked with lots of boys that have been on the firing line, and they say the army is not a fit place for a young boy to be. I don't believe in always preparing for war. If we would prepare for something good and use the money and other values that have been destroyed by war for sick and accident benefits and old age pensions, the whole people would be benefited. In Jack's way of doing it, there is no one benefited, only the capitalist, who is always stirring up trouble and never fights any. Just poor people are the ones that have to butcher one another.

From what Jack said, he saw a pretty rough time, but if that is his choice he ought not to kick about the other fellow. W. F. TATE.

Would Ban Certain Candies.

Portland, Feb. 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—Now, while there is so much agitation going on in respect to making laws prohibiting men who have reached the age of reason from smoking and drinking, why not start at the beginning and protect the children, with whom these habit-forming temptations are only in the making, to the extent of enacting a law forbidding the manufacture of some of the cheap, vile, highly colored candy that is on the market, which is just as harmful to a child, if not more so, as cigarettes and liquor to a man, and which is made in its various forms and shapes with the view to attracting and luring innocent little children, who take into consideration only looks and buy the candy because of its formation and bright colors?

MARY RHEINBERGER.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

The 1917 session of the Oregon legislature will go down in history—and nobody knows how far down!

Difference between a war lord and a censor? One makes others do the dying, and the other makes others do the lying.

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It is said American airplane manufacturers can turn out 300 machines a week if called upon. Hear that? Spruce up!

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The submarine has not yet been invented that will sink the various merchantmen who are responsible for the well known high cost.

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It must have done Mr. Gerard a world of good to find himself once more where he could get all the cheese with holes in it that he wanted to eat.

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The Danish West Indies may get themselves called the Yankee West Indies, for some are calling them that without asking leave of authority. But under whichever name, if there should be war, they come to us in the nick of time.

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"Of course many people will think that the only bills passed were the bad bills," remarks the La Grande Observer. Possibly; but at all events the bad bills were the only bills that a good many of Oregon's most energetic citizens seemed to get behind.

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All that Abraham Lincoln undertook to do at the beginning of what became the Civil war was to enforce the laws of the United States. The Lansing-Gregory proposal to enforce international law is in essence the same thing. In either case, the shoe is on the other fellow's foot.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

The Democrat promises that extensive building will be the order in Baker with the coming of spring.

War platform of the Vale Enterprise: "We are with you, Mr. Wilson; but to be right frank with you, most of us want to stay at home with you."

The Canyon City Eagle's Fox Valley correspondent writes: "The weather has been very beautiful for some time in the valley and the blackbirds have put in their appearance, thinking, no doubt, that spring will soon be here, but the ground is still covered with snow and the sleighing is fine."

Weather report in the Lakeview Examiner of February 15: "The weather in Lakeview for the past week has been generally clear with a slight storm Sunday. Since then it has cleared off and the days have reminded one of spring."

The Eugene Guard contributes this to the winter symposium on weather: "H. A. Foster, a former resident of Eugene, writes the Guard from Manistee, Mich.: 'If you have some real Oregon weather, ship some here at once.' On the reverse side of the card is a picture of what appears to be a lake pier covered with a mountain of ice."

"Three crops of ice were harvested this year at Lakeview," the Examiner says, "and it would have been possible to secure a fourth had the headgates in the reservoir been closed early enough. When the cold snap started the managers did not think it would last long and consequently did not shut the gates. The first crop of ice was about 17 inches thick and the other two about 12. This is the best ice for a number of years."

THE STATE'S RIGHT TO EXPERIMENT

From the New Republic.

Shall Oregon permit its women to be employed at a wage of less than $8.64 per week? This is the issue argued before the supreme court a few days ago; and upon its constitutionality decision will have shortly to be made. Upon that decision will depend the fate of similar legislation in 11 other states of the union. No one at all concerned with the study of industrial problems but must hope anxiously that the weapon of social progress involved in this legislation, the right of the states to validate or to invalidate hypotheses by experiment, will not be stricken from our hands. To that end the National Consumers' league under the trained direction of Miss Josephine Goldmark has compiled in the brief presented to the court what is practically a graphic survey of the evidence for such legislation. The value of the method originally used in the now classic case of Muller v. Oregon has never received so admirable a justification as in this comprehensive study. So convincing a body of demonstrated experience has rarely been collected as the basis for judicial inquiry.

No fair minded observer can doubt that, on the economic side at least, a convincing case for a minimum wage for women is made out. Beginning, historicaly, as a tentative effort in a small Australian community, it may now be said to command the legislative assent of a great part of the civilized world. No community that has adopted it has ever found it necessary to doubt its original wisdom. On the contrary, the amazing thing is the rapidity of its progressive extension. It is bound up, of course, with the fundamental movement of modern civilization, the attempt to create a minimum standard of life below which no worker shall fall. It is from experience that this movement has been born. The bad effect of low wages on public health is now a commonplace of vital statistics. But that effect is only a point on the circumference of a vicious circle. It is low wages that are responsible for a decline in public morals. It is low wages that prevent the elevation of the national standard of life and thus split the community into those two nations which, as Disraeli argued half a century ago, may well prove the fundamental danger in an hour of crisis.

In the case of women these evils are particularly acute. No standard of women's wages seems to exist. The law of supply and demand, as it is naively conceived, simply fails to operate. A chance that is as blind as it is cruel will establish every degree of different wages not merely in the same trade, but also in the same locality as to different shops similarly circumstanced. Nor is this all. Even when we know the rate of pay we have no knowledge as to its relation to actual earnings. The time that is lost from industrial and personal causes—seasonal unemployment, illhealth and the like—will nullify conclusions that have sometimes borne a tinge of undemonstrated optimism. Moreover, the lack of these standards has resulted in what is simply a "forced sale of value" in no wise related either to the service rendered or to the market-price of labor. Fair competition begins only at the base line of minimum health and comfort. It is simply idle to talk of "freedom of contract" until a basis of equivalent bargaining power has been established. Such a basis, it is clear, can result only from the construction of a definite minimum relation between wages and the cost of necessary living.

So much in positive proof the brief offers. But it also performs a task that is of almost equal service, even if it is negative in character. No cause has more greatly suffered than that of the minimum wage for women by loose bandying about of hypotheses which are never brought to the touchstone of tabulated experience. This is an important need, and it is performed with a thoroughness beyond all praise. We are continually told, for example, that comparison between the wages of men and women is illegitimate because the earnings of women are not in fact necessity-earnings but simply pin money, the pleasant trifle for dress and amusement. The argument is entirely fallacious. "Of the 75 to 80 per cent of working women who live at home," says the brief, "an overwhelming proportion contribute practically all their wages either to supplement the family income, or to support families in which there is no male wage earner"; and the evidence quoted makes the induction a conservative estimate. The argument that increased wages are paid for by increased prices is shown to be one of those half-truths of which the missing part is more important than the present. Again and again establishments with a higher proportionate cost of labor have higher profits than establishments with lower labor costs. It is very striking, for example, that the result of the first five months of adjustment to the Oregon statute in retail stores should have been "a marked increase in wages and a rise in cost of only three mills to the dollar." Wages and prices simply bear no constant or ultimate relation to each other; and any argument based upon that assumption is in direct conflict with overwhelming testimony.

HOW TO BE HEALTHY

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CHEAP FOODS ARE HEALTHY.—Most of the cheaper foods sold in the grocery store, butcher shop, or public market are far more healthful than the average of the rich and expensive foods. An exception to the general desirability of the cheaper foods occurs, of course, when foods are sold cheap merely because they are adulterated, diseased, or are unmarketable for some objectionable cause. Rich, fat meats and highly concentrated foods are apt to overclog the system. They are usually lacking in the bulk necessary to normal digestion, and for this reason one is apt to overeat of them to make up for their deficiency in bulk. The result is to overload the system with foods of high fuel value and to place a heavy strain upon the digestive organs.

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Overeating and insufficient physical exercise are among primary contributing causes of the prevalence of organic diseases, diseases of the heart, liver, kidneys and circulatory system, which shows a rapidly increasing mortality rate in the United States. Many of the high priced foods do not contain the fibrous matter essential to a healthy action of the bowels. Coarse and raw foods are always to be had, and they are usually cheaper than the conventional soft, concentrated cooked foods.

The following is a list of foods in an ascending order of costs per 1,000 calories of food value, the cheapest foods, when their food value and cost are both taken into consideration, heading the list and those that are dearest coming at the end: Glucose, cornmeal, wheat flour, oatmeal, cane sugar, salt pork, rice, wheat bread, oleomargarine, beans, peas, potatoes, buttermilk, cheese, beef stew, ham, mutton chops, beef, eggs, oysters. Oysters, for example, are about 50 times as expensive as the cheaper foods, such as flour, for the same food value. Of course, this does not take into account the cost of cooking, preparing and serving.

Tomorrow—Why Cheap Foods Are Healthy. (Second Article.)

PERSONAL MENTION

Bay City Resident Here.

F. W. Heron of San Francisco, an official of the Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance company of Philadelphia, is a Portland visitor.

Athletic Director Arrives.

Hugo Bezdek, athletic director at the University of Oregon, is at the Imperial, arriving in advance of the university basketball team, which is to play in Seattle Thursday.

San Jose Publisher Here.

J. O. Hayes, San Jose attorney, capitalist and newspaper publisher, is at the Multnomah.

Tobacconist Visits Portland.

Morgan A. Gunst of San Francisco, a member of the firm of M. A. Gunst & Co., tobacconists, is a Portland visitor.

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C. L. Benjamin is a Eugene visitor at the Carlton.

Mrs. J. G. Megler of Brookfield, Wash., is a guest at the Portland.

J. C. Carter and L. L. Noonchester are Burns arrivals at the Nortonia.

Dr. I. Inagaki of Tokyo is an overseas visitor at the Cornelius.

Charles Allen is registered at the Perkins from The Dalles.

The Vancouver Hockey club is quartered at the Multnomah.

Jay T. Upton, Prineville attorney, is at the Imperial.

O. C. Fenlayson, Raymond, Wash., box manufacturer, is at the Oregon.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. McCuston of Bend are guests at the Washington.

J. G. Richardson of Salem, deputy state corporation commissioner, is at the Multnomah.

William Perry is registered at the Perkins from Gaston.

George R. Wilbur, member of the state senate from Hood River, is at the Nortonia with Mrs. Wilbur.

J. C. Allen is a Rainier visitor at the Cornelius.

F. E. Veness, Winlock, Wash., logging man, is at the Oregon.

George T. Baldwin of Klamath Falls, member of the state senate and former president of the State Hardware Dealers' association, is at the Imperial.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Duncan are Ironside arrivals at the Perkins.

P. S. Peterson is registered from Everett, Wash., at the Washington.

E. W. Crockett of Chapman is at the Carlton.

G. M. Roberts, agent for the O-W. R. & N. company at Astoria, is at the Multnomah.

George B. Knudson is a Carlton arrival at the Nortonia.

Charles H. Hodgkin is a Salem visitor at the Perkins.

G. M. Burrow of Ridgefield, Wash., is at the Cornelius.

Hans Pederson, Seattle contractor, is at the Oregon.

R. N. Stanfield of Stanfield, speaker of the house, is at the Imperial.

J. D. Miller and Miss Margaret Miller of Butte are guests at the Portland.

Frank E. Rowe is a Wheeler visitor at the Multnomah.

Mr. and Mrs. George Millican of Millican are at the Imperial.

G. P. Julian is registered at the Portland from Malden Rock, Wash.

Rag Tag and Bobtail

Stories From Everywhere

[To this column all readers of The Journal are invited to contribute original matter—in story, in verse or in philosophical observation—or striking quotations from any source. Contributions of exceptional merit will be paid for, at the editor's appraisal.]

Ladies, You Might Try This.

TWO ladies on the other side of the border, says London Tit-Bits, were holding a stairhead confab on the troubles of life, and husbands in particular.

"I dinna wonder at some puir wives having to help themselves out of their husband's trouser pockets," remarked the one.

"I canna say I like them underhand ways myself," responded the second matron, "I jist turn ma man's breeches doonside up and help masel' oft the carpet."

The Hardest Man to Caricature.

The most difficult person to caricature I ever knew, says W. A. Rogers, in cartoons Magazine, was the late Thomas B. Reed. Behind a face guiltless of lines, childlike in its bland absence of expression, was a mind rich in satiric humor, to which he could give full vent without the least change of countenance beyond opening his mouth.

One day I was sitting in his room at the capitol trying to get a portrait of him on my sketch pad. I told him I was having a difficult job. He chuckled and began a long discourse on what his enemies had said about him; every epithet they had applied to him; everything they had accused him of. He must have gone on in this vein for 20 minutes, and I wondered as I worked why in the world he should be telling me all that.

Finally, he added, "But there is one thing no enemy of mine has been base enough to say of me. No man as yet has ever accused me of looking like the portrait that John Sargent painted of me."

Mr. Reed's eyes were the only feature that revealed the man in the slightest degree, but the lids so enveloped them that it was only when you were very close to him that you could see how they flashed and sparkled.

Her Turn.

Smith got married. The evening of his first pay day, says the Topeka Journal, he gave his bride $14 of the $15 salary and kept $1 for himself.

But the second payday Smith gave his bride $1 and kept $14 himself.

"Why, John!" she cried, in injured tones, "how on earth do you think I can manage for a whole week on a paltry $1?"

"Darned if I know!" he answered; "I had a rotten time myself last week. It's your turn now."

Pa Gets a Bawling Out.

Pa was the same when he was a boy. One afternoon he chopped a lot of kindling, and when he carried it into the house grandma said to him: "My, what a smart boy I have!" Then pa commenced carrying in wood. He filled the box, he put an armful at each end of the box and one in front of it, says Claude Clallan, in the Fort Worth Star Telegram. For a time it looked as if he were determined to carry in all the wood on the place. When grandma saw how much he had brought in, she said: "Well, what has got into my boy? That's the kind of boy to have—one who wants to help his papa and mamma." That evening grandma told grandpa how good their son had been, and, while they bragged on him a great deal, it was not more than he cared to hear. When they commenced talking about other things, he said: "I am going to bring in a lot of kindling every evening. I don't mind bringing it in a bit, and if you all will let me, I'll get up and build the fires of a morning." The next day, and the next, and so on, he didn't get in any wood or kindling. He made a good hand for that one day, and for that one day only. When he tells the children about how much work he did when a boy, he is thinking of that day.

Eggs Is Eggs.

Mr. Endman, in a restaurant, was speaking very confidentially to a friend.

"You see that man just leaving?" he said. "Well, he has just eaten over a hundred eggs. If you doubt me, ask the waiter."

His friend turned to the waiter. After slipping him a quarter, he said: "Would you mind telling me what that man's order was?"

"He had shad roe, sir," was the reply.

The Plain Little Lady's Gift.

A little homespun lady timidly opened the door of the Serbian relief committee in New York, says Capper's Weekly. "I wish to send three flannel nightgowns to Serbia," she quietly announced. "How shall I do it?" It was a busy morning for the secretary of the committee, but she turned from her work and answered the question in detail. As she was finishing, the visitor placed in her hand a crisp bit of paper. The secretary forgot to breathe when she examined it. It was a $1000 bill. Later in the morning the secretaries of two other relief committees were called upon by a little homespun lady to explain the process of sending three flannel nightgowns to the stricken peoples they were organized to help. In each instance the interview terminated exactly as the first—at each place she left a $1000 bill.

An Incautious Burglar.

A man who is given to doing "odd jobs" about his house was very proud of a bit of painting he had accomplished.

About midnight following the completion of the outside of the house he was awakened by a noise. Creeping to the window, he looked out, and, to his horror, saw a burglar climbing up a ladder to the second-story window.

"Look out there!" yelled the householder to the burglar. "Look out for the paint!"

The Red Fox's Plaint.

She rightly wears the products of the worm,
But not so lifelike that it makes one squirm.
She weaves the wool, her body's warmth to keep,
But does not ape a dead or dying sheep.

Across her back she flings my helpless hide,
My tail—my poor limp paws swing off one side;
My piteous head hangs lifeless down the other;
The muff upon her lap was once my brother.

On Second avenue I met my wife,
Sad trophy of the trapper's skill and knife—
Her lovely pelt through hideous death had kept
Its living look—so even my glass eyes wept.

Madam, our pelts are yours by human laws;
In woman's kindness spare our heads and paws!
Treat us like sheep and worms; no hideous mocks.
Please wear us as a fur—and not a fox.

—Sarah A. C. Plummer, in Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

I noticed that when some of these big timber grabbers pays their taxes they do it under protest, but when a little rancher pays his he comes through under a mortgage, or a note at the bank, and don't hire no lawyers to fight the case.