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OPPORTUNITY.

This I beheld, or dreamed it in a dream—
There spread a cloud of dust along a plain;
And underneath the cloud, or in it, raged
A furious battle, and men yelled and swords and shields.
A prince's banner waved, then staggered backward, hemmed by foes.
A craven hung along the battle's edge, and thought,
"Had I a sword of keener steel—
That blue blade that the king's son bears—but
This blunt thing!"—He snapt and flung it from his hand,
And lowering, crept away and left the field.
Then came the king's son, wounded, sore beset,
And weaponless, and saw the broken sword,
Hilt-buried in the dry and trodden sand,
And ran and snatched it, and with battle shout,
Lifted afresh, he hewed his enemy down.
And saved a great cause that heroic day.
—Edward Rawland Sill.

BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE.

H. J. Taylor, president of the Umatilla county good roads association, does not favor the idea of having this state build a great highway from Vancouver to the California line. He would rather see good roads built where they are needed—leading from country districts into the natural trading centers for those districts. In Mr. Taylor's idea of road building business should come before pleasure. But if the state is to go into the long highway business then he wants a road constructed from Portland to this country also. Of course, if state aid is to be used in road making the first essential is that the plan proposed should be fair to all portions of the state. It would be manifestly unfair to tax the entire state for a road leading north and south through western Oregon. Besides under the ruling of the supreme court in the Crater lake road it would evidently be unconstitutional for the state to vote money for such a highway.

In preference to the scheme for a great highway is the move for a law to vote state money for road work in all of the counties of the state—the moving of state money being conditioned upon the spending of a much larger sum by the respective counties.

What Oregon needs is a good roads system that will provide easy transportation from the country districts into the cities and towns of the state. We cannot yet afford to build great state-wide boulevards for the accommodation of tourists who may be passing through in autos or for the benefit of our own gentry. Even if we could afford it it might not be wise to do so. Within a few years autos will be used merely for commercial and industrial purposes and the elect will be speeding around in straphips.

FORGET THE PIE.

In a dyspeptic tone the Baker City Herald puts forth the following: "After a few brief months spent under a republican governor, the voters of Oregon elected a democrat for chief executive and in a short time Oswald West will take up the reins of government. Oregon is a republican state but it was republican votes that put West in the governor's chair.

"And now the republicans must pay the price. West is a democrat and all political pie will be dispensed to his henchmen. There are a large number of appointive offices in the state and West would not be a good politician if he did not fill these places with his followers. The spoils

belong to the victors and the victors are not going to miss the chance of dividing them."

So this is why the election of West looks so bad. It was the pie that the Herald was thinking of when it participated so vigorously in the recent campaign. Rats with the pie. The patronage the governor has to distribute amounts to nothing at all compared with the really important work he has to do.

Furthermore republicans cannot well complain. Thus far the only official action taken by Governor-elect West consisted in his naming of a republican, and a very capable one, to be his private secretary.

WHY NOT HUGHES?

In making Justice White the chief justice instead of Governor Hughes, President Taft did an unusual thing and his action will naturally arouse much comment. The action is the more unusual in that Justice White is a democrat. Then Hughes has such a standing both as an official and as a member of the bar that he was generally regarded as a splendid man to be the head of the supreme court.

According to the United Press the president personally favored the appointment of Hughes but was persuaded from that position by Wickersham and other advisors. As to the reasons advanced against Governor Hughes nothing is said. It is evident though that there are interests that are afraid of the cold, clear cut reasoning of the upright and fearless governor. Doubtless the appointment of White will be highly pleasing to Wall street and to other elements in New York. But among the rank and file of the people of this country President Taft would stand higher today had he named Hughes for chief justice.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.

According to reports from Portland the fight for the speakership of the house of representatives seems between Eaton of Lane and Rusk of Union and Willowa counties. If this is the case then Eastern Oregon has a good opportunity of landing the speakership this year—something that has not been done before in many moons. Western Oregon cannot well take both the presidency of the senate and the speakership and they seem to have the presidency locked up. Representative Rusk is a man about whom eastern Oregon people may well rally with enthusiasm. He is of the clean-cut, aggressive type of legislator and is ranked as one of the ablest members of the house. He is never afraid to stand up and be counted and furthermore is of the progressive school of politicians—a school that now holds sway in this state.

ANOTHER ONE.

Pendleton's next convention will be the threshermen of the state who will be here this fall. By exploiting the attractions of the Round-up E. L. Smith was able to persuade the threshermen to hold their next gathering in this city. But Pendleton has other claims to the threshermen's convention. This is the great wheat county of Oregon and the farmers of the county have more threshers than some people have hay. Surely the members of the association will feel at home here.

Nor is it too early to plan for the entertainment and accommodation of this convention. Pendleton must maintain its reputation as the "Convention City."

There is a Kennewick farmer who expects to make a profit of \$10,000 from a 20 acre tract he will have in asparagus next season. There is money in small farming but if there are such enormous profits as this it will not be many years until the settlers in the irrigation districts of this county will need individual banking houses to take care of their coin.

Once more the wireless has been of service in time of shipwreck. When the Olympia went upon the reef in Prince William's Sound the wireless operator at once sent forth the call for aid. It was heard at Valdez and at other points and soon three ships were hurrying to the rescue. Marconi deserves a place in the hall of fame.

Wickersham gives a long account of the manner in which the government

THE SWINE OF THE FLOWERS!
Ah me! I saw a huge and loathsome sty,
Wherein a drove of wallowing swine were barred,
Whose banquet shocked the nostril and the eye;
Then spoke a voice, "Behold the source of lard!"
I fled, and saw a field that seemed at first
One glistening mass of roses pure and white,
With dewy buds 'mid dark green foliage nursed;
And, as I lingered o'er the lovely sight,
The summer breeze, that cooled that Southern scene,
Whispered, "Behold the source of COTTOLENE!"

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ment has prosecuted trusts during his time as attorney general. But Wickersham has not been very brutal.

A shipment of Holstein cows is now enroute from Illinois to Oregon. Why didn't they order Jerseys? They give richer milk. A Holstein is too much like a pump.

Attorney R. R. Johnson is fortunate. Some men would be forced to remain in bed if robbed of a suit of clothes.

Attend the poultry show.

The egg is somewhat more attractive than it was, but we think we shall continue to employ the soap for shampooing purposes for the present. —Ohio State Tribune.

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