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THE CHRISTMAS TREE.
 The north wind came one autumn day,
 To paint the trees with colors gay.
 He brushed the maple leaves so bright
 With tints of the sunset light.
 And on the oak's broad branches shone
 Hues even to Persian looms unknown.
 He gave to wood and meadow way
 The brief, bright beauty of a day.
 His colors spent, he found, alas!
 The little fir tree he must pass.
 But as the north wind onward went
 This message to the fir he sent:
 "When earth in snowflakes is arrayed
 The beauty of the trees shall fade.
 "But you shall burst to sudden bloom
 And all the winter world illumine.
 "With gifts of love your boughs shall shine
 A fadeless beauty shall be thine."
 And thus it is when snowflakes fall,
 The Christmas tree is queen of all.
 —Alice Jean Cleator.

GRINDING IT OUT.
 "The mills of the gods grind slowly" but they grind sure as well as small. For years the people of the United States have been wanting direct election of senators; for years many of the best informed men have been advocating a tariff commission. But both of these great reforms have been delayed by the standpaters.
 Now we seem in line to secure both. Before the senate there is a resolution calling for a constitutional amendment providing for direct election of senators. There is a good opportunity for the measure to pass, strange as this may seem. If the resolution is adopted by the senate then the long fight for direct election of senators will be completely won. Until now the senate has been the great stumbling block. But if the resolution is not adopted now it will be adopted later because in time the majority of senators will be men who have been elected by popular vote under the Oregon system or some modification of that system. Such senators favor direct elections.
 A victory is also in sight for the tariff commission plan. Men who formerly opposed the plan are now openly for it. President Taft is for a commission and is using his influence towards securing a commission. Senator Lodge, dyer-in-the-wool protectionists, has also joined the ranks of commission advocates and lastly of all comes Senator Aldrich with a promise that the finance committee will report a bill providing for the establishment of a tariff commission.
 This means that the tariff commission advocates are making progress. It does not mean that the fight is won—the victory is only in sight. The sort of tariff commission Aldrich and Lodge would devise would probably not please true progressives like Cummins, Aldrich and Lodge will favor a commission that would have little power while the progressives would like to see a commission that could really accomplish something. But the very fact that the standpaters are changing front upon the question of a tariff commission and upon the subject of the direct election of senators shows that the people are having their way and ultimately will have their way completely.
 "The wheels turn slowly but surely."
ROUSTING THE ROUGH NECK.
 Pendleton is not the only place where determined efforts are being made to keep the liquor business under proper restrictions. Other eastern Oregon towns that were formerly

dry are taking the same course. People everywhere are determined that the saloonmen shall not regain their old time power in business and in political circles.
 In the large cities also the big stick of moral reform is being waved above the heads of the saloonkeepers and the people who represent them. In Spokane the saloon question is the principal thing at issue in the coming charter election. The commission plan of government is proposed for Spokane and if it is adopted the responsibility for the control of the saloons will be definitely fixed upon certain officials and they will have to make the saloons be good. In Tacoma and other cities that have adopted the commission form of government the saloons have little say in affairs.
 In Seattle just now the mayor is facing a recall election and the chief of police is fighting for his official life because those men have been with the "open town" element. In Portland also the chief of police is in trouble upon the same score.
 All of these things merely prove that people will not permanently endure conditions that are wrong. They won't stand for graft and they won't stand for a saloon system that breeds intemperance and misery and fosters crime. At least healthy minded people won't.
 It is all off with the grafter, the dive and the divekeeper.
A WEAKLING'S PLEA.
 Over at Ritzville, Washington, a man is on trial for having murdered a young woman and the defense is arguing that he should be excused because prenatal influences were responsible for his crime. Quite likely the plea has some foundation. No murder is ever committed without being prompted by some influence often beyond the control of the murderer. But people should learn to control themselves despite such influences. It might help others to overcome prenatal influences if the Ritzville jury would order Holland hung.
 The people of this county allow too much water to flow unused to the sea. The land adjoining our streams needs moisture and it should be applied. There is plenty of water in the ocean already.
 Speaking of good roads why not abolish the Wild Horse hill which people must scale when they drive into town from that direction and must climb again when they depart?
 It is almost Christmas but the weather man persists in ordering clear skies and sunshine. Not much show for a "White Christmas" in Pendleton this year.
 So Senator Lorimer looks alright to the senate committee that investigated his case. This makes it look rather bad for the senate committee.
 In Portland a man with a hammer bit a policeman. What would he have done if he had been carrying a saw?
 We are finding out what W. J. Furnish and Dr. Coe think of each other.
 The burglars seem to have a special taste for home canned fruit.
 You might as well join in the rush.
THE HANDICAP.
 We are having trouble, rather, with our father.
 That's a very stubborn fact beyond denial.
 He's so obstinate and set
 And he scoffs at etiquette.
 If you knew him you would own he was a trial.
 For he always speaks so gruffly and so roughly,
 And he doesn't know convention is a law.
 We have found no way to reach him;
 It's impossible to teach him—
 He's an awful heavy handicap, is paw.
 It appears he isn't able, at the table,
 To discover that the silver has its uses.
 Very much domestic strife
 He's occasioned with his knife.
 And it's awkward when we try to make excuses.
 He just laughs at our ambition for position,
 And he very often mixes "seen" and "saw."
 And he shows pronounced objection
 To our efforts at correction—
 He's an awful heavy handicap, is paw.
 All our labors he is queering by appearing
 In his shirt sleeves at some very formal function.
 He declares he'll take his case
 If it isn't just the cheese.
 And he does it with no feelings of compunction.
 We may be quite wrong in caring, but it's wearing,
 Is the way that he'll touch us on the raw.
 He will dig up for expenses,
 But he thinks we've lost our senses,
 He's an awful heavy handicap, is paw.
 —Kenneth Harris.
 Wyandotte: "I am feeling very uncomfortable. Minora: "Whatever is the matter?" Wyandotte: "My pinfeathers are sticking me."

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CHILDREN OF THE POOR.
 The little children of the poor before the window stand;
 Life's paths at last have led them to see the Promised Land;
 There's light and life and glory where all the windows glow.
 They wonder, too, why Santa Claus forgets poor children so.

Each toy in the windows seems like a sparkling gem.
 But the little children of the poor—
 They were not meant for them.

Yet, sweet it is to view them, and some may take their cause;
 Some pitying angel passing may whisper Santa Claus;
 May whisper, as through crowded streets the poor, sad children go,
 And Santa—he'll be sorry he forgets the children so.

For, the toys in the windows—
 Each seem a sparkling gem,
 But the little children of the poor
 They were not meant for them.
 —Frank L. Stanton.

THE MIRAGES.
 Across the painted desert,
 Toward the burning skies,
 From plains of phantom verdure
 Their purple peaks arise.
 The mist along their summits
 A scarf of silver trails,
 From cliff to cliff the waters
 Fling down their foamy veils.

From Arizona's furnace
 Of arid sands and stones,
 And dusty cactus gardens
 Strewn thick with bleaching bones,
 The traveler at sunrise
 Beholds their ramparts gay,
 And seeks their cooling shadows
 To see them fade away.

Ghost mountains of the mesas,
 No living foot can climb
 Their canyons bright with blossoms
 Or ledges dark with thyme.
 For there the desert victims,
 (So say the Navajos),
 Who die of thirst and hunger,
 Alone may find repose.
 —Max Irving.

Cautions.
 "Your wife boasts that you called on her every night for six months before you married her."
 "Yes. In that way I escaped the necessity of writing any love letters."
 —Chicago Record-Herald.

Mr. Cityman is hereby informed in response to his inquiry, that wrinkles on a cow's horns are not caused by trouble or worry.

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