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SONNET.

If when we come to lay our burdens down
We know that we have done our level best
Along the valley of our living and the crest,
We may, perhaps, receive the victor's crown,
But we may not. The king and eke the clown
Go forth, obedient to the last behest,
To seek the hazard of an untried quest,
The glory of the grave of their renown.
Let lose or win, if conscience be but clear,
Our souls, released from every doubt and care,
Are not by divers doctrines sore distressed,
And in that unknown Elsewhere, far or near,
Our faith remains that all our life was square
And that shall be forever joy and rest.

—L. J. Lampton.

MAY MISS THE GOAL.

There are as many plans for securing good roads as there are routes to heaven. Incidentally it seems as hard for good roads advocates to agree upon plans as it is for churchmen to lay aside their creeds. In Oregon at this time the good roads people are forgetting the end which all desire—better highways—and are quarreling over the manner of obtaining that end.

The best organized move for good roads Oregon has ever seen is now on. The state good roads association has before the legislature a plan for systematic highway construction and for co-operation between the state and the counties in sharing the expense.

Yet strange as it may seem this move is earnestly opposed by the members of the grange and of the farmers' co-operative union. Many western Oregon representatives are opposing the good roads measure at the instance of their grange constituents. Eastern Oregon senators and representatives are doing the same at the request of the farmers unions of this section. The president of the Umatilla county farmers' union is at Salem lobbying against the bill.

Just why so many farmers are opposing the good roads measure is difficult to understand. The move is not a selfish scheme on the part of Portland people. Those people are acting with the greatest liberality in this matter. The move proposed is a move for the benefit of the entire state but largely at the expense of Portland. Should the good roads measure pass Portland will have to pay one-third the state money that is used, or about \$200,000 in one year.

Yet Multnomah county itself will not get a particle of direct good out of the measure. Multnomah county already has good roads and will ask for none of the state money. In backing good roads legislation Portland people are taking a broad view of affairs and are striving to build up their city through the betterment of the state at large.

Objection is raised by many to the idea of having a highway commission and a highway commissioner or engineer drawing \$4000 per year. It is charged that the commission will take the building of the roads "away from the people." But this objection is weak because the county courts will say where roads shall be constructed and will also expend the money. The engineer will merely direct the methods of roadbuilding. Nor is the commissioner's salary of \$4000 anything to excite serious objection. If the state can spend \$600,000 for good roads surely it can spend \$4000 for a capable engineer to supervise the work. Without proper supervision there is danger of improper work and of consequent loss.

In the view of the East Oregonian much of the objection to the plan of the good roads association arises out of a misunderstanding of the mea-

ures and of the motives of the men behind the same. Perhaps the good roads leaders did not take the people of the state sufficiently into their confidence in this matter. It is evident that something is wrong somewhere. From appearances at present Oregon will not have good roads because the people are unable to agree how to obtain them.

PROTECT THE CHILDREN.

In an editorial upon the subject of child labor the Spokesman-Review presents some ideas that are basic. Children, it says, are assets of the state. It has an interest in them and a duty toward them that are only second, if second at all, to the parents' duty and interest. The exploitation of children as laborers at ages and in occupations that injures them has been found by bitter experience to work physical and moral harm to society. It is incumbent upon legislators and citizens to consider the principles that should inspire and guide laws in regard to children's labor.

The first is that children have the right to childhood, which consists in living the life that is peculiar to the child and fits it for the self-propelled life of the man or woman. This right contains the right not to be obliged to labor at self-support, or at helping to support others, before it has been given such elements of education and reached such maturity of body and mind as reasonably qualify it to be a useful member of society in all ways and to support a family. For society not to insist and see to it that all children receive at least this minimum of preparation for living is to plant the foundation of the state in quicksand.

THIS BILL SHOULD PASS.

Senator Albee has a bill that deserves adoption by the legislature. It provides that railroad companies must publish their time cards in newspapers. The bill is aimed to do away with the annoyance that train patrons are subject to in looking up train schedules. At this time the railroads do not make a practice of publishing their time cards and patrons must learn about trains the best way they can. Usually one must go to a depot to secure such information and that often involves much inconvenience. Sometimes the needed information may be secured by phone but Pendleton people know that serious difficulties attend that method of procedure. It would not cost the railroad companies much to publish their time cards and certainly it would be a big convenience to the public while incidentally it would save railroad employees many inquiries.

If reports are true President Taft would make a treaty with Japan under which coolie labor may be admitted promiscuously to America. If such a treaty as that is adopted the president will do well to stay away from the Pacific coast.

Perhaps the idea that Portland will unselfishly spend \$200,000 for the construction of good roads throughout the state is so startling that the farmers are loath to believe it.

Thus far four distinguished delegations have been here to look up the matter of a branch asylum site. Undoubtedly out of all this investigation some good will result.

Had a Name and a Voice.

In one of the schools in this city where there are many Italian children the music teacher was giving her first lesson says the Philadelphia Times. The teacher, who is rather stern in her way, struck the tuning fork and sang the first note, the children following. All went well for a short time until she suddenly discovered that one of the boys had a very deep voice.

"Who's doing that deep singing?" she demanded.
"Caruso," answered a voice from the end of the room.
"I'll not stand for any fooling. Who's singing that way?"
"Caruso," answered the deep voice. Then followed a storm of words from the teacher relative to "fooling" in class and it so frightened the boy that he couldn't open his mouth. When he did try to say something the teacher promptly commanded him to come down to her office after school.

ORESTE KNEW.

"We have fireless cookers, wireless telegraphy, horseless carriages, smokeless powder"—the teacher paused an instant. "Now, can you name some of the other things?"
The little son of the Chicago woman who had married a count, raised his hand.
"I know!" he shouted.
"Well, Oreste, you may tell us."
"Loveless marriages!" cried the youngster proudly.—Judge.

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JANUARY 28 IN HISTORY.

1668—The Triple Alliance formed.
1725—Peter the Great of Russia died. Born 1672.
1760—Matthew Carey, a pioneer in American Journalism born. Died September 16, 1839.
1760—Matthew McKenzie, liberal leader in Canada, born.
1849—Sikhs defeated the British in sanguinary battle at Allwal.
1859—William H. Prescott, American historian, died.
1871—Paris capitulated to the Germans.
1889—General strike of street railway men in New York city.
1895—President Cleveland asked of congress authority to issue gold bonds.
1909—Jose Miguel Gomez, inaugurated president of Cuba.

GOING AWAY BACK.

A western buyer is inordinately proud of the fact that one of his ancestors signed his signature with many a curze and flourish. The salesman's patience becoming exhausted in waiting for the buyer to recognize him, he observed:
"You have a fine signature, Mr. So-and-so."
"Yes," admitted the buyer. "I should have. One of my forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence."
"So?" said the caller with rising indignation. And then he added:
"Well, you ain't god nothings on me. One of my forefathers signed the ten commandments."

MINUS THE PEOPLE.

Some weeks ago two little girls of 6 and 7 years old heard a party of older people discussing skeletons. The 6-year-old lass listened intently to the conversation, when the elder girl, with an air of superior knowledge, said abruptly:
"You don't know what a skeleton is, and I do."
"So do I!" sharply replied the younger. "I do know! I know for certain. I do."
"Well, now, what is it?" the elder wanted to know.
"Why, it's bones with the people off, that's what it is!"—Metropolitan Magazine.

A CONSERVATIVE.

In a local shoe store one day this week a stout man appeared to be having considerable difficulty in finding just what he wanted.
After showing him a dozen or more pairs the salesman blandly observed:
"Now, here is a pair that I think will suit you to perfection."
After examining the shoes, the stout man exclaimed, "I don't like them. They are too narrow and too pointed."
"Ah," returned the clerk, "but they are wearing narrow, pointed shoes this season."
"Possibly," returned the stout man, "but I am still wearing my last season's feet."—Youngtown Telegram.

When They Overreached.

As they padded along in a nook, she said faintly, "Why, Algeron, look in the oak. I declare—
I see mistletoe there!"
And the crowd fished them out with a hook.
—Ladies Home Journal.

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