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THE EARTH MOTHER.
The wise old Mother lets man play a while—
Even as a child with toys—
About the earth,
Ere she shall welcome back
With sweet, slow smile,
The foolish one to whom her throes gave birth.
Tug at his tether as he may, he knows,
Deep in his heart, that she is always by;
He feels her presence underneath the snows,
And in the rain of autumn hears her sigh.
The more he strays, the longer battles grim
With foes or friends, playing man's shifting role,
The surlier doth there slow uprise in him
The yearning to come back and ease his soul—
To take her hands and look into her face
And kiss her forehead, while he hears her say:
"Welcome, my dear, to the old wanted place,
Welcome to love, and sleep and holiday."
—Richard Burton.

A WHISPER IN THE WIND.
John E. Parsons, self styled organizer of the sugar trust holds rare views for this day and age. Listen to what he has had to say:
"The sooner politicians realize that their efforts to prevent combinations of capital from increasing prices on all commodities and that the 'dear public' is the only sufferer by their attempts, the better it will be for the country."
"Capitalization of corporations on a basis of actual physical valuation of properties is a joke," continued Parsons. "The future must be capitalized as must also opportunities. The government must keep its hands off."
It is not of the same variety that was handed out by feudal lords to their serfs in medieval times. The underlings were told to work and not try to think or attempt anything for their own advancement. That should be left to their masters. They knew what to do. In the days before the French revolution when peasants were starving to sustain a useless and corrupt nobility the people were told to eat grass if they could find nothing better. But they did not do it very long.
If there were many men like Parsons and if there were any danger or their remaining in control the country would be facing a serious situation. There would be danger of God knows what.
But fortunately even the money kings of the country are not quite so radical as this. The most of them have more breadth of view than Parsons and more Americanism. That such is true is evidenced by the recent utterances of President Gary of the steel trust that hope lies in governmental regulation.
There is hope in governmental action—brought on by politicians of the progressive type—and it is the country's only hope. Left to themselves individuals can no more cope with the trusts than with the elements. Individuals are powerless in the grip of the monopolies and as long as the government keeps its hands off the monopolies will run things to suit their own sweet pleasure. It has always been that way. The French nobility did not establish the republic of France. The populace did it by the force of might. George the third did not give up the colonies until forced to do so. The trust magnates of this country will continue to rule for their own advantage just as long as the people allow them to.
The saving feature of the situation in this country is that the people have direct power over the government if they but care to exercise it and exercise this power they will in due time. The voice of the people is

heard now and respected in the high places of the country. By their own efforts the people are bringing about reform after reform. Governmental regulation of corporations has already started and it will be carried through to the end. Regulation at first will be almost farcical but it will be made more and more effective until in the end we will have a country that offers equal opportunities to all and special privileges to none.
Democracy is the law of God and fellows like Parsons can no more stop its onward march than could old King Canute prevail against the rising of the tide. The public statement of Parsons is a whisper in the wind—nothing more—and the only wonder is that he should attempt a thing so futile and so foolish.

AS TO INCREASED RATES.
It is a stock argument of those who oppose making the electrical company place its wires underground that the improvement will mean expense to the company and therefore a proportionate increase in local rates.
There is nothing to the charge for the reason that the rates are still too high even with the announced reduction and for the reason that the grounding of their wires in the business section will increase the electric company's revenue from cluster lights.
Supposing it should cost the electric company \$10,000 to ground its wires in the business section. The company can secure money at five per cent and five per cent interest upon \$10,000 amounts to \$500 a year. With cluster lights installed at regular intervals on Main and Court streets the electric company would easily secure interest on its increased investment from its charges for cluster lights. It is getting more than that sum for the cluster lights now in use and it is not earning the money. The cluster lights are a farce and will be as long as the unsightly poles remain.
There is no sound reason for worrying over the danger of increased rates. There will be no need of an increase in rates. Should such an increase be ordered as a matter of punishment we will be able to get redress through the state public service commission which will have the power to regulate the rates and the service of this corporation.

INVESTIGATE.
Many wild stories are told regarding the probable cost of paving on the streets slated for improvement this summer. Those who are circulating the remonstrances get over zealous at times and so lead people astray. A sure way to find out what a paving assessment will be is to go to the city recorder and ascertain the facts first. It will not take long and property owners should do this before signing a remonstrance. Investigate first. It will not take long.
Under an ordinance the city has any sort of an overhead sign save an illuminated one. The ordinance is for the purpose of keeping the streets looking well. Yet we allow the electric company and the telephone company to keep their scarred and weatherbeaten poles on the sidewalks. Why this discrimination? Are the electric company and the telephone company better than our local merchants?
The traveling men are good boosters or good knockers according as the case may be. So it is a move in the right direction for the Commercial club to plan a banquet in their honor this fall. Entertain them and tell them what Pendleton is, what it hopes to be and enlist them in the cause.

WHAT A BOY CAN DO.
These are some of the things a boy can do;
He can shout so loud the air turns blue;
He can make all sounds of beast and bird,
And a thousand more they never heard.
He can crow or cackle, chirp or cluck
Till he fools the rooster, hen or duck.
He can mock the dog or lamb or cow
And the cat herself can't beat his "me-ow."
He has sounds that are ruffled, striped or plain;
He can thunder by like a railway train.
Stop at the stations a breath, and then
Apply the steam and be off again.
He has all of his powers in such command,
He can turn right into a full brass band.
With all of the instruments ever played,
And march away as a street parade.
You can tell that a boy is very ill
If he's wide awake and is keeping still;
But earth would be—God bless their noise—
A dull old place if there were no boys.
—Nixon Waterman.

WHAT IS WAR?
Members of the latest Hague peace tribunal are wondering yet whether one of the delegates from China was

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having fun with them or really wanted to know when he asked these questions:
"I have listened to your discussion as to what constitutes a state of war. Will you learned gentlemen kindly tell me whether you consider a state of war exists when the armies of several foreign countries are landed in another country, march to the capital of that country, climb its walls, enter all its sacred places, and not only kill its inhabitants but loot its palaces and temples?"
"While the delegates were considering this question he asked: 'What is the situation when the country declares war on another country and the other country won't fight?'"

QUEER MORALITY.
Upton Sinclair, in a lecture in New York, condemned industrial or business morality.
"It is all wrong," he said, "but every one thinks it is all right. It reminds me of Tin Can."
"Once in a Tin Can poker game a tenderfoot saw a player give himself four aces from the bottom of the pack. The tenderfoot flushed with indignation. He turned to a Tin Can native and whispered:
"Did you see that?"
"See what?"
"Why that hound dealt himself four aces!"
"What," said the native, in a surprised tone, "wasn't it his deal?"

Far From It.
"Where am I?" the invalid exclaimed, waking from the long delirium of fever and feeling the comfort that loving hands had supplied.
"Where am I—in heaven?"
"No, dear," cooed his wife, "I am still with you."
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A Difference.
"You observe," remarked the host who was showing his distinguished foreign visitors around Newport, "that we Americans devote ourselves to pleasure regardless of expense."
"I'd hardly put it that way," retorted the witty foreigner. "Rather you devote yourselves to expense regardless of pleasure."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY SKETCH.
Joseph L. Bristow, United States senator from Kansas, was born in old Kentucky fifty years ago today. He first became known as fourth assistant postmaster general of the United States. He cleaned out the Augean stables of the Cuban postal department and reorganized the system. For the past few weeks Mr. Bristow has been very much in the public eye because of the stand he has taken, with United States Senator Lorimer, against Canadian reciprocity. He is a graduate of Baker University, Baldwin, Kans., and noted as a newspaper editor.

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