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THE DAILY OCCURRENCE.

It sometimes happens when we scan The new morning papers That not a South American Republic's cutting capers, But this may always be looked for When one takes up one's journal, That somewhere some new governor Is lined up for the Colonel. It doesn't happen every day That people sadly mutter Because they are compelled to pay A higher price for butter; Conditions down in Mexico Are sometimes not infernal; The governors keep busy, though, In calling for the Colonel. The war scares off are shoved aside, We do not need them daily; Sometimes the rich man's show girl bride Refrains from acting gayly; But one thing we may always see, Its flashing is diurnal; Some governor reports that he Is lined up for the Colonel. —E. L. Kiser.

A duty for tomorrow—go and register.

The Ground Hog did not see his shadow.

Too bad the visiting board cannot hear the Warner trial.

Councilmen should "line up" the electric trust; not allow it to get them into line.

When the new high school is opened it will be sadly deficient in a very important way if it does not offer a course in domestic science.

With over seven inches of rain thus far this season the prospects for a good crop are rosy. Umatilla county has the soil and when it gets a satisfactory rainfall, as it usually does the wheat crop is worth hauling in.

In many respects the coming primary election will be the most interesting in Oregon's history. It will be the first time voters have had a chance to use the presidential preference primary law. Register now and get ready for the fray.

At the time the McNamara's admitted their guilt there was a very general suspicion that "something had slipped." It is not customary even for guilty men to plead guilty unless the state in some manner gets the "drop" on them.

THE OREGON JONAH.

The Portland Oregonian is enlisted in the equal suffrage campaign that is to be carried on again this year. If the suffrage leaders desire success it might be well for them to "Harvey-ize" that support. The Oregonian has been such a persistent foe of everything that stood for the political or educational advancement of the state that some people may look upon its advocacy of suffrage as a sign there is something wrong with the move. But perhaps the trend towards equal suffrage is so strong that the amendment can be carried this fall regardless of the handicap.

MUCH TO EXPLAIN.

It is to be hoped that in submitting information to the members of the visiting board of engineers Mr. Burgess made it clear regarding the unfortunate "accident" which caused the anti-extensionists to make use of the corporate name of the Umatilla Water Users' association in fighting the Extension. Also we presume he testified as has Mr. Hurd that they were warned about that infringement early in December. Perhaps too he explained why it was no correction was ever made and why the unfair letter to President Taft was not recalled. If he did he should have told also why it was the answer to Secretary Fisher's letter of inquiry was delayed for

several weeks or until the affair was exposed in this publication. Maybe too the "antis" elucidated to members of the board why their newspaper organs denounce the members of the board (when they are not around) in very scurrilous terms and try to make honest farmers believe the reclamation service is filled with pinheads, martlets and thieves.

A DIFFICULT PROBLEM.

In yesterday's issue of the East Oregonian some information was given concerning the electric trust and the workings of that part of the octopus that ramifies the northwest. It is not a pleasing state of affairs that is revealed, by any means.

What frightens people though is not so much the existence of individual trusts as the growing belief that the country is becoming beset with "combinations of combinations." Governor Woodrow Wilson describes it as "private control of business."

In a speech at the Jackson Day banquet in Washington a few weeks ago he criticised private control of politics and then spoke in this way:

"Now, the other thing that has been privately controlled in this country is the business of the country. I do not mean that each man's particular business ought not to be privately controlled, but I mean that the great business transactions of this country are privately controlled by gentlemen whom I can name and whom I will name, if it is desired; men of great dignity of character; men, as I believe, of great purity of purpose, but men who have concentrated, in their own hands, transactions which they are not willing to have the rest of the country interfere with.

"Now, the real difficulty in the United States, gentlemen, it seems to me, is not the existence of great individual combinations—that is dangerous enough in all countries—but the real danger is the combination of the combinations, the real danger is that the same group of men control chains of banks, systems of railways, whole manufacturing enterprises, great mining projects, great enterprises for the developing of the natural water power of this country, and that threaded together in the personnel of a series of boards of directors is a community of interest more formidable than any conceivable combination in the United States."

Other public men are pointing out the same problem and are discussing how to handle it. Some congressmen

think they can accomplish good by investigating what they class as the money trust. Others lay all trouble to the tariff. Some think the solution lies in regulation by the government of the prices charged by trusts. Others favor the gradual acquisition by the government of public utilities and the improvement of the public service with a view to greater and greater participation by the government in the industrial and business life of the country.

Whatever people may think as to the proper course to pursue it must be admitted by all that the people have a problem to solve that is fully as difficult if not more perplexing than anything that ever before arose in the history of the country.

WHAT IS A SPORT?

By the will of a wealthy citizen who left \$200,000 to the National League for the Promotion of Physical Culture, the French courts and the French Academy have been confronted by a perplexing problem. The bequest was made for the purpose of encouraging "sport." In the French dictionary there is no such work. The term is well enough understood by the public, but has no meaning in law or literature. Hence arises a difficulty in construing the will.

It is believed that the academy will adopt the word and define it as meaning: "A combination of muscular efforts by men and animals and regulated with sufficient ingenuity for mankind to find amusement in it." That definition would include dancing, as well as croquet and mumble-the-peg. It would exclude lynchings, which has been defined as the king of outdoor sports, and also poker and other games whose adepts are generally known among us as "real live sports."

Whether automobiling as now practiced can be defined as "a combination of muscular effort intelligently directed" is questionable; yet it passes undisturbed as sport. On the other hand, street-parading behind a brass band on civic holidays, though generally "regulated with sufficient ingenuity for mankind to find amusement in it," is not called sport. Finally, one man's sport is another man's nuisance, as the frog in the fable said to the boys that were throwing stones at him. It would appear that a sport is anything a sporty person likes. If the French court be wise it will set the bequest aside on the ground that it is opposed to public welfare.—New York World.

WHY IMMIGRANTS GO HOME.

Excepting the after-panic year 1908, when emigration from this country was 160,000 more than its immigration, 1911 will show the smallest net foreign addition to our population

for many years. Up to Dec. 1 the arrivals in New York were 781,058, departures 486,794; and in December the departures are exceeding arrivals by many thousands.

Only within recent years have the Federal officials sought to keep accurate figures of emigration, but the process of ebb and flow has always existed since fast steamships began plying. Alarmists who have pictured the dangers of immigration have often blundered by considering the gross figures only. In the decade 1901-10 immigration rose to an enormous total of 8,796,000; but the net gain from this source was much smaller than the natural increase through births.

The heavy exodus this year is in part due to slack work. Building activity has fallen off slightly. Railroad work is proceeding slowly for financial reasons. But the custom among our foreign-born residents of taking a flying visit home is growing irrespective of lack of work. This year a special cause exists in the war in Tripoli of which students of figures have not taken sufficient account. Some thousands of Italians have gone eastward hoping for a chance to fight; but a much larger number who had been planning to go back "some time" have seized the present occasion, when political differences are forgotten and when the entire peninsula is in a patriotic festival spirit over "la terza Italia."

Sentiment counts heavily in that enormous total of 486,794 re-emigrants. And most of them will come back.

THE NEW CATTLE COUNTRY

This is Mexico—Mexico of the cattle country, the new cattle country. And the four men riding silently across the clearing in the glow of the sunset were Mexican cowboys. They sat gracefully astride mules, with their serapes (blankets) wound closely about them, each with a chunk of raw beef, bleeding and uncovered, dangling from his saddle. They were going into the mountains on the first night of the great rodeo (round-up) which would begin on Babicora Plain in the morning.

This mountain phase of the work is only one of the features of the Mexican cattle business that excites even the American cowboy's emotions. There are other things that greatly impress him—the immense sizes of the rodeos and remudas (herds of saddle-horses taken along by the vaqueros for use in the rodeos), and the extreme poverty, simplicity and primitive, dare-devil fearlessness of the vaqueros. But after he has seen and pondered over these things, after he has lived for months on the Mexican range, and has taken part in a dozen rodeos, his most lasting impression of it all is this picture in the foothills—these solemn, mule-mounted Mexicans, riding at dusk through a pool of crimson sunset. And

this is so, perhaps, not altogether because of the colors and the picturesqueness of the setting, but because he has never seen anything like it in his own country. In the states a cowboy on a mule would be a curiosity; and there is nothing in the tablelands and low, rolling hills of Montana or Texas that can compare with these rugged, steep-sided plains and valleys of Mexico. Then, again, there is something so wild, primitive and picturesque in the very appearance and dress of the vaqueros, apart from the country itself and the brilliant colorings, that the stamp of commerce fades into the background. The mules and raw, bleeding beef, the short jackets, tight pantaloons, immense hats and altogether fierce aspect of the riders, seem more like a part of some barbaric pilgrimage than a peaceful quest on a matter of honest business. It is probable that nowhere else in North America, possibly in the whole world, will one find greater contrast between outward appearance and inward purpose.—From "The New Cattle Country," by F. Warner Robinson, in the February Scribner.

THE FURNACE.

The following essay is furnished by a reader who is afraid George Fitch may not find time to do justice to the subject:

"The furnace is the original cause for the necessity of the phrase, 'The perversity of inanimate objects.' "It's efficiency at producing profanity is unsurpassed, even by the proverbial 'lost collar button.' "

"It is claimed by some that the furnace was invented by the coal man, but there is no more proof of this than there is that the ice man invented hot weather; that John D. invented oil or that the milk man invented water.

"There are two sets of rules for running a furnace.

"One is to turn on the drafts, in which case it will burn out, and the other is to close the drafts, in which case it will go out of its own accord.

"It is similar to the cigarettist in that it is usually brisk and robust at bedtime, but completely down and out when it is time to get up in the morning.

"It is built of heavy, galvanized material, and is firmly attached to the basement floor. This is to prevent it from being precipitated into the alley each Sabbath morning.

"When the weather is bitterly cold the furnace should be carefully wrapped in blankets to keep it from freezing.

"The requisites for running a furnace are one shaker, one poker, fifteen cords of kindling, fifteen tons of coal and an unlimited amount of patience.

"No two-flat building is complete without a furnace, and few two-flat buildings are comfortably warm with them. Any man who has successfully manned a furnace for two seasons can die in peace, knowing that if his most bitter enemy's wish should come true he will at least be familiar with his new job. TOD HUD."

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Two Old Maids Anna—What do you think Mr. Eklund charged me for sewing on a pair o' soles on my shoes? Clara—Don't know and don't care Anna, he only charged me 65c and did fine work too—yes, but I don't like him. Anna—Well, well, you evidently do or you wouldn't care. Men's soles sewed on for 90c. Full line of men's fine shoes.

A. EKLUND Main Street.

BRING IN YOUR PONY VOTES

In order to avoid confusion as to standing of contestants in our big Pony Contest, we would like to have all votes cast as soon as possible. Standings of each boy and girl in the contest, are now displayed at our store.

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