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Seattle hotel proprietors, who organized a few months ago to take an active part in political affairs, have found a new field of activity. They are going to reduce the cost of living. This may sound like a joke to those who have paid hotel bills, but it is none the less true that the hotel men have looked horns with the local produce trust, as the association of commission merchants is called, and have announced the intention to force lower prices to the public and higher prices to the farmer. The hotel men declare that the commission men, through the Seattle Produce Association, keep up selling prices beyond all reason on fruit and vegetables and dairy products, but that they do not give the farmer or rancher any more, if as much, as the commission merchants in other cities. The services of the United States District Attorney have been called upon to assist in an investigation of the gentlemen's agreement among the commission men, and the general public is watching eagerly for any signs of a reduction in the prices of food. Producers all over the Northwest are interested in the conflict, for the farmer as a rule is easily convinced that he is getting the worst of it from the commission men, whose principal interest in handling produce seems to be to get the ten per cent that is his share. Under present conditions in the large cities, both the producer and the consumer have been contributing to the soft profits of the commission men's combines, and now look forward to a better deal.

A state convention of Esperantists has been called for July 16 in the convention hall of the Portland Commercial Club, when students of the new world language, educators teachers and others interested are asked to meet to consider the organization of a state Esperanto association. Other matters vital to the wide spread adoption of the language will come up. Among these will be the election of delegates to the international Esperanto Congress to be held at Washington, D. C., August 14-20, and the proposal to introduce Esperanto in the public schools, as it is being done in Maryland and elsewhere.

The way to a man's vote is through his stomach, say the Washington state leaders of the equal suffrage movement which is making progress toward the climax of the campaign at the November election. Therefore the women who want to vote have issued a suffrage cook book, which is not only a first class text book in culinary art but a means of raising campaign expenses as well, for the suffrage workers sell the books to pay their expenses. Last week the Washington Equal Suffrage Association presented 100 of its cook

books to the Oregon Association, which is also fighting for "Votes for Women," and a like number to the associations of Oklahoma and South Dakota. These gifts celebrated the payment of a printers bill for 3,000 cook books, and now the suffrage campaign is "on velvet" as it were, with cook books to meet all expense.

The Pacific Light & Power company organized by eastern capitalists with a capitalization of \$7,500,000, plans to develop a great electrical generating and distributing system throughout the Yakima, Columbia and Walla Walla valleys. Other concerns have been taken over by the big corporation which will give special attention to furnishing power for irrigation work throughout the territory covered. It is promised that by concentrating the water power development in the Northwest, a more satisfactory service will be developed than can be rendered by private companies.

The Oregonian would have us believe that the failure to get the states apportionment clause in the federal irrigation bill was because of lack of interest on the part of Oregon's senators, but the whole country knows that it was the Taft administration "getting back" at the western insurgents. The "stand patter" lash did not stop at the irrigation bill, but took a slash at the conservation bill also. There is nothing in politics but politics, and when Taft overlooks a chance to take a crack at opposition to Eastern interests, he don't, that's all.

Uncle Sam is counting his timber wealth on the slopes of the Cascade mountains. Expert timber cruisers in the employ of the government are at work making the estimate and it is expected that it will take all this summer and next to complete the cruise of the water shed of the Willamette river and its tributaries in the Cascade reserve. The land will be classified and the timber segregated into logging units. This is the first attempt, so far known, of the government to take an inventory of its timber resources.

The old Dalles military wagon road grant is about to be placed on the market and this land, together with the Willamette Valley & Cascade Mountain road grant that is to be sold in small tracts, will mean a great colonization movement for Oregon during the coming few years. The Dalles grant comprises 430,000 acres and is very largely valuable agricultural land. Its settlement will mean a great increase in the state's population and wealth.

The crop prospects in this section appear to be about normal and since the yield is practically assured, the question of price is uppermost in the mind of the wheatraiser.

You can never tell what will transpire on the score board until the ball game is over; as in Sunday's game for instance.

Athena will have a sane 4th. There will be no celebration here.

Good Pasture. If you want good pasture for your stock, where there is plenty of grass and good water, at \$1.25 per month, write G. W. Johnson, Weston, R. F. D. No. 2.

TOOK HIM AT HIS WORD.

Don Piatt's Client Had a Stunted Sense of Humor.

A quaint story about Don Piatt is told in the "Recollections of a Varied Life," by George Cary Eggleston. The story is given in Mr. Piatt's own words:

"When I was a young man trying to get into a law practice in Ohio and eager to advertise myself by appearing in court a fellow was indicted for arson. He came to me, explaining that he had no money with which to pay a lawyer, but that he thought I might like to appear in a case so important and that if I would do the best I could for him he stood ready to do anything for me that he could by way of recompense. I took the case, of course. It was a complex one, and it offered opportunities for browbeating and 'bailing up' witnesses—a process that specially impresses the public with the sagacity of a lawyer who does it successfully. Then, if by any chance I should succeed in acquitting my client, my place at the bar would be assured as that of a sharp young fellow who had beaten the prosecuting attorney himself."

"But in telling my client I would take his case the demon of humor betrayed me. Just across the street from my lodging was a negro church, and there was a 'revival' going on at the time. They 'revived' till 2 o'clock or later every night with shoutings that interfered with my sleep. With playful impulse I said to the accused man: 'You seem to be an expert in the arts of arson. If you'll burn that negro church I'll feel that you have paid me full price for my service in defending you.'"

"I defended him, and as the witnesses against him were all of shady character I succeeded in securing his acquittal. About 4 o'clock the next morning a fire broke out under all four corners of that negro church, and before the local fire department got a quart of water into action it was a heap of smoldering ashes, hymn books and all. A week or so later I received a letter from my ex-client. He wrote from St. Louis, 'on his way west,' he said. He expressed the hope that I was 'satisfied with results' and begged me to believe that he was 'a man of honor, who never failed to repay an obligation or reward a service.'"

FIRST PICTURE BOOK.

The Daring Idea That Was Carried Out by Johann Comenius.

Some 300 years ago a German savant had a wonderful vision. At that time children were taught to read by force of arms, so to speak, through hardships and with bitter toil on the part of teacher and of child. It seems curious that the first real step toward lightening the labor of children as they climb the ladder of learning was the product of the imagination not of some fond mother or gentlewoman teacher, but of a bewigged and betitled university doctor.

It was Johann Comenius, however, who first conceived the daring idea that children could be taught by the aid of the memory and the imagination working together. "by means," as he quaintly expressed it, "of sensuous impressions conveyed to the eye, so that visual objects may be made the medium of expressing moral lessons to the young mind and of impressing those lessons upon the memory." In other words, the good herr doctor had the bright idea that picture books could be useful to children. Comenius made his first picture book and called it the "Orbis Pictus." It contains rude woodcuts representing objects in the natural world, as trees and animals, with little lessons about the pictures. It is a quaint volume and one that would cause the average modern child not a little astonishment were it placed before him.

As truly, however, as that term may be applied to any other book that has since been written, the "Orbis Pictus" was an epoch making book. It is the precursor of all children's picture books, and modern childhood has great cause to bless the name of Comenius.

Not the Same Spelling.

A stout man had recourse to a doctor to see whether something could not be done to reduce his size. "It's a disgrace, doctor!" he cried. "Just look at this bay window of mine! Now, what would you advise?"

"Well," replied the physician, eying his waist line, "all I can suggest is to diet."

"All right, doctor, I'm willing. What color would you suggest?"—St. Louis Republic.

A Pious Wish.

It was in a city hospital that a man refused to undergo an operation for appendicitis until his minister could be present.

"What do you want the minister here for?" asked the surgeon.

"Because I want to be opened with prayer," was the reply.—New York Tribune.

Cause and Effect.

"After all, a man who marries takes a big chance."

"You're right. I have a friend who contracted a severe case of hay fever immediately after he had married a grass widow."—Memphis Appeal.

A Dialecture.

"My wife is foreign born. She always talks broken English when she is angry with me."

"Gives you a dialecture, so to speak."—Washington Herald.

Fashion is only the attempt to realize art in living forms and social intercourse.—Hollmes.

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Gentlemen:—I was afflicted with Kidney and Bladder trouble for six years and had tried numerous preparations without getting any relief and had given up hope of ever being cured when FOLEY'S KIDNEY CURE was recommended to me. After using one bottle I could feel the effect of it, and after taking six fifty-cent bottles, I was cured of Kidney and Bladder trouble and have not felt so well for the past twenty years and I owe it to FOLEY'S KIDNEY CURE. James Smith, Bentons Ferry, W. Va.

A Veteran of the Civil War Cured After Ten Years of Suffering.

R. A. Cray, J.P., of Oakville, Ind., writes:—"Most of the time for ten years I was confined to my bed with some disease of the kidneys. It was so severe I could not move part of the time. I consulted the best medical skill available, but got no relief until FOLEY'S KIDNEY CURE was recommended to me. I am grateful to be able to say that it entirely cured me."

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