Pardonable Curiosity.

"Rivers, what brand is that cigar you're smoking?"

"It's a Flor de Ranke. Making a memorandum of it, Brooks? I'll tell you where you can——"

"I'm writing the name of it, old man, in my list of 'Things to be Avoided.'"—Chicago Tribune.

His Crude Idea.

Foreigner—Why do you call it a "primary" election?

Native—We call it that, mister, 'cause that's the way we get primed fur a real election.

Of the Same Kind.

"Old man,' said the chronic calamity howler, buttonholing him, "I don't want to be an alarmist, but——"

"And I don't want to be alarmed. Good morning," interrupted the other man, breaking away from him.—Chicago Tribune.

Not a Competitor.

He (at the reception)—Don't you think that young lady standing near the piano is a beauty?

She (coldly)—Oh, I don't know. Do you know her?

He—Yes; she is Mrs. Merwin—a bride of a week.

She (sweetly)—Ah! Now that I see her from another point of view, she is beautiful.

Uncle Jerry Sees Through Them.

"I see," remarked Uncle Jerry Peebles, "the life insurance companies have laid down a set of rules for making people live fifteen years longer. I ain't going to pay any attention to 'em. The life insurance companies have got a good enough thing as it is."

Charming Frankness.

"Myrtle, is your mother opposed to my coming to see you?"

No, Percy; since I told her there was no—er—likelihood of your ever proposing to me she has withdrawn her objections."—Chicago Tribune.

Impossible.

"I don't care about a church wedding, Myrtle. Do you? Wouldn't you rather be married right here at your own home?"

"Yes, but I am afraid we can't do that, Algy. I'm quite sure it's forbidden in the lease."—Chicago Tribune.

Misunderstood Him.

The elderly widower, before committing himself, was desirous of finding out whether or not the young woman could cook.

"Er—Miss Pearl," he said, "I suppose you are thoroughly at home in the bread line."

"I never stood in one in my life, sir!" indignantly answered the proud girl.

Additional Particulars.

St. Patrick was driving the snakes out of Ireland.

"If you take my advice, young men," he said to the reporters, "you won't write this up—you'll get the reputation of being nature fakers."

But the good man's admonition was wasted. They rushed the story into print.—Chicago Tribune.

Prince Pierre's Point.

Wit illumines one of the dueling stories in Monsieur Ronzier-Dorciere's recent book, "Sur Le Pre."

Prince Pierre Bonaparte, and a French gentleman, Monsieur de la Valette, fought with pistols.

Monsieur de la Valette fired first and missed. The prince fired, hit De la Valette just above the belt, but did not wound him, owing to a five-franc piece in his waistcoat pocket, against which the bullet was flattened.

"Sir," said Prince Bonaparte to his adversary, holding out his hand, "let us make friends, and allow me to congratulate you on the foresight with which you have invested your money."

Flattering Scales.

When Grover Cleveland's son Richard was born, his good friend, Joseph Jefferson, drove over to Gray Gables to congratulate the father.

"How many pounds does the child weigh?" asked the noted actor.

"Fifteen," was the reply.

"Nine," said the attending physician, who had just come in.

Mr. Cleveland assured the doctor that he must be mistaken. "The child weighs fifteen pounds," said he; "I weighed him myself with the scales Joe and I use when we go fishing."—Success Magazine.

A Dear Friend.

"I hear your fren' Tamson's married again."

"Aye, so he is. He's been a dear fren' tae me. He's cost me three wadding presents an' two wreaths."—Dundee Advertiser.

The recipe for Worcestershire sauce, which has made an English firm wealthy and famous, was the secret in an old English family for generations. A butler sold it for a small amount.

Extent of His Knowledge.

The Doctor—Professor, do you know anything about political economy?

The Professor—I know just enough about economy to keep out of politics.

Probably Walked.

"Yes, I went over on the North Side to a card party, and I—I didn't get back till nearly daylight."

"Bridged, eh?"

His Statesmanlike View.

Trusty Henchman—Then you believe in a primary law, do you, colonel?

Political Magnate—Emphatically, yes! It is the easiest of all games to beat.

Ribald Jester.

"Hear about the terrific magazine explosion?"

"No. How about it? When did it happen?"

"Next March. Happened to the Outlook."—Chicago Tribune.

The Servant Problem Again.

"Did you hear that Mrs. Skiddoo caught her husband flirting with that pretty cook she engaged a month ago?"

"Is it possible?"

"It is, indeed. She was terribly upset by it."

"I should imagine she would be. Did she send the cook away?"

"Why, no. She sent her husband away."—Judge.

His Only Fear.

Kind Lady—You should be careful how you tramp around in the sleet, my poor man. This paper states that there are five varieties of grip.

Sandy Pikes—Dat may be, lady, but der is only one kind dat I am skeered of.

Kind Lady—And what is that?

Sandy Pikes—De bulldog's grip, mum.

One Sided Obligation.

The fat passenger accidentally stepped on the street car conductor's foot.

"I beg your pardon, sir," said the conductor.

"Not at all; I beg yours."

"But you don't have to do that, you know. Passengers are not expected to be polite to conductors."

Besides, the unexpected apology flustered the conductor, and he rang up two fares.—Chicago Tribune.

How They Met.

Accidentally they encountered each other for the first time at a railway turnstile.

"Let me pass!" haughtily exclaimed one of the two.

"No!" said the other, with equal haughtiness. "I am first, if you please!"

"O, you are, are you?"

"I am!"

"Indeed? Who are you?"

"I am the Gibson girl!"

"Then you shall go first on account of your age. I am the Harrison Fisher girl."

With a mocking smile the Harrison Fisher girl stepped aside and let the Gibson girl pass.—Chicago Tribune.

Unequal Distribution.

The head waiter at the banquet was in a towering rage.

"They paid that word slinger $50 for half an hour's talk," he fumed; "and all I got was $6.95, mostly in nickels!"

HARRIMAN HILL PACT

Big Railroad Magnates Hold Conference in California.

NORTHWEST WILL BE DISCUSSED

Traffic Arrangement Would Mean the Abandoning of Harriman Line to Puget Sound Points.

San Francisco, March 27.—That the Harriman and Hill railroad forces are getting together and that an agreement in regard to Oregon affairs is impending became apparent yesterday. After E. H. Harriman and Lewis W. Hill, president of the Great Northern, had met at Paso Robles Thursday night, they came on to San Francisco together yesterday on Mr. Harriman's private train and were in conference most of the morning. After their arrival here they were met by C. H. Nutt, general manager of the Northern Pacific; J. P. O'Brien, of the Oregon Railroad & Navigation company and Southern Pacific in Oregon; E. E. Calvin, vice president of the Southern Pacific, and William F. Herrin, and arranged in an informal talk, which occupied half an hour, for a conference to take place today between Mr. Hill, Mr. O'Brien and Mr Nutt for the purpose of discussing traffic affairs. Beyond simply stating that such a conference would take place today, the officials refused to give any information as to what the probable result of the conference would be, preferring not to make public any of their plans until after they have held their meeting.

The presence of Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Nutt implies clearly that the conference will relate to points where the Harriman and Hill lines come into competition in Oregon and Washington. There is still time to make a traffic arrangement in regard to business between Portland and Puget sound, for construction of the Harriman extension northward from Portland has not progressed so far but that more money would be saved by abandoning some of the work already done than by completing the line.

BOYCOTTS OUR GOODS.

Japanese Use Pretext of "Pure Food Law" As a Reason.

Victoria, B. C., March 27.—That a boycott of American goods under guise of enforcement of a "pure food law" has been started in Japan is the statement of a weekly newspaper published at Yokohama. The paper says:

"For some unexplaineable reason excepting that action has been taken under the 'food law,' Japanese officials, backed up by police officers, have been calling upon foreign and native grocers and confiscating their stocks of certain brands of goods. Strange to say, the goods confiscated have been American goods only, and the officials do not even look at te British, German and French goods. Another feature of these strange proceedings was that nearly all the articles confiscated bore the stamp of the American health board and each package was printed with all the names of the ingredients contained."

Castro is Furious.

Bordeaux, March 27.—"If I am a criminal, why haven't my accusers the courage to allow me to return to Venezuela and defend myself?" exclaimed Cipriano Castro this afternoon, when an agent of the French steamship company officially informed him that he must leave the steamer Guadaloupe, on which he sails today, before that vessel reaches Venezuela. "All I ask is the right to a fair trial," he declared. "I am prepared to accept the result. The refusal of Gomez to permit me to enter Venezuela is overwhelming proof that they have no case against me, but realize that, if I set foot on Venezuelan soil, their game is up."

No New Trial for Road.

San Francisco, March 27.—District Judge Van Fleet, in the United States Circuit court, refused today to grant the petition of the Southern Pacific railroad for retrial of the ten charges of cruelty to animals brought by the government and decided against the appellant. The case was the outcome of violations of the law prohibiting the keeping of cattle in transit in the cars longer than 28 hours without unloading for food, water and rest. The railroad attorney argued that the law was unconstitutional.

Lose All-Night Battle.

Guthrie, Okla., March 27.—On the scene of the famous Creek Indian uprising of last year at Hickory settlement, three negroes were killed, five were wounded and 41 were captured in a battle between 20 deputy sheriffs and 100 negroes. The fighting began late Wednesday afternoon and continued until 10 o'clock Thursday. A posse went from Henrietta, 18 miles to the negro settlement to arrest cattle thieves thought to be concealed in a negro's house. The battle took place at the edge of the negroes' camp.

Pullman Car is Held Up.

Denver, March 27.—Two highwaymen entered a Pullman car in the Denver & Rio Grande yards, at West Denver, early today, held up the passengers, six in number, and the conductor and porter, and got away with about $400 in cash. The only woman passenger, Mrs. N. R. Hussey, of Booth Bay Harbor, Me., was not molested. The car was part of Denver & Rio Grande train No. 3, which was held up at Military Junction a few weeks ago.

Buried Weapons Found.

Frontera, Mex., March 27.—During the work of excavation going on here, are acceptable with an immense assortment of prehistoric arms was uncovered. The entire deposit is in an admirable state of preservation. A great many of the arms are strange to the collections now extant. A complete suit of armor, made from copper, is among the articles, and many kinds of weapons.

OREGON WATER LAWS.

Review of Provisions of Code Passed by the Legislature.

By John H. Lewis, State Engineer.

A water law for Oregon, which is believed to be the best among all the states of the Union, became effective on February 24, 1909. Complete state control is provided. No water right can hereafter be acquired without compliance with this law. It abolishes the old requirement of posting a notice on the bank of the stream. Hereafter, the priority of all rights will be determined by the date of receipt of an application in the office of the state engineer. If the application is defective, it will be returned for correction without losing its priority.

The leading feature of this bill is the limitation of franchises to the use of water for power development to a period of 40 years from the date of application, and the requirement that reasonable fees be paid to the state in all cases by those benefitted. The schedule of fees has been designed to ultimately pay the entire cost of administration, thus relieving the general tax payer, who derives only an indirect benefit through the added prosperity resulting from increased development.

The payment to the state of an annual license fee of 25 cents to $2 per horse power hereafter appropriated was provided by the Eaton bill, which takes effect on May 22. This fee is to be collected by the board of control and adjusted from time to time, based upon the percentage of power appropriated which is put to beneficial use.

In brief, the new water code creates a board of control, composed of the state engineer and the division superintendent of each of the two water divisions into which the state has been divided, and upon this board rests the responsibility of determining and recording all water rights heretofore initiated, the granting of new rights in accordance with law, and the protection of all water rights through a comprehensive administrative system.

Before any protection can be granted to vested rights under the new law, such rights must first be determined and recorded. Where numerous ditches tap a stream, and especially if the stream is long and the summer flow limited, state protection is necessary.

The cost and time consumed in determining rights under the old law was very great. The water users along Silver creek, in Lake county, joined in a friendly suit to determine their rights, so that a water master could be employed to distribute the meager supply, thus preventing annually recurring disputes. Fourteen lawyers were employed on only one side of this case. Recently, the case was decided by the Supreme court, after nine years in courts. During this time, one of the contestants died, one became insane, and a number, tiring of the conflict, sold to others.

If the experience of Wyoming is any guide, the most complicated case can probably be decided, under the new law, within a year.

The cost is set out in the law and is designed to be less than the cost of an abstract to the land. For irrigation rights, the cost will be fifteen cents per acre for each acre for which a water right is claimed up to one hundred acres, five cents from one hundred to one thousand inclusive, and one cent for each acre in excess of one thousand acres. For power, the cost will be twenty-five cents for each theoretical horse power claimed, up to and including one hundred, fifteen cents from one hundred to one thousand, inclusive, five cents from one thousand to two thousand, inclusive, and two cents per horse power above two thousand, the minimum fee in either case to be two dollars and fifty cents. For any other claim to water the fee is five dollars.

The procedure is simple. A list of questions is sent to each claimant or owner on the stream. He is required, under forfeiture of his right, to answer the questions which, together with a survey of streams and land areas and measurements of the water supply by the state engineer, furnish all necessary information for an adjucation of rights. The maps and all statements, signed under oath before the superintendent, are submitted upon a given day for examination by all interested parties. If anyone thinks his neighbor is making an eroneous or extravagent claim, his temtimony can be contested. By this procedure, all errors can be corrected and, if necessary, further testimony taken. As soon as possible, an order is entered by the board, determining the rights. This order is put into execution at once and later filed with the Circuit court for confirmation. If no appeals are taken, the order is confirmed. If the case is not reopened within six months, the decree becomes final.

Upon such final determination, water right certificates are issued in accordance with the decree. These certificates are then recorded in the county records and bear the same relation to the water title as the patent from the United States does to the land title. The right of each user from the stream or from a large ditch, will thus be determined. The law makes the grant to the use of water for irrigation appurtenant to the land irrigated. The title thereafter passes with the land, thus making it necessary to follow land titles thereafter in abstracts.

No right to the use of water from the streams of the state can hereafter be acquired for any purpose without compliance with law. For intelligent use and development of our water resources some central office must be provided, where a reliable record of all water rights can be found. The diversion of water without the necessary permit is made a misdemeanor.

The application should be accompanied by a fee of $3 for examining the same, together with the additional fees, depending upon the proposed use, as follows:

For irrigation, graduated as follows: 15 cents per acre from 0 to 100 acres; 5 cents per acres from 100 to 1,000 acres; 1 cent per acre for each acre in excess of 1,000. For power, graduated as follows: 25 cents per horse power from 0 to 100; 10 cents per horse power from 100 to 1,000; 5 cents per horse power in excess of 1,000. For any other purposes, including applications by municipaliteis, $5.

Three different forms are provided for the appropriation of water; one to be used in case of new appropriations, another to be used where the appropriation is to be made by the enlargement or extension of existing works and a third form where the application is for a permit to construct a reservoir and impound surplus waters. A separate application must be made for permit to appropriate stored waters prior to its application to beneficial use. This application is made on the first form mentioned above, and is then known as a secondary permit, and must refer to the primary permit, and to the reservoir from which the water supply is to be derived. These forms, together with instructions, can be secured by addressing the state engineer, Salem.

Work must commence within one year from the date of application and be completed within a reasonable time, as fixed in the permit, not to exceed five years.

If the water is applied to the beneficial use within the time allowed, proof is taken of such fact by the division superintendent and a certificate issued the applicant by the board of control. This certificate is of the same form as issued to early appropriators upon determination of their rights, as described above.

The new method of initiating water rights may seem cumbersome as compared with the old method, but it is worth all it costs. The right, when finally granted, is absolutely determined as to all rights hereafter initiated. It will be determined as to all the world, after a determination as above outlined. This determination is made without cost to the new appropriator.

No large canal can be operated without one or more water masters to divide the water in accordance with the rights and needs of the different laterals. Likewise, irrigation from public streams cannot be a success without water masters to regulate diversions.

The use of streams to convey stored water to its place of use was impossible under the old law, and the construction of many reservoirs was thus prevented.

As rights are determined under the new law, districts are created and water masters appointed, where demanded by the water users, to enfore the decrees of the board or of the courts. This officer is accountable to the division superintendent and protects, not only the early rights, but also all new rights and the rights of reservoir owners.

When a headgate has been lawfully closed to admit the proper quantity of water, or shut entirely, it is a misdemeanor for the owner to disturb it. If the gate has been wrongfully opened during the night, the presence of moisture in the ditch in the morning is declared to be sufficient evidence to convict the owner of unlawful use.

With such an officer available, capital will not hesitate to invest in storage works. The water, when released, can and will be protected by the water master, no matter how many ditches intervene, and the owner permitted to divert an equal amount, less that lost by seepage and evaporation.

The final object of the new water law is the protection of vested rights, when determined, and to encourage the development and use of our unappropriated waters. This encouragement is provided in the definite procedure for acquirement of new rights. The fees are of no consequence to the one who contemplates putting the water to beneficial use. In fact, the certainty of right, which is essential as a basis for intelligent investment on a large scale, is worth far more than it costs. The old-time noticeman, whose chief business under the old law was to hold up the public, is effectively discouraged by these fees.

The office of the board of control is located at Salem. It is composed of three members, appointed by the governor as follows: John H. Lewis, state engineer, Salem, president; F. M. Saxton, Baker City, and H. L. Holgate, Bonanza, Klamath county. Messrs. Holgate and Saxton are respectively the division superintendents of the Western and Eastern water divisions. The board, or its respective members, will be glad to assist the public as far as possible under the new code and will furnish information upon request.

Chocolate Creams.

Measure the unbeaten white of an egg, add to it as much water as there is white, and stir into this mixture enough confectioner's sugar to make a paste that can be molded into shape. Roll between the palms into round balls, roll each of these over and over in the chocolate coating and lay on waxed paper to dry.

A married man comes nearer knowing how mean he is than one who is not married.

Hashed Potatoes, Browned.

Cut cold boiled potatoes into very small dice, mix with them a tablespoonful of butter, a dash of minced onions and a tablespoonful of minced parsley. Turn into a greased frying pan and cook long enough for the mass to brown at the bottom. Do not stir. When browned, loosen about the edges and bottom of the pan with a knife and turn the pan upside down over a heated platter.

Every man thinks he treats his "help" better than any other employer in the world.

Just a Grain.

"He's such an apparent liar," said Towne, "and so reckless. Oh! he's a bird!"

"Yes, he is a bird," replied Browne, "and it's so easy to catch him. All you've got to do is put a little salt on his tale."—Philadelphia Press.

Scott—What makes you think that the trust originated in Rhode Island? Mott—Dad used to speak of the trust in Providence as far back as when I was a boy.—Boston Traveler.

Butter Cookies.

Stir very foamy one cup of butter, one-half cup of sugar, one whole egg and two yolks; then add two cups of finely sifted flour; flavor with almond extract. Let the dough rest for an hour, covered, and in a cool place. Then take out on floured baking board and cut out small cookies. Brush with white of egg and sprinkle with granulated sugar. Bake a very light golden brown, on floured tins.

When a man is trying to sell you something, don't imagine he is that polite all the time.

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