

The Oregonian

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and vilifying the Oregonian, to the limit of his powers, as a blackguard. Hence it is worth while now to reprint here an estimate of him given by the chief newspaper of his state.

THE GAS INVESTIGATION. Yesterday, before a special committee of the Common Council, inquiry was begun into the service, quality and price of gas furnished in the City of Portland. The investigation seems to be a consequence of complaints against the service, published from time to time by the Oregonian. In opening for the gas company, Mr. Joseph Teal assumed, as it appeared, that the Oregonian was on trial, for having called into question the efficiency of the service, the methods of the company and the price of gas.

EVIL THAT GOOD MAY COME. What is the value of a young man's soul? Plainly, Mr. Rader thinks it is not a great deal. A man who supplies a youth of 19 years with funds for debauchery and sends him into the streets to participate in beastly orgies thinks lightly of decency and virtue. So much is certain. Mr. Rader will reply, perhaps, that he is engaged in this routine of destruction with a good motive. He wished to obtain evidence against saloon-keepers. He wished to convict prostitutes. He is not the first to plead a good motive for a wicked deed, but the plea never has availed and it never will.

TO PAY A DETECTIVE OF MATURE YEARS and formed character to investigate a man who is engaged in such a routine of destruction with a good motive. He wished to obtain evidence against saloon-keepers. He wished to convict prostitutes. He is not the first to plead a good motive for a wicked deed, but the plea never has availed and it never will.

THE FUTURE OF THE STATE. The State of Oregon has a primary election law, enacted for the purpose of directing and controlling the method of making nominations for office. It was not enacted for the purpose of directing or controlling elections. The law, as to elections, stands as it stood before the primary law was enacted. In the election the people are to vote just as they wish, selecting their candidates from the party tickets, or voting for independent ones. The voters are not "tied up" to candidates by the primary election; but doubtless there are moral obligations and party obligations. If one registers as a Republican or as a Democrat, and votes as such in the general election. But all such obligations are left to the voter's own discretion.

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deeds. An erroneous belief is prevalent that this Western Federation of Miners is a labor organization of standing similar to the American Federation of Miners. Nothing could be farther from the truth, for this Western Federation is in no way allied with the American Federation of Miners, which is a respectable, law-abiding labor organization. On the contrary, it is cordially detested by all honest American union labor men, for the reason that, through confusion in the public mind, decent, respectable union labor has at times had to bear the consequences of the odium attached to the organization.

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LOCK CANAL FAVORED. The world's trade routes have been shifting in the past few years, and, unless commerce settles down on beaten tracks, there is a large amount of it susceptible to diversion. This is the principal reason why there should be no delay in rushing the Panama Canal to completion, and, in order to build it in the shortest time possible, it becomes necessary to adopt the lock type of canal in preference to the more costly sea-level plan.

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AMERICAN MUSIC. About thirty students (colored) of the industrial institute located at Manassas, Va., were a few days ago presented to President Roosevelt by Dr. Edward Everett Hale, the venerable chaplain of the Senate, and Booker T. Washington, of the Tuskegee Institute. The students sang two or three songs during the interview, and each singer was later cordially greeted by the President. Luchon was not served, hence the traditions were not shocked at the occurrence.

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who fought were not thieves." The boldness of this statement consisted in the insinuation of rascality in the construction and equipment of the Russian fleet, though for obvious reasons no specific statement was made in substantiation of the rascality implied. He spoke, however, of the force of Japanese shells, which, exploding in the water, opened great seams in the armor of the Russian ships, through which the water poured, and of the shells which hit the vessels squarely and were as destructive as mines. The inference was that neither the offensive nor the defensive power of the fleet of Russia was as highly developed as that of Japan, and that this was directly due to the constructing and not to the operating force of the Russian navy.

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THE SILVER LINING.

In San Francisco it is the officials of the gas company who do the kicking in the case of the consumers. This is what they did to Julius Wolfmer: Julius Wolfmer declared that Stephen A. Byrne, superintendent of the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company, kicked him three times in as many different portions of his middle and lower anatomy, but Mr. Byrne would admit that he planted his foot upon only one of the spots described by Mr. Wolfmer and that the planting was not performed with anything like the violence alleged by that gentleman.

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AWAITING HOYT'S RETURN.

Action on Bristol's Letter Delayed Again at Capital. OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 20.—Owing to the failure of Solicitor-General Hoyt to return to Washington today, no action was taken on the case of District Attorney Bristol, and as yet Mr. Bristol's explanation of his famous letter has not been laid before the President for final disposition. Mr. Hoyt was expected back this morning, but sent word he would be delayed one day. If he arrives tomorrow he will make a report to the President.

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FINISH INQUIRIES AND DIG.

Taft Wants to Get Down to Work on Canal. DETROIT, Mich., Feb. 20.—Secretary of War Taft last night at the annual dinner of the Detroit Board of Commerce discussed the building of the Panama Canal, saying: "To me just at present, and under the circumstances, the construction of a waterway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans seems to be more the Nation's task than any other. I am glad to say with respect to Chief Engineer John F. Stevens that James J. Hill told me that Mr. Stevens had been chief engineer under him for 12 years, and that if any man could build the Isthmian Canal Stevens was the man."

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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