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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, FEB. 7, 1907.

PERPETUAL FRANCHISES AGAIN. Upon the subject of franchises of the gas company the gas committee enunciates two incontrovertible propositions. First, that the franchises ought to be repealed. Second, that those granted by the city must be repealed by the city and those granted by the Legislature must be repealed by the Legislature. The reasons for revoking the franchises of the gas company are numerous and urgent. Most of them are more or less familiar to the citizens of Portland, rigilance and the price of deliverance from the tyranny of privileged monoplar sense of right and justice. We suffer from the insolence and extortion of the gas company because we choose to suffer; there is no power that could subject us to these impositions were we as active in resisting as the company

is in devising them. One principal reason for repealing the franchises is that, as they stand, the gas company is virtually exempt from control. It can charge whatever price for gas it pleases, and that price, as shows, has been extortionate. It can make the quality either good or bad to suit its own convenience; and it has invariably chosen to make it bad. Of course there is more profit in selling poor gas at a high price than good gas at a reasonable price, and the company has never been lacking in devotion to its own financial interests. In the words of the committee, "The company has grossly overcharged the Being the sole arbiter of the relations between itself and the public, the company can continue to charge even more grossly than in the The gas company has used methods of accounting, reading the meters and making out bills which, to put it charfiably, are "cumbersome and unsatie-Under proper management factory." there could not be so many complaints of inaccurate meter readings, exorbitant bills and petty annoyances of all sorts as there are now. The company naturally thinks only of its own convenience and profit, and disregards the convenience of the public altogether, This may always be expected of a monopoly which is not subject to strict regulation, and the gas company will never be so subject until its franchises have been repealed and reissued upon

One of the worst and most exasperating results of no regulation is the privflege which the company assumes of tearing up the pavements when and where it pleases, without regard to the rights of the public. Sometimes the pavements are replaced after long demy, but never are they made entirely good. The annoyance which the city has endured from this one cause is sufficient to create a demand for repea of the franchises, were there no other grounds. To be sure, the City Attorney decides that the Council already has authority to regulate the price and quality of gas; but it is admitted that this authority is vague and unsatisfactory. Any attempt to exercise it would undoubtedly lead to discouraging liti-gation. What the public demands is a clear and unmistakable statutory declaration of the right to regulate and This can only come after the revocation of the old franchises. With the ground thus cleared of dubious claims, the Council, under the recent claims, the Council, under the recent old days that were responsible for some constitutional amendment, may proceed of the odium which now rests on the to grant a modern, civilized franchise which shall protect the rights of the public at least as completely as those

Another objection to the actual franchises is that they purport to be per- ing the reputation of the port in the A perpetual franchise is, of course, an absurdity in logic and inadmissible in law. Nevertheless the company claims a perpetual franchise and thereby pretends to be in a measure ent of the authority of the

privilege once granted is granted forand common sense as well as common justice takes the same view. The Ore-gonian speaks emphatically for the re-8.25 ual privileges stand on the same There is no sentiment in business, and aths. 1.75 ground. None of them is defensible. until we can show the foreign shipown-Thursday)... 1.50 gan of the local plutocracy errs, as has advantages which do not warrant discrimination, we will be forced to urges the repeal of the gas company's suffer the existing handicap. The pro-peal of all perpetual franchises. But, ers to correct most of the evils which after all, what The Oregonian has or now exist, and in the hands of a nonhas not done is a comparatively unim- political commission, such as will be portant matter in the premises. The named, good results are bound to fol-real question is whether the members low the passage and enforcement of the of the Legislature will or will not do their duty as public servants. Do they owe fealty to the gas company or to the people? Will they keep their pledges made before election, or will

they ignore them? There is nothing in the contention that the recent constitutional amendauthority to repeal existing franchises Denver — Hamilton & Hendrick, 906-912 not revoke. The duty of the Legislature has given the city cannot revoke. The duty of the Legislature. It may not go through in its fure in this matter is plain. It should repeal all perpetual franchises granted by the state, particularly those of the gas company. New ones may then be gas company. New ones may then be granted by the city which shall be limited in time and shall guard the hith- go into effect upon his signature erto neglected rights of the public.

No one, of course, seriously expected

farious operations of the grasping gas have a Raliroad Commission, it is to be and filly reprehended. Here was an error that the combined interests of special privilege in Portland—the fransame. But the public did not thoroughly know the Solid Nine. It will welfare of the state. We shall expect day's proceedings. It will know still pointed commission utterly destroyed. more hereafter when the complete recits interesting and surprising details election of commissioners by the peofor scrutiny of the Plain Citizen, whom | ple. the Council majority has thus betrayed. It is strange that the public-service orporations of Portland have so sadly mistaken the temper of the people on the living question of franchise control. They are making the same blunder the great trusts and monopolles made last year in defying the power and authority of the National Government to tions are pending for a cargo for Portmake them obey the law. Now the but it can do no harm to reiterate railroads and the great beef barons and them. The price of liberty is eternal all the rest are very tame. It will be all the rest are very tame. It will be the same in Oregon. The associated beneficiaries of privilege in Portland may move in the old way to influence Councils and Legislatures for their protection and profit; but in the end the people who cannot be cajoled, or corrupted, or fooled, too often, will break their hold and determine their status.

The battle is only beginning. Meanwhile the public should know that there are six members of the idence to declare that their souls and their votes are their own.

TO AID OUR COMMERCE.

The unsatisfactory bar service at the ntrance of the river has for a number of ears proved a serious handleap to the mmercial prestige of Portland and other Columbia and Williamette River ports. Attainment of rvice at this time is probably impossible. If it were otherwise, there would be no demand for pllots, and small, light-power towboats would be quate for the work. But it is highly the bar the best possible service that stocks. San Francisco has for years conditions will warrant. It is for the conditions will warrant. It is for the purpose of securing such service that requirements of the Navy and the large Commerce has prepared a bill as out- rant these large stocks. During the proposed by this bill that the residents of the three countles, Columbia, Clatop and Multnomah, form an incorporation to be known as the Port of Co- restraining factor against renewing lumbia.

The object of this organization, as et forth in the bill, is to maintain an efficient towage and pilotage service at the mouth of the Columbba River. By failure to pay due heed to the protests failure to pay due heed to the protests age. Even far into the interior, where which have been raised against this the influence of the oil fuel is not felt. service in the past, the port has suffered to such an extent that we are now penalized by foreign shipowners which has been experienced. Interstate with a discriminatory rate of 1s 3d per ton on most of the sailing ships coming here. The proposed method by the situation in the Northwest, said: which the business shall be handled is not a new one. It has the merit of consolidating the tug and pilot work under one general head, thus prevent-ing any shifting of responsibility and making it easy to fix the blame for any shortcomings, and naturally with the blame fixed the remedy is easier of ap-

plication. This method was tried in the old days of the Flavel regime, and the efficiency of the service has never since been equaled. Unfortunately, the exorbitant rates charged by Flavel more than offset the advantage of his good service. was tried again for a brief period by the O. R. & N. Co., and regults were the opposite to those attained by Flavel. In the desire to make the service show a profit so much economy was practiced that shipping suffered worse than it had before or has since. It was the imperfections of the service in the bar, and which it is hoped to remove by the establishment of a good service, to be maintained less with a kill as many persons as may resist his view to actual profits than to the advantage which will follow by improv-

minds of shipowners. The proposed law is one which must tageous for him to do so. No moral appeal to all dwellers in the Columbia principle in his character stays his Basin who produce anything which can hand. The highwayman is, with be shipped seaward. The funds needed scarcely an exception, beyond hope of for carrying out the project are to be reformation. His weapon of death is kane dream of the State of Lincoln state and city. This matter should be raised by taxation of the three coun- raised against every man or woman settled as soon as possible. If the Leg-lelature of the State of Oregon cannot necressary for the carrying out of the which he desires to possess. Society is repeal the acts of its predecessors the project is such that the burden will fall the gainer by the death of such men. public ought to know it. If a special very lightly on the taxpayers of the The man who has deliberately chosen hit him,

ever under our present eystem, the agement it will undoubtedly be possi-system ought to be modified in that ble to make the service self-supporting particular. The City Attorney holds at rates which cannot but appeal to the government under which he lives to set that these franchises may be revoked, shipowners and redound to the advancure him in the enjoyment of life. that these franchises may be revoked, shipowners and redound to the advan-

tage of the port. highly important that more stringent measures be adopted for the protection and encouragement of our enipping. ers, in dollars and cents, that this port new law,

WILL THE COMMISSION BE EFFICIENT?

The joint railroad committee at Salem, it appears, is willing that the Governor shall appoint the proposed Railroad Commission. We suspect that ment in giving cities the right to form the committee, or some of its members, their own charters virtually gave them do not care greatly about the commission. We cannot understand how granted by the Legislature. The City Attorney holds that the revocation over to Governor Chamberlain the mamust be by the Legislature, and he is chinery for building up a powerful poright beyond all question. What the litical organization and electing himself city has given it may revoke; but what to the United States Senate. The bill, the Legislature has given the city can- of course, is not yet through the Leging any and all measures which are to thus defeat any opportunity for the referendum.

If there is to be a Railroad Commission it ought to be an elective commis-The whole tendency of recent the Portland City Council to take of- state legislation is toward the elective Tensive action of any kind against the commission. Many states which have organized plutocracy of Portland. It is not built that way. It was chance doned them, and have adopted the only, perhaps, that originally placed five of the six stiff-backed members on the has preferred the appointive method special gas committee, so that the ne- after trying the elective. If we are to monopoly could be properly exploited assumed that it will become a permachise corporations—hastened yesterday tim to the intrigues and machinations to repair by smothering the report of of personal politics. After Chamberthe gas committee and strangling all lain there will be another Governor, proceedings looking to revocation of we suppose. The struggle for control perpetual franchises. When the gas of the commission will be present in committee did its duty, the public had every gubernatorial campaign, and is hopes that the Council might do the likely to influence greatly both the forknow today when it reads of yester- soon to see the usefulness of the apord is made up and presented in all it seems to The Oregonian, is in the

COAL SHORTAGE AND CAUSE.

It is announced that several thousand tons of Japanese coal have been purchased for shipment to Puget Sound Two cargoes are en route from the Far East to San Francisco, and negotialand. In the case of Puget Sound this certainly lends color to the bellef that the expression "carrying coals to Newcastle" is something more than a figure of speech. Reasons for the remarksble shortage of coal on the Pacific Coast are not easily discernible. There has been a tendency to blame the railroads for much of the trouble, and in Eastern Washington especially there have been charges that the rallroads

had restricted the output of the mines. The State Coal Mine Inspector for Washington has just filed his report Council who have the courage and the with the Governor, and, instead of showing a decrease in production and thus accounting in a degree for the shortage now existing, it shows that the coal production of the state for the year 1906 was 443,622 tons greater than for the preceding year, the production for the last quarter being greater than for any of the three preceding quar-ters. There is a possibility that the increased use of oil as fuel has, paradoxical as it may seem, been the means of causing or at least contributing to the coal shortage. This new fuel cam into general use with such rapidity that ade- it undoubtedly had some effect in caus ing coal dealers all over the Coast to essential that there be maintained on hesitate about securing the usual heavy rivers, harbors and navigation number of vessels running in and out committee of the Portland Chamber of of the port being so great as to warlined in yesterday's Oregonian. It is earthquake and fire these stocks were practically wiped out, and when recon struction began the enormous growth of the oil industry was undoubtedly a

the big supplies. The railroads which had begun using enced in reducing their coal supplies until it was too late to repair the damof preparation for the severe weather Commerce Commissioner Clark, in an interview at Kaneas City, in discussing

The consumers of course did not think of buying fuel until the cold came. The dealer had no stock on hand. He had not filled his bins, but each had a few cars filled with coal on the sidetracks.

The lesson has been a severe one, but may be removal of the coal duty so that dealers will have an opportunity to stock up without fear of any adverse legislation which might affect their ldings. There is tonnage with a capacity of more than 100,000 tons now listed to come from Australia with coal for this Coast, and had there been no duty on this coal much of this would have been brought in before the situation became so critical

The proposal in Illinois to make hanging the punishment for highway robbery to not entirely without reason A highwayman is really more danger ous to society than a murderer, for the ordinary murderer brings down but on victim. The highwayman is ready to kill as many persons as may resist his man is a murderer at heart, and if he spares the life of a victim it is be cause he considers it more advan-

all, has no further right to expect the while the Oregon Legislature could probably not be induced to make high-The Columbia River has very active probably not be induced to make high-competitors north and south, and it is way robbery a capital offense, there is scarcely any argument to be advanced against such a measure that is not also

> Many attempts in this line have suffered defeat and there is no reason to which terminates in American harbors. The latest scheme is to make Galway. Ireland, the European terminal and St. Johns, N. F., the Western, with an auxiliary line to the Canadian mainland. It is urged that the run can be made between the two ports mentioned in two and a half days, as the route lies outside of the fog belt and fast time can therefore be made. It is figured that the distance from London to St. Johns could be covered in three days and from St. Johns to Halifax in one day, so that mail could be delivered in four days. The trouble is that, when the four days were completed, neither passengers nor mails would be at their destination.

> Wheat gained more than a cent per bushel in the Chicago market yesterday, and the foreign markets scored the heaviest advance that has been made this season. Famine in Russia, with the prospecte of an embargo by the government on all wheat exports, were the principal factors in the advance. The statistical position of the cereal in the United States has been very strong for a long time, but the dependence of our consumers on the markets of the Old World has prevented much strength in the market. Even now the future of prices depends to a greater extent on the foreign situation than on any conditions which may exist in this country. If the Argentine comes along with the enormous crop which her people have been reporting, fancy prices for the cereal are not very probable.

A Chicago dispatch says that the hired men of Mr. Hill and Mr. Harriman are engaged in a wordy war as to the respective merits of their employers. Mr. Kruttschnitt says that the reconstruction of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific by Mr. Harriman has enabled those roads to transport freight more "quickly, economically and efficiently" than any other trans-continental road. While it is undoubtedly true that Mr. Harriman has spent more money than Mr. Hill has spent on improvements and betterments, the men who pay the freight on this end, of the line will look in vain for any freight transportation in recent months which answers the description of being quick, economical or efficient."

The martial strains of "The Watch on the Rhine" will still float upward from the most distant and unprofitable of the Kaiser's possessions. The policy of retrenchment in the matter of maintaining large forces of soldiers in these remote possessions has been ag-gravating the Socialists for a long time, but at the reballoting in the Reichstag of the party won by a large majority. This victory ought to assure the stockholders in the Krupp gun factory that there will be no immediate decrease in the size of the dividends.

Ventura, Cal., the bean me also complains against the Southern Pacific for discrimination because "It charges a terminal rate to Los Angeles and the local rate to Ventura, thus making it impossible for Ventura to do a jobbing business." Spokane has started the epidemic of complaints that threatens to make a jobbing center of every crossroads postoffice in the country.

While Senator Hodson, friend of the cople, is playing for a few brief monents his new and unfamiliar role of Legislature investigate the Portland job printing trust, otherwise the Franklin Association, of which he has been a member. But of course he has

Chinese rebels are said to be importng large quantities of arms and ammunition in cases which are labeled as books." The articles named on the label, as well as the actual contents of the cases, are apparently highly essential in the civilizing of the yellow peooil on a large scale were also influ- ple, and it may be that to this fact is due the seemingly inappropriate label.

Senator Bailey, of Texas, endeavored chastise personally a man who called there seems to have been a general lack him a liar. If Bailey were to make a personal matter of it with every individual who regards him as comething worse than a Har, he would be kept fully as busy as W. J. Bryan and get less fun out of his time.

There is no normal school combine. of course not. The normal schools and the other state schools just happen to have a "community of interest" and to it will hardly go unheeded by the con- be logrolling in the same old way to sumers or the railroads. One result get their hands on the state's funds may be removal of the coal duty so and divide the spoils.

The trouble with Expert Wiley was hat he ran foul of an expert on exerts. An expert always gets along better when he doesn't have to answer questions telling what he knows and

It's a coincidence only that those O.

R. & N. locomotives were stalled and lead when there was precious little coal to feed them. The O. R. & N. Co. always did play in luck.

Attorney Delmae will make a real coup for his foul client if he manages to fortify that insanity plea by showing how he tried to conduct his own case.

"Children cry for it," remarks the Spokesman-Review on the latest Spo-Castoria's only rival, evidently.

Expert Wiley probably knows now that the dorsal region is where Jerome

J. D. Lee Suggests Substitute for Jute-

Mill and Road-Work Plans. WASHINGTON, Jan. 25 .- (To the Edi-

work of the Legislature, I have noted with interest the diff-erent plans discussed for the employment against such a measure that is not also to be made against the hanging of murderers.

The ghost of that old scheme, a short passage from Europe via a Dominion port, has been revived in Canada. Many attempts in this line have sufficient to make a sufficient passage from the employment of state convicts. I presume that the wheat-exporting districts will favor a jute mill, while Western Oregon will more incline to work them upon the highways. Both of these proposals I would be pleased to discuss in their various phases, as my opportunities for study-line them have been good, but I will refer to the employment of state convicts. I presume that the wheat-exporting districts will favor a jute mill, while Western Oregon will more incline to work them upon the highways. Both of these proposals I would be pleased to discuss in their various phases, as my opportunities for study-line than the wheat-exporting districts will favor a jute mill, while Western Oregon will more incline to work them upon the highways. Both of these proposals I would be pleased to discuss in their various phases, as my opportunities for study-line than the wheat-exporting districts will favor a jute mill, while Western Oregon will more incline to work them upon the highways. Both of these proposals I would be pleased to discuss in their various phases, as my opportunities for study-line than the proposal in the propos

frain from so doing.
As it sometimes happens that considersuppose that another looking to the same object will succeed. The big and fast steamships bearing expeditious passenger and mail service will continue to follow the Southern route, may serve as a solution of the question of employment, should the other pro-posals fail of adoption. It is the locating of a new Penitentiary upon a tract, say of 1000 acres of land, the methods of its purchase to be explained further on. After showing the near approach of self-support that could be made under certain conditions, I say in substance (pp. 7

The preceding paragraph shows the urgent need for more land for the use of the penitentiary. My mature judgment is that the state should not delay the purchase of both clear and wooded lands. The limited amount clear and wooded lands. The limited amount adjacent to the prison (about 120 acres) prevents the inauguration of a thorough system of rotation of crops so essential to good farming. In fact, we need all the nearby lands for gardening if we include potato and corn crops under that heading. I have rented some additional land, which to some extent improved the conditions. But paying rent is exceedingly poor polley. In a few years it will aggregate the price of the land and yet the state will be without land. Most of my leases have been paid by work in clearing the state will be without land. Most of my leases have been paid by work in clearing the land. In that way we secured the use of the land and had the wood for fuel.

The purchase of an adequate tract of land, not too far distant from the prison, either in Marion or Polk County, would, at least, serve three good purposes: First, it would contribute very largely toward the self-maintenance of the institution; second, it would furnish employment to a large number of convicts in providing products for our own consumption and that of some of the other state institutions; third, it would afford an opportunity of making at least one classification of the men. The younger, less hardened and more studious, especially short-timers, could be selected for the farm camp.

This camp, it would be my hope, would

This camp, it would be my hope, would expand into a reformatory and educational department, with permanent and up-to-date huldings, where unusual facilities would be afforded for the advancement of the classes which I have just mentioned, both in menta equipment, moral uplifting and thorough dril in modern methods of agriculture, horticulture and stock-raising to some extent also, that this location would ultimately be the prison proper or main penitentiary. The present location is not a desirable one for keeping a large number of men. It could remain a cen-

department.

It has been frequently urged that the convict should be faught a trade during his incarcation. This plan would be favorable to carcaration. In however, that any that. I am not certain, however, that any trade is better than a thorough drill in agri-cultural pursuits. Farming is healthful exer-cise and provides good equipment.

tral power and pumping station and industrial

We use about \$3500 worth of fuel annually. In 10 years it would amount to \$35,000, but prices are advancing and would probably be over \$40,000. Why not appropriate the amount of the wood bill and buy uncleared land instead of fuel and make your own wood? The trees should be grubbed. This we do by pulling them over with horses, using a pulley and tackle. The land thus leared is easily made ready for the plow and

its value greatly enhanced.

Such an investment in land and utilization of convict labor would meet the wood bill and place the state in possession of a more valuable tract of land than the original parchise. In a word, the land would be clear gain.

Since making that report condition have somewhat changed. Land has advanced. Much wooded land in the vicinielections, which were held throughout ty of Salem has been denuded of its the empire Tuesday, the Kaiser's wing growth, but I believe the proposition is

still worthy of consideration. In fact is as important as ever. In at least two of the states through which I have recently passed I have heard the regret expressed that there is so little land for the use of their penal institutions.

has been discarded, but perhaps to students of penology the importance of ex-tensive grounds appeals most strongly. This Legislature could perform an important service to the this or some similar plan.

J. D. LEE. portant service to the state by adopting

HODSON'S OWN LITTLE TRUST. How Portland Job Printers Combine to

Cinch the Public PORTLAND, Feb. 6 .- (To the Editor.)-If Senator Hodson would devote his attention, talents and energy to breaking foe of monopoly, he ought to have the up the "printing trust," of which he is a member, known as the Franklin Association, with its grievous overcharges for job printing, its private telephone now withdrawn from such uncongenial printing establishments of prices made system used to inform competing (?) to inquiring customers for prospective

work, thereby eliminating all competition, and its fines imposed on its members for cutting a price made by a cor peting (?) firm, he would accomplish more for his constituents, the business houses of Portland and the Northwest, and the countles of Oregon, from whom he obtains orders by his political pull, than by playing personal politics and displaying a private grudge, as he hadone in his "Associated Press common carrier bill." A VICTIM.

Senator Lodge as a Pedestrian. Washington (D. C.) Despatch.

Probably no member of either branch of Congress walks as much as Senator Lodge. The weather must be very in clement, indeed, and the streets and roads sleet-covered or muddy when the Massachusetts statesman does not cover several miles a day on foot. On those rare occasions when the Senate sessions are prolonged to 6 o'clock or later, Mr. Lodge's walk is usually confined to the distance between the Capi-tol and his residence on Massachusetts avenue, something over a mile. But when the Senate does not sit late he frequently extends his walk from Capitol out into the country, and turas home with an appetite for dinner that would do credit to a farmhand A Boston newspaper man, Morton E. Crane, is his constant companion the daily walk from the Capitol, and their figures have become one of the familiar sights of Pennsylvania avenue late in the afternoon. Although older than the President by severa years, Mr. Lodge is one of the few persons who, without becoming winded, can keep up the furious pace set by that strenuous and illustrious pedesonly 7 per cent of the Great Northern stock. But he takes great care that the 93 per cent do none of the talking.

Charles Hanson Towne.

Oh, to think that the world will go on After we are dead!
Lovers will go on loving,
The old, old words will be said.

New buds will bloom in April, And white be the apple bough; June will return, the birds troop t The earth to be as glad as now

The long, green pageant of Summer Will march its accustomed way, And year after year the Autumn pomp Will crimson the pallid day.

Lovers will go on loving,
The words that we said will be said,
When you and I are forgotten,
When you and I are dead;

three counties, and under proper management it will undoubtedly be possimust have chosen it deliberately if at Oregon's Development Blighted by Want of It. Says Professor Young.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 5 .- (To the Editor.)-The development of Oregon has been checked and even permanently stunted by the years of delay in the enactment of an adequate water code. No other single cause has had such blighting influence on commonwealth possibilities in this state. For this Legislature to fall to get the right prin-ciples into our irrigation legislation would be simply disastrous. What inducement is there for an actual culti-cator to locate in our arid or semi-arid districts before he can be certain of getting water rights? The existence of any surplus water for any prospec-tive settler can be determined only tive settler can be determined only through hydrographic surveys and the determination of prior rights. Provigion for such surveys and for a process for the conclusive determination of existing rights must necessarily be features of any adequate code.

The present Legislature has no more

important duty than the enactment of a code based squarely upon the principle of "beneficial use. ment of this principle in the Oregon water code has been delayed altogether too long. The absence of it from our code means the larger and larger development of monopoly in water rights—and monopoly in water rights—is in conventible with the condirights is incompatible with the condi-tions of democratic society. With un-restricted private ownership in our power resources they will be gathered up by syndicates who, having no inter-est in the local development of the state, will simply tax us with their

rates for their own enrichment.

If the judicial procedure of litigation proposed as necessary for the determination of existing rights will be burdensome on those who have long established rights, why may not the established rights, why may not the state aid them in securing clear titles? There could be no better purpose served in the use of public funds. But the Wyoming irrigators did not find the process proposed for the determination of existing rights burdensome. Is nothing to be learned from states older and more prosperous in irrigation than Oregon? Why should those who champion the interest. those who champion the interests of the millions of producers yet to be in Oregon be stigmatized as theorists and the champions of special privileges and private monopoly be represented as taking the better part in this matter? F. G. YOUNG.

LEGISLATURE OPENED, ANYHOW With "Now I Lay Me," but Suppliant Couldn't Finish Correctly.

Trenton (N. J.) Cor. New York World. When the formal meeting of the New Jersey Legislature was recently called, in accordance with the constitution, which requires that a joint session of the body be called every day while the contest is on for the election of a United States Senator, only two legis-lators were present. Nevertheless, it was necessary to comply with all the forms of convening the joint session and Assemblyman Burk, of this city, asked Captain John Lovett, the sergeant-at-arms of the Senate, if he would offer prayer to properly open the session.

Mr. Burk made the request in a joking manner, but Captain Lovett took the request seriously, and asked with all reverence that those present in the House join with him in reciting the reciting the Lord's Prayer. Then, amid deep silence, the voice of the Captain was heard: "Now I say me down to sleep," he began, and paused.

The Assembly Chamber at the time

"I pray the Lord my soul to keep, And should I die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." At the conclusion of the prayer Cap-

tain Lovett asked the Speaker pro tem. If he would be allowed the usual \$10 fee given to clergymen making the prayer.
"No," was the reply. "You didn't know your prayer. The state pays only

for completed prayers." An Appeal for the Birds

PORTLAND, Feb. 4.—(To the Editor.)— Portland is having unusual Winter weather. The "silver thaw" and the heavy frosts have almost ruined the trees and flowers of the Spring to come. The people are clamoring for wood and coal, which we know are very scarce But there is a question I would like to ask the public: What do the birds

find to eat during these snow storms and "silver thaws"? The answer is, nothing. The ground has been covered with snow and ice, and if the people observe they will see helpless robins and sparrows sitting lonely on the bushes, or

hopelessly searching for food.

Why do not the public take interest in these beautiful creatures and feed them? A crust of bread which would thoughtlessly be thrown away could be given to the birds, many of which are starying to death starving to death. A SCHOOLGIRL

Japanese Ambassador Petitioned to

Strive Against Breach of Peace. PORTLAND, Feb. 6 .- (To the Editor.)-The following letter has been sent to Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Ambassador at Washington:

Baron Hayashi, the Jupaneso Ambassador at Washington:

Please to allow us a word touching the contention between your government and ours—not to discuss its merits, but carnestly to protest, in behalf of the best people in this country and in yours and for the highest and best interests of both, never to attempt its adjustment by the arbitrament of the sword. Diligently use your best efforts with your government for a speedy adjustment such in kind as will leave the mutual friendship of the two countries undisturbed, at least to the end of the present century. War is a horrible thing, as both peoples ought to know from past experience. A war with the United States would almost certainly bring hopeless ruin to your country, whether after a few years struggle you should be victorious or be defeated; for in either case, your loss in men and treasure would be so great as to render your now splendid empire an easy prey for Russia or China, for they both have an account against you, which they will not be slow to collect the first favorable opportunity. I would suppose that you understand this.

Again, it is very questionable whether you would come out of the conflict victorious. This country has had four foreign wars, and has never known defeat. This term is not found in our National vocabulary, and any other nation would have a gigantic insk on hand in attempting to print it there with sword, shot and shell. War is a heilish demon, whose awful work is death in its most cruel form, leaving in its wake blight, woe and misery for succeeding ages. Aimighty God will not fall to inflict condign punishment upon the nation that engages in war, except it be in self-defense; and it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God, the Sovereign of the Universe, when awful guilt lies at the door all stained with human blood.

My dear sir, use the best efforts of your ransomed powers in the Interest of and for peace, wonderful peace! "on earth peace, good will toward men."

DANIEL M. CONWAY.

Postscript: Allow me to

Pastscript: Allow me to add a word more.
As I see it, this country has done more for
Japan than has any other country, or than
have all others combined. No thought of
war against the United States should be
entertained for one moment by Japan Let
our motto be for peace now and forever.
D. M. C.

PROTEST FROM AN ART ADMIRER Prudish Defacement of Work at Art Museum Is Objected to.

PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 6 .- (To the Editor.)-Having been only a few months in this city, I visited today for the first time the gypsoplasts in the Art Museum and it was quite a pleasure to see that the Portland public gets in such a way a notion of the most beautiful chef d'ocuvres of the ancient sculptors. One of the finest pieces, a scene full

of life and of charming humor, is the "little boy with the goose." You can really see his efforts and how he endeavors to master the big bird. His face is beaming with joy and mirth and face is beaming with joy and mirth and it glows with zeal to overcome his adversary. I remember how much I enjoyed this group when I saw it for the first time in Rome in the original, some years ago, and now I saw here in Portland a copy of this masterpiece spoiled in a most barbarous way. Do those gentlemen who have fixed this borrid leaf, with an old rusty nail, on the stomach of the little boy, believe that stomach of the little boy, believe that he will cause in his natural nakedness great damage to Portland's morals? I think it is the limit of ignorance to de think it is the limit of Ignorance to de-form this innocent child's body for hypocritical and stupid prudishness. Why didn't they dress him simply in some bathing-drawers? This would have suited him better. And why do not these gentlemen dress "Venus of Meios" in a kimona that they may not be shocked by the beauties of her body? And Portland claims to be the most

They tittered when Captain Lovett paused in the prayer, but their levity lasted only a moment. Then one of them, in a deep voice, took up the supplication and all finished it.

"I pray the Lord my soul to be the most advanced city of the West Coast, where spoiling of ancient masterpleces a sign of an enlightened spirit?" I have think an enlightened spirit?

Rogers to Give Younger Men a Chance.

Cincinnati Enquirer, H. H. Rogers recently celebrated his 7th birthday. He found his room in 67th birthday. the Standard Oil Company's offices dec-orated with American Beauty roses and other flowers, gifts of his associates and employes. He seldom misses a day in his office. There have been reports that Mr. Rogers purposed to retire from active business, particularly the presidency of the Amalgamated Copper Company, but he said that he could not now throw off his harness. He has told friends, however, that he will have to give younger men a chance and con-fine his energies to building up the Tidewater Railroad, in ... e bituminous coal fields of Virginia, which he may extend to the Great Lakes.

William Roscoe Thayer. Set her among the angels! let her shine a Nay, call her woman, never more divine Than when she walks the levels where our longings are, And lightens up the prison where we pine

Be angel to my worship; he star my steps From earth's deep gloom to thy radiance The daily inspiration of thine influence I need; But, oh, be simply woman to my love!

IN 1950 Man mon -From the Washington Herald.

First Man-Who's the elderly looking Senator? Man-That's Senator St noot, the grand old man from Utah. They're still taking his seat away from him.