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Rustern Business Office-The Tribune building, New York city; "The Rockery," Chicago; the 5. C. Beckwith special agency, New York, Por sale in San Francisco by J. K. Cooper, 748 street, near the Pala th Bros., 236 Satter at sale in Chicago by the P. O. News Co., earhorn street.

TODAY'S WEATHER Generally fair and

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

voice of a portion of the country is violent in denunciation of Multash County because its registration color to their theory that illegitaste votes swelled the Republican jority here in 1896. There are grave sons for fearing that the portion of country press aforesaid is mism in its premises. The probabilies are that more legitimate votes were at through absenteeism than illegitie votes were gained through fraud ut that is not material. If illegitiate votes were cast in 1896 or 1898, and If the registration law is going to keep m out. The Oregonian has no sentint but regret and shame for the or wrong, and rejoicing for the subuent rectification. If McKinley was ted through fraud, The Oregonian's are in the plunder has so far failed materialize, and any other prize de dent upon illegitimate voting has so falled to come into its possession. to the registry law, also, we have yet ascertained the precise cause regret at any purification of our ics it may be the means of introing. The Oregonian has lived to see Australian ballot and the registry come in, partly, it is persuaded, ough its efforts. It hopes yet to see ular election of Senators and direct sary nominations of candidates. he reforms ahead The Oregonian will port as heartly as it has those aleady secured. But it neither expects cares for recognition of this, sup rt on the part of its numerous and asy critics. From them, doubtless, human nature is very set in its way. will receive continued misrepresentaand complaint. It would be a hysical impossibility to please these atures. It would also be a moral gradation

Persons who have been clamorous for micipal reform have a candidate preto their mind in Mr. Devlin, Republican nominees for Auditor. As the thor of publications on American unicipal affairs, Mr. Devlin has a Naional reputation, and to his theoretical idles he joins long experience in ctical municipal work. If Mr. Devin is elected Auditor, as he is reasonly certain to be, Portland may rward to some celebrity as a reform ity. It is doubtful if the city contains ere ideal man for Auditor than Mr.

ught to have her And so should man. But in the progas of women toward the things that me women desire there must be some halting-place. The question is where to op. Mrs. Stanton wouldn't stop short of suffrage and easy divorce. She rerds it as tyranny that a woman mid be denied the right to vote and he right to be divorced at will to whomsoever she prefers. Lest se do her and her cause an injustice, were is what she said about the refusal of Dr. Morgan, of New York, to marry divorced woman:

see people. They were both of an age to ly eligible for marriage. The canon las ed all progressive movements for the past m, and, in fact, everything that tends to en their hold upon their female parishion. It is these bishops who are advocating National divorce law, which will prevent non taking advantage of the freer laws of The easy divorce states of the West ar lay to woman what Canada was to the slave Mrs. Stanton, of course, has the right her opinion, in which, however, few ill share. Numerous suffragists, no ubt, will repudiate her view of dirce, while sharing her antipathy to opposition of bishops to female ffrage. But it is worth reflection how ar the "rights" of woman should be stended in the direction of freedom m conventional restrictions. Peraps suffrage is the safest place to stop,

The growing difficulty of securing apopriations for the Columbia River ders it important that a man should kept in Congress from the Second strict whose interest in the improve int of the river is such that he will continuously and persistently for e means to do the work. This is one the many reasons why Mr. Moody ild be returned. He has been interfied in the improvement of the Cois for years. He lives at The Hes, and has considerable property crests depending upon the prosperand development of the Columbia ver region. He may be expected to w special diligence in tooking after propriations for the river, as his rec rd shows he has already done. ep him at his post would be an ac of wisdom by the woters of the Second

The main railway line, north and uth, from Cape Colony to Rhodesia. rts the western border of the Orange e State and makes connection with Transvaal cities by a line from De ar Junction to Naauwpoort, which at thward through the Free State from | with water that is past. It is doubtful rt Elizabeth, on the coast. At if revision will now satisfy. The old

nationtein, in the Orange Free creed, unchanged in its dogmatic asis the junction of the Port Elizathe with another which has East | niged as a conscientious express a for a port of entry. Northward | the faith of its makers, honored for the m Springfontein this line traverses place it so long held in the sincere re-

the Free State, and so reaches Johannesburg and Pretoria. Along this line Lord Roberts' main army is advancing. There are two direct routes to the Transvaal from the East Coast. From Durban, in Natal, a line runs northwest to Ladysmith, crosses the Drakensberg Mountains through a tunnel at Laing's Nek, and reaches Pretoria via Johannesburg by a line 520 miles in length. The Delagoa Bay line for sev enty miles traverses Portuguese territory; the balance, 290 miles, is in the Transvaal. At Komatipoort the border is crossed.

MEMORIAL DAY.

Once again the organ swells, Once more the flage are half-way hung, And once again the mournful bells Through all our steeple towers are rung.

Obedient to custom that had its foun dation in patriotic gratitude, and that was baptized in its formative years in the tears of multitudes bereft by war our people, in common with those of a wide area of our National domain, will visit their cemeteries today, and, returning, leave their dead asleep under mantle of flowers.

The order establishing Memorial day and designating May 30 as the date was originally intended to apply only to the graves of soldiers-"comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, whose bodies lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the country," as stated in the order of General John A. Logan of May 5, 1868, establishing the custom Its application to other graves followed in the most natural manner, and the growth of the custom was so rapid that within a few years it was almost uniersal, and Decoration day was made a legal holiday in thirty-four states of the Union. In the very nature of things a legal holiday is a day regarded by the multitude as an occasion for ecreation, entertainment and games. This being true, it is not strange that the mournful suggestions which overshadowed the first Memorial day have no place in the thoughts of a vast majority of the people who will observe the day today, but that to these it is a grand gala day, dedicated to pleasure according to the general interpretation of this term. Many, to be sure-very many-since-

There is no fireside, howso'er defended

But has one vacant chair, regard the day in the spirit of devo tion and remembrance in which, in a past era, it was dedicated, and of these thousands will visit cemeteries today and, departing, leave tributes of affect tion upon the graves of the unforgotter dead. This is well, since the act has taken the form of duty, and which in no other way could be so appropriately discharged, and of affection, which in no other way could be so tenderly expressed.

But after all, we would not have the multitude in tears upon this day. In the nature of things it is impossible to impress people of a later generation, who feel no sense of personal loss in the great swaths mowed in the ranks of men by the enginery of war, in the great Rebellion, with a sense of beeavement. These silent hosts have taken their places in history; they are except to a few, relatively speaking, as the other slient hosts that in all ages of the world have gone into battle and come not out again. Though still revered for their brave deeds, the period of mourning for them has passed, so far as the later generation that has followed them is concerned. To regret this is vain; to censure those who make merry on this day, folly. Let each ob serve the day as he or she will or may, interpreting it as a lesson in mortality an opportunity for recreation or a trib ute day to memory, and, having turned aside briefly from the routine of life take up its duties again on the morrow, soothed or invigorated according to the individual need or desire.

THEOLOGY'S STORM CENTER.

"Those theologians who saw God only in the unusual, the arbitrary and the inexplicable have been fighting a los ing battle for four hundred years," said Professor E. E. Slosson, of the University of Wyoming, in discussing recently the attack on the Westminster Confes sion; "they have been successively driven by the advance of human knowledge from astronomy to physics, to chemistry, to biology, to psychology, and can no longer hold their last po sition. They denied God had anything to do with phenomena that were un form and comprehensible, and so their God, who could only exist in darkness and chaos, is being gradually driven from the universe."

This is as plain and succinct a state ment of the evolution of the religious idea from the central point of a creative and governing power as could well be put in a few words. The story of the creation of the world in six days, confronted by the testimony of the rocks, showing the formative processes of millions of years, goes down befor the developed intelligence of mankind. The declaration that man was created pure and holy-a perfect being moided by the hands of God from clay and placed in a position where a fall from the favor of his Maker was inevitable, and that, as the old distich has it-

In Adam's fall We sinn'd all,

Has given place in reasoning minds from which inquiry has swept the mists of theology to the view that man has ome up from small and insignificant beginnings to his present state, and to the reasonable belief that even in this world he will, in accordance with the uniform and universal laws of growth attain to still greater heights in intellectual development.

In the presence of these facts and

beliefs, old theologies weaken; disintegration sets in, and the revision of creeds which conflict with them is demanded. Patched Confessions of Faith. modified tenets of belief, are demanded and revised. If haply they be allowed, the crumbling process may be stayed for a time by the stiffening that the new veneering gives, but without eliminating the disintegrating forces that still ply the hammer of inquiry, and set the spirit level of justice within. The Presbyterian Church is the pres ent rallying point of inquiry, the turbed theological center, besieged by men of thought who demand the elimination of doctrines at variance with an intelligent conception of a God in whom there is "no variableness, neithe shadow of turning" the guiding principle of whose universe is love. at point joins a line which runs great theological body cannot grind

sertions, may well be loyally recog-

gards of its followers, and set aside to make way for a new and simple creed which will secure the indorsement as it will meet the spiritual needs of the Presbyterians of a new era, on the basis of divine love. Divine wrath has had its day as the fundamental point in belief. Divine love has supplanted it, and sooner or later the creeds around which church organization railies will have to conform to the change.

THE PRESIDENT IS RESPONSIBLE The President's constitutional political weakness is responsible largely for the Cuban frauds. He was fairly fore warned by Secretary of War Root, who in his annual report, recognized the demands of the situation when he said regarding the government of Cuba Porto Rico and the Philippines, that wherever it should be necessary to employ Americans, "a system of civil service examinations should be provided." The law under which the com petitive system was established in Jan uary, 1883, removed all difficulty about following the recommendation of the Secretary of War. An order by the President would have been sufficient to set the needed system in operation, for the civil service act provides for the establishment "of open competitive examinations for testing the fitness of applicants for the public service now classified or to be classified hereafter."

As soon as we assumed the govern ent of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, the merit system at once ought have been adopted. The responsibil ity for failing to extend the scope of the competitive system rests with the President, who is expressly authorized to prescribe such regulations for the admission of persons into the civil service of the United States as may best promote the efficiency thereof. The President had only to request the assistance of the Civil Service Commis sion in framing the new rules required for the new conditions in Cuba, Porte Rico and the Philippines, and the sys tem of civil service examination rec ommended by Secretary of War Root

rould have been provided at the start. But the President, instead of regard ing the impartial system of competitive examinations, urged by Mr. Root, fol lowed the advice of Postmaster-General Smith and made the selections "with out academic examination, based on tried service and personal knowledge. and the result is a group of suspended or indicted officials, which includes man who, after having proved a de faulter in Porto Rico, obtained a place in the postal service of Cuba. The Ad ministration has been smirched by an ugly scandal through the President's constitutional disposition to allow the politicians to treat the subordinate of fices in our government of Cuba and Porto Rico as so much professional spoil.

IN THE PIRST DISTRICT.

Tongue's defeat would be a seriou setback to the First Congressional District. Three years of service has ac quainted him with the resources and eeds of that division of the state, and he has represented its interests with fidelity and ability. He has given special energy to the work of obtaining appropriations for harbor improve nents at Coos, Tillamook and Yaquina Bays, for Yambill locks and for public buildings, to increase of the number of ostoffices and the mail service, to legislation pensioning the Indian Wa Veterans, and many other matters. If Dr. Daly should be elected, he would need two, and possibly three, terms to squip himself for competent labor. The district would be the loser to the exent of the time Dr. Daly would require to educate himself to the needs of hi onstituents. If it is willing to take this risk it should send Daly to Con gress; if not, it would better re-elect

l'ongue as a reward for efficiency. Aside from the local aspect of the National issues On the one side we have Tongue, goldstandard advocate and expansionist: and on the other, Daly, silverite and contractionist. Tongue stands for intelligence and progression; Daly, credulity and retrogression. Daly's platform demands the "free and unre stricted coinage of silver and gold at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1, with out waiting for the consent of foreign Tongue supported the new currency law, and in a speech in the House December 15, 1899, declared that the "value of silver is so completely changing, so often fluctuating, that the whole civilized world recognizes the value of maintaining the gold stand-Daly's platform echoes Colonel Bryan's whine that occupation of the Philippines endangers our Constitution and that we would better pull down ou flag, withdraw and set up a protecto-rate. Tongue has a patriotic American's faith in the life strength and on durance of his country, and condemn "those timid souls who constantly fea and predict the overthrow of our lib erties and the final collapse of our institutions." Tongue represents in the lighest degree the new idea, a result of the Spanish War, American comexploitation in Asia. "Somewhere," he says, "we must obtain new markets. somewhere new outlets for our produc tions. The only remaining field is the Asiatic countries. . . . They (the Asiatics) are just beginning to eat the food and wear the clothing of civilized people. As that development increases their wants will increase, their trade and commerce will increase, and it is important, extremely important, that we should be prepared to take hold and Aefend our share of it. No other power must be permitted to close those ports to our commerce. This will be our most natural sphere," Open the doors of Asia to the lumber, flour, fruit, etc., of the Pacific States, and the ports of the Pacific Coast to the rice, silk, tobacco, etc., of Asia, and you have Tongue; close Asia against the Pacific Coast and the Pacific Coast against Asia, and you have Daly. Tongue's re-election ought not to be a

matter of doubt. The First District has een redeemed from Populism, the Bryanite Democracy and silver. Let it not be trapped in the new 16 to 1 net which Dr. Daly has set out with an anti-expansion bait to catch the timid and credulous.

THE VICE-PRESIDENCY.

Senator Hawley, of Connecticut, corctly defines the qualifications for the office of Vice-President when he says: The candidate for Vice-President ought to be one whom the party would be perfectly willing to have for President." This sound rule was observed in the selection of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson as Vice-Presidents. It was violated in the case of Aaron Burr, who, while intellectually equal to the Presidential succession, was so greatly distrusted as a politician that Alexander Hamilton, who hated Jeffer- a prominent physician. "Say, Doc," she

son most cordially, absolutely feared rr as a dark, dangerous man, a possible political conspirator, George Clinton was an able man, but neither Elbridge Gerry nor Danied D. Tompkins were men of ideal qualifications for the Presidential succession. John C. Calhoun and Martin Van Buren were fully equal to the responsibilities and duties of the Presidency, had they devolved upon them through the death of Jack-

Richard M. Johnson, John Tyler, George M. Dallas, Millard Fillmore William R. King, John C. Breckinridge Hannibal Hamlin, Andrew Johnson Schuyler Colfax, Henry Wilson, William A. Wheeler, Levi P. Morton and Adlai E. Stevenson were none of them men of bright record for selid, superio ability as statesmen, although with the exception of Andrew Johnson they were all equal to a decent, dignified, respect able discharge of the duties of Presi dent. Mr. Johnson had good abilitier but his temper, aggravated by his inmperate habits, sometimes made his judicious friends grieve. When Chester A. Arthur was elected Vice-President he was not rated higher than a wellbred, handsome man, and an astute manager of party politics in New York City. Mr. Arthur exceeded in his ad-ministration of the office of President the most sanguine expectation of his friends; for he bere his unlooked-for responsibilities with admirable dignity and discharged his duties with superio ability and wisdom. Thomas A. Hendricks was an able and accomplished man, and Vice-President Hobart was about the quality of President Arthur, an able man of business and of politi-

cal affairs. There is no lack of strong men in the Republican party from whom to select a candidate for Vice-President who would be fully equal to the Presidential succession, but as a rule strong mer with any promising political future do not care for the office of Vice-President. If the choice of the convention should fall upon John D. Long, of Massachusetts, the country would secure for the Presidential succession the ablest and most accomplished man in the President's Cabinet. He has been the most eloquent and convincing champion of McKinley's Administration, and is bound to the President by close ties of affectionate persona friendship, which existed prior to Mc Kinley's election and has grown with the life of their official relations. Out side of Governor Long, the leading mer named as possible nominees for the Vice-Presidency include Governor Shaw and Representative Dolliver, of Iowa; Senator Cullom, of Illinois, and Senator Fairbanks, of Indiana, Governor Shaw, of Iowa, is next to John D. Long in his ability and forceful quality as a public man.

A number of houses on the East Side have been entered recently in the most audactous manner, and articles value, chiefly jewelry, abstracted, There is yet no clew to the thieves who are so successfully plying their voca-tion. Householders should for their own protection be more careful in the bestowal about their premises of their watches, gold chains, revolvers, opera glasses and like readily movable articles. It is manifestly unsafe to leave such things lying upon bureaus or in chiffonier or sideboard drawers, yet most people take the chances every day and night until the thief discovers their delinquency, when they make proverbial haste to "lock the stable door after the horse is stolen." Light-fingered gentry may not be more numerous in the city at present than usual, but, like the poor, they are always with us and simple prudence requires that we keep our movable property of the kind converted into cash where at least it cannot readily be picked up by

the sneakthlef. Mr. H. E. Dosch is right. The pruneshare of the difference between the price of Oregon dried prunes here and in the markets of the Middle West and This manifestly can only be se cured through organization, and the systematic methods employed for muual protection. When a man single handed enters the market with the product of his prune orchard and drier. e abandons in so doing all reasonable prospect of profit on his crop. Mar even local markets are not supplied by haphazard methods, but ac cording to fixed laws of trade.

Among radical departures from old time practices the Methodist Confer ence did not make was the abolition of the injunction against card-playing But the limit was nevertheless taken off pastorates. Theaters, too, continu under the ban. This does not impos to much hardship as the ostracised young persons might imagine, if the nodern playhouse is the test.

Trans-Atlantic travel is reported no all it was expected to be. The reason is that the Paris exposition is not all it ought to be. Here is a perfectly plain case of cause and effect that ought to satisfy even the critical

A Eugene Fusion paper complained because Governor Geer, in his latspeech there, talked mostly about the gold standard and 16 to 1. Why so sen

Towne might also be placed in the hands of his friends for the Philadelphia Vice-Presidential nomination Towne is willin'er than Barkis.

Cashier Hoyt ought to feel seren about the outlook. Whatever happens he will have that bank job left.

Ex-Governor Taylor has gone the life insurance business. Staying out of Kentucky politics is his best po

In a Quandary. New York Tribune The number and variety of knives ar

forks that now grace a well equipped and formal dinner table may well dismay one snused to such variegated display of cutery and silver. There are forks for th oysters, for the fish and for the roast and forks as well for anything else tha may be served. There are also knives to correspond to the forks that may be needed. These implements that gots convention decrees to be necessary t convey food to the mouth are usually lat out in formidable rows on either side o the plate. The other evening a simple Western maiden at her first Eastern dia ner, surveyed her supply of knives and forks with growing trepidation. He common sense told her that they were lake out in the regular order in which it was ntended that they should be used, bu nothing in her experience had taught he which was the right end of the row t start in with. Finally, in despair, she sought help from her next-door neighbor. uestioned anxiously, as she pointed at he offending objects, "do you eat out or

STATE OWNERSHIP OF RAILROADS Evidence From Germany of One of Its Alternative Results.

Louisville Courier-Journal

ollowing extract from a Ber er in the New York Evening Post should urnish food for reflection to that class of the population who insist upon the Jovernment ownership of railways:

Government ownership of railways:
Among the main receipts of the Prussian Government is the annual surplus from operating the state railways. This amount has been raing year after year, and this time it amounts to \$563,000,000. One of the peculiar features of the income is that it remains outside parliamentary control. The Prussian Government has, by fair means and foul, managed to either buy up or centrol a number of competing railways outside of Prussia, in neighboring German states, and at present the intention is said to be to gain control in some way of the Baden and part of the Bavarian State railways, and advances have also been made to the Wurtenand part of the Bavarian State railways, and advances have also been made to the Wurtem-berg railways. There is, however, a strong current of popular sentiment against such an arrangement in South Germany, as experience has shown that Frussian State proprietorship of railways means the reverse of progress in managing these roads and in dealing with the travelling oublic. In fact, the Prussian Minis-travelling oublic. In fact, the Prussian Minismanaging these roads and in dealing with the traveling public. In fact, the Prussian Minis-ter of Railways, Thielen, recently pronounced it as his settled policy to grant no reduction in fares or freight charges, both of which are exercitizantly high, freights being from three to four times as high as on American roads, and fares twice as high as in Austria-Hungary, and three times as high as in Russia. and three times as high as in Russia. The consequences of Government owner ship are almost certain to be one of two

extremes. In the Pruesian case the man-agement has been conducted ably with reference to the profits to the state, with the result that the rates are exorbitant and the service poor in every respect. The other extreme is fairly typified in the Postoffice Department of the United States, in which the business is fairly well and intelligently conducted, the interests of the people and not the profit of the Government being looked to, and the result being an annual deficit of \$10,0000 to \$12,000,000. The Postoffice Department might easily be made a great money-earner, but this would probably require not only the utmost honesty and economy of management, but also the cutting off o some branch of the service. Certainly It could not undertake the transportation of millions of publications, such as it does now, for purely nominal compensa-

State ownership under the centralized and paternal government of Germany is much more practicable, and far better results can be obtained from it than in a republic like this, where the electors can be organized into demanding who shall have charge of the service and how it shall be conducted. Such conditions are incompatible with ecenomy, if not always with efficiency. It is possible to conduct the service with a reasonable amount of honesty, but hardly without extravagance, as the records of the Postoffice Depart-ment establish.

Spooner's Great Speech. Washington Star.

Washington Star.

Senator Spooner's magnificent speech in behalf of the honor of the Nation, which he is now delivering in installments, is easily one of the most satisfactory features of the entire session of Congress. The Wisconsin man, able in debate, keen in retort, accurate in statement and car-nest in enthusiasm for the cause he holds to be just despite the sneers and charges of demagogues, stands sturdily by the Administration as regards both Cuba and the Philippines, showing that the course of the Government has been that of good faith, progress and enlightenment. It is refreshing to find the good name of the Republic and its officers so ably defended when the order of the time seems to be sturring and defaming. Mr. Spooner holds that this country is doing in Cuba a work of which any Nation may well be proud, despite the frauds which are repudiated so emphatically by the Administration, He holds further that the policy of the Gov-ernment in the Philippines is honest and assured of success. And in both these for the great majority of the American

Hale's Uniform Hostility.

New York Mail and Express. Senator Hale is so thoroughly discred tted by his unbroken record of opposition to the purposes of the Administration that his utterances concerning the status of Cuba will receive no more notice than if 'hey had come from Tillman or Pettigrew. His instruction that the Government is insincere in its treatment of the Cuban problem, and that secret influences are at work to annex the island in spite of the solemn pledge of independence, is a vulgar insult not only to the President, but to every honest man in Congress. This latest exhibition of Mr. Hale's un-American spirit is entirely in keeping with his for-mer performances. He opposed American intervention in behalf of Cuba; he opposed the President's war policy, he opposed the treaty of Paris, and he has persistent-ly fought every measure designed to pro-mote peace and order in our island terri-In all these matters he has found himself practically alone among Repub licans, but if he persists in the attitude he is likely to find the lonesomeness intensify.

No Quarter for Rascals.

New York Journal of Commerce. A Cuban dispatch says that so many mericans are implicated in the postal defalcations that Cubans believe no one will be punished. They have not been in the habit of seeing officials punished for defrauding the revenues. This is precisely the crisis of American influence in Cubs and Porto Rico. Spain did not punish its rascals; will the United States? This country cannot afford to show any clemncy. It is in the position of a trustee it administering upon the estates of others Its reputation is involved. There is now the opportunity of proving that our Gov-ernment is better than the Spanish Government, and the world is watching to se whether we make good use of the oppor-tunity. There is no great difference in the theories of government held by us and those held by Spain; if we are to be an improvement on Spain we must prove that our practice of government is far Better

The Soldier's Baby. In the sunshine of homelife she's blooming. In the white love of motherhood true, All the dull day her bright eyes perfuming With memories, dear husband, of you, Dear husband, of you, Dear husband, of you, With memories, dear husband, of you

In the night-time I hear the dim rattle Of far-away musket and drum, When straightaway she starts her sweet pra-

tle"Dear mamma, will papa be home?
"Will papa be home?
"Will papa be home?
Dear mamma, will papa be home?" snatch the babe close in my trembling I kiss her bright sunlocks again and again,

Still fighting the battles of heroes and men Of heroes and men, Of heroes and men, Still fighting the battles of heroes and men.

think of you, husband, beyond the

hold the habe close as a pledge of our paring.

The tie to bring you back safely to me, hear the last word to your eager lip start. "I leave our baby, blest baby, with thee,

Baby with thee, Baby with thee, I leave our baby, blest baby, with thee." They say there's a tomb on the far-awa

A low grassy mound that covers my love But baby, sweet baby, in Heaven's fair high We'll meet the dear father, thy father, above

Thy father, above, Thy father, above, We'll meet the dear father, thy fathe Oregon City, May 20, 1900. DO WE WANT A NEW CHARTER?

former charter of the City of Portland ch conferred upon the people of our pality the power to change its entire injustration at every election, if desired, aged at the last session of the Legislat for the existing charter, which denies the people that power, and which virtually takes the administration of city affairs from the Mayor and Common Council and confers it upon various bearing and commissions (not elected by the people), which cannot be changed at any one election. We piedge ourselves, if elected, to secure a charter for the city restoring to the people of Portland control over the administration of municipal affairs.—"Citizens" Legislative platform. the existing charter, which denies

Here is a bran new definition of form. It proposes a revolution of the scheme of civil service now for the first time in our local history made a part of our city government, and a re-delivery of all the offices into the hands of politicians and jobbers every two years. If this is reform then all the plans of taxnavers' leagues and civic associations for the betterment of our municipal situation were either based on false pretenses or ignorance. If we are to have such reform, all the former efforts of friends of good government were in vain, and it were better to turn over the city again to iny greedy crowd that happens to float into office at any election. It was to take the office out of the hands of the pollsmen that the present charter was adopted. To turn it to them again is a cardinal principle with these "citizens."

The policy of the new city charter, under which we are at present working, is: To keep the city on a cash

(2) To limit cost of government to the lowest point consistent with efficiency and real economy.

(3) To place large powers in administrative officers and make them secure in their positions.

The Oregonian yesterday exhibited fully and exhaustively the financial situation of the city up to the time the new charter went into effect. It was made clear that we are doing about as well as many Eastern municipalities similarly circum stanced. But it is obvious that we are going to get along even better under our present system. The reduction of salaries and the eight-mill limit have alone made a reduction in our expenditures of about \$127,000 per annum. And no debts or liabilities can be incurred for any purpose beyond the immediate means of the city to pay. It is well enough to repeat the particular provision of the charter which has made this wise limits

of the city shall have authority to make any contract or do any act binding the City of Portland or imposing upon said city any il-ability to pay meney until a definite amount ability to pay money until a definite amount shall first have been appropriated for the liqui-dation of all peountary liabilities of said city under said contract or in consequence of said

And it is further provided that "no libility shall be incurred, debt created or contract made involving the expenditur of moneys appropriated by the Council during any year which exceeds the revenues received for that year." Inasmuch at specific limitation of an eight-mill levy is made, and the apportionment is also by charter-1% mills to police, 2 mills to fire department, and so on-it is apparent that great care must be exercised to keep the appropriations under the maxi-

But it seems that the virtuous Citizens

nominees have no fault to find with the conomies actually effected by the charter. They are sorely grieved because the "people" do not get a chance to turn everything upside down every two years. The continuing power of the commissions and Board of Public Works yexes their righteous souls. They ignore the fact that the very essence of an orderly and businees-like administration of affairs lies in placing these bodies beyond the whim and caprice of every incoming Mayor. The public will not easily forget the scandals that attended the removal of the Fire and Police Commissioners under Mayor Frank, because the commissioners deelined to make mere political machines out of their departments. Nor will it fall to remember the utter subserviency and ruinous methods of similar commissioners under Mayor Pennoyer. If these dear lessons taught anything, they demonstrate that the power of the Mayor must be restricted, the efficiency of the departments safe-guarded, and the comparative independence of their governing bodie established. In other words, the Police and Fire Departments must be taken out of politics and civil service ordained. That is what has been done, and it is precisely what ought to have been done.

Critics of the charter complain that the commissions are beyond reach of either the Mayor or the public, and that they constitute a continuing influence in ou city government that cannot be broken This is not so. The next Mayor will have the appointment of an entire Board of Public Works, made up of five members, for terms of one, two, three, four and five years respectively. Succeeding Mayors will thereafter name two of the five essor will appoint for six years one Fir Commissioner and one Police Commission-er. Each board has three members. It will be seen that no Mayor may appoint more than a minority of any of these bodies, except in case of death, resigna-tion, removal or other disability. This is no great matter to complain of. It is, on the contrary, distinctly a subject for congratulation, if we may judge from the costly experience of the past.

mirable as a city, but it has neverthe-less a satisfactory government. It has long had in force a system similar to ours, including state limitation of the tax levy. The Governor appoints the Har-bor Commissioners and the Police Board The city has a most serviceable Fire De partment, under civil service so complete that one chief remained in office for more than 29 years. Chief of Police Crowles also was undisturbed through a similar term of service. In Seattle, control of city affairs is largely in the hands of a Board of Public Works, over which the Mayor has supervisory power. The policy of rotation in office obtains. A civil service commission has direct authority of appointment over all subordinate city employes. An illustration of the opera-tion of civil service is found in the fact that one of the appointive city officials was last March the Fusion candidate for Mayor against the incumbent. He was not disturbed in his employment, and there was no suggestion from any source that there was any impropriety in his attitude. Seattle, it may be added, has always been on a cash basis, and San Francisco has practically no indebtedness.

San Francisco is not altogether ad

It has been said in some quarters that Mr. Rowe has been a city official lone enough, and that it is time some one else took his place on the payroll. It is a fact that he never drew a dollar in salary from the city, the Fire Commissione being an office without compensation

izens candidates in remodeling the charter would be disastrous in the extreme It proposes to restore the old order which many times outraged all sense of public decency, filled the departments with heel-ers and strikers, and lowered the efficiency of the whole municipal service. We want no repetition of the disgusting Pennoyer scandals. We want no packing of th departments with political favorites and variets. What we do want is an admin letration of city affairs on business principles, where merit and not politics is the test of continuance of place,

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Chinese boxers are handling the Chicago is giving a pretty good imita-

ion of a comic opera war. When a Chicago paragrapher is

doubt he abuses the basebull team. It is hoped now that Roberts' has reached Klip River he will not sheer off. It is not surprising that so many men who cultivate Presidential bees get waxed. The more anti-Quayted the members of the Senate are the better for the Senate

The doctor who will invent a hourseless old on the lungs will be well patronize by campaign orators.

Now that Dewey is no longer a candi-

date, he will probably renounce the

Perhaps when China gets a few More solar plexus knocks. She'll rise up in her might and put The Boxers in a box.

World.

Lord Roberts is well on his way to Protoria, but he will probably make two or three more stops to censure his subordinates before he gets there.

It is reported that a Missouri highwayman forced a Pullman porter to assist him in robbing the passengers. He knew where to get an experienced hand.

Perchance now that the festive Boer Must take his fighting force And stay besieged a while himself, He'll get a taste of horse.

"That's my trick," said-Senator Clark excitedly.

"You mistake the game, Senator," said the people of the United States; "it's your And they presented him with a ticket to Montana.

The Massachusetts Legislature has reduced the limit on the size of the lobsters that are brought into that state. If it reduced the number as well the citizens would be troubled with fewer anti-linperialists.

Only one native of Vermont has been President of the United States, Chester A. Arthur, the successor of Garfield. Stephen A. Dougles, Democratic candidate for President in 1860, was born in Ver-

"I have decided, General Buller," wrote Queen Victoria, "to give you some fitting reward for what you have done. I shall make the gift emblematic of your services, as well as something more than an ordinary medal of honor." And in the next mail the General received the double cross

Governor Mount, of Indiana, has refused to honor the requisition of Governor Beckham, of Kentucky, for the person of Charles Finley, who was Secretary of State of Kentucky during the administration of Governor Bradley and has been ndicted by a Democratic jury for participation in the assassination of Goebel. Governor Mount's reasons for denying the requisitions are that the indictment was found by a packed jury, and that Finley would be taken before a court packed to convict.

Among those who left for Nome Saturday evening were no less than half a dozen lawyers, all of whom had offices in the Chamber of Commerce. There are enough left to prevent each other from feeling If snything goes wrong on the lonely. Nome City or Elder, one of these lawyers is sure to be elected the Jonah for the occasion: but it will take a mighty big whale to hold him down. If the halfdozen of "Portland's own" do not bring back a big sack of gold apiece, it will be because there is not that much there.

The Boston Transcript fairly says that on the Fourth of July, or any other day, nvalids do not lose their rights, and that there is no warrant in any holiday for placing human life in peril. "It is to be hoped that the movement now in p to secure a day of quiet on the Nation's brithday will have general sympathy and support, for why should the many longer be made to suffer from the savagery or the lunacy of the few? This blowing of borns and firing of guns and pistols and firecrackers is not very flattering to an enlightened people. It belongs to barbarism, and if we ever are to emerge from barbarism we must give it up."

> We are running independent For the dough, We will get there if they'll give us It is little we desire Here below.

That's in sight, We are rustling up supporters Day and night We are very patriotic.

And we think the ring's despotic

So we'll make affairs chaotic,

With delight. Politics can cut no figure

In our case; arties go and come, but still we Parties go and come Want a place. We have got no no But the same's no indication That we'll not spread constern In the race.

And their taxes helped to put us Way shead. If they'll second our endeavor, And will vote for others never, We will hold our jobs forever; "On the dead.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

"Bometimes," said Uncle Eben, "when you toes a man a favor he never foliatis it. He jess laughs at you de res' o' his life foh bein' e triy,"—Washington Star. Where Ignorance Isn't Bliss.—Lawyer-Were you ever called to serve on a jury before? Juror-No, sir. This is the first time my intelligence has ever been questioned.—Chicago

His Field.—"Jipson has falled in all the newspaper work he has undertaken." "Are they going to bounce him?" "Oh, no. They are going to make him the dramatic critic."—Brooklyn Life.

Refreshments.-Mamma (to Bobby, just re-turned from an afternoon party)-What kind of refreshments did you have, dear? Bobby— Liquid. Mamma—Liquid? Bobby—Yes; us fel-lers all skipped out and went swimmin'.—Puck. The Virtuous Clerk.-"Sign your name here," asid the chief conspirator, "and the money will be paid you at once." "Sooner than let my good right hand sign that iniquitous docu-ment," said the virtuous Government clerk, "I would cut it off! But, fortunately, I am left-handed." And he signed it.—Cleveland Plain

Wedding Guest-Now that the ceremony's over, I'd like to ask you if you knew that your son-in-law is despit in debt? Mr. Stockson Bonds-Heavens! No! "It's a fact. I'm sure he simply married your daughter so as to be able to pay his debts." "Why didn't you tell able to pay his debts." "Why didn't y me of this before?" "I'm one of his lters."—Philadelphia Record.

The Spy System.-The municipal campaign being now fairly open, they naturally spoke of local politics. "The fight," observed the Lay Figure. "seems to concern the employment of an officer in citizen's clothes to detect violations of the liquor law." "Bort of a Spion Kop affair, as it were!" exclaimed the Unconsteast Imbaella. scious Imbeclie, with glee,-Detroit Journal.