

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter. TELEPHONE ROOMS—106 Business Office, 1067

REVISOR'S SUBSCRIPTION RATES. By Mail (postage prepaid). In Advance...

POSTAGE STATE. United States, Canada and Mexico. 10 to 15-page paper...

News or discussion intended for publication in The Oregonian should be addressed invariably to "Editor The Oregonian," not to the name of any individual...

TODAY'S WEATHER—Partly cloudy, with probably an occasional light shower. Warmer. Westerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 67; minimum temperature, 49; precipitation, 0.19 inch.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY JUNE 23, 1901

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP—PUBLIC UTILITIES.

In the Charter Committee of the City of Portland there has been some debate whether, in the article as to franchises, such as the right to construct and operate street railways, telephone and telegraph lines, light plants, etc., within the city, there should be inserted a provision giving the city power to approve, modify or annul franchises...

Again, it is well known that the expenditure necessary for the use of any important franchise and the development of a property upon it must be large; also, that for a number of years there is likely to be little pay or profit, especially in a city that has not yet passed beyond Portland's stage of growth.

The philosophy of it, in short, is altogether utopian. It resembles the philosophy of the Jubilee year of the dreamers of ancient Israel, who attempted, after the return from the captivity, to create an ideal state, founded on their conceptions of social justice.

the means of production and distribution, and their numbers are not few. What is needed, is any adequate definition of "public utilities" and yet logically leave out any of those things that are useful to the mass of mankind?

These franchises belong to the city, and it is its right and duty to require their use for the benefit of the city. But that is widely different from the proposal that the state or city shall acquire property and embark in lines of industry, great or small. Water supply stands alone as a municipal undertaking that is not questioned.

THE COLUMBIA IN HISTORY.

The Columbia River, which the river and harbor committee visit this week, has been known to navigators for over 125 years. Captain Bruno Hecla, commanding the Spanish ship Santa Ana, lay to off the mouth of the river on August 15, 1775, and Hecla, convinced that he was near the outlet of a large body of fresh water, charted it the Rio de San Roque.

But the question whether the city is to go into the various lines of business that may be founded on these franchises is a question of quite another character. It is the question whether it should reserve to itself the right and power to annul franchises and to take over the property to itself, after a term of years.

During August and September of this year there will be an international exposition of hygiene, maritime security and fishery, held at Ostend, Belgium, the object of which is to compare the measures adopted by different governments for the organization and working of services of succor on battlefields, and in cases of great catastrophes on sea or land.

The exposition will comprise three divisions. The first will include the general head of hygiene and a section of which will contain publications relating to this subject; another will relate to the application of physical and natural science to the hygiene of seamen and of the inhabitants of the coast; a third to applications of civil or maritime engineering.

half of the wheat exports of the ten years ending in 1900, aggregating 104,330,000 bushels, being 42 1/2 per cent. of the total shipments of wheat to the Northwest.

It is small wonder that the proposal of Sir Thomas Lipton to race the cup defender and champion across the Atlantic has been received with surprise by the New York Yacht Club, and there seems little likelihood that it will be entertained.

A STEP IN RAILROAD EVOLUTION.

There is more than one way to skin a cat, also more than one way to cook a rabbit, and recent events have shown that there is more than one way to combine railroads. Time was when it was deemed within the power of states to prevent great railroad corporations from absorbing their competitors.

The few days of sunshine of last week caused a marked improvement in the appearance of lowland wheat, and the grassy crop forward rapidly, came to stalk, and, indeed, induced a general forward movement in the domain of agriculture in the Willamette Valley.

The announcement is made semi-officially that Pension Commissioner H. C. Evans has handed his resignation to the President. It is explained that while for personal reasons the President has been disposed to retain Evans in office, the attitude of the latter has for months been that of "dignified irritation."

SOME NEWS IN EXPOSITIONS.

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It would be quite disloyal to McKinley, Hanna, Foraker et al. even to suppose that anything new or unexpected would come from the Ohio Republican Convention. Ohio is a great state, but its political parties are in that condition of subservience expressed by the term "thoroughly organized."

comfort and longevity—conditions that make for human happiness and usefulness and exemplify evolution in some of its most subtle phases.

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All of the great trade centers which are the initial shipping-points to the ocean for large areas of production are in a limited sense island cities. New York on the Hudson, Chicago on a feeder of the St. Lawrence, Philadelphia on the Delaware, Baltimore on the Patuxent, St. Louis and New Orleans on the Mississippi, and Portland on the Willamette and Columbia, are examples.

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What Tommy Atkins Hates.

If there is one thing Tommy hates it is being worried. The word is a poor one, and has a better and less poetic substitute in the word "bother." "I don't deny that he will grouse (grumble) heartily over the most necessary work, but he will grouse in a very different and more justifiable way over the wrong work, or a little consideration would have shown the order to be unfair.

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BEST OREGON IRRIGATION.

Baker City R. publican. Congressman Malcolm A. Moody, his assistant, and a number of the editors of a visit to Eastern Oregon by Professor F. H. Newell, chief hydrographer of the Geological Survey.

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A Dangerous Gun.

During the last few years we have heard a great deal of the man behind the gun. He has had his share of praise. We have pictured him in our mind's eye as a bronzed hero for whom death was no terrors.

La Grippe in Fifteenth Century.

It is very well known that the influenza is not an exclusively modern complaint, but I am not sure whether a curious reference to it by Bower, the continuator of Froben's chronicle, has been noted.

The Man Behind the Pen.

Magnus Froben, in Leslie's Weekly. Morning, evening, early and late, Rain, or sunshine, or snow, Behold our friend of the fourth estate...

WOOL, VERSUS COTTON.

Boston Herald. In the last bulletin of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers the editor endeavors—and to quite an extent successfully—to meet the adverse comments that have been raised by the woolgrowers concerning the amount of cotton and other substitutes that have been used during the last few years in the manufacture of alleged woolen and worsted goods.

Probably few not interested in the business will be aware of the great extent to which of late wool has given place to other materials in these classes of manufacture. One of the largest and most successful manufacturers of this country recently said that, in his opinion, cotton was used at the present time in the manufacture of wool and woolen goods to what would be the equivalent of 200,000,000 pounds of American wool in the grease.

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PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHS.

Methide—Mr. Hunsford is a man who thoroughly believes in himself. Elaine—How very guileful he must be—Town and Country. Too Fast for Her—Miss Elmer—There are so many facts you are now reading Miss Young by the H—yes you do seem to have difficulty in catching one—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. Horticultural Millinery—"Henry, how do you like my new hat?" "I don't know, Harriet; doesn't it need a little more fruit on top and a little more shrubbery on the left side?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

At the Apothecary's—Poet—How much for this prescription? Apothecary—Two dollars, please. Poet (indolently)—"Here, how do the publishers tell me that poetry is a drug in the market. Oh, that it were—Boston Transcript.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

And the next day it rained. Last ditches appear to be scattered all over the Transvaal.

Drop a hundred million dollars into the slot and get a trust.

Philadelphia is achieving a hit in the role of a terrible example.

What shall we do with our girls? Is beginning to be a serious question in Russia and Italy.

Having laid down his arms, of course General Callies will no longer be able to lift up his head.

The theatrical season has closed in the East, but the murder trials have stepped in to amuse the matinee girls.

Keep your eye on Funtion. He will probably celebrate the Fourth of July by going out into the woods and capturing a Filipino private.

Li Hung Chang has retained an eminent lawyer. The old man evidently intends to make a will that will stay made for a few months after his decease.

Another boom in the stock market is predicted. Buy early and you will be out of danger of the fear which is bringing Andrew Carnegie's gray hairs with sorrow down to the grave.

Swiss cow bells have been introduced into the Himalayas to frighten the tigers away from the cattle. If the cow bells do not work, acorions can be substituted. Any tiger that ever growled would fly from the sound of an accordion.

A prominent colored man who is coming to Portland is organizing a chapter of the Order of Hawks in Seattle. As the views of the colored race and those of the hawk coincide on the chicken question, the good brother ought to be well qualified to put the order on an interesting basis.

The following dramatic criticism appeared recently in a Norwegian paper: "The traveling theatrical company at present visiting this town gave one night a representation of a play styled 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' by a person called Shakespeare. The play is said to be a comedy, but is terribly monotonous in its effect, especially the two first acts.

I heard Dr. Conan Doyle tell a good story during a trip I made to London last winter," said an Eastern man a day or two ago. "He said that at a dinner party he had attended the guests began discussing the daily discoveries made to the detriment of people enjoying high stations in life and enjoying the confidence of the business world. Dr. Doyle said that it had always been his opinion that there was a skeleton in the closet of every man who had reached the age of 40. This led to a lot of discussion, some of the guests resenting the idea that there was no one who had not in his closet something that would be concealed. As a result of the controversy, Dr. Doyle said, it was suggested that his views as to family skeletons be put to the test. The diners selected a man of their acquaintance whom all knew only as an upright Christian gentleman, whose word was accepted as quickly as his bond and who stood with the highest in every respect. "All is discovered; lies at once," to this pillar of society," said Dr. Doyle, "and sent it. He disappeared the next day, and has never been heard from since."

Attorney-General Knox is the most youthful-looking man that has occupied a Cabinet portfolio in recent years. He looks more like a boy of 18 or 20 than he does like a man of middle age. The other day he was taken for a boy by an old gentleman who was at the Department of Justice to see the Attorney-General on business. Mr. Knox's office is on the first floor of the building. The old gentleman went to the opposite side of the hall. The old gentleman had been sitting there for an hour or more to see the Attorney-General. At last Mr. Knox emerged from his office to go to some other part of the building. The old gentleman mistook him for the office boy, and stepping up to him, said: "Say, sonny, what kind of a fellow is your boss? I see you coming out of his office, and presently you know all about him. I have a little business to transact with the Attorney-General, and would like to get a line on Mr. Knox before tackling him."

Mr. Knox's cherubic face brightened, and, with a merry twinkle in his eye, said: "Oh, he's all right. Walk right in and sit down until I return. I will then hear what you have to say."

The old gentleman would then and there have sold himself for 30 cents.

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