The Oregonian.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter.

REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

By Mail (postage prepaid, in advance)—
Daily, with Sunday, per month.....$ 85
Daily, Sunday excepted, per year..... 7 50
Daily, with Sunday, per year..... 9 00
Sunday, per year..... 2 00
The Weekly, per year..... 1 50
The Weekly 3 months..... 50
To City Subscribers—
Daily, per week, delivered, Sunday excepted.15c
Daily, per week, delivered, Sunday included.20c

POSTAGE RATES.

United States, Canada and Mexico:
10 to 14-page paper.....1c
16 to 28-page paper.....2c
Foreign rates double.

News or discussion intended for publication in The Oregonian should be addressed invariably "Editor The Oregonian," not to the name of any individual. Letters relating to advertising, subscriptions or to any business matter should be addressed simply "The Oregonian."

The Oregonian does not buy poems or stories from individuals, and cannot undertake to return any manuscripts sent to it without solicitation. No stamps should be inclosed for this purpose.

Eastern Business Office, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49 Tribune building, New York City; 510-11-12 Tribune building, Chicago; the S. C. Beckwith Special Agency, Eastern representative.

For sale in San Francisco—L. E. Lee, Palace Hotel news stand; Goldsmith Bros., 236 Sutter street; F. W. Pitts, 1008 Market street; J. K. Cooper Co., 746 Market street, near the Palace Hotel; Foster & Orear, Ferry news stand; Frank Scott, 80 Ellis street, and N. Wheatley, 813 Mission street.

For sale in Los Angeles by R. F. Gardner, 250 South Spring street, and Oliver & Haines, 305 South Spring street.

For sale in Kansas City, Mo., by Ricksecker Cigar Co., Ninth and Walnut streets.

For sale in Chicago by the P. O. News Co., 217 Dearborn street, and Charles MacDonald, 53 Washington street.

For sale in Omaha by Barkalow Bros., 1612 Farnam street; Megeath Stationery Co., 1308 Farnam street.

For sale in Salt Lake by the Salt Lake News Co., 77 West Second South street.

For sale in Minneapolis by R. G. Hearsey & Co., 24 Third street South.

For sale in Washington, D. C., by the Ebbett House news stand.

For sale in Denver, Colo., by Hamilton & Kendrick, 906-912 Seventeenth street; Louthan & Jackson Book & Stationery Co., Fifteenth and Lawrence street; A. Series, Sixteenth and Curtis streets.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional rain; westerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 48; minimum temperature, 43; precipitation, 0.32 inch.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5.

Armed with the indomitable righteousness of its cause, the Treasury surplus goes ruthlessly on to demonstrate the vicious nature of the United States Government's whole attitude toward revenues and expenditures. Notwithstanding the abandonment of many internal revenue taxes that were not burdensome, it appears from Secretary Shaw's report, printed yesterday, that the fiscal year ended last June bequeathed a surplus of $91,000,000. This year's will be $43,000,000, and next year's $51,000,000. There are two things Congress will not do with this surplus. One is to apply it to internal improvements like waterways, public buildings and arid public lands. No other argument is needed to demonstrate the fitness of Federal assumption of these undertakings than the fact that while the General Government has money to burn, derived under our system from the fertile sources of internal and customs revenue, our state and municipal governments everywhere, restricted to direct taxation, are groaning under heavy burdens. The other thing Congress will not do with the surplus is to reduce it by withdrawal of unnecessary protective duties which build up trusts on the one hand, the while on the other hand they despoil the consuming masses. Nothing could more conclusively demonstrate the hold of the protected trusts on Congress than the action of the last session in reducing taxes on liquors and tobacco rather than disturb the tariff under which salt, paper and similar trusts continue to plunder the people.

The City & Suburban's application for a blanket franchise is powerful testimony to the educational and moral effect of the recent bargain with the Portland Railway, which was not only a bold stroke of policy, but already begins to figure as a precedent. The exact terms of the proposed City & Suburban franchise, relative to compensation, duration, etc., we shall not discuss, except to say that, like those of the Portland Railway franchise, they should be conscientiously framed by the city officials. But on the general proposition of the franchise itself, we would urge its enactment at the earliest possible moment. Once a fair agreement is reached, matters of this kind should be closed promptly, both because of the city's increased revenue and because suspense is a powerful discourager of corporate enterprise. No body of capitalists, with full purpose and ability to carry out their plans, should be kept in a prolonged state of alternate favor and antipathy, such as the Hillsboro and Oregon Water Power people have had to contend with the past year. The somewhat precipitate offer from the City & Suburban, after its rather peremptory declination, is doubtless something due to its own desire to acquire a definite status before the new charter shuts the door on new enterprises, and also to the ambition of Councilmen to leave behind them a notable achievement in the city's history. Neither of these motives is to be censured. Implication that the city's interests cannot be safeguarded under the present charter as well as under the new is preposterous.

If frauds have been perpetrated in Oregon land, neither the General Land Office nor the local Land Office officials are guiltless, and no amount of impassioned rhetoric can obscure or conceal it. If we accept at its face value the assertion of Commissioner Hermann, printed this morning, that "utmost vigilance" has been enjoined upon the local Land Offices, and if the incumbents of these offices have done their full duty, why, then, the only conclusion possible is that there have been no frauds at all. And if there have been no frauds, why all this sudden activity of Secretary Hitchcock, this hurrying to and fro of special agents, this peremptory suspension of land entries in California, Oregon and Washington? The Commissioner says that his subordinates have been urged to do their duty. This may absolve him to a certain extent, inasmuch as he does not appoint them; but it only serves to shoulder the responsibility off on them. Nobody has charged the land officers with fraud or corruption; but what has been said continues to be incontrovertible, namely, that violations of the law by perjurers have been winked at in this state, as in others, by everybody in authority under state and National governments. The only alternative to this conclusion is the proposition that all the land entries have been honestly made by actual settlers for their own use, and that Secretary Hitchcock's suspension order was unjustifiable. This nobody will believe. It would be well for the land officers to say, We have been remiss in this matter and will be more careful in the future, rather than to deny the whole business and fall back upon state pride to help them out.

The City of Seattle finds itself at present in a very uncomfortable situation, politically, for which its own inaction is to blame. It ought to have a Senator, but it has been proceeding as with deliberate calculation to fix things so that the election of a King County man is practically impossible. The business interests of Seattle are proverbial for their vigor and effectiveness when united and alert on some object of municipal concern. Upon the subject of the Senatorship they now seem to be thoroughly aroused, and unless they are too late in the game, may be expected to augment its interest. But the fact is that the business interests of Seattle have sat perfectly still and unconcerned while ambitious politicains have proceeded to gather up what Senatorial capital the city has and place it at the disposal of the very man who is implacably hostile to the transportation agencies on which Seattle relies for aid in its commercial and maritime career. Now, when Governor McBride demands acquiescence in his anti-railroad measures as the price of support for a King County man for Senator, Seattle begins to realize that it might have had a delegation active for a Seattle Senatorial candidate, but not anti-railroad. The story is a common one. Business men seldom bestir themselves for their city's interests in the Senatorial election until some candidate hostile to their city and its commercial relations is as good as elected. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, but the foolish virgins did not fill their lamps until the joint assembly began balloting.

BALFOUR'S VICTORY.

The passage of the education bill by the House of Commons means a notable victory for Prime Minister Balfour, who introduced this measure the 24th of March last. The passage of this bill has been most bitterly opposed by the Nonconformists and such leading Liberals as Sir William Harcourt and Lord Rosebery. It has had the support, however, of many leading English Roman Catholics, like Cardinal Vaughan. While the Irish members are largely Roman Catholics, they absented themselves from the House during its discussion, saying that the bill concerns England and Wales alone, that they owe no support to the Balfour Ministry, and that the English Catholics had ever been, not the political friends, but the deadly enemies, of the Irish movement. Mr. Balfour did not need the Irish vote, for Mr. Chamberlain had succeeded in persuading the disaffected Nonconformists among his Liberal-Unionist followers to support the bill. In his speech at Birmingham he told his faction that theoretically he still believed in a complete divorce between church and all schools supported by the funds of the state. But this ideal he had found out was unattainable, and he advised the acceptance as a compromise of the present education bill. Mr. Chamberlain argued that the passage of the bill was far better than the alternative of bringing into power the opposition party. Mr. Chamberlain's success in bringing his Liberal-Unionist following into line broke the point of the originally formidable Nonconformist agitation against the bill and secured its passage by over 100 majority.

The bill has passed substantially in the shape desired by the English churchmen. The control of the teaching force of the church schools, supported by the state, will be kept by the clericals. It is true that the bill gives the representatives of the taxpayers the right to reorganize or dismiss the teaching staffs of such schools, provided that they are "educationally inefficient." But this concession is worthless, as the church is always able to secure denominational teachers who are "educationally efficient." The teachers in the church schools will be men who will be sure to diffuse the religious atmosphere of the Church of England all through them. Hitherto the voluntary schools have been maintained by the denomination from private funds, with the aid of a small government subsidy. Under the education bill, which has just passed, such schools are to provide and maintain their buildings free of charge, in return for which their running expenses are to be met from the public funds. The schools are nominally responsible in strictly educational matters to the County or Municipal Council of the district, and to the Central Board of Education, but in religious matters and as respects local management generally they are responsible to boards of managers appointed on the basis of two representatives from the denomination to one from the community at large. They are really church schools, supported by the state, and the beneficiaries of the measure are practically only Church of England schools and a few Roman Catholic institutions.

The passage of this measure is a most important event, for its enactment will not mark the end of the controversy. The Nonconformists of England are very strongly represented among the powerful, wealthy and intelligent middle classes, and they are favorable to the complete secularization of national schools; they have come to believe in the American idea of non-denominational public schools. The opponents of Mr. Balfour's measure are at present at logical disadvantage, for that astute, subtle-minded statesman could easily ask the Nonconformists whether they were ready today for a complete separation of church and state, whether a people who taxed themselves to support the Church of England should consider it an unexpected or unreasonable demand to be asked to support the denominational schools of that church. And here lies the strength of Balfour's position. He knows that the opposition cannot answer him, or at least are not ready yet to give him an answer that would sound like a menace of social and political revolution.

Nevertheless there are not lacking many able, educated Englishmen, like Lord Rosebery, who believe that the passage of this bill, so far from settling the question, will have unsettled it and left the seeds of bitter civil and religious discord behind. The Nonconformists intended, if Gladstone had remained in power, to press for the disestablishment of the church in Wales. It is quite probable that long before the close of the present century there will be a powerful party in England urging the disestablishment of the English Church. When that day comes, while the Irish party will have no interest in its settlement, for the Irish Church was disestablished in 1868, nevertheless they will vote with the English Nonconformists to disestablish the English Church in order to be a thorn in the side of the government, even as O'Connell voted with the opposition to Sir Robert Peel. There is an old proverb which says, "Let sleeping dogs lie." It is probable that the passage of this measure will wake the "sleeping dog" of disestablishment of the state church, and when that debate opens Mr. Balfour, and not the Nonconformists, will have the logical advantage in the argument.

"SCIENCE APPLIED TO THE FARM."

The annual report of no other Cabinet officer, with the possible exception of that of the Postmaster-General, is of personal interest to so great a number of people as that of the Secretary of Agriculture. The time wherein farming was carried on in a sort of hit-and-miss way and was accounted a vocation wherein main strength and patient toil were the chief elements has passed away. The old method had its day, and a long and, for the times, a fairly prosperous day it was, full of honest independence and brooded over by contentment of the type that persistently flings away ambition. But, being essentially a growing vocation, new elements of growth found their way into it, with the result that agriculture has now become a science more or less exact according to the study that farmers give to it and the intelligence with which its rules are applied to the work in hand.

It is eminently fitting, therefore, that the National Secretary of Agriculture should open his report with a reference to the educational work of his department, and exceedingly gratifying to be assured that this has grown in effectiveness, since his last report. In proof of this statement he cites the fact that the demands of many public institutions for men of ability to manage agricultural enterprises has encouraged young men to take up the science of agriculture, with a view to becoming experts in the wide and diversified field which it covers.

To the lover of Nature, the admirer of growing things, the man or woman who finds the old story of the seasons, as told in the recurring periods of rest and resurrection, of seed time and harvest, material for a new drama with development in the leading role, the science of agriculture is at once the most wonderful and the most engaging of all pursuits. There are no graduates from the school of Nature. One season leaves another to fulfill its promises, and these, if well based, are as certain of fulfillment as the sun is to shine and the rain to fall. The increasing magnitude of the agricultural industry in this country is sufficient proof of the increasing interest that is taken in farming as a progressive science. With a fixed capital of $20,000,000,000 invested in agriculture; with, in aggregate, 415,000,000 acres of cultivated land; with 40,000,000 people resident upon farms and 10,000,000 engaged in agricultural pursuits, we may well place agriculture at the top of the list of the industrial column as the greatest as it is the oldest of human vocations. The value of the products of American agriculture in the last census year was so large that the figures in which it is set forth are confusing in the vast sums that they designate and the enormous bulks in agricultural products that they indicate. We are fain, therefore, to regard them as standing for an industry the appliances of which, including human effort and intelligence, are enormous and the results of which, whether presented in bulk or in value, are fairly incomprehensible to the ordinary mind. Accepting without dissent the statement of Secretary Wilson that the expenditures of the Government for agriculture are justified by results, we will find it easy to indorse his concluding view that "the future will still further show the value of science applied to the farm."

HOW TO RAISE REVENUE.

The suggestion made through the columns of The Oregonian some time ago that at least a portion of the appropriation for the Lewis and Clark Centennial should be raised by a corporation tax seems to be gaining considerable favor. It has long been believed by many that corporations should be required to pay the state for the special privileges enjoyed, and the need of larger revenue at this time gives strength to the movement for the taxation of these special privileges. If the needs of the state for the 1905 Fair can be provided for largely in this manner, there need be no considerable advance in the general state taxes.

With this system of taxation once established, there could be a decrease in the rate of property tax after the Fair is over. The time has passed when an argument need be made in support of a corporation tax. Many states receive a considerable revenue from this source, and where the legality of the tax has been questioned the courts have held it to be constitutional. The inheritance tax, which is also gaining in favor, has been imposed by a number of states, and is found to produce considerable revenue without casting an unjust burden upon any one. The question for Oregon to consider is not whether the corporation and inheritance taxes should be imposed, but rather what the rate of the tax shall be.

An inspection of the corporation laws of the different states shows that Oregon requires less of its corporations than do most of the states. By filing articles in the specified form and paying fees which, on the average, do not amount to more than $5, a company receives authority to transact business without further compensation for the privileges secured. In most of the states the initiatory fee is graded according to the amount of the capital stock, a minimum amount being specified. Without going into particulars regarding the laws of the several states, it may be said that an incorporation fee based upon the average of those charged in other states would be $1 per thousand on the amount of the capital stock, no fee being less than $25. Under a law providing a graduated filing fee there would not be so many incorporations and the capital stock would, as a rule, be limited to the actual value of the assets of the company. Making due allowance for these decreases, the state should receive from filing fees not less than $25,000 a year.

An annual franchise tax, in order to be equitable, should be based upon the amount of capital employed or the amount of business transacted. As to domestic corporations, this tax can easily be applied, and an annual tax of $1 per thousand of the capital stock, or 1 mill on the dollar, would not seem to be unreasonable. Upon foreign corporations the tax would necessarily be based upon the proportion of the capital stock employed in this state, or upon the gross receipts, or might be fixed at an arbitrary amount. Under present laws insurance companies are required to pay a 2 per cent tax upon their gross receipts, but this plan could not be applied to telegraph and express companies, which are engaged in interstate commerce, unless the tax were imposed only upon the proceeds of business entirely within the state.

The business of such companies wholly within the state is relatively small, and a tax would be at a high rate if it produced a revenue commensurate with the priviliges such companies enjoy. The Massachusetts plan of taxing the franchises of such corporations as telegraph companies is to impose a tax upon its corporate franchise, at a valuation thereof equal to the aggregate value of its shares of capital stock, deducting such portion as is proportionate to the amount of the line outside of the state, and also deducting the value of the real estate and personalty which is subject to local taxation. This plan would seem to be equitable and has been held to be constitutional. The annual franchise tax should produce not less than $80,000 a year, which, with the amount of the corporation filing fees, would make up about 10 per cent of the ordinary state revenue. Several states impose license taxes upon Pullman car companies and require that a state liquor license be procured for each car upon which liquors are sold. From this source the state should realize a revenue of several thousand dollars a year.

One of the most promising sources of revenue is an inheritance tax. An heir or devisee, as a general rule, receives something which he has not earned, and to require him to contribute a portion of his gift to the support of the state government under whose laws he receives it would impose no unjust burden. A tax of 1 per cent upon every inheritance or bequest in excess of $5000, if the heir be direct, or 5 to 10 per cent if the beneficiary be a collateral descendant or a stranger, would be moderate. No statistics are available to indicate what amount of revenue the state might expect to receive from an inheritance tax, but from all sources mentioned the revenue should be in the neighborhood of $200,000 a year. In ordinary years, when there are no unusual expenditures, a considerable portion of the state expenses could be obtained from these indirect sources, thus lightening the burden upon real property.

From the "Home Defender," of Ashland, whose object is the suppression of saloons, we have received this rather urgent appeal:

> Can you send us a good, strong editorial for our next issue of the Home Defender? Same will be greatly appreciated by the Anti-Saloon League.

No, good "Defender," it will not be possible for us to supply the desired contribution, for the temperance labors of The Oregonian, now as in many years past, must find their expression in its own columns. As an evidence of sympathy and good faith, however, we here insert a temperance lecture, which we find in the "Defender," credited to no less distinguished an author than Stephen J. Field, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and by him delivered in 1890 in the case of California vs. Christensen:

> By the general concurrence of opinion of every civilized and Christian community, there are few sources of crime and misery to society equal to the dramshop, where intoxicating liquors in small quantities, to be drunk at the time, are sold indiscriminately to all parties applying. The statistics of every state show a greater amount of crime and misery attributable to the use of ardent spirits, obtained at these retail liquor saloons, than to any other source.

Sir Charles Hartopp, a member of London high society, asks the British courts for a divorce from his wife, who is a famous beauty, on the ground of her adultery with the Earl of Crowley. His counsel asserts that Lady Hartopp offered her husband £20,000 to permit her to procure a divorce. Hartopp is a short, bald man, fifteen years older than his wife. He admits that his wife's father gave him £10,000 to pay his racing and card-playing debts at the time of his marriage. No wonder his wife courts a divorce from such a shiftless creature. He was a bankrupt spendthrift who sold his title for money, and now his wife has found a title that is higher by several degrees and whose possessor is not a needy spendthrift and bankrupt gambler.

The fourth Duke of Wellington, a grandson of the victor of Waterloo, continues today to draw a pension of $18,000 annually from the government of Belgium. This pension was voted to the first Duke and his successors by the Dutch government in recognition of his victory over Napoleon at Waterloo in June, 1815. In 1830 Holland and Belgium became separate kingdoms, but the duty of paying the annuity fell to Belgium, because the property whose revenues were assigned for the purpose was situated within the Belgian borders. The present Duke of Wellington has large estates in Spain which were presented to his famous grandfather, and has likely some landed property in Portugal given to the first Duke by the Portuguese crown.

This is essentially "church bazaar week." The way a host of earnest, conscientious, energetic women are struggling along, "carrying meeting-houses on their backs," metaphorically speaking, and smiling under the load, would be amusing did not the spectacle suggest an expenditure of vitality and strength out of all proportion to the financial results achieved, which is in a sense pitiful.

President Roosevelt is right. "The only shots that tell are the shots that hit." This is true whether applying to the battle record of war, afloat and ashore, or to Presidential utterances upon trusts and other matters that touch the public policy of the Nation.

The President's forcible presentation of the extreme difficulty with which men are induced to enter the Navy may afford a hint why the American seaman is so scarce. Personal predilections are more powerful than subsidies.

The stupendous strides made by our commerce may, as the President seems to think, demonstrate the necessity of a Cabinet officer to help business, or it may not.

Vanderbilt Christmas Trees.

New York Herald.

To gladden the hearts of little ones throughout the old town of North Hempstead, William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., has offered to furnish every Sunday school in the town with a Christmas tree from his new country estate at Success Lake.

Groves of stately evergreens cover acres of Mr. Vanderbilt's new purchase, and it has been a custom of years for Sunday schools and other institutions holding Christmas festivals to obtain the trees from these groves.

Despite the fact that at a recent election the voters of this town declined to sell Success Lake to Mr. Vanderbilt for $50,000, it is apparent that Mr. Vanderbilt is determined that the children of the town shall not be deprived of their usual Christmas trees.

SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS

Nemesis on His Trail.

Spokane Spokesman-Review.

In the eye of the Crown Prince of Siam, Mayor Williams cuts about as much of a figure as the Prince himself will cut when he has become middle-aged and his country has been squeezed to nothing between the British of Burmah and the French of Indo-China.

Salvation in Industrial Endeavor.

Pendleton Tribune.

American inventive genius has done more already to elevate the laboring classes than any theory of collectivism, communism or socialism. While new inventions temporarily deprive men of employment, higher skill is required to operate them, and shorter hours and better pay follow when once the new trade is learned. The ideal possibilities for mankind hoped for by some people will be approached largely through industrial endeavor.

Prevalence of Race Troubles.

Lewiston Tribune.

There is no country without its race troubles. Race prejudice is at its worst in Cuba. The blacks are not only expecting a division of offices, but it is understood they will demand social recognition this Winter. It is probable that they will be disappointed in both cases. While the Spanish-Americans are hardly as much prejudiced against the negroes as the people of the United States, there is prejudice enough to prevent social equality and to keep the blacks out of the offices.

Penalties of the Outside Life.

Yakima Washingtonian.

Ellen Gore, the murdered music pupil of Paris, was buried there last Wednesday. The dispatches state: "None of the relatives of the deceased were present and there were no mourners." A divorced woman, because of her devotion to art, she died with a cloud upon her name far from home and kindred and lies buried in a foreign land. A woman's best art is seen in the skill of a loving housewife. The rest is vanity and vexation of spirit.

> O'er all the birds that stretch the wings and fly,
> A hawk is ever hovering nigh;
> Then stay at home, dear heart, and rest,
> To stay at home is best.

Some Misapprehension Here.

Roseburg Plaindealer.

We are not opposed to the Lewis and Clark Exposition. We are not opposed to the state appropriating $250,000 or $500,000 to the enterprise; but we are opposed to the state at large paying for what will be a 95 per cent Portland enterprise and Portland benefit, while that town will not even pledge itself to support a matinee performance. If Portland wants the exhibition, how much do the citizens want it? And while the promoters of the enterprise are giving the state at large a chinook of hot air on the proposition, would it not be a good idea for Portland to put up the money they say they are willing to subscribe as an evidence of good faith.

Thoroughly Characteristic.

Walla Walla Statesman.

President Roosevelt's second annual message will hardly rank with the great state papers of this Nation. While it is frank and straightforward in its declarations, there is no attempt at elegance of diction or rhetorical finish. The message reads very much like one of the President's off-hand speeches and it is not easy to believe that it is the result of protracted literary effort on the part of the author and careful revision by the Cabinet. Every word of the document has the Roosevelt ring, and it is plain that the President has not changed a line of his message to suit the views of any of his advisers. Indeed, it is doubtful whether any member of the Cabinet would have had the temerity to suggest any changes, no matter what his private opinions might be.

Tribute to Accurate Marksmanship.

Gardenez Gazette.

The Roseburg Plaindealer knows, or ought to know, that the sad necrology of the Douglas County branch of the National land boodlers has already been written. It should be able to see the dying struggle and tear away from the death grip with which the ring is holding onto it and dragging it blindfolded into its own grave. The Oregonian put no more stress or emphasis on the Roseburg land district than it did on the Lakeview and Dalles districts in mentioning the alleged timber land fraud. The application of the word fraud was general as used by The Oregonian, and the Plaindealer would make it sound pointed and local. The Oregonian first published this article as a matter of news and gave the Land Office as its authority for the same, and, like the hit dog, Roseburg took it to heart and made the first howl. If there was no foundation for the report, why didn't the Plaindealer calmly await the threatened investigation, and, after it was over and the expected results were not obtained, then alight with both feet on the neck of the promoters and grind them and their "dirty" scheme into a fine dust that blows before public exposure?

On "Montanaizing."

Sumner Herald.

Certain Wilson papers have published section 5 of a certain agreement signed by Senator Foster at the time of his election. Are we to judge an agreement by the whole or are we expected to form intelligent, fair and conclusive judgment with the aid of such parts of it as Wilson shall deem fit to offer? As a lawyer would Mr. Wilson, acting in behalf of John Doe, ask any court to enter judgment against Richard Roe by flashing in the court's face one section of a contract—alleged to be binding—and refusing to show the entire instrument? All argument aside, is not the whole transaction scandalous? What a specimens of statesmen are both these Republican politicians! Would not the agreement filed with the United States Senate be a bar to his taking a seat therein, and would it not have been sufficient to keep Foster out? Or does the law of decency apply only to Clark of Montana and Roberts of Utah? Addendum (sub rosa)—If for a bunch of 28 votes Wilson only got Brother Harry a job and a few other concessions contained in the missing sections of the agreement how much will he be able to get for a bunch of votes this time?

Perjury May Cause Great Hardships.

Elgin Recorder.

From the recent report of the Secretary of the Interior it now appears as if the abuse of the timber and stone act in this state during the past season will result in the repeal of that law. Such a course would work hardship on a large number of honest people who have not yet been able to take advantage of this law to secure 160 acres of timber land, yet such action by Congress need not create any surprise after the transactions of the past season are known to the Department of the Interior. It is a notorious fact that thousands of acres of land have been proven up in this state during the past few months by persons who had no idea of retaining possession of the land any longer than a transfer could be made after they had made final proof. In fact, the bargain and sale was agreed upon before the land was filed on and in many instances the land speculators furnished the money to perfect the title. When such transactions as these are carled on in a wholesale manner and the news thereof comes to the head of the Interior Department it is not to be wondered at that he should recommend an early repeal of the timber and stone act. However, the matter could be arranged so as to protect the public domain from land speculators and at the same time conserve the rights of honest settlers who desire to secure a tract of timber land for their own use, by amending the law so that no more than 40 acres could be secured under it. This would discourage the land grabbers and would still give actual settlers who wanted timber for their own use an opportunity to secure it.

FOUR CRISES OF JUDAISM.

Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch, of Chicago.

We are now in the midst of an era of transition. Such a period is full of forebodings, crowded with pessimistic sentiments. Although other times seemed better than these, we must recognize the fact that out of just such a gloom have sprung our literary treasures, and, indeed, the fundamental principles of our religion. The Jewish nation, like the Grecian statue, could rest securely only on native soil. Identical with the other ancient nations, it could flourish only when planted in the land of its origin. But Israel was torn from its environments and taken captive to Babylon. Here the harp was silent, for a discouraged people cannot play. The temple, which seemed to them to be almost a divine pledge that their capitol should never be captured, was destroyed. Then it was that the Pentateuch, so long a closed volume, was preached to them. They read again the prophets, and their eyes were opened. They then perceived that they were a peculiar people—ordained to be set apart and to fill a higher destiny than that of a martial power—they were to be a priest-nation. Their lives were to be regarded by the laws of priestly purity. Behold the result of the first crisis.

Between the return from capitivity and the conflict with Greece was a stretch of silence covering two or three centuries. During this epoch of peace and quiet Israel was accumulating energy for the approaching conflict. Decrepit Greece cast a jaded smile on the Jew, unmindful that her days of pomp had fled, and that her doom had been sounded from the belfry of eternity. But who could say that the Jew, too, had not spent his force? He himself almost acknowledged it. Israel's national identity was threatened. But in a single night she was saved by one family. The temple at Jerusalem had been overthrown, but this seeming disaster gave birth to a temple in every village—the synagogue. To the literature of Judah were added the Prayer Book, the Psalms, the Proverbs and the Book of Job, symbolical of unjustly condemned Israel.

Then came the third crisis, the Roman conquest. This time the abyss yawned and threatened to swallow all. The temple was again left in ruins, but the work of the synagogues remained. Next came the school. And from the school came the Talmud. This has preserved Judaism through all its vicissitudes and wanderings. Without it Judaism might never have existed today. Princes and legislatures have never succeeded in taking this away.

The fourth crisis covers 300 to 400 years following the advent of Mahomet. This was the era of discussion, conflict and disbelief. At length the cloud lifted and the Jew realized that God speaks not only through revelation, but also through reason. Happy was the conclusion. Judaism became an intelligent, reasoning faith, rather than a blind superstition. The outcome of the four crises are: The recognition of a priestly preordination, the synagogue and the Jewish literature, the Talmud and a reasoning creed.

The one lesson that all of these periods of doubt and despair point out is this—the new civilization of the 20th century still has need of the purifying influence of a sacerdotal people, and while this need exists Judaism shall not die.

Gambling for High Stakes.

New York Press.

If somebody is not lying, the Gates crowd is outdone in poker by two prominent members of the Four Hundred. The story goes that they played in a private club in Fifth avenue, not far from Thirty-fourth street, with nothing but stars over them, which means no limit. Four hands dropped out when the duel began in earnest. M. raised G. $50,000. G. came back at him with a $100,000 lift. "I am short of cash," said M., "but will bet you my house. It is worth, with contents, $250,000." "Sure; everything—lock, stock and barrel!" "Your—your wife?" M. turned white. Rumor has not been kind to the wife of late. There has been hint of separation. "Against yours," hissed M. "Good," returned G., grinning, "and my two children as well. I now call you." He laid down a straight diamond flush, queen on top. M. had a straight heart flush, jack top.

"You have lost your wife," said G., cruelly, as he raked in the pot. "It was a close shave for mine." M. was livid, like one being strangled. Mrs. M. was at the horse show on Tuesday. "How is Mr. M.?" a friend asked. She replied: "I really cannot say. The poor fool swears that he lost me at poker the other night; that I went in a jackpot with our house and a few other things. I was part of the stakes. Isn't it amusing to be gambled for?" "Who won you?" "Why, G., of course; lucky dog! He says he is now long of stocks and long of wives. Ha, ha, ha! Dear, dear me."

Quigg's Defense of Platt.

New York Evening Post.

The Hon. Lemuel Ely Quigg sends us a long letter in defense of Platt, which we take more pleasure in printing that he can suspect. Quigg is the very man to set the clergymen and college professors right. True, he rises on the present occasion very much with the air of the drunken, sailor who stood up when the revivalist called for any who wanted to be known as "on the devil's side," with the remark that he "never went back on a friend."

The Divine View of Life.

Richard Realf.

> All around us lie the awful sacrednesses
> Of babes and cradles, graves and hoary hairs,
> Of girlish laughter and of manly cares,
> Of moaning sighs and passionate caresses,
> Of infinite ascensions of the soul,
> And wild hyena-hungers of the flesh;
> Warm faith of childhood, sweet as mignonette,
> Amid doubt's bitter herbage, and the dear
> Reglimpses of the early stars which set
> Down the blue skies of our lost hemisphere,
> And all the consecrations and delights
> Woven in the texture of the days and nights.
>
> The daily miracle of life goes on
> Within our chambers, at our household hearths,
> In sober duties and in jocund mirths,
> In all the unquiet hopes and fears that run
> Out of our hearts along the edges of
> The terrible abysses; in the calms
> Of friendship, in the ecstasies of love;
> In burial dirges and in marriage psalms;
> In all the far weird voices that we hear;
> In all the mystic visions we behold;
> In our souls' Summers when the days are clear,
> And in the Winters when the nights are cold,
> And in the subtle secrets of our breath
> And that annunciation named death.
>
> Sometimes (we know not how nor why nor whence)
> The twitter of the swallows 'neath the eaves,
> The shimmer of the light among the leaves,
> Will strike up through the thick roofs of our senses,
> And show us things which seers and sages saw
> In the gray earth's green dawn; something doth stir
> Light organ hymns within us, and doth awe
> Our pulses into listening, and confer
> Burdens of being on us, and we ache
> With weights of revelation, and our ears
> Hear voices from the infinite, that take
> The hushed soul captive, and the saddening years
> Seem built on pillared joys, and overhead
> Vast dovelike wings that arch the world are spread.
>
> O earth, thou hast not any wind that blows
> That is not music; every weed of thine
> Pressed rightly flows in aromatic wine;
> And every humbled hedgerow flower that grows,
> And every little brown bird that doth sing,
> Hath something greater than itself, and bears
> A living word to every living thing,
> Albeit it holds the message unawares.
> All shapes and sounds have something which is not
> Of them; a spirit broods amid the grass;
> Vague outlines of the everlasting thought
> Lie in the melting shadows as they pass,
> The touch of an eternal presence thrills
> The fringes of our sunsets and our hills.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A nail that is not wise to hit on the head—your thumb-nail.

When a woman jumps at a conclusion the modest man will look the other way.

It is really too bad that 14 people had to perish in order to prove a Chicago hotel to be a firetrap.

Why is it that when two women attempt to kiss each other, they forget all they have learned under happier circumstances?

Henry Watterson eulogizes the late Colonel Tom Ochiltree as "the last of the romanticists." Mr. Watterson always was forgetful of self.

Are we to understand that Lord Curzon has discovered the throne of King Solomon? Is it really true that he will sit in this relic of Hebrew splendor during the coronation durbar? Verily, this is a strange world, and few there be who understand it.

This problem of side entrances to saloons seems to resolve itself into a question of decency. But as decency is merely a matter of license, this knot will be easily untied and the saloon-keepers ought not to complain if this is treated as an expensive side issue.

As an instance of clever repartee, this which we find in the Boston Pilot is hard to beat. A distinguished lawyer and politician was traveling on a train, when an Irishwoman came into the car with a basket, bundle, etc. She paid her fare, but the conductor passed by the lawyer without collecting anything. The good woman thereupon said to the lawyer: "An' faith an' why is it that the conductor takes the money of a poor woman an' don't ask ye, who seem to be a rich man, for anything?" The lawyer, who had a pass, replied: "My dear madam, I'm traveling on my beauty." The woman looked at him for a moment and then quickly answered: "An' is that so? Then ye must be very near yer journey's end."

Frank Norris with nobility of insight says (he yet lives for some of us) that the novelist is bound by the laws of his art and his humility before God to tell about life as he feels it is. He pleads for telling the truth, for giving horizon and perspective and no false ideals. However firmly we may believe that Mr. Norris was not equal in all respects to his aims we cannot but love the sincerity with which he struggled. This final utterance of his in the Critic is a generous bequest of right thinking and lofty incentive.

The stories told in "the profession" of Mr. Brookfield's scathing repartee are endless, says the Pall Mall Gazette. On one occasion a young actor who had lately made a bit of a hit in a small part was regaling a few friends at great length upon the "splendid notices" he had received and the various merits of his performance. At last Brookfield quietly remarked: "But, my dear sir, you are not really at all good in the part. I have never seen you do anything well, but in this particular you are simply naughty."

"Indeed!" said the young man, bridling up. "I suppose so distinguished a critic as yourself would deny my being an actor at all!"

"I certainly should," said Mr. Brookfield.

"Then what would you call me?" asked the young man, a little recklessly.

"Well," said Brookfield, with a sweet smile, "I think I should describe you as a pardonable error."

The honor of San Francisco manhood has been avenged. A fellow, who led a beautiful woman into a life which made death her only recourse, who over her dead body traduced her and denied that she was his wife, who spoke lightly of her character, when he might have given her the silent dignity of wifehood in her grave, has been publicly expelled from the society of honorable men. The order of the president of the new California Jockey Club in forever forbidding Robert Hemingray from appearing on its track or entering his horses for its races will command hearty approbation. No woman ever fell so low that she was unworthy of protection. This girl may have done deadly wrong, she may have stepped lightly along the very brink of the pit, but in so much as she was faithful to her allegiance, she had far deeper claims on his manly protection than words can say. She is dead by her own hand. Her babbling destroyer lives to recite his conquests, but the ear of manhood is eternally shut to his voice, and shame and contempt and infamy are his lasting, just portion.

Plaignely Insaigne.

> In the beautiful city Spokane
> There once lived a wonderful mane;
> He incessantly bawls,
> "I'll go over the fawls,
> I will, for I know that I cane."
>
> So he drank a stout glass of champaigne,
> This man, who was surely insaigne;
> In a bit of a yawl,
> He went over the fawl,
> But he'll never go over agaigne.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Mae—How did Bessie raise the money to go abroad and study music? Ethel—The neighbors took up a subscription, I believe.—Puck.

"Don't you know what a coquette is, Bennie?" "Yes, mamma; a coquette is a thing they make out of fricasseed chicken the second day."—Yonkers Statesman.

"Does your cook ever wear your wife's clothes?" "I guess not. Why, my wife hasn't anything the cook would be seen wearing."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

She—Now that we are to be married, we must begin to save. Promise me you will do nothing you cannot afford. "But in that case I would have to break off the engagement."—Life.

Rodrick—Halwood's wife has such a sour disposition. Van Albert—Yes, and he used to say she was the apple of his eye. Rodrick—H'm! He must have meant a crabapple.—Chicago Daily News.

"Say, is there any danger that Jones is losing his mind?" "Not that I know of. Why do you ask?" "Asked him today why he never repeated any of his baby's sayings, and he said because the child never said anything worth repeating."—Baltimore American.

Fanny—I guess Harry thinks more and more of me every day. He has asked me to go a-riding with him in his automobile. Constance—Thinks so much of you that he wants to die in your company. I hope you will enjoy your ride, dear, ever and ever so much.—Boston Transcript.

Hotel Proprietor—Where did you put that ugly old man who just registered? Clerk—Gave him the best in the house. Proprietor—How do you know he can afford it? Clerk—I caught a glimpse of his wife waiting in the ladies' parlor. She's young and pretty.—Philadelphia Press.

"I think," remarked the man who had recently won $1700 at the races before he woke up, "that I'll play $2 each way on this horse." "I see," said the Innocent Party, who is anxious to learn, "that's so if he