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, subscription 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 by 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 B. 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 Washington, D. C., by the Ebbett House news stand.

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

TODAY'S WEATHER—Cloudy, with light rain or snow; cooler; northeasterly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 53; minimum temperature, 45; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7.

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP.

The dissatisfaction of the Democrats in Congress with the leadership of Mr. Richardson is not unnatural. Richardson, while a very respectable man, has neither exceptional judgment, quickness nor force; and in the period of his leadership he has not scored one decisive point for his side in the House. To a man whose qualities fit him for it the minority leadership in a great parliamentary body is one of splendid opportunity. In Europe it has, on the whole, yielded more and higher personal reputation than majority leadership. Almost the whole of the great career of Edmund Burke was in the minority relation; and in this position Gladstone, Disraeli, Palmerston and every other famous English party leader of modern times gained much of their prestige and did much of their best and most effective work.

Majority leadership, being under the necessity of accomplishing things, has constantly to deal with expedients and compromises, constantly to depart in some measure from the straight and narrow path of principle. Minority leadership, on the other hand, having no responsibility for results, is free to deal with the larger philosophies of every situation, to exhibit with the highest possible emphasis the ideals and principles which lie back of political action. Of course, where large affairs are to be considered, it takes a good deal of a man to do this. Wide knowledge and sound judgment combined with readiness and power in debate and the personal qualities which command unquestioned following—these are the essentials. And that they are very rare hardly needs to be declared.

There has been no man of eminent fitness for leadership on the floor of the House in either party since the retirement of Mr. Reed. On the Democratic side, Mr. Richardson is a mere makeshift, selected for a duty manifestly beyond his caliber only because there has been no better man in sight; and he has continued to hold the leadership because there is nobody to relieve him of it. And if among the newly-chosen Democratic members there is the makings of an effective leader, it has not yet been made manifest.

A PIONEER IN NOTHING.

The New York World, in an editorial on "Mrs. Fremont and Mrs. Grant," describes Grant as "a tanner" in Galena when he was really a bookkeeper in a leather store, and then says of Fremont:

> Fremont was indeed the "Pathfinder." He pioneered for the wagon train and the railroad across the continent. He led the way where later the Republican hosts marched to victory. For personal success he was too early.

The New York World writer evidently does not know the real history of Fremont, which, as written by Josiah Royce, of California, is that of a man who "possessed all the qualities of genius except ability." Fremont had the same temperamental incapacity to justify the hopes of his friends as McClellan. Fremont pursuing Jackson was a military Sir Fretful Plagiary, while McClellan confronting Lee was always Sir Forcible Feeble. The talent of both of these men seemed to lie in their plausible explanations why they never were able to do anything in particular. "When Lincoln removed me I was on the eve of a great victory over Price," says Fremont. "When Mr. Lincoln relieved me I was about to deliver a great blow upon the enemy," wrote McClellan. They were both vain men, both presumptuous political Generals. Lack of moral courage and energetic executive capacity is written all over the careers of Fremont and McClellan. Neither of them could ever squarely tell the truth. Fremont in his defense on his court-martial lied when he defended his violation of the neutrality of California by saying "his secret instructions" from the Government justified his action. He was dismissed from the service, and richly deserved his punishment, for his disobedience defeated our Government's efforts to secure the neutrality of California in event of war with Mexico.

As a "pathfinder," Fremont was a subject for laughter in the Rocky Mountain region. The real pathfinders were the trappers, hunters and "mountain" men who piloted Fremont to the paths they had long before "blazed" through the "Rockies." Fremont was "pathfinder" to nothing, whether in peace or politics or war. He was a captivating charlatan. He was always a vainglorious military mountebank; a pompous commander, a quarrelsome subordinate. In politics he was arrogant, and in business he was a Colonel Sellers. To suggest that such a charlatan as Fremont missed of Grant's fame chiefly because he was "too early for personal success" is ridiculous. He was a Major-General of Volunteers, commanding a department, when Grant was Colonel of a regiment. He failed in Missouri; he failed in Virginia, and he failed so badly that Lincoln wrote him a personal letter expressing his contempt for his military capacity. No; it was not a matter of luck or want of early start that brought Grant out of the Civil War a famous soldier and left Fremont stranded with the other military wrecks of that struggle. Grant won out because he had moral courage and high manhood, and Fremont failed because he was utterly destitute of moral courage, the most indispensable of all military virtues. He was a military peacock; he loved the strut, the pride, pomp and circumstance of war, but he had no capacity for the conduct of a campaign.

On war's red touchstone men of the Grant quality always rang true metal while men of the Fremont quality revealed their baseness. Fremont's youth was that of a quack explorer and scientist, and his subsequent career was that of a charlatan in peace or war.

"KING CAUCUS."

It seems a little curious that the same men who bolted the Senatorial caucus of 1895 and passionately denounced "King Caucus" upon the floor of the joint assembly, should now be appealing to the Legislature to invoke that method to settle the Senatorial contest of 1903. Yet it is not so strange, either, as will appear upon reflection, for in the State of Washington the Wilson men who won through a caucus when their chief was elected in 1895, are now resisting the appeal for a caucus made by an apparent majority in the interests of Ankeny, and in the State of Colorado, a caucus-observing state, the anti-Wolcott men decline to enter a caucus where Wolcott is likely to win, because they were elected on an anti-Wolcott pledge, and they do not like to put themselves voluntarily in the way of breaking it.

The fact is that the ideal caucus, as it exists in theory, has been demolished in the domain of fact, very much as the theoretical deliberations of the electoral college have disappeared under the growth of ante-election pledges of the electors themselves. The theory is that the members of the Legislature go up to the state capital in an open frame of mind, and have no idea whom they prefer for Senator until all those of one party get together and exchange opinions for mutual enlightenment. But the fact is that the members are very largely pledged in advance, not only of the session, but of their own election, and frequently of their nomination. A most impressive exhibit in this political custom has been developed by the death of Mr. Solomon Hirsch, to whom, it now appears, some of the best men in the Oregon Legislature were practically pledged. The usual thing is for representatives of Senatorial candidates to appear in various sections of the state a year or more before the Senatorial election, with a view to drumming up nominees for the Legislature who will be favorable to their respective fortunes.

It is clear that we have lost the theoretical caucus, and what have we got in its place? Nothing more, apparently, than a political institution in the evolutionary process, whose end cannot yet be distinctly foreseen. The usages of the Senatorial caucus are so varied that it would be the height of absurdity to cite precedents. All that our precedents are good for is to show what men will do under given circumstances. In Colorado it is even threatened not to go into the organization, as was done in Oregon in 1899—a desperate resource which will in any event never be resorted to except in the last extremity, and which must always prove a painful chapter in the memory of its participants. We learned in 1895, moreover, that men will go into a binding caucus and then repudiate the result—an equally unenviable proceeding. It would be far better for men absolutely pledged against a candidate, as some Oregon men were in 1895, to stay out of the caucus altogether, as the anti-Wolcott men propose in Colorado. No man should put himself in the position of making an agreement he knows he can never keep.

Caucus can never be "King" and should never be so designated. It is the mere instrument of party action, not the arbiter or dictator for living and thinking men. No better definition of the caucus is likely to be made than that derived by George McBride from the struggle that resulted in his own election to the United States Senate—a caucus is a tool for a certain piece of work, and when its inability to accomplish that work has been demonstrated it is time to throw it away. The most satisfactory service the Senatorial caucus can render today is to act as an excuse for those who are about to support a candidate that is unpopular with their constituents. A caucus for the express purpose of facilitating some man's election will rarely be practical until the preliminary work of securing the necessary votes to control has been done. It is mere child's play for a scant plurality to propose a caucus as a means of doing up the other candidates. He would be a very foolish fly who should walk deliberately into the spider's parlor.

SUFFERINGS OF RANGE CATTLE.

The winds that have cleared the snow from portions of the great ranges, notably those of Colorado and Wyoming, have disclosed the fact that thousands of cattle perished in the stress of the December blizzard that swept those sections. The ground is said to be dotted with the carcasses of animals that, unfed and unsheltered, fell victims to the bitter winds and driving snow. It is incomprehensible, either from an economic standpoint or from the rating of common humanity, that these dumb creatures were thus left to die from exposure on the bleak ranges. Some years ago, before the great packing-houses and cold-storage processes made a world-wide market for the beef of the great ranges, thousands of cattle were allowed to perish in the stress of an exceptionally hard Winter. But of late years ranchers have made provision against disaster of this kind by providing sheds and forage for their herds.

The National Humane Society at one time took cognizance of the suffering of the poor brutes left shelterless and without food on the ranges, and urged legislation in their behalf, though with little effect. The financial plea was much more efficacious, but this seems also to have failed. Perhaps ranchers have again become so prosperous that they can afford to let their herds be decimated or practically wiped out for one season. Or perhaps the beef trust keeps the price of cattle on foot so far below the price of beef and the profits of cattle-raisers are so small that, as formerly, it does not pay to feed large herds for the Spring market. Whatever the cause, the effect is most pitiable from the standpoint of humanity. Voice was given to the sufferings of the voiceless in a dispatch from Denver a few days ago, which stated that cattle, starved to skeletons, lined the fences along the railroad, lowing piteously for aid until they dropped in their tracks; that cows by scores calving in the storm went down and were unable to rise, while the calves tottered about for a few hours and perished. Man's inhumanity to the dumb creatures dependent upon him for protection has seldom had a more striking illustration of its utter cruelty than this dispatch furnishes. The presentment is certainly one to enlist the pity of the pitiful.

COST AND VALUE OF A GREAT RAILWAY.

Much has from time to time been written of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Its tremendous scope, the wide area that it has opened to agriculture and mining, the marvelous feats of engineering that are included in its construction, and the great discomfort to which laborers have been subjected in building and operating it have been discussed at various times by the leading journals of the world. Of the vast cost of its construction relatively little has been said, partly, perhaps, because very few authentic reports in regard to it have been made public.

We find, however, in a recent Consular report, an extract from a Russian economic review in regard to the time that must elapse before any earnings can be expected on this system. According to this account, the cost of the road has thus far been 780,000,000 rubles, or $401,700,000. Allowing only 4½ per cent interest on the capital, which is a very low rate for Russia, and taking part of this to provide for a sinking fund, 34,735,000 rubles, or $17,896,250, would be needed to pay interest and sinking fund requirements. The operating expenses of the road are large, and as faster train service becomes necessary these expenses will increase. It is roughly estimated that the operating expenses, including the Chinese-Eastern Railroad, are something like $24,000,000 a year. To make even on this and the interest and sinking fund, the yearly receipts would have to be in excess of $41,000,000—an amount of business that cannot reasonably be expected.

It is clear that as a business venture this great railway would not have been constructed for many years. It was built because the Government needed it to further its interests in the far East. It will enable Russia to convey her troops back and forth to Asia without carrying them by a long ocean route that might be beset by hostile fleets. Russian strategists have for years longed for a trans-Siberian road, and, having gotten it, are not likely to base its value upon the number of rubles that its construction represents. If it serves Russia in a single emergency of war in the East, its cost will be canceled. In the meantime, a vast wheat-producing area will be developed through its agency, giving comfortable assurance against the cost, loss and misery of an always possible famine in the densely populated provinces of the Baltic.

Stone, wood, glass, cinders, blocks, brick and asphalt have been variously experimented with for street pavement in the effort to produce a thoroughfare that will resist successfully the wear of time and traffic, and now steel is being tried in New York, in the hope that at last the question of the very best material for the purpose has been found. Two strips of steel a foot wide have been laid down in the middle of a street for the distance of a mile for the use of heavy trucks as a supplementary paving. Its advocates believe that a test will result in the general adoption of steel for this purpose for streets on which the traffic is heavy. It is said to have been successfully used in Spain on a two-mile stretch of road between Valencia and Grao, which is kept in repair at a little more than one-fifteenth of the former expense required for this purpose. The experiment is interesting, first as promising the solution of a long baffling problem in regard to durable street construction, and again in its suggestion of a further extension of the use of steel. If the steel trust and the street contractors once league together, some new system of numeration will have to be devised to make the statement of the sum of their profits comprehensible even to mathematical experts. Perhaps, however, if they give durable streets to great cities, the people benefited thereby will not be disposed to look the gift horse in the mouth.

The New York Journal of Commerce, which was a pioneer in the campaign for reliable Government statistics of crops, summarizes the counts against the Crop Report Bureau in a vigorous article. It points out that, backed as they are by the prestige and authority of the Government, the crop reports ought to have a dominating influence in regulating the prices of about $3,000,000,000 of products, that the accuracy of these reports has not only been repeatedly exposed by expert statisticians, but has been openly confessed to by Secretary Wilson and Statistician Hyde; that the department admittedly and persistently underestimates the crops, and that the grower, instead of being benefited by this information, is induced to hold his crops for an expected rise, whereas the speculator and large grain buyer, with other and better sources of information, speedily corrects the underestimates of the department and can take advantage of the grower. Finally, the Journal charges that both Secretary Wilson and Statistician Hyde have set themselves solidly against reform, and asks if it is "not time that the owners of the 5,739,000 farms in the United States were supplied with statistical facts instead of statistical fictions." All of which will have the cordial indorsement of every one who believes that no good cause can be served by lies, even when stamped with an official seal.

If the facts are as stated in a dispatch from Grant's Pass a few days ago concerning the treatment of a prisoner in the jail at that place by his keeper, the latter deserves and should receive severe penalty for his brutal crime. Still a human being, notwithstanding he has fallen so low, the wrecked victim of mania a potu is entitled to humane treatment during the terrible paroxysms of the malady he has invited to come in and possess him body and soul. To drench such a sufferer with icy water from a nozzle, and then leave him thoroughly soaked and shivering throughout the night in a flooded cell, is a deed utterly inexcusable. When the death of the miserable creature results from this brutal treatment, the deed has but one name, and may well be visited with the penalty that attaches to the crime it represents. No doubt the victim in this case had better be dead than alive, but it is scarcely the province of his jailer to pass finally upon this question. It becomes the authorities of Josephine County to make an investigation of this case, to the end that Jailer Miller may be vindicated if he has been falsely accused, and properly punished if he was guilty as represented.

One of the most picturesque and forceful careers of modern times comes to a close in the death of the great Spanish Premier. Sagasta was easily the first man of Spain, and it is proof of his power that even in that turbulent and fickle nation he has been almost indispensable to the conduct of its public business for the better part of a generation. He first took his seat in the Spanish Cortes, or Parliament, at the age of 27, and though his later years found him the principal bulwark of the harassed monarchy, his younger years saw him twice a fugitive rebel in foreign lands, with a price upon his head. War, engineering and journalism at times enlisted his energies and demonstrated his versatile resources. At the age of 75 death found him with his intellect still unimpaired. It was his misfortune to be born in a time when his country's sun was sinking to the west, and by his labors its hours have been lengthened and its dignity conserved. In Germany, Great Britain or the United States, a man of such native force and statesmanlike equipment would have inscribed his name high on the roll of fame. Spain has suffered a great loss, but the world will hardly miss him, as her gains and losses alike are outside the main stream of civilization.

If there were any assurance that the $20,000,000, or any considerable part of it, which Congress is asked to appropriate to roadmaking in the several states would be legitimately expended, it would be easy to overcome instinctive objections to the proposal as a general "potlatch." But there is no such assurance, and in the nature of things none is possible. Nothing is more certain than that such an appropriation would measurably be wasted. What with the costs of organization, administration, plan-making, political manipulation and incompetence, not very much would be left for the real business of roadmaking; and by the time this remainder were distributed on the basis of population, sparsely settled states like Oregon would fare badly enough. Indeed, it is not difficult to believe that in the matter of practical road development we should lose more than we should gain, since dependence upon the Government could hardly fail to paralyze our own energies. On the whole, the country will get roads more quickly and more economically by dependence upon its own energies and resources than by waiting upon the Government.

Republican successes in Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and Kentucky have been wholly dependent upon the negro vote. The negro vote in Delaware in 1900 was 8374; in Maryland it was 60,400; in Kentucky it was 74,728; in West Virginia it was 14,786. The secession of the negro vote from the Republicans in New York would have defeated Roosevelt for Governor in 1898, and also Odell at the late election. There are 31,425 negro votes in the Empire State. The negro vote in New Jersey is 21,474; in Ohio, 31,285; in Indiana, 18,186; in Illinois, 29,762; in Missouri, 46,418; in Kansas, 14,695. It is clear from these figures that in event of a close contest the negro vote, which is generally solidly Republican, is in several states large enough to make its possession worth a contest. It is large enough so that the negro ought to be able to make both parties hesitate before they ignore his political and civic rights.

The announcement of the recent discovery of a German scientist that there are 12,000,000 bacteria in the skin of a cherry, and 8,000,000 in the skin of a grape, has a tendency to rob these infinitesimal monsters of the microscopic world of the terrors with which pathology has in recent years invested them. Upon this basis the number of bacteria consumed by the average boy between the ages of 5 and 15 years is utterly beyond computation; and yet statistics show that a large number of boys have grown to be men, and a large number of men have reached old age. Innocuous bacteria, truly, must be these skin-dwellers of the cherry and grape. Perhaps they even lend the luscious flavor to the fruit, and are after all something to be courted rather than shunned.

Brigadier-General Eli Long, U. S. A., of the retired list, who died on Monday, was greatly distinguished for the gallantry with which he charged with his division headlong upon the enemy's works at Selma, Ala., April 2, 1865. General Long, who fell severely wounded in this charge, was a Kentuckian who was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the First United States Cavalry in 1856; in May, 1861, he was made a Captain in the Fourth United States Cavalry; he became Colonel of the Fourth Ohio Cavalry in 1863, and was made Brigadier-General of Volunteers in August, 1864, and was retired for wounds received in the line of duty with the rank of Brigadier-General in August, 1867.

Colonel James P. Canby, Paymaster on the retired list, is dead. Colonel Canby was stationed at Portland as Paymaster of the Department of the Columbia from 1893 to his retirement in 1897. Colonel Canby was a native of Delaware, from which state he was appointed to the regular Army in 1867, having already served three years as additional Paymaster of Volunteers. He was a man of superior intelligence, high character and attractive manners. He was highly esteemed by his many friends in Portland, who regretted his decision to make Denver rather than our city his home on retirement. Colonel Canby was but 70 years of age, having survived his retirement only six years.

Seattle has become alarmed at the penalty that its wide-open policy has evoked from the United States naval authorities. A bill will be presented to the Legislature prohibiting the licensing of saloons within a radius of one mile from any naval station in the State of Washington. Uncle Sam does not often trouble himself to make a move on the moral checker-board, but when he does, "Checkmate" is immediately called.

A Chinese woman who has been highly educated and polished in European capitals should prove a desirable addition to diplomatic circles in Washington. Color lines there need obliteration, approximating the London vogue.

SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS

The Empty Coal Scuttle.

Lewiston Tribune.

Shivering and perishing Republicans are asking relief from the intolerable monopoly of the coal trust, but Hanna says "Stand pat," "Let well enough alone."

There Are Eight, It Seems.

Eugene Register.

There are only five survivors among the original framers of the Oregon Constitution. The Constitution will probably never be revised during their lifetime, but it is hoped revision will come shortly after. In the meantime may the five live long and prosper.

Should, May and Might.

Pendleton Tribune.

Binger Hermann has served 12 years in Congress and six in the General Land Office at Washington. This experience should make him a good Senator and his usual luck may give him the office. The strength of Fulton might in the end go to him. Who knows what the ways of politics may determine?

Astoria Knows Its Business.

Astoria Astorian.

A liberal appropriation for an Oregon exhibit at the St. Louis Fair is absolutely essential to the success of our own 1905 Fair. The Legislature must take a broad view of this matter and provide the necessary $100,000 to properly display Oregon's resources at St. Louis and advertise the centennial celebration. Oregon can well afford $500,000 for the Lewis and Clark Fair and $100,000 for a St. Louis exhibit.

The Home of Dawson and Cusick.

Albany Herald.

Hon. Charles W. Fulton has been an active worker and leader in the Republican party in this state for upwards of 20 years, and has been a resident of this state for a quarter of a century and more, and understands the needs of the entire state as well as any man in the state. He is eminently fitted to serve this state in the upper branch of the National Congress and will probably be elected by the coming Legislature.

Demand for New Constitution.

Union Republican.

Oregon needs a new constitution if it is to be a progressive commonwealth. Some of the slow old counties of Western Oregon may be satisfied with the old thing, but the eastern part of the state, with its push and grit, and all other sections that are up with and trying to get ahead of the times, want something better. The old constitution is not good enough—the best is none too good for Oregon. We need the best we can make.

The "Logical" Man.

Florence West.

We believe that C. W. Fulton is the choice of the majority of the citizens of Oregon for United States Senator, and we hope to see him elected to that office by the Legislature next Winter. To which the Eugene Register add: "This is the exact position most of the Republican state press takes on this question, and the party leaders, like Senator Mitchell, are said to be in line for the Astoria statesman, who is the logical man for the place."

Ungrateful for Aid to Hermann.

Dalles Chronicle.

The Oregonian is never happy unless abusing some one, and it revels in ghoulish glee if it can turn its batteries upon a promising native son. Its attacks upon Hon. Binger Hermann are a sample of its outpourings, but they deceive no one. It is manufactured to crush him at this time, if he should think of Senatorial honors. We have not heard of his being a candidate, but if it comes down to a dark-horse selection, it wouldn't surprise us if The Oregonian didn't elect him. Its abuse has made more men than it has ever downed, but the disgrace it heaps upon them is none the less on that account.

The Vote in Clatsop.

Salem Statesman.

The trouble with Fulton is that he has as much "atoning" to do as Geer has, and has no popular vote besides. It should not be forgotten that Clatsop County, which gave the rest of the Republican state ticket over 600 majority, only went for Furnish by 100. If that county had given the Republican candidate even half the majority it did the rest of the state candidates, he would have been elected Governor by 300 majority. In view of the fact that his own county slaughtered the Republican candidate for Governor and is more than responsible for Chamberlain's election, and that he has only 150 of the popular votes for United States Senator, while Governor Geer has 45,000, Fulton's candidacy "is not worth considering."

A Hint to the Legislature.

Aurora Borealis.

The Legislature has been requested to appropriate $500,000 to the Lewis and Clark Exposition. The people of Oregon wish the success of the exposition project, but ask who are to furnish this large amount of aid. Naturally all eyes were turned on corporations and corporation franchises, and an agitation began, started by the Lewis and Clark Exposition appropriation idea, that will prove highly beneficial to the state if the so-called representatives of the people heed and obey the demands of the people. Land owners of Oregon are now paying more than their just share of the taxes, while many of the corporations enjoy privileges and hospitality of the state without paying one cent for their board. It is now proposed to even up things and much is expected of the Legislature on this subject.

Wants Grand Jury Restored.

Albany Democrat.

During the past few years the Grand Jury has been practically abolished. The power was transferred to the District Attorney. It has been learned in an emphatic manner that this was a bad move, that it was a dangerous move to take the indicting power from the people and place it in the hands of one man. In some cases there might be little danger, but occasions are bound to arise offering a temptation too strong for some men to resist. This is particularly true in large cities, where crime is common, and there might be a great object in preventing an indictment. This would be impossible with a body of men, but not so in many cases with one alone. Then also District Attorneys are generally politicians and do things often for political effect, where the old style of grand jury are men with no axes to grind. Let us return to the old system.

A Riddle on the Letter H.

Catharine M. Fanshaw (1764-1834).

'Twas whispered in heaven, 'twas muttered in hell,
And the echo caught faintly the sound as it fell;
On the confines of earth 'twas permitted to rest,
And the depth of the ocean its presence confessed,
'Twill be found in the sphere, when 'tis riven asunder,
Be seen in the lightning and heard in the thunder.
'Twas allotted to man with his earliest breath,
Attends him at birth and awaits him at death;
Presides o'er his happiness, honor and health,
Is the prop of his house and the end of his wealth,
In the heaps of the miser 'tis hoarded with care,
But is sure to be lost on the prdigal heir,
It begins every hope, every wish it must bound,
With the husbandman toils and with monarch is crowned,
Without it the soldier, the seaman may roam,
But woe to the wretch who expels it from home!
In the whispers of conscience its voice will be found,
Nor e'en in the whirlwind of passion is drowned.
'Twill not soften the heart, and though deaf be the ear,
It will make it acutely and instantly hear;
Yet in shade let it rest like a delicate flower,
Ah, breathe on it softly—it dies in an hour.

THE TRADELESS MAN.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

When the first severe weather of the present Winter struck London the dispatches from that city chronicled much suffering among the poor and an unusually large number of men out of work. Many of the unemployed were stated to be men discharged from the army because of the return of peace in South Africa.

The facts were stated in such a way as to lead to the inference that British employers were somewhat heedless of the special claims of men who had risked their lives in their country's cause. According to the statements of a society formed to secure employment for discharged soldiers, given in recent dispatches, such inference against the patriotism of British employers was not well founded.

This society states that employers show a preference for men who have served in the army, if only they know something about some trade. It states that its books prove that there is no lack of work for men who have even rudimentary training in some occupation calling for more than mere muscle. Of unskilled laborers there are ten for every place, but for men even slightly skilled work is going begging.

In these facts there is a lesson for boys and their parents in America as well as in Great Britain. As civilization advances, as the waste places of the earth are made to blossom, as population increases, there is less and less proportionate demand for the man who has merely his hands and no special knowledge of how to use them. There is less and less demand for the tradeless man.

The time was in this country when there was a great deal of work to be done for which little more than muscular strength and a willingness to use it was required. But those times are rapidly passing away. Muscular strength is still a good and necessary thing. Without it there cannot be good health. But more is now increasingly demanded, and that is the knowledge of how to do some particular thing at least reasonably well.

The parents who permit their sons to grow up—the boys who permit themselves to start out in the world—without that knowledge are laying up sorrow for the future. Beaten in life's race from the start is the tradeless man.

Senators Engaged in Fraud.

Chicago Tribune.

The Senators who do not wish to vote for the ratification of the reciprocity treaty with Cuba and who are ashamed to say that the proposed small reduction in the duty on sugar will injure the beet sugar industry, when, according to the statements of men interested in beet sugar factories, they are paying dividends of from 25 to 40 per cent, are obliged to invent others excuses for their attitude. One of the feeblest of them all is that in the event of the ratification of the Cuban treaty Germany will make a demand for similar concessions, and if its demands are not complied with may enact legislation harmful to American trade with that country.

It is said Germany will insist on being put on an equal footing with the "most favored" nation with which the United States has a commercial treaty. The American Government contended at the time the reciprocity treaties were negotiated under the tariff act of 1890—and it still contends—that such treaties stand in a class by themselves. The nations which negotiate them do so with an eye to their special conditions and needs. Even if Cuba did not occupy a peculiar relation toward the United States there might be excellent reasons why this country would be willing to grant lower duties to Cuban sugar than that of any other country in return for trade concessions of value to the United States, which Cuba alone can make or is willing to make. Germany will not concede the low duties on American products that Cuba will.

The insinuation that it will not be safe to ratify the Cuban treaty because Germany may request similar treatment is a pitiful excuse for persisting in a wrong course. It would be more to the credit of Congressmen who are against reciprocity with Cuba if they would say frankly that they oppose it because beet sugar men whom they fear to offend have bid them do so or because they are afraid that the ratification of one treaty will lead up to the ratification of another which will lower the duty on some petty local industry which appears to them of more importance than the other industries of the country.

Two Clamorous Trusts.

New York Journal of Commerce.

The United States Senate has constituted itself the especial guardian of American industries threatened by either direct or indirect tariff reduction. The Philippine tariff act, passed by the House last week, provides for a reduction on imports from our Asiatic possessions to 25 per cent of the rates of the Dingley law. The bill was urgently supported by the Philippine Commission and is generally held to be essential to the commercial prosperity of the islands. But the members of the finance committee of the Senate expressed themselves as much more concerned with the effect which such a sweeping reduction of tariff duty will have upon distinctly home industries, to wit, the production of beet sugar and the culture of tobacco. It might be assumed that the cost involved in the transport of raw sugar over a distance of 7000 or 8000 miles would be sufficient protection to the beet sugar interests, even without the remaining 25 per cent of the Dingley duty. As for the tobacco farmers, perhaps the less attention they direct to the exorbitant rate of protection which they enjoy the better will be their chances of being left undisturbed. They are quite as little likely to find their profits interfered with by the importation of the Manila product as they have been by the free admission of that from Porto Rico. There are probably no two interests in this country better able to meet the competition of the foreign producer than the sugar and tobacco interests which have been made the excuse of late for so much obstruction to necessary legislation. A general perception of that fact is more likely to be hastened than delayed by persistent efforts to keep up the pretense that the production of sugar and tobacco in the United States would be seriously endangered by any notable reduction of the protective duty.

Senators Who Control.

Boston Herald.

A writer in the January number of the magazine Success has the assurance to name 12 Senators who, according to his estimate, control National legislation today, and thus have a supremacy in the Government. The ones he names are: Spooner of Wisconsin, Cullom of Illinois, Fairbanks and Beveridge of Indiana, Hanna and Foraker of Ohio, Aldrich of Rhode Island, Frye and Hale of Maine, Allison of Iowa, Platt of Connecticut and Lodge of Massachusetts. That most of these are influential Senators may be granted. Some of them, however, do not deserve the prominence given. Fairbanks and Beveridge, for example, are not more influential in general than Hoar and Proctor, Platt, Quay and Elkins are influential Senators in their way. Burrows of Michigan and Nelson of Minnesota are men of consideration. This list is not made with reference to ability merely, but also with reference to experience and committee places. It includes only members of the majority. The influence of Democrats does not count for much when they are a minority.

An Aggravated Indian Problem.

Atlanta Journal.

American Army officers returning from the Philippines state that it will be necessary to place the three principal provinces of the island under military rule once more. We may as well look the Philippine problem squarely in the face one time as another—it is merely another Indian problem, but with a vastly superior and more formidable people to deal with, and that, too, under less favorable conditions.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A domestic is a foreigner who makes home a desert.

No, little boy, the durbar was not a three-ring circus.

A bad quarter of an hour is when Time moves with leaden feet.

> Who wants his enemy to write a book?
> Not me, O sage! Mine wrote one, and it took!

In Kansas, where anything is possible, they have discovered a salt mine. It was due.

Portland, dry and comfortable, reads with surprise of heavy rain storms up in Washington.

It sounds strange, but it is true that the more a man gets out of life the fuller life is.

A mother-in-law, remarked the cynic, may be described as a legal impediment to connubial bliss.

It sometimes takes great presence of mind to look absent-minded. Especially when your wife asks a certain question.

The poet is glad this weather that he doesn't have to buy shoes and rubbers for the feet of his brain's offspring. If he did, it would certainly be hard lines.

Doesn't President Castro's attitude toward the powers remind you of that line in the good old college song:

"Said the ant to the elephant, 'Who you shovin'?'"

The man who cannot tell a lie is out of date. The present George Washington must be one who can both tell a lie and make it stick. Thus do times and manners change.

Some people think that kisses, like umbrellas, are common property. This is a mistake. An umbrella thief is not recognized by a court. But a kiss pays its own court.

From South Carolina comes the information that Senator Benjamin Pitchfork Tillman's political leadership is to be contested. The weights and conditions are yet to be announced.

> It was Marcus Aurelius, the learned, who said to the sons of his day,
> "Work always at that which is near thee"—
> but isn't it sometimes the way
> That a hustle for things in the distance cuts a little more ice in one's pay?

> Sugar cane is now being raised with considerable profit by the natives of Honan Province.—North China Mail.

It was from Honan, we believe, that most of the Boxers came, and the whole world will receive gratefully the news that the natives have started again to raise cane.

Senator Quay, of Pennsylvania, has been for years a student of the life of Benjamin Frahklin, regarding whom he knows much more than is printed in the books. Senator Quay says that on a certain Sunday morning during the Administration of John Adams, Franklin attended church with the President, and, since both statesmen had sat up late the night before, says the Washington Times, both fell asleep during the progress of the sermon.

The chaplain bore with the slumber of his two chief auditors for some time, but finally rage got the better of him.

"Mr. Franklin! Mr. Franklin!" he called from the pulpit.

Mr. Franklin awoke and looked up, startled.

"Mr. Franklin, pardon me for interrupting you," said the chaplain in a grim voice. "I only wished to request you not to snore so loud, lest you awake the President."

The proprietor of the corner grocery dipped his pen in the ink and wrote laboriously:

> My Dear Mr. Perkins: Your note of this date, delivered in my absence and asking to be trusted for 25 pounds flour, two cans best preserved peaches, one peck sweet potatoes, two rolls creamery butter, three-pound seeded raisins, one can (large size) tomatoes, 10 pounds granulated sugar, three pounds Mocha coffee and one XXXX ham reached me just now on my return to the store. I do not write this to remind you that your account has now been running since June, 1901, but to say that your daily discourse when seated about the stove in my office, which recently has taken the form of a denunciation of all forms of trusts, has led me to declare a new principle in trade. I have to advise you, therefore, that the trust heretofore existing between yourself and me be, and the same hereby is, totally busted and disorganized, and that—

"Paw," interrupted the proprietor's son, who had been waiting on customers outside, "Jimmy Perkins is back an' says kin his father have a pound o' dried herrin' an' 5 cents' worth o' crackers till Monday?"

The old man heaved a sigh as he regarded his unfinished letter.

"I spose he kin," he said. "I spose he kin."

And he tore the paper up into long thin strips and threw them in a box where, during the day, there gradually accumulated material for the next morning's fire.

Frenchman's Struggle With English.

London Express.

A Frenchman came to England to learn English, and the following sentence was given him:

"The rough cough and hiccough plough me through." The teacher told him the first word was pronounced ruff. He thereupon said this: "The ruff cuff and riccuff pluff me thruff."

"No, no; the second word is pronounced goff."

"Then," said the Frenchman, "it must be the roff coff and hiccoff ploff me throff."

The third, fourth and fifth words were explained, with the same result, which the reader may repeat for himself.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Teacher—William, find the square root of any number. William—I thought they found them all last term.—Chicago Daily News.

He—I don't see how you can say such terrible things about another woman. She—You don't understand, you silly. Why, Carrie is my dearest friend.—Boston Transcript.

"I'm afraid brother didn't enjoy his Christmas dinner," said the little girl. "He seemed to eat heartily." "Yes. But he wasn't as sick as usual next day."—Washington Star.

Tess—There's only one thing that prevents her from making a cloak of her religion. Jess—And what's that? Tess—She doesn't consider cloaks fashionable now.—Philadelphia Press.

The Lawyer—Why—er—I'm sure, ma'am, that is my regular fee for a divorce case. The Lady—Well, all I've got to say is that it's about twice as much as I usually pay.—Chicago Daily News.

She—Of course, you know I'm singing at your church now. He—No. She—But, surely, your sister, Edith, told you I had joined the choir. He—Oh, yes, she told me that much.—Philadelphia Press.

City Nephew—Have very many of the farmers around here bought gold bricks, Uncle? Uncle Gamaliel—Wa-al, I cackerlate there's a sufficiency of 'em to warrant their organizin' an association, buyin' uniforms and givin' a yell.—Puck.

"It's a fact, Aunt Kate," said the young man. "Father says he will pay my way through college, but after that I'll have to stand on my own merits." "Let us hope it will not be so bad as that, Rodney," soothingly replied his elderly relative.—Chicago Tribune.