The Oregonian.

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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 40; minimum temperature, 39; precipitation, 00.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional light rain; southeasterly winds.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1904

TWO EXCELLENT OFFICIALS.

The affairs of the Multnomah County Court and the Portland Municipal Court are in good hands. The offices held by Judge Webster and Judge Hogue have never been more ably, honestly and effectively administered than they are today.

It is doubtful whether the people of this county understand how faithfully and wisely Judge Webster is managing the county affairs. He found the treasury embarrassed by a heavy overhanging balance and a continuous deficit. He determined to reduce the one by systematic effort and to stop the other instantly by vigorous measures. Within the year the floating debt has been reduced from $518,000 to $300,000, and the running expenses have been cut down from $412,000 to $295,000. The chief agency in this good service has been Judge Webster's prudent management and firm resolution. Incidentally the Commissioners and other county officers deserve credit for their co-operation.

Yesterday morning we published the list of jurors drawn for service in the Municipal Court. Judge Hogue has greatly interested himself in this matter, and it is doubtful if a better list could have been selected. The jurors are men of well-known business standing and moral reputation. They are not cranks on reform or devotees of "wide-open" conditions. They are fair men, such as no innocent person need fear to have pass upon his guilt, and their selection shows that Judge Hogue, at least, is in no conspiracy looking toward release of malefactors.

It is perfectly safe to say that persons on trial for violation of city ordinances will get justice before Judge Hogue, and that if their guilt can be established they will suffer the penalty prescribed. If anybody really wants to stop gambling in Portland, his excuses for not proceeding in the legal way to do so are growing fewer day by day.

JAPAN AND THE "WHITE PERIL."

Muhammed Barakatullah, a highly educated Hindoo, a Mussulman in religion, contributes a remarkable article to the Forum on the Russo-Japanese imbroglio, in which he takes the view that the ultimate purpose of Japan is to resist "the white peril"; that is, oppose all further encroachments, not only of Russia, but of the other great powers of Europe, upon China, Corea or Japan. This astute Hindoo acquired an excellent English education at Bombay, and for a number of years was principal of the Oriental Academy in London, where he trained candidates for the Indian civil service examinations in the Arabic and Persian languages and literature. He is therefore excellently prepared to form a correct judgment of the probable policy of Oriental peoples like those of Japan and China. In the Boxer rising of 1900 the Japanese saw much of European soldiers and were so startled by their barbarous treatment of helpless Chinese men and women that they made up their minds to resist European supremacy in China, knowing the fate that would await Japan when China should be partitioned among the great powers of the West.

Japan knows that whether Corea and Manchuria be released from the clutches of Russia is a question of life and death to Japan. The diplomacy of Japan will henceforth be employed in arousing China from her sleep to become her ally and prepare for defense against the common enemy. An active anti-foreign agitation is going on in China itself under the auspices of the famous San Ho Hui, or Society of Triple Harmony, from which emanated the Boxers of 1900. It is possible that before the conclusion of the Japanese contest Russia may have to try conclusions with the Boxers of the "Land of Morning Calm." This astute Hindoo thinks that France, the ally of Russia, would not be allowed by her people to participate in a conflict in the Far East while Germany remained neutral. The moral support of the United States in favor of Japan would not be without its value "against Russian breach of faith."

If England would only join Japan and China and demand the evacuation of Manchuria, Russia would be obliged to give in, but this Hindoo, who has been educated in English schools and lived in London, thinks England has not the slightest intention of helping Japan, but has resolved to conquer Thibet while Russia and Japan are locking horns, and to bring under her direct control the tribes of Southern Arabia and the Persian Gulf. In conclusion, this educated Asiatic says that the popular feeling in China and Japan is so thoroughly aroused to the danger confronting the yellow race that it may at any moment pass beyond the control of statesmanship and diplomacy, and if Russia persists in her interference in Corea and refuses to evacuate Manchuria this moment may soon arrive. The most recent circulars of the Chinese "Society of Triple Harmony" say: "In these days the hearts of all the people are ill at ease because foreigners are everywhere seizing our inheritance. We are ground down to the dust. When shall we be delivered?"

A DUTY IN EVERY CITY.

The press of the country fairly teems with adverse comment on the theatrical management which resulted in the Iroquois horror and which is likely to result in its repetition almost anywhere at any time. The effect of this popular outcry is seen in the closure of many theaters in Chicago and of some in other cities. Thousands on thousands of innocent actors and stage hands are thrown out of work, many of them destitute in midwinter.

Unjust as this appears on the surface, there is nevertheless a sort of rude justice in the severe punishment that has fallen on a profession for the profession's acts. The Iroquois people are not alone in suffering, but they were not alone in offending. They are no more guilty of neglect and carelessness than were hundreds of other managers all over the country. There are probably few theaters in the United States where a fire at a crowded matinee, with stage as well as auditorium packed with women and children, would not have resulted fatally. The Iroquois was better than most theaters in construction and equipment. It was probably no better or worse than most of them in preparedness for fire.

There is a sense of responsibility which should exist, but which does not exist, in every custodian of crowds, whether in theaters or churches or on railroad trains. It is not enough that a railway manager be expert in traffic matters and fearless in economies. He should have the added qualification of serious thought, in reference to his responsibility for lives intrusted to his care. Theatrical managers can hardly be expected to rest under consciousness of heavy obligation. Their atmosphere is one of amusement and money-making, not one of public responsibility. They are about as much impressed with the safety of their patrons' lives and limbs as with the safety of their morals.

The burden of protection, therefore, falls upon officials who have been selected to see that careless persons obey the laws that have been made for them. Perhaps a greater guilt than managerial laxness at Chicago has been official laxness. There was ample power at the city administration's disposal to have required compliance at the Iroquois with every ordinance whose violation brought death to 600 souls. In every city this warning should be heeded. Has official Portland done its duty in this respect?

A DISCREDITABLE TRANSACTION.

At the present writing there does not appear to be any legitimate method by which the War Department can prevent doing some business with Portland. In effect the announcement has already been made that the contract for the oats and at least a portion of the hay will be awarded to Portland. Ordinarily we might be expected to give thanks for a favor extended. In this case the thanks will be missing, for no more underhanded dilatory tactics have ever been resorted to in order to prevent Portland securing that to which she was justly entitled than those which have marked the awarding of this forage contract. The bids were opened at Seattle December 23, more than two weeks ago. They were forwarded to Washington and an examination disclosed the fact that the Portland bids were several thousand dollars lower than those from any other port.

But Portland was taking no chances. The Government had asked for no bids for transportation, and, had none been offered, the excuse of no ships for Portland loading would have been regarded by the department as sufficient to warrant the Portland forage bids being turned down. To guard against this Laidlaw & Co., of this city, immediately wired the department, offering to transport the forage from Portland to the Philippines at a rate nearly 10 per cent under the rate made by the Puget Sound vessels that have been favored with practically all of the transport business of the Northwest for the past eighteen months. This was an unlooked-for contingency, and something had to be done. This something in this case was the proposal to send the transport Dix, the largest Government vessel on the Pacific, to Portland. The Dix had been offered to Portland on previous occasions, but, on account of the inability to get her safely in and out of the river with dead-weight cargo to her capacity, she was not sent here. In this case there was a slip in the proceedings, for forage is not dead-weight cargo, and all that could be stored aboard the Dix with a hydraulic ram would not put her down within a foot of the draft of the vessels that were coming and going between Portland and the sea without difficulty.

This left the Government with no legitimate avenue of escape, and two weeks after the bids were opened the public has been semiofficially informed that Portland will secure at least a portion of the contract. The bidders, who have many thousand dollars tied up in the forage, have not yet been informed of the acceptance of their bids, although the contract calls for delivery between January 15 and January 31. In a plain business transaction the identity of the lowest bidder and his right to the contract would have been established as soon as the bids reached Washington and the contract awarded forthwith. In this case, more than two weeks after they have known they were the lowest bidders the contractors are still in the dark as to what may be expected of them. One hundred thousand dollars' worth of forage cannot be massed at the shipping point in a few days. It is still held in warehouses all over the Northwest. It is not always possible for the railroads to supply cars on a moment's notice, and the interest and insurance on a large amount of forage tied up in this manner is not inconsiderable.

In not accepting the bids when it was established that they were the lowest, the Government, without making any recompense for the privilege, took an option on about $100,000 worth of forage and has already retained that option ten days longer than would be permitted in a straight business transaction. This is manifestly unfair to the bidders, and will be a contingency they must provide against in the future. The foregoing are a few of the obstacles which the War Department has thrown in the way of the Portland bidders. To these inconveniences and the evidence of discrimination may be added the unnecessary trouble to which our commercial bodies and private citizens have been placed in sending scores of telegrams to Washington urging that we be given justice which should be ours without any urging. This delay in letting the contract has also put Laidlaw & Co. to heavy expense in cabling and holding in readiness a ship in case their bid was accepted.

Viewing the matter in its most favorable light, a more unfair and unbusinesslike transaction has never been encountered by Portland business men.

HARRIMAN FULFILLING PROMISES.

No more pleasing news for Portland has been printed for a long time than the announcement of the large addition of tonnage to the Oriental steamship line out of this port. In the genuine satisfaction that is expressed over at last securing an Oriental service adequate to the demands of the port, the fact that it was slightly overdue will be forgotten. This is one of the first tangible results of the recent visit of Mr. Harriman to this city, although President Mohler has for many months been endeavoring to secure the increased service now assured. The service as now scheduled will enable Portland shippers to take care of all of the business originating in this territory, and will admit of great expansion in the flour trade throughout the territory tributary to this port.

Not only is Portland fortunate in securing such a frequent service with such big carriers, but the arrangement is an exceptionally good one for the Portland & Asiatic line. This port more than any other port on the Pacific Coast has always had a large surplus of outward freight over that which was obtainable for the inward-bound steamers. The necessity of thus being obliged to bring steamers from the Orient in ballast, or with only a small fraction of their cargo space filled, in order to take care of the west-bound traffic has made it very unprofitable for most of the steamers engaged in the business. Under the new arrangement the four additional steamers will bring their inward cargo to Mexican ports and come to Portland for outward cargo only, thus being prepared to handle all of the overflow from the regular Portland & Asiatic liners and do away with the necessity of any more freight going from Portland territory to Puget Sound on account of insufficient facilities at this port.

Now that Mr. Harriman has taken definite action in supplying one of the transportation needs of Portland, there is no further reason to question the sincerity of his promises for improvements in other directions. The Columbia Southern, which will open up for exploitation a new field, rich in commercial possibilities, is to be extended into the heart of Central Oregon, and it is practically a certainty that the water-level route into the rich Clearwater country will soon be opened by the construction of the Riparia-Lewiston road. From a strict commercial standpoint it might be said that Mr. Harriman is not entitled to any special thanks for providing us with improved transportation facilities afloat and ashore, as he is doing it for his own profit. This is true, but it is equally true that the history of every Oriental steamship line on the Pacific Coast shows it to have been a losing venture at the start, and the risk of heavy losses is by no means small.

For this reason the greatest transportation magnate of the age is entitled to the thanks of the people of the Columbia Basin. They are also grateful to him for his earnest effort during his recent visit here to get in touch with the people and learn of their needs. Incidentally, much credit is due to President A. L. Mohler and his efficient lieutenants of the O. R. & N. Mr. Mohler's familiarity with the needs of Portland and his earnest efforts in our behalf have been powerful factors in bringing about such a marked improvement as is now assured in both rail and water transportation to and from this port. The O. R. & N. has "made good" on some of the most important promises made to Portland, and shows every indication of doing the same with the others, and Portland will not be backward about returning the compliment.

THE HERO OF AN HOUR.

The Manchester (N. H.) Union publishes an interesting tribute to "Saxie" Pike, an obscure veteran of the Civil War, who was drum major of the First New Hampshire Volunteers when they passed through Baltimore on their way to Washington, a few days after the firing on the Sixth Massachusetts by the city mob. "Saxie" Pike was the real leader on this day of his regiment, for he pushed the hostile throng one side with his baton, assuring the crowd that the regiment carried loaded muskets and were ordered to use them. Had "Saxie" Pike fallen that day he would have been accepted as a hero; he would have had a monument; but the mob were somewhat imposed upon by his towering form and imperious manner, and did not attempt to draw his fire. "Saxie" Pike was a hero that day, but when he came home from service he dropped back into his ancient shape of the most majestic drum major in New England, a peripatetic vendor of polishing powder and "a character." He never forgot that he was "a hero" for one day in Baltimore, and for years afterward he reminded those who had forgotten it by saying with great dignity, "I am 'Saxie' Pike."

After the war this poor, humble man was among the most insignificant of his city's illustrious obscure; he had invited death as fearlessly as Colonel Ellsworth, but while Ellsworth was shot dead and obtained a martyr's crown, the Baltimore mob spared "Saxie" Pike, perhaps because they were awed by his tall form surmounted by a towering bearskin cap, or perhaps because they were amused at the effrontery of the big Yankee drum major in supplying for the regiment the spirit with which the Colonel on that day was reported not to be adequately stocked. There have been many "Saxie" Pikes in history; heroes for the day or the hour, who rose suddenly to the level of a great emergency and then sank back for life into the atmosphere of commonplace. Moll Pitcher serving a dead husband's gun at Monmouth is a case in point. The woman was nobody in particular up to that hour, and she was nobody in particular all the rest of her days.

As Major Pitcairn leaped over the American intrenchments at Bunker Hill he was shot dead by a negro. If an American white soldier of social standing had killed Pitcairn, it would have put him in the line of promotion. Crispus Attucks, the negro, who was shot dead by the British soldiers, in the so-called "Boston massacre," has a monument in Boston, although he was probably nothing but a rough, fighting fellow who quarreled with the soldiers without knowing or caring much about the controversy that brought on the Revolution. Davy Gam was a humble Welshman who helped save the life of Henry V at Agincourt and met his own death. His name is quoted in Shakespeare's play. The famous ride of Paul Revere seems to have been about the only thing he did in the Revolution of notable consequence.

There have been men who have made a single speech of excellent quality, like that made in the British Parliament in the eighteenth century by "Single Speech" Hamilton; there have been men like Marshal Augereau, who fought one battle splendidly, Castiglione, and always fought unskillfully afterwards; there have been men like Gray, who have written a single poem of great merit and have never written another; there have been men who have written a single great play, a single fine novel, and produced nothing subsequently of any literary value. The "Saxie" Pikes are found in all walks of life; the fellows who, under some sudden stimulus, completely outdo themselves and fall back to their normal state of intellectual barrenness and mediocrity.

The discovery of the cause of "the sleeping sickness" which has depopulated parts of Uganda is to be credited, according to Professor Ray Lancaster, to Colonel D. Bruce, of the British army medical service, who, "by an energetic system of collecting the flies present in some hundred different localities around Entebbe, showed, first, that the fly Glossina palpalis is abundant, though partially distributed, in that region; and, second, that where it occurs sleeping sickness occurs and where it is absent sleeping sickness is absent. This was followed by direct experiments on inoculation by the fly." The fly whose bite causes the sleeping sickness is simply a variety of the tsetse fly, which destroys cattle and horses in East Africa. A curious thing in this connection is the fact that the bite of the tsetse fly, though fatal to cattle, is harmless to man, and that the bite of the Glossina palpalis, which is fatal to the natives of Uganda, does no harm to white people. No preventive for sleeping sickness has yet been found. When found it will probably point to a way of preventing or curing the cattle disease which scourges East and South Africa. As the discovery of the agency of the mosquito in causing malarial disease was the work of Major Ross, of the British army, and the discovery of the mosquito which spreads yellow fever was due to Dr. Reid, of this country, Anglo-Saxon medical science has made a record which the more scientific French and Germans will have to try to excel. Koch's tuberculosis discovery and Pasteur's various fruitful discoveries in this field have very great merit, but, as the Baltimore Sun pertinently observes, they hardly equal those mentioned above in fresh practical interest.

The American Grocer's figures upon the tomato and corn "pack" in the United States and Canada show that in tomatoes 1903 holds the record. The packing industry has been notably expanded in Virginia and Maryland. Maryland heads the list with 4,687,224 cases of tomatoes, two dozen tins to the case, no other state having as many as a million cases. Indiana, with 989,081 cases, takes second place. Then follow New Jersey, California, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia. Maryland's increase over 1902 was 173,842 cases and that of the two Virginias was 497,015 cases. The total for the United States and Canada is over 1,000,000 cases more than last year. The corn pack was 4,751,146 cases, against 4,191,087 last year, but fell below 1900, when the record was 6,485,624 cases. Illinois led with 1,056,540 cases, followed by Iowa with 857,700 cases; Maryland and Virginia with 589,589 cases, and New York, Maine and Ohio with smaller outputs. The weather was unfavorable for the sweet corn of Maine and New York.

The great value of timber is shown in the case of a tree recently cut near Waynesville, N. C. This giant of the Alleghany Mountains was a curly poplar, so large that twelve horses were required to haul away the butt cut, which was twelve feet long. The lowest limb was eighty feet from the ground. This single tree contained 25,000 feet of first-class lumber, most of it useful as veneering, and its value was $1500. The single tree was worth more than the entire mountain farm upon which it stood.

Hysterics.

Brooklyn Eagle.

Are not some newspapers and some people becoming a trifle hysterical over the alleged plot for a second massacre of Jews in Kishinef? No fair-minded man believed that the Russian government, harsh as its treatment of Jews has always been, encouraged or condoned the late shocking outrages that made Kishinef a name of horror throughout the whole civilized world. Supposing that we have certain knowledge of a plot among the Kishinef "Christians" to slaughter their fellow-citizens is it not safe to presume that the Russian government knows as much as we do—if not a little more? And the Russian government is obviously not anxious for a recurrence of the violence that eventuated in murder and mayhem a few months ago. We may assume that it is taking precautions promptly to suppress all outbreaks for the simple reason that neglect to do so would assure a repetition of the universal criticism under which it once so evidently smarted. But—and again there is supposition for the sake of the argument—if the government at St. Petersburg is careless or indifferent to the fate of the Bessarabian Jews, it will not be awakened to a sense of its duty by mass meetings held in New York, no matter how earnest the orators nor how scarce the suspicion that the meetings are promoted mainly for advertising purposes.

Grimy Faces the Style.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Unwashed faces and dirty hands are the height of fashion in Bloomington. A break in the waterworks system has brought about a serious condition of affairs. No water is to be had and cisterns and wells are dry as the result of a protracted drouth. So serious is the situation that the State University may be closed.

Factories and hot water plants have been forced to abandon operations. In the fraternity houses at the university, in which live a majority of the students, many are preparing to leave because they complain they have to come to this city when they want a bath. The break in the waterworks, experts have determined, cannot be effectively repaired in less than two months.

VIEWS OF THE IROQUOIS HORROR

Measures of Prevention.

New York Times.

Additional precautions may and must be enforced in view of the failure of those there taken, precautions relating not only to the structure, but to its furnishing and its administration. Here on one side of a fire-proof curtain which did not work at the moment of need, were the inflammable contents of the stage; on the other the combustible seats and the combustible floor of the auditorium. There are methods of at least greatly reducing the inflammability of the fittings of the stage; there are methods of absolutely banishing all combustible material from the auditorium. These methods the self-interest of managers will force them now to take, and official inspection should make it certain that they take them. But, when all that has been done, there is no guarantee against panics blind and insane panic, which slays more than fire or smoke. Such guarantees should be exacted. Panic broke loose and slew its victims even on the broad and secure spaces of the Brooklyn bridge, where there was no physical cause of alarm. But panic does not break out where discipline prevails. It does not break out on a ship at sea, because there there is "fire-drill" when there is no fire. There should be such drill in theaters. Surely, at least, it should be ascertained, at every performance, that the fire curtain between the stage and the audience is in working order. Surely, at least, the audience should be allowed and compelled to use and learn, when there is no danger, the exits which they are expected to use in emergencies, when they are sure to be governed by habit and not by reason. When all has been done that can be done, a theater may still be a dangerous place. But it is certain that in the very best-managed of our theaters less is done than can be done by way of precaution against the danger that particularly and continually besets those edifices.

The Fatality of Panic.

Chicago Inter-Ocean.

At least nine-tenths of the victims of the Iroquois Theater horror were slain by the overwhelming power of their own emotions. The primary instinct of self-preservation bade them flee. It overpowered in them all reason and judgment, and they fled, but in such manner that their very efforts to escape but made certain their destruction. They fell victims to panic fear.

This is said in all humility, for no man on earth can be positive, had he been there, that he would not have done just what those hapless hundreds did. None of us can be certain that when the moment of trial comes he will be free from panic fear.

Yet it is quite plain that nearly or quite all would have escaped had they been able to control their fear. Such incidents as those of Irene Jones, the young girl who led her companions out of the jaws of death, and of the escape of the Dillon family, among the last to leave the deadly gallery, show what was the way of safety. But hundreds were so overpowered by panic fear that they could not take that way.

The most terrible of human emotions is panic fear. It spares neither age nor sex. It destroys here one strong man and passes over another. It sends here weak girls shrieking to death and permits others equally weak to go forth to life. No law can repress it. No ingenuity of man can prevent it. No public opinion can check its deadly work. Civilization stands helpless before it. The most rigid self-discipline can only hope to prevail against it.

The facts must humble to the dust the pride of human nature in itself. They might well move us all to add to the petition for deliverance from "battle, murder and sudden death," a daily and hourly prayer to be saved from panic fear.

For such catastrophes as that which now afflicts Chicago must make us all feel that none can hope to stand under such a trial by our own strength or without the special grace of God.

Murdered by Painted Shams.

Minneapolis Tribune.

A score of Chicago theaters have no asbestos curtains. They have only cheap shams of inflammable canvas or burlaps, painted to look like asbestos, like that which disappeared in the Iroquois Theater fire. These houses have been closed by order of the Mayor. They will coin no more precious human life into dirty money at present. How many other theaters are saving money by using these murderous imitations of asbestos? The question seems pertinent. The Chicago architects who advised the closing of all the theaters knew what they were about. No one is better acquainted with the fraudulent and murderous economies of jerry building then the architects whose estimates are cut down to make them.

Now let us have done with this sickening twaddle about the responsibility of panic-stricken audiences for their own destruction. It is a stale trick of the murderer to try to make out that his victim committed suicide. Before men and women are asked to remain passive and obedient in the face of death, they must have more confidence in those who ask it. The degree of confidence that existed before this fire has saved many lives in well-managed theaters; but it betrayed hundreds to destruction in Chicago. Now it is fatally shaken. It can be restored only by stern dealing with the guilty. If guns are carried into theaters, it will not be by ushers. If anybody shall be shot down in a rush for exits, it will not be women and children.

Where does the building inspection service of Chicago come in? The law has been violated systematically under its nose. How much of the notorious graft revenue of Chicago has been paid by the theaters? An inspector visited the Iroquois just before the fire. How much boodle did he carry away with him? If the public demand for justice be not quickly satisfied, it will deepen to a growl for vengeance. The theater managers and the building inspectors have been very chummy together. Let those who can be proved guilty of manslaughter chum together in the same cell.

Served Him Right.

Birmingham Post.

It was a raw, cold night, and the rain fell pitilessly as an omnibus drew up at the corner of Oxford street. A thinly-clad young woman stood on the curb and looked imploringly at the conductor. The latter, an Irishman, speaking in reply to the mute inquiry, said: "Shure, it's full I am; but"—glancing again at the little one—"come on, me honey, in wid ye; Ol'll chance it." The little woman was squeezed into a seat; but the 'bus had not proceeded very far when the following incident occurred: In the corner seat was a fop, who, with eyeglasses firmly fixed, had been watching the proceedings, and as the vehicle eased up he called out:

"Conductah!"

"Sor!"

"Are you aware that you have one over your number?"

"'Ave I sor? Ol'll see." Pat counts, beginning at the opposite corner, leaving the "Johnny" until the last—"Wan, two, three, four, five, six, sivin, eight, noine, tin, 'leven, twelve, thir—so I have, and, be joye! ye're the very wan. Out ye come!" And he went.

Milwaukee Men to Deal in Turtle Oil.

Milwaukee Sentinel.

Articles of incorporation for the Green Sea Turtle Company, of Milwaukee, have been filed in the Secretary of State's office to send out properly equipped vessels to capture and purchase green sea and other turtles along the coast of Costa Rica and other places. The company will prepare the meat, shells and eggs of the amphibious animals for market, and in course of time will extract the oils from the carcasses and can and bottle it for the market. The stock is divided into 35,000 shares, which will be sold at $1 a share.

SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS

The Brutal Woman-Hater.

Pendleton Guide.

When a woman gets so she doesn't care about the size of her feet and turns her attention entirely to her soul, you can set it down that old age is creeping on.

Penalties of Progress.

Canyon City Eagle.

That the only means of traveling in the interior of Oregon is by stage coach is gratifying to many people when accounts of the railroad wrecks in the East are read. The stage coach may be overturned occasionally, but a serious accident is very rare. More people were killed in a passenger wreck at Laurel Run last week than have even so much as been injured on the stage coaches of the entire Pacific Coast since the earliest stage-coach period.

Fame Not Desired.

Whatcom Reville.

It is a rather peculiar coincidence that the Glee Clubs of both the University of Washington and the Stanford University should get into trouble with saloonkeepers along about the same time. Have the saloonkeepers formed a conspiracy against the college boys, or the college boys against the saloonkeepers? Whatever the cause, the little incident made very effective advance press notices for the clubs.

No Corner on Glory.

Salem Statesman.

An exchange which has no good word whatever for the Legislature that has just adjourned, even denies it the "negative virtue" of a short session, claiming that a Democratic Governor wrung that result from the members, though there is no evidence anywhere that the members were not as much in favor of a short session as the Governor. There is no reason why they should not have been. In common with His Excellency, they are all men, and many of them made this country before he ever saw anything further West than the Mississippi River. Why not admit that everybody wanted a short session?

Poor Man the Real Taxpayer.

Tillamook Independent.

The Legislature was wise enough to attach the emergency clause to every bill but the one exempting $300 of personal property from taxation to heads of families. Well, damn a poor man, anyway! He'll have to pay taxes next year, as sure as shooting. And then, along about April or May, these same wise guys will be around whooping about "how we taxed the corporations; how we did poke it into the rich man!" And then the poor man, who pays all of the taxes anyway, will walk right up to the polls and vote to send these same wise guys back to the Legislature, or make Congressmen of them, or Judges, or District Attorneys.

Calls It the Governor's Triumph.

Lebanon Criterion.

The most conspicuous thing connected with the session is that George E. Chamberlain is a "power," and, as such, has not only bridled a Republican majority and led them to water, but has made them drink as well. The Governor took desperate risks when he attempted to drive a Legislature of the opposite political faith, and for a while it looked very much as if he had lost, but later developments proved the contrary. The triumph of the Governor will add much to his political fortunes and about all there is for the Republicans to do is to yell "we killed the bear," and being more of them they can probably make the most noise.

Power of Mr. and Mrs. Press.

Athena Press.

We did the stunt of making a train from Weston to the station Christmas day, in company with Mrs. Press and a lady friend, that made Rooseveltian strenuosity pale into an insignificant Spanish siesta; relegated the festive jackrabbit into a class with the cow, so far as speed is concerned, but we made the train, thanks to the generous soul of Conductor Patton, who always holds his train at that particular station when there is anything doing between a fleet-footed prospective passenger and time, distance, of course, always being taken into consideration. Time was no object in this instance. It was all distance, and the big-hearted conductor and "Nick" Geberding evidently enjoyed the gait we accumulated so rapidly that we did not have time to size up Pine Creek scenery en route.

Uses of the Grange.

Hillsboro Argus.

Farmers should belong to their local Grange, as this is an educating factor, second to none, for the agricultural element. It affords a means of co-operation—and co-operation is the slogan of the hour. The big manufacturers and capitalists are organized—and the farmers should organize. They should place themselves in a position to take united action upon important measures which touch upon national life, and therein prove an intelligent factor in representative affairs. The time is rapidly approaching when farmers must either think for themselves, and force their ideas to the front, or take a back seat and bear a practical disfranchisement. When the present object lessons show that all lines of industry and commerce are organizing for mutual benefit, farmers should not be slow in taking this question up in its proper form, and deducing a salient lesson.

Attention Lacking but Needed.

Milton Eagle.

Now that the portage road and The Dalles-Celilo canal projects are practically safe the Inland Empire should turn her attention to another very important matter, viz: that of securing state and National aid in establishing a general system of irrigation throughout Eastern Oregon. We have millions of acres of deep rich soil, as fertile and as capable of producing grain, fruit and vegetables as are the black lands of the Mississippi Valley, which only require a little judicious application of water at the proper time to convert them into perfect gardens of wealth. As there isn't sufficient water at all times in the streams it must be stored in great reservoirs and brought from subterranean lakes and streams, both by natural and artificial means. A practical effort of this kind will require an immense outlay of money, but give to the virgin soil of East Oregon a chance to do its best and she will soon produce wealth enough to repay the necessary expense a thousand-fold.

Stands by His Friend.

Salem Statesman.

In addition to his well-earned title of "Grand Old Man," Mayor Williams, of Portland, is entitled to the sobriquet of "Stonewall." Few men would withstand the pressure which has been brought to bear to induce him to remove Chief Hunt from the head of the Portland Police Department. Of course, Mayor Williams has not lived 50 years, most of them having been spent in public life, and many times being under the most severe fire himself, frequently of the most dirty character, without learning that, contrary to a well-worn maxim, there can often be a great deal of smoke without any fire whatever. If a crowd of politicians, pulling together for an agreed purpose, decide that some man is in their way, it is no trouble to start an immense amount of smoke without the formality of kindling any fire. If smoke is what is wanted, smoke will be forthcoming in quantities galore. From this distance it is not easy to know the real condition of affairs in Portland, but the firmness of Mayor Williams in the matter of standing by his friends is to be commended. He believes the Chief to be honest and capable, and, unless he can be made to know to the contrary, he could not be expected summarily to remove him from the position he holds.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

On the Qui Vive.

Mrs. Annie Lane and Case Fuqua went to Heppner today. Watch for later announcement.—Jone Post.

Sport in Michigan.

We note that the staff of Emergency Hospital held its regular weekly cross-city hunt with a more or less delirious patient, clad as airily as usual in a night-shirt, as the quarry.—Detroit Journal.

Smash 'Em Up, Fred.

It is rumored that Fred Bonebrake will teach the Spring term of school here. Fred is one of Douglas County's successful young pedagogues, and we hope the rumor may prove true.—Dixonville correspondence of Roseburg (Or.) Review.

Sentence Sermons.

(After a popular model.)

Tell the truth and go broke.

To the prude all lights are red.

Money talks and the preacher hears a call.

A man without silver for the plate may have a heart of gold.

Better be orthodox and miserable than heterodox and happy.

It's easy to discover a liking for a church that has a good choir.

A nickel in the contribution box is worth two in the slot machine.

If a preacher practiced what he preaches he'd have no time to preach.

The business man carrying the contribution box doesn't look half so interested as when he is counting up his cash register.

Portland can point with pride to a horsethief not yet in his teens.

It is curious that a sinking fund should be used to raise a floating debt.

Funnily enough, the book agent who charged Cannon was the one to go off.

The Holy Rollers prefer borrowed plumes to those that are thrust upon them.

Each year the cold in the East breaks all records, and yet Summer is warm enough to thaw out the ice.

The deaf-mute woman who sues for divorce was helped to understand the tenor of her husband's language by his choking her.

WANTED—SIX THOROUGHBRED INDIAN squaws to assist in serving tea at a literary reception. Must be unwashed and know how to pronounce Sacajawea. Apply, one at a time, to Y. Z.

It is proposed to run a fence along the boundary between this country and Canada. People laugh at this, forgetting that the tariff amounts to the same thing.

The pride of the Shaver Line was approaching the dock.

"Ahoy! What steamer's that?"

"No Wonder."

"I can see that, but what's her name?"

Some sage has summed up his observations of life in one sentence. "After all, one of the great—perhaps the greatest—pleasures in life is to get things over." The sage must have written this after a "delightfully informal dinner."

The latest fad in Chicago is to give fish dinners with live fish on the table. The plan would be interesting if carried further. To introduce a calf when veal cutlets were served would be an admirable idea. A bull led around the room whilst roast beef was being eaten would be an agreeable novelty. Snails and frogs would prove interesting in a soup tureen. Lobsters would evidently be superfluous.

The local medical fraternity is taking considerable interest in the case of Onetta, a whirling Dervish dancer, who appears at the Odeon Theater this week, says the Baltimore Herald. The lady in question is capable of whirling around for an hour without stopping, at the end of which time she manifests neither dizziness, heart weakness nor any of the other symptoms, such as brain concussion, which doctors have always maintained follow rotary exercise.

And yet Onetta, if at all like an ordinary woman, if taken a block out of her accustomed streets, would feel "turned all around."

Jevver think Christian Science helped one to wear trousers? Here is what Lillian Russell says:

Well, when it became necessary to dress as a man for a few brief minutes I have called my religion to my rescue, as I have many times. Do not bother about it, I said. Just put them on and be natural.

And Lulu Glaser on the same subject says:

When I first appeared as a boy I shuddered. Then I made up my mind not to think about—well, about anything like a display. When you have worn skirts all your life it is something to put on clothes adapted to a man. There is where mind force is necessary. Now, I am only concerned why my—well, trousers, if you will—bag at the knees.

Disinterested observers would have concluded that for either of the ladies to get into trousers "mind force" must be less depended upon than main force.

WEX. J.

OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

Singleton—So you believe in the emancipation of women, do you? Wederly—Yes; they're overdoing the proclamation business.—Chicago News.

Hawkins—I have lost all—not a thing remains. Robbins—But think of your friends. Hawkins—That's so. It's pretty hard on them, too.—Town Topics.

Barnes—You are looking uncommonly cheerful this morning, Howes. Howes—I have reason to. I have the proud satisfaction of knowing I don't owe a cent to any man in the world. I have gone through insolvency, you know.—Boston Transcript.

"I have a very unpleasant duty to perform," said the chief. "The management desires to dispense with your services." The office boy heaved a deep sigh of relief. "Gee!" he said, "I t'ought for a minnit youse was goin' to fire me."—Cincinnati Tribune.

Yeast—Did you ever notice that when the question about obeying is put to women in the marriage ceremony, some of them answer louder than others? Crimsonbeak—Oh, yes, I've noticed it. The ones who say "yes" the loudest are the ones who know their husbands will never dare to ask them to obey.—Yonkers Statesman.

Mrs. Naggsby—A man who was more or less handsome called at the house to see you this evening. Naggsby—What do you mean by a man being more or less handsome? Mrs. Naggsby—I mean that he was more handsome than you and less handsome than the man I was foolish enough to throw over for you.—Kennebec Journal.

Mrs. Newlywed—No, can't say that I think much of my new sewing machine. It is disappointing. Mrs. Oldgirl—Why, it is a very good make. What seems to be the trouble? Mrs. Newlywed—I don't know exactly, but when I tried to sew some buttons on Mr. Newlywed's shirts yesterday it broke every last one of them.—Cincinnati Times-Star.

Proud father—I tell you, sir, that boy of mine will be a wonder! Friend (wearily)—What wonderful thing has he done now? Proud father—Why, the other day he ate all the preserves in the pantry. I overheard him say, as he smeared the cat's face with the stuff: "I