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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1905.

A PITTEFUL PLEA.

The statement of the Standard Oil Company, through its chief solicitor, published today, is not an answer to the charges against it, but merely a plea in avoldance. It got rebates as long as it could; for in the early time rebates were not forbidden by law. Through this system it crushed every competitor, and made for its members colossal fortunes they hold. The practice was deficient in every element of morality. Are men, to be free, morally, to do whatever the law does not forbid? Not while they keep the booty. "Can one be pardoned and retain the

There has been attempt to justify and to sanctify every great wrong on this same ground. It was pleaded for slavery; it is pleaded everywhere for opat once to an illustration right here at home, we find men who have seized the streets of this city for operation of car lines, for the use of which they pay nothing, have paid nothing, yet claim a vested right, of indefinite extent. Some person now claims the sole right to sell salt in Cuba, under a "franchise" obtained two hundred years ago.

Such transactions, in themselves and in their results, are all immoral. They are on a level with the transactions of the slave trade; and the fortunes have the same basis.

The logic is this: "A while ago stealing was very general and we stole. are entitled to credit for being the greater and more successful thieves."

The other excuse that the Standard Oll Company is not engaged, as a company, in the callroad business and does not control the principal railroads of the country, or any of them, is as disingenuous as the preceding plea that it had a right to be a robber, through rebates, because the law did not forbid Standard Oll magnates operate in railroad affairs on their individual account, and the vast power that the wealth they have acquired through Standard Oil gives them enables them to control policy of great railroads.

The whole of this plea is a pitiful one. Such plea can have no standing in morals, in honesty or in honor, It is a studied effort to make black white, foul fair. Nobody can be deceived by it,

THE RAILWAY RATE PROBLEM.

rallway rates is a point gravely under dispute among disinterested observers. That it ought to make and enforce would be the consequences?

No one can say, fully; for difference ous localities, volume of traffic and many other factors, cannot be ignored. Reason there is, therefore, to believe rates were established and enforced greater evils would arise than prevail under the present railway policy of fixing charges on actual traffic conditions. In considering this subject the Interstate Commerce Commission, in a report made a short time ago, said: "Uniform rates per mile on all traffic for commerce to sections and greatly re-

strict production." President Hadley, of Yale University, cost of increasing this depth was acwhose work on "Railway Transporta- cordingly of moderate proportions. tion" and contributions to magazines on in the literature of this question, has an article a page in length in the Bos-

no law could cover the whole, and no commission acting under specific law. binding it to the principle of uniform rates, could do justice to the parties concerned. What President Hadley recommends is the creation of special rallway courts with power to hear and to decide questions arising in different special conditions pertaining to each certain that rates that would be reasonable in one section would not be readent Hadley holds that Congress should not undertake to prescribe rates nor to do so, but should create a court or system of courts to try causes, on the principle of ascertaining what would be reasonable under the actual conditions of traffic in separate localities. But all discrimination should, of course. be prohibited.

CONTRACTORS AND THE PUBLIC. The public has recently been getting vast amount of instructive information about the devious ways of con tractors. Two partners fall out and fill the court records with demaging disclosures as to the Port of Portland dry-dock contract. An unscrupulous firm violates the terms of a sewer contractors' pool, and the shocking condition of the Tanner-Creek sewer is as a result disclosed to the amazed taxpayers. Somebody gets mad because the old game of holding up the city by false measurements in cement work is blocked by an honest City Engineer, and we are threatened with interesting revelations as to how the First-street bridge contract was procured. Morrison-street bridge is built with scrupulous reference to the interests and convenience of a street railway company, at what appeared to be very reasonable figure. But when the bill for extras comes to be examined. it is found that a most outrageous margin of profit has been added

These are the things that we know about some city contracts. How many things have been done that we do not know about and may never know? How long have these methods been in vogue? How extensive is the conspiracy to pluck the city at the expense of the complaisant taxpayer? What deals have always been made in street, in paving, sewer, sidewalk, bridge and all sorts and descriptions of work that the city must pay for? What schemes have been winked at by grafting officials to procure a fat portion of the taxpayers' money for the favorites of a political machine? How many ordinances have been tinkered with so that one firm of contractors shall have the exclusive right to bid for the paving of a street by a proprietory article to which it holds exclusive petent? How and why was this done? For whose benefit? It has always been so in Portland

streets have been given away without remuneration of any kind to a street railway company that tears them up when it pleases and puts them down when and how it pleases. Penalties have almost never been enforced for lapses in finishing any public contract, or for a failure to perform it in rigid accord with the specifications. Anybody does whatever he pleases with his sidewalk, until, indeed, a public-spirited volunteer body takes hold of the abuse and requires a partial observance of the law. Billboards of the most offensive description offend the vision in every direction, and when a cry for reform goes up the City Council replies that a property-owner may do what he pleases ouncil may nevertheless fix a license fee for the ubiquitous billboard that will at least partially recompense the indignant taxpayer for the defacement of the landscape and the disfigurement of buildings. Building contractors fill the streets with their litter and the passer-by can get along as best he may The public be damned. It has no rights and its only office is to pay-without complaint, if possible, or in any event to pay in full-the outrageous tribute that contractors of all kinds demand and receive.

What is going to be the end of it? It may be suspected that there will be an end, because the late disclosures are in themselves a sign of the times and the city government is in hands that really desire reform, and will, if it can bring it about. The truth is unquestionably that these things have been going on always in Portland. The difference is now that everybody knows It where formerly few knew it.

GOVERNMENT-MADE WATERWAYS.

The Tacoma Ledger makes extended editorial comment on the docking of a large British bark at the foot of Fifteenth street. This is well up in the heart of the business district in that city, and the depth of water necessary to float so large a carrier is nearly twenty feet at low tide. The Ledger explains that "this has been made possible only by the expenditure of a large sum of money by the Federal Government in the improvement of the city waterway." Tacoma is to be congratu-Whether or not Congress should take lated on her success in securing from upon itself the regulation of interstate the Federal Government a sum of money large enough to make a twentyfoot ship channel where formerly no channel of any depth existed. River stringent rules against rebates nobody and harbor appropriations are made for questions. But if it shall undertake to the purpose of facilitating commerce on establish and enforce uniform rates per the waterways affected, and any legitifor the whole country, what mate improvement of this nature is entitled to support of the Government.

This is a policy that has always been in traffic conditions is real, and cannot advocated by The Oregonian, regardbe overcome by law. Water transpor- less of the geographical location of the tation will not cease to exert influence. | waterway in need of improvement, Un-Fuel, grades, widely different cost of fortunately for Portland, the Federal five years ahead of him before he construction and of operation in vari- Government steadily refuses to approprinte "large sums," or even small sums, for increasing the harbor area of that his age had in any manner handi-Portland, although the merits of the that if flat and invariable rules and Portland improvement scheme are much superior to those of Tacoma. The Port of Portland Commission and nent member of preceding sessions, he the citizens of this port have been displayed considerable talent both in compelled to dredge out channels at their own expense, not only in the immediate harbor, but for the entire dis- one else for the position may be the tance between Portland and the sea, the Government refusing to assist. The any distance would arbitrarily limit shallowest channels where work was needed in Portland harbor had from twelve to twenty feet of water, and the

In Tacoma the greater part of the railway problems take foremost rank channel to Fifteenth street was dredged tual use a shell is discharged on the through tide flats which were bare at low tide, nothing bearing semblance of ion Transcript, in which he attempts a channel being in existence when the Arthur. A bombardment usually conto show that uniform rates cannot work of dredging began. Portland is tinues from four to six hours; so that a safely be prescribed by act of Congress, perfectly willing that the Federal Gov- six hours' bombardment by these nor by a commission acting under its ernment shall spend large sums for im- eighteen mortars alone costs nearly authority. So many are the factors, so proving the waterways of Tacoma har- 1325,000. The Japanese soldiers call

well pleased over the results attendant on the "expenditure of a large sum of money by the Federal Government in the improvement of the city waterway," should in future refrain from unkind comment whenever a modest appropriation is made by the Government localities, upon their actual merits, to for the Columbia River. The Federal be ascertained from examination of the appropriations for enlarging Tacoma harbor benefit no one but the propertylocality. What would be reasonable for owners of the City of Destiny. Approeach would thus be evolved; for it is priations of the Port of Portland and the occasional aid received from the Government for the Columbia River sonable in another. Therefore Presi- not only help Portland but are equally beneficial to every producer in the Columbia basin. Whenever Government authorize the Interstate Commission aid is sought for these projects, the Ledger should in the future refrain from "knocking."

PADS IN EDUCATION.

It is only by comparison that we come to know and appreciate our blessings Take the public school system in Portland, for example, as administered by our educational authorities from year to year, and compare it with that of Greater New York, as shown in a report recently published. Our people have at times, and indeed not infrequently, seen, or thought they saw, many things connected with the running gear of this system to criticise They have, for example, urged that music, as engrafted upon the schools and taught by teachers whose instruction in this science has been limited to a few compulsory lessons, is worse than a simple graft, since it is more than likely to substitute nasal tones for the natural voices of children, without imparting any knowledge whatever of the principles of music. It has been further said that drawing as taught in the grades represents in a large majority of cases time wasted. In support of this contention it has been pointed out that many a boy counts among the assets of his school life a dingy drawing-book, over which many hours have been spent, as a doubtful substitute for knowledge of the fundamental rules of arithmetic. Even now, so critical have our people become in regard to school management, we hear almost daily of school grounds kept green and inviting to the eye by compelling the children to spend intermissions in school work, in the basements, "in line" and strictly supervised as to whispering and playfulness of any kind by harried teachers. Again, we have been told, in tones hushed to a whisper lest commotion should be raised and trouble ensue that certain teachers in the High School are in the habit of giving private lessons at \$1 per hour, during time in which they are under pay by the district, to pupils who are being coached for college examinations, and within the past week savage but subdued growls have been uttered because of the surreptitious introduction of ecclestasticism by professional evangelists into the High School during time clas-

sified as a "study period." But let us not be unmindful of ou blessings. Look at the reports that come from New York City in regard to the fads that have been folsted upon the public schools by that prince educational faddists, William J. Maxwell, City Superintendent of Schools! We have had many vexations, but certainly we have been spared some things for which as champions, patrons and supporters of the public schools we should be duly thankful. Studies in hygienic cookery have been introduced into the New York schools, and certain hours of specified days have been given to them; washing has been taught, the cleanest aproped little girl in certain with his own. So he may, but the City grades being deputed to wash the dirty Natural history is studied at first hand, pupils being required to bring their pet animals to school for this purpose. So successful has instruction in this course proved, it is said, that many children are now able to tell a bulldog from an Angora

> Incredible as it may seem, parents are not grateful for the learning acquired in these and similar ways by but actually complain of these things as "fads" of the meddlesome type and declare (in subdued tones as become subjects of an educational Czar), that they prefer to have their children spend the hours of the school day in acquiring the ability to read intelligently. spell correctly, write legibly, and add, subtract, multiply and divide simple numbers accurately. Such parents are the despair of the educational faddist. or they would be, were he not absolute master of the situation. province to furnish children for the schools-his to experiment upon them. This is the relative position of parents and educational faddists everywhere; but for the absence of some "features" that have become a part of the public school course elsewhere, we may well be grateful. Neat, well-kept children do not, with us at least, have to run the risk of contracting infectious diseases by clay modeling or by washing the clothes of the most untidy children in their class, as an object-lesson in cleanliness. Nor do they have to "do stunts" in alleged hygienic cookery and brave dyspepsia or nausea by sampling the messes concocted by themselves and others.

If, therefore, we cannot be really and truly thankful for everything that we have under the name of education, let us at least be thankful for some things that we have not.

Youthfulness seems to be the princicharge made against Joseph B. Lindsley, candidate for United States Attorney in the new district in Washington. It is also charged that he lacks experience. While Lindsley has four or reaches the Osier limit, there is nothing in his public career that would indicate capped him. As one of the floor leaders of the lower house in the last Washington Legislature, and a very promicommittee work and on the floor, There is a possibility that the desire of some real reason for the protest against Mr.

Richard Barry, in Collier's Weekly, gives an account of the 11-inch guns used by the Japanese, and the effect of their fire. The shell weighs 500 pounds, and each discharge costs \$400. In acaverage every eight minutes. Eighteen of these mortars were in service at Port various are the conditions, so numerous bor, but we should be pleased to have these mortars the "Osaka Bables," at. ferent sides of the door.

Lindsley's appointment.

are the technical issues involved, that some Government aid for our Portland ter the name of the Japanese arsenal waterways. The Ledger, which is so at Osaka, where they were made. It was these 11-inch shells of which General Stoessel so repeatedly complained during the closing days of the siege of Port Arthur. The same kind of mortars were also brought up and used against the Russian works on Putiloff and Novgorod Hills, fifteen miles south of Mukden, and forming the center of General Kuropatkin's line before Marshal Oyama forced him to retreat to Tie Pass. Each gun requires an emplacement of concrete eight feet deep, to hold it in position for firing and to prevent wreck from the recoll

> The information board that it is proposed to establish in connection with the Chamber of Commerce will no doubt prove of practical value in the development of the state. It will furnish ready reference, so to speak, to persons who come thither with the purpose of making Oregon their home. That is to say, it will provide a place where necessary information as where necessary information as to business opportunities, professional openings, desirable farming and fruit lands, etc., may be obtained without experimental journeyings about the state, which necessarily involve expense and loss of time. It will, moreover, show an interest in newcomers that is especially commendable, and that persons coming into a new community greatly appreciate. The policy or disposition of Oregonians has been to rest content in their own knowledge of the special advantages that the state offers to industry, trade and development. There has been no studied heglect of strangers, but an indifference that amounts to neglect has been often noted. A step to overcome this is a step in the right direction.

The profits of the lobacco trust last year were \$22,228,182, and the institution is credited with a surplus of nearly \$30,000,000. Now that "trust-batting" has become a favorite pastime, it might be a good plan to put the tobacco trust on the rack. Tobacco is not one of the necessities of life, but It is so universally used that the consumers perhaps should not be held up and robbed by the exorbitant demands of the trust. This is another of the tariff-fed infant industries which already does something more than sit up and take notice. By hammering down the price of the raw material anad increasing that of the manufactured article, the tobacco trust has an unbestable system for working "both ends against the middle."

The Yaqui Indians are terrorizing the Mexicans and Texans again. A dispatch from El Pasa states that a band of fifty of these renegades are murdering, pillaging and burning in the sonora country, and that peope are leaving their farms and plantations and going to the city for protection Twenty-five or thirty years ago, when Indians were more plentiful and soldiers fewer in number, a band of only of the red devils would be fifty. squelched in short order. The particular band of Yaquis that is now making so much trouble has been engaged in the same pursuit for many years, and it would seem that the date for their extermination was slightly overdue.

May wheat in Chicago for a brief period yesterday sold at a premium of 30 cents per bushel over the July option. The extraordinary condition of the market, as reflected in this remarkable "spread," is due to speculative manipulation in the May option, and a decidedly optimistic view regarding the coming crop, which has a weakening affect on the July option. cago market is undoubtedly in very strong hands, and, until some of the wealthy manipulators become tired of playing football with it, the nonprofessional public will do well to refrain from investing.

A Portland boatbuilder has just received another contract for a Yukon River steamboat, the third to go from their children at the public expense. the same yard in this city in the past three years. This is a high tribute to the workmanship of the Porland build- pay. ers, who have supplied both hulls and machinery for many of the best boats on the Alaskan rivers. Good men are required to handle good steamboats. and for that reason the highest-salarled men between St. Michaels and Dawson are the steamboatmen who go North from Portland to spend the Summer on the Yukon.

Texans are persuaded that the President thinks more of their state than of any other. Kansana believe he thinks their state the best. Kentuckians are convinced he regrets not being born in the bluegrass country. The people of Indian Territory are sure the President wants to come right out and live with them. And yet some people do not think the President a great politician.

Some idea of the commerce that will be carried on through the parcels post arrangement with the United Kingdom be gained from the knowledge may that France last year exported by parcels post goods valued at \$61,123,100. Of course, a large part of this trade was probably transacted with England in nondutiable articles, but the figures are nevertheless surprising.

husband"-will play in concerts in New York at a salary of \$100 a week. He has little reputation as a musician, but he will play the \$9000 organ saved from the wreck of his wife's Cleveland home, and the associations of this instrument are expected to attract thousands of New York's real lovers of music.

San Francisco's latest murder mystery is as gruesome as any crime imagined by Poe, Gaborian or Doyle. That a murderer should carry the mutilated and bleeding corpse of his victim through the streets and place it in a doorway is as strange as anything in

With President Roosevelt whizzing around the South, Emperor William setting the Mediterranean aftre and King Edward scooting across France, travel news begins to assume a live aspect.

Henry James, after revisiting his na tive land, save that the American girl "lacks elusiveness." His opinion will be divided by several impoverished noblemen.

Germany wants the open door in Mo rocco. So does France. But the Kaiser and Loubet are shoving from dif-

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A New Yorker is charged with the larceny of a million dollars. We thought that was financiering.

Suppose you read of a man walking quietly along a street and finding in a doorway a bundle which proved to be the headless and legless trunk of a still warm human body. Would not you Low, declaring that the consequences of sintements. feel that you had opened an Arablan Nights story and that the street must in San Francisco that this happened. and it is in the daily papers that you rend of it.

Balloons are racing across the English Channel, but the steamship companies continue building.

Traction is distraction in Chicago.

If we were the Czar we'd be mighty chary about examining any Easter egg that came in the mall.

The mouse has little preference for York public life. any particular cat, and Morocco probably feels much the same toward the European powers.

Premier Balfour's "state of philosophic doubt" is receiving some joits that are anything but doubtful.

Portland's excellence in the baseball was this season is evident when one remembers that we caven't yet started explaining away defeats. Picturesque, that overworked word,

quence. Down at Hillsboro an attorney, referring to a woman and her nusband, said to the jury: If the management of the Lewis and Clark

Fair would cage this pair and place them on exhibition on the Trail, and the devil should visit the place, he would say: "Name your prior: I want them. They heat anything I have on exhibition in hell."

The effect of this upon a sensible jury must have been tremendous. However, we will not consider this aspect of the matter. Wast is most pleasing about this burst of eloquence is the doubt expressed concerning the presence of the devil on the Trail. "If the devil should visit the place," not the devil visited the place."

"Will the President grow baid?" is a question that is being discussed by some persons. What if he does; he already goes at everything bald-headed.

In yesterday's paper-A man finds a bleeding human body in San Francisco doorway.

A Portland man finds a baby on doorstep. A Portland physician wishes to pay for his death-notice, preparatory to commit

ting suicide. In the Superior Court at Ilwaco three women claim the same man as husband.

Why laugh because school children in New York are taught to make oyater stew. Without training few girls could succeed in producing a fairly good oyster stew without using oysters.

President Roosevelt tells an enthusias-

tic audience that he is half Southern and half Northern; that he was born in the East and has in him a great deal of the Western spirit. For such an aggregation, he seems to get on mighty well together. Members of the New York Motor Club

have arranged an "orphans' day," when they will take the inmates of the orphan asylums out riding in 1000 autos. In view of this kindness, it would be invidious to say that those who make orphans ought to help them. Four thousand pairs of check trousers belonging to Victor Hugo are said to have

been sold by an adriot Frenchman before the police interfered. It seems to us that those who bought the trousers should rejoice rather than consider themselves swindled; instead of second-hand clothing they have purchased new.

Much comment has been caused by the fact that Major Warner spent \$29.80 to get into the United States Senate. That doesn't seem such an excessive price to

The biggest diamond in the world cost To cents' carriage from South Africa to the London jewelers. It was malled as a registered packet in the ordinary way and morning's mail. However, when King Edward wanted to inspect the stone, \$615 was paid as premium on a special insurfine prize the mail bag would have been for a modern pirate, and what an appropriate baptism of blood for the stone would have been the sinking of the Cape liner that was taking it to England. Big diamondstseem doomed to histories of sormonplace days will except the "Culli-

The New York Commercial says dole-The idea of March has came and went, he forceful winds are blown and spent, and April showers awake the flowers and bring the landlord for the rent.

We haven't noticed any girls with the new S shape on Washington street. Perhaps it's too early in the season.

Frogs' legs are no longer poultry. The Board of General Appraisers now classifies them as "non-enumerated unmanu-Chadwick-"Cassie! Chadwick's factured articles." That's a long name for a frog's leg.

WEIX, J.

Canadian Credit.

New York Sun. Canada is elated over her latest financial transaction. She has recently floated in London the first issue of Grand Trunk Pacific Railway bonds, guaranteed by the Dominion Government, for the construction of the new transcontinental line. The issue was £3,000,000 3 per cents, and the price obtained was 25. This is ployes and his friends, regarded as an indication of the high standing of Canadian credit in the Lon-Not long ago Canadian Northern I per

Not long ago Canadian Northern 3 per cents, similarly guaranteed, found only an indifferent market, and it is reported that the underwriters have Been forced to carry about one-half of the Issue of £1,223,25. Some of this has recently been taken at the same figure as the Grand Trunk bonds. Grand Trunk Pacific 4 per cents, guaranteed by the company, were placed in February at 2014. placed in February at 2014.

The construction of this line will call for something like \$175,000,000.

What the Patient Needed.

"Mrs. Nagget." said the doctor, "your husband needs a rest. He must go to Europe for three months." splendid!" she exclaimed, "I'll be delighted to go there."
"Very good. You can go for three months after he comes back. That will give him six months rest."

If dayinght comes when hight is it dogs an case will fast:

Ast him if water runs downhill, if fire will make things bot, and he'll chirp up: "Mebbe it will; Mebbe—an' mebbe not."

Philadelphia Ledger.

STUDY OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY JEROME

Character of Man and Some of Pights He Has Waged-From an Article in World's Work.

opposing the renomination of ex-Mayor be one in mysterious Ragdad? Yet it is and I'm going to do it. D-- the consequences!"

> Imagine a square-chinned, graying man, built like a halfback (he never was one, for he broke down in college from over application to his studies), give him the mind and spirit implied by the quotation above, and you have the District Attorney of New York County in a sentence.
>
> If you aincerely desire to understand him, hold fast to the quotation. Those dozen words are very hear a complete explana-tion of Mr. Jerome and how he has come

When Mr. Jerome became District Attorney, January 1, 1962, after a spectacular campaign—spectacular in that he told the unalloyed 'truth—he took charge of the ficavicat criminal law practice in the world. His office handles about 13,000 cases a 'year. To do this work there are, besides himself, 30 lawyers and an executive staff of a hundred men.

His fight against the gamblers, which he has waged since he was a judge in Special Sessions, was an enterprise that Mr. Jerome need not have entered upon, for the suppression of gambling falls more properly within the province of the Pois often a good description of Western eloquence, especially forenzic elolice Department. But that it wasn't his job made no difference to Mr. Jerome. It wasn't being done, and it needed being done. That was enough for him: so be went at it. He thought that by strictly enforcing the law he could wipe out, or greatly diminish gambling in New York. But a couple of years of experience taught him that the law was useless. He raided scores of places, arrested He raided scores of places, arrested hundreds of players and keepers, but could get few convictions. The difficulty was that the players could not be made to testify against the keepers, for by so doing they would be testifying against themselves, and a witness cannot be forced to incriminate himself. Mr. Jerome does not know how to give up. Having dis-covered the law was useless, he promptly set about getting a law that was of some good. The measure he had introduced into the state Legislature made it impossible for a witness to refuse to testify on the old plea, by providing that in a gambling case a witnesses testimony could not be turned against him-

> By the beginning of 1905 Mr. Jerome had had the law affirmed and was preparing to resume his campaign against the gamblers after a year of non-aggression. Just before he was ready to open fire, the head of the Police Department, a most excellent that lent man but not a very excellent Chief of Police, had an unfortunate complacent mood, during which he announced that gambling houses in New York existed only in history. While this announcement only in history. While this announcement was still fresh, Mr. Jerome's guns began to go off. He subpoonaed a few of the most important gamblers, and in a heart-to-heart talk made clear to them that with the help of the new law he was certain to beat them. Did they want to fight, or did they want to surrender? If they would surrender be would surrender. If they would surrender, he would take no action against them. They decided to give up without a fight, to close their houses, and turn over their gambling paraphernalla. After this, it was not necessary to issue subpoenas. Mr. Jerome let it be known that he wanted to see the gamblers, and for the next two weeks they were constantly dropping in offer their surrender-not gratifying subject for the meditations of the Chief of Police, who had been unable to find a gambling house in New

his prosecution and conviction of Sam Parks and other walking delegates. An incident that occurred at the beginning of this campaign shows both his audacity and his power. The Central Federated Union, representing more than a quarter be his position, who of a million of union members in and his full development,

EXPERIMENT IN PUBLIC LIGHTING

We rarely get complete facts and figures in the case of experiments in municipal ownership.

An interesting exception is the case of the municipal lighting plant of Eigin, Ill. This has been in existence for 17 years. What is left of its plant has just been turned over to the local traction company on a contract to operate it for delivered at the London office with the about two-thirds what it cost the city. In order to protect the Council making this contract from criticism, the chairman of the finance committee prepared a stateance policy of \$2,500,000 granted for its ment for the cost of operation for the a team of centipedes were in training hour's absence from the bank. What a whole 17 years, which he furnished to Uniforms and the armor of the football the Electrical World and Engineer for publication.

The plant cost about \$25,000 and started with about 75 are lamps. The figures for running expenses include maintenance and betterment, though we see no charge row and crime, but perhaps these coma for interest on bonds or depreciation of \$100 worth of uniforms and shoes per plant. The latter probably comes in on man. the valuation put on the plant at the time of the transfer. In 17 years the number even in those days. Today this would not lambe increased to 37 and running expenses from \$10,000 to about \$28,000. The gear. total expenses for the 17 years were about \$308,000. The commercial revenue was a little over \$16,000 from incandescent lighting and incandescent lighting furnished

the city is estimated at \$12,000 Subtracting the revenue and the estimated present worth of the plant from the total expenditures, we get the netcost of service, which varies from \$71 to 396 per arc lamp per year, according to the estimated value of the plant. In place of this the city gets a contract with the traction company to operate the present lamps for \$8, with a lower sliding scale for an increased number and to furnish current for incandescents at a maximum of 20 and 15 cents for business houses and residents, sliding down to two-fifths of those rates.

The bargain looks like a pretty good being seen one and it is said to be approved by every one but the city electrician, his em

Cautious Uncle Si. Chicago News.

He don't allow that he'll commit He don't allow that ne'll commit
Himself to no exteni
On things most people would admit
Wos plain an' evident.
He winks when you start in to quiz'Twould aggravate a saintAn' then he says: 'Mebbe it is;
An' then-mebbe it sin't."

If daylight comes when night is through

William Travers Jerome, when a number around New York City, challenged certain of his friends were advising him against of his public remarks about corrupt labor opposing the renomination of ex-Mayor leaders, and asked him if he would come before their meeting and repeat "Sure, I'll go anywhere, that course would be his political elimination, replied: "It's the right thing, and I'm going to do it. D— the consenine men in ten against him. He did not assuage their anger. with him to say worse things to a man's face than he says behind his back, and he did not depart from his habit on this ccasion. There were fierce tilts. Jerome, smoking one cigarette after another, kept his temper and met all comers. In the end, he won the crowd, and when he left the hall there was an ovation.

> One of the strongest of Mr. Jerome's nany efforts has been to secure an amend ment to the present liquor tax law. The present law, by probiblting the opening of saloons on Sunday except such as have a sufficient number of guest rooms to out them into the class of hotels, has transformed some 1300 saloons into the far worse "Raines law hotels," breeders of vice and crime. But even three-quarters of the regular saloens do not observe the law. They may lock the front door, but the side door is always open Police "graft" on a targe scale is a di orceable law. Mr. Jerome holds that be wiped out, and the evils of illegal onen ing would be greatly reduced, by amend-ing the law so that Sunday opening from 3 to 11 P. M. should be legal. During the campaign of 1961, Mr. nounced in his speeches that he was go ing to do all in his power to secure the passage of such an amendment, and every year since he has brought a bill before the Legislature. The first year he went to Albany practically alone, but since then the sentiment for some form of Sunday opening has grown so rapidly that It is now an unorganized movement un-officiany headed by a great proportion of the most prominent divines, profession men -- business men of the city.

Mr. Jerome has set at naught all the tried rules for securing political advance-ment. He is independent to the limit of Before the campaign of last Fall, he was approached many times relative to being the Democratic candi-quite for Governor. His uniform reply was that if the candidacy were offered he might give it consideration, but he would not pull a single wire to get Judge Parker wanted him as the candate, and ex-Senator David B. Hill, Demo cratic boss of the state, called on Mr. Jerome supposedly to offer the nomina-tion provided he could bind Mr. Jerome to be a strict party man. Sensior Hill approached the matter with his charac teristic devious diplomacy, and finally reached the subject of Mr. Jerome's ambition. He impressed upon Mr. Jeroma that if he accepted the nomination as a strict party man, great would be his political and financial profit. Senator. itical and financial profit. Senator." Mr. Jerome returned, "I have no ambition to make money. My ambition in life is mainly confined to being a good man. When any one tries to take me high mountain and show me the treasures of the earth, there is just one answer I can give them, and that is—" and he ouded with a graphic equivalent for "Retro me, Sathanaa." This was hardly the speech of a "sufe" party man, and Mr. Hill carried his offer chewhere.

"When my work's done, I try to get as much fun out of life as I can." He gets a great deal, and it helps keep him young-on edge. He reads much consciol. ly history. Also he is fond of poetry-which seems a little incongruous in a man so practical, and so keen for facts, un-deniable facts. He golfs, drives an automobile, and has a workshop in his home unable to find a gambling house in New York.

At Lakeville, Coon, where be amuses himself by making sun-dials, compasses, clocks and other gimeracks as gifts for his friends. Mr. Jerome is 55, and is older labor leaders gained widespread fame by remarkable fact abo growing like a boy. When a man, already among the foremost of the country, is growing at such a rate one can but wonder where he will rank, and what will

COST OF COLLEGE SPORTS.

Ralph D. Paine, in Outing. In order to place If young men of Tale in the field against Princeton and Harvard last Autumn \$26,296.05 was spent, or more than \$2000 a head. To fit eight youths to row against Harvard, a test of 29 minutes, cost Yale \$15,626.85, or \$2600 a head, not counting the coxswain. This is boat racing at a cost of the best part of a thousand dollars a minute.

The football men were equipped with the greatest possible care. Their shoes alone cost \$1189, a bill for footgear which would indicate to the rank outsider that warrier cost \$3735.52, or nearly a hundred dollars for each of the squad. Hotel bills and meals away from the training table cost the Yale treasury \$539.42. Carriage hire involved an outlay of \$794. The base-ball squad required \$2378.13 worth of mer-chandise and sporting goods, or about

Monster Tramp of the Sea. Metropolitan.

The shark known as the elephant, bone and Basking sharp roams nearly all tem-perate scas. Its mouth is comparatively small and bears six or seven very small teeth, perhaps 300 in a row. The gill openings are enormous; the gill rakers long, close together and slender, recalling whalebone, hence the name, whale shark. The skin is rough, covered with short spines.

Where these monsters live in Winter is not known, but doubtless they roam the temperate and semi-tropic seas. In Summer they are gregarious, and are seen in schools lying on the surface seemingly asleep. They reach the New England coast in June and July, the Heb the Frith of Clyde in June and leave in July. On the Pacific coast they are found off Monterey Bay in July, large schools can readily be approached

Discipline in the Japanese Army.

The correspondent of the London Mail at Port Arthur describes an incident of the siege of the Fortress, when after a disastrous attempt to capture a Russian position, a Japanese reserve regiment was ordered to renew the attempt. Not a man stirred. The Major in command advanced alone, vainly calling to his men to follow. He was soon killed, and after a time the regiment, apparently struck with remorse, advanced to the assault, which completely failed. The regiment was sent back to the rear, punished with forced drills and compelled to listen to services in memory of its dead Major before it was allowed to go to the front

For the Swell Banquet.

Chicago Tribune. Caok—The best tenderloin you have furnished us for this evening is the toughest we've ever had in the house. Chef—All right. We'll put it in the menu as rhinoceres steak, and made it the piece de resistance.