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THE INTRICATE RATE PROBLEM. It would be one of the ironies of fate if the newly-created Washington Railroad Commission should prove the instrument by which the railroads will settle the very disturbing rate problem which they are now considering.

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gentleness or of Christian forbearance in the latest throating in Portland. We are continually being told that the world is growing better. Perhaps it is, but the wages of sin continue to be paid in the same old coin, and the brutal passions and instincts of animal man still lead to crimes as revolting as any that darkened the older pages of criminal history.

CONFERENCES AT THE EXPOSITION. A great school the 1905 Exposition will be. Not content with showing what farmers, and mechanics, and engineers, and painters, and sculptors, have done, are doing, and can do, thinkers are to be brought into conference.

THE SUPERLATIVE RAILROAD MERGER. The American people appreciate bigness; they like things on a large scale. Their fancy is surely gratified by the announcement that one huge corporation, with capital in stocks and bonds aggregating more than a billion dollars, is to gather up the New York Central, the Northwestern and the Union Pacific and its controlled lines, into one tremendous embrace.

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therefore had to go before his constituents for re-election. A contest is very rare under such circumstances, unless it is desired to force an issue for the sake of marking a point. This has now been done with a vengeance. Brighton had been a safe Conservative and Unionist seat for twenty years by a comfortable majority.

Now, indeed, this is funny. The Association of Architects of Portland says: "We hold that neither Mr. Wittenberg nor any other member of the School Board has any right to set himself up as a judge of a set of school plans, any more than we are judges of the quality of the crackers that Mr. Wittenberg bakes, or the kind of lawyers that Messrs. Williams and Beach, of the School Board, are."

San Francisco is \$5,000 musical, and expects to beat Chicago hollow before the brief season of grand opera closes. You bet the Coast is cultured and has money to spend in providing it.

Reference to the pending suggestion that the initiative be invoked to secure a law providing for the collection of taxes on lands principally owned by corporations which have been allowed to go absolutely or partially untaxed, a correspondent enforces the caution of the Oregonian against the passage by this means of a law conflicting with the statute of limitations and therefore not likely to be sustained by the courts.

This is a fickle world. Six months ago, Albert E. Mead, candidate for Governor of Washington, in swinging round the circle east of the Cascade Mountains, met with a cold, frosty reception, and was frequently insulted by the partisans of his chief antagonists, George Turner and Henry McBride.

The California Supreme Court says the "recall" is unconstitutional. The "recall" is a handy device by which dissatisfied constituents of a City Councilman or other public officer may displace the incumbent without adopting the usual process of impeachment.

A NINE-DAYS WONDER. San Francisco's genius expresses itself most fully in what may be called the stage management of the murder mysteries which periodically engross the attention of the city's press and inhabitants. Take, for example, the crime over which a Frenchman is now excited. A mutilated body is found in the street, and, through blundering on the part of the police, the man who had been seen carrying the parcel is permitted to escape.

It may be thought that the Standard Oil people, rich as they are, ought to have some measure of contentment. But from the tone of the remarks of Rockefeller, Dodd and Rogers, in reply to critics who question them on how they got "it," it seems pretty clear that these magnates of plutocracy are not having a moment's happiness at all in proportion to their wealth.

It is mighty easy to "run" newspapers in Oregon—that is to say, some of them. All they have to do is to wait for the Oregonian from day to day, and then carp and snarl and bark at it—not omitting, of course, to lie about it, which is perhaps even more easy than the rest.

By removing all restrictions upon liquor-selling and gambling, Nevada expects to gain largely in population. She must struggle with the law, for a portion of such population would she require to make her a great state?

Russia must look upon France's flirtation with Great Britain much as Japan looks upon Great Britain's flirtation with France. "Oh, these allies!" murmur the Czar and the Mikado.

The nation that shortens its sword lengthens its boundaries may have been true once upon a time, but Secretary Taft believes in lengthening the bayonet as much as possible.

Mr. Beveridge wants to be City Treasurer because he thinks "Mr. Werlein has had the job long enough." The difficulty heretofore has been to get Mr. Werlein to think so.

Again the deceased-wife's-sister bill is up in the British Parliament. It always remains a wonder why the British lady didn't marry the sister in the first place.

Standard Oil, as explained by Lawyer Dodd, is a benevolent institution, supported at great expense by the wealthy philanthropist, Mr. Rockefeller.

San Francisco is dividing its attention between Parafati and the latest murder mystery.

Another nail was driven in the coffin of the Ballou Ministry when the voters of Brighton decisively refused to return to Parliament Mr. Loder, who had just been named a Lord of the Treasury and

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Rev. Washington Gladden refuses to be Dodd-gasted. Away in Rome Henry Watergton's thoughts revert to last year's election. "Lord!" cries Mr. Watergton, "I hope Judge Parker is getting his just compensation in a big law practice. He was about all there was to it having any real merit. As for the rest, oil and water, cats, carrots and vinegar!"

In the House of Lords they are again talking about the deceased wife's sister. To avoid the possibility of a tantalizing situation young Englishmen should be careful to marry girls that have no sisters. Then when the girls become deceased wives, the widowers would have turned to new families for consolation.

San Francisco is \$5,000 musical, and expects to beat Chicago hollow before the brief season of grand opera closes. You bet the Coast is cultured and has money to spend in providing it.

District Manager Rock has disappeared from the Ken of the insurance company for which he worked, and State Manager Hard is looking for him.

Sophia Beck's photographs show that if she has a trim figure it's in the bank. The Milwaukee Wisconsin runs half a column of "Chicago Happenings." There are 11 items dealing with serious accidents, 6 persons found dead, 2 sudden deaths, 1 suicide, 1 death from shot wounds, 1 death from natural causes, 1 and 1 murderer sentenced. 1 Dear old Chicago!

Bellingham's mayor is reported to run an unofficial social bureau. Girls visiting the city are taken under the Mayor's care and nice young men are introduced to them. Result, in many cases, matrimony. This Bellingham is upbit, homes created and the Mayor's position made secure in many grateful hearts. It is too late for Mayor Williams to establish such an agency as a campaign move?

Some kinds of oil on the troubled waters may be very well, but Standard Oil seems to trouble them still further. With reference to the palendromic name of the Maine teacher-Nella L. Allen-mentioned the other day; two letters to the New York Sun are of interest. Both refer to a bakery in Yreka (Cal.). One says that the sign read:

YREKA BAKERY. The other letter says the sign said: YREKA BAKERY. Both are double palindromes, and the sign read the same from both sides of the window.

From Gresham comes "A Skrydgle to Spring," by E. L. Thorpe. We print a couple of typical stanzas (in the hope of saving the Gresham Gazette a job)—

Once more the hawk-back four / Make panama a hiss, / And the homestead spans the boy / With her old shiss. / The blackbirds have their bills, / The collectors, too.

Till at a checked note, / The rooster toots his horn; / And he's as out to vote / From night to morn; / And the little chickadees / Are left forlorn.

The reader must agree with Mr. Thorpe that these lines will give him a position beside the Sweet Singer of Skamokawa.

The Troy chief says that a Kansas girl calls her husband "Kuropatkin," because he never makes any advances. One wouldn't expect a man without wings to be slow at making advances.

It is astonishing women put up with their present clothes. Any animal with legs, if fettered with a pair of women's shoes, would eventually go mad. I should have supposed, a human figure with a certain long around it from the shoulder to the ankle, looks like a badly made postal pillar. The tail around your middle and you look like a sack with its neck in the wrong place. Bloomers are a most irrational, ridiculous and unbecomingly grotesque article of male and female's attire. Rosalind in her tunic and forestier's belt is charming; an opera house girl in tights and a corset is detestable. The dress of a woman with legs and without a corset she's charming; clad otherwise she ceases to be human.

Bernard Shaw is losing his grip. In the above extract he comes perilously near talking sense.

A Congregational church in Jersey City has a "pleasure hall," and a dancing class has been formed to make use of the hall. Evidently the pastor is a little uneasy about this innovation, for he has announced that only young ladies will be allowed. "The cakewalk, particularly, is forbidden," says an account of the affair. Just why the lancers should be stamped with ecclesiastical approval and the cakewalk barred as a devilish diversion is not easily understood by the layman, but doubtless there is some subtle virus lurking in the latter dance or it would not be banned by the New Jersey pastor.

Does the Devil Send 'Em? Memphis Appeal. We take colds we know not how, or where, or why. We have observed all the laws of health, yet we get them. We take medicine, yet it does not cure us. Suddenly the pestiferous things depart as mysteriously as they came.

Source of a Kipling Title. A reader of the Academy has lighted upon the source of the title of one of Mr. Kipling's most successful books, "Captains Courageous." The title will be found in the opening stanza of the 18th century song celebrating "Mary Ambree," the Amazonian heroine of the siege of Ghent in 1586.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S AMAZING ACTIVITIES

What He Has Done Since He Declared That He Would Not Be a Candidate for President Again.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—(Special to the New York World.)—President Roosevelt announced on election night that he would not be a candidate for re-election in 1908. Since that time his activities in the way of public addresses and state papers have been extraordinary.

November 12—In his speech at the unveiling of the Kaiser's gift statue of Frederick the Great Mr. Roosevelt said: "I accept it as the symbol of the ties of friendship which I trust as the years go by will bind even closer together the American and German peoples. There is a kinship of blood between the two nations."

November 22—Introducing the Rev. Charles Wagner, of France, author of "The Simple Life," to a Washington audience: "No religion can prosper if it exists when it becomes a republic of classes."

November 26—Made a flying trip to the St. Louis Exposition, and, although he made no speech, mingled candidly with the crowds.

December 6—Sent his message to Congress, in which he discussed in 11,000 words the problems of the National Railroad rates to a whipping post for the District of Columbia. Made no reference to the tariff.

December 15—Made an address at a prayer meeting at the Grace Reformed Church in this city. The prayer was: "We must show that we have been doers of the word as well as hearers."

December 24—Letter of November 24 made public in which the President protested against the smoke nuisance of an electric light plant near the White House and demanded that the National Board of Fire Underwriters be organized to enforce the smoke law of the District Commissioners.

January 1—Shook hands with 200 persons. Told them he was "de-light-ed." January 12—Spoke at the American Forestry Congress. Urged the saving of the forests.

January 13—Sent Congress a special message asking for a revision of the law creating the United States Forestry Service and suggesting plan for reorganization.

January 26—Attended the annual Winter dinner of the Gridiron Club and made a speech.

Preached at a Church Dedication. January 26—Preached at the dedication of the Lutheran Church at Vermont avenue and Fourteenth street. He said: "The Lutheran Church in this country is in very great power, now numerically and in the esteem of the people. It is one of our three greatest and most important National churches in the United States."

January 30—Spoke at anniversary banquet of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. He said: "At the present moment the greatest need is for an increase of the power of the National Government to keep the great highways of commerce (the railroads) open alike to all on reasonable and equitable terms."

January 30—Made the speech at Annapolis representing the diplomats to the graduation class of the Naval Academy. He said: "I should be ashamed to see this Nation play the part of a weakling."

January 30—Sent Congress a special message on the subject of divorce. He said: "The institution of marriage is, of course, a sacred thing."

LET US UNDERSTAND. PORTLAND, April 7.—To the Editor:—In your editorial of the 5th I see that you recanted the invitation, viz: The success of Socialism in America.

A move is now on in the Socialist party ranks here to advocate the public ownership of the Oregonian, but as the wool is being pulled from our eyes, I will do my best to prevent its advocacy at the coming municipal election.

As you are beginning to see through the cobwebs of capitalism, I send you a copy of "The Socialism, Empire and Science," hoping after you read it to see you at the Socialist meetings held every Sunday and Tuesday at 8 P. M. at 200

Knowing that you would be out of place in a Socialist hall without a Socialist button, I enclose one for you to wear. As best to prevent its advocacy at the coming municipal election.

At the very foundation of our social organization, and all influences that affect that institution are of vital concern to the people of the whole country.

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