BY CARRIER without Sunday, per week ... per week ... Funday included THE WEEKLY OREGONIAN. (Issued Every Thursday.)

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PORTLAND, THUBSDAY, MAY 18, 1905.

### THE MAYOR'S STATEMENT.

Mayor Williams makes a strong showing for his administration of city affairs. There have been scandals, but none have affected his immediate official family. He challenges his detractors to point out one dishonest or incomsetent person among his appointees. Who are they? Where does all this hubbuh about the Williams administration arise? How far must the Mayor be held accountable for every transgression, if there is any, committed by any other public official elected by the

Not long ago there were disclosure about the Tanner-Creek sewer. It was the duty of the City Engineer to draw the plans, to prepare the specifications to let the contract and to superintend the construction of this important public work. That he failed in it is a matter of public knowledge. The Mayor ne everything possible to repair a very had job. The sewer has been entirely rebuilt at the cost of the contractors' bondsmen. The purpose of the

too, by the Mayor. constructed according to contract; and he has ever contended that the price favor, was unreasonable. Dispute has arisen over the charge for extras which apparently the Executive board had no alternative but to allow. If the contracting company has been able to charge an excessive price for these extras, it has taken advantage of a system that has been in vogue in Portland for years. No private concern undertaking a large public enterprise expects to escape without paying a reasonable and even a generous price for work very well one. It would seem that the public has in the Morrison-street bridge a monument to the efficiency of the engi-

neers who have supervised its construction. So far as known, or believed, there is no flaw in any part of it. So much can scarcely be said for any other public work This is an era of reform in all public the public service. In the short time

wherein Theodore Roosevelt has been President of the United States a great upheaval has occurred in Washington officialdom. First, the Postoffice Department was shaken from top to botiom, and the leeches, thieves and jobbers who through many years in one way or another had fastened themselves on the Government service were either kicked out or put in the Penisentiary. Now the Interior Department. s undergoing a systematic renovation. When that is completed we may confidently expect that other branches of tention of the Administration's Inquisitors. Theodore Roosevelt is President of the United States at the time when dishonesty in public contracts, the the corruption of many Government officials are being brought to light. Noody believes, of course, that the President is in any way responsible for the original deplorable condition. But all know that he is prepared to support with the greatest possible vigor and determination all efforts to raise the official standard of honesty and efficiency.

In many cities throughout the United States there has been a general demand for a higher degree of decency and competency among public officers. It has clamor for a cleaner municipal adminstration that the honored Mayor of the city was in any way a personal beneficiary of any questionable transaction whatever on the part of any public ser-

It is known that Mayor Williams is a perfectly honest man. His motives are est traditional. His industry is both an inspiration and a lesson to all basis and a new crop which promi

tion, and he gives his personal attention to every matter that properly comes before the executive for consideration. What, then, is the basis of the opposition to the Mayor's re-election? It is mainly, if not wholly, that Mayor Williams at one time stood sponsor for what is commonly known as the "open The truth about the matter is that this system of raising revenue was adopted by the Council and by the Executive Board and was sanctio the Mayor as a temporary expedient. They thus raised revenue for the purpose of tiding over a serious crisis in the city's affairs.

It appears to be forgotten now that it was entirely an emergency policy It was never the purpose of the Mayor and the Executive Board to make it a permanent feature of the administration. It was defended by them only or the grounds of absolute public neces-sity. The crisis has been passed, and there is, so far as is observable at this time, no likelihood that any license system will be re-established. If it is not there is no difference whatever in the pub lic policies which the present administra-tion stands for and the opposition says it stands for.

SEA-LEVEL CANAL WITHOUT DELAY

A lock canal in four years or a sealevel canal in twenty years are the possibilities which M. Philippe Bunau Varilla, the French engineer, predicts for the Panama Canal. In an interestng communication to the French Academy of Science he explains in detail how the canal could be so constructed that it would be used as a lock canal at the same time that work was being carried on for a sea-level canal. The French engineer estimates that it will require twenty years to construct a sealevel canal. This is from five to eight years longer than the time estimated by most of the American engineers who have figured on the matter, but, even if it should be completed in the shortes period claimed by the most optimistic of these experts, the difference in time between the sea-level project and the lock canal would be so great as to withhold from the people for many years the advantage of connection of the waters of the Atlantic with those of the Pa-

There seems to be a general sentiment in favor of completion of the canal in the shortest possible time, and if the French engineer's plan for transformation of a lock canal into a sealevel canal without interfering in any way with the operation of the former is practicable, it should be adopted. The sen-level canal is generally favored for many reasons which have been previously set forth. The only point that has been raised against it is that the length of time necessary for its completion was so great that trade would be seriously hampered in the meantime A plan which would admit of the op-

eration of a speedily built lock canal while the sea-level canal was building ould relieve the latter of the principal objection that has been raised against The prime object sought in building United States to reach new trade fields and to facilitate the development of those already reached. If there was merit in the demand for this project, it is also of the utmost importance that the end sought be reached in the briefest time possible. No serious or perma nt shifting of the trade highways of the world is probable in four years, but in twenty years much can hanner

It is predicted that the opening of the canal will cause a material reduction in freight rates between the United States and the Far East. If this should prove true, and the business continues expand in its present ratio, the loss through delay in waiting for a water level canal would amount to more than original contract has been filled, though the cost of the canal. The plans of M. must be admitted with infinite trou- Phihppe Bunau-Varilla have been subble and controversy; but the taxpayer mitted to the President, and if they has lost nothing. On the centrary, he will bear the rigid investigation to has been fully protected, and protected, which they will be submitted we shall andoubtedly have a canal connection The Morrison-sireet bridge has been between the two oceans in a much shorter time than was expected when e very fine structure is the result. No the sea-level project came into popular

# AN ECCENTRIC WHEAT MARKET.

Pending the arrival of the chinch but the Hessian fly, rust and other pests which damage the wheat crop in the minds of the speculators and occasion-ally in the fields, it is becoming a serious tax on the energies of the bulls and the bears to rake up wheat news of a sensational order. On Monday John W. Gates, with the usual blare of trumpets and rattle of tom-toms, was pushed into the limelight as the promoter of a deal in July wheat such as would make the May deal look insignificant in comparison. The public had forgoten the time a few weeks earlier when Gates started out with a brass band and corps of 'spielers" to announce that he put May wheat up to \$2 per bushel; so t bought, and bought freely and quickly, for fear that the supply would be

exhausted before the money ran out, Under stress of this buying, the market bounded up a couple of cents. paused for breath, and then began to siide backward. The union members of the Gates brass band must have been on a strike, for not a note came from their direction, and for a brief period it seemed that sentiment and stuff and Portland paper and ignore Los Angeles. guff about what "Jawn" W. might do was to give way to rational conditions Then came the news that a German gunboat had anchored in an inrignificant harbor in Shantung, and that the Japanese were making horrible faces at the French. This news was fully as bullish as one of Uncle "Jeems" Wilson's bearish Government crop reports. and the trade interpreted it in the same way, and bought and bought, and then bought some more, so that when the big bell rang in the Chicago pit Tuesday. July wheat had been forced above 88

Yesterday the market was so heavy that it jettisoned nearly 2 cents per bushel. There was uncertainty as to whether it was kraut or conqu which had drawn the Germans into Halchou Bay. The Japs had concluded not to "rush in where angels fear to tread," and if John W. Gates had any opinion on the wheat market he kept it to himself. Wheat closed weak arou ventured to insinuate through all this | the low mark of the day, and, unless some new dream is smoked up in the "hop joints" of the city of strikes, there will be a further decline today.

If the American farmer who is en gaged in the business of growing real present high range of prices is adding any water to his financial wheel, he In this country is far above an export younger men. He makes the most to be at least up to the average is com-

buy wheat in India, the Argentine and Russia, and the two latter countries are reaking all previous records, the Russian shipments last week amounting to over 4,000,000 bushels, although this is earing the fag end of the season in that country. The American price has caused an increased output from Russia and the Argentine, but, if there is any surplus available from the 1905 rop, it will have to be sold at almost any price the foreigners see fit to give The foreigners have discovered a new source of supply, while we were forcing the cereal up to its present heights, and they are not in need of American wheat unless it is for sale at bargain prices.

BOYS, PARK BLOCKS AND BASEBALL

If the members of the Park Board efuse to grant the petition of two score boys for the use of one of the northern park blocks as a baseball park, they will be doing violence to their own best sentiment. Baseball is as necessary to the perfect development of an American boy as light and air Opportunity to play the game, whether view it as physical culture, pure and simple, or as the exercise of ceaseless activity which Nature planted in every healthy child, should on no ac ount be denied. The boy who doesn't eel the need of baseball isn't going to

e much of a man. Of course there will be effeminate obections, and these may come defore the Park Board officially. It must be admitted that the heart of a city is not an ideal playground, and it may be the boys will occasionally interfere with the rights of their neighbors; but in this particular instance, the petitioners pledge themselves to do their very best the way of deportment. They desire the chance to prove themselves worthy of the boon they ask. Hedged in by the self-imposed conditions, the Park Board ought to give consent. If unortunately, the boys fail to observe due decorum, the permit can be canceled without notice.

In their eagerness to enjoy a vested right, the boys, we fear, have promised too much. Note their own words which have been placed on file: "Neither will we tolerate bullying, quarrelling or fighting." Now, they've got to have an This situation will probably develop at least once in every game; The batter and the fielded ball reach first base at the same instant-umpire calls "Out." Do these petitioners expect Dr. Ellot or Colonel Hawkins to believe that the nine at the bat will join in hosannas to the umpire and subscribe to a loving cup? Situations provocative of quarrel may be multiplied indefinitely. Mayor Williams knows. He goes to the league games every Saturday. But a boy who won't quarrel and occasionally shoot out his fist over injustice, real or imaginary, is a sissy. In all kindness, we suggest that the boys ask permission to withdraw the word "quarrel." Even a Port-

land boy is only human. If the action of these boys shall move other boys in other neighborhoods to ask for like privileges, a good purpose There ought to be public baseball field under police regulation in every square mile of Portland's territory. We should like to see some one, before it is too late, win the gratitude of future generations, by dedicating one of the double blocks in Couch or Goldsmith's Addition to the National game. There is small prospect for a park on level ground, part of which could be devoted to field sports, as, for example, Golden Gate Park, in San Francisco: therefore the more necessity here for plots such as the boys have asked for at Couch and North Park streets.

Let the members of the Park Board deny the petition and they will be railway train service is the inaugurabranded by the inhabitants of Boyville as men who do not love their kind; as and Puget Sound. Had the Northern among those who have forgotten. The Pacific put on a through train or relads will want the board to read the concluding lines of James Montague's verses, published recently:

Again run, shout, de ten men's work, until the fading day
Strewed shadows on the springy grass so
thick you couldn't play.
Youth, life, hope, health and gentleness—
you must have passed them all
Upon the road, unless you thrill with those
brave words: Play Ball!

# OREGON LUMBER AND THE PANAMA

That the first effort of the new Cana Commission to secure lumber at the lowest obtainable prices should be a failure-even a flasco-is to be much regretted. Whether the fault be due to the ignorance of Major Galligher, the purchasing agent of the Commission, as to centers of production on the Pacific Coast, or the omission of Portland as a probable source of supply be due to similar ignorance in still higher quarters, there is no means of determining. This first quantity, of 26,000,000 feet, is only a circumstance to what will be required by the Commission. Still it is most disappointing that all the advertising of Oregon that has been done for the last year or two, and especially during this last year, should have failed to reach its destination in the official mind. To advertise twenty-three days ago for tenders for lumber in the San Francisco paper, ignoring Portland, would be about as sensible as to adver tise for a large supply of lemons in the

Certainly some Oregon people may and do read the papers of the California metropolis, but it would be the merest accident for the advertisement in question to catch an Oregon eye. The best proof is that neither direct nor indirect notice of the chance to bid has reached any of our official bodies, or any of the lumber companies composed of alert leged by Major Galligher for refusing to extend the time for bids is curious It may be "inexpedient" so to dothe word savors dangerously of red tape. If a private firm came suddenly cheapest source of supply of a most necessary article was being closed to them because they had falled to insert the opportunity to tender in the direct further that a short time would insur fresh tenders being put in-and also that there was no legal or business dif-ficulty in the way of time extension how quickly would the order be given! The Commission may be reminded that they are now beginning to make

deal" it was confident of receiving. Atlantic ports are not the only ones that require watching to keep malmed, the halt, the blind and the eign shores to become a burden upon American thrift. Within a few days

like the present will tend to shake the

confidence of the public in the "square

been discovered among the passengers from the same place, seeking asylum

cile to either class, which, of course, should not be done, the infant class is far preferable to the uged. Under proper conditions children will, in a few ears, become self-supporting, with promise later on of becoming wealth producers. The old people will, on the contrary, become more helpless, if pos-sible, year by year, and from first to last will be a public charge or almoners of private bounty. Pity for helpless human creatures must necessarily stop short of assuming the charge, even upon Dowle's guarantee, of the penni-

Every farmer in Oregon should send to the Agricultural Experiment Station at Corvailis and secure a copy of a pamphlet recently published on the sub ject, "Poultry Under Confinement," As said in the bulletin, which has been published for free distribution, there seems to be little danger from an oversupply of poultry or eggs in the principal markets of this state. On the con trary, the quantity of poultry and eggs imported each year shows that there is an under supply, and that there is room for the expansion of the poultryraising industry in Oregon. The purpose of the new bulletin is to show the financial returns from a small flock of poultry kept under confinement, the percentage of eggs hatched, chickens frown to marketable age, and the proportion of the sexes. No attempt is made to give full instructions concerning the care of poultry, but a brief statement is made of the manner in which a flock of thirty fowls was cared for so that they made a net return of nearly \$1 per fowl per year.

The first drowning of the season among the Astoria fishermen is reported, the breakers on Peacock Spit claiming for a victim Ole Strand, a voune Norwegian who was serving his first season on the river. There is something In the angry roar and hiss of the breakers which curl over the spits at the mouth of the river that strikes terror to the heart of the novice, but the danger affects not the average bar fisherman, and undoubtedly the tide following the one which swept Strand into eternity found some other fearless fisherman drifting right into the taws of the same eath trap. They are a hardy and fearess race, those descendants of the Vikings, but the death that lurks in the breakers is no respecter of bravery or fearlessness; so these trugedles of the sea will continue as long as the desire for a big catch lures the fishermen too close to the bar.

The fair land of Poland, immortalized n Balfe's "Bohemian Girl," will no onger be "torn by the hoof of the ruthess invader," nor will the oppression of the Czar make life burdensome to the No more radical reform has ever been instituted in any of the Czar's possessions than that which he has just granted to Poland and the Baltic provinces. All the religious and business privileges for which the Polish people have been fighting for years are granted, and this long step in the right direction may be the forerunner of a reform that will yet lift Russia out of the rut in which an arrogant aristocracy has so long field her.

The Southern Pacific is to put on a train leaving Eugene in the morning and returning from Portland in the af-This is a convenience which has long been denied the citizens of one of the largest cities in the state, and it vill be appreciated and well patronized. Another long-overdue improvement in tion of a fast service between Portland many years ago, the electric road from Puget Sound to Portland would be much farther from a reality than it now is.

A herd of range horses being driven through the streets of New York were stampeded at Sixtleth street and West End avenue, creating great excitement. Mention is made of the incident in order that "Constant Reader," "Veritas" and the other correspondents who have recently complained in these columns about the provincialism of Portland in permitting stock to be driven through the streets of our city may learn that "there are others." The practice is not to be commended, but in this respect Portland does not seem to be eithe better or worse than other cities.

President Robbins, of the Armou car line, denies that the Armours control the transportation of packinghouse products in private cars. It is merely impossible for other firms to

A temperance hotel is announced as the latest of Portland's business activities. The traveling public will be interested to know whether the leasees will practice temperance in the price meals and rooms.

By allowing bids upon canal supplies to be made by all comers, the Commis sioners have made themselves highly unpopular with the firms that would otherwise have had a cinch.

St. Petersburg thinks that Rojestven sky has made a "dash for the Pacific. "dash," but eight knots doesn't seem quite high enough.

Schumann-Heink, the singer, mother of eight children and widow since last November, is said to be married again. Why not? No family is complete with-

The "decisive battle of the war" has

"imminent" in Manchuria for

more than a year, and the "great sea fight" bids fair-to be "imminent" as War of 1812, will be buried today. He saw the last invasion of American territory, and probably none alive now

Don't give alms to any ablebodied beggar, male or female, so long as the

will see another.

Eleven yachts are off on their race win, and may that one be an American

At this late date Russia admits the

### NOTE AND COMMENT.

Klaus J. Steiner, the young Pittsburg nan whose love letters to the number of were brought into court during breach-of-promise action, was quite a de-voted lover. When the girl, who later hit him for damages, promised to marry him, Steiner "promised to quit smoking at once in order to purify himself against the time that he would kiss me," testified the plaintiff. And such devotion was made

Apropos of recent cyclones, the Hartord Times remarks: "Go West, young nan, and blow up with the country.

explaining their retirement from Mukden. They say it wasn't really a Japanese vic ese victory, but it wasn't a Russian de

say the New Haven Congregational mininters of Rockefeller's gifts. And that says about all there is to be suld.

Hood River is doing its share to brighten the world and cheer the worldlings. The strawberry is the greatest agent of optimism, and if it only had mint's capacity for combining with other drinks than sods, it would be the chiefest product of the soil.

A young woman in the East has just recovered damages from an express company which lost her suitcase. She established to the satisfaction of the court that the following articles were packed in the

One foulard silk dress, one ponges One foulard silk dress, one ponges shirt-waist suit, one silk gingham shirtwaist suit, one brown lawn dress, two white Persian lawn waists, one white mull evening dress, one black silk coat, three-quarter length; one white silk knitted shawl, one white lawn dress skirt, one fancy lawn apron, one white dimity tes jacket, one white madras shirt-waist, one brown linen shirtwaist, one white pique shirtwaist, one madras Gibson shirt-waist, four white muslin petticoats, four cor-set covers, three pairs muslin drawers, four silk net vests, three cotton not vests, one silk net vests, three cotton net vests, silk net vests, three cotton not vests, one laws Empire wrapper, three muslin night-dresses, eight pairs black liste thread hose, one corset waist, one sbony mirror with silver trimmings, one gold hat brush, one silver nail brush, one silver tooth brush, two and a half yards black and blue satin ribbon, four nair yards black and blue sails ribbon, four inches wide; one dozen lines hand-made lace-trimmed handkerchiefs, three pairs kid gloves, one pair long white silk mitu, one gold locket and chain, one gold brooch set with turquoise and diamonds, one dozen fancy collars and stocks, two point lace ties, one point lace

And man is proud when he gets more than two shirts and a collar into a suit-

After reading a column editorial in the Coos Bay Harbor, we confess to an almost uncontrollable desire to make for the Coos Bay country as fast as steam and team can take us. "Let us set a man down on Coos Bay," says the Harbor, "with nothing else in the world but an ax, a gun and fishing tackle. He build his own boat and log cabin. He will find employment enough in logging camps or on dairy farms to get money enough to buy powder, sugar, coffee and auch other luxuries as he may crave. Or he can dig clams or net salmon and sell them." Listen to the catalogue of good things-all free:

From the first of May there is a succession of wild berries till the frost comes in De-cember. First come these fuxurious yellow salmon berries. There are dewberries, blackraspherries, strawberries, for years on nothing but huckleberries.

These berries all grow wild and are free for the picking. But better still is to have a little plot of ground and cultivate them.

The logan berries can be added, and the

The logan berries can be added, and the atrawberries improve with care.

And on this plot of ground one can grow almost every vegetable known to the temperate zone. If one wishes to live luxuriously and cheaply, too, this is the country.

There on the hillsde a man can plant an orchard where he can grow nearly every fruit except peaches. If he have a protected nock where the sun shines in he can growmelond and grapes. There are a thousand of

If a man wishes to lead a hermit's life here is the place. He can go off in the mountains and live on game. He will find elk. deer, bear, ducks, geese and other game.

If he wishes sea food he has everything except the Eastern cyster. There is nothing finer than rock cyaters or rock clams. The clams, the crahs, the mussels, the quohogs are found in abundance. That royal fish, the chinock salmon, is the finest food fish in the world. Or the mountain trout may be as tempting to our hermit.

In addition to all this one has the most equable climate in the world. Here is a garden of wild flowers, the most

Here is a garden of wild flowers, the most

brautiful that bloom. Here is aesthetic charm and health awaiting the cettler. Happy Coos Bay! Bring out the ax, the gun and the fishing tackle; we are off to

an article on "Why Is Browning Popular?" The answer to that question is

Dublin is to honor the memory of Thomas Moore by removing the Collegestreet statue of the poet. The statue is so inartistic that it is an offense to the poet's admirers. This is a refreshing change from the usual course. When a poor fellow dies, a subscription is taken up and some public place is disfigured with a hideous statue. London is full of such abominations, and from the rate at which we are progressing American cities will soon be in the same condition.

Chicago parents who tell their children to "strike" at school evidently want to perpetuate an honorable custom

Governor Folk says that each man obeys only the laws he himself approves This course is fully in accord with Hedonic Americanism, to say nothing of individualism, which is so highly valued by the majority of the Nation

married," says the Coos Bay Harbor "who has woods full of rhododendrons." no influence upon the man who had just

Has a poet the right to read his poem to his wife? This is a question of great moment to all poets, and especially to Spring poets, and it is satisfactory to learn that the wife must submit to the read-ing, or at least is not justified in assailing ber husband. A Chicago poet began reading some inspired verses to his wife at the breakfast table, and she, instead of murmuring, "Lovely, heavenly," jabbed the poet's arm with a fork. A fine of \$10 was imposed upon her by a poet-

"Nothing makes a man feel so down-nearted," observes the cigar store philos-opher. "as to come home from paying the first coal bill of the winter and find his vife looking over a pile of Summer resort, sterature."

### **GREAT BENEFITS OF THE PARCELS POST**

Why It Has Not Yet Been Made a Prominent Feature of Our Post-office Service—Express Companies Have Prevented its Insuguration. Eithert Hubbard, in May Philistine.

One great economic betterment that | were lodged with the Postoffice Dethinking people in America are asking

for is the parcel post. What is the parcel post? I'll tell you. It is an extension of the business of the Postoffice Depart-

by express companies shall be done by the Postoffice Department. Gradually the Postoffice Department in all civilized countries has grown until it is now the best example we can name of a socialistic betterment. It works for all, and no matter how rich or how influential you are you

with the express companies, how ever, it is different—if you know how, you can participate in the perquisites. Express rates are arbitrary, changeable and very often towns that are on the line of the American Express one day awake the next morning to find themselves sold out to the Wells-Fargo. Places we once could send packages o at a single rate now require a ouble.

There is not a civilized country on earth that divides up its Postoffice business with express companies as we

Why we as a people pay tribute to the panies? express companies, I do not know. There is not a single valid argument that can be put forth for their exist-ence. The Postoffice Department belongs to the people—to all the people. We delegate carriers and agents to transport our letters. But packages send to Congress to make above four pounds we plously give into the hands of private corporations who the Republican party ca have no direct interest in the people peyond the desire to exploit them

It is as if my own boys could and badly. an hour, but instead of letting them everything in his shop was "just as do it. I hire it done by a corporation

or twenty cents an hour.
No one thinks of asking for free postage, but many of us use express franks—possibly this throws a little light on our opposition to the parcel

Things sent by registered mail are safer than if sent by express, because the penalty for rifling mail is much more severe than for appropriating express matter. You can monkey with Tom Platt, but you cannot play the asme game with your Uncle Samuel. We now have a postal treaty with elgium which allows that country to Belgium which allows that country mail packages to the United States for at home. Moreover, the limit in weight of the puckage is 26 pounds, not four. So you see we really have the parcel post now, but to avail ourof it we have to go over to

Selgium to mail our packages. When John Wanamaker, the who inaugurated the one-price system. and the greatest merchant of his time, States, he was asked his opinion of the parcel post. "Splendid," was his reply. "splendid—I wish we might have it here!" "Weli, Mr. Wanamaker, why cannot you inaugurate it?"

"There are five insurmountable ob-cles." "Will you name them, please?" "First, there is the American Express Company; second, the United States Express Company; third, the Adams Express Company; fourth, the Wells Fargo Express Company; fifth.

purcel post. Sixty-nine per cent of our population lives in cities of 10,000 and under. Sixty-nine per cent of our population is urban or suburban. We want the parcel post.

Tom Platt plays Mephisto and keeps the stage walting while he stuffs his weasel skin.

Soon Tom Platt will be consigned to Limbus—he blocks the gaugway.

Express companies practically serve only one-third of the people. The rest

of us they prey upon.

The rural free delivery has educated

the party that inaugurated it. Every good thing begins as something else, and no one seemed to anticipate the rural free delivery would be an object lesson in applied Socialism.

No gooner had the rural carriers commenced their tasks of carrying mail than the people along their routes began asking them to do errands.

Instead of 40 farmers going to town to buy 40 spools of thread, one man, the mail carrier, with his little wagon, and the business. This usaful servant did the business. This useful servant of Uncie Sam besides carrying letters and newspapers, carried telegrams, thread, binder twine, sugar and sacks of flour. In many instances his busi-ness increased so that he drove two horses instead of one, and had a wagon

that could carry a ton.

All he officially had to do was to get over his route within a certain time and deliver and gather his mail. Beyond this the department made no

But soon the express companies saw what he was doing. Sears, Roebuck & Co. shipped him goods by freight and he parceled them out along his

WORK ON THE CANAL.

Chief Engineer Wallace in Harper's

# RADIUM AS A REMEDY.

Weekly. The work done on the Ishmus during the past nine months is more significant in the fact that it is largely preparatory that hopes of what the remedy will

in the fact that it is largely preparatory to the work that is to come. Engineering parties are covering the entire Isthmus, making surveys and checking the French data-mapping and surveying the streams and finding out the discharge of the various water-courses, in the Chagres River particularly; taking borings to determine the character of foundations available for dams, and determining the geological formation of the Isthmus along the canal line. This work is being done to verify the data which was found in the French archives and to secure additional infor-

partment during the mouth of March there were 5000 men employed. In this force are 700 Americans—civil engineers.

there were 500 men employed. In this force are 700 Americans—civil engineers, clerks, foremen and mechanics—men of the higher grades and directing operations, including steam-shovel men and trainmen. There are 100 native artiaans—machinista, carpenters, bricklayers and other skilled artisans—composed of Jamaics negroes, Spanish, Central-American peons, all classes of labor other than Americans.

In addition to this, in the sanitary department—draining swamps, clearing jungle and work of that character, and serving as officials of the zone government, police force, etc.—there are practically 2500 men. This force of 1500 men, under the auspices of the Isthmian Canal Commission, is increasing daily. For instance, in the Culebra excavation a new steam-shovel is installed about every two weeks. This means more cars, more engines, more crews.

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The force engaged in the canal requires extensive housing. In the architects' department there are \$64 men engaged in planning, rebuilding and repairing houses. That work is being pushed as fast as the men can be employed to do it, and as fast as the materials can be obtained from the United States—where most of the material of all sorts comes from.

An order was issued that carriers

should not carry packages that were eligible to mail, unless such packages were stamped. This cut out all packages that weighed four pounds or less—all such had to be stamped. But the carriers still carried bags of flour, dogs, calves,

and occasionally led horses. They also carried telegrams, but on each placed a 3-cent stamp, making it a letter. But behold, on July 1, 1804, an order went out that no carrier should carry anything that was not strictly mail

Then the furmers howled, and they will how! more. They will how! until they get their parcel post. Why shouldn't the carriers serve the

people by carrying anything the people need or want? And nobody can tell why excepting Tommy Mephisto Platt But many of the local merchants realize that the rural free delivery is a various ways served them by deliver ing goods to their customers. That leaves Tom Platt alone as a kicker against the parcel post. What good are the express com-

None at all. Everything they do and every service they render could be done safer, better and one-half cheaper by the Postoffice Department.

We, the people, pay tribute to Platt, because 51 per cent of the men we send to Congress to make our laws The Republican party can a We pure self-defense, if for no other rea-

We want the parcel post and want it

Political parties, like department

He had nothing that was genuine— only imitation labels and pinched trade marks. He worked both ends against the middle and was a friend to everybody and therefore a friend

Had he come out good, stiff, strong and definite on anything he might have stood a chance of winning. For instance, had he made "parcel

nost" the Democratic battle cry

post" the Democratic battle cry, and put forth all of the invincible and un-answerable arguments that are in the armory of truth for this particular bet-terment, he might have won out. But now in spite of Plute Platt, who a jess rate than we can send packages is a Republican (I trust this fact will not be denied), the Republican party will have the honor and the credit of extending and enlarging the Postoffice Department so as to give the people the

parcel post.
The people form the state. What they want they will get. When the people get wise enough to know what they want and ask for it in the third will get the third will enter wait, they will get it. Uncle Sam in time will answer all it.

of our prayers.

Benjamin Franklin was the first
Postmaster-General in America, and
when he was sent as Ambassador to France, his son-in-law, Richard Bache. was appointed, at Franklin's request, to the place. In Franklin's time all mail was carried on the star route plan. that is by contractors. This continued long after railways were installed, and one railroad bid against another just Wells Pargo Express Company: fifts.

the Southern Express Company."

If we ask for the parcel post, and ask in faith, we will get it. Work and pray—hustle and supplicate—there is nothing finer.

Farmers everywhere pray for the parcel post. Sixty-nine per cent of our population lives in cities of 10,000 our cent of way. The railway mail service has the coach owners had done. Until 1876 it took two days for a letter to go from New York to Buffalo, owing to the delays in sorting at Albany and Syracuse. Up to that time all mail for Chicago and the West was caried to the Buffalo Postoffice and there were way. changed all this. but 75 authorized 75 authorized postoffices in All taverns had their little of boxes, and the place where you go your toddy, you received your mail. England the coffee-houses were re

private postoffices. In 1863, in America the rates of postage were based upon the distance the letters had to be carried. In that year Raigh Waldo Emerson wrote

his journal:
"I have written several letters to our dear Henry Thoreau, who is in New York, and I am now on the lookout for some one who is going there, as postal rates are not for poor people." In 1860 the mails contained nothing but written or printed matter—all merchandise was left to the express companies, and this is why and how they have grown so

In 1865 there were only 64 railway are over 7000.

The first free delivery was inaugurated in 1883; and the money-order sys-tem one year later. In 1873 the frank-ing privilege was done away with excepting for strictly Government busi-ness; before that Congressmen used to send their laundry work home by

I have entered into this detail for the benefit of my orthodox friends and neighbors who think that the postoffice system allus wuz; who believe because a thing is good it is good enough, and who disclaim the law of evolution, not and he parceled them out along his realizing that nothing is permanent but change and that the supreme mark.

The express companies and the local of wisdom is the willingness to replace merchants combined and complaints an excellent thing by a better one.

Chicago Record-Herald.

a cure for cancer have recently been made in this country and in Europe accomplish have suddenly become high. In a Stuttgart hospital a number of cases of lupus have been cured by the use of a radium solution, with which the diseased flesh has been coated, and several interesting experiments are now being made in New York, as well

as in other cities.

The X-ray was the predecessor of radium in such experiments, and good results seemed to be possible from it. When radium was discovered and it was learned that of the three kinds of rays given off by the new metal one was very closely akin to, if not identical with the X-rays, the use of radium naturally suggested itself, esradium naturally suggested itse

At first the radium was inclosed in a small glass tube, but it was found that the glass cut off some of the rays, and so an aluminum or platinum tube was used instead. Of late a solution of was used instead. Of late a coulton of radium sait has been used to coat a red, disk, or open tube, and a coat of collodion has been painted over it to protect it. The rod can be brought into contact with cancerous growths, as, for instance, those in the throat, with comparative case Surface growths can be painted with the solution discoult.

rectly.

The suggestion was made several years ago that radium might be useful in the treatment of consumption for the destruction of the bacilli. No good the destruction of the bucilli. No good experiments on this line have been reported, but Dr. Lieber, of New York, has prepared an apparatus by which a current of air can be driven through a tube coated with radium and theme into the jungs. It is hoped that the emanations of the radium will be deposited on the diseased surface in such a way that their curative powers can be fested.