

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Or., as second-class matter. SUBSCRIPTION RATES. INVARIABLE IN ADVANCE.

THE WEEKLY OREGONIAN. (Issued Every Thursday.) Weekly, per year, \$1.50. Daily, per week, 25 cents.

HOW TO REMEDY. Send postage money order, express order, coin or currency or your local bank's check, or check on the sender's bank.

EASTERN BUSINESS OFFICE. The S. C. Beckwith Agency-New York, rooms 419-421 Tribune building, Chicago, 8-10-12 Tribune building.

KEPT ON SALE. Chicago—Ardurion Annex, Postoffice News Co., 178 Dearborn street. Dallas, Tex.—Globe News Dept., 260 Main street.

Portland, Friday, May 26, 1906. COLD-BLOODED FINANCE. We have been told by the organ of plutocracy in Portland, which, of course, should have exclusive information on such a subject, that the Portland Consolidated Railway system is to be sold soon on a capitalization of six million dollars.

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All this is teaching the people rapidly that the operators, promoters and speculators, who are making millions on "franchises" and pocketing the money, while professing devotion to high ideals of morality and citizenship, and even to a lofty altruism, are properly to be watched and curbed in every attempt to make a profit. Also, that there is no reason why such as these should be permitted to make millions out of the public, for use or for sale of the utilities and opportunities that belong to the public already.

Talk about morality in municipal affairs. Here it is, or here is the field of it, in highest degree. What are we to do? We are to do these vast usurpations and exploitations?

It is to this danger of one of the most horrible and agonizing deaths imaginable that every parent exposes his child by allowing it to handle the three infernal explosives mentioned above. Nor is the father himself to be spared by "getting off" these explosives. Was liable to danger, since the deaths resulting from lockjaw reported after the last Fourth of July were the work of these infernal explosives which had acted as "masters of ceremonies" for the edification of their families in home-displays of fireworks. The slightest wound, the merest abrasion of the skin, was found to be sufficient opening for the fearful germ to which to lodge itself. If we are so wedded to our idea of making noise on the Fourth, if we feel that we cannot get our so-called patriotism in any other way than by a method which shows such utter disregard for others—and among those others are men, women and children, the sick, the young mothers, and above all the mothers-to-be—at least let us, for Heaven's sake, be rational and not turn our holiday into a scene of terror.

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The greatest elements of danger have been found to lie in these three explosives: First—The toy pistol, which shoots blank cartridges. Second—The toy cannon. Third—The giant firecracker, or the "cannon-cracker," as it is called.

The blank cartridge used in the average toy pistol is made of a mixture of powder, glass and other ingredients. It is not a simple matter to make a toy pistol absolutely safe, and it is not a simple matter to make a toy cannon absolutely safe. The danger is that the child will be able to handle the toy pistol, and the cannon firecracker, that at least would be a step in the direction of ordinary safety, and a step farther away from a day now chiefly known as a day of homicide and a disturbance of the peace.

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of all business-houses receiving or arranging for deliveries of goods by non-union drivers or employees. The reply was "no law which prevents a sailor from engaging in longshoremen's work, there is no law which prevents the longshoreman from performing the duty of a sailor; there is no law which prevents a union teamster from abandoning his work, and there is no law which prevents a nonunion teamster from taking it up.

All of these people have the right to labor or not to labor, as they see fit. None of them have the right to prevent the others from laboring where, when or at what wage they choose. This is a free country, and law and order, liberty and equality, must prevail, or our boasted superiority over the despotic monarchies of the Old World will be meaningless.

Antwerp was not a very good seaport when her citizens first began the work of improving the harbor, but the money was well spent, and the port has since grown so rapidly that the good work is being continued. A bill has been submitted to the Belgian Parliament providing for harbor works which will cost \$48,000,000. In addition to this the bill provides for complete reorganization of the defenses of the port, at a cost of \$21,600,000. All of the money that has ever been expended on the Port of Portland looks decidedly insignificant in comparison with such enormous sums as these, but the country tributary to Portland is more than twice as large as that tributary to Antwerp, and some day Portland will be made a better port than Antwerp with one-tenth the expenditure made on the Belgian metropolis.

River and harbor improvement is not yet understood in this country as it is in the Old World, but its value will some day be appreciated.

Admiral Roltzky is said to be in disgrace at St. Petersburg. Like General Kuropatkin, he has not been able to meet the victories expected in the Far East with the odds against him. These odds are by no means confined to the superior advantages possessed by the Japanese in patriotism, numbers and proximity to the base of supplies, but these elements have also been reckoned with. The preponderating force against them has consisted in the inadequate commissary system and the official rottenness that literally permeates the army and navy of the Czar.

A General and Admiral who can win victories in Manchuria and the China Sea against the odds will be a great asset in his station. For such a commander the perplexed and distracted Emperor of Russia is looking. If he finds them, Oyama and Togo may be overwhelmed by the heavy forces that are being marshaled against them.

The attempts of an unfortunate wheat "bull" in St. Louis to depreciate the value of Oregon wheat by claiming that it was inferior to a corresponding grade of Illinois wheat have come to naught. Still was brought by this speculator to prevent delivery of the Oregon wheat on contracts which he had made, and the courts have decided against him. The State Grain Inspectors and the Illinois Railroad and Warehouse Commission both passed on the quality of the Oregon wheat, and the court, finding nothing wrong with the grading, ordered the man who bought contract wheat to accept the Oregon grade. This decision will be eminently satisfactory to Oregon and Washington wheatgrowers, although it is not surprising. Wheat that is good enough for Oregonians is good enough for any speculator that ever went "long" or "short" on a market.

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OREGON OZONE.

Tainted money. Tainted minds. Tainted things. Tainted bodies. Tainted breath. Tainted life and Tainted death. Tainted pictures. Tainted paint. Everything is Full of taint!

Tainted books. Tainted boots. Tainted Christians. Tainted clouds. Tainted glory. Tainted grain. Tainted light and Tainted air. Is there anything that ain't Full of many Kinds of taint?

Tainted churches. Tainted schools. Tainted families. Tainted fables. Tainted follies. Tainted freaks. Tainted freers. Tainted creaks; And a-Fridays, If you wish, You can feast on Tainted fish!

Rare Ben Jonson has been dead and buried in Westminster Abbey for 200 years, but the world not yet has learned to spell his name. Let it be remembered that Mr. Jonson, being strictly British, dropped his "s." (Dear Mr. Comstock, kindly refrain from calling him Ben Jonson again, as you did yesterday in this column, and when we must personally the undersigned will buy a mint julep—for the foreman—if you will indicate where the mint grows.)

In the Evening