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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JUNE 5, 1503.

PARTISAN INSINCERITY.

among the most intense partisans Oregon are the Democratic politicians who are saying there can be no party issue in the election of a Mayor of Portland. They say this only because they know their own party is a minor ity party here and can't elect a Mayor except on false pretense. Their candidate, Dr. Lane, nevertheless, is a Democrat, was nominated as a Democrat, and will be a Democratic Mayor if elected, just as George Chamberlain, elected under similar pretense of nonpartisanship, is a Democratic Governor from skin to bone, and from bone back to skin again,

The allegations against the administration of Mayor Williams are mostly of a triffing nature. Such as are seri ous, as alleged by the grand jury in its published report, in no way or degree affect him. It is admitted on all sides that in character and conduct he is above reproach. His honesty and his full devotion to his sense of public duty no one has ever questioned or low questions. His character has stood out these fifty years as one of the grandest in Oregon, and his services and his fame are among the permanent heritages of the state.

But fault-finding is an easy expedies of a combination in local politics, which has an intense Democratic partisanship for one of its factors-though disciniming it-and an envious, malicious and carping spirit on the part of a group of disgruntled Republicans for another Who are the people of this combination, that they should lay claim to be 'the best citizens," moved by higher desire for good and efficient government then could actuate others?

In every municipal government there will be something that criticism can attack. In most cases, as in the present one, the main motive of such attacks is the desire to "get in." It is The basis of the present effort to defeat Mayor Williams is the partisan desire of the Democratic managers of the city and state to win a further advantage for their party. The greater portion of the strength of this undertaking, then, lies in the Democ ratic vote. Question is, and the only question, whether Republicans enough will fall into the combination to give the Democratic candidates a majority.

Should it be so, Portland would have a Democratic municipal government. bich would lend powerful aid to the effort to carry the state for that party next year. At least it could hope to re-elect Chamberlain over any competltor, and perhaps might even be able to control the Legislature.

If it is not worth while to elect a Republican Mayor of Portland now, what is to be said next year for election of a Republican Governor, or members of Congress? The most important political office in the state is the office of Mayor of Portland; and none know it better than those who are trying to get it through disclaimers of partisanship.

TAXATION OF PUBLIC FRANCHISES.

The Legislature of Oregon will not adjourn its next session without having passed ap act to impose special taxes on public franchises in the state, rated already at millions of value, but paying nothing. At present the only payment the owners of these franchises nake is on small valuations of the physical property which is their outmanifestation. The vastly more valuable, for which in most cases, perhaps in all cases in our state, nothing I it could if it were an "open river" in has been paid, is left untaxed.

It was due to Theodore Roosevelt, as Governor of New York, urged the Legislature of that state to act, and who by his persistence carried his recndations through that body, that this important subject has been advanced to the status it now occupies. The corporations stubbornly fought it through the higher courts of that state; in the matter, the construction of the took it up to the Supreme Court of the United States. Unpaid taxes, with interest and penalties, which now must be paid, exceed \$35,000,000. list is of enormous length. The Manlist is of enormous length. The Man-every turn of the wheel above increas-butten Railway Company alone must ing consolidation and increasing cen-ment employe who advertised for lum.

be \$4,321,961.32, and the Consolidated tralization of power. The successors of Gas Company \$1,489,996,55.

We have in Oregon many of the franchises, most of which are continually growing more valuable. They ofmeans of raising revenue which will tend to equalization of taxes, give relief to real estate and cause rich people who have been concealing their wealth and constantly rolling it up, while paying little or nothing for support of the operations of government, to bear their fair share of the public obligations.

Our Legislature at the recent session passed an act for creation of a State Tax Commission, which is to consider the whole subject of taxation in this state and submit its report to the Legislature at the session-that of 1907. Undoubtedly this commission will go into consideration of this subject of taxing public franchises, since now there no doubt of the validity of it.

THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS. The newspaper that is backed up by sanks is a mistake, and the banks that back a newspaper make a mistake. No newspaper yet ever was established with m oney, and banks and corporations that attempt to carry their purposes by publishing newspapers, always miss their object and suffer, themselves consequence. A newspaper must exist for its own sake, or it is nothing. Banks and corporations have their legitnate field, but the newspaper is alien to it. Blight strikes every newspaper that has other purposes behind it than those of its own those of its own proper work and existence. The St. Paul Globe, J. J. Hill's paper, that succumbed recently, after publication during twenty-four years, is a type or example of all the class. The sewspaper that the people trust must be devoted to the purposes of journalm, not to those of plutocratic and nonopolistic endeavor.

And here let it be said that The Ore-It is isn't hurt at all. Its busihurt." ess, both in subscriptions and advertleements is greater, far greater than at any former period of its history. It is so, likewise, with the Evening Telegram. The columns of both papers what they are doing. Yesterday The (Sunday) Oregonian printed 29,000 opies, and they were exhausted before o'clock. It will print more on future Sundays. Today The Oregonian prints and will sell not less than 32,000 copies. The Evening Telegram printed and sold last Saturday, and will print and sell today, more than 25,000 copies. It is not necessary to go into details as to the advertising columns of the two newspapers. Every one can see for

The Oregonian and the Evening Tele gram are wholly devoted to journalism. It is the one business of the lives of their proprietors. They are pushing no corporate or plutocratic schemes. They understand the relations of the newspaper business to the public, or think they do; and they have no complaint to make of any lack of appreciation or support by the public. And they understand that fidelity to the public is the one condition and requirement of continuing success; and they will leave to those who wish to publish newspapers, as adjuncts of banking corporate and plutocratic interests whatever reward may come from that species of endeavor. They who do not know that the newspaper business must be pursued for its own sake, and for nothing else, will, if they undertake the business, have that lesson to learn,

A GOOD BEGINNING.

The portage rallroad which opened at Celilo Saturday will stand as an impregnable breastwork for the protection of industrial development in the interior. Immediate returns commensurate with the expectations of some great work may not be realized, but a beginning which may some day lead to greater things has been made. As the switchback precedes the tunnel in facilitating the movement of traffic from one side of a mountain to the other so the portage railroad precedes the canal in assisting traffic around the obstructions which Nature has placed in our waterways. But the temporary switchback is at the best only a make shift. As an instrument for handling traffic where facilities have been miss ing it is an important link in the chain pending completion of the permanent line through the tunnel.

The portage road is not a permanent part of our interior transportation system, but it is a most important feature of the preliminaries, and, so long as it exists, we can enjoy a feeling of commercial safety which might be threat ened were the transportation lines be tween the producing districts of the Inland Empire and the sea in the hands of a monopoly. The historic trip of the large number of people who have come into the three states since the old erathe upper reaches of these streams are navigable. For long distances they present to the steamboatmen an unob structed channel, which can be navigated at all seasons of the year. The comparatively few obstructions which lie between these stretches of "open river" are not insurmountable or enornously expensive to remove, and, with the awakening of interest in an open lines river, an effort will undoubtedly made to interest the Government in the undertaking.

The Government, is already commit ted to construction of a canal between Cellio and The Dalles, and, while this great work is under way, and the portage road is assisting in winning back some of the truffic that went to the railroad, with the abandonment of the ness principles. Herein is where the old steamboat lines, there should be no high-salaried man shines in comparirelaxation in efforts to secure the moderate appropriations needed to place the upper river in good shape for the traffic expected to move seaward by water from points far inland. A river where navigation at certain seasons of the year is impeded or rendered extremely hazardous, or where freight is subject to portage before it can reach Its destination, can never so effectually curb the rapacity of the rallroads as the strictest sense of the term. That is the reason why efforts of the people who have fought so valiantly to secure that which has now been accomplished should not be abandoned at this time. Nothing could be farther from the spirit of hostility than the treatment that has been extended by the O. R. & N. Co., and, without their friendliness portage road would have been a much more serious matter than it proved to

be. But there is a constant shifting in

the management of the O. R. & N., and every turn of the wheel abows increas-

the present management may, be less broad-minded in their views regarding an open river, and we must be protected against a changing policy which might prove disastrous to our internal development. It may be many years before the density of the traffic is such as to enable us to utilize to the best advantage this great water highway, but no time should be lost in placing it in the best possible condition for use whenever a threatened restriction in our transportation facilities demands

WHERE IS THE POLICY-HOLDER AT? There are no doubt not many Jimmy Hydes in the life insurance business but the activities and influence of that gifted young person have been observed with grave and growing concern by every policy-holder in every company and association of whatsoever description. There are said to be 25,000,000 life insurance policies in force in the United States, so that almost all citizens have an immediate interest in safeguarding in all possible ways the whole system, mutual, beneficiary, fraternal or what not. The unseemly row in the Equitable has served to bring back to the public the startling fact that as a whole it knows almost nothing about the insurance business and that it has left to strangers, supposedly expert in their calling and honest in their character, the custody and disposition of the immense stores of wealth which the policy-holders were accumulating nom-inally for their own benefit, but actually for whose benefit? For their own, ultimately, to be sure, but in the meantime who is handling these funds? The Oregonian does not mean to say, or timate, that insurance funds as a whole are devoted to any dishonest or improper purpose; but it points out simply that policy-holders as a class are erant as to what is done with them In the case of the Equitable, it seems quite clear that the public was pur posely kept in the dark,

Few people have even a faint notion of the stupendous growth of the life insurance business during the past quarter of a century. The Wall-Street Journal has recently printed a series of articles on the subject. The gross income of life insurance companies in the United States in 1904 aggregated the immense sum of \$600,000,000. last fiscal year the total income of the United States Government was \$684,-000,000, so that the financial power of the insurance companies is practically equal to that of the Federal Govern ment. But the signs are that at the present rate of growth the insurance ompanies will soon be the prevailing force in the business of the country. The Journal shows by a table how rap idly the life insurance assets have in creased in the United States. In fiveyear periods they are: 1905, \$2,500,000,-000; 1900, \$1,742,000,000; 1895, \$1,159,000,000 1890, \$770.000,000; 1885, \$551,000,000; 1880, \$452,000,000. It is interesting to note that the aggregate wealth of the Nation has grown from \$42,000,000,000 in 1880 to \$102,000,000,000 in 1905, or an increase of 145 per cent; while the increase of life insurance assets has been

454 per cent in the same period. Of the present desire and purpose of the public to know more about their insurance investments, and the details of management, the Journal says:

The awakened interest in life interasce therefore is reasonable and it is timely. It is not an interest which is unfriendly to the rance companies. It aims not at destruc-The people simply want to know what insurance is, what its full meaning is, what are the ethical and economic principles underlying it, and what are its methods. They want to know, also, more concerning financial operations of these companies, vectment of their assets, the disposition their income and the percentage of t

perating expenses. There is precisely the whole point, Every investor in insurance is impressed by some gentlemanly solicitor with the great desire and purpose of some company to act as the custodian of his little savings and the almoner of his financial interests through a series of years. If you die you'll get your oney back, or your heirs will. If you don't die, you'll get it back anyway with interest. What the policy-holder would like to know, and would perhaps find out if he took the trouble to inquire, is, how much is annually paid out to the policy-holders, and how much is annually paid in?

RED TAPE AT A DISCOUNT.

Secretary of the Navy Paul Morton has resigned to become president of the New York subway at a salary equal to that of the President of the United States. The Secretary has many precedents to justify his action, and, time that Mr. Morton is leaving the Government service, the President finds it necessary to go outside of his official family and secure, at greatly in-Mountain Gem has demonstrated to a creased salaries, men to carry on the Panama Canal work. It would seem from these constantly recurring changes of steamboating on the upper river, that that the salaries paid by the Government are in many cases insufficient to secure the best talent, which is quickly snapped up by private institutions at greater salaries than the Government will pay. Under such circumstances the Government is not infrequently obliged to get along with men of only moderate ability, who are incapable of drawing any higher salaries in other

With cheap men good results are of course impossible, and this fact alone would seem to prove that there is lack of economy in the present system of low salaries. The Government in many respects does not differ from a vast business institution, and it accordingly becomes necessary to conduct many of its functions on strictly busison with the one of mediocre talents who has usually drifted into the Government service after making a failure in private business. President Roosevelt seems to have a pretty keen realize tion of the necessity that applicants for Government positions abould have some other qualifications than a politi cal pull, and he has pisced in the service a number of men who have mad successes in other callings before the

Government secured them. There are instances without number which go to prove that there is no economy in maintaining in positions some degree of importance such a large force of incompetents. Lacking in prac-tical business experience, whenever these individuals get away from the coils of red tape, they are practically helpless, and a too rigid adherence to red-tape methods is not infrequently very expensive. Portland has recently suffered quite a loss by reason of this application of unbusinesslike methods to a business transaction. The super-

ber bids in San Francisco, which has no mber to sell, and ignored Portland the greatest lumber port on earth. Such a glaring and inexcusable error on the part of a man engaged in conducting private business for an employer would have been followed by quick dismissal, but, if the Government were to discharge of all the incompetents guilty of similar blunders, the task of filling their places with good men would be stag-gering in its immensity. The President is making progress, however, and there is yet a possibility that, before the nama Canal is completed, the work of ordering supplies, as well as using them, will be in the hands of men who find common sense a much more valuable commodity than red tape.

M. J. Buckley, the new general superstendent of the Harriman lines in the Pacific Northwest, drifted into Oregon shortly after the collapsing boom of the early eighties left most of our industries wallowing in the doldrums for a brief period. Then, as now, there were plenty of croakers who asserted that Oregon no longer held opportunities for a poor man. But Buckley struck a job as brakeman on a gravel train, and a good brakeman he was. He was also a good train conductor shortly after-wards, and, as he moved up, his record as train-dispatcher and as division superintendent met with the approval of his superiors. The position he now holds, next to that of General Manager O'Brien, is the most important one in the Harriman system in this territory The people of this big Northwest have ood many grievances against the Harriman system but there is nothing but admiration for the high-class graduates of the Harriman school who have grown up in our midst, and demonstrated most effectually that merit, in dustry and strict attention to business vill still work wonders for the penniless brakeman, as well as the pampered son of a millionaire.

A main element in the contest today is the fight of the common people against plutocracy, against canting moralists, against holier-thun-thou reformers. We have here also a small re siduum of the Puritanism of 250 years ago. It is poked up with plutocracynot that plutocracy cares for it but it is villing to enlist any sort and every sort of soldlery for its purposes. Though the modern world has outrun old Puritansm and self-righteousness, still the dregs of both remain, here and there. At present in Portland there is a union of the whole with plutocracy. Every body sees it and knows it, and understands it. Pretense of self-righteousness against the morality of the plain common people-though backed by mocopolists who have taken in everything in sight, and have their drag-nets out more, is not convincing. Deliver us all from this rancid holier-than-thou pretension, with its everlasting greed and monopolistic background!

In nearly every one of the proposed amendments to the charter of the city there is a scheme or game. Some special interest is behind each. The "joke is there. Take the proposal for the addition of 15 per cent penalty to all assesaments for improvements, which are not paid within 30 days. There is no occasion for the voters of Portland to make such gift to the contractors for street and other improvements. erto the charter never has had such provision, and severe penalties now are provided for failure to pay assessments. This proposed amendment has been carefully drawn by the contractors, with the intent that they may get the 15 per cent penalty. The property-owner may be wholly willing to pay, but under the system may not have notice. You may depend that they who devise these amendments have some fob in

A correspondent of The Oregonian noting what has been said about the necessity of legislation for the taxation of franchises in this state, writes: The statutes of this state now make franchises taxable the same as other propert and every County Assessor should consider it as much his duty to assess that class of prop-erty as any other. Unless exempted by law-any species of property, tangible or intan-gible, which can be the object of purchase and sale, should be assessed and taxed. Every owner of real estate, which never escapes taxation, has a right to expect and to de-mand that franchises be taxed the same as other property. The assessor who omits any property or lists it at an unreasonably low valuation thanks places. valuation, thereby places an unjust protion of the tax burden upon the property

Yet probably a direct act of the Legislature will be necessary, so there may be no question about it.

The purpose of the amendment to permit the Consolidated Railway Com pany to occupy additional streets of the city has been explained fully by The Oregonian heretofore, together with the effect or consequences, should the amendment be adopted. It would extend the franchises of the monopoly and add value to the millions already "absorbed." It is not surprising that the so-called taxpayers' league, which is but part of the combination, should recommend this proposition to the voters. Property to the extent of how many millions more are to be given to this corporation? Let us add that there are taxpayers in Portland who are not members of this small but select league

Russia, the power which Napoleon could not destroy or overcome, by direct attack, in the early part of the last century, is now humiliated and completely overcome by Japan, which a century ago was not thought of as a power. There is a difference between conditions when a nation fights in the heart of her territory and when she fights on a remote frontier. Napoleon in 1812 had to go too far from home Russia, in 1905, goes too far from home Only to an extent, and within limits, can man, or can a nation, triumph ove physical obstacles or conditions.

One amendment to the charter that for special reasons, ought to carry is that which proposes decrease of the amount and therefore of the cost of city advertising. On this amendment every elector, as it seems to The Oregonian

A pack of wolves may pull down a horse, or other noble animal. It often has been done. Turning a metaphor, will that happen today? We think not. Yet the fury has been equal to that

Russia says she is going to build a great and mighty fleet. What for? For Japan to destroy? The fleet on paper, or on water, that can't fight, is nothing. It may drown helpless sailors.

CHEERED AT LA GRANDE OREGON OZONE.

When red-head matches formed a trust That people couldn't buck, Citizens. The public beard it with disgust, And all the matches struck;

Now glass-head pins combins-enough To make a patriot wick!-For though this trust we kick and cuff, The pins are sure to stick.

James Russell Lewell once said that the seentials of an after-dinner speech are the quotation, the platitude and the joke. He forget the jag.

Truly the Lord is on the side of the ravest battsilions and the boldest squadrone. Japan has wiped up the earth with Russia and scattered the remains in the sea, and now the sea has given up a new island to add to Japanese territory. A volcanic tale, described as being 540 feet high and three miles in circumfer ers. It is not so very big, but it will do as a site for a jubilation bonfire, and as it happens to be among the Voicano Islands, it may provide its own pyrotechnics,

One should not consider himself a comnounce "Elsteddfod."

No doubt President Loubet is glad to get King Alfonso out of his hands, but there are others in Paris who sometime and a hand containing three or four kings a desirable holding.

The secretary of the Paine Memorial Association forgot to provide the annual wreath for the gravestone of Thoma Paine on Memorial day, but the American people who know history as it should be written have not forgotten to honor Thomas Paine as a mighty factor in the thievement of independence. If Paine had had a few flowers before his death it is just possible that his immortal wraith ould be able to endure more patiently the execuations of the unknowing

Mr. Robbins, of Old Town, Me., who made a strenuous fight in the East against the payment of preposterous gas bills, has instructed his attorney to open a similar campaign in the interest of the people of Seattle. Most of us have supposed that Seattle folks use only hot air.

Down in Tennessee a man has been fined 230 for snoring in church. This is right and proper. A church is not a lodging-When a man accepts a free pew he has no right to mistake the cushions for a mattress. Churches are intended as places for spiritual awakening, not as inus of physical relaxation. Furthermore, it is positively ungentlemanly for a person to snore in a church, even though he goes to sleep without malice aforethought. A man who snores should be careful in selecting his sleeping places. He should menagerie. But the best advice one car offer on this point is that the sleeper confine his mouth exclusively to the pur pose of mastication and conversation ising his nose for inhalation and exhala tion.

A Head for Bargains

A Portland woman bought one of those marked down from \$1.95. When she rocked in it she felt so happy over her bargain that she just let herself loose. The corner of a bureau caught her head as she was falling, after both the rockers spil off. The doctor charged \$5 for sewing up her head-cut rate.

Her husband hurried home from the office, summoned by telephone, and looked at the patient's head; then he looked at the wrecked rocking-chair.

"It's a great head for bargains you've got," he remarked.

In Memory Land.

I wander far, I wander free Down winding ways of Used-to-Be; With lovely phantoms hand in hand I rove the meads of Memory Land; My reverent footsteps softly tread The grasses waving o'er the dead. And they are with me once again, Living and loving me as then

In Memory Land my soul somehow To walk again in the halovon wave Of unforgotten yesterdays, To tread the paths of fragrant hopes, The velvet green of sunny slopes, And climb the unfatiguing heights To Gardens of the Lost Delights.

Oh, far and fair as radiant dreams I sense the sliver shine of streams That flow through flowery ways afar. Where Youth and Faith and Fortune are And fair and far as mountains kissed With rosy lips of morning mist, The kindly wraiths of comrades stand Above the plains of Memory Land.

Oh far and faint as music stirred On, far and faint as music surred in Arcady, or litting rhymes
From out enchanted ancient times,
I hear delicious voices hum
The songs of days that were as dumb,
Enraptured, eager, awed, I stand Tiptoe, entranced in Memory Land.
ROBERTUS LOVEL

Roosevelt Still a Possibility.

Augusta (Ga.) Herald. Augusta (Ga.) Herald.

If Theodore Roosevelt persists in his present course; if he continues to wage war against official corruption: if he continues to fight corporate greed; if he persists in being the President of the people, it is highly probable that he may not be a candidate of any party for the Presidency of the United States four years hence, but how about the people? They may justs that Theodore Roosevelt be their candidate for the Presidency and in such an event Theodore Roosevelt could not decline. Just at present Theodore not decline. Just at present Theodore Roosevelt is neither a Republican nor Democratic President, measured by party standards. He is, however, progressing along lines that will win for him the admiration and commendation of the people, which, if organized behind a man of Rooseveit's individuality, brain and courage, would be irresistible in American

Southern Pacific Men Here.

James F. Fee, passenger traffic manager of the Southern Pacific from San Fran-cisco, accompanied by 14 of his assistants and district passenger agents from Cali-fornia reached Portland last night from Tacoma and will be in the city for several days to attend the Exposition and look

days to attend the Exposition and look over the town.

Mr. Fee and his party left San Francisco several days ago and have been on an extended trip through the Northwest. They have visited Seattle, Tacoma and other Washington cities and will make long visit in Portland before returning to their homes in California. Mr. Fee is taking his agents on the trip in order to acquaint them with the conditions of the Northwest, that they will be able to do better work in booming the Exposition during the rest of the Summer.

New York Lawmakers Rest.

ALBANY, N. Y., June 4.—The lawmaking business of New York State for the
regular session of 1906 came to an end
tonight with 780 new laws added to the
statute books as against 750 added last
year. Among the bills of special importance signed is that making appropriation for the state's representation at
the Lewis and Clark Exposition.

Vice-President Speaks to Prominent

LA GRANDE, Or., June 4 .- (Special.) -Vice-President Fairbanks and his party passed here today on the delayed eastbound train and were met at number of citizens. Had it been generally known that the distinguished party was on the train, a much larger number of persons would have been at

the station to receive it. Mr. Fairbanks was given a general introduction to those present by Mr. Miller, and shook hands with many, but owing to the brief time the train remained at the station, did not have time to great all

The Vice-President expressed himself as being much pleased with Oregon, and said he thought it was a great country. He made a brief speech from the rear-end of his car in which he asked a number of questions regarding this city and the products of the valley, when J. W. Knowles, who was among the number present, answered "the products of this valley are prin-

cipally Republicans." Mr. Fairbanks replied: "That good, and the next best thing to pro-duce is a good Democrat, but the best of all is a good American citizen." After a few more pleasant remarks, the train pulled out, followed by hearty

cheers from the crowd. ENGINEERS ACTIVE ON SNAKE

O. R. & N. Co. Has Two Parties Above Riparia.

LEWISTON, Idaho, June 4 -- (Special.) Parties arriving here tonight on the steamer Spokane report that 0. R. & N. engineers are active along Snake River. Two parties came up from Riparia, one of 11 men under Engineer Kettenring, and one of 13 men under Engineer Kilppel The former outfit was landed at Diamond Crossing with a large engineer with a large engineer state. Crossing, with a large amount of sup-piles, and will work both ways along the river from that point. Engineer Klippel and party are at Almota and will also divide and work both ways. It is re-ported that material will be landed at Riparia within a day or two which will be used in putting in switches and temcary track to carry supplies to points does not intend to lose any time in pushing the work of construction

DROWNS WHILE BATHING.

Joseph Patino, Steamboat Fireman, Meets Death at Marshfield.

MARSHFIELD, Or., June 4.- (Speclai.)—Joseph Patino, a fireman on the steamer Breakwater, was drowned here ast night. The Breakwater arrived here yesterday from San Francisco and went to the Spreckels coal bunkers, where steam was blown down and tubes cleaned, the work being finished about 11 P. M. Patino, being warm and dirty, decided to take a swim. He went over the side of the ship, and in minute or two he was keard to yell and splash in the water, and then went down, never to rise. It is supposed he was taken with a cramp. Workmen have been dragging for his body, but up to this afternoon have been unsucup to this after

Roberts Commands the Perry.

TACOMA, Wash, June 4-(Special.)-Captain W. H. Roberts, who until recently was assistant inspector of life-saving sta-tions for the 12th district, has been as signed by the Treasury Department to the command of the United States revenue cutter Commodore Perry. He left Tacoma this afternoon for Scattle, where the Perry is now lying, and will assume immediate command of the vessel. Ac-cording to instructions received he will sail for Alaska Wednesday, where the revenue cutter is being sent in the in-terests of the revenue service of the Gov-

The notice of Captuin Roberts' appoint. ment was received last week shortly after-his return from a tour of inspection of the life-saving stations along the Oregon coast, and since then he has been busy matters ready for his descriptor. getting ready for his departure.

Continued Rain Helps Crops.

seed any previous year.

LA GRANDE, Or., June 4.—(Special.) The continued rains of the past week have been of great benefit to growing crops and grain and grasses have never been better than at the present time. Farmers are jubilant over the pros-pects of abundant crops and fruit-growers are also rejoicing at the im-proved condition of their orchards, as proved condition of their orchards, as the damage by late frosts is not nearly as bad as at first reported. The sugar-beet crop was never bet-er, and the yield of beets will far ex-

Pioneer Passes Away.

COQUILLE, Or., June 4 .- (Special)-J. Henry Schroeder, a ploneer and one of the most prominent citizens of Coos County, passed away at his home here on Tuesday. Mr. Schroeder was born in 1840, and came to Coos County in 1858. He developed one of the best farms in the county and put in operation a very successful creamery. one of the first to introduce proved brick-making machinery to this part of the state.

LINCOLN DECLINES OFFER.

Will Not Be Chairman of the Equitable Directors.

CHICAGO, June 4—Robert T. Lincoln, of this city, was asked tonight if he would accept the office of chairman of the board of directors of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, should the position be offered to him. In reply Mr. Lincoln said that under no circumstances would be accept the office.

NEW YORK, June 4.—Samuel Un-termeyer, counsel for Vice-President Hyde, of the Equitable Life Assurance Hyde, of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, made a statement tonight, in which he declared that a solution of the troubles in the society seemed near. The statement follows: "At no time since the trouble began has the prospect for a peaceful and permanent solution satisfactory to all interests been so promising as at the

interests been so promising as at the present. The next few days are likely to see important developments in that direction. Every energy is being directed to that end and we are most sanguine of results. I am not at liberty to say more at this time. It is to be hoped that the directors will meantime assist the situation. "Acting on legal advice, Mr. Hyde

"Acting on legal advice, Mr. Hyde will shortly begin proceedings to determine the question of the syndicate profits that were criticised in the Frick report, and meast unjustly so as we claim. When the subject is fully understood I am sure every right-minded person will agree that he was morally as well as legally entitled to the profits and that the society had nothing to do with it. Whatever else may happen Mr. Hyde will not hesitate to secure a public refutation of these baseless charges which are so little understood and which have created such an unreasoning prejudice in the public mind."

NEW HOME FOR GAUDEVILLE

Ex-Senator Turner Is to Build at Spokane.

SPOKANEL Wash., June 4 -- (Special) Senator George Turner has comp details for a new block which he intends sliding on the corner of Howard street the station by President William Mil-ler, of the Commercial Club, and a \$100,000. The south half, fronting on Howard streets, 70x100 will be built for a theater, and the remainder for store and offices. It is expected that the new building will be completed by November 1. A lease of the theater will be made to

the Columbia Theater Company, which was organized Saturday, with Mose Oppenheimer, George M. Decher and John Considine as incorporators. The new play-house will be constructed along most modern lines, and vaudoville will be given. Frances Nelsonis, manager of the Edison will be manager of the new house, which will probably be called the Grand, the generic name of Mr. Considine's theaters in San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and other Coast cities. The Grand in this city will be affiliated for booking purposes with the circuit with which Mr. Considine with the circuit with which Mr. Considine and Hen. "Tim" Sullivan are now asso-ciated, embracing San Prancisco, Oak-land, San Jose, Portland, Astoria, Ta-coma, Seastie, Bellingham, Vancouver, Victoria, Butte, Helena and other cities where similar theaters are projected. The new theater will have a capacity of 1500.

Big Raft From the Columbia.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 4-The steamer Rainjer, arriving today from the North, reported having passed the steamer Fran-cis H. Leggett towing a big log raft ten miles northwest of Cape Mendicino. The one of the largest ever br the Columbia, containing about 8,0 feet of lumber, board measurement.

THREE FOUND DEAD IN ROOM

Bodies of Youth and Two Girls Found in Farmhouse

HILLSBORO, O. June 4.—Three ersons, Madge Dines, aged 14; persons, Madge Dines, aged 14; Nettie Hart, aged 16, and George Baldwin, aged 18, were found shot to death in an upper room in the home of Ed Dines, a farmer, and father of Madge, three miles out of the city late tonight. The girls were killed with a revolver. The man's brains were blown out with a shotgun. The latter weapon was found in the room in

which the bodies lay.

The theory that the young man mur-dered the two girls and then committed suicide is not entertained, though certain circumstances point to that conclusi A fourth person is suspected, but identity of the alleged murderer and motives are withheld.

The shocking discovery was made by Mr. and Mrs. Dines on returning from Hillsboro, where they had attended the baccalaureate sermon of the graduating exercises of the high school. Details of the relationship of the young people have not been learned by the police beyond that George Baldwin is a neighbor, the son of a farmer and a friend. He visited the Dines home tonight ostensibly to protect the girls in the absence of Mr. Mrs. Dines. Nettle Hart is said to been employed as a don

Lynching of a Negro.

LOUISVILLE, Miss., June 4.-Essic Bostic, a negro, has been hanged in the woods near here by a band of 40 masked and armed men. The negro, in the custody of a number of officers, was being taken to Jackson for safe keeping. The lynchers appeared and demanded the prisoner and Bostic was turned over to the band. Bostic was charged with having attempted to enter the room of Mrs. Sarah Gor don, a widow, early Saturday morning.

Double Tragedy at a Dance.

ORAN, Mo., June 4.-Harry Burton, 26 ears of age, shot and killed his sister-n-law, Miss Frankie Clark, aged 17, at a dance last night, ten miles north here, at Rockview, and then committed suicide by shooting. The girl's refusal to dance with him prompted the tragedy.

State Department Informed of Pro posed Russian Law.

WASHINGTON, June 4 -- Acting Secretary Loomis, of the State Department, has been officially informed by Ambassador Meyer at St. Petersburg of the provisions of the proposed new law in Russia under which all American passports, including those for citizens of the Hebrew faith, will be recognized there. This inormation is confirmatory of the press dispatches of a week ago, which announced the approval week ago, which ann by the Council of the Empire of the rec-ommendations of the passport commission which included universal recognition of

foreign passports.

Mr. Loomis has communicated the contents of Ambassador Meyer's dispatch to Simon Wolf, of this city, chairman of the civil and religious rights section of the Union of American Hebrew Congrega-tions. This congregation, Mr. Wolf said tonight, had been working for 25 years to secure the full recognition of passports granted to Hebrews who desired to travel in Russia and the final triumph of the efforts of those who have labored to this end, he said, is a source of satisfaction to his countrymen in the United

THE DAY'S DEATH RECORD.

Peter L. Kimberley.

CHICAGO, June 4.—Peter L. Kimberly, prominent throughout the United States and Canada in mining circles, died here

today of apoplexy.

Mr. Kimberly, whose wealth is estimated at \$10,000,000, was an authority on mining. He has been in many mines throughout the West, and was a cloneer in copper mining in the Lake Superior regions. Much of his time was spent in traveling, but he maintained offices in Chicago, Salt Lake City and in San Fran-ciaco. When not attending to his mining cisco. When not attending to his mining interests he lived at Sharon, Pa., where

William J. Ewing.

VINCENNES, Ind., June 4.—William L. Ewing, ex-Mayor of St. Louis, died at his home here today.

Bodies Remain in Cave-in.

MONTROSE, Colo., June 4.-Although MONTROSE, Colo., June 4.—Although it is certain that dead bedies are still buried beneath the debris of the cave-in at the Gunnison irrigation tunnel, which gave way last Tuesday, the work of clearing away the wreckage has been practically abandoned until something can be done to prevent further slides. The ground has loosened and the dirt falls into the tunnet as fast as the bottom of the pile is taken away.

The odor of decaying flesh fills the tunnel, making it almost impossible for the men to work.