

The Oregonian

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 Daily without Sunday, six months.....3.00
 Daily without Sunday, three months.....1.50
 Daily without Sunday, per month......60
 Sunday, per year.....2.00
 Sunday, six months.....1.00
 Sunday, three months......50
 Sunday, per month......20

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 Daily, per week, Sunday included......50

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Portland, Thursday, June 8, 1905.

LET US FORGET.

Features of the report of the grand jury of Multnomah County, made last Saturday, have not received proper attention. Since the local election has passed there may be willingness now to attend to some of these features which hitherto have not received the attention they deserve. The report contains this statement, viz:

The provisions of the new charter relative to the granting of franchises were enacted to protect the city's interests and to prevent the giving away without adequate consideration of valuable franchises upon the main streets of the city, and the franchise there granted upon our main streets were made to expire in 1905. It is pointed out that these franchises can only be explained by stating that such action was a successful attempt to defeat the city in receiving a fair and just compensation for the franchises upon some of its prominent streets which were soon to expire, and the city, by the enactment of the ordinance, had transferred to corporate interests franchises for a considerable period of time at a compensation ridiculously inadequate and for a longer period than the franchises had been permitted to have granted or given under the provisions of the new charter.

Now who are they who prevailed with the Common Council to "transfer to corporate interests franchises for a considerable period of time at a compensation ridiculously inadequate"? Let us quote further from this report:

In this connection it appears to me that the Pacific States Telephone Company, the Portland General Electric Company, and the Portland Gas Company have formed an alliance offensive and defensive for the purpose of assisting in the acquisition of franchises and privileges to the benefit of one or that they may require from the Council, or to defeat any legislation that might be inimical to them.

The monopolists of Portland, the plutocrats, the "first families," own or are deep in the direction of all these companies. Mr. Ladd, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Mills, Mr. Almsworth, Mr. Adams and the rest, are the gentlemen who have been dealing and dickering and prevailing with the Common Council, as set forth in the grand jury's report, and have "obtained" franchises at compensation ridiculously inadequate." All the while these gentlemen have been posing, through their newspaper, under direction of their editorial dummies and hired men, as advocates of popular rights.

Admit that the Common Council, yielding to this pressure upon them, made grants that it ought to have withheld. Even then, why attack the Common Council alone? Why not indict these highly respectable persons—representatives of the four companies—who have been "monkeying" with the Common Council—these persuasive gentlemen who have been using "influence" to get from the city, through the Common Council, property worth immense sums, without payment even of the conventional "one dollar" for "why not indict them? Will the plea that these gentlemen are "friends of the people"—if you may believe their organ—that they may rob the people, may get an immense property, for granted, by getting to the people's stand for their sufficient excuse and justification?

Some of the franchises obtained in the manner censured by the grand jury—not a dollar paid for them, but obtained through "influence"—are now offered for sale by these public-spirited gentlemen at the price of dollars. They announce to the people that the sale will be effected. Possibly it will.

However, there is one sure result. Their effort to possess themselves of the remaining streets of Portland, without paying anything for use of them, was checked by defeat of their scheme last Monday.

It is universal that those who attempt public grafts characteristically pose as champions of popular rights. Johnson was not so far wrong when his incomparable sarcasm defined patriotism as "the last refuge of a scoundrel." Yet perhaps not in every case.

This report of the grand jury contains

THE COST OF LIFE INSURANCE.

The Oregonian a few days since said that the policy-holders in our great life insurance companies would like to know more about their internal management and the disposition of their funds. We have lately been finding out much—a great deal more—about the methods employed by one insurance company. We have no reason to believe, and we do not suspect, that subterfuge means are employed by other companies to secure for favored individuals improper benefits from the great funds of life insurance money more than we. We shall be willing to believe that the policy-holder will get in the end all that he has been promised until we know better; and we shall hope and think always that no occasion will ever arise when he may feel regret over an investment in any established life insurance company. At the same time the Oregonian must express gratification that its inquiry as to how much is annually paid by policy-holders to insurance companies and by insurance companies to policy-holders is completely answered in an article in the June number of the magazine World's Work. Mr. S. R. Pratt writes on this highly pertinent subject "Does Our Insurance Cost Too Much?"

According to the showing made by Mr. Pratt, the total income of thirty-one life insurance companies, including three industrial insurance companies, in the United States, for the year 1904, reached the immense aggregate of \$569,712,553. It was, of course, mainly from policy-holders. On the other hand, the amount disbursed by the thirty-one companies was \$383,553,524, of which \$232,654,256 went to the policy-holders. Thus we see that the policy-holders in that year paid out more than twice as much as they took in. If these figures are correct, insurance companies are storing up annually—for the benefit of the policy-holders, of course—about \$237,058,297 of new money more than they are paying out, representing an investment that at the present rate of accumulation must eventually cover the entire financial world. The following table shows how the disbursements were made by the companies in 1904:

	Per cent.
Death claims	26.6
Dividends	36.6
Refunds	2.5
Dividends to policy-holders	9.9
Amortization	24.4
Total to policy-holders	64.7
Taxes	2.5
Commissions	17.7
Expenses	12.5
Other disbursements	6.7
Total taxes and cost of administration	36.5
Total to policy-holders	64.7
Total taxes and cost of administration	36.5
Total disbursements	389.6

It appears that the single item of commissions alone represents nearly 18 per cent of the total, or about \$100,000,000 while salaries are more than 9 per cent, or \$232,000,000, making a very satisfactory total of \$234,000,000 paid to the agents and representatives of the thirty-one companies. But this is not all. In 1904 the commissions paid on new business amounted to \$33,667,527, or 5.9 per cent of the premiums received on new business.

If this ratio is continued through the years, it would seem to be established as a fixed rate of the insurance business, that the insurance agents and officers receive from the insurance company regularly more than one-third as much as the policy-holder. That is to say, for every thousand dollars of business that the policy-holder gets in the event of death, or the maturity of his policy, more than \$333 goes to the agents or officers of his company. Unquestionably it costs something to maintain the insurance business. Development has been rapid, and it is not surprising that income is largely in excess of disbursement. Administration, taxes, advertising, commission, all are legitimate and unavoidable expenses. But what the public now wants to know, and will probably find out before the present agitation terminates, is whether the policy-holders, or the agents, or the officers, or the directors, or the trust companies, or the banks, are the chief beneficiaries from our system of life insurance.

NORWAY.

The hostile action of the Storting, or Parliament of Norway, towards King Oscar, has a touch of the amusing. In spite of the vista of trouble to several nations which is opened by their resolutions. A few words of explanation are in order. In the first place, the union of the two countries, Sweden and Norway, was imposed on Norway by the great powers of Europe in 1814. To struggle against such odds would have been insane. Consequently Norway took her medicine, but with a wry face. She could make conditions, however, and did so. She stipulated that she should be continued in the constitutional rights which she then possessed, and should in no way be merged in the Swedish kingdom.

The main points thus preserved to Norway were that she held to her ancient Storting, or Parliament, which was to remain the supreme authority in the kingdom. The Storting could not only pass laws in relation to internal affairs, such as finance, taxation, local government, and the like, but no limit was expressed in the treaty to its jurisdiction over foreign affairs. It is true that there was provided a joint Council of State, in relation to the appointment of joint Ambassadors for the two countries, but, so far as appears from reading the public documents of the time, no express limitation of the essential rights of Norway as a sovereign state was either proposed or was assented to by her. By custom, extending over a long series of years, joint Councils have been appointed to act for the two countries. The King was to be a constitutional monarch—that is, his powers were stated in and limited by the constitution of each nation, as regarded their separate affairs, and also by the provisions of the treaty to the jurisdiction of the joint sphere of action. Moreover, under the Norwegian constitution, the King has a right of veto of acts passed by the Storting, but this veto can be overridden by subsequent passage of the act over the veto. It is passing strange that, in this kind of stipulated matrimonial union between the countries, lasting for ninety years, no such thing as springing up, nor even actual forbearance developed. Their union was declared irrevocable and indestructible, yet it seems to have been throughout a paper union only. Now, the incompatibility has grown, in the heart of Norway, to a ground for divorce. In all such cases, individual or

THE IMAGINARY LINE BETWEEN PAGAN AND CHRISTIAN—BETWEEN THE TEACHINGS OF BUDDHA AND OF CHRIST—HAS BEEN OBLITERATED IN THE TREATMENT THAT THE RUSSIAN WOUNDED AND PRISONERS HAVE RECEIVED AT THE HANDS OF THE JAPANESE.

The imaginary line between pagan and Christian—between the teachings of Buddha and of Christ—has been obliterated in the treatment that the Russian wounded and prisoners have received at the hands of the Japanese. Trained in the doctrines that account the followers of Buddha as cruel and inhuman, the captured sailors of the Russian ships expected to be put to death by their pagan captors. On the contrary, they were heroically rescued from the perils of the sea and conveyed to the enemy's shore, where food and clothing were awaited for them. Their wounded were placed upon clean cots in pagan hospitals, where skilled surgeons dressed their wounds and softly-stepping, white-clad nurses did what was humanly possible to alleviate their sore distress. They were "surprised"—these hard-pressed sailors of creed—beyond Russia—when the pagans—Russian bandits—graciously cared for them.

To hit the foe they fought so well. In these manifestations of kindness the world holds an illustration of the gospel of humanity, the simple tenets of which are above all creed.

THE COTTON GROWERS' COMPLAINT.

The Southern Cotton Growers' Association has openly charged that the Government statistics on the cotton crop are "juggled" and manipulated to suit certain interests in the cotton market. Their hard-earned savings. They are a poor, but intensely patriotic, body. Much depends on the statement of each country. They, so far, are not widely known.

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THE TORPEDO-BOAT EXPERTS SAY.

The torpedo-boat experts say that the Russian torpedo-boats that won the battle of the Korean Straits. The battleship experts say it was the battleships. This unhappy controversy between the authorities might never have been satisfactorily settled but for Admiral Togo, who comes forward and says it was all "due to the illustrious virtues of the Mikado." Sure.

Doubtless it would be a great thing if the jury were drawn now at once, for trial of the cases in the United States Court, so the defendants might have a chance to get acquainted with the members.

Republicans go to direct primary and nominate a candidate for Mayor. They go to the polls and defeat him. There is something wrong with the direct primary, or with Republicans.

Men who have been trying to steal everything in Portland and lay the blame on Black people are not to have "a good time" from this time on.

THE WASTE AND RESTORATION OF THE WALNUT GROVE.

The wastefulness of the American people, added to the legitimate destruction of commercial life, has practically destroyed the magnificent groves of black walnut that fifty years ago abounded in the great Middle West.

"The Winter's" lot that blazed in many an open fireplace during the long months of rigorous weather during many years in the black walnut belt represented a feature of the destruction of this valuable timber that was due partly to the ignorance and partly to the carelessness of the early settlers. Many a sturdy hickory log shared the fate of the "walnut, the former being prized for its "trekking" qualities in the days when matches were unknown, and the latter for the fact that it ignited readily and made a cheery blaze.

To supply the waste that thus went on the great American waste of agriculture, Luther Burbank, has succeeded by cross-fertilization in producing a walnut tree that grows rapidly and will, under proper conditions, make good, to some extent, in a quarter of a century, half a century's waste of the slow-growing walnut trees of the past. Perhaps Mr. Burbank may be able to perform a like favor to com-

FOR WOMAN'S.

The hope of our grand old nation is coming back, they say, by the name of Fashion of dress. Oh, pray, most sign and awful August Madame, in heaven's name! Avert this horror, please!

This hair-shirt—I am sure that it will be the last of the kind. And yet if thou, Oh Dame, shalt thus decree, oh! I have to wear this cone cage of skirted air. Or vanish from the game.

For what is woman, old or new, Unless to Fashion she be true? She must conform—alack! O Fashion, wilt thou not be kind? Say, now, Old Hag, if you don't mind, We'll let this terror pass!

Citizens of the State of Maine are still talking about erecting a reproduction of Longfellow's birthplace as the state's building at the Lewis and Clark Exposition. The Maine people should remember that art is long and time is fleeting.

"Soldiers and Soldiers' Widows Filled on Government Lands" runs a conspicuous sign in front of a building near the entrance to the Exposition. One is constrained to inquire, when did these soldiers and soldiers' widows do the filing, and how is the general public interested in the fact that they have filed.

A Colorado newspaper man who visited Kansas recently calls attention to the fact that Atchison has but one daily paper, though it is a city of 18,000 people. He also remarks that Kansas towns have fewer newspapers than the towns of any state of which he knows. This man should have visited the "boom towns" of Kansas about 15 years ago. In the town of Wellington there were eight daily newspapers, not to speak of the weeklies, though the population was less than 1000. Wichita had five dailies, while Garden City, in the far western part of Kansas, had two daily papers, one of which used the full service of the Associated Press, though the town had scarcely 2000 people. The same paper is now a small weekly, with patent interior, but it is quite sufficient for its field. Bleeding Kansas bled printers' ink at every pore in those days, but now it has gotten down to practical work.

Two hundred thousand votes were cast in Sacramento, Cal., last Saturday. The population of that city scarcely would seem to warrant such a large vote without repeating (N. B.—It has been discovered that the votes were cast for the young ladies who are running for free trips to the Lewis and Clark Exposition on the Sacramento Union ticket).

A lady poet with three links in her name sings thus: "I should like to live in nomad fashion, with only the moon and the stars to woo." Most young women like the moon and stars all right, but prefer a man to woo underneath them.

ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

Retta—No, it is not proper for you to do the Trail without a caperone; let your beau go along with you.

No. 1136—If time hangs heavy on your hands during cell hours, get a copy of Browning and practice "Pippa Passes," or try your hand at translating Henry James into English.

Constant Reader—No advertisements are printed in this column—unless you make confidential arrangements with the editor.

Amateur Cook—Prunes may be served with the bark on, but fried eggs should be hulled.

Nunsmat—a dollar Lewis and Clark souvenir gold—A worth 50 cents; that is, you pay \$2 for one.

A TWICE-TELD TALE.

Here is a story that has been told before, but it savors so deeply of the essence of true hospitality, good nature and good sense, that it is always new.

When Queen Alexandra of Great Britain was the Princess of Wales there came to England on an official visit some Oriental potentate, the Ahkoonnd, who was not strictly up-to-date in English customs; but he was nevertheless an invited guest of honor, a person of dignity and worth in his own land, and therefore entitled to courtesies. Being a foreigner, unacquainted with the English language, he might have suffered sad embarrassment had his hostess, the Princess, been a woman of vulgar mold; but she was every inch a queen, as she proved by her considerate treatment of the uncouth Ahkoonnd.

There was a grand dinner, at which the Ahkoonnd was seated beside Princess Alexandra. There was a menu card, printed in English. When it was brought to the Ahkoonnd he was holding a menu card upside down, there was a titter from one of the "ladies" present, who imagined that she was highly civilized and the Real Thing; but Alexandra quickly subdued this wretched display of bad breeding by turning her own menu card upside down and holding it in that position during the rest of the dinner.

Isn't that a pretty story? Isn't it calculated to make a real gentleman acknowledge that Alexandra is a Queen by birth?

A BAD BREAK.

During the annual convention of a certain religious body, not so very long ago, an incident occurred which was not on the programme, and which completely upset the gravity of the ministers and brethren assembled. It was at the closing session, and the chairman stated that they were about to bring a motion for adjournment of an amount desired to be raised for a given purpose, and hoped that the sum could be made up before final adjournment. One of the laymen jumped up with the remark:

"I'll start the good work with twenty-five dollars."

"I don't know your name, brother," said the chairman, "but may God bless you, and may your business be doubled during the year."

Much to his astonishment, a burst of laughter followed from many in the hall, which was explained when a brother up in front stepped to the platform and whispered:

"Why, that's Blank, a prominent undertaker of the town."

OREGON.

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MR. LAWSON'S REMEDY.

Kansas City Journal.

It is to be feared that a distinct chill of disappointment will run up and down the Nation's spinal column when Mr. Thomas W. Lawson unveils his scheme to cross the trusts, or the "system," as he calls it, to the people of Kansas in July. His plan, as briefly outlined in the press dispatches, is to issue a call on a certain day to the people to withdraw their deposits from the savings banks. This, he says, will crush the "system."

How this will crush the system is vaguely and mysteriously stated in the press. If by the "system" Mr. Lawson means merely the stock gamblers, all of them might be crushed today and as many more would take their place tomorrow. If the system is taken to include the great trusts which control the markets of the country and dictate the price of the necessities of life, the people may withdraw their money from the banks, but they cannot avoid paying a goodly portion of it to the trusts just the same. The price of the necessities of life, the financial heavens fall. The water may be squeezed out of stocks until they are as dry as a bone, and individual stockholders may ruin themselves, but the trusts will come out of the water as if they were not there. Mr. Lawson immensely in respect to a few of his former associates—but the country will still be in the grip of the octopus.

We sadly fear that Mr. Lawson will have to select a heavier bat if he expects to "strike off the fetters that are almost permanently riveted on American necks." The remedy he proposes seems at first glance so woefully inadequate that we feel like using him for damages for keeping us in a raging fever of expectation for nearly a year, only to dash our hopes to the ground.

The only thing reasonably certain about Mr. Lawson's remedy is that it will offer a premium to burglars, and that it will bring about the financial collapse of the former financial crises look like three plugged dimes. But there is no occasion as yet to take to the cyclone cellars. The American people are enthusiastic and full of faith in many ways, but when it comes to "investments" and matters of the pocketbook, they are sane, sound and conservative. Lawson may get an enthusiastic greeting in Kansas, but he won't get the Kansans to help him to wreak vengeance on the stock gamblers at the risk of ruining themselves. It is too prosperous to be anarchistic just now.

THE GREAT UNWAVED.

Roseburg Plaindealer.

With the Daily Astorian, the Daily Capital Journal, the Daily Statesman, the Daily Eugene Register, the Plaindealer and a number of Oregon weeklies determined to see fair play in the land-trust trials, the star actors in Hitchcock's great political drama will no longer be able to hoodwink the people through their energetic press agent, Francis J. Henry.

THE JAPANESE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

Translated for the Japan Weekly Mail. In honor of the Emperor.

Toiled by each wavelet's break,
 Grow to a cloud-girt peak,
 Towering above the land,
 Beading this blossom's gold
 Swell to a mighty lake—
 Age upon age unfold,
 Joy is for mankind,
 Add for our Sovereign's sake.

SECRETARY HITCHCOCK'S WORK.

Washington Post.

The United States Supreme Court has removed another barrier which the alleged ring-leaders of the public land conspiracy erected in order to escape trial. Frederick A. Hyde and Henry P. Dimond, both of San Francisco, appealed from the decision of the Circuit Court of California directing their removal to the District of Columbia for trial and the writ of habeas corpus. The Supreme Court has affirmed the decision of the Circuit Court, and Hyde and Dimond must come to Washington in connection with John A. Benson, and face the charges which have been accumulated by Secretary Hitchcock.

It was a portion of this evidence which he boasted that granted to this district to indict Hyde, Dimond and Benson. The accused used every device that money would procure in an effort to prevent the law from doing its duty. The extent and boldness of the ring's operations finally led to its undoing.

If the Secretary of the Interior had been a man less stern and uncompromising than Ethan Allen Hitchcock, there is no telling where the frauds would have stopped. The ring was entrenched within the General Land Office, under the very nose of the Secretary of the Interior, yet so skillful was its work that it was not detected for several years. After detection, relentless vigor was necessary in order to secure the evidence required to make the proof of fraud conclusive and to entrap the ring-leaders. This work has engrossed the attention of Secretary Hitchcock for three years. With a grimness and singleness of purpose that knew no turning, he stuck to his task until he had laid bare the greatest fraud that has been perpetrated upon the United States in recent times, if indeed, it has ever been equaled.

The millionaire Hyde and his assistants are now face to face with the issue in the District of Columbia, where they are assured of a fair trial and no favors if they are guilty, there is no escape from a punishment that will make public land stealing an exceedingly unprofitable business while Secretary Hitchcock is in office.

ROYALTY BLOWS A FLUTE.

The Duke of Oporto, brother of the King of Portugal, is one of the finest outplayers in the world.