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PORTLAND, MONDAY, SEPT. 11, 1908.

#### THE MEMORIAL BUILDING.

Shall we have the Lewis and Clark memorial building at Portland, in compliance with the thought and undertakized the State Commission to set aside the sum of \$50,000 out of the appropriation for the celebration, for the same erected, or got under way, for use during the Fair, as was first supposed might be done, and no site has yet been purpose may be resumed.

It will depend, of course, on the financlose; and again on the mind of the profitable as well as pleasant stockholders as to disposition of such surplus as may exist. When the stock was subscribed and the money paid in dend. The money was looked upon as a donation, for fulfillment of the purposes described in the articles of in-

poration shall have at least \$50,000 for the building. A permanent Memorial State Historical Society, a foundation for a museum of state and local curiosities and of historical relics, a gallery would have high value in future times, this building ought to be created, if there can be found means of doing it. The management of the Fair, we are told, has not allowed it to pass out of the purview of its plans.

Evidence that the Northern Pacific is determined to come into Portland by a water-level route is accumulating. Big as efficiently and more profitably to corporations do not spend large sums of money for unimproved terminal property unless they expect some day to persons are deterred from joining in make use of R. Nelther do they keep in the field largs corps of engineers and right-of-way men unless they have in- doubters the other argument, based on tentions of securing some returns for the outlay. There is positive knowledge that the Northern Pacific has purchased much valuable water-front property in Portland. There are unconfirmed but pretty well-substantiated rumors that ing a well-beaten and traveled road, that road is now securing options on additional tracts in this city. For months right-of-way men and engi- their acknowledged scandals, in favor neers have been at work at various of a return to older ways, is a less terpoints along the north bank of the Columbia River.

The day of excessive freight rates and prodigal operating expenses in railroading is passing, even in the West, where copper cents are now used in making change, and the railroads must conform to changing conditions. The O. R. & N. being first in the field for the business of transporting products of Novgorod, Bruges, Amiens. The cata- the insane comes from the great house the Inland Empire to tidewater, secured logue might be extended, but these at Salem to which some hundreds of fight. the best route to and from that great great names suggest themselves befield for industrial and agricultural ex- cause the record of their municipal life ploitation. The Northern Pacific came and interests is written in histories into that field shortly afterward. It thropbing still with the eager and consigned for their own and the public found the old company in possession of varied life that is witnessed by archithe best route down to Portland, and | tecture, art, inventions, craftsmanship through its Portland ownership, hold- and institutions ing a firm grip on the business of the port. The country was new and sparse- dwelling-place, workshop and factory, ly settled, and there was no lumber for its inhabitants. Private gains, niac, and the guardians of the state's iness out of Portland or the Columbia River district. Portland, in short, the burghers, were in plenty. But love offered no special inducements that for and pride in the city held the first lators have in the past shown themwarranted the Northern in making a place in the hearts of the citizens, selves ready to investigate any charges fight for the trade. These conditions Prosperity of the city first, private of a tangglie nature that have reflected formed the groundwork for the excuse gains for the individual always second. upon the management of the Insane made by the land-booming department | Then municipal ownership was in its

Cascade Mountains to Tacoma.

ing forced to lift the freight a mile high over the Cascade these reductions have come wonderful increases in the traffic handled. The impossibility for the road to handle it with a single track.

Thus appear two strong reasons for the Northern's building a line down the north bank of the Columbia River. up in advance of the market opening One is the need of another outlet for of the supplies of grain, wood, butter, the increasing business that is already overtaxing the single-track line to Pu- ing for higher prices, was prohibited get Sound; the other is the necessity of and punished. We have passed all that the Northern's being on even terms with the O. R. & N. in moving freight praised, not punished. But the princito and from tidewater points.

The coming of the Northern road down the north bank is inevitable. Cir- private profit. cumstances may arise to retard the machinations of rival roads may temporarily hold them up, but the traffic at stake is too vast and is growing too rapidly to be forever confined or hampered by such barriers. It is needless ming of this road down the north bank of the river, for it will make been barred by lack of railroad

facilities. There are rumors that the Northern Pacific will meet with opposition and obstructionists. Portland has waited so ong for railroad assistance in develop tributary to this port that the people are in no mood to be trifled with or imposed on. Individuals or corporations placing any stumbling-blocks in the way of the Northern Pacific's northbank line to Portland will have cause to regret their action.

#### THE HAPPY HOO HOOS,

"Health, happiness and long life" is clave in this city. The order, which desire on the part of a few men directly interested in the lumber trade, and secure a more perfect co-operation of forces, has grown with a rapidity motto, which embodies about all there is worth living for in this world, is not always easily followed in the strenuous life of the present day. The Hoo Hoos, however, have set an example which, ing conceived at the beginning of active | if followed by those engaged or intereffort to create the Exposition? It was ested in other industrial enterprises, intended that the corporation should would result in much good. Their orprovide a site and appropriate at least | der has drawn together from all parts \$50,000 towards construction of the of the United States the principal men building, and the Legislature author- engaged in one of our greatest industries. It is strictly a fraternal order, with no sick benefits or death payments, and it lives and thrives solely purpose. No permanent building could for the promotion of good-fellowship. purchased or adopted; and yet it is that suspicion and unfriendliness which those who go further and claim, on the Russian ratiroads, "which have only strong business competition. cial success of the Fair and the amount | there quite naturally comes an ex- should have had a native population | her preparations for the contest in | proud, to be full of them. of funds that may be available at its change of views and opinions which is of 100,000,000 in 1900, instead of a com- which we shall have to fight for exist-

cerned. The Southern Hoo Hoe may not be prepared to go the limit in demanding lieved the overcrowding of the labor by the people of Portland there was that his brother in the Pacific Northno thought of the possibility of a divi- west be granted a 40-cent rate into ter- and temporary scarcity of population ritory where both would like to do has been met by a stimulated Eurobusiness, but there are a great many pean birth-rate. other important questions affecting railroad rates and legislation in which trust the city will provide a site. But of their influence welded into one solid the \$50,000 appropriated by the state fraternal organization, they are in a position to wield a power helpful alike been studied philosophically, but the to the possessor of small or of large in- need to do so is no less urgent upon terests. The order of Hoo Hoos is Building, to be used for the various unique, but it will never split over an American native, for the fate of the purposes specified in the legislative act, "assessment plan" or a "sick benefit." latter's children today will be the fate would be an acquisition to Portland and Its members, typical representatives of of the immigrant's tomorrow, useful to the state. As a home for the rugged American industrial strength, are a fine-looking body of men, gifted with a personality which is certainly attractive enough to make converts if of art and a place for donations that there are any eligibles still outside the Hoo Hoo camp.

PUBLIC UTILITIES IN OLDEN TIMES. Two conflicting ideas appear when municipal ownership and control of franchise privileges are discussed. One argument is set forth by the enterprising citizen, who says, "I see no reason why the city should not organize and control and operate such undertakings such a movement by its novelty, and by doubt of its practicability. To such precedent and history, may be recom-

If it be shown that the city, in taking hold of such advantages as follow from public ownership and control, is treadsome of us may part with our healtations. To leave present methods, with rifying step into the dark, if there be ample precedent to light the way.

Let us, then, see what history can creatures, the insane, the idiotic, aged teach. It is undisputed that cities have paupers and children dependent upon never known a higher prosperity than public charity for the care that was during the 200 years extending from 1300 to 1500 A. D. Municipal life, in all its aspects, shone in London, Florence, Genoa, Venice, Nuremberg, Antwerp,

The city was far more than a mere profitable trades, growing fortunes of road for pushing it across the giory; then the experiments which, in these days, we shrink from touching,

the handless of expense suffered by the canals, terraces, vineyards, fruit gar- has sometimes been applied to so

Northern in competition with the Q. R. dens; Genoa its port and docks and occurrences alleged to have taken place

officers. True, that "pre-emptio," the buying intended for open sale, and the holdple runs throughout, that public good

How came it, then, that the prosper early fulfillment of the plans, or the ity of the city rose to high-water mark, stood there for a few short years, but then saw a sad decline? The story is soon told, and carries a moral to the city, stored in the communal posseslabor of the citizens, became an object of desire for the "first families." The tributary to this port a large territory burghership descended from father to of great richness, from which Portland son, and was prized more for the duties to the common body politic which it carried in an earlier day, Newcomers to the city were allowed to ply will be hampered by right-of-way ob- their trades as best they could, but the structions placed in its path by fake door of the city treasury, and a share companies organized for no other pur- in the city's revenues, were forbidden pose than to block the progress of the them. The dry rot of selfishness spread. big road. If the blame for this kind of The spectacle of private gains made by obstruction can be traced down to any | the "first families" of the old burghers, rival company which is dependent on from the revenues which should have neither pleasant nor profitable for the envy, hatred, malice and uncharitableness. The prosperity of the city Alad from within outwards. The strength ing the big field which Nature made of the city, banded for defense, was sapped, and the glory of the municipalitles of those great centuries departed But the history of their communal

#### THE AMERICAN BIRTH-RATE.

possessions, of their working for the

city's good, stands written where all

may read.

It is not the first time the Census Bureau has called attention to the dethe motto of that organization of good creasing American birth-rate. General fellows, the Hoo Hoos, now holding con- Francis A. Walker, Superintendent of the Census in 1870 and again in 1880, came into existence in response to a dwelt upon it. His conclusion was that the heavy immigration from foreign countries was the chief cause of the to promote a feeling of good-fellowship | falling off in the native birth-rate. So Professor John R. Commons, known for his work in the Industrial Commission, that is little short of marvelous. The and Robert Hunter, in his book on "Poverty," argue that the native American is dying out because the im- as martyrs or murderers. migrant is coming in to do the work of the country which, in the natural operation of economic law, American children would have been born to perform. The small American family, they insist, is the logical consequence of the of Sir Henry Morgan, Captain Kidd their own standard of living against sailed under the black flag. immigrant rivalry:

It is held, then, in other words, by all these authorities, that because more business rivals to get together on a dren that would otherwise have been migration from Europe has not remarkets there, because the artificial treaty between Britain and Japan,

These are still conjectures, yet it is not to be supposed that Europe's they have a mutual interest. With all myriads could come to this country without working profound changes. The immigration problem has never the immigrant than it is upon the latter's children today will be the fate

### SHAMELESS DELINQUENCY.

The records of an insane asylum hold, and in the main conceal, many grewsome and distressing facts of family history-many acts of inhumanity, many incidents of taint and of suffering that are chargeable, not so much to the mental disease that afflicts the unfortunate inmates as to the cold indifference or studied brutality of friends, relatives or keepers of these people, While the Oregon Asylum for the Insane has been probably as free from incidents, acts and facts of this type as any other in the land, and much freer therefrom than a majority of such institutions, it is yet true that its unwritten history contains many pathetic chapters in the silent but not less bitter chronicle of human woe, which is distilled through slow years of mental darkness and physical helplessness.

Human nature develops the same or similar characteristics under the same or similar conditions the world over, and no institution to which helpless human beings are consigned for social, philanthropic or economic considerations is exempt from examples more or less flagrant of the abuse of power on the part of attendants, the neglect, by their very own, of those helpless human their birthright.

It is not strange, therefore, when now and again an echo of suffering or injustice inflicted by those in charge of mentally diseased persons-men and women, and, alasi too often those who are scarcely past childhood-have been welfare. It would be strange, indeed, if this were not the case. The disgrace of any such revelation does not belong to the state unless the echo is disregarded as merely the whim of the mainterests and its bonor refuse or neglect to give ear to it. Oregon legis Asylum, though, for reasons similar to those that induce a family to decline to discuss in public details of a disgrace-ful event that has happened within its Rates were sufficiently high to admit were tried out to the full.

handsome profit over and above Florence had its communal works, circle, the official "whitewash brush"

aqueducts, with clear water piped into in that institution. However, the Orebasins and reservoirs in the heart of gon Legislature has never shown a dis Mountains and then drop it down to the city, free to all inhabitants; Man-position to shirk its duty in regard to water level on Puget Sound. Numer-tus and other cities of Lombardy their the care, custody and maintenance of ous reductions in freights have followed irrigating canals. Each city, great and the insane. There are; of course, abuses since the Northern began business in small, had its market, owned and gov-the Pacific Northwest, and along with erned by the municipality. Free com-is impossible wholly to eliminate from ing and going, and unrestricted sale of this problem. Indeed, it is in the naproducts, were guaranteed to farmer ture of things impossible to reach them volume of this traffic is now approach- and fruitraiser from the surrounding except in a general way. One of these ing a point where it will be a physical country. But adulteration was sternly is the indifference that amounts to a punished, and quality of goods exposed grave moral delinquency, if not to perfor sale was passed on by the city's sonal depravity in individuals who are otherwise reputable citizens, as witnessed in the abandonment by well-todo persons, to the ignominy of pauperism, of a father, mother, brother, sister or child who has become mentally diseased. In no case is this delinquency more striking, in no case is it more nowadays, and the adroit speculator is utterly reprehensible, than when the subject is the mother of a prosperous man whom the country has honored by shall be sought by forbearance from political position and preferment. Such s man is above the statute which seeks compel the vulgar churl to do his duty, for the simple reason that, paradoxical as it may appear, he is below the level of human law, sunk in the Portland of today. The wealth of the sting of conscience, and destitute of that basic principle of true manly charto state that Portland will welcome the sions, developed and extended by the acter-filial gratitude. We marvel even at the well-to-do churt who is so debased as to permit a pitying commo wealth to maintain his aged mother through the croonings of a second chances of wealth it held than for the childhood, that are as a matter of convenience interpreted to mean insanity. to pass the long evening of life incident to four-score and ten years in an insane asylum-unvisited, unrecognized by him in any way. But a man successful in politics, in business, in hanging of two negroes by a Mississippi finance, who is thus recreant to filial duty, what tongue enough shall execrate? All that is sensitive to childhood's memories and obligations; all Portland for traffic, the results will be been shared by all the citizens, excited that is tender and noble in human nature; the charity that hopeth all things and is kind; every chord in the heart that is responsive to the memory of the cradle-song, shrinks painfully from a revelation of this kind and is fain to

> The trial by court-martial of the mutineers of the Russian battleship Georgi Pobledonostseff has been concluded, and three of the men are to be executed. Thirteen of them are sentenced to penal servitude, thirty-three to disciplinary work, and twenty were acquitted. History has been making at such a rapid gait in the past few weeks that there has been insufficient time to form a fair opinion as to whether these mutineers will ultimately be regarded may be the final verdict of the world in their case, the deed which brought these men to judgment was so remarkable for the reckless daring displayed that it will live in history with those desire of American families to maintain and other redoubtable pirates who have

protest the cold records of the institu-

tion that disclosed it. The story of

man's selfishness, of human ingrati-

tude, of unrefined cruelty, of utter, soul-

less indifference to the claims of high

and sacred duty, tells no tale of

recreancy that runs parallel to this.

Natural allies against Russia are Japan and Great Britain. Lord Kitchthan 20,000,000 foreigners have come to ener's memorial to the British governthis country since 1820, an equal or ment asserts that "India is no longer It enables men who may be strong nearly equal number of American chil- fortunate in her isolation," and he explains by adding that the deserts of social plane and disarm themselves of born have not been born. There are Central Asia have been spanned by Your system calls for prunes, and you is not infrequently an outgrowth of basis of the native increase in the first one possible significance, for we have praises of prunes from early dawn to late With the three decades of the nineteenth cen- every indication that our northern cementing of this bond of fraternity tury, that but for immigration we neighbor-Russia-is pushing forward continue the song; and you are glad, even ence." Great Britain, then, must be Hunter adds to this an argument that the ally of Japan for defense of their He wants but very little here below: common interests in Asia, against Russia. Here is the explanation of the new

Science is contemplating the substitution of the hearts of monkeys for those of men when the latter have worn out the heart which Nature gave them. The life and conduct of some men is such as to make it a certainty that they will not be losers by the pro-posed change. If the plan works successfully, "chicken-hearted" prizefighters may have an opportunity to change that useful organ of their physical system.

Professor Louisbury, of Yale, tells us that great authors use the words "lie" and "lay," and "sit" and "set," without discrimination so often that their errors go unchallenged. Some truth here. "There let him lay," wrote Byron. "His time was as little valuable as that of a setting hen," wrote Thackeray. And yet discrimination is

Acting Chief of Police Gritzmacher proposes to reform the slovenly manners of some of his patrolmen. This is well, but we submit that a better purpose will be served if he reform the slovenly morals of the detective

All crops in the Northwest are now in except hops. Good weather this week should bring nearly all the hope in. Seldom has so dry a Summer been known in the Oregon country. . All streams are at the lowest. And, now that another great contest

is ended and another great Nelson en-

us visit the Fair a few more times and then get the children ready for school. Next Sunday, down in Lower California, just over the line, near San Diego, female bullfighters will "perform." Is there no vocation hitherto held by man

alone that woman will not invade? The hero of Trafalgar, just a century ago, did not get as much publicity at the time as did his namesake at Colma last Saturday in a different sort of

Hard as was the task of making peace at Portsmouth with Japan, Russia will have a harder task of making peace with her people at home.

ident classically, thus: "Theodorus Pacificator Maximus? Sure!"

### Christianity and Power.

Is it a forest of steeples pointing to heaven that makes nations Christian, or is it rather the practice of doing unto others as they would be done by, not to

### OREGON OZONE

Mr. Morrison-My wife has begun to say yther and nyther. Mr. Alder-How do you account for

that? Mr. Morrison-I opened a bank account the other day.

A Utah man declares that the word 'dessert" is derived from Deseret. says it means something that is to be "et." Even if this theory is proved to be incorrect, the popularity of ple won't be affected

Delectable reading was dished up by the San Francisco Bulletin the day before the Nelson-Britt affair, when interviews on the expected outcome of the fight were printed under the names of the Chief of Police, several captains and sergeants of police and-the Police Judge of San Fran-These officers of the law all predicted a Britt victory, in the most approved pug slang. They are prophets without honor in their own country now.

"Miles and Byles is the Massachusetts Democratic ticket," says the Milwaukee We don't know who Byles is mire of selfishness, impervious to the but Miles and Byles beats molles and bolls.

> Two young women of Chicago are start ing weatward on a trip around the world. expecting to walk most of the way. are informed that they wear boots kneehigh. That will protect the brave travelera against the perils of mice.

> One way to get a broader view of life s to climb a mountain. It is a slow day when the Associated

Press fails to send out a story about the The Army Veteran.

"I served 14 years in the Army," began the seedy-looking man in the remnants of

"Say no more." interposed the kind farmer: "my two sons are fighting for their country now, over in the Philippines. My house and all it has are yours My boys are in General Wood's command. Who was your commander, my friend?"

#### "Booth-Tucker."

NO. 9-APOLOGIES TO THE PRUNE. King Prune, I hereby kowtow to the earth in your majesty's presence and plead forgiveness. Not long ago I uttered words of derision concerning you, the which I now do eat. That is, I eat my words; also, prunes.

Uncle Robert's Essays.

Until very recent date, my impression of a prune was by no means such as would pass muster in an Oregon or California fruit market. It was the Eastern view. To me a prune was a mere mummy, black as the pit, hard as a flint, and tasteless as leather. But that was the boarding-house prune.

In Oregon I have met the prune in its pristine pruneness. It grows two inches in diameter and weighs half a pound. Its face has the rosy blush of youth. Re move its cuticle and you lay bare a most delicious morsel-about eight big bitesof the delightfullest fruit known to men

or gods. This is the prune on its native heath. where it happens. You don't know it is a prune until somebody tells you so, and then you don't believe it until you are forced to read treatises on the pedigree of the prune. Finally you come around to comprehend the true nature of the prune. will not be without them. You sing the candlelight, and then turn on the gas and

### The Happy Igorrote.

A lady's working basket for a hat, And for his suit of clothes, his shirt and

Forth, just a simple four-in-hand cravat

No mansion fine he asks: a hut of sticks Thatched o'er with hay, is quite enough to keep

Him sheltered, and he never minds the ticks And other bugs that visit him in sleep

He's not an epicure: a bunch of rice, Boiled in a pot, of steaming soup a cu And that's a dinner; though it's very nic If he can add a fricassee of pup.

Happy the Igorrotel Not for him The monthly bill for rent, the tailor

Of memory; his needs so very slim, His sole concern is o'er his daily dog. ROBERTUS LOVE

## Republican Harmony.

Salem Journal The effort of the state chairman, Frank Baker, to hold a harmony conference is commendable. It is stated clearly and emphatically that this is in no way to be an effort to set aside the direct-pri-

mary law. With that understanding all Republicans can unite in a jollification on the date set by Mr. Baker. It is good for brethren to dwell together in peace and harmony, and we cannot

have too much of a good thing like that. It would not be a bad idea to hold a harmony conference in each county in the state, and let the underlings practice harmony. Some of the counties are as badly out up with factions as the party in the state, and need harmonizing to a considerable extent.

A Marion County conference will not be out of place, and it should be made to include all the rambunctious cattle who rolled among conquering fighters, let have bucked and balked at different times In the past. Let them come out and bellow and paw the air and hook up the dust and work off the accumulation of political bile. Then, with their political livers in better order, or their paunches reduced to normal size from over-feeding at the crib, and their cinches tightened up from lean and hungry desire, they can go down to the state pow-wow and not convert the

whole thing into rival war dances of two hostile Indian tribes. Here's luck to you, Brer Baker, in your effort at harmonizing the G. O. P. in a state where it is much needed.

### Pushing the Old Folks Aside.

When the babies are cross and a man

would like a quiet retreat there is none for him. But in a few years, when the children are grown and he is in the Harper's Weekly hands it to the Presway, the daughters and mother put their beads together and originate a den. There is no den for the mother, because she gracefully eliminates herself by sit-ting in the kitchen or running over to a neighbor's. It is her natural disposition to hide in a corner or remove herself entirely, and it is not the natural dispo-sition of the father. Hence the den. It has a couch and some pipes and tobacco, and the books which the neighbors haven't got around to borrowing as yet, though if father begins a story today the If Christian nations were to take their christianity seriously, what would be the effect on their dopninance? And would the title of small heathen nations to their the title of small heathen nations to their man out. If there is one in your house, real estate be more or less valid?

Mr. Man, don't be deceived.

### LIMITED FRANCHISES, SOUND POLICY

Perpetual Privileges, Says Jerome, Should Never Be Granted and Principle of Municipal Ownership Is Proper. Municipal Ownership Is Proper.

not quarrel on that point, and therefore, it does not furnish ground for a separate political party; James Creelman in New York World.

District Attorney Jerome was making a chair in his little workshop at Lakeville when the question of municipal ownership as a political issue in New York this year was presented to him.

Kneeling in the shavings and sawdust, ils muscular arms bare and his legs clothed in blue overalls Mr. Jerome was a picture. The rain dashed against the windows and lashed the tops of the cedars outside, but he paid no attention to the storm and went on with his work. "Business, Not Political Question."

"You can't base a political party or a political campaign on the question of mu-nicipal ownership," he said, "simply be-cause sensible men have no real difference of opinion as to the principle involved. It is a business rather than a politica

I take it that all men know that public franchises originally belong to the people as a whole, and I believe that all sensible izens have come to the opinion that the ownership of such franchises should never again be permanently allenated from the public; that all franchises should be granted for limited terms and adequate con

equate compensation.
"Each franchise involving the use of the streets or other public property should be dealt with separately as a bus-ineas proposition according to the exist-ing conditions. The city should be in a position to make the best possible has gain in a limited lease, or, if extreme conditions should make it impossible to lease a franchise for a necessary improve ment upon reasonable terms, it have the power to do whatever

advantageous from a business transportation, illumination and tele-graph and telephone plants?"
"Yes, even to building, owning and op-

erating street railways, gas and electric light plants, telegraphs and telephones. There should be no hard and fast rule. The City of New York should be in the same position to deal with its business affairs that every individual occupies in dealing with his private business. business man can hire some one to do his work or he can do it himself. The city have exactly the same right. should be able to weigh each matter as a separate business question and do what at that particular time and in all the surrounding conditions seems to be wisest "Citizens may differ greatly as to what would be done with any particular fran-

chine, but they do not now differ as to the fundamental idea that the permanent ownership of franchises should never be granted on any terms to individuals or private corporations.
"Nothing could be more absurd than to adopt an abstract rule that would tie

the city's hands and prevent it from making the very best bargain possible at "If it were possible for us to foresee all the changes that the progress in art and science will bring, we might be able to lay down some permanent fundamental rule of dealing with municipal franchises. But, as no man can say today what conditions or what improvements will exist ten years from now, no such rule is pos-sible. As I said before, sensible men do

"The min who voted away the permanent ownership of street rallway fran-chises in New York for practically nothing were not always actuated by corrupt motives. In many cases they were sim-ply short-sighted and improvident. They were in such a hurry to build up the city. so eager to improve the value of real estate, that in some cases the public was

#### quite as anxious to secure the railways as the men who got the franchise

Objections to City Ownership. "While I can see no objection in principle to municipal ownership and operation of street railways, lighting plants or tele-phones and telegraphs, it must not be forgotten that municipal administration of such business has been shown to be

"Besides, it should be remembered that many franchises have already been grant-ed in perpetuity, and it would require legislation and condemnation proceedings to reacquire them. It is a subject involv-ing hundreds of millions of dollars, and Mayor Dunne's experience in Chicago is a good illustration of the fact that it is one thing to advocate on the public platform a scheme requiring gigantic capital, and quite another thing to put it in ac-

tual practice.
"The City of New York is very near its prescribed debt limit, and yet there are doctrinaires who contemplate projects of municipal ownership as lightly as a hen would contemplate the laying of an egg.

"Such people apparently don't consider the stupendous financial questions involved in their theories, but go on the theory that the Lord will provide.

"The ideal policy would be to allow the city power to grant franchises for any length of time, but not forever. Yet human judgment is so fallible and the tendency to corruption is so strong that it dency to corruption is so strong that it would be well to set a maximum time lim-

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it for all public franchises. "Probably a maximum limit of 30 years for all franchise leases would be a good

"It all comes down to a question of the honesty, judgment and experience of the men who are intrusted with authority to deal with the granting of franchises. You can't make any law that will absolutely guard the city against official corruption or bad judgment, although by fixing short time limits for franchise leases you can give the people opportunities to correct Stunders or crimes on the part of their representatives.

#### City Should Be Unfettered.

"The slightest examination into this juestion of municipal franchises from a hard-headed business standpoint reveals its complicated and changeful nature and shows at how many points the city can improve its revenues, compel good serv-ice at reasonable prices and generally increase the public comfort, safety and hap-piness by having complete freedom to deal with such franchise or lease of a franchise as a separate business proposition, the time limit and the terms to depend in each case upon the facts in that case.

"In other words, the city should always make the best bargain it can. That is business, not politics."

## WITTE, RUSSIA'S MASTER MIND HEALTH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

E. J. Dillon in Review of Reviews. It is impossible in a sketch which must be short and eclectic to unfold the complex scheme to which Witte attached his cial and commercial life in Russia. Its effects, like those of a revolution, will not at all disengage themselves for generations to come. That scheme comprised the reform of the imperial bank, the introduction of a gold standard, and the fixation of the value of the rable; the extensive of technical education, the emancipation of peasants, dissenters and heretics as well as Jews, from the galling network of special restrictive legislation. In a word, special restrictive legislation. In a word, it embodied all the practical corollaries of the inciplent reform inaugurated by Alexander II when he struck the rusty chains off the limbs of millions of serfs. It is hardly too much to say that a good deal, perhaps most, of what is good or hope-giving in the Russia of today owes its origin, its preservation or its development to the insight and energy of Sergius

Witte, as manifested in this "revolution from above." Witte is a man of strong temperament kindly disposition, is generally fair to his enemies, always loyal to his friends and ontinuously polar with all humanity. His faults are the exaggeration of his quali-ties or their indirect results. In his case, the needle of human perfection, intellectual or other, trembles and does not invariably point to the north. He has made many mistakes, because of his habit of learning mainly from experience, whose school fees are exorbitant. As the most serious of all, I set down his system of taxation. But much will be forgiven to him by history, because he has accomplished much. He is in sympathetic taxation. thetic touch with every class, every ele-ment of society in Russia, and has a firm grasp upon the deepest strain of thought and feeling there. Being himself alive in every fiber, he delights in seeing the vital forces of others deployed, for his attitude toward subordinates and fellow-workers is encouragement, not re-straint. Even at its best, the politica and social framework of Russian society gives but little scope for healthy human energies-all the greater, therefore, is the need of bracing sympathy and stimu-

lus, Witte is gifted with a degree of intuition little short of prophetic. He foresaw the war with Japan years before it broke out, and most of the salient events of the past 12 months he predicted several years ago. A man of that caliber, who sees when his fellows are blind, speaks out when others are tongue-tied, and works when they are idle, must of necessity have many and unscrupulous enemies. In his own country Witte is generally unduly praised or immoderately blamed, and most of the literary portraits of him are little better than caricatures. Much water will flow from the Neva into the Finnish Gulf before a faithful pic-ture of the man as he lived and worked can be drawn and painted. As physically he towers above the common run of men, so intellectually he is often able to take a much wider survey than they can of things beyond the narrow horizon of the moment. As I remarked in the beginning moment. As I remarked in the beginning of this article, he is a creator rather than a product of his native land. Sergius Witte is to his countrymen what Anglo-Saxon America is to the rest of the globe. But however great his inborn gifts, and however serious his various errors, the impartial biographer will characterize him in the words of the great German poet, "His striving was with loving, his living was in deed."

### In the Rush of 1950.

Chicago Tribune. The owner of the great dairy showing a visitor around the plant.
"All these thousands of cows," he said, "are milked by machinery. The milk is conveyed into an immense res-ervoir, from which it a carried in ervoir, from which it a carried in underground pipes at a speed of a mile a minute to ail points within 53 miles of here. The system works perfectly, and yet there is one great drawback." "What is that?" asked the visitor. "Well, of course, there's no cream any more, it is impracticable for us to separate it here, and in this age of the world nobody has time to wait for it to rise."

Harper's Weekly.

Following the investigation of an assertion made last Spring that a seriously large proportion of the school name for all time. Its ramifications ran children of New York went to school through every department of political, so- without their breakfasts, the health authorities here determined to investigate the general health of the New York school children. As the result of examining 13,941 children, they report that 6294 require medical attention; that 3314 have bad teeth; that 3219 have defective vision; that 1623 show hazal employment of foreign capital, the estab-lishment of an alcohol monopoly, the de-velopment of savings banks, the spread the anterior glands, and 706 in the posterior glands; that 1993 show bad nutrition and 823 bad mentality, and that about 2000 more have other specified defects. Whether the result of the examination was surprising to the authorities we do not know. It showed, apparently, that more than helf the children had nothing the matter with them that required medical attention. That showing is more likely to surprise the experienced parent than the tale of diseases. Pretty much all chil-Jren in all planes of life need medical attention from time to time. The testi of all American children seem to need annual repairs from the time they are or 8 years old. A large proportion of the contemporary children have imper-fect eyesight; many of them have adenoid growths that should be removed or tonsils that need to be reduced. Altogether it is a matter of average ex-perience that the proper raising of a human child involves an annual bill for repairs and improvements by surger doctors and dentists, Some of these repairs and improvements are extreme-ly important to the child's future health and comfort in living. That the health of the school children should be watched by competent experts, and de-sirable restorations made in them, is matter of first-rate importance, and it is good to know that it is being

#### attention, but it is not desperate. BITS AND SKITS.

done, but Dr. Bigg's report of dis-eased and defective children is not necessarily alarming. Nearly all of us. but Dr. Bigg's report of dis

young and old, are more or less dis-eased and defective. That is one of

the conditions of human life. It needs

"What is the matter with him? Is he all had?" "Dear me. no. But his bad traits happen to be out of fashion."-Life. Lady-Can he say 'Polly, want a cracker?'
Dealer-He kin say Polly wants everything,
mum. He used to be owned by a trust mag-

"Josh's letter from the city sounds like he was homesick," said Mrs. Corntossel. "He ain't homesick," replied her husband emphatically. "He's broke."—Washington Star. nate.-Judge. Wille-I never make any noise running townstairs, grandms. Willie's Grandma-

downstairs, grandma. Willie's Grandma-That's a good boy. Willie-Tes, ma'am. I always silde down the banister.-Philadelphia "Yes, he doesn't do anything but pick up pins all the time." "Well, well, that's a queer superstition." "Not at all Ir's an occupation. He's employed in a bowling al-

occupation. He's employed in a cowing ar-ley."—Philadelphia Prem.

The Helress—Papa, I am considerably em-barransed to discover that I am engaged to marry both the Duke and the Count. "How like your mother, to jump in and buy more than she wants, just because it is cheap!"—

Late. Colonel (to recruit, just enlisted, waiting outside orderly-room)—Look here, my lad, don't you know that a soldier always salutes an officer? Recruit—Five said "Good marnin" to 'ee once already.—Punch.

The Unusual Mistake—Near-signted Stranger (at swell banquet)—I beg pardon, but you are the head water, are you not? Distinguished Guest—Good gnatous, no? I'm only the Baron de Burgoo!—Chicago Tribune. "Oh, John!" she exclaimed, "now that you've seen my new bonnet, you simply can't regret

that I got it. lan't it just a poem."

If it is," replied John, "I guess a prope for it would be 'Owed to a Milliner." delphia Press. First Fond Mamma (whose hopes have lately been dashed)—Our heartiest congratulations on dear Viciet's engagement. Mrs. Hookham. Second Fond Mamma (whose hopes have been realized)—Thank you. We are delighted. Captain Norton is such a charming fallow. First Fond Mamma—Yes, and so self-sacrific-