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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1906.

THE PEOPLE INTEND TO KNOW, YOU KNOW.

All who were present at the investigation or inquiry last night into the affairs of the gas company saw and heard, and all who may read the report thereof this morning in The Oregonian will see, know and realize what mighty change has taken place, within a year past, in the state of public opinion as to public-service franchises, with recognition by those who hold such franchises of the right of the public to know about

Till The Oregonian opened its inquiry into these public-service corporations, operating under franchises, and its criticiem of them began, there was little thought that the public had any rights, or that there could be any inquiry intotheir business or methods. People had always paid what was demanded, had submitted to all exactions, and never supposed they might have redress.

But there has been a change. It is wonderful. Last night we got some important parts of the secrets of a publicprice corporation-the Portland Gas Company-which it never would have been possible to obtain before, The company realized that it had to give up, and it did. That is, the general ing an account of its capitalization; of its stock and bond operations; of its methods of high or frenzied finance, to which the people are required to pay tribute in the price of gas.

But much has been gained, and more will be gained. The principle is established, and recognition of it is forced at Portland, that every individual, every corporation, doing business on a public franchise, must render an account to the public, as fully and us frequently as the public may require. This is the basis of the inquiry into the publicfranchise corporations now in progress in every part of the United States.

The people "want to know, you know," and they will know, you know. It is insolent presumption, on the part of any public-service corporation, operated on public franchise and owing its very existence to the favor of public franchise, to assume or pretend that it has a right to keep information us to any part of its operations from the knowledge of the people. No part of the business is to be concealed from

Just now there is inquiry into the gas business. It is in progress from one side of the continent to the other. It is a leading topic in New York, in Chicago, in Kansas City, in San Francisco, in Portland. These corporations, none of them, working on franchises, will be permitted further to hold up the people, do as they please and charge what they please. Gas is to be furnished at its cost, with reasonable profit only; so is electric light and power; so is water; so is street-car service. In order to get at all this business, and to reach a basis for controlling it, we are to have close examination, rigid inspection and scrutiny, careful inquiry into all details, public knowledge of the amount of investment, of amount of stock and bonds and value of material property, profits and dividends of the holders of the franchise, assessments and taxes, salaries of officials. cost of operation and of materials;-in short, the public is to know it all. Business done on a public franchise is

the municipality is to fix the maximum price of gas, of electricity or street-car ervice, and of service under other publie franchises-allowing a fair return for the service, and no more. In New York a commission has fixed the rate of 80 cents per thousand for gas, to go into effect on the first of May. It finds that the gas concern has \$80,000,000 of outstanding capital stock and bonds, the Hastiman system that there will be Egypt under British direction, while, and convertible debentures amounting to \$21,245,000. It reaches the conclusi that the value of the property of the company actually employed in the manufacture and distribution of gas does not exceed \$30,000,000. It further ex- Humboldt Bay to the mouth of the Co- are irrigated, which, according to a presses the opinion that the cost to the company of manufacturing and distributing gas does not exceed 60.75 cents says in its report:

In allowing a fair return

is a reasonable return upon the actual value of the property owned by the company and used in the manufacture and distribution of gas. It will be rebered that this return is not based upon the capitalization of the company out upon the actual capital engaged in the manufacture and distribution of

The situation in Portland, though on small scale by comparison, is substantially parallel. The people are going to put an end to the abuses of a system built up on their own franchises. In order to get at a basis for action, the workings of the gas company of Portland are to be turned inside out. The people will not stop till light shall have been darted into every secret hole. Greatest of all abuses in municipalities are these abuses perpetrated under the privileges of frunchise the users of the franchise charging what they please and rendering no account of their stewardship. Though we haven't yet got to the bottom of the operations under this gas franchise in Portland, we are making progress. Resistance to inquiry into capitalization, stock and bonds, and the methods by which they have been accumulated and multiplied, will be useless The people "want to know, you know," and they are going to know, you know,

THE EXCELLENT MR. WOODS.

We are told that a man named J. N. Woods, representing John Crabtree, of St. Louis, who in turn represents money in countless millions, "has taken up his residence in Roseburg, for no other purpose than to advance the interests of the proposed new 'Oregon & Eastern' line of railroad." This ecems to be the "proposed" road about which some talk was had through The Oregonian and through the Portland Chamber of Com-

merce, a while ago. But if Mr. Woods is not more truthful in his statements as to the "prospects" of his "proposed" road than in what he takes leave to say about The Oregonian, we shall find our most serious apprehensions regarding the unsubstantial nature of that undertaking confirmed. He tells the Umpqua Valley News (Roseburg) that "the proposition is to run a coast line from Portland to a point on Coos Bay, and from there to some point in Humboldt County, California"; and also to build a "lateral" to Salt Lake City, "which Mr. Woods says his people regard us fully as important as the projected coast line," All this 'we agree to have in operation by Jan-

uary 1, 1909—three years from now," This is the swelling prologue to the imperial theme of mighty lying about The Oregonian, which appears to be the main object of the manifesto issued by Mr. Woods. He says: "Of course, as was to have been expected. The Oregonian bitterly opposed encouraging our plans, because a majority of The Oregonian stock is owned by the Harriman system and that paper has to stand pat for the Southern Pacific. But, so convincing have been our arguments that even The Oregonian has retracted its former declaration that it was a bad case of hot air and the like, and now that paper admits that our prospects are most excellent for building and putting the new line in operation."

The Oregonian expressed doubt, as

all know, of the validity or substantial-

ity of this scheme. It still entertains such doubt-the more so now from such utterances as those accredited to Mr. Woods. After a talk with the committee of commerce of Portland, The Oregonian, however, said that it was quite villing to give the committee credit for sincerity in having entertained the proposition, but for its own part it "make good." It by no means "retractrmer declaration that it was ring to the representations made by the committee, that there was a difference of opinion, as between the committee and The Oregonian, which would have to wait for solution. We are waiting, and we think everybody is waiting. with increasing doubt, every day. For now behold those who were talking of men with immense money behind them, who had everything prepared, and were going to execute this mighty project right off, saying that "our prospects are most excellent for building and putting the new line into operation." The Oregonian is sorry indeed that the undertaking dwindled to a "prospect," so soon. But nowise surprised. When we get this railroad, as The Oregonian has heretofore stated, congratulatory acknowledgments will be due from The Oregonian. We shall get it, we supfrom these projectors, at the Greek Kalends, but shall dine meantime with Duke Humphrey. Yet doubtless it will be built by somebody, some time.

One more word, about another statement of this vagrant adventurer and common liar, He says "the majority of the stock of The Oregonian is owned by the Harriman system, and that paper has to There are signs of an approaching stand pat for the Southern Pacific." It financial squail for the speculators who is well enough known, by all who know have been plunging too heavily in inanything, who the owners of The Ore- vestments which lack stability of value, gonian are, and by whom the paper is directed and controlled. The chief would sweep some of the Stock Exowner and stockholder of The Orego- change securities into ruin would touch nian is Henry L. Pittock, not unknown in Oregon, after his residence here and the work he has done these fifty years. | zephyr. Some interest in the paper, as a stockholder, is held by this editor and pres ent writer, H. W. Scott. This newspaper can take care of itself, and does take care of itself, without dictation do rejoice in the building of the Colum-bia north-bank railroad, upon which States, shows that in this particular upon extension of the Southern Pacific lowers-not leaders or originators. from Drein to Coos Bay, now actively in preparation; upon the assurance of paim must be awarded to India and

Lakes. Welcome would be the assur-

ance that this coast line was to be built

have all millions behind them. Excuse The Oregonian. It will wait and see.

SOME SIGNS OF A SQUALL.

The financial expert was detailing th history of a certain railroad property in the Southwest which made considerable Wall-street history a few years ago. "Gould picked it up for a song," said he. "and when he turned it over to Russell Sage he got 60 for the pre ferred. Sage then sold out to John Gates and the Chicago crowd at 90, and when Gates let go he got a hundred and a quarter for it from J. P. Morgan." "Ah," said the listener, "Gould got 60, Sage got 90, and Gates got 125. What did Morgan get?" he got the road, or the control of it," was the answer. It was about that time that Morgan and his followers got the International steamship lines, the American shipbuilding plants, and a large number of other well-watered and hot-air-inflated securities which could not be turned over soon enough to prevent the slump. Of course in some of these unfortunate ventures Mr. Morgan was loser only the time consumed in pumping out the hot air and pouring in the water, but the good suffered with the bad and Wall street lost hundreds of millions before the scare had run itself out and values had settled to a

With the memory of what happened at that time still fresh in her mind, New York is showing a disposition to cease buying. There has been a rampant bull market for months, for over a year in fact, and the more cautious truders are showing signs of apprehen sion that they, like Morgan, may "get" something ut a high price and be compelled to carry it down through a long period of declining markets, or close it out at a sacrifice. This is the cause of the dull trading of which the New York stock market report has complained so much recently. Henry Clews, whose conservatism is somewhat more pronounced than that of the average Wallstreet operator, in his weekly financial review sounds a note of warning of a probable smash in prices. In his opinon all bullish influences have been overdiscounted, there is a scarcity of money, and u great increase in new securities. Bank reserves are low, and are not being strengthened from the West, as in former seasons, for the reason that the West is just at present exploiting on a large scale industrial un dertakings at home. This has necessitated the borrowing of considerable money abroad.

Mr. Clews affords no comfort for the holders of high-priced stocks when he states quite emphatically that "there is no cure for the present situation except further liquidation, and any attempt to carry on the upward movement under existing conditions will inevitably lead to difficulty." With the West still em ploying a great many millions of Fastern capital in developing his resources, it is, of course, impossible for New York to experience a financial stringency without some of the ripples from the disturbance being noticeable here, but never again will the "overplaying" of the New York stock gamblers have the detrimental effect on the West that it has had in panies of the past. This is due largely to the fact that the West has for sale enormous quantities of staple commodities of which the world

stands ever in need. The stock market report in vesterday's Oregonian noted a heavy decline in New York traction stocks, and in Reading Railroad shares. On the same page was an account of sales of more than 100,000 head of Oregon sheep at the highest prices paid in twenty-five years. would wait till the projectors should There are a good many million people in the world who may not care to buy tion stocks or Reading preferred but they will buy mutton, even wher the money market is tight. Consolidated Gas was also reported weak in New York, where the 80-cent rate threatened to create necessity for removal of some of the water in the stock. Locally, where we ship prunes by the trainload, the market for that staple was reported firm and higher. with stocks well cleaned up. In New York, Amalgamated Copper suffered i lumber state in the Union, there was a substantial advance on the price of

lumber. Let us sell the prunes, lumber, sheep, number of other staples which have made Oregon famous, and we care not who sells Reading preferred, Amaigamated or New York tractions. Our staple trading commodities grow much more rapidly than those to which the East is accustomed, and the world stands in greater need of them. threatened war in Europe would undoubtedly cut down the prices of some securities in New York that were being carried on foreign capital, but it would enhance the value of a great many staple products throughout the financial squall for the speculators who but a commercial cataclysm which hundreds and thousands of legitimate enterprises with the breath of a

NEW AND OLD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS The observant foreigner, visiting the United States with his eyes open, sees from "the Harriman system," the "first in things American vast possibilities families of Portland," or any other au- but little in the line of great and perthority or influence whatever. It knows manent development that has been how to be independent, and it has the pushed to a finished stage. The wave courage or spirit of independence. It of interest fostered by agricultural enhas for years been a critic of "the Har- gineering and activity in irrigation in riman system," and its relations with recent years has led our own people the Harriman system, in consequence to believe that this country was outof the criticisms, have at many times stripping the old world in these matbeen much strained. It has ineleted ters. But, as noted recently by the that the Harriman system should push New York Commercial, a comparison the long neglected railway develop- of the work already completed and ment of Oregon, and it believes now under way in foreign countries with this will be done. We shall rejoice and the numerous plans now being engithousands of men are now at work; field Americans are imitators or fol- Oregonian is not operating under a

In magnitude of irrigation plans, the extension of lines across Middle Oregon if consummate skill and judicious disby Mr. Woods and Mr. Crabtree, from India, for example, over 40,000,000 acres lumbia. But The Oregonian must be generous estimate, is over ten times as excused if it begs leave to walt and see, great an area as that which has been lation of \$00,000, were formerly abso-

marish; and the phosphorescence that the ploneers and their children were wont to call foxfire; and the "guff" of over 50 years ago, now has a length.

who are going to do great things and miles. In the State of Mysore a reservoir is under construction which, by means of a dam of solid masonry 142 feet high, will enclose a valley contain-

ing over 2000 square miles. The Assuan dam in Egypt bids fair to be one of the wonders of the modern world. It will be completed in 1908 at a cost of \$31,000,000, and will form a lake more than 100 miles long, that will make possible, by conserving the waste waters of the Nile, the growing in that | Earth thou art, to earth returnest; river basin of two crops a year instead

For one thing, there has never yet been a necessity-in this country, shadowed by possible famine and urged on by the needs of millions of people-for great Government reclamation schemes and works. It is in far advance of such conditions that the Federal Government has even now undertaken the reclamation of desert wastes in the vast Rocky Mountain region. But that it has been undertaken insures, with If a word of wit, or folly, certainty, a beneficent result when the

Something over two years ago an Oregonian representative visited the west coast of Vancouver Island, and, after a study of the local Indian question. ventured the opinion that the white man's religion had accomplished nothing for the west coast Indian in the way of improving mind or morals. It was also pointed out that, in many respects, religion had proved a positive detriment to the simple children of the forest. The article, of course, provoked criticism, and an attempt was made to show in contradiction that religion had done much for the isolated red men The extent to which the white man's religion has affected them is disclosed in an interview in vesterday's Oregonian with Rev. Charles Moser, a Benedictine missionary from Clayoquot. In discussing the Valencia wreck, he states that the Indians could have reached those in distress "if induce ments had been made." He further states that when the Indians learned that \$15 was being offered for the recovery of a body, many of them started out in their canoes and brought in the dead. In the opinion of this minister of the gospel, "It would have been better had the Indians been offered \$50 for every passenger rescued, but no one made the offer, and the Indians remained at their homes." This bruta indifference to the fate of helpless women and children may indicate a religious training, but it is nothing that can be pointed to with any great degree of pride.

The encouragement given to boys of the manual training classes of the public schools to build nesting-boxes for wrens, bluebirds and swallows, through prizes offered by the Oregon Audubon Society, is praiseworthy. Both beauty and utility will be served in this contest, while the achievement will carry with it gratification at seeing these birds snugly housed, well worth the effort that it costs. The hand of the boy will be trained, his interest in animated nature aroused, and the protective feeling that is the first impulse of cultivated manhood will be invoked. A measure of this kind is worth more than all the ordinances that a munici pality can enact for the protection of bird life within its limits. The reason for this is obvious: It takes away the incentive to destroy-so strong in the average boy, who has not yet attained the age of responsibility, and it substitutes therefor an impulse to provide for weaker creatures, that have as distinctly as himself a place in the grand scheme of life. The law restrains, through fear of punishment; the protective impulse, through desire to protect. The one is from without-the other from within.

An Oklahoma oll dealer has just testified under outh that, while in the employ of the Standard Oil Company, he Possibly when an English gentleman puts was instructed to get samples of oil on a pained and intellectual expression stealing and lying. The young man seating his reason." could dilate at length on the evil ways heavy loss, but in Oregon, the greatest of the opponents of the Standard Oil in withholding these samples from those who had assumed a divine right over them. He could also show the futility of all opposition to a concern which he wool, hops, wheat, salmon and a large seems certain is working under the exclusive patronage of Divine Providence The Okiahoma man has not yet finished his testimony, but when it is all in it will undoubtedly disclose, as usual, that the Standard Oil stole the wells, if the

> When Baron Komura traveled ucross the Pacific on one of Mr. Hill's big liners he set a new mark in "tips" on the steamer by presenting one of the haughty soup-servers with \$40. comes the story from Port Townsend that Prince Tsai Tse, of the Chinese Imperial Commiss Komura ante and "Paised" it \$10. Fiftydollar tips from the representatives of a country where the average wage per day would be insufficient to purchase a package of chewing gum certainly tend to the belief that there are Chinese und Chinese. If Tsai Tee continues to maintain the standard he has set or the first stage of the trip, the expense account will put a fair-sized crimp in

stolen samples were satisfactory.

Mr. Adams, of the gas company through his passionate temper, becomes entirely irresponsible. We shall excuse the profaulty of the blackguard, and must regret to defile the pages of The in New York that it is more plentiful Oregonian by reporting him verbatim. Now it will be understood what the customers of the gas company have to meet, when they go to the office with pers and men both must be well heeled their protests and complaints.

Mr. Wood, speaking for the gas con pany last night, made a mistake as to this newspaper. He said the gas company was operating under a public franchise, and so was The Oregonian The necessary correction is that The franchise. It has no franchise, nothing whatever, from the public

A big fat pocketbook saved the life of an anti-league organizer at Salem and into the country of the Klamath tribution of water are considered, the the other night, turning aside the daglaurels go to Italy and to her engineers. ger of an assassin. Here is an argu-On the great plains of Northern ment that the campaign fund solicitors

The Idaho banker who is making a name for himself as a writer of fiction | forth. in order that it may have ground to be-lieve. There is "hot air"; there is ignis fatuus, or kit-of-the-candlestick, play-

The commission thinks that 8 per cent modern adventurers and projectors, including its tributary canals, of 10,000 affections are about equally uncertain.

THE SILVER LINING.

Good Morning. Tell me not in mournful numbers I'm a chump, I know it well. Visions haunt me in my slumbers,

Showing me I can't be swell. Life is speedy! Life is earnest! And the grave we're pressing fast; We are game up to the last!

Work is hard and time is fleeting. And my heart, though timorous, Hath a boiler-factory beating. And can never make a fuss

In this town's small field of battle. In our Portland's dirty streets. You can bet you'll hear my rattle When your morning paper greets.

If a thought, or quip, or play Makes you just a speck more jolly, If it drives your cares away;

If I win a smile at present, I may win a heart some day. Try to laugh, and, so, look pleasant. Grasp my hand, and shake alway! A. H. BALLARD.

It isn't what you know that counts, for there is nothing really new under the sun. It's your original viewpoint that makes you important.

Be brilliant if you can, my boy; but be swift at all events.

Seek the good in others. By some

eneficent and insidious process it will make you good yourself. God made the world. But a few persons (who inherited a part of Portland) assume that they made it all

and own it all. The most extravagant women in the world are the New York women. Yes, and they are the prettiest also. Balti-

ty but New York now is far ahead, Be good and you'll falter. Be bad and you're sure what you're doing. Those who holler the loudest are

more once had a call on feminine beau-

hurt the least. Sorrow is like the measles-the more comes to the surface the quicker it

is over. Fastidious precision in the use of language is not always possible. Language is made in the street as well as in the library, and we must accept the meaning a word acquires as it passes from

mouth to mouth. As the American magazines improve typographically they plunge deeper into a gulf of intellectual duliness.

Be sure you're right: then go home and think it over.

Some like Bourbon and some like Rye, But we'll all get to Heaven bye and bya This is what happened at a candy pull

Tennessee: Sam Blair, shot four times in stomach. Bob Motley, shot twice in grown, Richard Johnson, throat cut. Occasionally when they have a prayer meeting they call out the troops.

After a while Dr. Morrison will get down to business and tell us something real had about the Christian Scientists.

An English scientist is of the opinion that laughter is insanity; that the person who laughs is insane temporarily and more or less violently. On this the Omaha World-Herald c lows: "We refuse to be frightened by the eminent English scientist. However, his alarm doctrine may explain one thing from rival companies "if he had to steal of countenance and refuses to laugh at them," This testimony would seem to some of our spasms of American humor offer a good text for one of young it is not because he doesn't see the joke Rockefeller's characteristic homilies on but merely because he is afraid of un-

Over 15,000,000 umbrellas a year are made in the United States. A few of them are When it comes to handling Park Boards Lafe Pence is right there.

If negroes could always be sure that an incendiary mob would found them immediately upon the event of any characteristic negro depredation, then the negroes would soon become tractable citizens. Mob law is not pleasant, but it is sometimes salutary.

The annual outbreak of troubles among the coal mines is about due, and we hear the mutterings of the storm as it ap-

When you think you need a bracer just brace up in your mind. These scientists and professional sharps of all kinds tell plenty of lies, but their statement that mind is more powerful than matter happens to be true.

Definitions.

(Tips on the Race of Life.) Book-The salver used at racetracks when they take up the collection. Fool-It's hard to define this, for a fool becames wise just as soon as a good fool because she's always wise. Paper-A material out of which they

nce manufactured money. They use gold and cheaper than paper. Shipper-The cynosure of all eyes-just like a man when he's well heeled. Slip-

in order to be successful in their business Business-The origin of the pace that kills. A term applicable to men only. Women have no business. They have professions. Mrs. Warren, now, for example -but that's another story.

Changed Church to Sult. Exchange.

seat, and joined in the service vigorous seat, and joined in the service vigorously. Then the collection-basket was passed
to her, and putting a coin in it, she
looked about. She cast glances in every
direction, her mind cleared, and an expression of amazement overapread her
face. She got up. She hurried down the
aisle. She overtook the man with the
collection-basket. "I'm in the wrong
church," she whispered, and, taking out
the coin she had put in, she hurried the coin she had put in, she hurried

* Effect of Local Option.

similar work for years.

A crockery factory near San Antonio is now confining all its resources to the making of jugs. One firm in San Antonio bealth and the state of Mrs. Mizner's bought two carloads of one and two-gulaffections are about equally uncertain.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Discussion by Writers on Various Topics of Public Interest

or purification processes, alow or continuous sand filters, and mechanical filters. About 20 cities and towns in Holland, 30 in Great Britain and about the same in Germany and the United States use the continuous sand filtration system; in fact, nearly all European cities with a population aggregating 20,000,000 use it. In the United States nearly 200 cities and towns ure some nort of a mechanical filter. But a few years ago Albany, N. Y.

filter. But a few years ago Albany, N. Y., erected a magnificent sand filter at a cost of nearly \$500,000. It has reached a bacteria efficiency of 30 per cent.

Properly constructed sand filters purify from 1.509,000 to 2.500,000 galons of water in 24 hours, according to the degree of turbity and the condition of the filter. Very muddy water requires a sedimentation in addition to the filter, and there must be enough acreage of filter to supply water while a ion to the fifer, and there must be enough acreage of filter to supply water while a section is being cleaned. These filters cost section is being cleaned. These filters cost about \$25,000 per acre, more or less according to location, cost of the right kind of sand, rock, cement, drains, etc. There must be added cost of pumps, pure water task sedimentation, basin, etc. Probably the total cost would be between \$4 and \$5 per capita. The cost of operation in some European cities is about \$1 for 1,000,000 gallons, but it would probably be something more here. it would probably be something more here.

As to mechanical filters, these originated in the United States at a time when low first cont, regardless of permanency of construction, was desired by investors. These liters were simply a cylinder of iron or wood filled with sand. Water was forced through them about 100 times faster than ordinary sand filtering. Since then they have been leveloped and brought to high efficiency. The efficacy of mechanical filters depends upon the use of coagulants, without which only the coarses particles are removed. About one grain of sulphate of alumina produces an efficacy of 98 to 99 per cent, but this result depends upon the condition of water. per square foot of area per day and are said o cost about \$20 per square foot, exclusive of

Generally speaking, slow sand filters are considered more efficient in removing bac-teria than mechanical filters. But some of the best modern mechanical plants seem to show a great per cent of efficiency as the slow sand plants. They require less ground, are unaffected by the weather and are convenient to operate.

buildings, pumps, etc., which sometimes double the cost. On account of the cost of the coagulant the cost of operation is a lit-ile more than the cost of operating a slow

sand filter.

Thorough filtration removes about 90 per cent of the bacteria. If a water supply can be taken from some mountain stream at a point in the mountains where few or no people live near it, or from springs which are the outflow of deep strata, it is a good safe water supply. Otherwise the water should be filtered. WILLIAM B. CHASE.

"THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE."

Democratic Vagaries as to the Election of U. S. Senator.

EUGENE, Or. Feb. 27 .- (To the Editor.) "Statement No. 1," there is one phase of the matter that, so far as I have seen,

emains untouched.

Democratic newspapers and politicians are so insistent upon the strict observance of that part of the primary law that they would have every legislative candidate, espe-cially Republican candidates, sign the pledge to vote for the "people's choice" for United States senator, unconditionally, whereby each and every Senator and Representative would be under obligations t vote for the same man. But what of their record, when they have had opportunity to imphasize their approval of such method of electing United States Senators?

It will be remembered that, under the Maya law, ex-Governor Geer, having re-ceived a large majority over C. E. S. Wood at the June election of 1802, was, according

NEED OF CANTEEN IN ARMY. But Its Restoration by Congress Is Not Likely at This Time.

Boston Evening Transcript.
A bill has been introduced in Congress and is now before the committee on military affairs, providing for the restoration of the Army canteen We do not look for its passage, partly because of the timidity of members who do not dare displease a certain element in their constituencies, and partly because the legislative grist is so large that it is not likely to be reached. Questions of expediency and questions of moral regulation that have been recently settled, even though such settlement was wrong, stand a poor chance of reconsideration against the pressure of new prop ositions. But we believe this will be an ever recurring question until it is settled right. Were it put upon its merits and given reasonable consideration, it ought not take long to dispose of it. The canteen has now been out of commission for several years. It is possible to determine with almost absolute certainty by the weight of evidence whether its abolition has been a benefit or an injury to the military service and has helped or hurt the

morals of the American soldier. The action was taken in deference to the prejudices of many people, no doubt well-meaning. who deplored serving beer and light wines to the Army. The canteen had been an institution of long standing. It was abolished on the theory that it worked injury to the morals and discipline of the Army. That theory has now had a thorough test, and the question to be decided is whether or not it was justified. If the soldiers behave selves better; if there is less drunken-ness and other vice; if the absences are fewer and higher standard of conduct has been established, it ought not be difficult to prove the fact. Let the records be examined. Let the testimony of commanding officers and military inspectors be taken and a basis of comparison established. Then it should be easy to decide which system should be easy to decide which system had better served the cause of tem perance and discipline. But there are so many ex-cathedra

statements to the effect that the aboliby a partial demoralization of the service that some attention should be paid to them. Let us remember that it is not a question of light wine and beer on the one hand, and total ab-stinence on the other. It is a ques-tion of nothing at the post and strong drinks and bad ones on leave of ab-sence, with the other vices that so generally attend indulgence when restraint has been removed. Army scandals have been multiplied manifold since the canteen was abolished. This is the general testimony of officers, and that testimony is to be trusted be-cause whatever the personal habits of officers themselves may be they certainly prefer that system for the men under them that will keep them up to the highest standard of order and efficiency, because that makes their own tasks easier and their responsibilities

Where Hubby Comes In.

Atchison Globe.

An Atchison woman advertised for a cook, saying in the advertisement that "a man was employed to do the henry work." "But we haven't any man." protested her husband. "That's you," responded his wife.

PORTLAND, Feb. 28.—(To the Editor.)—
In addition to your excellent editorial on water supply, allow me to say that as the population increases in all countries purification of the water supply becomes imperation of the water supply becomes imperation to vote for Governor Geer. PORTLAND. Feb. 28.—(To the Editor.)—
In addition to your excellent editorial on
water supply, allow me to say that as the
population increases in all countries purification of the water supply becomes imperative, and that only mountain villages or cities
in the foothills escape the trouble and expense of filtration.

In general there are two classes of filters
or purification processes along or continuous
or purification processes along or continuous

when Governor Chamberlain had the opportunity of his life, in the appointment of a United States Senator to fill the vacancy. to have at least carried out the wishes of his party by naming Mr. Wood, his appointment of Mr. Gearin would indicate that he did not consider such obligation binding when applied to the Democratic party, but only as to the Republican party, as the whole trend of their argument now clearly shows. If so able and astute a politician as Governor Chamberlain—the very head and shoulders of the Democratic party—can and does so easily brush aside so great and binding an obligation to suit his own individual preference, with what grace de this persistent clamor for the observance of the primary law, as applied to Republicans, come from his Democratic brethren?

J. M. SHELLY.

USE OF FALLACIES.

Youth of All Ages Need Sunshine and Flowers.

PORTLAND, Feb. 27 .- (To the Editor) The public generally will not inderse the pessimistic delusions of Marcus W. Robbins, expressed in his letter entitled "Fallacies," and published in your Sunday edition. He can claim no more for himself -nor even so much-than he accords Aristotle, J. Ogden Armour or "The Preachers and Monument Builders," for they were instrumental in promulgating fallacies in but a single direction, while pondent endeavors to cast cloud over everything-mortal and immor tal. The youth of all ages need all the of piloting them through this lake of fall lacies. When the girl or boy steps into the arena of the infinite and with a single mad stroke or rash act extinguishes the candle of life, in a majority of cases the of it life and eternity are a mockery. This is the conclusion reached by your pondent—a fallacy which every impulse of nature rises to refute.
HENRY S. WESTBROOK.

A PLEA FOR MONUMENTS.

The Time Is for the Making of the City Beautiful.

PORTLAND, Feb. 26 .- (To the Editor.)-To an observer, one who has seen the world's work, in the arts and sciences, one feels here in Portland the lack of the monumental features. Baltimore has been called the monumental city. There are many fine monuments there, but here there are noise. New Orleans, Richmond and other cities of Dixie boast of their monuments. Why not Portland? The Eastern cities have their educational monuments pointing to the valor of their heroes in their multiplicity.

The many triangular lots of Portland are most excellent sites for monuments of a Lincoln, a Washington, a McKinley, type of the patriotic, of the American Revolution, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, the arts and sciences, navigation, valo of Oregon's some and daughters, and a multitude of other notable subjects, ad infinitu The most remarkable thought of the man minds that visited the Lewis and Clark E-position was, "Where are your monuments? You have them "native" as a matter of course in your Mount Hood. Mount St. Hel-ens. Mount Adams, Mount Jefferson and Mount Rainier, but where are the splendid masterpleces of man, the chiseling of the marble, cast bronze, carvings, frescoes, paint ings, the fancies of the many fertile minds that Portland is blessed with? This is the time for the esthetic, and the esthetic in art is the making of the city beautiful.
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH GOODRICH.

RURAL CUSTOMS IN MEXICO.

Modern Mexico.

In the tower of the hacienda chapel, or if there is no chapel, then from an arch over the main entrance to the owner's house, hangs a bell that has been blessed. In times of war it was used to call in the field hands when danger threatened. At the first note they dropped plow and sickle, running toward the great house. The women and children were gathered in the patio. The senor armed the men with rifles, from the storeroom. Then from behind the portholes of the heavy stone walls, from the corner turrets and from the protected roof, the haclenda was able to offer stout resistance against wander ing marauders, or bands of soldiery in search of supplies. But, now that peace has come to Mexico, the bell is rung only when rain or hall threatens in harvest time. Since it is blessed its voice is a charm against the elements.

When the day's work is done and the last red faded from the mountains, the field hands gather in the open before the quarters to sing the evening song praise. A deep bass begins the song: "Dios te salve Maria."

A shrill childish treble joins in: "Dios to salve Maria, Then sweeping up from the farther end of the line comes the chorus: "Dios te salve Maria Liena eres de gracia;" The voices are truly Indian, and carry

pitch from a shrick to a roar. When the whole line joins in, each yelling at the top of his voice: "Bendita tu eres. Entre todas las mujeres!" One might imagine he heard the war song

of the legions of old Tlaxcallan as they sallled out against the royal city by the lakes. But it is only the "Ave Maria" sung to the gentle mother.

Belated pulque gatherers and careteros, as they pass the line, raise their hats in respect. It is a sacred service, and closes with a short prayer by the "captain" of

If a field produces well, a cross, hung with wisps of grain and stiff decorations, made from the flower of the maguey, is set up in the corner as a sign of thank-

On Sunday every one attends church in the village if it be near enough After mass they do their weekly buying, from the stalls, in the plaza. A little old man carrying a silver tray begs aims for the church. The more religious Indians raise their hats as he passes, or stoop to kiss

As the pulque gatherer pours the agua-niel freshly gathered from the maguey into the stinking cowhide vats of the tinacal, he calls out in a loud voice:
"In the name of the holy sacrament on
the altar! Hall to the most pure Virgin

Mary! May the pulque turn out well."
Every man in the building raises his hat. The grain is cut with short-bladed he sickles. Whenever a reaper straightens up to rest from his work he raises his hat

and shouts in a high, monotonous key:
"Ave Maria Santissima!"
Some fellow-worker from a neighboring field answers back, and so from all the wide fields a continuous cry of rejoicing

goes up.

The Courage of Venus

The Venus of Milo en