# The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1906.

WOULD LIKE TO SELL OUT.

The gas company, through its president, says it is willing to sell to the city. Of course it would sell to the city, if it could turn a transaction similar to that of lost Spring, when the same franchise-mongers sold out the Portland Consolidated Railway. But the gas company will not sell to the not now for the city will not buy.

Whether the City of Portland will enter into the production of light, no one can say now. It is a very large question, and demands much considergas. It would be obliged to undertake till The Oregonian concluded that for electric lighting, also. And then probably the service of electric power. And then no doubt the street raliways. All these public-service industries may be with Mr. Ladd himself. indertaken by the city. Many citizens have no doubt they will be. But careful inquiry and preparation will first

Without doubt the gas company, seeing the trend of opinion and of events, and foreseeing results, would like to sell out, upon its own valuation, to the city. But the property never will be pany may set upon it. The simple fact it, has been created by money collected fifty years and a great deal more noney besides, which has been spent by the beneficiaries of the franchise in luxurious living-all taken from the gas consumers of Portland.

Should Portland desire to go into the gas business it will follow the precedent it established when it undertook the problem of water supply. The representatives of the city went to reprean offer of a specific sum, deemed all the property was worth, adding for the information of those whom it might concern that if the offer were not accepted by the company the city would at once proceed to create water works, de novo, for itself. The offer of the city was accepted. Should the city decide to go into the gas business, it will proceed in the same or similar way There will be no graft, and the city will not pay franchise-grabbers anything for right of resumption of its own fran-

## WHALE AND PLUTOCRAT.

dukes swim about in the ocean of American life like whales. Pursuing his ingenious idea, he goes on to say that as the whole swims with its capaclous mouth wide open to engulf whatever small fish come in its way, so the plutocrat swallows down lesser men by its multitudinous prey from the water sees a wonderful resemblance in the network of injunctions, rules of evidence and dilatory pleas in which the he is ready to dine.

Had our philosopher pushed his thought a little farther, however, he would have discerned a notable difference between the estate of the whale and that of the plutocrat. The difference arises from their diverse relations to the shark. In the briny deep the shark is the enemy of the whale, while in our ocean of economic life the shark has entered the service of the adipose cetacean. In the guise of the corporation lawyer the man-eater loyally de-

votes himself to his master's appetite. As Aladdin's genle was the slave of the lamp, so the corporation lawyer may be called the slave of the paunch; since a whale is ready, apart from his fishing net of baleen, little more than a paunch in a thick cushion of blubber. Perhaps it is in this respect that the accanic monster most closely resembles the plutocrat whom the Roman poet described us "paunch et praeterea nihil," but they are also strikingly alike in the way they act when they

sailors call it. He thrashes the water into foam with his enormous tail, hurle his huge weight of blubber above the waves and spouts streams of gory foam high into the air. Thus also is it with the plutocrat, when he is made fast to an investigating committee's whaleboat. Throw the harpoon of a pertinent question into any one of these huge and ungainly monsters, disporting themselves in their ocean of franchise bounty and special privilege, and forthwith he will tempest the sea with his rage, spout Ningaras of bloody brine through his spiracles and smash the committee-room to splinters with his flukes and tail.

Sometimes the whale in his flurry ears loose from the harpoon; sometimes he sinks the whalehoat and swims away free, to resume his career as a sholesale fisherman. But this does not often happen. For the most part the harpoon holds, the boats escape and the adventure ends with the cetacean's de-

Just now the American people are naking a voyage after plutocratic whales. How will it end? Will the eviathans smash the boats and drown the sailors, or will the ship of state ome home to port with all hands safe and the blubber stowed in the hold! Prophecy is gratuitous folly, but it may guide those who wish to bet on the event, to remember that the oceanic whale is practically an extinct species of mammal.

#### BEGAN TO VILLEY.

In his statement Wednesday night, Mr. Adams, of the gas company, said: 'Along about last May, when they (The Pregonian) began to vilify Will Ladd, I nade up my mind that, so far as the gas company is concerned, they would get no more from us." -What Mr. Adams meant by the phrase "they would get no more from us," he may know The Oregonian doesn't care. It is the first part of his remark, quoted above that we now pay attention to.

"About last May The Oregonian began to vilify Will Ladd." The results of a certain great franchise abuse came out at that time, through the sale of he Portland Consolidated Railway Company. The Oregonian criticised the transaction. This caused renewal of the outbursts of Mr. Ladd's newspaper upon The Oregonian. For two years and more Mr. Ladd, through his newspaper, had been making most venomous attacks upon The Oregonian, its editor and owners. It was a steady stream of cars. vilification. But The Oregonian took no sotice of it.

However, when it was continued with nerensing venom, after the sale of the street railway franchise. The Oregonian -though with great reluctance-concluded to give Mr. Ladd a drench of his own medicine. It resolved to let Mr. Ladd and those about him know that i could say something, too.

The Oregonian did not begin the vilification, nor did the vilification begin last May. It began fully two years earlier, and by Mr. Ladd himself, through his newspaper, and it was conation. The city could not stop with tinued by and through his newspaper bearance on its part was no longer required. But it scorned to attack or retort on Mr. Ladd's bired men. It dealt

#### EXPENSIVE DISCRIMINATION.

Portland bidders can hardly be expected to make much on an effort to secure the big grain and forage con tract which the Government is about to award for the Philippine service. In order to get on even terms with the Setaken over by the city at any value attle bidders they must make allowance comparable with that which the com- for the local rate from Portland to Secity to fill the order called for. Then is tributary to Portland more grain through high charges for gas from the people of Portland, during the past Puget Sound, and it can be secured to better advantage at this port but the officials who have charge of the purchasing and routing of Governme freight in the Pacific Northwest persistently ignore the opportunity to save rast sums of money on these contracts. When the millionaire owners of the Boston Towboat Company lobbied through Congress a bill compelling the shipment of Government freight on American vessels, they failed to secure a withdrawal from the ocean of the Government transports. These craft, if they were not in the hands of fossilized devotees of red tape, could handle the Government freight fully as economically as it could be handled by any other American steamer but the opportualty for them to do so is not forthcoming.

Forage and stores will not be received at Portland because there is no vessel here to receive them, and there will be no vessel at Portland because forage and stores will not be received here. Portland seems to have practi-cally given up hope of breaking through this "heads-I-win-taile-youlose" system; but it is not at all clear things has remarked that our trust that an opening may not be forced call for officers in an emergency like magnates, railroad potentates and gas from another direction. When the Boston Towboot Company's powerful lobby departed from Washington after forcing through the bill which gave them a vice itself needs a housecleaning, as monopoly of Government freight shipments from North Pacific ports to the Philippines, freight rates shot up from itary camp without earning their shoul-\$4 per top-the rate at which a vesse was then loading at Portland for Mafinancial dinner off a whole shoal of pila-to \$5.50 per ton for the first enwriggling victims. He points out also gagement made with the Boston Towboat Company under the new law, at a high standard. This is the puzzle lined with baleen, whereby it strains Since that time the Government has been paying from \$1.50 to \$2 per ton more for all the freight it has shipped escape; and to this beneficent device he to Manila than was exacted of commer-

ctal shippers. By this nefarious system not only does the Government suffer a loss ical favoritism which has been apparen plutocrat enmeshes his victims and through the increased freight rate, but leaves them to pickle, as it were, until the exclusion of Portland from competition greatly enhances the cost of supplies. This excessive freight and excessive purchase price on a cargo of hay and oats, such as was formerly sent from Portland not infrequently, will amount to more than \$10,000. Apparently impressed with the great wealth of the Government, the Pacific Coast employes of the Quartermaster's trained soldiers of forty years only at-Department make no serious effort to tain that rank as in the recent case of stop this wholesale graft and discrimination. On the Atlantic seaboard the case is different. The men in charge of the Quartermaster's Department seem imbued with the belief that Uncle Sam should buy his supplies and the freight space for shipping them at as ment promotion must depend-not upon low a rate as is granted any other chip-

per who pays cash on demand. Acting on this belief, they have ignored the law passed in the interest of the Boston Towboat Company and are still shipping vast quantities of supplies from New York to the Philippines on foreign vessels, for the most excellent reason that those vessels quote a lower rate than can be secured from the the service without increase in rank or Americans. Andrew Welr & Co., Brit- pay and the next man in the order of

titles of Government freight from Portland to Manila before the embarge was laid against us, are still carrying Government freight from New York to Manila on the identical vessels which formerly carried it from Portland, Here is an opportunity for the Chamber of Commerce, Senator Fulton and others who have the interest of the port at heart to demand fair play. What we would like to know is why the Pacific Coast is discriminated against in this matter. On the low freight rate which the foreign steamers make by way of the Suez, there is bound to be a diversion of business, which, if it followed its natural channel, would flow to the Pacific. If the law is inoperative on the Atlantic Coast, it should also be inoperative on the Pacific. Perhaps if some of the employes of the Quartermaster's Department, who purchased entire cargoes of rotten oats and have repeatedly discriminated against Portland, were transplanted and their places taken by the business men who seem to be in charge at New York, there would be no further fattening of the Boston million aires' wallets at the expense of the Government and Portland bidders would have an opportunity to do business on business principles.

REPEAL OF TIMBER AND STONE ACT. Yesterday's dispatches recorded the refusal of the public lands committee of the House to allow the bill prepared in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Lands Commission for the repeal of the timber and stone act to have a show for its life in the House. By repetition of last year's tactics the bill has been killed for this session also. This will be glad news to many a man who has his eye on a quarter section, that he can buy from the Nation for \$400 and then sell to a syndicate for \$1000; also to those speculators who, by this means, have a chance to round of their ownership and pick up some leavings from their last gathering-in.

It will administer yet another snub to the forestry officials, who have been trying to establish a wise and rational forestry system, of which the foundation should be the ownership by the Nation of the land on which the timber grows, the sale of the timber, as it ripens, at something like its real value, and the chance to reforest the lands. And the Reclamation Service will see another proof that its teaching, on the function of timber lands in conservation of water supplies, has fallen on deaf

So the weary work has to begin again. The deciding impulse in the Wyoming Congressman's mind seems to be that because in his own state there is no timber land worth preserving, therefore no other state shall have a chance to have its forests protected.

#### OUR MILITARY ARM

The United States is essentially a peaceful Nation. It has not during all the years of its existence, until recently, maintained more than a nucleus of an army. Yet within the period of its National life it has expended upon its war establishment, including the payment of pensions, the enormous sum of \$9,500,000,000. This fact is shown in a tabulated statement included in an interesting and instructive article by Mr. F. L. Huidekoper, in the current numher of the North American Review.

Mr. Huidekoper, in discoursing upon ur military methods and history, agrees with the opinions of General are accepted as authorities upon the subject. He contends that our system paid and which we shall continue to him out of the presidency of the Illipay if that system is not changed, is nois Central. If this keeps on, Mrs. this vital expenditure being needless, herself. Our military system, in his view, is based upon a general misconception. In support of this view he says:

Animated by the deeply rooted Angle-Saxon repugnance to a large standing army and anything which smacks of militarism in the elightest degree, we as a people cling with astoniahing tenacity to the ridiculous fallacy that a citizen with a musket is fully equal. If not superior, to the trained soldier, both it ourage and efficiency.

It is the purpose of Mr., Huidekope In this article to show what it has cost the Nation to cling to this idea. Whether it will or will not be convincing to the army of readers that it has found, it well repays perusal. It is, moreover, just now particularly timely in view of the recent submission by Secretary Taft of ten important measures for the improvement of our mill-

tary establishment. One of the costliest mistakes of the old system has been in placing raw recruits under the command of civilian officers (too often merely sons of their fathers), who were little or not at all familiar with their work or their duties. The new system seeks to obviate this mistake by making the National Guard a training school for men who will in some measure be qualified to answer a call for officers in an emergency like the outbreak of the Civil and later of the Spanish War. But the regular sershown by the number of minor officers who went from the political to the mil-

der-straps. A careful, intelligent and just system of promotion is necessary if the effi-ciency of the Army is to be maintained which military authorities have set themselves to solve, and it is a perplexing one. Promotion only by seniority is a mistake that has been too often demonstrated; promotion by selection is largely open to that personal and politin recent years. It is recalled that this system recently made General Adna R. Chaffee an officer on the staff of Leonard Wood; that it makes brigadiers of the line out of doctors, as in the case of Wood; out of commissary officers, as in the cases of Blies and Weston; out of ordnance officers, as in the case of Cro zier, and out of captains of cavalry, as in the cases of Bell and Mills, while Butler Price, by depriving the Army of

All experience proves that an efficien army depends upon efficient officers. It is urged, therefore, that in the im provement of our military establishseniority or personal favor, but upon efficiency. The new Taft bill proposes "promotion by elimination" as the proper way by which the difficulty may be surmounted in this case. This would compel the officer next in line of promotion to pase a rigid examination in higher rank. If he falls he is to leave his vitals he falls into a "flurry," as i ish shipowners, who carried large quan- i seniority, steps up for examination, ya-

cancies are filled at the bottom either from West Point or from civil life This system offers prospect of promotion to all, without unfairness to any By it the incapable and inefficient are "eliminated" and inferior soldiers are

not jumped over the heads of better

Secretary Taft, in letters accompany ing the proposals recently submitted refers to the present system of promotion as "bad now, but certain to become intolerable unless a cure is applied." Mr. Huidekoper's article is opportune since it cannot fail to call further attention to conditions to which the Secretary of War refers.

Of course, our foreign trade languishes for want of ships in which to end our wares abroad. Every subsidyshricker who gets over the boundary line immediately sends back a doleful report of the lack of American ships and attendant loss of trade. In the midst of this chorus from the begging brigade it is refreshing to note an honest statement of conditions as they actually exist, Edward C. O'Brien, United States Minister to Uruguay, sends the department a detailed list of all steamship lines running to the River Plata. Of the British lines ten run from Euopean ports and nine from the United States. This majority of one is more than offset by three of the lines from New York having a weekly service and three a fortnightly service, while only one of the lines from European ports has a weekly service. The next time that the Hon, John Barrett goes to South America it is to be honed that he will communicate with Mr. O'Brien and thus avoid the necessity of sending back word that it is necessary for him to travel to Europe in order to reach South America from the United States.

Real estate transfers in this city for he month of February reached a total of \$2,369,150.67, an average of more than \$100,000 for every business day of the month. These gratifying figures were scored without including the true valuation of more than 25 per cent of the property which changed hands. Nearly all of the heavy buying that was done by the railroads, appears in the transfers at the nominal figure of \$1. From a statistical standpoint this method of hiding the truth is even more misleading than the prevailing system of taking out building permits at from onetwentieth to one-tenth the value of the building involved. All of our slowoach efforts to keep our light under bushel are unavailing, however, and the new blood that is surging in is making its presence felt. Among these new arrivals are people who actually be lieve that it is creditable to the city to have a \$19,000 permit taken out for a \$10,000 building.

Dr. Andrew D. White made an address to Cornell students recently, in which he said that "the number of homicides in the United States, that are punished by lynching, exceeds the number punished by due process of law.' It is probably true. More than proba bly; because Dr. White is noted for accursey of statement, and he must have made the necessary inquiry. It proves two things. First, that there are too few executions by due process of law; second, that in consequence there are too many lynchings.

The reign of grace among the insurance companies is about over. Stuyveeant Fish has been turned out of the Emery Upton and other writers who Mutual Life's investigating committee because he wanted to investigate, and it is said that Standard Oil will punish is wrong and that the price we have him further for his audacity by forcing reckoned in billions of dollars and hun- Fish may become the wife of the Presireds of thousands of lives, much of ident of the United States in spite of

The East Oregonian wants an Eastern Or gon man for Eastern Oregon, It urges East ern Oregon people to stand firmly for such a candidate. If Fortland will not voluntarily yield a deserved and just share of the honors. then let East Oregon "take the bit in her treth" and forcibly take possession of her own.—Pendieton East Oregonian.

Yet the East Oregonian, as a good Democratic newspaper must and should and will support Hon, John M. Gearin, of Portland.

The notion that foreign immigration promotes crime gets a setback from Massachusetts statistics. In the last ten years the population of that state has increased 20 per cent, mostly from immigrants, while the number of prison inmates has decreased. The Springfield Republican attributes the advance in morality to the public schools.

United States, he would be the first Yale graduate to attain that distinct tion. Yale alumni cannot lack political glory as long as Chauncey Depew survives, but it would be soothing to their pride to see one of their number in the Presidential chair-especially one who would fill it as well as Taft.

The orthodox Russian Church has a His eternal abode to be a white-hot fron pot with a tight lid, where he is to fry to the songs of rejoicing devils As for Pobledonostseff and the Czar, their barps and wings are all prepared. Such is orthodoxy.

To swell its figures of the cost of gas production, the Portland Gas Company figures "depreciation" of plant at about \$50,000 per year, or 14.45 cents per thousand feet of gas produced. Perhaps that is the explanation of poor gas-the plant depreciates so rapidly. In Portland and throughout Oregon

we shall have rather atrenuous times till we shall have brought the franchise operators and the franchise mongers under control. But they will be brought under control. Colorado is making an organized ef-

tractive move would be to bring its

civil war to a close. Immigrants as a

general thing prefer to locate in peace-

ful communities.

The more pertinent question now arises, Would the New York Legislature be willing to entertain a bill for the killing off of the morally incurable?

A sum in the rule of three: If Mc-Curdy's \$150,000 salary was fourteen-fifteenths steal, how much of Paul Morton's \$100,000 salary is bonest? Be patient when the gas burns livid

red and green and smells like a broken sewer. President Adams may be using the main for a speaking tube. There is a crying need for a more open game in the prizering, too, apparTHE SILVER LINING.

By A. H. Ballard. Vers De Societe.

I little thought, as in I passed, Bowing to her among the rest. That I should leave the room at last With an arrow in my breast.

Little did I understand She never from my mind would go, And when I touched her soft, white

hand I wondered why I trembled so

But when I looked into her face, And when I listened to her songs, I pondered, "I have run my race And here is where my heart belongs'

Never hedge. Stay with your convic-

Philosophy is the mind trying to find Philosophy is the pame.

#### Definitions.

(Tips on the Race of Life.) KISS-something a woman gives with pleasure and a man reluctantly. It is better to purchase them in the open market. They are cheaper that way. One given with pleasure semetimes costs hundreds of dollars in the end. ROOM-A space bounded by four walls

a ceiling and a floor that have neither ears nor tongue, JOKE-A word used to denote the hard-

est kind of labor next to prison labor. GIRL-A possession really possessed by the other fellow.

EYES-Daggers used skillfully by fesales in all civilized countries. HAND-A convenient appendage to a woman which when held firmly, is equivalent to holding her entire self on your lap. It generally remains quiet, has a gentle disposition and will stand without hitching. But sometimes it scratches. CAT-Generic term (almost obsolete) for certain kinds of human beings who wear skirts.

PETTICOAT-A garment that prevents the nothing-underneath effect. STOCKING-A curiously shaped keg nade of soft material and worn by

choolmarms to keep the feet warm and other purposes. It may be made attrac tive when intended to be seen. SHOE-The modern sandal used to de-

orm the human foot. TAILOR-A perpetual creditor SWEETHEART-The prettiest word in the English language. It usually represents the only really sincere feeling of affection of which anyone is capable.

There is no doubt that this city is going to be liberally supplied with banks. The best part of it is that the people have plenty of money to put in them.

The surest help to a woman's pain Is the magic phrase, "Let's have champagne."

I know that my deceiver liveth. God said "Let there be light"; and Adams immediately produced it.

Adams charged too much at the very eginning, so they compromised on using the sun for general purposes, the garden of Eden inclusive.

The Adams family have been monkeying with illuminants at high rates ever

Of all sad words e'er written by man The saddest are these, "He also ran,"

The most acceptable person in the world s the woman who admires you. Every man down in his soul knows that he is no good; but he is always tickled beyond measure when a fine woman begins to believe in him and praise him.

## Thought for the Day.

A little money, less or more, Records the days as they pass by, Days and months and years galore; Why do we worry, you and 1?

A little money, more or less, That is all that can be said. Let's cultivate God's tenderness; The sun will shine when we are dead.

Baltimore Herald. That the art of heated and incandescen invective is not confined to politicians, dray-drivers and longshoremen is shown by the following extracts from a Philadelphia clergyman's published tribute to a fellow ecclesiastic:

"Vociferous and pessimistic cur."
"A desperate pamphleteer." "Unlike the gentleness and humility of the

"This inflated pugillet." "Even when the Lord appears the second time, it would be just like this small animal to rear up and bark at the sound of the trumpets, as if to say: I will not allow

ate and med evangelist. Has been smitten with the stupidity of a udicial blindness." "A mongrel Calvinist."

"This caluminator." "Stands self-convicted either of intellec-tual imbediity or of serious moral deprayity, or possibly both." "A notable exhibit of obfusticated cere-

and misrepresentation remind one of the no

Here we have a master of the art of making loud and unseemly notes. In the dead city of Philadelphia he is lost. Were he in Mississippi the grateful and admiring populace would make him Governor. Were he in South Carolina he would be-

#### Hero Worship and Maps. St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas.

Hero worship, too, has had a hand in the making of maps. We have postoffices bearing the name of every President down to and including Mr. Roosevelt. Only two of his predecessors are lacking in the list of counties. Naturally, the favorite in the naming of towns and counties is Washington, and he is the only President for whom a state has been named. But others than Presidents enjoy these honors. Successful soldiers, sailors, statesmen, editors, authors, inventors, the heroes of ancient history and mythology, and even popular actors and athletes and even popular actors and athletes share a like distinction. Our list of post-offices is a long one, and contains names offices is a long one, and contains names from almost every language, living and dead, and chosen on almost every conceivable principle or impulse. Two counties in Kansas present a curious association of ideas: Greeley County has for its capital a town called Tribune, and Ulysses is the county seat of Grant. New stations were to be named along a Western rallway some years ago, and they were named after the members of a professional baseball team that happened just then to win the championship. then to win the championship

## What We Are Coming To.

When Baker City gets paved streets our millionaires will be riding in auto-mobiles and our millionaire daughters will be eloping in automobiles and our millionaires' dogs will be biting our poor, unworthy legs to beat the band.

#### NEW YORK'S GAS WAR.

Eight Per Cent on Capital Actually Employed Is a Fair Return.

ALBANY, Feb. 2.-Governor Higgins wants an 30-cent gas bill passed by the Legislature. There was no mistaking the neaning of Governor Higgins tonight when he said it was the duty of the Legislature to pass an 80-cent gas bill for New York City without delay. The Governor expressed the opinion that

the announcement of 30-cent gas for Manhattan made today by the State Commission would, if put into force, stand the test of the courts. He was sure the Legislature could specifically delegate its powers to the commission, but he feared litigation would follow and keep the users of gas from obtaining relief. Now that the commission had declared for an 80-cent rate, the Governor was sure the Legislature could find no good reason for opposing confirmation of "the State Board's work. The Governor was asked if the de-cision of the Gas Commission was expected by him.

"They brought to me," he replied, "the detailed figures on which their decision is based. I therefore knew in a general way of their conclusions. I think that an 8 per cent return to the gas company on the amount of its capital actually employed in its business is a fuir return. The reduction in price should increase the consumption, and with the economies to pant at Astoria, there should be an in-crease in the ratio of profit to the com-pany from its sales."

"Do you regard the order as confisca-tion?" he was asked,

"I do not."
The State Commission of Gas and Electricity in fixing the price at 80 cents today said that "on the evidence it is question-able whether the consolidated Gas Company has franchises of any co value. The commission believes that these franchises, granted by the people without compensation, should not be capitalized against the public, thereby compelling the public to pay a profit upon the value of the favor granted by it. The seeming injustice of requiring a corporation to pay taxes upon a franchise and at the same time refusing to allow the capitalization of that franchise is sophistical, not real. The franchise tax is paid by the corporation, but charged against the public as an expense of operation, and in reality is therefore paid by the consumer, not by

the company.' The commission find that the Consolidated Company is earning at least 5 per cent on its watered stock. In the findings against the Consolidated Gas Company there is the promise that a reduction will soon be ordered in Brooklyn and Bronz. The members deny that they were forced to act because of the bill by Senator Stevens legislating them out of office. In the present condition of the Legislature, with virtually no leadership. It is impossible to say whether Governor Higgins will have his way on an 80-cent

#### The Maligned Newspaper Reporter. Everybody's Magazine.

A common charge brought against newspaper reporters is that they are heartless, that they revel in laying be crets of individuals. It constantly happens that a reporter must do unpleas-ant things because others have been guilty of those violations of custom, law or convention that make news. The op-probrium that belongs to the real offender is not infrequently heaped upon the innocent reporter. There is no work a reporter detests so much as that involving a social scandal, and there is no story that a large percentage of readers will devour more eagerly. There isn't a good reporter living who has not been guilty of that blacker, least-forgivable guilty of that blacker, least-forgivable of all journalistic crimes, 'throwing down' his newspaper, to protect a helpless person innocently involved in a legitimate news story that is a master of public record. On the whole, the news-gatherers are a tender-hearted folk and generous, and that which often passes for cynicism is an intense hatred and contempt for shams. If they appear suspicious it is because long experience has taught them that they must constantly guard against deception. There is no walk of life a good reporter is not compelled, sooner good reporter is not competed, somer or later, to invade, and his position is the trying one of being compelled either to gain the confidence of or outwit those

## The First Artificial Fire.

St. Nicholas.

In the course of time a man somewhere in the world hit upon a plan of kindling a fire without having any fire to begin with; that is to say, he hit upon a plan of producing a fire by artificial means. He knew that by rubbing his hands to-gether very hard and very fast he could make them very warm. Then he asked himself the question: Can a fire be kin-dled by rubbing two pieces of wood to-gether, if they are rubbed hard enough? He placed upon the ground a piece of perfectly dry wood and rubbed this with the end of a stick until a groove was made. In the groove a fine dust of wood—a kind of sawdust—was made by the rubbing. He went on rubbing hard and fast, and behold, the dust in the groove. began to glow! He placed some dry grass upon the embers and blew upon ther with his breath, and the grass burst int a flame. Here for the first time a man kindled a fire for himself. He had in-vented the match, the greatest invention,

#### perhaps, in teh history of the world. The Reasonable Interpretation.

Arlington Record. If the Republicans have a majority in the Legislature and vote for their nom-ince as the law contemplates there will be no contest over the Senatorship in the Legislature. If the Democrats or any other party elects a majority of the Legislators, they are presumed to elect the man for Senator who received the plurality of the votes for Senator of the party they represent. No other reasonable construction can be put on the law.

## Pictures in the Smoke.

Puck. No sentimental poet I, to wring the heart or call up sad allusions to the Land of Long Ago.

I leave such work to Riley. Let him induce tears tears
With poems of the yesterday and Joys of
Othe. Years!
Tet what affatus is in me comes surging
from afar,
What time I puff the axure clouds from out a big cigar.
The Muse of Optimistic Things I joyfully in-

No sweethearts of the Might Have Been are in those dreams of mine; No Gwendolyn or Margaret, no Kate or Caro-line; No "dear old Home." no promises that child-ishly I rowed. Come in that vap rous picture in that blue tobacco cloud. Nay! Nay! I drawn of luxuries that I am going to get

By maying up the coupons of a certain cigarette.

O ye that scoff at sentiment and deem romance a joke.

Come gaze with me at pictures—at pictures in
the smoke.

An automostic—if I save four million tags of that;

For seven hundred thousand bands of this—a furnished flat;

A parier yacht for smoking thirty thousand tons of dops;

A toethbrush—for inhaling furnes of twenty miles of rope;

"A woman's but a woman'—but a good cigar Than just a smoke, dear Rudyard, if you strike the proper store.

Then just a smoke, dear Rudyard, if you strike the proper store.

I've got tobacco heart, a lung is gone, and I am broke.

But I have looked at pictures—at pictures in the smoke.

But I have looked at pictures—at pictures in the smoke.

#### OREGON IS ON THE MAP.

Wall Street Summary. From Manitoba comes an announcement that there are at present in the Canadian Northwest not less than 200,000 Americans, or about one-third of its entire population. This is the section to which reference has been made as the "wheat belt," and whole tracts are now exclusively settled by residents of the United States. In 1886 only 10 homesteads were allotted to Americans; in 1897, 1000 were apportioned; in 1830, 28,-000; in 1900, 35,000, and last year, more than 50,000 took up their habitation under the Dominion government. This year 80,000 Americans are expected.

This tide of emigration from the United States is a matter of vital interest, be cause it tends to depopulate our own agricultural sections, and, moreover, the transfer to Canada of much wealth and farming experience. The majority of our in farming pursuits, and are said to bring with them, on an average, \$1000 each man. If this be correct, we have lost by this movement money running far into the

The cause of this exodus is attributed to the speculator. In 1900 it was noticed that the homesteads in our various Western that the tracts in Minnesota and the Dakotas, which had formerly been sold to likewise, come to an end. To supply the be brought about to the Consolidated Gas new fields for American conquest, specu Company by the establishment of the lators came to Canada, looked over the lators came to Canada, looked over the plant at Astoria there should be an in- ground, purchased millions of acres for a nere song, and are now living in clover

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on the profits of their enterprise.

This, while highly beneficial to Canada. is an irreparable injury to the United States, particularly to the railroads. Heretofore emigrant traffic has been worth about \$1,000,000 a year to the railroads, and on the authority of President James J. Hill, of the Great Northern, every new family settling along its line is worth \$100 a year in freight profits. On this basis the diversion of 50,000 inhabitants, averaging five to a family, means the loss to the railroads of \$1,000,000 annually, and the opsequent gain of that sum by the Canadian railroads. And as this movement is likely to continue, a still greater loss may

have to be encountered as time passes. That this tide cannot be turned Dixieward is a condition to be greatly deplored; and more particularly in view of the reways and means were discussed by the Governors and representatives of 13 South-ern States to induce emigration Southward. The opportunities for agricultural and industrial development of a most diversified character below the old line of Mason and Dixon are equal, if not suprior, to those of Canada or our own Northwest, and this would have been ore generally understood if the channels of publicity had been earlier invoked. As is, much valiant service is now being done by the press of the South, and as, i is true, one of its prominent exponents preaches that "the development of the South is the enrichment of the Nation before it be too late we should take steps to save to our own country its citizens with their experience and wealth, by a counter transfer movement Southward.

#### What the Country Needs,

Ashland Tidings. Prospective settlers from the East and Middle West are pouring into Oregon by the hundreds and thousands, en-couraged by the existing favorable railroad transportation rates. Southern Oregon is getting a share of them and many are finding their way to Rogue River Valley. It is gratifying to note that many of them are people of considerable means, and come prepared to buy an orchard or farm improve unimproved lands which they purchase. This is encouraging. The Rogue River Valley towns not need so much people to gage in mercantile and similar bustness enterprise to compete in a field already well crowded, nor people without at least small means and a will to work-but producers are needed to fill up and develop the surrounding counuse to themselves and their neigh bors at home or abroad, farmers, fruitgrowers, stockgrowers, dairymen, poul-trygrowers. More development of our mines and water powers and general wealth of natural resources is called for. Most towns could spare a newspaper or a store and not suffer, but all

## His First Bribe.

McAlister (Indian Territory) News. The editor of this paper begs to achis editorial career. Some days ago we his editorial career. Some days ago wa made inquiries of one of our society young ladies concerning a news item and elicited the following reply: "Yes, it's true, but pie-e-ease don't print it in the paper. If you leave it out, I'll give you a nikel's worth of peanuts." We are not passionately fond of pea-nuts, but gallantry is our long suit. That

"please" would have separated us from our overdraft at the bank without a single regret. So we omitted the story. It wasn't anything very startling, any This morning a Senegambian gentleman preceded by about six inches of pleasant smile, wafted into the editorial sanctum with a package under his arm about the size of a week's washing.

Pennus! The whole family will be

# kept busy for a week eating up the out-ward and visible manifestations of our venality. We begin to appreciate the joys of being a boodler.

Keep It to Themselves. Olympia Olympian Portland is deep in a fight for cheap-er artificial gas, which is accompanied by the usual amount of discussion as to the actual cost of manufacture. The actual cost of gas, by the way, is a matter about which the gas men are not in the habit of speaking publicly. It is information that they much pre-fer to keep to tnemselves,

#### An Echoed Hour.

W. D. N. in Chicago Tribune.
Last night, when I was doring, half awake and half askep,
And the slience all about me was so mystically deep.
Then I sought the path to slumber as of old I used to seek—
With my hand upon the pillow, flattened undemeath my cheek;
And the strangest funcies hurried to my
dimly drowsy mind;
I was let across the borders of the land I've
left behind.

It was night—the hush of twilight—and I heard the low refrain.

Of the singing of the crickets in the meadow by the lane;

And the owl called in the thicket, and the whippoorwill gave cry.

To its hollow, mournful measure, and the trees hegan to sigh;

And my eyes came halfway open—and again upon the wall.

Was the flicker of the shadows from the candle in the ball.

And the walls changed in the magic to the walls I used to know.

With the olden pictures on them, and the celling bending low;

And the breeze came through the window, trailing lammine cdors on

With the spice of honeysuckles, as it did in the days arone;

And the sky was as a curtain flecked with gens or golden light.

And I lisped, "Now I lay me," as I used to to the night.