

The Oregonian

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Washington, D. C.—Ebbitt House, Pennsylvania avenue.

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 get a transaction similar to that of last Spring, when the same franchise-mongers sold out the Portland Consolidated Railway. But the gas company will not sell to the city—not now for the city will not buy.

EXPENSIVE DISCRIMINATION.

Portland bidders can hardly be expected to make much of an effort to secure the big grain and forage contract which the Government is about to award for the Philippine service. In order to get on even terms with the Seattle bidders they must make allowance for the local rate from Portland to Seattle on all freight shipped from this city to fill the order called for. Their tributary to Portland more grain, hay and lumber than is tributary to 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 Government freight in the Pacific Northwest persistently ignore the opportunity to save vast sums of money on these contracts.

WHALE AND PLUTOCRAT.

A philosophic observer of men and things has remarked that our trust magnates, railroads, and gas distributors swim about in the ocean of American life like whales. Pursuing their ingenious idea, he goes on to say that as the whale swims with its capacious mouth wide open to engulf whatever small fish comes in its way, so the plutocrat swallows down lesser men by the score or hundred, often making a substantial dinner of the whole of the wriggling victim. He points out also that the whale has its cavernous mouth lined with baleen, whereby it strains its multitudinous prey from the water and entangles them beyond the hope of escape; and to this beneficent device he sees a wonderful resemblance in the network of injunctions, rules of evidence and dilatory pleas in which the plutocrat entangles his victims and leaves them to plemle, as it were, until he is ready to dine.

OUR MILITARY AIRM.

The United States is essentially a peacetime Nation. It has not during all the years of its existence, save for a brief period, 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 \$2,500,000,000. This fact is shown in a tabulated statement included in an interesting and instructive article by Mr. F. L. Huidekoper in the current number of the North American Review.

THE SILVER LINING.

I little thought, as I passed, 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.

NEW YORK'S GAS WAR.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Governor Higgins wants an 80-cent gas bill passed by the Legislature. There was no mistaking the meaning 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.

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sailors call it. He thrashes the water into foam with his enormous tail, hurls 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 whalboat. Throw the harpoon of a pertinent question into any one of these huge and ungainly monsters, disporting themselves in their private and forthright he will tempt the sea with his rage, spout Niagara of bloody brine through his spiracles and smash the committee-room to splinters with his flukes and tail.

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.

BEGAN TO VILIFY.

In his statement Wednesday night, Mr. Adams, of the gas company, said: "Along about last May, when they (The Oregonian) began to vilify Will Ladd, I made up my mind that, so far as the gas company is concerned, they would get no more from us."

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titles of Government freight from Portland to Manila before the embargo 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 employees of the Quartermaster's Department, who purchased entire cargoes of rotten oats and have repeatedly discriminated against Portland, were transferred to 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 millionaires' wallets at the expense of the Government and Portland bidders would have an opportunity to do business on business principles.

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THE MALIGNANT NEWSPAPER REPORTER.

Everybody's Magazine. A common charge brought against newspaper reporters is that they are heartless, that they revel in laying bare the world's closely guarded secrets.

WHAT THE COUNTRY NEEDS.

Prospective settlers from the East and Middle West are pouring into Oregon by the hundreds and thousands, encouraged 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 see so many of these people who are of considerable means, and come prepared to buy an orchard or farm or to improve unimproved lands which they purchase.

HIS FIRST BRIBE.

McAllister (Indian Territory News). The editor of this paper begs to acknowledge the receipt of the first bribe of his editorial career. Some days ago we made inquiries of one of our society young ladies concerning a news item and elicited the following reply: "It's true, but she's a little bit of a peevish in the paper. If you leave it out, I'll give you a nickel's worth of peanuts."

KEEP IT TO THEMSELVES.

Olympia Olympian. Portland is deep in a fight for cheaper 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.

AN ECHOED THROU.

W. D. N. in Chicago Tribune. Last night, when I was dozing, half awake and half asleep, And the silence all about me was so mystically deep, Then I thought the path to slumber as of old I used to seek— With a pillow on the pillow, flattened under my head, I was let across the borders of the land I've left behind.

PICTURES IN THE SMOKE.

No sentimental poet I, to writing the heart is going to get. Or call up sad allusions to the Land of Long Ago, I leave such work to Riley. Let him induce with his poems of the yesterday and joys of the other years. Let that attitude be in me comes surging from afar. What time I puff the smoke clouds from out a big cigar.

HERO WORSHIP AND MAPS.

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 making of towns and counties in Washington, and he is the only President for whom a state has been named. But others than Presidents enjoy these honors.

WHAT WE ARE COMING TO.

Baker City Herald. When Baker City gets paved streets our millionaires will be riding in automobiles and our millionaire daughters will be shopping in automobiles and our millionaires' legs will be biting our poor, unworthy legs to beat the band. That's what we are coming to.

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