# The Oregonian

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Or., as Second-Class Matter. SUBSCRIPTION RATES, D INVARIABLE IN ADVANCE TO (By Mail or Express.)
DAILY, SUNDAY INCLUDED.

ree months .. Delivered by carrier, per year.
Delivered by carrier, per month.
Less time, per week.
Sunday, one year.
Weekly, one year (Issued Thursday).
Sunday and Weekly, one year.

HOW TO REMIT-Send postoffice money order, express order or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at the sender's risk.

EASTERN BUSINESS OFFICE. The S. C. Beckwith Special Agency-Tork, rooms 43-50, Tribune building. cago, rooms 510-512 Tribune building. KEPT ON SALE.

Chicago — Auditorium Annex, Postoffice News Co., 178 Dearborn street, St. Paul, Minn.—N. St. Marie Commercial

Denver-Hamilton & Kendrick. Beventeenth street; Pratt Book Store, 1216 Fificenth street; I. Weinstein.

Goldfield, Nev.-Guy Marsh. Kansas City, Mo.-Ricksecker Cigar Co., Ninth and Walnut. s-M. J. Kavenaugh, 50 S. Third. Cleveland, O .- James Pushaw, 307 Superior

New York City-L. Jones & Co., Aster Oakland, Cal .- W. H. Johnston, Fourteenth

and Franklin streets. Ogden-D. L. Boyle. Omaha-Barkslow Bros., 1612 Farnam; Mageath Stationery Co., 1308 Farnam; 246

south 14th. Sacramento, Cal.-Sacramento News Co., Salt Lake-Salt Lake News Co., 37 West

Second street South; Miss L. Levin, 24 Church street. Los Angeles—B. E. Amos, manager seven street wagons; Berl News Co., 3261, South Broadway.

Broadway,
San Diego—B. E. Amos.
Santa Barbara, Cal.—B. E. Amos.
Fasadena, Cal.—Berl News Co.
San Francisco—J. K. Cooper & Co., 746
Market street; Goldsmith Bros., 296 Butter
and Hotel St. Francis News Stand; L. E.
Lee, Palnes Hotel News Stand; Frank Scott.
80 Ellis; N. Wheatley Mounble News Stand,
corner Market and Kearney streets; Foster
& Orcar, Ferry News Stand.
Washington, D. C.—Ebblitt House, Pennsyltanis avenue.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1906.

### THE SEATTLE LESSON

The immense significance of the Seattie election cannot be ignored. It was the fight of the Plain Citizen against corporate tyranny. There was no other issue. It found, indeed, manifestation through several avenues, toward the open town." "bossism," gambling and "the machine." But these were incidents only. At basis it was universal revolt against the railroads which have dominsted Scattle for years. The steam roads and the street railroad combine have taken from Seattle what they wanted in the way of public franchises and have left for others whatever they chose not to take, which was nothing. Through their absolute control of municipal machinery, for example, they have held up aths the application of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad for rights of way over the streets, by imposing impossible conditions, and they have made it clear that Seattle could give no competitive railroad anything whatever except through their Bivor.

The railroads owned the Republican

bosses. The Republican bosses ran the town. The town endured it through many years, and then found a way to burst its shackles. The Republican organization, as usual, put up a ticket. It was headed by Mr. Riplinger, persongentleman. The Democrats, being numerically weak, retired from the field favor of a Municipal Ownership ticket headed by W. H. Moore, an active and outspoken advocate of municipalization of public utilities. The Republican leaders, recognizing with alarm the overwhelming public resentment at railroad domination and the growing sentiment for municipal ownership, themselves declared in their party platform for that principle "as soon as it could be carried into effect." The entire opposition was united in one straightforward demand for immediate municipal ownership, without any qualifications whatever. In the one instance the voter was offered the real article; and in the other the bogus brand. Riplinger was beaten and dantly able to conduct the negotiation Moore was elected Mayor of Seattle because the people propose to take control of their own affairs and direction of their own utilities in their own hands. There is no other interpretation whatever to Tuesday's election. It may, of course, be doubted whether it will be practicable for Seattle now to buy and operate its expensive street railway system, but that is a problem for the future. Seattle has declared that it intends to do it, because it is weary of insolent and inconsiderate treatment by its public-service corporations and is determined no more to yield to their insatiable demands for larger public priv-

public treasury. It may be well for the public-service corporations of Portland to take heed of the instructive Seattle lesson. There was never anywhere a more perfect and complete system of political and commercial control of any city than in Seattle. Yet the Plain Citizen has upset the system because the corporations did not know how to use, or did not care to use, properly, the enormous privileges they had obtained from the pub-

# TILLMAN AND THE RATE BILL.

A hundred years from now historians will still be speculating over the mo tives that decided Mr. Aldrich and his colleagues upon the interstate commerce committee to give Mr. Tillman harge of the Hepburn rate bill in the Senate. Was it a childish blunder, the result of a fit of pettishness? Was it a was it a move in a deep game of policy which we shall understand when we see the outcome, and not before?

The last supposition is the least prob able of the three. The policy of the leaders of the Senate, Aldrich, Elkins, Foraker, has never been very deep. It has consisted simply in giving privileged interests all they asked and voting down or pigeonholing every measa policy consistently requires no great astuteness. It demands merely indiference to their oath of office, loyalty to their corporate owners and contemp for the public. These qualities the leaders of the Senate have shown in unqualified perfection; but to conceive and execute a deep-laid stratagem is a

the brains of mercenary lawyers, not by the magnates themselves or their Senatorial puppets.

The chances are that in handing over the rate bill to Mr. Tillman they made a triple blunder. They believed that placing the bill under Democratic management would turn the Republican sentiment of the country against it; they believed that the public contempt for Mr. Tillman would be reflected upon the measure and that it would expire in a storm of ridicule; and they believed that Mr. Tillman's desire for petty revenge would make him betray the President's favorite measure. In all these things they were mistaken. The country does not care whether the Hepburn bill emerges from Congress under Republican or Democratic suspices. It wants the law enacted, and will receive what it wants from either party indifferently.

### FRANCHISES.

"Look not mournfully into the past, says the poet, "for it comes not back again," and his counsel is wise, but only half wise. True, the past cometh not back again, nor the franchises that have been given away in the past. Like Esau's birthright, Jacob has got them and will probably keep them. Tears and sighs over the folly that squan dered these franchises will never store them to the public. Remorse cannot alter the past, but, if keen enough it may prevent the repetition of similar folly in the future, and therefore, notwithstanding Longfellow's advice, it is a salutary passion. Mournful contemplation of our thriftless former dealings with franchise-grabbers is a singularly salutary mental exercise for Portland citizens just now, when the brutal logic of facts and figures ects before us what we have lost and what the fraction of the municipal wealth which we have re

Citizens' eyes buige to read of the bids by competing corporations for a franchise on Front street limited to twenty-five years and under strict terms of regulation. Suppose the street rallway and gas franchises still be longed to the city and could be offered now to the highest bidder. They would realize an income which might make municipal taxes practically unneces sary. It is useless to cry over spilled milk unless our tears make us more careful with what is left. That is only a smell part of what has been bestowed in the past upon greedy corporations, but in itself it is far from insignificant One traction company, for example proposes to build a standard-guage line on Front street costing some \$60,000 an turn it over to the city free of charge then it will lease the line, paying \$50,000 bonus and a fixed toll of \$1 per car for 25 years. This would yield the city an estimated annual income of \$18,250, be sides what amounts to a cash paymen of \$119,000; while at the end of twenty five years a new and still more advan tageous contract might be made.

In comparison with the old shiftless system of giving away franchises it is magnificent thrift. It indicates that the interests of the city are incomparably better understood and cared for by the Council than they ever were before. It may even excite suspicion in som minds that the traction company has made an excessively liberal proposition in its eagerness to control the franchiee. If such a suspicion exists, a little thought must dissipate it. The con pany asks the privilege of charging other users of the line \$2.50 per car during the franchise period. Suppose there are to be five such users each running as many cars as the traction company. Each of these corporations must pay the traction company an annual rental ally a popular and agreeable young of \$45,625, and all together they would stacking the cards, no further precaupay it \$208,125. Deducting from this sum the yearly rent or toll which the company pays to the city, we have u net annual profit to the holder of the

This looks well and it actually is well

franchise of \$209,875. This is not a bad return from an ir vestment of \$110,000. In twenty-five years it would amount to \$5,246,875, while the total tolls paid to the city would amount to \$456,250. The traction company therefore will not get the worst of the bargain, in all probability, if its terms are accepted; and if they are not accepted, it may propose terms a great deal more advantageous to the city and still be safe. The object of this little calculation is

not to offer advice or even suggestion

to the Council. They seem to be abun without assistance. The only purpose is to remind the public of the enormous money value of these franchises which have been squandered so heedlessly and lavishly in the past. A harsher word than "squandered" might well be applied to such transactions. The fran chises have been acquired by fraud; they have been stolen through the connivance of faithless public officials. And yet their value, great as it is, belongs wholly to the city, because the population, the industry, the enterprise of the city have created it. The men who hold them, by titles founded in almost every instance upon dishonesty, have created no part of their value. Those holders have simply applied their special privilege to absorb value created by the efforts of other men, and they will continue so to apply their special privilege as long as it exists. The American people have awakened to the true significance of the traffic in franchises. In the past it has meant the delivery of the fruits of industry into a few favored hands as fast as they ripened; in the future, under the new and better system which the disposal of the Front-street franchise inaugurates, it means the preservation for the city the material good which the progress of the city creates.

It rests with the Port of Portland Commission whether the Portland & Seattle Railway shall enter Portland or not. It has seemed to this entire community that the Commission has here deliberate insult to the President? Or tofore interposed needless obstacles in the way of the Hill rallroad. If the railroad is to come to Portland at all, it must enter over a bridge, and tha bridge must be below Portland. No one has suggested a better location than are made by new attaches of the Con the Swan Island crossing, and no one has advanced reasons that seem to the

public sufficient to justify construction

of an unwieldy, expensive and experi-

mental bascule bridge. Delay in reaching a decision in this vital matter has been too long. There should be decision at once, that this community may understand definitely and finally the attitude of the Port of Portland Commission towards this mos important project, and that we may know now whether we are to have the Hill railroad at all. It is the belief of very different matter. They probably The Oregonian that, unless the Port of Portland Commission proposes for Mr. plenty of corporate strategy both Hill a practicable plan, which it has not | bulk of our exports to China, the value | suddenness.

deep and dark, but it is worked out by heretofore done, for coming into thir city, he will abandon entirely the Columbia and Willamette bridges and the North-Bank Railroad will be a mere supplementary Puget Sound line. The orth-Bank Railroad will, of course, be built, and we shall have Northern Pacific and Great Northern cars in Portland, but they will come over the pres ent Northern Pacific line, and we shall not have opened up to us the productive Northern Pacific-Great Northern Job bing territory and the valuable Northern Pacific-Great Northern grain territory that are now tributary to Puget

A heavy responsibility, therefore rests upon the Port of Portland Com-Is it willing to be held accountable by this community, as it will be, for abandonment of the Hill project, so far as it concerns Porthind? Oregonian says plainly to the Port of Portland Commission that further de-lay, in its opinion, will seriously jeopardize the whole Hill scheme, and there must, for the sake of Portland, be an early decision, and the decision should be favorable to Mr. Hill. It must be, if Portland is to be the scene of activity by the Hill lines.

### RUSSIA GOLD-BRICKED AGAIN.

The bigoted, overbearing, autocratic gnorant aristocracy which pulls the strings that control the movements of the "Little Father" puppet in Russia has apparently learned little or nothing from the cataclysm of fire and blood through which it has just passed-or, to be more accurate, is still passing. The imperial manifesto just issued relative to the National Assembly and reorganized Council of the Empire is certainly a case of giving a stone in reply to request for bread. With many of her ships in the hands of mutineers, the streets of the principal cities red with the blood of soldiery and revolutionists and the entire government so thoroughly honeycombed with treason and on the verge of dissolution by bloodshed, extravagant promises were made of immediate reforms, and that the rights of the people should be respected But the might that makes right succeeded in stamping out a few of the insurrections, and, with the attendant feeling of fancied security, the aristoc racy took a fresh grip on the reins of power.

Of course, after all the extravagant promises that had been made when the life of the empire was almost trembling in the balance, immediate return to the old despotic policy would not look well, but close scrutiny of the Russian policy as outlined in the Czar's manifesto discloses the fact that the "people" have gained absolutely nothing by the alleged change. No thinner veneering of gilt was ever placed on a diplo matic gold brick than that which orns ments the suspicious-looking present that the "Little Father" has just made to his cringing subjects. With a burnng desire to enable the people to participate in the molding of legislation it is decreed that one-half of the upper house of the National Assembly shall be appointed by the Emperor, and of the other half twenty-six shall be elected from the nobility and clergy. The lower house, which is known as the Council of the Empire, is to consist of an equal number of elected members

and of appointees of the Emperor. As it is provided that only measures passed by both houses shall be submit ted for imperial sanction, it can easily be understood that legislation passe by the lower house which might be unsatisfactory to the upper house would meet a painless death with less effort than is required to put a "cinch" bill to sleep in an American Legislature. It would seem that, after so carefully, tion was necessary to prevent the con mon people from securing their rights. but the power behind the Russian throne was not taking any chances. There has been no modification of the right of the government to promulgate temporary laws during recesses of Parliament, and, as the body of lawmakers can be dissolved at any time by imperial edict, recesses can be made to or der whenever it is deemed necessary to pass a law which might excite suspicion in open session. In order that the people might not be burdened with too much work, the Czar has relieved Parliament of any participation in consid ering the reports of the Minister of Fi nance on the state of the treasury, or on reports of charges of maifeasance against members of the Council of the Empire, Ministers, Governors-General and naval and army officers.

These matters are to be attended to by special commissions appointed by the Czar, and these commissions als have sole control of the franchises for stock companies, titles of nobility, anything, in short, which presents unlin ited opportunities for the kind of graft that has made Russia famous for its infamy. Any objectionable bill which might accidentally get through both uses can be rejected by the Czar, and, after such rejection, cannot be brought forward again at the session then be ing held. In presenting to the people these evidences of a desire to give them voice in making the laws, the Czar says that he "firmly holds that participation of the representatives of the people in the government will contribute to the economic welfare of the empire and strengthen the unity of Russia." This statement was neither sarcasm no irony. It was just Russian.

### MISUNDERSTOOD CONDITIONS IN THE ORIENT.

Changing political and commercial conditions in the Orient are continually bringing to light surprises, for the wise men of that other East. Every few days there is an exchamation of wonder from Washington over the discovery in the Chinese boycott of some phase that was known and understood out here on the Pacific Coast ten or twenty years ago. It is not yet a dozen years since James J. Hill discovered the Oriental flour trade, although Citizen Wilcox fo a dozen years before Mr. Hill's discovery had been distributing Portland flouin all prominent districts between Sing apore and Vladivostok. The greater number of these startling discoveries sular Service who are shunted away to a foreign country, where their general incompetence will be less noticeable than it would be in a department at A Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune has been taking some of these Consular reports seriously, and, as a result, wires his paper from Washington that "much of the supposed animosity displayed by the Chinese against American goods is caused by the persistence of our manufacturers in refusing to study the Chi nese market and to make themselves acquainted with the Oriental mind." Flour, cotton and oil constitute the

of these commodities exceeding that of all other shipments from this country The flour trade was the foundation for all trade with China, and had its beginning in a small way more than fifty years ago. Flour as well as cotton, old and other commodities, of which China has been a good purchaser, is sold throughout the Flowery Kingdom by native agents, working with American or English representatives of American firms. These men make a careful study of the Chinese markets, and are in the closest possible touch with them. The fantastic names and pictures which ornament the bags in which flour is shipped to China offer plenty of evidence as to the consideration that is shown the Chinese in preparing our wares for their markets. American agents can always be found right on the border, and as far inland as it is

safe for a Caucasian to go. Basing his views on such misleading information, it is but natural that the Chicago correspondent should decide that "the boycott is more imaginary than real." The specific grievance named is certainly much more imaginary than real, but unfortunately the boycott is different. The Chinese boycott was instituted for no other purpose than to coerce the United States into granting in our immigration laws certain concessions which will make it easier for an unlimited number of Chinese "merchants" to invade our shores and compete with our own white labor. The boycott never has been distinctively a fair weapon, but is brought into play in cases where its sponsors believe, or profess to believe, that the end justifies the means. The Eistern newspapers and the Department of Commerce and Labor will know more about Chinese trade and Chinese boycotts before the trouble now brewing is settled.

It has been eloquently said that Great Britain "is a power whose morning drumbeat, beginning with the sun and keeping company with the hours, circles the earth daily with one continuou and unbroken strain of the martial airs of old England." The Briltsh army is one of the "big" things of the world. All over the civilized and uncivilized world, wherever the foot of white may has trod, we can find Tommy Atkins and his gun. By force of arms he has drilled civilization and religion into more savages than have experienced its refining influence from all other nations combined. But the British army, in spite of the bewildering immensity of its proportions, is dwarfed by our own army of pensioners. The total expenditure for the entire British army for the current year is estimated at \$148,630,000. which is a great many millions less than the United States is called on to appropriate for the pensioners. Grea. Britain is said to be groaning under the increasing cost of her army. There ! not very much groaning over the vast sum annually paid out to American pensioners, but the sum is increasing at an astonishing rate.

Portland's contention that if a sufficiency of tonnage were provided for the Oriental trade the traffic would expand rapidly has been vindicated on the first triel. The service is not yet what it should be, but last Fall a number of extra steamers were placed on the run to take care of the business offering. The result is noteworthy. For the eight months ending February 28 Portland's Oriental flour shipments show an increase of 270,380 barrels over those of the corresponding period in the previous season, while Puget Sound, with much larger aggregate shipments, shows a gain of but 356,626 barrels over the same period last season. For the first eight months of the season of 1904-65 Portland shipped 31.8 per cent of the flour sent from North Pacific ports the Orient, Seattle, Tacoma and Everett. shipping 68.2 per cent. This season to February 28 Portland has shipped 38.6 per cent and the three Puget Sound ports 61.4 per cent. With this showing there should be no difficulty in the future in securing a sufficient amount of tonnage to take care of the business.

If it be true, as it is generally as sumed to be, that bees aid in fertilizing fruit by carrying pollen from one blossom to another, it is probable that great good would result to the fruit crop of the Willamette Valley if farmers kept more bees. Perhaps one farmer in a hundred keeps a few stands of bees whereas nearly every farmer could keep them if he would. They require little attention, scarcely any expenditure of money for food, and not a heavy investment in the beginning. The profits might not be large, but they would add something to that steady incomwhich is the advantage of diversified farming.

The state school lands in Idaho are of no greater value than those of Oregon, but they have been handled in a much more businesslike manner. Evidence of this is shown in the sale of a sectio of school land in the Coeur d'Alene country a few days ago for \$25,000. There have been extensive land fraude in Idaho among the big thieves, but the Puters and McKinleys were less numerous and active in school lands in that state, and as a result the common wealth will some day have a vast sum in its treasury as proceeds of school

A press dispatch from Chicago makes the naive statement that it grew so dark yesterday that the cattlemen at the stockyards were unable to distin guish their cattle from the others. This defense may satisfy a Chicago grajury, but it wouldn't go in Klamath

We are just a little curious to know if the gentlemen in Multnomah County who have subscribed to statement No 1 are willing now to tell their Multnomah County constituents that they will vote for the "choice of the people," whatever county he comes from?

"Scotty," the Death Valley miner, will take to the stage with a play which he is financing with his own money. For the sake of the dramatic art it is to be hoped that no other money will be attracted by it, either through the box-

Naturally the thugs and diveksepers of Chicago will lay it to the City Council. It looks pretty dark for them since the passage of the \$1000 license ordi-

In the case of Congressman Blackburn the grand jury seems to have been guided by the old adage that 'handsome is as handsome does."

The miraculous restoration of Lob-byist Hamilton's ear for music follows Mr. McCail's death with suspicious

# THE SILVER LINING.

By A. H. Ballard. To Love and Be Beloved.

may. There is nothing so sweet on earth, I say As to love and be beloved: Ever, to death, we repeat, anon, We have lived, do live and shall live on To love and be beloved.

In a winsome world we feel, and hear, And see 'till we find there's naught a dear

As to love and be beloved: We plan, we struggle, we work, we moan To call a single success our own-To love and be beloved,

We bear the dreary rub of things, With all its pains with all its stings. To love and be beloved; We fain would live a life like this To prove to ourselves just what it is To love and be beloved,

We fight the battle, bend the knee, Yearning for love's sweet minstrelsy, To love and be beloved; We stake our riches, risk our souls Watching while one great phrase unrolls: To love and be beloved.

'The flame has gone from his heart," she

And she often thinks of the sacred days When she loved and was beloved: "A woman's love burns quick, and out," He ponders, and he thinks about Loving and being loved.

But, go where you will, and look where you may, There is nothing so sweet on earth, I say,

As to love and be beloved; Ever, to death, we repeat, and We have lived, do live, and shall live on To love and be beloved.

A conscientious man is the safest man. Being conscientious is more the result of experience and judgment than a natural endowment.

Diligence, deeds, dollars-that's the order of it. You can get there if you keep

### ft up. Hope Eternal.

Never mind the clouds and sorrow. God's bright sun may shine tomorrow.

Don't worry if you cannot set the world on fire today. Keep on gathering kindlings. Some time a really magnetic ac tion of yours will start the blaze, and then there will be fuel enough for a large flam that everybody can see,

### Lament of the Franchise President

Serious things my head harass, I wish I never heard of gas,

### Summer Clothes.

In the Spring a woman's fancy Lightly turns to thoughts of dress, That bewitching necromancy Fills her soul with sweetest stress.

Pitch in or they'll pitch you out.

## Definitions.

(Tips on the Race of Life.) Forgetfulness - A simple, convenient single word to express a wide range of reasons why you don't want to tell what you are asked

Portland-An Eastern city in a Western State.

in the United States, Tea Gown-Any night dress not made of

white material. Tea-What they call whisky (or what-ever you want), when served to you in a plentiful (or less shy). cup in the afternoon by a lady in her own

Faithful-A myth told by men and wor en to each other for the sake of entertainment. It is one of life's practical impossibilities, yet frequently spoken of as agreeable fiction.

Handsome-A quality a woman may pos

sess and still have brains, a man never. Love Letter-The influence a girl uses to try to guide you with during her ab-

Loyal-Everybody is that, as long as you have money.

Kiss-A sign of contempt. Careas-Stroking a pussy-cat; or, say, a girl's hand, or better,

## MARRIAGEABLE AGES.

Milwaukee Sentinel.

In Austria a "man" and a "woman" are considered to be capable of conducting a home of their own from the age of four teen-a fact which accounts in no small degree for the spirit of "child fatherhood of the man" so prevalent in Austria. In Germany the man must be 18 years of age, but the age of the bride-elect is

left to popular discretion. In France the man must be 18 and the woman 15, while in Belgium the same

standard prevails. In Spain the intending husband must have passed his 14th year and the woman her 12th. These figures, in connection

with the admitted poverty of Spain, socially considered, are full of the deepest In Hungary for Roman Catholics the man must be 14 years old, and the woman

12: for Protestants the man must be 18 In Greece the man must have seen at least 14 Summers and the woman 12. In Portugal a boy of 14 is considered marriageable and a woman of 12,

In Russia and Saxony they are a little more sensible, for in both countries a youth must refrain from matrimony till he can count 18 years and the woman till she can count 16 In Switzerland the men from the

of 14 and the women from the age of 12 allowed to marry. In Turkey any youth and maiden who can walk properly and can undestand the necessary religious service are allowed

to be united for life,

with it.

ten, nine and even eight years of age are by Indian custom, often married. This applies to the girl only, although native boys of from 12 to 14 become husbands and the nominal heads of households. In China too the custom is nearly as senseless. Boys and girls who ought to be on the school-bench or playing battle-

dore and shuttlecock set up their family It is curious to note that the "marriageable age" standard increases in cold or temperate latitudes and that the lowest point is touched in tropic latitudes, lack of civilization also having much to do

## Parcels Posts and Deficits.

North American.
Great Britain's parcels post carried last year 4,000,000 packages at a profit of \$12,000,000. The charge in the United Kingdom for a three-pound parcel by mall, with house-to-house collection and delivery, is 10 cents. In the United States the postage on a three-pound parcel is 48 cents. The British postal surplus last year was \$22,000,000. In the United States last year the postal deficit was \$13,000,000.

Indianapolis Star. Speculation is often indulged as to when the present moral wave will subside or what course it will next follow. So far Go where you will, and look where you there is no sign of its abatement. Here in Indiana, for example, Governor Hanly is much stronger today than he was two months ago. We can not tell when this awakening of the civic conscience will subside, but we shall venture to hazard a guess as to at least one aspect of reform which the immediately ensuing months will witness. Cities will turn their attention to control of public-service corporations, to the abuses that have grown up, to the means of securing proper consid ent in these

eration of the public easement stupendously valuable franchises. No aspect of this movement will be more ice than that of the manufacture and sale of lighting facilities, especially of gas. The fact appears to be that the capitalization of gas companies has been steadily increased without regard to the tangible assets of the companies, but has been determined solely by what the traffic will bear. This operation has been made posible by the increasing utility of the franchise itself, which acquires value with the growth of the city and the increased consumption without any cost to the pro ducing company. In this way gas plants have been enabled to protect themselves artificially against the necessities of me chanical replacement and against that close correspondence between tangible assets and capitalization which has been forced upon other manufacturing enter-

In other words, we confront a situation in which it is sought to collect from the public what is called a fair return on an investment which is enormously out of proportion to the value of the producing company's plant when stripped of the value imparted by the franchise and by arbitrary valuations placed upon constantly depreciating physical properties. It is doubtful whether or not the bedrock basis of actual justice can be reached in this matter; but what we shall get will be some much nearer approximation to a oderate interest charge upon the actual value of the plant, considered as a manu-facturing and mercantile proposition.

A gas plant ought to earn a moderate rate of interest on the sum it would take to duplicate its physical property and the machinery of its organization. The value of the trunchise itself belongs to the public, and any interest upon it should go into the public treasury. public treasury.

There is no reason why a gas plant should receive favors from the public which give it a more favorable value as a plant than a foundry or a flourmill en joys. This idea is going to get possession of the public mind. It will work a revolution in numberless cities through land, beginning probably with Indianap-

### SOMETHING DOING IN COUNTRY

### A Dead One? Not With This Showing

Hillsboro Argus, Seen, at a glance up the street: A milk wagon stuck on Second street, in front of the water tower.-A dog bit a boy while the lad was passing down the tie.-Man under the influence vainly trying to mount a blcycle.-Fellow from Middleton kicking about his taxes.

-Man showing a gold watch that he had just won in a 50-cent raffle-and the watch was a good one.-Irate sitizen shaking his fist at a man in a wagon who came near running into the pedestrian.— Four teams waiting to water horses at the public trough.—And who says Hillsboro is a "dead one?"

## Does It Pay to Advertise?

Boulder Creek Corr. Tillamook Headlight. Dave Hess was traversing our high-ways last Monday. It doesn't seem to pay to advertise in the Headlight for a wife, as neither Dave or either of his colleagues have received any benefit from advt. they inserted several months ago calling for wives. Dave looks discouraged and downhearted, and Ralph has gone East, where girls are more

## Stealing a March on Mrs. March.

Falls City Logger. While Mrs. March was making a morn-ing call on her neighbor. Mrs. Courter, a cow made a call on Mrs. March. The Courter, a arch. The cow, finding no one at home, entered the house and proceeded to the kitchen and ate a ple, then went into the parlor and looked at the pictures and was inspect-ing the different rooms when Mrs. March returned and her visitor departed to make

Jack Russel Takes No Chances.

Jack Russel passed through here a few days since, en route for home, after see-ing his sweetheart safely housed beneath Hank Thompson's roof. Never fear, Jack, Hank will see to it that she won't

## Why They Overlooked Him

Lakeview Examiner.

"Plush Screamer" told our readers last week that W. E. Scammon had gone East to tvisit with a brother. Willis informs us that he is at his home in Plush, cleaning out his barn. No one thought of Shylock.

looking there for you Willia. Where She Was Lost. Highland Corr. Sheridan Sun. Yank Lady had the misfortune to lose

a fine cow by being hooked in the mud.

### No Real Change Is Made Lakeview Examine

A whole lot of good printers' ink has been wasted on what is known as Statenent No. 1 in the new primary nominating law, and after all is said, and further, f you please, after all candidates for the Legislature have signed it, or refused to sign it, nothing has been accomplished. The Constitution of the United States gives Legislatures the right to elect United States Senators, and until that section of the Constitution is repealed. Republican United States Senators will be elected in states where the Legislature is Republican, and Democratic Senators elected in states where Legislatures are Democratic.

## NEWSPAPER WAIFS.

His Wife-Have you had a bad day, dear The Financier-Yes. I lost over \$250,000. And the worst of it is that nearly \$100 of that was my own money!-Life. The Stout One—Really, my dear, I was never so embarrassed in all my life, I felt as if I could sink through the floor. The Thin One—I don't wonder. These modern uildings are such filmey affairs. - Brooklyn

"How did Mr. Scadds make his money? asked the inquisitive girl. "My dear," answered Miss Cayenne. 'you must never again ask such a question about any one. People will think you are writing for a magazine."—Washington Star.

Mr. Dangle—I heard that our old friend and neighbor had a very impressive funeral. Mrs. Dangle—It was so fine it was really an imposition of the respect people had for him. And the minister preached such a beautiful paregoric over the diseased.—Haltimore American

Hounds My! You do look smart in that red coat! But, say, I recken you berrowed it? Sportsman No. I didn't. Why do you think so? Fair American—Well, I guess it's got
"M. H." on the buttons, and that ain't your
initials, anyway.—Punch. . Mr. Smythe appears to be mastering the game quite quickly," remarked Miss Har-sard, on the links. "Yasa," said Mr. Bun-ker, "but he focules atroclously at brawmeny shots, y" know." "Does be, really?" "Yasa:

### WHAT ARE FAIR GAS EARNINGS? G. B. SHAW ON AMATEUR ACTORS Vents His Spleen on Their Theatri-

cals and Demands on Authors. London Tribune. I have a strong grudge against clubs of amateur actors, because they habitually insult the art they dabble in by assuming that it is a sin which can only be covered by charity. It is quite a common thing for organizers of amateur performances to appeal to the author to forego his fees on the ground that the proceeds are to be given to some charitable institution. That is to say, a popular author is asked to hand over some hundreds a year to amateur societies to give to their pet charities, and that, too, without the slightest guarantee that the management of the performance will be businesslike enough to realize for the charities the deed, any part of it at all. reasonable demand can hardly be ima-gined within the limits of practicable human audacity. Even professional millionaire philanthropists like Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Passmore Edwards reserve the right to choose for themselves the obcts of their endowments.

Besides, the charity of amateurs is mardly ever really charitable in its mo-It is a mere coat of whitewash for an indulgence which is regarded as que able, not positively It is also adulterated by a desire for the acquaintance of the titled patrons and patronesses of charities. And the eco-nomic effect of the performance, when the expenses leave any surplus, is simply to relieve the ratepayers of their social obligations by helping to keep hespitals out of public hands and in private ones. Why on earth should a playwright be expected to contribute to the rates of places he has never lived in?

20

What makes this additionally exasper-ating is that while there is little difficulty in raising vast sums of ransom and conscience money from the rich in the form of charitable subscriptions, it is hard to get a farthing for the starving art of the theater either from public or private sources. If all the money that has been wasted on charities by amateur actors had been devoted to building up local dramatic socie ies with repertoires wardrobes and even theaters of their own, not only would dramatic art be much more developed than it is now in England, but other arts would have grown up round the local theaters. Just think of what a playhouse would mean to a country town if it had its own dressmakers, its own tapestry avers, its own armorers, its own em-olderesses and its own dress designers and painters and machinists. What is to be said in defense of the stagestruck stuidity and ignorance that is content with a basket of soiled second-hand clothes and toy swords sent down by a London costumier and hired out for a night at about treble the price the whole parcel of rubbish would sell for in Hounsditch? Do you expect me or any dramatic author to be lenient in the matter of fees to people who keep up the gar, ignorant practices? Rather let us heap crushing exactions on them and starve their folly to death,

Almost all amateurs desire to imitate the theater rather than to act a play. They actually call their performances "theatricals," and are as proud of that illiterate insult as any genuine dramatic artist would be outraged by it. They lose all their ordinary decent instincts the moment they give themselves up to what they privately think is the sin of acting. You see gentlemen who are mor-bidly particular about the cut and fit of their coats and trousers walking on the stage in ludicrously misfitting tunics from the costumier's amateur ragbag. You see the amateur carrying a tinsel-topped pan-tomime spear for the hire of which he has paid more than the local blacksmith would have charged him for a real spear Women who would die rather than be dowdy in church or at a garden party face the footlights in costumes and make ups which no self-respecting figure in a penny waxwork would tolerate. Reach-me-down equipments are considered good enough for dramatic masterpieces—are positively preferred to decent and beautiful things because they are so much more

theatrical. As to plays, they, too, must be secondhand reach-me-downs. You amateurs don't want to bring plays to and moving representation for the aske of the life they represent: they want to do Hawtrey's part in this or Ellen Ter-ry's part in that, or Cyril Maude's part in the other, not to mention the amateur Salvinis and Duses and Bernhardts and Coquelins. The enormous and overwhelming advantage possessed by amateurs—the advantage of being free from commercial pressure and having unlimited time for rehearsal—is the last one they think of using

think of using. The commercial plays, which are the deduce or starve, are the favorites of our amateurs. They do out of sheer folly and vulgarity what our real dramatic artists do of necessity and give some saving grace and charm to in the doing. Richard Wagner said that the music of the great masters is kept alive not by professional concerts and opera speculations but on the cottage pinno of the amateur. I wish I could say as much for the amateur thea-ter. As I cannot, I shall only beg your amateur clubs to let my plays alone and to assure them that as long as they per-sist in their research ways the only cover. sist in their present ways the only part I shall play in the matter is the part of

## A Plea for Ideals.

Charles Wagner, in Harper's Bazar.
Then let us all have an ideal?
Let us have courage! Do not put
them on non holidays, only to lock them
afterward in the closet. Put them on every day and carry them everywhere. Take them as one takes a torch; bring them near to the realities of life, as you would carry a light into a dark place. The treasures of the ideal which are in the souls of others may be transmitted to our own. Let the world with its ugilness. its trials and its pains experience the con-tact of the human soul, which, impreg-nated with the memory of heaven, is the creator of the ideal and of light. Some of our fathers who have passed before us along the ways, sometimes so hard, where we in our turn pass, have thrown their lights even up to the very portal of the tomb. They have put strength into weaktomb. They have put strength into sear-ness; have experienced that in poverty itself the spring of riches rise. In realiz-ing the mystery which operated every day of their lives—that is to say, the transformation of outside incidents by means of the inward energies of the soul -they truthfully might have said. "We are poor, but with our energies we have enriched others."

# Thin Ice.

John Temple in Lippincoti's.
When Prue and I went skating
(Prue is twenty and petite)
I must confess I lingered
O'er her dainty little feet. Till Prudence cried out archly:
"The ice is getting thin,
If you kneel around much longer
We both shall tumble in."

When Prue and I went skating I grew for once quite bold.
We had done the "Roll" togother
And she said her hand was cold
So I warmed it. (Do you blame m
Prue is pink and young and fair.
Then she cried in mock alarm: Is breaking, sir. Take care!"

When Prue and I went skating (The coast was clear) I dured To draw her to me gently While I told her that I cared; And she dropped her lashes shyly.
So I kissed hor. Wouldn's you?
And I knew without a word from her
The ice had broken through.

Grace G. Bostwick in Lippincott's "Oh Ma, I hart my head," said he. "And did you cry?" asked mother sere wa'n't sobody there, so I Did not," said little brother.