

The Oregonian

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Or., as second-class matter, October 3, 1878. SUBSCRIPTION RATES. DAILY. SUNDAY INCLUDED. BY MAIL OR EXPRESS. (By Mail or Express.)

THE OREGONIAN OFFICE. The O. C. Smith, Special Agent—New York, rooms 42-50, Tribune building, Ch. gas, rooms 110-111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200.

Chicago—Auditorium Annex, Postoffice News Co., 178 Dearborn street. St. Paul, Minn.—N. E. Macmillan Commercial Station. Denver—Hamilton & Kendrick, 506-512, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1906.

DELAY THAT IS DANGEROUS.

Another meeting, and let us hope it will be the final meeting, will be held today between the North Bank Railroad people and the Port of Portland Commission. Experience of the past has taught us that the investment of millions has at times been insufficient to prevent sudden abandonment of work and consolidation of rival interests to the great detriment of communities. Similar paralysis of industry has resulted from every financial trouble which occasionally overwhelms us without previous warning. Every mile of track that is graded and every rail that is spiked reduces the possibility of the North Bank road being halted before it reaches Vancouver. But the element of chance, which might prevent the road reaching Portland in the near future, is fully as great as it is months ago. Practically nothing has been done on this side of the Columbia River, and nothing will be done until the bridge matter is settled. The Port of Portland Commission, with which the decision rests, is burdened with an immense responsibility. The coming to Portland of this new road affects the interests of 150,000 people in this city and immediate vicinity. Announcement that the road would come has been far and away the most potent factor in promoting prosperity and increasing real estate values in this city. If, by insisting on unreasonable exactions, the advent of the road is delayed or it is diverted to some other terminal, the effect is certain to be detrimental to the interests of every citizen of Portland. The Hill representatives have at different times in their negotiations offered to build one of the longest bridge draws in the world, and to keep the draw open at all times when trains were not passing. They have also offered to contribute the sum of \$1500 per year towards keeping the channel above the bridge dredged to a depth of 12 feet. In return, in extension of the dilly-dallying course which has characterized the negotiations between the Port of Portland and the railroad people that these conditions have never yet been embodied in a single proposition from the railroad people. It is believed by a great many people that, if such a proposition was submitted in a definite form with no strings attached, there would be a prompt decision of the matter, and we might still hope to handle at least a portion of the 1906 wheat crop at Portland.

CAN A FRANCHISE BE PERPETUAL?

There is something refreshing in the proposal of August Hucklestein, of Marion County, that limited franchises be substituted for those perpetual in their terms, and that the question whether the limitation is valid be left to the courts. Hucklestein is in doubt, and says he is, but he is willing to give the special purpose of the inquiry. He does not believe perpetual franchises should exist, and if they can be superseded by limited franchises he desires that it be done. He is willing that the attempt should be made, and therefore favors the enactment of laws repealing the franchises perpetual in their terms and the substitution of franchises of reasonable term. The trouble with Oregon Legislatures, and all Legislatures, and with Congress, is that there are too many members who have an overpowering respect for everything that the owner presumes to call a "vested right." They take a one-sided view of the question thus presented, and that side is the owner's side. Their viewpoint is such that they do not stop to ask whether the people have any vested rights that conflict with those claimed by the holder of a franchise. The corporation, the franchise-holder, must be protected at all hazards, and, if the reform legislation is open to the least doubt, it must be rejected. But that is not Mr. Hucklestein's idea. The corporations can protect themselves, and he goes to the Legislature, he will endeavor to protect the rights of the people. The suggestion that any legislative body can grant a franchise, without consideration, which shall give the grantee a public-service privilege that can never be limited, must seem unreasonable to any man. Does such a franchise give a vested right for a million years? If not, does it convey a right for a thousand years, equal to half the Christian era? If not a thousand years, then for how long a time? No reasonable man will assert that a franchise can be given for a million or a thousand years. It is unthinkable. If, then, there is a right to make some limitation of time, cannot the same power that granted the franchise say when it shall terminate? No one pro-

poses that a franchise shall be abruptly ended and the holder left with property upon his hands which he cannot use. A limited franchise of twenty-five years, such as many of the recent franchisees are, will expire at the end of that time, and if the granting power does not see fit to renew it the holder will be without any right to operate longer under it. Since the so-called perpetual franchise must have some limitation, will any wrong be done if the people through their representatives give notice now that a twenty-five-year limit has been fixed and that at the end of that time the right shall cease? Has the holder of a franchise perpetual in its terms made an investment any different from that made by the holder of a twenty-five-year franchise? Why, then, should there be any talk of paying the holder damages? If the holder of an unlimited franchise has made no investment different from that made by the holder of a twenty-five-year franchise, why should the one be more entitled to damages or compensation than the other, if both franchisees are made to terminate at the same time? An unlimited franchise cannot give an eternal right. The granting power has a right to fix a time of expiration, and, if that time be fixed at a reasonable distance in the future, no harm has been done any person.

NEW CAPITAL—AND OLD.

A correspondent of The Oregonian thinks there has already "been too much" in the question of franchises, and that "there is danger of our City Council and legislative bodies becoming so radical as greatly to hinder the development which this country should enjoy in the near future." This is, of course, one of the inspired voices through which the alarmed plutocrats of Portland seek to arrest the invincible movement for a sane deal. Let us see about it. The voice says: "Agitation is not a good thing. It alarms capital. It frightens investors. It prevents immigration. It hampers industrial and commercial development. We can have no new railroads, no new street-car lines, no new telephones or electric light or gas companies, no new and beautiful buildings, no new manufacturing, no advance in realty values—nothing of the kind, unless we let the old banking and monopoly crowd run the town. Quite so. But let us have the facts. What influence has so far successfully kept the North Bank Railroad out of Portland? What influence sought to place every possible obstacle in the way of the old and important United Railways Company? What influence exerted itself through every available channel to exclude competition in gas, telephone, electric light and in any other utility where the associated monopolists have their combined grip? What influence through all the years has directed the business of every citizen made through his hands and on its terms, and has excluded capital, enterprise, thrift and energy, unless direct tribute is given and abject homage paid? What influence has always been devoted to a great scheme to own everything in the town now owning and scourge from the city limits every impertinent and venturesome upstart who defied it? Do you all know of every citizen who has a change? Because there is a mighty movement everywhere for honesty and fair dealing in all our affairs, public and private, and Portland and Oregon are participating in it. It is a moral question—the greatest moral question that has stirred the public conscience and quickened the public pulse in the recent history of our country. It is a plain duty by every citizen, to do his plain duty by every other citizen, and treat him fairly, honorably and considerately; and it is a persistent and inextinguishable demand that public officers shall administer their trust for the general good and not for private and personal profit. If the Oregonian had remained silent in this great crisis, it would have been recreant to its duty as a public journal, which is to tell the truth and scold the consequences. If it had remained silent, the prospect for the North Bank road getting across the Willamette River would, in its opinion, have been dubious; the United Railways might not have secured a foothold here; the extortion, greed and arrogant mismanagement of the patient public by the gas company would have continued, and the price would never have been reduced to 56 cents per thousand; franchisees would perhaps never have been taxed; there would have been no immediate probability of proper control and regulation of the utility corporations; fraud, humbug, bribery and avarice, and pharisaical pretense would not have been exposed, and the banking trust, with its associated satellites of greed, graft and grab, would have remained in serene and undisturbed possession of nearly all the great Portland properties and all its public privileges. No need to be worried about new capital. What new capital wants is a fair and open field and the assurance that it will not be mulcted and ravished by old capital.

The systematic experiments to be conducted this summer in Western Oregon to determine what benefits can be derived from irrigation in this part of the state may show some surprising results. The experiments will be conducted under the general direction of Elwood Mead, of the Bureau of Irrigation and Drainage of the United States Department of Agriculture, and will have for their special purpose the ascertainment of the questions. It is desired to know what benefit may be secured by means of irrigation in making the crop more sure, in increasing the yield, in improving the quality. It is assumed at the beginning that some advantage will accrue in each particular, but the doubtful point is whether the benefit will be of sufficient extent to make irrigation profitable. Excellent crops are grown in Western Oregon without irrigation. In fact, there is no place in the United States where better crops can be grown year after year. It may still be, however, that where water is to be had without too great an expenditure for the construction of an irrigating system, the increased yield and absolute certainty of a full crop will make irrigation an important factor in Western Oregon agriculture. At any rate, we shall learn something worth knowing as a result of the experiments.

"Knowing how" is an essential to success in agriculture, and various branches of it is in what are called the handicrafts. Mr. H. E. Dosch made this fact apparent in presentation, through The Oregonian several days ago, of the preliminaries that lead to success in nutgrowing. As he plainly shows, it is one thing to plant nut trees—another to make such planting profitable. Proper selection of stock and proper location in the matter of soils and drainage are necessary. And when this is added a reasonable generosity in fertilizing the soil and cultivating the young trees, the elements of profit in this industry are comprehensively given. Proper attention to these details will prevent disappointment in the expectations now indulged by many who are turning their attention to nutgrowing. Nature does not deal kindly with fools. This fact has been made manifest in hopgrowing, prunegrowing and sawgrowing within recent years in this state. While hops, prunes and saw are profitable crops, all soils, locations and stocks do not produce satisfactory returns. "Learning how" by experiment is a tedious and expensive process. There is another way, and that is to profit by the experience of others. Those who are intending to plant nut trees would do well, therefore, to read what Mr. Dosch has to say about nutgrowing in The Oregonian of April 9. There is no charge whatever for the instruction, and it will prove valuable.

THE STATE TREASURER.

All the talk in which candidates for the office of State Treasurer are engaging, concerning disposition they will make of the interest received upon public funds, is based upon the assumption that the law will be violated in the future as it has been in the past. The statutes of the state declare that if any person shall have in his possession any public money and shall not use the same, or shall use it for any other purpose than that for which it was loaned, he shall be deemed guilty of larceny and shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary not less than one nor more than fifteen years, or by fine of twice the amount loaned. In the decision of a case which involved this statute, the Oregon Supreme Court said that to loan public funds is a crime. Every State Treasurer who has loaned public funds did so with the doors of the penitentiary ready to receive him, and, if he is a candidate for the office, he may or will loan the funds and receive interest thereon, either for his own benefit or the benefit of the state? Nothing is more certain in future legislation than that a law will be passed providing for the deposit of public funds in banks, upon sufficient security approved by a board of state officers, and upon such a rate of interest to be paid to the state as may be agreed upon. Whether the public funds shall be loaned or not, will be a question entirely beyond the control of the Treasurer himself. He will doubtless be one member of the board having charge of the deposits of public funds, and he will not in his personal capacity, but the law to be enacted, will not leave to any one man the power to determine what financial institutions shall be selected as depositories of state money. If a law should be enacted, it will be beyond the power of a Treasurer to collect interest on the money. If a law should be passed, the Treasurer will have no discretion in the matter of loaning funds and collecting interest. What kind of a law should be enacted governing this subject is a problem more appropriate for consideration by candidates for the Legislature. The most reasonable plan, and the one most equitable to the several parts of the state, would be one which provides for a pro rata distribution of the funds among the counties, and an open, competitive bid. For example, let it be provided that surplus funds in the State Treasury shall be deposited in banks in the several counties of the state in proportion to the amount of taxes each county pays. Let sealed bids be received from the banks of each county for the privilege of acting as depository for the funds apportioned to that county, the bid stating the rate of interest the bank is willing to pay on daily balances. It is only fair that if money is to be deposited in banks, it be placed in the localities from which it came, that each banker be given an opportunity to secure it upon exactly the same terms as any other banker, and that the state receive all the interest paid thereon. Of course, deposits would be made only upon ample security approved by the board having control of the funds.

After the primaries are over, the voters will have time to investigate the ten measures which have been proposed by initiative and which will be voted upon in June. These are important and should have close attention as soon as the excitement over the primary election has subsided. Whatever else may be said of the unfortunate Captain Johnson, of the Valencia, he didn't try to save his own life or shield himself in any way, and Captain Cousins and Captain Patterson don't worry about anybody's lives but their own. There are those persons in Portland who now think that the Fire Plend is entitled to a vote of thanks, handsomely engrossed on asbestos, for the excellent judgment he displays in his operations early Sunday morning. When it is all over, how many of the candidates will have nothing to regret? The man who has been "tricky" in the primary campaign may have occasion to be sorry before the election is over. There are some people who do not believe in the selection of subjects in which the people are interested. The Czar of Russia, for example, or the holders of franchises. It now transpires that Professor James Jeffries doesn't return to the priming because his wife won't let him. Good-by, Jim; take care of yourself. It is quite obvious that the President meant to insinuate that some of those justly famous magazine writers use a musty rake for a pen. Is there any one today who thinks it does not pay to run for office? Still it is not much more expensive than owning an automobile. The President really couldn't have meant Lincoln Steffens. Maybe He Will Return to Talk. Dr. Dewey says he will perform a miracle when he gets back to Zion City.

There are many who do many things very well. Who play lovely billiards and quints; There are some who are straight, but right here I will tell You the town isn't full of Ralph Horys. Part not from your illusions. They are as important to you as your conscience. Make love and lose money, or make money and lose love. You have your choice. To be mysterious is to be charming. Unfulfilled promises wreck more people than drink does. An ugly woman can be said to be good. Faith will remove mountains, but it will never lift a chattel mortgage. Where no counsel is, it's had enough; but a multitude of counsel it's simply Hades. Lay much stress on money-making, but more on curbing your imagined desires. Sublime lying is the height of genius. A college son who thinks he's wise heareth his father's instructions and talks back; but a young guy who's really neat keeps mum and studies just enough to pass his examinations. A dutiful daughter annexes a rich husband, because she, or her family, needs the money. He that is slow to wrath is an easy mark; but he that is hasty of spirit puncheth hard. Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is also interesting. A soft answer turneth away wrath, but curses words are very satisfying. Notations of the Nabobs. Great preparations are being made for Summer gaily by the Big Meta yacht fleet at Henderson below Slabtown. The average mental state of the its in Portland has reached the point of uncertainty yet dawning intelligence. There are three beautiful women in the Set that's it—two blondes and one brunette. I won't mention who they are, but they themselves will readily know, and be able to feel my praises, for they are so "different" from the rest. Bloomers of bathing suits this year will be extra long; or perhaps, rather, skirts are to be extra short—I mean to say; that is, I wanted to suggest, that the expense of—of you understand what I mean. Mr. and Mrs. Mud are entertaining extensively. Mr. Wooley Roundhead has bought a new checked suit. Several collars for men have arrived at the Coast. It took them two years to make the journey from New York. Miss Singing Doughnut, a lovely creature from Vancouver, will make her debut anon. Ladies will tea up at cold teas during May. The gentlemen will console themselves. The aristocratic cookdishes are contemplating extensive alterations in their kitchen and cellars, shortly. The Te Hees will hold a series of Kate Klatches during the coming month to provide an informal news bureau where the whole neighborhood can find out what everybody else is doing. Definitions. (Tips on the Race of Life.) PAPER CHASE—A woman's letter when she falls to number the pages. FEVER HUNT—A Summer courtship. STALKING A STAG—Inviting him to dinner for the family's inspection. RABBITRY—It's a harem when they're Belgian. BEAR TRAPPING—A widow in a decollete dress is a bare trap and she traps bear. DECOYING GEESSE—Any old girl does that. FOX HUNT—That's more difficult—some are very foxey. DUCK SHOOTING—Men are always at that. At the Sock Social. "Well, no," said the landlord of the Pruntytown tavern, in reply to the inquiry of the "new" man "there ain't been anything of importance going on here of late but the sock social given by the ladies of the Methodist Church one night last week. "Sock social, eh? I presume each gentleman attending was presented with a pair of socks." "Was that the idea?" "That was about the idea possessed in advance by the gentlemen in question, when they were told at the sock social they would be greeted by a complete surplus, which they, by good, were, for the sock part of it, a purely won't admit, 'socked' for enough money to pay for reshing the roof of the paragonage." Bowled to His Betters. Delegates Rodney, of New Mexico, tells of the amusement of a ranchman when he first saw a lynchette machine at work. After staring at it for a while the ranchman said: "Great Scott! Ain't that the finest intelligence machine you ever saw? Why, it's plumb human." Finally, overcome by his admiration, he took off his hat, made a low bow to the complicated contraption and said: "I surely would admire, Mr. Machine, if you-all would come out and take a drink with me." BITS OF CURRENT COMMENT. The man who heaved the New York globe around the world, says that he is glad to see that the globe has been sent to prison for seven years. He ought to be glad the story wasn't true—Labor Times. It is said that the new big battleship will be called the Constitution. The Constitution may not amount to much "new friends." An Englishman who recently visited New York declared that city's streets are the dirtiest in the world. He would have said so but he saw the Englishman's hat looked over this country's entire stock of streets—Chicago Herald. 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In view of such a law, it would have the establish crematoriums and dispose of the bodies of the dead in a dignified and sanitary manner.—Springfield Republican.

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The detailed report of the Valencia investigation commission does not make so favorable a showing for the cowardly Captain Cousins as was reported in the brief summary received a few days ago. Among other things it says: This raft went out through the breakers without a dissenting voice, as being used and also out of wreckage for peddles. The experience of this raft and its passengers is one of the strongest evidence of the fact that the time of 10 or 15 clock Wednesday morning was not severe. It was while this raft was being launched that Cousins refused to lower a boat, and the poor victims on the Valencia declined to make any effort to escape, because they could see no reason why Captain Cousins should fail to pick them up without their taking further risk on a raft. The bunglesome, bad management of the Pacific Coast representatives was shown all through the testimony, and for that reason it is probable that Captain Cousins will remain in their employ. It will be many a year, however, before Cousins will live down the reputation he gained at that awful wreck of the Valencia. Maxim Gorky, the Russian idol, seems to be made of very common clay. His telegram of sympathy to Haywood and Meyer might be excused on the ground that he was unfamiliar with the conditions which resulted in the apprehension of those men. It will be very difficult, however, for him to explain why he abandoned the wife who bore him children, and who in his trouble interceded with the government to save his life, to take up and live openly in defiance of the laws of God and man with an actress of unenviable reputation. This is America, Mr. Gorky, and it is a free country, but it is not yet so free that even such genius as yours can throw a year's responsibility over your shoulder as you have been guilty of. In the interest of decency and morality, Mr. Gorky and his female companion should be sent back to the land from which they came. There are enough of their kind here already. The delayed arrival of the overdue ships Emile and General Neumayer will slightly decrease in the Port and land customs receipts for March as compared with those for February. At the same time they were \$5000 greater than those of any other port north of San Francisco, and exceeded by more than \$2000 the combined receipts of Seattle, Port Townsend, Everett, Bellingham, Roche, Bellingham, Northport, Tacoma, Harbor, Aberdeen, Anacortes, Bend and Orville. Perhaps if the antiquated statisticians who are attached to the Department of Commerce and Labor would study a Treasury report and learn where the money comes from they would find a piece for Portland on the commercial map. Strange as it may seem, there is one office in Multnomah County for which there is no Republican aspirant and only one Democratic candidate for the nomination. The Republican primary ticket has no name on it for County Surveyor. W. M. Neville has no opposition for the Democratic nomination for that office. Perhaps it was proper to let the Democrats have one office by advance in return for the Democrats conceding the Republicans the offices of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Labor Commissioner without contest.

There will be no contest over Democratic nominations except for Sheriff, of Multnomah County, hence the Democratic ticket will be known without a count of the ballot. For that reason it will be a favor to the hundreds of Republican candidates in waiting if the election judges will count the Republican ballots first. If this be done, the result of the Republican primaries should be known the day after the election, except possibly in the case of one or two offices for which the contest will be very close. After the primaries are over, the voters will have time to investigate the ten measures which have been proposed by initiative and which will be voted upon in June. These are important and should have close attention as soon as the excitement over the primary election has subsided. Whatever else may be said of the unfortunate Captain Johnson, of the Valencia, he didn't try to save his own life or shield himself in any way, and Captain Cousins and Captain Patterson don't worry about anybody's lives but their own. There are those persons in Portland who now think that the Fire Plend is entitled to a vote of thanks, handsomely engrossed on asbestos, for the excellent judgment he displays in his operations early Sunday morning. When it is all over, how many of the candidates will have nothing to regret? The man who has been "tricky" in the primary campaign may have occasion to be sorry before the election is over. There are some people who do not believe in the selection of subjects in which the people are interested. The Czar of Russia, for example, or the holders of franchises. It now transpires that Professor James Jeffries doesn't return to the priming because his wife won't let him. Good-by, Jim; take care of yourself. It is quite obvious that the President meant to insinuate that some of those justly famous magazine writers use a musty rake for a pen. Is there any one today who thinks it does not pay to run for office? Still it is not much more expensive than owning an automobile. The President really couldn't have meant Lincoln Steffens. Maybe He Will Return to Talk. Dr. Dewey says he will perform a miracle when he gets back to Zion City.

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There are many who do many things very well. Who play lovely billiards and quints; There are some who are straight, but right here I will tell You the town isn't full of Ralph Horys. Part not from your illusions. They are as important to you as your conscience. Make love and lose money, or make money and lose love. You have your choice. To be mysterious is to be charming. Unfulfilled promises wreck more people than drink does. An ugly woman can be said to be good. Faith will remove mountains, but it will never lift a chattel mortgage. Where no counsel is, it's had enough; but a multitude of counsel it's simply Hades. Lay much stress on money-making, but more on curbing your imagined desires. Sublime lying is the height of genius. A college son who thinks he's wise heareth his father's instructions and talks back; but a young guy who's really neat keeps mum and studies just enough to pass his examinations. A dutiful daughter annexes a rich husband, because she, or her family, needs the money. He that is slow to wrath is an easy mark; but he that is hasty of spirit puncheth hard. Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is also interesting. A soft answer turneth away wrath, but curses words are very satisfying. Notations of the Nabobs. Great preparations are being made for Summer gaily by the Big Meta yacht fleet at Henderson below Slabtown. The average mental state of the its in Portland has reached the point of uncertainty yet dawning intelligence. There are three beautiful women in the Set that's it—two blondes and one brunette. I won't mention who they are, but they themselves will readily know, and be able to feel my praises, for they are so "different" from the rest. Bloomers of bathing suits this year will be extra long; or perhaps, rather, skirts are to be extra short—I mean to say; that is, I wanted to suggest, that the expense of—of you understand what I mean. 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