

The Oregonian

Subscription Rates. Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$2.00. Daily, Sunday included, three months, \$1.25. Daily, Sunday included, one month, \$0.40.

Postage Rates. Entered as Second-Class Matter, October 3, 1879. Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice No. 245.

Portland, Monday, March 18, 1907. President Roosevelt's letter upon the subject of systematic improvement of inland waterways is the beginning of a policy of the National Government which will in time reflect as great credit upon its author as anything he has done.

Improvement of inland waterways has without system. As the President says, works designed to control our rivers have usually been undertaken for a single purpose, such as the improvement of navigation, development of power, reclamation of arid lands, protection from floods, supplying water for domestic and manufacturing purposes.

Japan would attack the Philippines. In case of war with the United States, the Japanese government would probably then assume the defensive, thus challenging the United States to dislodge the Japanese from the Philippines or to give up. Realizing this, the President is getting ready to defend the Philippines as soon as possible.

Water taken from the Deschutes or the Klamath or any other stream should be so conducted as to be available for development of power if possible, and when the Government is one of the dominant systems it should also be owner of the power.

The President's letter also brings out an astounding fact which has been common knowledge so long that its importance has been forgotten. He quotes eminent authorities on the assertion that every year the Mississippi River carries away sediment equal to double the amount of material that must be removed in excavating for the Panama Canal.

Hellion Hall went the way of things terrestrial and Upton Sinclair's dream went up in smoke. After a few months in Elysia, where the servant ceased from worrying and the family was at rest, the peace was rudely shattered in the still hours of early morn by the onslaught of the industrial revolution.

Fast living is assigned as the cause of the embezzlement of \$6000 by an Astoria young man from his employers. The thefts of money had extended over a period of 12 months.

From his temporary point of view the fast traveler is having a "good time" and is consequently happy. He comes, and then, in accordance with the universal law of compensation, an accounting must be had.

The fast traveler must pay for his ride. He may not be an embezzler of money, but he has thrown away time and energy and self-respect. If he has any brains, he will not be content with the crime against himself, he must endure public disgrace and punishment, as well as the scourging of his own conscience.

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war, the ability of a nation to sustain a great army and navy is the real arbiter. Japan was on the verge of a collapse when its war with Russia ended—not through lack of men or ships, but through exhaustion of resources.

Since Japanese threats began, less has been heard from the foes of a large American Navy. The Japanese menace has brought to the attention of this country, as nothing else could have done, the necessity of possessing a strong fleet in Pacific and Atlantic waters and of early completion of the Panama Canal, so that warships can be moved quickly from one shore of the United States to the other.

With the Philippines fortified, Japan could gain nothing in war with the United States. It would emerge from the conflict, probably a ruined nation, and the growth of its oriental power would be checked perhaps forever.

There can be no Utopia in these days. Here was a place where everything was planned as desired; no friction, no turmoil, no anything, but only even serenity. The meals were on time and cooked just right; the temperature of the rooms was balmy, though outside there were snow and ice; the beds were downy and conducive to slumber; the whole machinery of the great household moved with the automatic regularity of a clock.

The New York Tribune is stirring up a fuss because police inspectors in the American metropolis live in luxury on salaries that fire department officials find it difficult to live modestly upon.

Always something comes up to persuade Masters and Shepherd to stay in the Council. If Masters will stay long enough, the corporation members of the Council can deprive the pleasure of electing his successor.

We hear that Editor Gear, up Pendleton way, indulges in a little sneer because the Oregonian referred to the Master's attitude in the case of his diamond jubilee. He thinks they should wait 15 more years. It is to be regretted that Editor Gear did not think it all out in time to advise the late Queen Victoria of her exceedingly bad taste in celebrating her diamond jubilee after she had been on the throne only 60 years.

The United States gave Japan her start in civilization and educated many of her young men who became leaders in the making of modern Japan. Now John D. Rockefeller proposes to give \$50,000,000 to start an awakening in China.

The New York special franchise tax law has brought in so much revenue that the counties have been relieved of their direct state taxes. But what is the use of thinking about that after all Oregon Legislature has defeated all legislation looking to the attainment of the same conditions in this state?

The people now demand more stringent enactments than the rate law, so as to prevent high finance plunder. It will be vain for Harrison and his associates to plead against it. Perhaps it will be impossible to enact laws to cure all at once. But as new sources of plunder are revealed, remedial enactments will be effected. If this cannot

RAILROADS AND THE PEOPLE

Illinois has a "minority representation" provision in its constitution which the Inter-Ocean says has worked very effectively. It is what is known as a "cumulative voting" plan, and applies only to election of candidates for the lower house of the Legislature.

Persons who object to being made the victims of apparent snubbing should be careful not to invite such treatment. For example, those who needlessly block the way of busy people in public places should not feel aggrieved if they find themselves jostled by the hurrying crowd.

Over 25 State Legislatures this winter have undertaken to enact laws against the railroads, mostly through regulation, direct or indirect, of their charges and service.

Between Harrimans and a public actuated largely by prejudice it will not be easy to effect peace, especially when the rights of passengers and shippers are disregarded as contemptuous as the interests of legitimate investors.

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Overdue insurance is in effect a distribution of the increased risk which appears as a vessel's voyage is unduly prolonged. An underwriter carrying, say, \$50,000 insurance on a vessel at a low premium, will, as the danger of loss increases, parcel this \$50,000 risk out among other parties, paying them all the way from 5 per cent to 50 per cent premium in proportion to the steadily increasing risk of total loss.

PROBING NORMAL SCHOOLS DEAL

Representative Jones accuses Governor Chamberlain's Political Machine. INDEPENDENCE, Or., March 16.—(To the Editor.)—In a Portland evening newspaper the other day, Governor Chamberlain, through his mouthpiece, Tony Notmer, says it is his personal opinion that a majority of the voters of Polk County think that if I ever want another office, I had better move back to Lincoln County.

As a matter of fact, neither the Governor nor his man Notmer has been in Polk County since the case of the Polk County Board of Regents and the Board of Normal Schools was decided.

One of the good reasons the people have for opposing the normal schools is that members of the Board of Regents and instructors in the schools have been attending each session of the Legislature and lobbying for larger appropriations for their schools.

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LIFE IN THE OREGON COUNTY

Distracting. Lexington Wheatfield. It's pretty hard for a girl to be huggd and play the piano at the same time.

Needs Chamberlain Remedies. Daily Observer. The Capital Journal prints in its editorial column a recipe for a cure for back-ache. What Editor Hofer really needs is a cure for chronic belly-ache.

Looking Up Crop Statistics. Canyon City Eagle. A grasshopper is something unusual in the month of March, yet such put in appearance last week at the home of W. H. Damon, of Mount Vernon.

The Real Stock. Dayton Optimist. To be Irish and proud of it is a natural consequence, and a distinction of the race which has followed them throughout the length and breadth of the land.

The Little Ticker. Seattle Municipal News. When a politician begins to cultivate church people after election, it is a sign that he is again doing a little buzzing.

All Aboard! Woodland Independent. 'Eren hard' the only referendum machinery in the state. He is liable to get rusty, while the grange machine is well oiled and in good working order.

Sounds Like Oregon. Olympia Recorder. A good many legislators are returning home, wondering just what effect their record will have upon their prospects for returning two years hence.

Sign of War. Ions Proclaimer. Touch a long-eared, four-legged animal in a weak spot and watch it kick and snort. Yes, it is true that some talk can talk will also stand back and call you names.

Make Contract With the Comet. Castle Rock Advocate. Just as the boom of 2-cent passenger fares is about to be realized, a fury-breathing and tail-wagging comet threatens to crash against the earth and tear up the tracks.

Write a Letter. Baker City Democrat. The settlement of a country depends largely upon the efforts of the people already there to make known to the world the advantages of the particular section in the way of its resources by advertising.

Job Lots. Kent Recorder. There are only a few things in the air east of Kent. But a short time ago a pair of baby girls arrived at the home of Guy Walton, and now word comes in that the stork called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Finster this morning and left a pair of twin boys.

Booming a Church on Sunday. Proewater Times. The excursion from Pendleton to Walla Walla on Sunday for the new Christian Church was fairly well patronized. Pendleton sent 168 passengers, and intermediate points, including about 40 from this depot, furnished about the same number. Twenty-three thousand dollars was raised at the opening.

In the Depths of Depravity. Jefferson Review. Guess the wood city Enterprise must have hit Jefferson. Anyhow, somebody "caps-wolwed" a load of wood from the Review office sometime between Saturday evening and Monday morning. A fellow who will steal wood from the editor of a country newspaper will sure be warm enough by and by.

Astoria's Musical Recrudescence. Astorian. With an extraordinary outlay of about \$150 in gold coin, Dell Seully cornered the jew-harp market here yesterday, buying the last 500 of these instruments known to be in existence. These he distributed broadcast among the youngsters of the town and among the relic-hunters of maturer age, and the festive twang of the jew-harp was heard on all corners last night to the discomfiture of all the cats and dogs in Astoria Christendom.

Harassing Predicament. Oregonian. The wife of one of the well-known men in the town thinks her husband is a brute. She would spell it with a big B, too. Even after giving the old zinc bathtub a coat of nice white enamel to please her she was not satisfied, for when she went to take a bath and sat down in the tub she stuck fast.

Retaliation Doesn't Pay, and Justice Will Prevail in the End. New York World. No sooner has the two-cent fare law gone into effect in Nebraska than the railroads retaliate by discontinuing a number of their passenger trains.

When the two-cent-a-mile bill was under consideration at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Railroad officials declared that a two-cent fare would mean a two-cent service would be impossible to maintain their fast Chicago service or to operate passenger trains on minor state lines at a profit.

The railroad manager usually takes the gloomiest view of the case when he cannot have his own way. Ruin always stares him in the face at the slightest provocation. Still, it is obviously true that an arbitrary passenger rate enforced throughout an entire state might sometimes prove utterly unfair.

Over 25 State Legislatures this winter have undertaken to enact laws against the railroads, mostly through regulation, direct or indirect, of their charges and service.

Mr. Harriman, for instance, who knows better, says that it does not matter to the public what is the capitalization of a road; the only thing that concerns the public is the kind of service a railroad furnishes.

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The Why of Overdue Insurance. ABERDEEN, Wash., March 16.—(To the Editor.)—Please explain the subject of reinsurance of overdue ocean-going vessels. There is this kind of speculation principally carried on what are called methods employed? SUBSCRIBER.

From the Boston Herald.

