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trick should it ever be played? Would not the ultimate tendency be to force the price of oil upward until the dividends upon the watered stock were as large as upon the original shares? What is to hinder? The monopoly of Mr. Rockefeller and his accomplices is complete.

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 9, 1907.

Wise and wealthy as it is, Collier's Weekly occasionally says some surprisingly silly things. Here is one of them. It is a criticism of the Standard Oil Company's public odium is the direct outcome of its failure to practice a vice which the public especially condemns.

And Collier's adds with fatuous complacency: "It is hardly surprising that there is talk now of an increase of Standard Oil's minimal capital to \$400,000,000 or \$500,000,000 and a reduction of dividends to proportions insignificant to public opinion."

A PREVALENT DISEASE. The Oregonian has nothing to say in its editorial of the offense of the High School boys in Forest Grove. What they did was theft pure and simple, and they may think themselves lucky to get off so easily.

It ought to be said, however, that these misguided youths were simply following the school and college set, which has set for them. The "lifers" or "swingers" the property of others has long been fashionable among the students of our more aristocratic colleges, particularly those belonging to the wealthy circles.

What difference does it make to poor Jack whether he has to sweat out 50 percent on one share of stock or 5 percent on ten shares? There was a time when he could be bedeviled by this obvious slight, but that time has passed. Collier's may rest moderately well assured that public opinion will not be shocked by the irrigation of Mr. Rockefeller's stock.

Every "achievement" mentioned was for the exclusive purpose of increasing facilities for paying tribute to San Francisco. In Oregon, where the Harriman lines have shown greater earnings per mile than were ever received from the California lines, we hardly regard removal of that barrier to commerce as a commendable thing.

ABUSIVE ENGLISH WRITERS. To disparage and defame the people of the United States is an old habit with a class of English writers. The criticism of such writers as Halliburton and Dickens, touched with humor, though grossness in caricature, has been pleasant reading; but the studied abuse and vilification of the troop of inferior critics produce a different impression.

Yesterday the Oregonian had an extract from an article published in the London Academy, in which the writer said he had "undertaken to depict the horrible body of death, decay and wickedness which is called the United States of America."

The better class of English writers, the class of truer perceptions and finer feelings, are not in the least less patriotic in their style. It is a style that betrays a certain provincial egotism of the English island, but does not belong to the man of the British Empire.

English critics are still as narrow as their predecessors of the same class were a century ago. To them anything unlike their England (not the great England, but the England of their own incurable provincialism) is backwoods vulgarity. It is a style that betrays a certain provincial egotism of the English island, but does not belong to the man of the British Empire.

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was one of the symptoms of a disease which is very general in this country and which seems to be without any present remedy. It is found prevalent among the Mayors and police officers of our cities, among labor unions and capitalists, among the railroads, and all other classes of corporations, and it is not unknown even in the sacred precincts of the courts of justice.

MR. HARRIMAN'S ACHIEVEMENTS. The San Francisco Call pays a glowing tribute to Mr. Harriman, whom it terms "a great executive endowed with the priceless gift of imagination."

The construction of the great cut-through the best of the enlarged demand for all agricultural and manufactured food products. Back of the demand is the ability and willingness of the consuming public to pay the prices asked.

The Government is again threatening discrimination against the movement of troops to the Philippines. Nearly all of the men to be transferred are to be sent by rail from Vancouver to San Francisco, from which point the Government will dispatch the transport.

The Oregonian is in receipt of requests from principals, superintendents and teachers of various schools in the State of Washington for information on the initiative and referendum.

For what purpose is President Ripley, of the Santa Fe, so active in his croaking? His newest complaint is that so far this year net earnings of railroads are only 6 1/2 percent on the entire capitalization.

A seedless, careless pear is the latest horticultural development or discovery at Hood River. The variety was not originated—it simply grew. It is called the "Mason pear."

Why are vessels moved just when the Public Transit Month? PORTLAND, Ore., Oct. 8.—(To the Editor.)—Is there no way of compelling selfish, careless ship officers and river men to recognize the rights of the public?

Anthony Noltnier, pioneer newspaper publisher and Democratic politician of past years, died at his home in this city yesterday morning, aged 68 years.

Ford-street bridge has acquired a gruesome reputation, three persons having dashed themselves or been dashed to death from its dizzy height in recent months.

Arrest of a houseful of Italians for violating the air ordinance revives a municipal statute enacted a generation ago to compel Chinese to observe at least one law of health.

Every baseball enthusiast in the country will sympathize with Roosevelt in his enforced exile, miles from his beloved Knickerbocker grounds, and a detective later found the delinquent in Philadelphia, where the dream had located him.

LIVING NOW AND FIVE YEARS AGO. Cost of All Food-Stuffs Has Increased. All Along the Line. BY JOHN M. LOWNSDALE.

A comparison of the retail food prices of today and five years ago show many interesting changes. The cost of living has increased all over the country, but no greater in Portland than elsewhere.

With goods of local production, such as millstuffs, prices are regulated by the value of the raw material and this is governed by yearly crop conditions of world wide extent.

The following list shows the retail prices in Portland of staple articles of food now and five years ago:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Potatoes, Apples, etc.

NEEDLESS OPENING OF BRIDGES.

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HAD FORTY TO CHOOSE FROM. Missouri Solon Wants a Wife and Selects a Widow. Charles Rohne, a Mr. Newswyrd at 66, was so enthusiastic over his bride, 40 applicants for his hand, that he declared he was glad he had waived his age requirement in her case.

Mr. Ralsull, of the suburbs of Tangier, offers a good illustration of what thrift and a strict attention to business may accomplish. Prior to the capture of Perdy, an occasional hold-up or raid on the camel corral of his neighbors was about the height of his ambition.

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REVERE'S HIDE AS A HUNTING STUNT.

Cambridge (Mass.) Hunting North. One of the queerest bits of hazing here was the representation of Paul Revere's ride, famed in history.

Grow Peanuts in Lin. Albion Herald. M. Hyde, of this city, has demonstrated the fact that peanuts can be raised in Oregon.

"Old Man" Bennett's New Stunt. Irrigation Irrigator. P. J. Sullivan, representing a typewriter company of Portland, was in town Saturday last and succeeded in selling one of his machines to the editor.

Preacher's Dream Traps Defaulter. Pittsburg Dispatch. Rev. Abel S. Dickerson, a colored preacher of Pittsburg, Pa., dreamed that he saw the treasurer of his congregation making merry with the church funds.

He Is 96 Years, and Digs Potatoes. Boston Post. Michael McCreary, lately celebrated at Peckham, Mass. his 96th birthday by then digging two acres of potatoes.

Well, here's happiness, old crosby! Here's your best friends' glances stony! When you get to seeing double! How your happiness will bubble!

NATIONAL GUARD. PURSUANT to a resolution adopted by the Military Board for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the amended army regulations, the minimum strength of infantry companies will be 58 men hereafter.

It will entail a lot of hustling on the part of the various company commanders for many of the commands are at this time under the minimum strength.

Consider the advantages offered by military training in the National Guard. It is surprising, in fact, that every company is not filled to the maximum strength.

MAKING OF HEALTHY STUDENTS. Boys and Girls in Colleges Growing in Height, Weight and Strength. Medical and Surgical Journal.

Of the girls examined at Smith College in 1900-03, those of the same age showed a superiority of a half inch in height, three pounds in weight and two-thirds of an inch in chest girth.

Weight of American College Students—1900-03. Age, 17 years, 56.8 inches, 120.8 pounds.

Company F is engaged in bloodless battle on the stage of the Baker Theater. The company, under the leadership of Captain O'Dale and Lieutenant Crouch, has been engaged to appear in the production of "Barbara Fancher," a war-time melodrama.

Cat and Rattle Fight One Hour. Exchange. One of the strangest fights on record was watched for nearly an hour at the state forestry station in Santa Monica Canyon by Supt. N. D. Inglish and his assistants.

Gets \$26,000 for \$200 Farm. St. Louis Dispatch. The diamond mine in Southwest Arkansas started on the farm of John W. Huddleston, on the Little Missouri River.

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