The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.
Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance.
(By Mail.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$8.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months	4.25
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	6.00
Daily, without Sunday, six months	3.25
Daily, without Sunday, three months	1.75
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.60
Weekly, one year	1.50
Sunday, one year	2.50
Sunday and Weekly, one year	3.50
(By Carrier.)	
Daily, Sunday included, one year	9.00
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75

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. Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—10 to 14 pages, 1 cent; 16 to 28 pages, 2 cents; 30 to 44 pages, 3 cents; 46 to 60 pages, 4 cents. Foreign postage double rates.

Eastern Business Office—The S. C. Beckwith Special Agency—New York, rooms 48-50 Tribune building. Chicago, rooms 510-512 Tribune building.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, DEC. 3, 1908.

TAFT AND CANNON.

It is most probable that the imminence of an open conflict between Mr. Taft and Mr. Cannon has been exaggerated by persons who love a good story better than the truth. Both men are noble warriors and it is incredible that either would refuse to fight were he pushed to the wall. But on the other hand, both are exceedingly wary and neither of them is by any means pushed to the wall. They probably enjoy a shindy as well as the next man, but warfare is wasteful. It is seldom advisable to fight until the resources of diplomacy have been exhausted, and, so far as the public knows, diplomatic arts have not been invoked at all to settle their real or imaginary differences. Two astute and indurated politicians may hold divergent opinions on many subjects besides the tariff without coming to blows. Still the rooted and growing suspicion that a struggle for existence is on between Mr. Taft and the reverend obstacle who has been Speaker of the House so long is well imagined even if it is not true.

Mr. Cannon was brought up in the school of protection, after the strictest manner of that sect. He is too old now to change, but he can and he will surrender to the inevitable demand for revision. After all, the revision will not depart very far from his idea or position; for there still will be protective tariff, and he has admitted that the vote of the country indicates a demand for change of schedules—though neither he nor anybody else knows what changes, nor how to mark them.

Cannon probably will be re-elected to the Speakership. But he will be less autocratic than heretofore. The House must be ruled, but it can be done with less show of despotic power than Cannon has heretofore maintained. The time has come for at least a show of tariff revision, and Cannon and Payne and Dalzell know it. They will have no fight with Taft. New tariff schedules, therefore, will come forth; but it is not to be expected that they will be radical, in any important particular. For protective policy in our country has not yet run its course; and as to Taft and Cannon, we shall soon be treated to a show of sirenical disposition on both sides. During the recent campaign the Democratic party dwelt little on the tariff, because it was not sure of its ground. That party contains hosts of protectionists. As between the two parties—Republican and Democratic—the tariff has been very much exaggerated as an issue. As between Taft and Cannon, the issue is more general. It does not relate to tariff alone; for temperamentally the men stand as far apart as the poles. Mr. Cannon clings tenaciously to vested interests and to old ways, and fails to recognize abuses where others see them; while Mr. Taft is a pragmatist in philosophy and action, and earnestly believes in following the paths which have been opened by the Administration of Mr. Roosevelt, in which Mr. Taft himself has borne so prominent a part.

JAPAN AND AMERICA.

The agreement between Japan and the United States is an important undertaking attended with possibilities which at this time may be only faintly appreciated. In the development of the commerce of the Pacific Ocean, the agreement declares that "the policy of both governments, uninfluenced by any aggressive tendencies, is directed to the maintenance of the existing status quo in the region above mentioned, and to the defense of the principle of equal opportunity for commerce and industry in China." It is further stated in the agreement that the two countries "are firmly resolved reciprocally to respect the territorial possessions belonging to each other in said region" and that they are "determined to preserve the common interests of all powers in China by supporting by all pacific means at their disposal the independence and integrity of China and the principle of equal opportunity for commerce and industry of all nations in that empire."

The language of the agreement is clear, and its purpose as outlined is unmistakable. Of course it cannot escape the attention of the European powers, for which this agreement in effect promises police duty, that the prestige of both Japan and the United States will be heightened by the power which is assumed through this agreement. The tone of the foreign press, however, indicates a willingness to permit the two countries nearest the "bone of contention" to manage affairs for the best interest of all concerned. One particularly interesting point is suggested by this sudden and far-reaching change in the Far Eastern political situation, and that is the imperative necessity of retaining the battleship fleet in the Pacific. Under the new agreement, it will be observed that both Japan and the United States have equal interest in the maintenance of order on the Pacific, and especially in China.

To enforce her part of the agreement, Japan has a big new navy, which "ship for ship" compares favorably with any afloat today. It is also needless to mention that this big navy is not stationed more than 15,000 miles from the scene of a possible outbreak in China. It is difficult, in fact impossible, for Americans, or even for their nearest neighbors, the Japanese, to gauge correctly the extent of the political disturbance which is now shaking China out of her sleep of centuries. For years it has been known that the wonderful personality and intellectual force of the Empress Dowager were the strongest influence in holding together the Manchu dynasty. With the death of that great leader there has come to the surface a feeling of unrest that is fraught with grave possibilities for her successors, and for the empire itself. In the agreement with Japan the United States again affirms the old pledge to the support of Chinese integrity, but in the event of a crisis which may be precipitated by the Boxer element in China, with our fleet back on the Atlantic station, we should be powerless to render assistance in doing our share.

Japan, backed up by some of the European powers which always have a strong fleet on the Asiatic station, would then be obliged to handle the situation without any assistance from this country, and in the possible break up it would be a case of "to the victors belong the spoils." No good reason has ever been advanced for the return of the fleet to the Atlantic station, and there is at the present time grave reason for its retention on the Pacific. A study of the new agreement with Japan by some of our Atlantic Coast statesmen may result in a change of orders, and the permanent establishment of a Pacific fleet where it can be of some use in case of trouble.

REMEDY NOT EASY TO FIND.

The chief difficulty in solving the concealed weapon problem is to catch the criminal. There is no trouble about conviction, for if there is any evidence at all it is conclusive. A trial on a charge of carrying concealed weapons need not take over 15 minutes, and the youngest deputy in the office of the City Attorney or of the District Attorney is abundantly capable of conducting so simple a case. The severest kind of a law will not help the situation unless it points out some way by which the offender may be detected. Every third man one meets on the street may have a revolver in his pocket, yet no one can tell which men have the weapons. A portable X-ray machine, constructed on the kodak plan, would solve the problem, but the invention of this handy pocket-inspector is too far in the distant future to be promising of results. Not even a real Sherlock Holmes could identify a gun-carrier on sight.

Quite likely the police could devise some means of detecting the pistol-toters if they would, but most of them think they have troubles enough of their own already. If highwaymen would devote themselves exclusively to holding up policemen, undoubtedly there would be found a practical means of ridding the country of the desperadoes. But robbers do not often select policemen for their victims. Perhaps they would do so if every officer were required to carry $100 in gold on his person while on duty, but policemen would scarcely be willing to be used as traps so well baited for thugs. However, it is probable that peace officers would be more vigilant than they are if they had more at stake personally.

The requirement that dealers in firearms keep a register of all those who buy weapons would do some little good—perhaps as much good as is accomplished by the law requiring druggists to keep a register of poisons sold. No one ever heard of the poison-registration law preventing a suicide or a murder. A pistol-registration law would do little more. The question is not one of law nor of penalties, but of detection. When this has been accomplished the rest will be easy.

INCREASING DIVORCES.

Upon the average during the last twenty years out of every fourteen marriages one has ended in divorce. This is an interesting fact, but not necessarily alarming. That thirteen marriages out of fourteen last comfortably until death seems to offer fair grounds for satisfaction with things as they are. Divorces are increasing faster than the population in most of the states, but this may or may not be an evil. It is quite possible that with this increase goes a corresponding growth of human happiness and the stability of family life. Families are often broken up where divorce is not permitted. Compulsory unions seldom produce anything but misery and often promote immorality.

South Carolina boasts that it permits no divorces, and on the face of it the boast is warranted. But what is the reality behind the appearance? Simply that people who are unhappily married obtain legal release in other states. General social conditions in South Carolina are far behind those in many states where divorce is common. Labor is not so well paid, property is not so safe, life less secure. With "no divorce" in that state goes "pistol toting" as a companion custom. The truth is that alarmists greatly exaggerate the dangers of lax divorce laws. More mischief arises from the diversity of the laws than from their laxity. We clearly need a uniform divorce code; it is not at all certain that we need a stricter one.

WHAT TO DO WITH UNDESIRABLES?

Elimination of the undesirable citizen is one of the principal objects sought in our present immigration laws, according to the report of Secretary Straus, of the Department of Commerce and Labor. That a fair degree of success has attended enforcement of this excellent policy, is shown by the commissioner's returns for the last fiscal year. These figures disclose that during the twelve months ending June 30 there were deported from the United States 1955 aliens, while in the same period 10,902 were rejected at the port of arrival. That the process of eliminating the undesirable was not over-worked is evident in the character of some of the aliens who managed to slip in past the restrictions. More than one-fourth of those admitted were illiterate, and, while ignorance is of course no bar to immigration, the police records of the Eastern cities in which most of this low class of immigration settles show that in many cases it is the ignorant foreigner who attempts to practice his old world crimes in this country.

Owing to the fact that the fiscal year commenced several months before the industrial depression of a year ago began, the statistics make a more favorable showing of gain than will be possible for the calendar year. Deducting the total number of departures of aliens from the number arriving, a net gain of 209,867 in our alien population is shown for the twelve months. Secretary Straus finds that the greatest violators of the alien contract labor laws are the American manufacturers and strongly recommends adoption of a system of corporation regulation, through an administrative office. It is somewhat surprising to find in the report that during the year the net increase of Japanese in the country was but 2826. Considering the amount of disturbance that was created over their admission, they must have been a very noisy lot of immigrants.

With the return of prosperity, it is probable that there will come an increase in the number of immigrants, and, if there is a continuation of the policy of eliminating the undesirables, we can still find room for a number of millions, providing they do not huddle into the cities, but instead go into the country, and work where they are needed.

A PAINFUL DILEMMA.

Attorney M. J. Gordon, of Spokane, seems to have played a singular part in the scandalous events which are associated with the name of Judge Root in current reports. Mr. Gordon was formerly a member of the Washington Supreme Court, but resigned his position to become counsel for the Great Northern Railroad.

What Judge Gordon's acts were which commended him so highly to the railroad while he was still on the bench history does not state. Were they among those judicial decisions which have made current gossip in Washington affirm that the corporations own the courts? Did they consist in judicial amendments to the state constitution which transformed public protection into public bane? Perhaps we shall never know. Nor are we likely to know, either, how many other judges are rendering similar services in the expectation of a similar reward. We are sure that Judge Gordon received his recompense and with that fact certain information ceases.

While Judge Gordon was serving the Great Northern Railroad in the capacity of counsel some $80,000 of its money which he happened to have went out of sight—so it is said. What became of it nobody seems to know exactly, but it was declared by railroad officials that Mr. Gordon had included it, perhaps by mistake, among his perquisites. The perquisites of corporation counsel are bountiful and a minor item like $80,000 might easily be lost among them. Clearly the company gave up the money as lost, gave it up with marvelous facility in fact. It made no outcry over the loss. Much less did it openly accuse Judge Gordon of embezzlement and prosecute him. To the widows and orphans who notoriously own the stock of the Great Northern $80,000 must have been rather a serious loss. The Christian fortitude with which the company endured the calamity of its shareholders not only excites surprise but it elicits admiration. "What meekness," we exclaim involuntarily, "what a shining example of humble submission to wrong." No doubt the Great Northern passed many hours in prayer before it attained this truly devout state of mind in regard to Judge Gordon and the $80,000 he had lost, or acquired.

But perhaps some other factor besides prayer helped exalt the company to its exemplary meekness. A while before the money disappeared Judge Root, of the Supreme Court, reversed a previous decision of that tribunal which the Great Northern had found painfully disagreeable. Attorney Gordon is said to have procured the reversal. Of course a court has a right to reverse itself. Indeed such an act is very often the sign of a moral awakening and the evidence of a contrite heart. But this reversal was peculiar in some respects. For one thing it was said that Judge Root permitted Mr. Gordon to write his decision. Doubtless it was the charm of Mr. Gordon's English style which caused Judge Root to accept this singular courtesy from him, if he did accept it, but unkind critics conjured up less innocent reasons. "Nobody minds if a judge permits a corporation lawyer to outline his decisions orally," sneered the critics, "but when the railroad counsel actually composes and writes out the sacred document it is pushing a good thing a little too far." What the secret was of Mr. Gordon's power over Judge Root it were hopeless to inquire. Perhaps the latter was susceptible to hypnotic influence. Perhaps the rude strength of the Gordon will overpowered the struggling angel in his soul. There are esoteric mysteries which one may not rashly approach. Judge Root's utterances since his downfall suggest that his nature is endowed with delicacy rather than vigor, nor does his power to select the honorable course where a dishonorable one is open seem to be excessively keen. At any rate, Gordon either wrote the decision for Judge Root or he did not.

If he did write it, one can easily see why the railroad company did not make him any trouble about the $80,000. Perhaps the decision was worth as much as that, and even if it was not the suppression of the scandal was cheap at the price. To have it publicly known that this is the way corporations win suits would never do. People would begin to ask forthwith in their irrational, thoughtless way, "How many other Supreme Court judges are permitting corporation counsel to write their decisions?" Very likely the railroad might have been willing to spend ten times $80,000 rather than let the secret leak out. But if Gordon did not write the decision there was no secret to leak out. The railroad had nothing to lose by prosecuting him and possibly it had something to win. Why then did it not prosecute him? A fatal pressure of logic compels us to conclude that if Attorney Gordon grabbed the railroad's money he also wrote Judge Root's decision and the knowledge that he did so frightened the company from prosecuting him. If no other dilemmas of this sort had ever arisen, would the corporations stand precisely where they do before the law and the constitution mean exactly what it does?

For a brief period at least, the American farmer who can market his wheat at any point in the Middle West has a slight advantage over his cheap labor Argentine competitor. The Chicago market is so far above a parity with the English markets on which the Argentine wheat is sold that not even the cheap ocean freight from the Argentine to Europe can offset the difference in price in favor of the American farmer, who can market his wheat on a Chicago basis. The indifference of the foreign market to the hilarious strength in Chicago was reflected yesterday in a slight decline, while there was a further advance in Chicago.

The periodical revolutions in Hayti usually degenerate into wars of extermination. Were the fiery blacks who bring on these revolutions the only ones to suffer by the frequent upheavals the rest of the world would probably be content to stand aside, and permit the different factions to emulate the example of the famous Kilkenny cats. But the rest of the world has property interests which are imperiled whenever these people begin fighting, and in duty bound must always send down a few gunboats to stand guard over foreign property, and occasionally take a hand in straightening out the row. It is for this reason that all the world would welcome the inevitable crisis which sooner or later will take the Haytian government out of the hands of the unruly Haytians and establish law and order in keeping with the civilization of the white man.

The New York World offers this remark:

> If the Oregon Republican Legislature keeps its pledges and obeys the popular mandate, Governor George E. Chamberlain, twice-elected Democratic reformer, will succeed Republican Senator Fulton.

Mr. Chamberlain owes his success entirely to personal and factional disputes in the Republican party; not at all to any supposition that he is a "reformer." There was nothing for him to reform. The business of the state, all its affairs, were in good order. But each Republican faction in the state hated the other, and Chamberlain has been the man through whom they have executed their vengeance on each other. He, however, is only an ordinary Democratic partisan, and now has the only political machine existing in the state. Great is humbug!

D. P. Doherty shot and killed a friend at Lexington, last December, because the latter would not set up the drinks as often as the murderer thought he should. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment, and the judgment was affirmed by the Supreme Court last Tuesday. This was a pretty quick disposition of the case considering the many opportunities the lawyers have to delay proceedings. The verdict was apparently just, with the possible exception that perhaps it should have been murder in the first degree instead of in the second. Justice was at least tempered with mercy.

The Russ, published at St. Petersburg, asserts that the American-Japanese agreement is but a postponement of war and that the conflict will occur about the end of Taft's administration. Unfortunately the Russ does not say whether it means Taft's first or his second administration, but since we do not look upon predictions from St. Petersburg as authoritative upon war topics, perhaps it does not make much difference. Whatever else may happen, it is safe to assert that America will surrender no Port Arthurs.

It is found that oysters and clams convey typhoid germs, hence we are told we must forswear these shellfish. It has long been known that milk is a frequent source of infection, and it is asserted by authorities that tubercular beef will spread the white plague. Vegetables produced in gardens near cities have long been under the ban. Pork has been under strong suspicion for centuries. It begins to look as though we shall have to fall back upon fruit and nuts, which will be good news to the apple and walnut growers.

We are now told that Cleopatra was not a dazzler for beauty; also that Queen Elizabeth had fiery temper and hair and her subjects called her beautiful under compulsion; also that Tsi An, Empress Dowager of China, would have come in among the last in a beauty contest. After all, the only place to find the really beautiful woman is in the illustrated song at the vaudeville shows.

Why shouldn't a marriage between royalty and capital be called off whenever the parties to the contract find that there has been a misunderstanding? It is always permissible to back out of a horse trade if you find that the horse's teeth have been filed to conceal his age or if he balks before leaving the possession of the original owner.

Railroad companies that are in the market for the purchase of Supreme Court decisions should not haggle over prices, but should always remember that there are always exceptions to the old rule law of supply and demand or rather there are contingencies arising which temporarily balk its infallible workings.

In the State of Washington the Legislature is said to contain only seven lawyers. If there were only so many in the Oregon Legislature, there might be more chance of enacting laws to send bankwreckers to the penitentiary and murderers to the gallows.

Nobody has yet declared that Legislators should violate their pledges. To do so would be to urge them to violate the Constitution of the United States, which ordains that the Legislature—not the people—shall elect United States Senators.

It seems probable that emotional insanity, superinduced by whisky, will be the line of defense for Finch. The jury can easily find good reason for hanging a man of that kind for exercise of his emotions.

Finch's defense will be "emotional insanity." Certainly. It is only a step further to the ground that no sane man ever committed murder, and therefore all murderers should be set free. Why not?

Inherited tendency toward hogging everything in sight is hard to eradicate. Jay Gould's children now have almost a monopoly in the dirty divorce news of two continents.

Star baseball players demanding largely increased salaries would fare better if they had thought to form a union and then got under the wings of Brother Gompers.

The local option law in Lane County is no joke. Joseph Jacobs, who violated the law, has been fined $500 and given a term of 30 days in jail.

No murderer, sane or insane, should ever be set free. He should either be hanged, or confined forever, where he can commit no more murders.

If a man who murders is a victim of emotional insanity, how about the lawyer who defends him from the gallows?

The revolution in Hayti is much needed to replenish the supply of Generals and Colonels.

The best Christmas goods are those picked out first, and the early shopper gets them.

MAMMON'S UNGENTLE IRONY.

The Fate That Pursues the Progeny of Jay Gould.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

The merits of the case in which the three most ridiculous figures of the period are involved are hardly worth discussing, since there is little or no merit in either of the litigants, but it is interesting to speculate upon the probability that the sins of the late Jay Gould, frenzied financier, are being visited upon the second and third generations.

The late Mr. Gould made money his god and made money without regard to the comfort or convenience or the rights of his fellow-men. He grew rich. Having grown very rich, he died, without having accomplished anything in life worthy of note or of emulation. The profits of his peculiar business methods were loaded upon the shoulders of his children. As a family they have constituted living definitions of the term "new rich" in its worst meaning. The present "Princess" de Sagan, who has purchased two bogus titles and incidentally two of the most unspeakable members of the French nobility, an aristocratic order that has no actual existence, has gone further and fared worse than the other Goulds in employing her fortune to indulge a bourgeois taste for the tinsel of the sort of Parisian high-life that is merely the upper-tenderloin when it rises to that doubtful distinction.

What Boni de Castellane says, or can prove, about Helle de Sagan, or what Helle says or can prove of Boni, is of no great interest, since neither has a character or a reputation to lose, and it is difficult to stir up a feeling of sympathy for the troubles of the American woman whose money has been put to no nobler uses than the support of the precious brace of make-believe noblemen she has chosen to select from the bargain counter. But for the third generation upon which the ungentle irony of Mammon is being visited there should be a measure of sympathy. While the noble Boni and the noble Helle snap and snarl at each other, and while the noble Boni, whose various establishments, maintained from his wife's purse, were the scandal of Europe when he was the husband of the former Miss Gould, charges the "Princess" with improper conduct with the "Prince" prior to the divorce, and the "Prince" with peccadilloes since his marriage, there are three grandchildren of the late frenzied financier, Jay Gould, who are as unfortunately situated as if each had been guilty of having deliberately selected as its parents persons entirely ineligible for the responsibilities of parenthood.

Possibly the punishment of Jay Gould in another world is to be forced to look into a kaleidoscope and observe the shifting matrimonial affairs of his heirs. If it is, the penalty should be sufficient to fit any financial crime that could be charged against him by those who were his contemporaries in the business world.

HOW THEY DO IT IN SPOKANE

Elaborate Preparation to Make the Great Apple Show a Success.

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 2.—Apples and amusements will comprise the programme of the National Apple Show, which opens here December 7 and continues through the week. Apples will figure in nearly every branch of the big exposition and in every form. The amusement features will comprise the best line of side shows and vaudeville attractions ever brought to the Northwest. Most of them will be presented at the apple show for the first time on the Pacific Coast.

The vaudeville entertainments will be given in the Washington State Armory building adjoining the main exposition hall. Two concerts will be given daily, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. In all, there will be a dozen attractions to amuse the people who attend the show. Such famous entertainers as the Four Rome Beauties, acrobatic dancers, and the Musical Spragullas, in their novelty musical act, head the list of vaudeville shows. La Tasco, the comedy juggler whose performances have pleased thousands of people all through the Eastern states, has been brought to Spokane for the National Apple Show, and will give two acts daily. The Booth-Gordon trio is another attraction which will be presented at the apple show in Spokane for the first time in the West. These daring bicycle performers have thrilled audiences on both sides of the Atlantic by their clever tricks. Other features will be the Tony Riders, a monkey act, the whirling Smillettas and the Raymond Duo, a new act which has had much success where given.

One of the chief attractions of the week will be the National Apple Show Band of 40 pieces, organized for the occasion from among the best musicians in the three states of Washington, Idaho and Oregon. This band will lead a parade through the city every afternoon and evening, and will also give concerts in the armory as a part of the regular programme. The Spokane male chorus of 50 voices and the famous Elks' quartet, also of this city, will be other features of the musical programme.

A VERY PERTINENT REMARK.

Why Do Men Call Themselves Republicans? Why Have a Republican Legislature?

Pendleton Tribune.

Every Republican Statement No. 1 member of the Legislature says today that he is as good a Republican as his Republican colleagues who will not under any circumstances vote for a Democratic United States Senator. But the difference is that the Statement Republicans promised last May that if the voters would elect them and the state should go Democratic for Senator in June, they would go Democratic in January!

It sounds very much like promising to change one's politics on the only political question coming up for consideration in order to insure one's election.

In other words, a man is a Republican provided his state votes that way, but if it shall go Democratic he is on record agreeing to be a Democrat and to vote with the Democrats on the only occasion when the 25,000 Republican majority in Oregon wants to be seriously and effectively represented in the Legislature.

And that promise requires that man to do a thing which is directly against the Constitution of the United States, to support which is the highest obligation he takes when qualifying for his seat in the Legislature!

Mr. Roosevelt as Editor.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The associate reader of the Shouting: "Here is some of the worst doggerel I ever read. It's enough to make a gargoyle chuckle. The writer rhymes 'heart' with 'harp' and 'delight' with 'tripe.' Look at that if you want a good laugh."

Editor Roosevelt—"What's the name signed to the poem?"

"Hank Hunter."

"Eh? 'Hank Hunter! That poetry is all right. Hank Hunter was one of my best rough riders."

The Simple Life.

Lamar (Mo.) Democrat.

Go out to the home of some friend who lives in the country, one of these sharp Autumn nights. Get out at 5 o'clock the next morning and do the chores in the chill approach of the dawn, then hie yourself to the cornfield and commence stripping the frost-covered shucks from the nubbins, staying with the job until night. Then, as you unload the corn into the crib, amidst the gathering darkness, you will have no trouble at all in figuring out why so many people persist in hanging around town—even when they haven't any jobs.

OFFER TO DEBATE QUESTIONS

Forest Grove Students Prepare for Three-Cornered Contest.

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, Forest Grove, Or., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—At a meeting of the debate council last night the following questions were submitted to Whitman College and Willamette University for their consideration preparatory to the triangular debate which comes off in February:

(1) Resolved, That laws should be enacted providing that in case of personal injury to a workman arising out of, and in course of, employment, his employer shall be liable for adequate compensation and shall not set up contributory negligence or negligence of a fellow servant as a defense.

(2) Resolved, That in cities of the United States of 100,000 inhabitants or over all the powers of city government should be vested in a commission of not more than nine men elected by the voters at large without the assistance of any other representative body.

A new plan for choosing the question for debate has been adopted by the three institutions. Each school sends two questions to the other members of the league, and the colleges then vote for three of the six subjects on hand, giving first, second and third choice, and the question receiving the highest number of votes shall be debated.

Each institution puts out two teams and three debates are held simultaneously on the same night at the different schools. Pacific's affirmative team will meet Willamette University in Forest Grove, while the other team will contend the negative against Whitman at Walla Walla.

The prospects for winning teams at this institution are very promising. Three of last year's debaters are in school, Ward, Gwynn and Witham, and a large number of the new men will enter the tryout the latter part of this month.

PROBLEM FOR LEGISLATURE

Plan to Put State Schools Under Control of One Board.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—The State Board of Control will recommend to the next Legislature that the positions of 25 regents and trustees of the state higher educational institutions be abolished and in their stead a central body of three educators and business men be appointed to have full charge of the state college, state university and three normal schools.

J. H. Davis, of the board, who penned the recommendation today, favors paying the board members $3600 a year each, and declares the proposed businesslike method will prove a saving over the present plan of no-salaried regents. He points out all the regents are men of affairs whose personal interests occupy so much of their time that they cannot give proper attention to the schools.

If the plan goes through the Legislature it will only be after a bitter fight. University and college and each of the normals have ever been bitter rivals for legislative favors in appropriations, and each would fear the other might get an advantage under the three-man board plan.

State college enthusiasts, and thtey are the most active workers and most successful here every session, will no doubt oppose the plan, seeing in it an attempt to do away with the present actual control of that institution by President Enoch A. Bryan. It is not certain that Governor Mead will indorse the plan.

RURAL CARRIERS WILL MEET

Three Counties to Be Represented at Lents Convention Saturday.

GRESHAM, Or., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—Arrangements have been completed by the rural letter-carriers of three counties to hold the first of a series of conventions at Lents next Saturday evening. The carriers of Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties have formed an association independent of the county and state organizations for their mutual improvement, and will get together for that purpose.

The letter-carriers of Lents have made complete preparations, having secured Duke's Hall and arranged for a banquet. The other carriers of Multnomah County will assist them in bearing the expenses incident to the occasion.

Among those who have been invited are Inspectors C. A. Riches and E. C. Clement. Both will be present unless kept away by official duties. W. H. Boyd and J. H. Goings, president and secretary of the Oregon State Rural Letter-Carriers' Association, will also be there, and all the postmasters and their assistants have been invited from the three counties.

A special programme has been prepared, consisting of addresses, music and recitations. E. E. Chipman, president of the Multnomah County Association, will preside and deliver an address of welcome.

PILES ORGANIZATION STOLEN

Opposition Develops to Plums Given Out by Senator.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—While the political representatives of United States Senator S. H. Piles slumbered yesterday afternoon, the King County Republican Club, formed originally as a Piles organization, was captured by his political opponents and will be used against him in the next campaign. L. H. Gray, elected president of the club, is severely critical of Piles, though he has not announced open opposition. After his election, Gray said:

"Senator Piles has not consulted with the men who made him. While I don't want to be understood as his opponent, I am inclined to support a man for Senator who will consult with the business men of Seattle and who will remember his friends. I don't believe that in the distribution of his patronage Senator Piles has exercised good judgment."

Gray referred to the appointment of George F. Russell as postmaster, which displeased many Republicans.

IS ELECTED, BUT HAS NO JOB

A. F. Davis Learns That Clark County Has No Use for Assessor.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—A. F. Davis, of Etna, County Assessor-elect, was in the city today conferring with the County Commissioners and the Prosecuting Attorney that he might learn whether or not he will be an office-holder after the first of the year.

His case is this: He was elected in November on the Republican ticket, but at the same time township government in Clark County carried, and under the township government each township has its own Assessor, and the law says that these Township Assessors shall report to the County Auditor. It look very much as if Mr. Davis would have nothing to do as County Assessor.

League Ticket Victorious.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—The Citizens' League was victorious in the city election here today. Carl Albreght and Tom Coke were elected Aldermen and J. W. Butler City Recorder. The League opposes the present city administration. The proposals to increase the bonded indebtedness $60,000 and to provide a new charter were defeated.

OFFICER IS EXONERATED

Charges Against Deputy Sheriff Rogers, of Elma, Dismissed.

MONTESANO, Wash., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—The case of Deputy Sheriff J. F. Rogers, of Elma, charged with obtaining money under false pretenses, came up for hearing yesterday, and on motion of the County Attorney was dismissed.

It was shown that John M. Guess held Rogers' receipt for $27 for surveying and locating, Rogers claiming that he did not locate Guess on the land but did the surveying at a set price. He also said that the action of Guess was the result of a conspiracy by parties who do not want a surveyor in their section of the county. He said that he knew of several small tracts of land which belonged to the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company that have been fenced and are being held illegally.

LIBRARY BUILDING IS BEGUN

Work Starts on $10,000 Structure at Vancouver.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—Work on the foundation of the Carnegie free public library has been started. The structure will consist of one story with basement, 32x65 feet. The building material is to be concrete and brick. The library will cost $10,000.

The library board has on hand some 500 volumes and $1300 with which to buy new books. An effort will be made to raise the boog fund to $3000 before the library is opened.

Sleighing in Palouse.

GARFIELD, Wash., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—The two-inch fall of snow which visited the Palouse country Sunday night has been followed by a gradual drop in temperature, which has not allowed the snow to melt, thus making good sleighing. During Monday night the mercury continued to fall, and this morning it has reached the zero mark. Reports from those who have come into town from the outlying sections show that the same conditions exist throughout the entire county east of Endicott and north of Colfax.

A little plowing is still being done, but the continuance of the present temperature for a few hours will stop further work upon the land.

Week of County Institutes.

PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—An entire week of local district school institutes has been arranged by County School Superintendent Welles. He will be assisted at the meetings by State Superintendant Ackerman. While strictly local in character the parents and teachers of the surrounding districts are urged to attend. The first will be held at Echo, December 12, and it is expected that the teachers at Hermiston and Umatilla will attend, as this is the only one to be held in the west end of the county. The next will be held at Pilot Rock, while the other places are Fruitvale, Vincent and Ferndale. The sixth place has not yet been decided upon.

Pendleton Wants Library.

PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—The women of Pendleton have taken upon themselves the task of saving the city's public library from abandonment. At a recent mass meeting a plan of campaign was outlined and a big public reception, the first step, will probably be held sometime this week. It is desired to have Miss Marvin, State Librarian, present and the date will be arranged to suit her convenience.

The library will be housed in the new City Hall and will be in charge of a competent librarian. It is also proposed to raise funds sufficient to make valuable additions in the way of books and periodicals so that it will be more efficient.

Masters and Lecturers Meet.

GRESHAM, Or., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—The last quarterly meeting, for this year, of the Masters' and Lecturers' Association of Multnomah County will be held at Evening Star Grange on Saturday next. The association holds a discussion of topics interesting to their order and plans for work to be done in each subordinate Grange. The membership comprises all the masters and lecturers of the county, 20 in number, while past masters, lecturers and secretaries are honorary members. Several matters of importance will come up at Saturday's meeting.

Marooned on Island.

VICTORIA, B. C., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—Marooned on an island in the middle of the Stewart River for ten days, with the angry ice floes grinding past and threatening to sweep the surface, was the thrilling experience of B. C. Sprague, a veteran of the Civil War, who has just returned from Dawson. Sprague was at New Orleans with Ben Butler and G eral Banks and fought under doug little Phil Sheridan in the Shenando but he says that his little experience the Stewart will rank among the m stirring events of his life.

La Center Remains Dry.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 2.—(Speci —La Center will remain a dry town. saloonkeeper circulated a petition in t town with a view of presenting the sa to the County Commissioners, so that might be granted a liquor license, but got few signers. A petition against ha ing a saloon in the town was at on started, and 52 signatures were secure which showing effectually settles the s loon question for La Center.

Freight Wreck Near Pasco.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Dec. 2.—west-bound Northern Pacific extra freig train was wrecked and eight cars wheat completely demolished about 4 o'clock this afternoon, 17 miles east Pasco. The accident was caused by t breaking of a journal. Passenger trai were delayed as a result.

William Lamb Released.

BAKER CITY, Or., Dec. 2.—William Lamb, who was arrested as an accomplic with the Anthony boy, charged wit firing buildings in this city, was allowe to go on his own recognizance today b the prosecuting attorney, after a frui less effort to connect him in any way wit the recent fires.

Takes Chickens to Japan.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—K Kaknada, a Japanese, who has bee porter at the Hotel Gross for severa years, started to Japan today with 1 coops of the finest bred chickens to b found in Lane County. He is goin to introduce these American birds i Japan and raise poultry there.

Special School Meeting Called.

MILWAUKIE, Or., Dec. 2.—(Special.)—Directors of the Milwaukie school distric have issued a call for a special meetin of the taxpayers, to be held in the Mil waukie Schoolhouse, Saturday night, De cember 12, to levy a special tax and t consider the matter of erecting a school house in the east side of the district They will also discuss the question of dividing the district.

Milwaukee Nears Completion.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 2.—President Williams, of the Milwaukee, today gave out the statement that steel has been laid on 456 miles of the road in Washington and Idaho and only 36 miles remain to connect Seattle with the tunnel in the Bitter Root Mountains, which will be completed in June.