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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 1908.

A PYRRHIC VICTORY.

Of course it is well that Ruef has at last been convicted. The event is auspicious and the widespread rejoicing over it is reasonable.

It is right that the cost of distribution of water should be paid for by the benefited property.

THE HUMAN SIDE WHO IS NOT A FATHER.

So far as one can discern, the California Superior court, like those of many other states, are vastly more concerned with the mint, and cummin and cummin of legal technicalities than they are with weighty matters of justice.

Proceedings of the kind which Mr. Bonaparte condemns so vigorously and so justly have been carried to the extremes of possible tolerance in the Ruef case.

An occasional gleam of light flashes out from dark Russia warning the world that hope is not yet dead and that justice gets an occasional glance from behind her blinders.

Each day brings the young folks nearer Christmas.

his care. If the usual Russian methods are considered, there is of course a possibility that this official may also be the victim of the jobbery that is so plentiful among Russian officials.

FAYING FOR WATER IN PORTLAND.

Water rates in Portland will be cut one-half, if the Council shall enact the recommendation of the Water Committee.

THE LATEST DAIRY STORY.

It is evident from incidents cited and stories related by dairy inspectors, before the Oregon Dairy Association now in session at Salem, that some of the most reprehensible practices now in vogue in the dairy industry will not observe the simple rules of cleanliness without compulsion by law.

Among the Christmas toys advertised for boys we note "a buckskin and hardwood sawbuck."

THE UNION PACIFIC REPORT.

Small wonder that Mr. Harriman's annual report on Union Pacific created a furore of buying of Harriman stocks.

It is noteworthy, but not strange, that since all the aspirants for Portland Postmaster have been disappointed, except one, it seems unnecessary.

The general public, as yet, has had little to say about protection of salmon of the Columbia River and Puget Sound.

There is no non-partisan rendezvous in Washington. That may be the reason our George has had to associate with the Democrats back there.

TWO PORTLAND BALL TEAMS.

The Oregonian suggested last Summer that Portland ought to have its baseball team in the Northwest League.

pany than the other, and at the same time make a relatively poorer showing, with the result that the public interest, support and sympathy would go to the inferior team.

A SYSTEMATIC PLAN.

It can hardly be disputed that the most important object before the public is the husbandry of our great natural resources.

THE PEAK COUNTY POULTRY RAISERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Polk County Poultry Raisers' Association will hold its second annual poultry show at Dalles next week.

Judicious View of Philadelphia.

Hammerstein's new opera-house is the civic pride of the moment.

Wholesale Market is Cornered.

A million dollars' worth of whalebone in the world, will be in a few days on hand in the storehouses.

Collier to Write Musical Comedy.

Theatrical circles will be surprised by the announcement that the next big American musical comedy to be produced by Charles Frohman will be written by Mr. William Collier, now appearing at the Garrick in his own farce "The Patriot."

Woman Attends Over 5000 Funerals.

Sophie Christian, who has just died in Reading, Pa. aged 75 years, attended more than 5000 funerals.

Conscience Awakes, After 40 Years.

After his conscience had been stinging for 40 years, a Kansas citizen sent to the Clerk of Laporte County, Ind., a check for \$150, the interest on \$500 wrongfully received for seven years.

New Law Lays Off 150 Saloons.

Under the provisions of the new liquor law in Providence, R. I., which limits saloons to one for every 500 of population, 150 saloons have just been closed.

Carnegie Hero Medal for Oregon.

Washington (D. C.) Herald.—An Oregon widower recently gave a banquet to 76 widows—and this is leap year, too! Doubtless, he was trying to qualify for Carnegie hero medal.

STERILIZE THE CRIMINAL INBANE

DR. OWENS-ADAR REVENES HER CALL TO OREGON LEGISLATURE FOR REFORM.

WARRENTON, Or., Dec. 10.—(To the Editor.)—Two years ago I called upon the Legislature of Oregon to enact a law which would sterilize the criminal.

What Portland wants, then, is good teams and close contests, and continuous baseball will be a success.

"Any man who is a bear on the future of this country will go broke," said J. P. Morgan, Jr., in Chicago Wednesday, and on Thursday the young man paid \$100 per hour for a special train to carry him back to New York.

The steamships Uganda, which has just completed a grand cargo at Portland, and the Straithairn, now loading here, were both chartered at 24 shillings to carry wheat to the United Kingdom.

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DR. OWENS-ADAR.

There are 181 doctors signs in six blocks of Chestnut street.

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MR. JEROME AS A LEGAL PUZZLE

New York's District Attorney of 1908 Different From Pleader of 1901.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican, Ind. Mr. Jerome again became an enigma. The country is puzzled much as it was when he shook the dice for the drinks with some companions in a saloon, during a recent celebrated trial.

The occasion was the dinner complimentary to Richard Croker in New York. The guests included 13 judges, the majority of whom are now on the bench of the Supreme Court, and the District Attorney.

"This is a pitiful calamity, one which every citizen should be made to understand, and for which a remedy must be found. I realize that this is a delicate subject to handle and for that reason I have not heretofore been brought before the public, but it must be handled and handled without gloves, from a scientific point, which is only common sense.

It is true that it may skip one or even two generations, but in time it will gather force and assert its power for good or evil.

No amount of training or education can completely eradicate such hereditary traits. Therefore, any child who is born with a right to be well born and no vicious person should be allowed to propagate his kind by contaminating the blood of the people.

Its Beautiful Opportunity of Making Children Happy.

Margaret E. Sangster in Woman's Home Magazine writes of love as the greatest thing in the world.

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LIFE'S SUNNY SIDE

Kicker—Has his poem gone into the language.

Bocker—No, but nearly all the language has gone into his poem.—New York Sun.

A repertoire company was walking into Paducah, where they were billed to play "Romeo and Juliet."

"What do I want 15 cents for?" repeated the leading man bitterly. "I want it for a shave, that's what I want for. I can't play Romeo with five dollars."

"Can we meet?" asked the tenor. "Can we sing the song before us—Can we do as they require?"

"Mother reading telegram—Heavy telegraph that the football match is over, and he came out of it with three broken ribs."

"Well, he can't talk at all. He merely sits and listens."

"Hubby—My dear, if I cannot leave the office in time for dinner tonight I will send you a note by a messenger."

"The Missionary—And what course do you intend to take with me?"

"A Scotch lawyer had to address the Caledonian equivalent of our Supreme Court. His 'pleading' occupied an entire day. After seven hours of almost continuous oratory, he returned to supper and was asked to conduct family worship. As he was exhausted his devotions were brief."

"Showing the trend of prohibition in the South, a story is told of a Southern Congressman who recently went into a barber shop in a small Tennessee town for a haircut. The barber, after the usual flow of conversation, completed the job and turning to his customer asked:

"The barber then proceeded to brush his hair 'dry.'—The Bohemian.

"It is his excited, broken English he told the fable much as it is written, until he came to the end. This was his rendering of the climax:

Control of the Automobile.

Professor George T. Ladd, of Yale, in discussing automobile regulations, declares that "No odds should be given to an automobile as against a horse simply because the former can go faster, and he compares the machine with teams and spirited horses driven through the streets at the same speed."

"Illumo Farmer's Big Pumpkin." Chicago Dispatch. Robert Merton has grown in Meridian township, Illinois, a pumpkin which weighs 154 pounds.

Ballade of the Jarring Note.

When summer clouds dispersed the sky and autumn's sun shone brightly of rain, "That's uttered by my warring eye. When I hear it I would not be afraid. Anticipating welcome awe, I hear it in a voice of pain."

Free Advertisement in Boston.

What are the most refined apples ever grown in this or any other country, last week, passed through Boston on their way to the table of King Edward.

Tobacco, Legacy for Son-in-Law.

Kansas City (Mo.) Dispatch. August Zerbat, a wealthy pioneer of Northern Missouri, who recently ended his life, and previously gave away his fortune to friends so it could not be legally recovered, inserted a clause in his will bequeathing to his son-in-law, August Fabst, the sum of 25 cents with which to buy chewing tobacco.