

The Oregonian

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be retarded, and indications now point to an approaching era of railroad building that in its magnitude will overshadow anything that we have ever known.

THE PROBLEM AT PANAMA. Mr. Taft, who is on his way to Panama, with competent advisers to inspect the canal, said at Augusta, Ga., that if the criticisms of the present plans should be deemed well founded, there would be no hesitation in altering them. There cannot be radical alteration, however, without authority of Congress; but it is not doubted that any recommendation of the President may make will be approved by that body.

WEIGHTY OPINION. It is not doubted that the United States Steel Corporation could do business and make profit even if steel were entered on the free list. But this great corporation has a number of small competitors who say they would be ruined; and it might be so. They allege that the great monopoly would, with free trade, be stronger than ever.

HOW THE INSANE MAY BE CURED. The biennial report of the State Asylum for the Insane presents statistics which should be encouraging to the friends and relatives of the unfortunate persons who by reason of mental affliction must be taken to that institution. It is shown, for example, that the number of patients discharged as recovered or much improved is 47 per cent.

ONE FEAST AFTER ANOTHER. Microbes, according to present-day theories, are the cause and the symptom of disease. To destroy microbes, a number of fat jobs in warm ovens have been established in the City Hall. All this has generated a rage of antipathy toward the microbes, themselves typical microbes, set loose from Pandora's box to prey on defenseless taxpayers.

IT SEEMS STRANGE NOW. It is an almost universal custom at Christian funerals to read the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians. In this chapter the Pauline idea of the resurrection of the dead is developed. The illustration borrowed from the organism of plants, to prove that the resurrection of the body is consistent with the resurrection of the soul, is implying that the same body rises, indicates the reverse. The attempt to force this analogy is a mistake.

CLAUS SPRECKELS. The colossal fortune of the late Claus Spreckels, who on Saturday passed on to the land where commercial ratings are not closely scanned, was accumulated by methods not dissimilar from those employed by John D. Rockefeller in his oil trade and Mr. Carnegie in the steel trade.

As a friendless lad of 18 who arrived in this country with 40 cents in his pocket, and in after years the original capital up to more than \$40,000,000, Mr. Spreckels' life presents features that cannot but appeal to the faint-hearted who now have the 40 cents and are uncertain about the 40 cents and the 40 cents.

SCALP BOUNTIES ARE ALL WRONG. If State Goes Into This Business, There Is No End to It. Now, the News thinks a scalp-bounty law would be the very worst of class legislation. The principle is wrong. The state cannot undertake to protect her citizens from the ravages of voracious animals, birds and insects; for to do so would mean a taxation too burdensome to be borne by the people.

WHAT WILL MR. GOMPERS LEARN? Something About the Difference Between Free Speech and Its Abuse. PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—In Friday's editorial you inquire: "What did Mr. Gompers expect, the right to be heard as he pleased, openly and continuously defied its injunction?"

PLENTY OF ICE AND DUST. La Grande Observer. Great quantity of ice, from the river and the dust so thick in the streets that the street-sprinkler should have run yesterday. Variety is the spice of life. No wonder we live so happy here.

GRAFT APPLE ON BERRY BUSH. Delta Miners Succeeded in Novel Horticultural Experiment. La Grande Observer. To those particularly interested in our domestic industry, the experiment made at Delta, Idaho, will be of value. In the Spring of last year, Thomas and Francis Hauck, two miners, who keep a garden and grow strawberries and other berries, chose to experiment with a scion of a 4-year-old apple tree into a service berry tree body, and to their delight the limb not only grew but blossomed this year and produced a section of the country can grow larger ones than are grown there. For better or for ill, the experiment is being made at Delta, Idaho, will be of value.

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ROSEBURG'S MOST SUCCESSFUL FATHER. Colgate Grove Leader. Levi White, of West Roseburg, recently became a father for the 21st time. This is the 10th child born to his present wife, 11 having been born to his first wife.

WORE ONE PAIR BOOTS FOR 38 YEARS. Philadelphia Dispatch. Isaac Rash, of Dover, Del., has a pair of boots he has worn for 38 years, and they are still in good condition.

FOR PRESERVATION OF OUR DEER. Favors Bounties on Killing Timber Wolves, Bobcats, Etc. COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Having read the communication printed in the Oregonian bearing on the destruction of our large game, and having surveyed, cruised and hunted a great deal in the Coast Range, and Cascade Mountains for the last 25 years, I feel qualified to say a few words on this important matter.

VILLARD'S "GOLDEN SPIKE" PARTY. PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Will you please state in your paper what the "golden spike party" was in Portland, and if General Grant also was in Portland and what part he took in the celebration? T. R.

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"I worked hard to win her." "Well, your successful rival is working a whole lot harder to support her."—Houston Post.

Howell—Did you have double pneumonia? Powell—I guess so; the doctor charged me twice as much as I thought he would.—Harper's.

"A true Bohemian is a man who borrows a dollar and then invites you to lunch with it." "That's right. A true Bohemian is a man who invites himself to lunch with you and then borrows a dollar."—Kansas City Star.

"Fifty miles an hour! Are you brave?" "She (swallowing another pint of dust)—Yes, dear, I'm full of grit."—Chicago News.

"Be careful what you say, son," cautioned the Plunkville Polonians. "Remember that you aren't prominent enough to claim that you were misquoted."—Puck.

"Her husband was run over." "Now that he is gone, I presume that she realizes his full value." "She does, and she won't compromise for a cent less."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

J. M. Barrie, the author, tells of a playgoer who received no response to his reiterated requests. To a woman in front of him to remove her huge hat. At length, exasperated, he said: "If you won't take off your hat, my dear madam, will you be so kind as to fold back your ears?"—Woman's Life.

State Senator Fred Dumont Smith was at Yellowstone Park last Summer, and made numerous trips on stage coaches. He found that many of the stage-drivers were college boys, working during the Summer. One of the boys was from Ottawa University, at Ottawa, Kan.

One day Fred got on a coach and an old-timer, with a beard as long as Jerry Bull's, and a pair of eyes as bright as bronzed faces, was holding the reins. "Say," said Smith, "are not a good many of the drivers graduates of colleges?" "Dunno," replied the old fellow, chewing at his tobacco cut. "I dunno much 'bout 'em." He chewed and thought for a few minutes, and then opened up again: "But, say, mister, I been tellin' how to set your feet on the air a graduate up Keeley's Life, whatever that air."

First Pugilist—I told her she was the only girl I ever loved. Second Pugilist—What did she say? First Pugilist—Told me to get a reputation.—Philadelphia Record.

HOW BROADWAY ENJOYS ITSELF. Latest Amusements of the Idle Rich in the Great Metropolis. New York Special to Chicago Tribune. Broadway's swagger set this year has gone back to the old but surest way of letting off the steam of its holiday enjoyment—its members are running on each other's heads. The most expensive, elaborate and freakiest dinner or supper imaginable.