

The Oregonian

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Portland, Wednesday, Dec. 30, 1908.

THE USE OF THE BRAKE.

It was well foreseen that the enormous increase in the valuations of property by the Assessor of Multnomah County would result in extravagance and prodigality, in all departments of the public service.

The bonding companies have the property of the city at their mercy. They are uncontrolled by the Common Council; their prices are extortionate; they refuse to pay down payments wherever they think the property can be made to pay their charges and they charge what they will.

WHOLLY UNFIT TO TEACH. The Washington State Board of Public Instruction will be called upon in the near future to deal with a teacher whose record is that of a wifebeater, a child persecutor and a man of perjury and vulgar speech and violent temper.

IN DARKEST AMERICA. News dispatches and the tone of Southern newspaper comment tends to the opinion that the cowardly murderers of Captain Ranken may go unpunished.

the city must be accomplished in time, but should be spread over a term of years, and the enormous salaries for more places and larger salaries can pass unheeded for a further time without injury to the city or county.

A RICH GRAB. The whole country is interested in the Hetchy-Hetchy Valley. It is an important part of the most valuable territory belonging to the American people.

Even if San Francisco could not get water elsewhere, she ought not to have obtained the Hetchy-Hetchy valley. The rights of the American people in this enormously valuable property are superior to hers.

But the mystery lightens a little when we turn attention to the water power which goes with the grant. This is worth millions of dollars. Properly improved, it would pay for the maintenance of the park in perpetuity.

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authorities and inflicting punishment on all who have opposed them in the present trial, and the enormous salaries for more places and larger salaries can pass unheeded for a further time without injury to the city or county.

THE ITALIAN CATASTROPHE. Terrible earthquake, with tidal waves, has occurred at the Straits of Messina, the ancient Scylla and Charybdis. It does not appear that, in the three thousand years since the composition of the Homeric poems, there has been much change in conditions there.

But in the roll of the Homeric verse, and here and there throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, some notion of the majesty of man, with whom there is an exalted God, appears, and there is a constant reminder to plague him for his misdeeds, or for the misdeeds of his ancestors or companions.

The new subway route, to be known as the Lexington avenue subway, has been confirmed by the Appellate Court of New York. Starting from the station at 125th street, it will run under Church street to Vesey street and under the old Astor House to Broadway.

Here is the sea that, in the sonorous verse of Milton, "parts Calabria from the hoarse Trinacrian shore." It is the place where, as the Vergilian hero was approaching Italy, they saw, rising from the sea, the mountain Aetna's summit high.

PITTSBURG. Pittsburg, whether viewed from a political, social or moral standpoint, seems to have developed more scandal and general nastiness than any other city in the United States, not even excepting some cities in the west.

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It is reported that Germany will be among the first of the European countries to endeavor to secure minimum tariff rates under the terms of the new tariff act which is expected to be passed at the special session of Congress.

The Manufacturers' Record, in an estimate of the probable mileage of railroads to be constructed in the South in 1909, places the figures at 1,200 miles, exclusive of sidetracks and double-tracking.

The Oregon Electric Company, in laying the foundation of a fortune for its promoters, is giving a tremendous impetus to the growth of the sections which its lines traverse.

In the death of A. L. Alderman at his home in Dayton, O., a few days ago, one of the sturdy pioneers of Polk and Yamhill Counties passed away.

The new acreage planted in fruit trees in the Rogue River valley this year is already in excess of 5000 acres and may reach 7000 acres.

Los Angeles Music Dealer Tires of Life and Business Worry. LOS ANGELES, Dec. 29.—George T. Exton, proprietor of the Exton Music Company, of this city, was found in the basement of the company's building this morning with a bullet hole in his head.

GREAT EARTHQUAKES OF PAST

Millions of Lives Are Lost in Disasters of Past History. The series of earthquakes that have wrought such terrific damage in Sicily and Southern Italy rank among the greatest of the world's seismic disasters.

Epheusa made an island, R. C. 425. Ephesus and other cities razed. A. D. 17. Pompeii and Herculaneum, 79. Pagan, Asia and Macedonia, 150 cities destroyed, 157.

Spain, 6000 perished, March 21, 1820. Calabria, 1000 perished, April 20, 1825. Calabria, 1000 perished, April 20, 1825. Calabria, 1000 perished, April 20, 1825.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Cordial manifestations of good feeling and courtesy have signaled the arrival in Venezuelan waters of the gunboat working in cooperation with Commissioner William I. Buchanan, who was sent to conduct negotiations with President Gomez.

Castro Men Take Up Arms Against New Ruler. PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Dec. 29.—There has been fighting at Macuro, on the Venezuelan coast, between adherents of ex-President Castro and the new government.

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BRADSTREET'S REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS YEAR

Quick Recovery From the Shock of the 1907 Storm—Large and Insistent Demand for Agricultural Products—Good Prospects for a Prosperous Year in 1908.

Nineteen hundred and eight partook of most of the phenomena of an after-dinner sleep, its first shock of early weakness, doubt and uncertainty, but guiding forces and ultimate results were toward recuperation and repair.

Most of the damage was visited upon, first, the financial community, and secondly, and later, the manufacturing and commercial elements of the country.

It will be seen from the above that 1908 was not exactly like the years which followed those of 1837, 1857, 1873 or 1893, periods of immense stress, and years, moreover, when American interests were largely outside the country.

WANTS PROTESTS AGAINST YOUNG. Baker City Man Unsubtle as Portland Postmaster, Says Mr. Fulton. PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—(To the Editor.)—The letter which follows from Senator Fulton is self-explanatory. It should be read by this community to the "sit up and take notice."

WILL PAY PRIZE FOR EACH BIRTH. The Municipal Council of Nantes has voted a subsidy from the public funds to every city employee who marries, to the extent of the amount of the birth tax.

WU TING FANGS DIETING SLATE. Washington, D. C., Dispatch. Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese Minister, has the following to say about eating and drinking: "I never eat any breakfast and never eat any lunch. I take one meal by work until about noon. I take two meals a day and never drink water with my food. I wait until after my meal to drink the water. I take no intoxicating drinks of any kind and I do not even drink coffee."