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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, FEB. 13, 1909.

THE ROAD TO THE PIT.

It is scarcely to be deemed probable, or even possible, that the people of Oregon will amend the constitution of the state with intent and purpose of putting the state into the business of construction and operation of railroads. For the state, after it had built the roads could not operate them except at a steady loss, and would be compelled besides to pay the interest on the bonds. Financial ruin would be the sure consequence. The best hope of protection the state could have would be the refusal of investors to buy the bonds of an undertaking certainly doomed to dis-

The argument submitted as a preamble to the proposed amendment is childish performance. No rallroad is to be built, leased or operated, unless the state shall be compelled to do so for good reasons, or unless justified in so doing by a superior profit or result." How can sensible men offer balderdash like that for a place in the constitution of the state There would be "good reasons" for roads in all directions, but "profits" never would be possible. The localities where roads are most needed are the wide and thinly-peopled areas where there would be little traffic for many years, but where railroad established might systems already penetrate with their lines, making the old divisions helpers to the new. Private enterprise in these matters can always accomplish things which the state cannot; it can command service from employes which the state cannot; it can exercise a forecast which the state cannot. James J. Hill can beat all the states from the Pacific Ocean to the Great Lakes as a financier, builder and operator of railfor he knows the business, and he has a compelling and decisive superintending power. He says to one, Go and he goeth; to another, Come and he cometh; but the employes of the state would argue it with the state, and everything would have to be submitted to the vote of the peo-It amazes indeed to find that any should suppose that a great business, like that of covering a state with railroads-or even a small business-could be carried on in this

But these railroads are always to be "the people's railroads." "No railroad owned by the state, or by any county, municipality or railroad district shall ever be sold to a private But the state will not own the roads; the bondholders will own them; and when the roads default, and the state defaults with the roads-which, beyoud any possible doubt will happenow are our brave men, Teal, U'Ren, Wood and the rest-to prevent the bondholders from selling the roads and taking a deficiency judgment against all other property in the state? Or, is all private property within the state to be confiscated to pay the holders of the bonds of our state railroads, so as to prevent their sale to "any private person or corpor-

This scheme will call for a debt of \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000-and more than even the last-named sum, if all sections and parts of the state are to be supplied with rallroads. And assuredly it will not be right to negiect, omit or overlook any part. Perfection of the system would require purchase by the state, at their just valuation, of the railroads now within its borders, or construction of lines to parallel them. Oregon then will be a railroad state, indeed! Its system of taxation for support of the ratiroads will speedily devour all other property and introduce in the guise of railroad benefactions that blessed system of state socialism, with its delightful uniformity, which has been the subject of so many rhapsodies, during recent years.

We shall have the full fruition when it shall become necessary, as it surely will, to meet by direct taxation, from year to year, without end, the payments of interest on the sums thus borrowed and expended; for there money other than by direct taxation. No man who has a farm or a few acres of hand, no man who owns a factory or any kind of building or business, no man who owns a town ot or a flock of sheep, will be pleased with this confiscatory tax; and labor, in every form, will be compelled to bear its share of the burden-for the scheme will catch him also who pays

But there is no intention, it will be said, to go very far in this business. The state will go to no excess in construction of railroads. But if it shall begin the policy there can be no stopping place short of that to which the ogic will carry it. If the state is to supply the people with railroads it must render its service fully and impartially; and confiscation of property, carrying bankruptcy with it, is

he inevitable pit. Oregon wants capital, and is seeking it; but if this system shall be attempted capital will take warning at once and will avoid Otegon; and presowners, wishing to escape the crash which all the prudent would foresee, would dispose of their property as fast as they could. For the good of Oregon the Legislature should decline even to consider this amendment; for the mere suggestion it would be rejected by the people A better one would be for the trust to proved to the peoples amongst whom of legislation. of it would be a serious injury. That

there can be no manner of doubt; but the mere proposition would bring the state into a most hurtful notoriety.

HOW NEVADA WAS LUGGED IN.

The State of Nevada, with about a third of a man to the square mile, was admitted to the Union in order that two new Republican Schustors might appear at Washington. The transaction was a job pure and simple, and, like the plonaant vices of the put, it has come back to vex its perpetrator. That this state, which has been aptly described as the one mistake made by the Nation in organization of states in the Far West the organization of states in the will to em-broid the United States with a friendly power; that it should, gratultously and quite uselessly, attempt to legislate away the treaty rights of the subjects of a for-Nevada would not have been made

state but for the Civil War and the course of the anti-war party of the North. The Democratic party, opposng prosecution of the war, had won victories in 1862 in many Northern dates and had elected many Senators of the "Copperhead" type. was to hold a majority, if possible, against these, that Nevada was ad-It was done with the admitted. vice of Lincoln, who as President, approved the enabling act, and later (October 21, 1864) issued his proclamation declaring that Nevada, having complled with requirements, was admitted as a state of the Union. In ordinary times it never could have been done. Lincoln wanted the Senators from Nevada to "stand off" such men as Hendricks of Indiana and Richardson of Illinois, so as to give the war for the Union a chance of It was a most unfortunate success. state of things that made a reinforcement of the war element in the Sen ate desirable, and apparently neces-

CONCEALS THE REAL CAUSE. Leslie M. Shaw, ex-Secretary of the Preasury, has apparently resumed his former position as one of the chief spielers" in favor of a ship subsidy. He has recently made a number of speeches replete with inaccuracies and misrepresentation regarding the topic which he essays to discuss. The California Japanese agitation was seized on by Mr. Shaw as a pretext for exposing our self-imposed weakness on this most vulnerable point. The powers of the world," said Mr. Shaw, "laughed at the spectacle of battleships starting OUL around the world, accompanied by and depending for coal and supplies on twenty-seven colliers and supply ressels floating foreign flags, which would have deserted them and left them helpless at the first smell of hostile powder.'

Mr. Shaw is slightly in error as to the real cause of this foreign mirth over the idiotic and unnecessary performance mentioned. What the powers of the world really laughed at was the sublime stupidity of this country in failing to do what the powers of the world would do under similar circumstances. No maritime nation on earth except the United States prohibits its people from buying ships where they can be bought cheapest. Had this country been at all anxious to avoid the spectacle made, it would have permitted American shipowners to buy some of this cheap tonnage and thus be in a position to engage in the coal-carrying trade.

Among the twenty-seven colliers

and supply vessels mentioned by Mr. Show is the British steamer Agapanthus, a 7000-ton carrier in A1 condi-The world-wide depression in freights left the Agapanthus without any employment after she arrived on Pacific Coast with supplies for the fleet, and she has since been laid up at Victoria. Last week she was sold for the insignificant sum of \$45, than one-tenth paid for the steamer Tremont, a slightly larger and newer vessel flying the American flag. If this country should get into a strained position where it was necessary for it to have fleet of vessels flying the American flag, a single call for offerings of tonnage would bring coiliers of all sizes descriptions-not twenty-seven, but twenty-seven times twenty-seven. and then some. Why in the name of the Star-Spangled Banner should the British, the Germans, the Japanese, the Norwegians and all other mariime people be privileged to buy such steamers as the Agapanthus for \$45. 900 while we are forced to pay \$500,-666 for one merely because she already flies the American flag? If the Government had purchased, or permitted American citizens to purchase these twenty-seven colliers,

would today be spending thousands in our shipyards for repairs, supplies etc. If Mr. Shaw is sincere in his assertion, "I am for a merchant marine at any cost, in any way, in every way," he should promptly drop advocacy of the subsidy graft and demand that our citizens be given the same rights on the high seas that are enjoyed by our trade competitors.

A SMITTEN TRUST. The Supreme Court of the United States has rendered a decision in the case of Volgt & Sons against the Continental Paper Company, which ought to help materially in the solution of the trust problem. The Continental Paper Company is a trust, including some 30 factories, which had power enough to force Voigt to buy his paper vill be no way of obtaining the of it at extertionate rates or else go without. He bought the paper and then refused to pay for it. The trust sued him. The case has gone the regular way from one tribunal to another and finally found its quietus in the Supreme Court, which declares that it will not help a trust collect its debts. The ground for the decision is that a combination in restraint of trade being an illegal entity, has no standing in court. It was one of those famous five to four utterances, but since sound reason is on the side of the majority, it seems likely to stand.

This places the trusts on the same basis as gamblers when it comes to collecting what is owed to them. The law will not enforce a contract to pay gambling debt, and now, by the deision of the Supreme Court, it will not enforce a contract to pay a debt to a trust. This may be hard on the combinations in restraint of trade. It may even break them up, but who will grieve if it does? The chances are, however, that it will not break up the trusts. Its result may be to make them do business on a cash basis en-Henceforth nobody can buy anything of the tobacco trust, the beef trust, the powder trust, the whisky trust or any of the rest of the inflated throng without handing out the coin. This would be one way of evading the dire consequences of the decision.

disappear behind an innocent third party, who would do all its buying and selling in his own name and for his The fraud would be fairly transparent, but from past experince the law could be trusted not to ee through it. A veil need not be very thick to builte the eye of modern Justice, who is a good deal blinder than her ancient sister was.

USES OF THE PARTY SYSTEM.

Most readers who keep in touch with the movement of modern thought and discussion are acquainted with the books of Benjamin Kidd. On subjects of political science he is a strong thinker and forcible writer. "Social Evolution" is the title of one of his books: "The Principles of Western Civilization" is the title of

In this second book there are dissertations on the uses of Party as an astrument of Government, among English-speaking peoples; for it among these alone that the party system and its uses have had actual de-The paragraphs in quovelopment. tation marks, which follow, have been culled from various parts of this book, and are worth most careful consideration in Oregon, where the doctrine is preached that party is a hindrance in politics and government; not a useful or necessary agent.

"During comparatively recent time, by the necessary tolerance of many conflicting views, there has been almost imperceptibly developed an entirely new attitude of the human mind towards every system of action, of power, of knowledge, and of opinion representing liself for the time being as the embodiment of a principle claiming general assent.

The first large outward expression of this attitude as a working principle in the political life of our civilization, is that which we have in view in the rise of the system of Party Government. If the mind is carried back over the recent political history of the English-speaking world it may be noticed that in very quarter it presents the same feature. Side by side with the increasing assertion of the right of every community, from the hamlet to a continent, to manage its own local affairs, there has been developed that phenomenon in public affairs now known as the system of government No system of government has been more sweepingly condemned outside the countries where it exists. In it there survives, as indeed there still survives in most of the Institutions of the present day, many of the evils of the era of evolution out of which the world is moving. system of government is from time to time more scathingly criticised even in England and America. Neverthe ess, no system has ever been invented which has given such efficient results as a cause of progress. Throughout the public affairs of the whole of the English-speaking peoples at the present day it is the life-principle of all effective criticism; the most potent fact behind every condition of good government. For 150 years it has been the soul of that orderly unceasing stress of competing principles out of which the rapid but unhasting political progress of the English-speaking world has proceeded.

"Now if we look closely at the system of government by party it may be perceived that what it essentially represents is the unconscious organization, on each side of a line of cleavage, of all the opposing elements, in any situation, utilized against each other to the full extent of their powers as forces of criticism and progress. The essence of the system is that there are of necessity only two principal parties, each continuatly organized in opposition to the other; and that, as point of view that it is itself entirely in the right, and that its opponent is of necessity equally and entirely in Vital, essential and wrong. fundamental as is the system of party government in the circumstances mentioned, it is nevertheless almost outside the forms and recognition of written constitutions. A system in the conduct of public affairs which appears so entirely bewildering, and even absurd, to the observer who has not grasped its meaning, is only made possible by a condition which is al-ways in the background, but which is never expressed in any constitutional formula. It is a condition the in-fluence of which has come to permeate the entire atmosphere of the intellectual and ethical life of the Englishspeaking world.

"The fact that parties or their leaders should be at once uncompromisingly hostile and yet be mutually tolerant; that they should enforce their principles on the whole community at the point of the narrowest majority, and yet expect that their successors on acceding to power should not attempt to reverse the law they have made; that they should be, as has sometimes been the case in the United States, divided by a principle scarcely visible to outsiders, and yet proceed to call out all the strength of their adherents on the assumption that the opposing party is in all its proposals the representative of abse lute error; that they should, even after the most bitterly contested struggles, accept the result as conclusive for the time being, and with that imme diate subsidence of excitement which has been characteristic of the great historic party struggles in the United States; nay, that they should in their organs of opinion even go out of their way, as has sometimes happened in England, to regret the lack of organi zation or strength in their opponents as being bad for their own side; - are all matters which appear from time to time to a large class of critics as utterly irreconcilable with standards of right conduct as they prevail else where in our civilizations. They pre-sent themselves either, at the best, as bewildering absurdities, or at the worst, as conclusive evidence of the consistent and organized hypocrisy of the public life of the peoples

amongst whom they are found. "At first eight, in short, no more illogical, anarchic or impossible principle of government could be conceived. Yet no more elemental condition of progress has ever existed in the world. It is the first fundamental working principle in public life con-tributing to the freedom and intensity of conditions that prevail amongst the English-speaking peoples. So naturally has it sprung from the principles underlying the development of those peoples, that it has nearly always proved impossible in practical life to keep its influence out of the affairs of the smallest township or precinct. So entirely foreign has its meaning

the development has not run its full course, that as a successful working system of government it is at present day almost unrepresented outside the limits of the English-speaking

world.' Party is the efficient and indispens able agent in this work; because it is through party only, or by means of parties having alternate power, or each strong enough to have hope of nding successfully for it, that an orderly and increasing stress of competing principles and purposes can be maintained. In this stress are represented all the forces of free and active criticism, and therefore of Our country would lose its vital political energy, but for its party system.

Sixteen coasting steamers and three coasting sailing vessels were loading or discharging at Columbia River ports yesterday, this being about the average proportion of the two types of craft now trading here. change from sail to steam has been even more rapid in the coasting than in the foreign trade, although the salling ship in deep-water trade has been practically driven from ocean by the tramp steamer and five years hence will be a curiosity. For these reasons it would be the height of folly for the Port of Portland to invest a large sum of money for big, powerful tugs for the Columbia bar. All that is required is two or three small tugs to be used in placing pilots aboard steamers and towing the occasional sailing vessels which come along. Steam, not sail, will in the future dominate rates and service out of this port as well as other ports where large fleets of tugboats have been driven into reirement along with the sailing vessels.

The farmers throughout the United States who are now marketing their wheat at prices well above a dollar bushel are probably less impressed with the evil of Chicago Board of Trade gambling than they would be if the prices were 50 cents per bushe There is great legitimate strength in the wheat market, sufficient to warrant high prices. It is extremel doubtful, however, if the price would be within several cents of where it now stands had it not been for the re markable manipulations of Wheat King Patten, who has secured control of a line of May wheat estimated as high as 20,000,000 bushels. this amount of wheat held off the market, it is certain to affect prices on the stocks still in farmers' hands, If Mr. Patten is able to hold on, the price may soar much higher than now.

One who has read last Sunday the facsimile page of The Oregonian of April 17, 1865, expresses wonder that men were "blacklisted" in advertisements for paying their debts in green backs; and how a creditor, or Oregonian, should have dared to do such a thing without fear of a suit for damages. The explanation is easy The Pacific States adhered to gold currency, and there was universal detestation of persons who took advan tage of the legal-tender act to pay with depreciated paper debts incurred on a gold basis. Such was the stat of public opinion that a sult for libel on such a basis would have been thrown out of court instanter; -- per haps the jury would have ridden the plaintiff out of court on a rail.

The Charleston News and Courier iopes Mr. Bryan will reconsider his determination to go into the ministry "after his next defeat," on the ground that he has already done all the harn he can possibly do to the Democratic party, but there is no telling what harm he might do to the church. This is mighty unkind. Judge This in the conditions of ringlish jurispru- Parker's adventure as representative of "the other side" of the Democrati party, seems to have been forgotten.

The bill in the Washington Legis lature making it a misdemeanor to walk on a railroad right of way is vicious. That state is not England with macadamized highways. Until country roads come nearer perfection the railway track must be the thoroughfare of the poor man who is not a hobo. To be sure, he is sometimes killed, but the loss is his.

The committee in charge of the poosters' banquet given at Tacoma last night was up against the hard proposition two days before of providing knives to go around the two thousand guests. Were there no Arkansawans in Tacoma to offer "big butch little butch" and the rest of the family cutlery? No mention was made of the useless fork

"The rainfail in the Sacramente Valley for February (eleven days) exceeds by an inch the average for sixty years," say the news reports, and heavy floods are expected. It is not to laugh, of course; but it is well enough just now for Oregon people to avoid a country "where it rains thirteen months in the year."

Now that the United States has launched the most fermidable battleship in the world, there are some pec ple on both sides of the Pacific who would like to know what-Uncle Sam ls going to do with It.

The water code carries an emergency clause, but all danger of executive veto is averted by the thought ful wisdom of its promoters in plac-ing appointment of the water superintendents in the Governor's hands.

Mr. Harriman has gone south for recreation and "to examine some of the Southern Pacific's new lines." That proves it. There are such things as new Harriman lines,

Aid and comfort will be given the suffragettes to know that a woman will be Acting Governor of Oregon. But how shall she be addressed-

Justice Brewer said recently that the most dangerous tendency of cities is overbonding. Every resident of Portland ought to paste the remark

Senator Knox's salary must be reduced before he is eligible to become Secretary of State. Public office is sometimes a private misfortune.

That proposed state-aided bridge across the Columbia at Vancouver should have a common-user section covering street railway rights.

If anything for the Governor has been overlooked there is yet a week

EUROPE'S ENORMOUS ARMIES. France Strained for Men, Germany for Money to "Protect Trade."

New York Sun. The now famous article of General ount von Schlieffen, late chief of the Count von Schlieffen, late chief of general staff of the German as which was quoted by the Kaiser in emarks to his generals assembled at the New Year's conference, has drawn attention anew to the great starting armles of Europe, their development in recent years, their present condition, recent years, their present condition, and the outlook for further increase or

disarmament. Recently in a speech in the Landtag he imperial Chancellor of Germany alled attention to the fact that the only way to improve the financial con dition of the empire was by a retur the old German practice of economy The watchword in the army this year as it was in the Reichstag, is "econo-

The proposed increase of pay of offiers and men in the German army was ostponed for that reason, and the incers and men in the German army crease in the appropriations was main-ly for material of a technical nature hich would at the same time improve the business conditions of the country There is little difference between the

different armies of Europe today in equipment or armament. European armies are all being sup-

plied with modern field uniforms, and the armaments have reached a condi-tion at present which puts them all practically on a level. The point of greatest interest to the statesman, therefore, is the supply trained soldiers, since the armies are

practically equal in other respects. This supply depends on the population and on the percentage entering the army. Compare for a moment France and Germany, the former with a population of only 22,000,000, the latter with 62,-The oficial records how that France really drafted more eccuits that Germany. France strained or population much more severely by utting a much higher percentage he army. The percentages of the

he last few years in the two countries have been as follows It is thus seen that the strain in France is becoming more and more se vere, whereas in Germany it is actually diminishing. In France practically no one who is physically fit is left without nilitary training, whereas in Germany housands are assigned annually to the eserves and receive no military train ing whatever, simply because there is no place for them in the army, the naximum strength of which is fixed by

It may not be uninteresting to conider the increase in annual expenses or the armies and navies of the great ropean continental powers during the

The annual expenses (expressed in illions of dollars) were as follows:

Army Navy Total Army Navy Total .147 27 174 193 63 262

Hungary 76 6 82 92 13 Hungary 76 6 82 92 13 Hungary 76 74 52 28 Trance ... 132 55 187 127 84 211 The total expenses have therefore necessed in Germany 88.5 millions, or 0.9 per cent; in Austria-Hungary. or 28 per cent; in Italy 6, or 8 per cent, and in France 24, or 12.8 per cent. Thus while France is straining her population to the utmost n order to keep his army in qual to that of Germany, the latter untry is straining her financial reources not only to keep her army and many abreast of the times, but also to preserve the power of the Triple Al-

There is no real sentiment inclining toward disarmament among any of the great powers. The demands that the prepare the definition of the action of the

The great determining factor in keepresentment, although they may have nation is anxious to protect its commanufactures, exports, all that relates to its material growth, and deands protection against every other

Coming Flood of Immigrants.

Harper's Weekly. We shall probably see a considerable arease of immigration in the Spring Calabria and Sicily will doubtless send us an army of refugees from the earth-quake region, and if business keeps on improving the influx from all sources is likely to be greater than that of last year. In 1907 we got 1,285,000 immi-grants; in 1908, 782,870; and these figures were offset by a strong human current running from our ports back to Europe. Out of last year's total, Austria-Hungary sent 168,000; Italy, including Sicily, 128,-000; the Russian empire and Finland, 156,000; over three-fifths of the total number thus coming from Southern and Southeastern Europe. There is a prospect of a Russian emigration of a higher quality than we have had heretofore, from the reformer and high-grade revolutionist class—discouraged patriots such somewhat as came here from Ger many—Carl Schurz among them—after the troubles of 1848. It has often been said that that suppressed revolution gave us the very pick of Germany. Now if we are to get the chosen best of Russia it will be a considerable solace to the keepers of our gate, albeit Russia can ill spare them to us.

Vent. Vidi. Vici.

New York Evening Post.

At 10 o'clock on Friday morning the picked force of eminent engineers arrived in the harbor. By 10:30 o'clock they had completed a painstaking and exhaustive examination of the great dam. From 10 o'clock Friday till 1 P. M. Saturday they enjoyed the hospitality of the authorities. From 2 o'clock till 3:15 they made a thorough investigation of they made a thorough investigation of the great cut, departing immediately for the great cut, departing immediately for a reception given in their honor by the President of the republic. Sunday they rested. On Monday afternoon they made a careful study of the rainfall conditions, and returned in time for 4 o'clock tea.

Epoch-Making Day.

Washington Herald. "Taft will settle canal problems on re-turn to capital." says a headline in the Brooklyn Standard-Union. It will be a blessed relief, and a noteworthy, not to say epoch-making consummation.

SOME COMMENTS. BY A GROUCH

Can't Sheriff Stevens stop the profunity of those howling taxpayers who call to pay the fiddlers bill? The reason for most of the recent legis-lation is beyond reason.

Is Secretary Gatens replying to those variant episties ament the appointment of Judge Gatens? In his advocacy of more parks, Judge Munley reminds us that we need lungs as well as heads to which the Judge is re-minded that the heads appear to be full of

"No woman is born intellectually honest," orates the Hon. Wallace McCamant in his Idneoin address. Even so, the true patriot is born with freedom's shrick and a Kosciusko yell.

It is whitened that the state of th

Kosciusko yeil.

It is whispered that the Hon W. S.
U'Ren spent the anniversary of Lincoln's
birth in searching for a just application to
present affairs of that suggestive political
maxim: "You can fool all of the people
some of the time; and some of the people
all of the time; but you can't fool all of
the people all of the time."

STOP THIS WHOLESALE LOOTING

Vigorous Call for a Public Expression of Portland's Widespread Indignation Over Past, Present and Prospective Raids on Taxpayers' Property

PORTLAND, Feb. 12.-(To the Editor.)-When Assessor Sigler began raising the assessable valuations in this county assurance was given by him and the other politicians that the levy would be kept down within reasonable limits. It was predicted then that his course in lifting the value of property would only open new schemes for gouging people. Mr. Sigler said such would not be the result. But every prediction made in The Ore gonian has been realized. It was predicted that Portland and Multnomah County would pay the main portion of the

First-This is now being done. Second-Every day The Oregonian an

nounces a new raid on the taxpayers of this city and county.

Third-Salaries of all clerks and em ployes of the Water Department were raised 15 and 20 per cent. Men who in the ordinary affairs could not make \$75 have their salaries boosted to \$130 and \$150.

Pourth-The Legislature increased th number of Judges in this county-so that the remainder can have another month off during the Summer month.

Fifth-General raid on the taxpayer all over the state, but mainly in Multnomah County. Sixth-Push clubs demand anothe

bridge costing \$1,500,000 in South Portland. Seventh-The County Court prepares to erect a \$2,000,000 courthouse. This is but the picture of a single day

Read the announcements of this character in the daily paper every morning. Hardly had Mr. Sigler boosted the as

sessable valuations in this county when the office-holders and politicians organ-ized raids of all sorts. If Portland had \$225,000,000 valuations, of course the people would stand all sort of looting with out protest, and the jobbery, grafting and boosting of salaries have gone forward until today the taxpayers of this county are now paying 100 per cent more taxes than before Mr. Sigler began boosting valuations and when the assessment valuation was kept low. If the ordinary citizen repaints his house, Mr. Sigler finds it out and penalizes him. If he buys a phonograph or a piano, or a range; if h buys a wheelbarrow, or needed crockery for his bedroom, the assessor finds that out and the increase is now making its appearance in the increased amount he has to to pay.

In the suburbs of Portland 98 per cen of the people are home-owners and many are paying for their homes on the install-These are now being "cinched" to the last point. One poor man came to me and said, "My God, look at this tax bill. How can I pay it and save my home? Where can I borrow the money to pay this tax bill?"

which they depend for a living, find their taxes so heavy this year that they must take in washing to get money to pay their taxes. And so the raiding and ooting and grafting go on.

We have given the Water Board credit or being sensible, and yet, with the ex piring gasp, of this body, it boosts the salaries of its employes. Who boosts the salaries of these homeowners in th suburbs of this city? They are the ones who must pay the salaries of these water employes.

C. K. Henry struck the right key when he declared that the burden on taxpayers in this city had reached the limit. ias reached the limit and gone beyond. Interview these home-makers who are put a step to this wholesale looting in struggling along with a debt on their property this year? What are these people to do? They must borrow money to pay their taxes, and then grind and pinch to save their homes. The amazing thing is that the Water Board should have boosted the salaries of the men in their

employ when it is common knowledge that every part of that service is over loaded with employes. Enter the East Side water office at any time and men will be seen hanging around doing nothing. Business men who know declare that this office has double the number of men it ought to have, and that any private business would smash under such a load. So all through the departments of this city. All are overloaded with employes. And still the dance goes on Every day brings announcement of a fresh graft on the taxpayers of this

Will the taxpayers of this county stand all this raiding and looting? Will they stand for the erection of a \$2,000,000 courthouse, when the present building is ample for years to come? Once let Judge L. R. Webster start on the erection of a court house. It means at least a \$2,000,000 building, regardless of the grinding necessary on the shoulders of the home-builders and the industries of this city.

Where are the initiative and referendum laws that were enacted for the "protec tion" of the common people? Why not use this alleged club to beat it into the heads of the politicians that the taxpayers will not submit to their grafting schemes?

Where will all this raiding end? It was extended all over the State of Oregon. Will the warnings of The Oregonian of the coming disaster be heeded? Not as far as the politicians are concerned Every boost Assessor Sigler makes on the assessed valuation in this county halled with ghoulish gice by these official grafters as so much more to their gain.

The thrifty families which strive to build a home and be useful citizens in this city are the victims to be exploited. The industries of the city are burdened with taxation so they must cut down expenses and the wage-earner is the first to suffer as a matter of course. Rents must be advanced to meet the 25 per cent advance

And still the cry goes on-"More bonds, more officials and higher saiaries. The widow's crust must be taken in order to erect a palatial courthouse,

I propose that the people stop the erection of a courthouse; the erection of all bridges across the Willamette River, except the Madison; the cutting out of every department of the county and city government every official not actually needed that he might become a taxpayer and producer. I propose that the people stop further looting in the farm of sal aries and multiplication of useless of-

Is it not possible to do all this? Have we not in this community one who will lead against this wholesale looting that is rampant in this county, and save this beautiful city from the grasp of looters? Is it necessary to call in Mr. Hency?

Out of thirty of forty push clubs is there not one which will cry out against this relentless march of the grafters over the telling bodies of the inxpayers? Where is the United East Side Push Club, representing, as it is supposed, the whole of the East Side? Where is Mr. Nolta's club in North Albina, and Judge Munley's club, and the East Side Business Men's Club, C. A. Bigelow, president? Why are these civic organizations allent while this wild career of extravagance goes on? Will not these organizations, which profess to have the interest of the city at heart and are doing so much, call a mass meeting and start a movement that will public places? Wind will not do. It will take personal sacrifices and nerve to inaugurate a tidal wave of protest.

Mr. C. K. Henry had the manhood to tell the whole truth. Shal he not be sup-JOHN F. WILSON

Fame, Motif of Theater Party.

New York Times.

powder, with the chorus girls still pur-suing him, even his friends who went to his assistance had difficulty in rec-

His appearance at the Hippodrome was entirely unexpected, both by himself and the audience. He dired at the

Army and Navy Club opposite the Hip-podrome, as a guest of its officers, and later it was suggested that the party

go over to the playhouse and see the water ballet, which was in the last act on the programme. Just as the act was drawing to a close the spot light was

lashed on Binns in the box, and Stage

"Allow me to introduce C. Q. D.

The audience jumped to its feet, and

Manager Burnside announced in a loud

ognizing him.

"Jack" Binns, the wireless operator

JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS IN 1908. CHORUS GIRLS KISS HERO BINNS Excess of Arrivals Over Departures for the Year Was 3826.

The report of the Commissioner-Ger eral of Immigration for 1908 gives the of the Republic, did show the white following as the Japanese immigration feather at the Hippodrome. He field before an onslaught of chorus girls who tried to kiss him. Binns didn't into the Continental United States in
 Non-laborers
 5.503

 Laborers
 2.800

 In transit
 1.181
 run fast enough. He put up a heroic fight, and when he did escape into Sixth avenue, bedaubed with rouge and

Total9,544 The non-laborers were— Students 2,018
Merchants 951
Parmers 518
Clerks 518 Farmers 618
Clerks 196
Restaurant and hotel keepers 130
Actors 54
Teachers 550
Government efficials 550
Clergy 187
Sculptors and artists 9
Other professionals 70
Other procupations (including women and children) 1449

Total laborers 2.860
The departures from the Continental United States were as follows— 3.195
Laborers 2.523

Total departures 5.718
Excess of arrivals over departures, 8526
This is a net addition of only 319 Japanese a month to our population of 85,000,000.

Boston Herald. In some respects the most important

portion of Count Komura's recent ad-dress to the Japanese Diet was his formal announcement of Japan's intention to notify the powers next year of a termination of all commercial treaties, the warning to be effective one year after notice is given. This means, of course, that, after careful study of the problem by experts, Japan is about to alter her system of tariff and revenue as seems best to her, with-out the measure of defence to other powers which they were able to indicate at an earlier stage; and that she will work out and stand for a system of commercial treatles based fundamentally on the principle of recipro

Sentence Sermons.

Henry F. Cope, in Chicago Tribune good day's work is the best prayer He who fears to make foes falls to

For the work of heaven you need the bread of heaven. True friendship is always richest in lays of greatest need. It's no use sighing for a chance to

lead if you dare not go alone.
Out of deep sorrows come high powers to comfort and strengthen. There is always greater benefit in en-during my own pain than in envying an-

The audience jumped to its feet, and there were loud yells for a speech. Several of Binns' friends dragged him out of the box onto the stage.

After the chering subsided Binns bowed. He said briefly that it was no fault of his that he was there; he had tried to escape, but it was not his fault if he could not escape the press agent. Then he thanked the audience and hastliv departed.

Hy departed. Binns was standing in a group of about 50 chorus girls while all this was going on. As soon as the curtain went down every girl made a rush for him. He was taken by surprise, and in at-tempting to escape he almost fell into

the water tank.

One girl threw her arms around the young man and planted several kisses on his lips, or, as near to them as she could get, before he could shake her off. The girl's action was the signal for all the others to imitate. Binns was firmly wedged in the group, but by main force he fought his way clear and darted down the first passageway. It led to the cellar, where the dressthe water tank. It led to the cellar, where the dress-ing rooms are. With loud screams, the girls started in pursuit.

Congressman Hears of His Death.

Washington, D. C., Herald. Representative Loudenslager did not know he was dead until one day recently. Telegrams galore began pouring into the Capitol asking how and when it happened, and expressing regrets. It seems that in an obscure New Jersey town there is an H. C. Loudenslager, and when this Loudenslager passed over the great divide, and the papers noted the fact, the inhabitants of mosquito land were sure it was their own Harry C. Loudenslager, statesman from the First District. Consequently they got only with the wires. Representative Loudenslager is still alive.

> Tired Out. M. D. Prior in New York Sun. To the assembled alphabet The letter "I" then said "My master's going to Africa And I am going to bed."