# The Oregonian

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Subscription Rates-Invariably in Advance.

Daily, Sunday included, one year..... \$.60 Daily, Sunday included, one month.... 75 How to Remit-Send postoffice money

stder, 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

es, I cents; 30 to 44 pages, I cents; pages, 4 cents. Foreign postage

Eastern Business Office—The S. C. Reckwith Special Agency—New York, rooms 48-10 Tribune building. Chicago, rooms 510-512 Tribune building.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, FEB. 16, 1909.

THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN. The statement that President Roosevelt has serious concern about the danger of a runture with Japan contains no exaggeration. These apprehensions have been entertained by him more than two years. He has spoken to many persons about them. It is known that the apprehensions are shared by Secretary Root, and by others who are in position to know what the real facts are. While this concern was not the cause of the visit of the battleship fleet to the Pacific and Its voyage round the world, it was the consideration that first suggested it. We needed a trial of our ability to move our ships from one ocean to the other, and we needed the experience that the movement would supply to

the officers and men.

Japan could inflict enormous loss upon us, with little danger to herself and little expenditure of money. She could seize the Philippines at once and Hawaii within a month; she could force the surrender of our Pacific ports and levy enormous tribute upon our cities, before the United States could collect any force sufficient for our relief; under cover of her fleet she could land troops, collect supplies from the country and erect fortifications from which it would require immense effort to dislodge her. should not be able to do anything at all till we had destroyed her war fleet; nor would it be safe to strip the Atlantic Coast of defense, for a single Japanese battleship might accom plish ruin there. Of course Japan would be taking chances; but no one who watched the course of Japan with Russia ought to doubt that Japanese have the courage and spirit to take them. When Japan began the war with Russia the whole world was astonished at her supposed temerity. But how Japan fought that war is the lesson of modern times in the history of war.

It is said, with truth, that Japan lacks money; but Japan can make more war with one dollar than any propean nation can with three, the United States can with five. With our vast superiority of resources we ould wear Japan out, but we should enormous loss of property. Our Navy would make a great fight, when two Japanese army corps. It is beduring more than two years has felt disaster from earthquake. concern about our relations with Japan. Moreover, Japan knows our have, who think the bigness of a country the measure of its strength against Messina."

active adversary. not risk war for such trifling causes Forget not that causes which may trifling to us may not appear so judge her motive and cause of action. nates. Japan could inflict, immense injury upon us, within sixty days; and would tax all the resources of the United States during a long period to expel her, and we should have to destroy her fleet to do it, with chance of losing our own. Perhaps we never should recover the Philippines-the less of which might not be great, but the humiliation would be heavy. President Roosevelt is not a man to be afraid of danger. But the whole country knows how anxious he has been and still is to keep our country on friendly terms with Japan. His Legislature of California have been extraordinary. That effort never would Theodore Roosevelt is neither a methods. coward nor a fool.

### THE NEW CABINET.

In selecting the eight Cabinet members whom he has already fixed upon lng. Mr. Taft cannot be said to have igpeople and billions of wealth, more than one thus far. What the west, are almost unlimited. The semi-vacancy seems to

are to hall from the Mississippi Val- manner. The old and reliable James Wilture and incidentally support Mr. his valorous campaign

cause their state has no gold mines.

Reynolds, mentioned above, or someoody else from the blooming prairies of Illinois, will manage the Treasury. The promotion of Mr. Meyer to be Secretary of the Navy is a pleasant circumstance of course, but one regrets somewhat that he has not been left in the postoffice, where he has done such good work. Very likely the naval portfolio carries more dignity, but it is not half so useful to the people of the country as the postoffice is, or might be. As everybody expected, Mr. Ballinger, of Washington, will represent the Pacific Coast in Mr. Taft's Cabinet. He becomes Secretary

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

The House some time ago passed bill to submit to the people a propoition for a constitutional convention to be voted on at the next election. This vote could not be taken till November, 1910. Should there be an affirmative vote, the convention might be held the following year, and the ew constitution submitted to the electors in November, 1912. yould afford all the time necessary for examination and discussion.

Though the House passed the bill some two weeks ago by a very large vote, we do not observe that the Senate has yet acted upon it. The press of business in that body is great, but it would seem that this bill might be made a special order for some evening, if there is no other time, and acted upon. The Oregonian believes that the electors of the state would call, by a great majority, for a constitutional convention. There will be no cost whatever in submitting it to them and taking the vote upon it.

THESE GREAT "EMERGENCIES."

In the Legislature of Illinois there is a "more judges" bill. Twelve more are called for in Chicago-eight for the Circuit Court and four for the Su-"The congested state of preme Court. the court dockets" is given for the reason there, as here.

But the Chicago Record-Herald mys the bill is "a cool, pernicious illustration of how not to do it." That journal declares that the authors of the bill "ignore the clearest demonstrations of the urgent need of very different remedies for the intolerable evils of the law's delay and the law's wastes and burdens, the just indignation of progressive men in and out of the legal profession at the bourbon obstinacy of the average lawyer in sticking to antiquated and senseless forms of procedure and practice." This reads quite as if it had been written for Oregon, with perfect knowledge of the situation here. Abuses of this description, in all our states, are as Fluellen said, "as my "as like."

ingers is to my fingers." But we must make another quotaion-it fits so exactly: "The more judges remedy has failed in the past and would fall in the future. It encourages sloth, indifference, resistance to genuine reform. Our dockets are always congested and always will be under existing forms. Perhaps a hundred judges would manage to keep them up to date, but the taxpayers have some rights which the fossils and the spoilsmen should be forced to consider."

DEFYING DISASTER.

The world hears almost with a shudder that Messina, the Italian city lately destroyed by earthquake, will suffer terrible humiliations first and be rebuilt. Perhaps there is no se- for insufficient reasons, any more than curity against earthquake anywhere an absolute monarch could rightfully upon the face of the earth, but cerit could get on the scene, but the tainly there is none in that portion of whole Nation would tremble for the Italy, which has for ages been the consequence; and not within one year | sport and prey of seismic power. The could we collect and get into fit con- science of engineering, however, rears | Shakespeare had some such thought dition for actual war a military force its head proudly above the ruins of as this in mind when he drew the that would stand successfully against the shattered city, as it did over those famous distinction between having a of San Francisco, and speaks conficause all these things are known that dently of rebuilding on the desolated the Administration at Washington site of Messina in a way that will defy

Even without this assurance the city would probably be rebuilt, since situation just as well as we know it both the nation and the survivors of ourselves, and she has better estimate the devastating shock are loyal to an extent that does not contemplate the possibility of existence without "fair The power of association smaller, but a well-prepared and is strong; that of pride in country or locality is invincible. Backed by these But surely, we are told, Japan will forces, which combine under the name of loyalty, San Francisco is slowly throwing off "the ashen sackcloth of her wee" and striving to lay her foun to Japan. Our country is incapable of dations so securely that the threes of Nature will not again be able to bring forth disnater. "On different lines," But are you afraid of Japan? is asked It is said that the City of Messina will with a sneer. Such question betrays also be rebuilt. Only time and the the shallowness from which it ema- stress of events can tell whether these 'different lines' will be proof against destruction of the city when its foundations are again shaken.

DRY LAND FARMING. A Pendleton dispatch in yesterday's Oregonian said that 10,000 acres of land within a radius of ten miles of Pilot Rock, hitherto considered productive, have been placed in cultivation within the past eighteen months. This land is not situated along the creek bottoms, where the greatest amount of moisture is found, nor is it where it can be irrigated. recent messages to the Governor and It is simply a dry-farming proposition, and success has already attended the efforts of the men who have taken up have been made without reason. For this dry-land, farming by scientific erate in any court the power to inflict At no previous period in the agricultural development of the but it is permitted to combinations Pacific Northwest has there been so much interest shown m "better farming," usually termed scientific farm-

A few years ago the average farmer nored geography. They are scattered | regarded with mild disdain the college from the Atlantic Coast to the Pacific farmers, who were just beginning to without neglect of the intervening spread the gospel of modern agriculstretches of landscape. Still, geogra- ture. Now the college farmer is welphy does not seem to have been the comed, and his views command attenpredominating guide for the coming tion and his methods are religiously President's choice. Massachusetts, for followed. The change has already example, gets two members, while worked wonders in the limited field Pennsylvania gets but one. Nor does where it has been made, but the pos-New York, with all her millions of sibilities, especially in the immense semi-arid regions of the Pacific Northfuture may reveal we shall see when farming experts can be found in nearthe future comes, for there is one ly all of the prominent agricultural clear vacancy still and one semi-va- colleges of the country, and hundreds prospect of advancing in the of them are actively engaged in makhave been promised to an Illinois ing practical and profitable demonman. It is the Secretaryship of the strations of their theories on dividend-Treasury, and if Mr. Reynolds does not earning farms of their own. Among get it, "some other Illinois man" will. these experts Professor H. W. Camp-It seems to be admitted that almost bell, of Lincoln, Neb., has been promiany Illinois man would make a good nently before the public. He has re-Secretary of the Treasury, perhaps be-cently issued a "Soil Culture Manual" which covers the entire subject in Three members of the new Cabinet | most elaborate and comprehensive

While all of the experiments and inson will remain Secretary of Agricul- vestigations conducted by Professor Campbell and extending over a period of more than twelve years have been any ante-election impression that he against the poison trust. Charles carried on in the semi-arid belt, the Nagel, of Missouri, is to be Secretary same principles can be applied with same principles can be applied with language regarding the canal obstrucof Commerce and Labor, and Mr. great advantage to any locality. In tionists was less vehement than that

by reason of the irregular distribution The season of drouth, or weeks of dryness, perhaps sandwiched between other weeks of excessive rainfall, is common to all regions. In showing how to overcome the danger which is ever present in the semi-arid avoid the danger that comes occasion-

ally in any country." The success of the dry-land farmers in the Pilot Rock semi-arid region means much more than the bringing into productive stage many thousand of hitherto neglected semi-arid and. The practical demonstration of hat can be accomplished by modern scientific methods of handling this soll simply shows that even greater the same methods to lands where moisture is more plentiful.

EMPLOYERS AND WAGE-EARNERS. Dr. C. W. Eliot, of Harvard, made some sensible remarks upon the relations between employers and wageearners in Chicago on February 10, in an address before the Religious Education Association. One may assume that he took the enlightened treatment of workmen to be a subject with which religious teachers might properly deal, since it is difficult to understand how a man can be truly devout whose methods with his employes tend to "break up their homes, develop nomadic habits in them and discourage loyalty." The "power of in-stant dismissal" was one of the undesirable rights of the employer which Dr. Ellot spoke upon. No rational person believes that an employer should not have the power to dismiss an inefficient employe; but if the wage-earner is not inefficient, how far may his employer ethically claim the right to deprive him of his livelihood? This is what the power of dismissal amounts to, because the difficulty an

employe experiences in finding a new

omes more serious every day and

tob after he has been discharged be-

may some day become insuperable.

From one point of view, therefore, the power of discharging employes comes little short of the power of life and death over them. The family of a man who is out of work almost of necessity falls into misery. The chil-dren must leave school. The wife is dren must leave school. compelled to undergo fearful hardships. If all this does not happen immediately, it will in a short time, since it is a rare thing that wages are high enough to enable a family man to lay by much against a rainy day. structural builder in Portland who gets \$4 for an eight-hour day's work is out of employment so much that he carcely receives more than \$800 a year. If he has a family he cannot save a great deal out of this. trades which are not paid so liberally the chance for saving is naturally less. It follows that discharge to a wage earner means hardship. To a man who lives upon a regular salary it means worse than hardship. Wageearners are more or less faured to roughing it, but salaried men inevitably grow accustomed to some of the delicucies of life and when they lose their employment they suffer more everely than day laborers do

It appears, therefore, that the power of dismissal is fraught with serious responsibility. No employer has the right to exercise it hastily or put one of his subjects to death without adequate cause. He had power to do it, certainly; but the power did not carry the right. famous distinction between having a giant's power and using it like a giant. Dr. Ellot showed how the insecurity employment shatters the stability of the home. A man whose income, even though it may be small, is secure will settle himself permanently and gather a family around him. He will build a house in course of time. He will sit under his own vine and fig tree if he possibly can. But when his employment is but a thing dependent upon some other man's whim or passion, if he gives hostages to fortune he uns a terrible risk and is only likely to have reason to repent of his

When his tob is lost he must break up his home and take to the road. If he has to do this too often, it is lucky indeed if he does not acquire a taste for roaming and degenerate into a tramp. Idleness has its own seducwhich not every workingman has the stamina to resist, especially when they are forced upon him against his will. This is what Dr. Ellot means by saying that insecurity of employment "encourages nomadihabits in the employe." How much of the hobo evil might be solved if the power of "instant dismissal" were exercised with more charity and discrimination by employers it is impossible to guess; but social workers are unanimous in the opinion that many men who are now hopeless tramps have been made so by repeated loss of their jobs. Of course, when a man has been blacklisted, he is virtually condemned to become a hobo. people of this country would not tolsuch utter misery upon a criminal; of employers without hesitation. deed, it may be impossible to deprive them of it. The only remedy is to appeal, as Dr. Ellot has done, to their higher judgment and awaken their

Permanence of employment is out of the question unless the loyalty of the wage-earner can be insured attain this end Dr. Ellot insisted upon the duty of employers to arrange systematic rising scales of wages or salaries. The rise need not be rapid, but It should by all means be certain. employe ought to be sure of it if he meets the prescribed conditions and he ought to feel secure that he will not be deprived of it by discharge for petty reasons. Neither should the ness be closed to him. All these propositions of Dr. Ellot's are evident enough. If they could be put in practice everywhere we should have gone far toward a solution of the difficulties between capital and labor. But putting them in practice is easier said | them. than done. Who will begin?

There is nothing equivocal or doubting in the attitude of President Taft | redheaded. regarding the Panama Canal. emphatic statements in his Mississippl speeches will also serve to correct was not an aggressive man.

"there is hardly a section of the case where "the velvet scabbard held United States that can be said to be a sword of steel." With the assurfree from the danger of crop failure ance from Mr. Taft and his competent force of engineers that the canal will be successfully and speedily completed on present plans, the majority of the American people will be satisfied to await results with a confidence which in the past has at times been disturbed by reports put in circulation by interregion, we have also shown how to ests opposed to any kind of a canal.

"Dutch Pete" Stroff, trainrobber, ex-convict and thoroughly bad man, has followed his pals, Burke and Hayes, into the Penitentiary at Salem to serve out a twelve-year sentence for complicity in the O. R. & N. trainrobbery about two months ago. neatness and dispatch with which this gang of trainrobbers was rounded up and sent "over the road" will hardly returns can be secured by applying fall to have a deterrent effect on others who might be inclined to follow the unprofitable profession adopted by these men. Not the least of the sat-Isfactory features of the clever capture and conviction of "Dutch Pete" was the heavy expense saved the county by his pleading guilty instead of making a fight for liberty. Sheriff Stevens is a graduate of a law school, which may account for the admirable sented the case to "Dutch Pete" in order to induce that celebrated crook walk the plank" without further

Wheat, oats and corn, the "big three" in the cereal world, soared up to new records for the season again yesterday. The May option in the premier cereal touched \$1.14% in the Chicago market, and May corn sold up to 65% cents, with oats 53% cents. Here is a scale of prices which ought to be productive of an unusually large acreage of Spring grain. It is perhaps a little hard on the soil to crop it every year, but, with grain selling at such alluring figures, there will be a strong temptation to put in a full acreage this Spring and give the land a rest some future season when the prospects for high prices are not so good as they are now. The foreign market stood the strain of heavy re-ceipts and a 10,600,000-bushel increase quantities on passage without displaying any weakness of consequence.

Portugal is likely to have an English Princess for a Queen. Young Manuel is in the matrimonial market, Hls eyes have fallen upon seeking. Princess Beatrice, one of the numerous grand-daughters of the late Queen Victoria, and a cousin of the Queen of Spain. The damsel is fair to look upon-the youth is not unhansome. Uncle Edward is willing. The little matter of a change from the religion of the Church of England to the Catholic faith is easy. Princess Ena of Battenberg found no trouble in so doing when the crown of Spain was the glittering balt offered; Beatrice of Edinburgh will doubtless come to terms with her conscience quite as readily in order to become Queen of Portugal.

Jacoba Irene, a Jersey cow owned in Hilmois, has just finished a two-year test in which she gave over a ton of butter. She is truly called the "champlon long-distance dairy cow of the Yet in the matter of feed it will be found that she ate little more in that time than the scrub cow that does not yield a ton of butter in all her long life.

Exaggeration of property values in ity and state, whether done by owner, gent, boomer or booster, will be carried into the assessment rolls, and lead to official extravagance, to multiplication and increase of all sorts of expenditure and "free" things and inevitably to excessive taxation.

The Legislature could see no reaon to interfere with Judge Webster's private law practice and voted down a bill aimed at him. That's right. Every public officer who keeps regular hours from, say, a quarter of eleven to eleven o'clock e ery other Tuesday

Sifted and bolted to an essence, legislation is selfishness. Zealots want a of roses. Immediately after the cold state religion, fanatics want every- snap, when many thought that no damthing dry, browers want unlimited liget, and labor wants the rest. The people take what is given them.

"Judge Webster," sald an eulogist at Salem, "has been instrumental in reducing taxes in Multnomah County." That ought to cheer up everybody on his weary way to the courthouse to pay twenty mills on an excessively Because a Deputy District Attor-

in an indictment against a Portland saloonkeeper, the defense pleaded the statute of limitations and won. There is no greater absurdity than a legal technicality Of course it is a fine thing to be

ney omitted the last figure of the year

able to brag to an interested world about our high property valuations. But when we are required to pay double for it in taxes, that's different, Just as soon as the Legislature adjourns the people will take their

turn. It is a great thing to be always enjoying a continuous legislative vaudeville. Pessimists are even predicting a down, many or them will soon many arous new growth and yield good flowers rainy Spring and Summer. If that's if treated as above suggested.

WILLIAM S. SIBSON

If broomcorn continues to advance, ooms will go higher than in the day of Mother Hubbard, when the witches used them for aeroplanes.

California, where it rains all the time

A steamship line to carry a hundred thousand Oregonians to the Seattle affair this Summer might do wonders in opening the gateway.

Mayor Lane denies that he said that half the saloons should be closed. All he said was that half of them should not be allowed to run. What a lot of intimate personal

friends Abraham Lincoln had, all still

alive and talking. Well, he deserved "Young Turkey is all-triumphant." Well, this is the time of year to get

Mr. Harriman says he is resting. But Mr. Harriman is in the 'possum

Pussy willow weather in Oregon and the Middle West is below zero.

State Ownership of Railroads. PORTLAND, Feb. 15 .- (To the Edior.)-Thousands of thoughtful people will share with The Oregonian the expression of the hope that the people of Oregon will not take this last step | Klamath counties, commencing at Ontario toward Populism and Socialism which declares for the state ownership and operation of railroads. Candor com-pels the admission that it is a hope without a well-founded justification. Nothing has been proposed along this line during the past six years which has not been enthusiastically adopted

by the people with a longing look toward Oregon City for "More."

And each time Mr. Chamberlain comes out of the whip! with another office attached to his belt and a fat Batch of appointments arranged by Reabilcans who affect astoniahment at ie man's "popularity." Representative government to de-

throned in Oregon. The Constitution of the United States requires of Cona newspaper, has as much power to vote taxes and change constitutions as the pioneer student and heaviest taxpayer.

The man who has the right to vote on hill and Polk counties put their brains function af a regularly elected member lative branch of the Government. Representative government is based upon and ustified by the universal admission that the rank and file of the people are not only not fitted for this work, but are not expected to be so fitted. And it is no But in Oregon what we lack of having

gone the limit in the direction of de struction of representative and sano gov struction of representative and sane gova constitutional amendment providing the way for the building of railroads by the state. And, so far as may be predicted by past events, this is likely to occur this very week. If Governor Chamberlain ever hints that it would be a good thing it will be done. There may be a few Re-publicans who would feebly resist it, but the vast majority of them will fall in line if asked to do so. Mr. Chamberlain has now been made Governor twice and United States Senator, with the appoint-ment of two Supreme Justices just now placed in his hands. W. N. Gatens has been made a Chemit Ludga and the Govseen made a Circuit Judge and the Gov ernor's stenegrapher elevated to the posi-tion of chief executive of the state. It is more than likely that the Legis-ature will submit the proposed constiutional amendment. Why not? Let Mr TRen or Mr. Chamberlain say so. U'Ren or Mr. Chamberiain say so, and the thing is done. We have the initiative and the referendum, the recall, propor-tional representation in embryo. State-ment No. 1, with its emasculating proc-esses and results. Why not finish the gulp and go into the railroad business? Let us finish the job. Practically \$50,000 for normal schools instead of half the expense for one and a better institution.

expense for one and a better institution another insane asylum, roads costing an-other \$500,000 at a single "clatter," more offices and officers and constantly increased salaries and a general raid on the taxpayers. With this should go an unconditional surrender to the going craze and let the state take charge of all busi-ness, public and private, assume all obti-gations and responsibilities, while the dance goes merrily on!

As stated, there are thousands of thoughtful people who share with The

Oregonian the hope that the people will not take this last step toward communistic Socialism, but at the rate they have been following the governmenta fantasics of a lot of schemers during the past few years one has little upon which rifle the silencer is two inches longer, to found the expectation of a returning but has the same diameter. The weight

If the State Senate would indefinitely postpone every bill and resolution now before it for consideration and adjourn without any further legislation of any kind, except the passage of the ordinary appropriation bills, it would be a blessing to every man, woman and child in Ore-gon. Cartainly there is nothing more it can do for Mr. Chamberlain. Then why work on? PIONEER REPUBLICAN.

#### ROSES INJURED BY FROST. Examine the Bushes and Cut Away the Damaged Wood.

PORTLAND, Feb. 15 .- (To the Editor.) The past Winter with its spell of almost zero weather was hard on many varieties age had been done, the real conditions and not developed. Day by day it becomes more apparent that many gardens have suffered severely

in fact there is probably more damage than has occurred for more than 30 years.
Localities and gardens sheltered from
the east wind were fortunate and
escaped better than the more exposed positions, but nearly everywhere is about the city there has been loss. ably not many roses have been killed outright, because the protection of snow prevented, but exposed shoots of the more tender kinds are black and will require severe cutting down to the m Injured wood. Even some varieties like Mme Gabriel Luizet, Frau Karl Druschkt and others, usually considered perfectly hardy in this section, have not escaped. To ascertain whether plants have been our cut the shoots near the top and follow down to sound wood. Wherever the pith of the shoot, so cut, loks yellow or brown, that shoot is doomed. When new growth begins it will be easy to see where the damage ends.
Then the plants injured should be

pruned to a good plump eye or bud that Most of the Hybrid perpetual varieties, and climbing roses such as Dorothy Perkins and others of that class passed through the storm uninjured. It is the Noisette Tea and some of the Hybrid Texs that have suffered and while it is discouraging to see fine bushes cut down, many of them will soon make vig-

Would Be Real Reform.

### Cleveland Plaindealer. Out in Oregon the state Senate has

limited the length of hatpins to ten inches. It would have been much more interesting if they had endeavored to restrict the length of the millinery

### NEWSPAPER WAIFS.

He—"What is your favorite game?" She—Quail on toast. And yours?" He—"Eagles on \$20 gold pieces."—Chicago Dally News.

"Why do you do that?" "To save trouble." "What's the use of saving trouble? to can always borrow as much as you like."—Louisville Courier-Journal. Friend—"How's business going these days?" Promoter—"Flourishing We've just added two more stories to the rubber stamp of our 38-story building."—Puck

Tommy "Paw, when you say 'it was fone by Congress,' is 'by Congress' swearing?" Mr. Tucker—"Not necessarily, my boy; but it often causes a lot of swearing."—Chicago Tribune.

"Mrs. Jawback—"I suppose you consider our judgment far superior to mine. Mr. awback—"No, my dear. We proved the outrary when we chose to marry each ther."—Cleveland Leader.

the language of Professor Campbell, of President Roosevelt, but it was a LAST STEP TOWARD PATERNALISM LOTS OF HOME MONEY TO DO IT Were Oregon to Declare Rulnously for Rich Landowners of Southenstern Ore

gon Should Build Railroad. DALLIAS, Or., Feb. 18 - (To the Editor.) -As there is such a loud clamor for a on the east line of the state, connecting with Natron, just above Eugene, which would be the most direct railroad line from Chicago to the Pacific Coast on this continent, I want to call attention to the fact that there is plenty of capital embraced in the counties mentioned to build that roadbed if the property-hold-ers actually want such rallroad. I will venture the opinion if the big

I will venture the opinion if the big stockmen and the isndowners will go to E. H. Harriman and say: "Locate your roadbed. Set your grade stakes there. We will make your roadbed ready for the ties and rulls," Mr. Hurriman would take them up at the drop of the hat. No. they prefer to sit out there in the desert 150 miles from railroad accommodation and drive 20,000 to 30,000 beef cattle and gress that it shall guarantee to each state a republican form of government, but Oregon has thrown such form to the winds, and direct legislation which goes so far as to change the organic law by the same process as the salary of a constable is raised, and a hobo in the north end of Portland who has not been in the state leng enough to name half its counties, and who doesn't pretend to ever read a newspaper, has as much power to voice

the initiation of a state law exercises the and money together and donated liberally function af a regularly elected member to establish railroad connection from Airof the Legislature; and yet there are tens of thousands of men in the state whom everybody will admit are not in any sense fitted for a seat in the legis-this country a thousandfold. We never eat around like tondstools on a log and whined like sick kittens because a Ben Holladay or Jim Fisk didn't come to our help. We went to Joe Gaston and in-vited him to come to us. We asked what he wanted of us. He told us, and we struck out. Inside of 20 days the contract was sealed, and before the expiration of six months the road was

The countles I have mentioned are better able by millions of dollars to give plexity. Then the Judge's curtosity ald to a railroad enterprise than we get the best of him.

"You're the only man whose get were. Now, all this may appear but if any man out in any of the above-mentioned counties contradicts my assertion I'll "put him in a hole" before h

#### MAXIM GUN-SILENCER IN ACTION Device Slows Down Escaping Gases; Noise Like Popping of Corks.

New York Dispatch.

A merry party opening many bottles of clumpagne was what Hiram Percy Max-lm's demonstration of his new gun silener sounded like at the Potter building

Now and again, however, there came a report several degrees louder than the Maxim was just showing the difference between the old and the new way. But for the most part it was just that

little puff-popping, and Maxim said most of the noise came from the impact of the bullets against the sand in the target. It was the first public demonstration which the inventor has given of the silent gun which, with smokeless powder, leave the marksman insudible as well as invis-fble. He held it in the offices of his attorneys, and in the next room a type writer kept pounding keys just in lin with the course of the builets. But Max-im's target dld not let any of them pass. The guns which he used ranged all the way from the little .22 repeating rifle t

the new .30 Army weapons, and took i the high-power Mausers and Manullchers The silencer is a little black tube which screws on at the muzzle of the gun and has about twice the diameter of the barrel. The size and weight vary a cording to the caliber and power of the about four inches long and less than a inch and a half in diameter. For a .80 rifle the silencer is two inches longer

s from six to nine ounces. First Maxim snapped his little repeating rifle at the target without the tube on the end. The noise wasn't pleasant to listener heard the hammer come hard against the cartridge, he saw a little puff and that was all. Maxim tried the

Then he worked up to high power guns, He let a .30 rills go without the little black tube on the end, and after that everybody held his ears when time came for a shot without the stiencer. With it in place, the noise was just the same as a champagne bottle popping.

Finally he picked up a United States Army rifle, which he described as the best in the world. The bullet has an Initial velocity of about 2700 feet a sec-ond, and when one hears it started on its course under normal conditions the impact upon the eardrum is severe. Yet with that little black tube in place the sound is scarcely audible.

The theory upon which the allencer works Maxim described as being identical with that of the negative turbines. The gunpewder gases, as soon as they en ter the sliencer from the barrel of the gun, meet the spiral chambers in the in-terior of the tube and are set to whirling The tendency of whirling bodies is to fly out from the center, and inasmuch as the only means of exit from the silencer is near the center the gases are unable to escape until they have slowed down.

Lincoln and Washington.

Brooklyn Citizen. Lincoln is even more widely apprecisted than Washington. The appeal of Washington has always been rather to the infellectual than to the domes tle affections, whereas Lincoln comes home to the genial and tender side It is not that Washington is without influence on the hearts of his country-men, or Lincoln without a claim to high consideration as a purely intellectual force. The point is that the chief element in the one case is an austere devotion to duty and in the an unaffected kindliness gives to duty the glow of love.

Exempt Pioneers From Taxation. WESTON, Or., Feb. 14 .- (To the Edi-

tor.)—As others are having their growl, I don't say that the Oregon Legislature is doing too much for the young and rising generation; but is it not doing it at the expense and neglect of the old ploneers who have borne the heat and burden of the day? Can't the Legislature exempt the old ploneers from taxation or give them a small pension or help them to fight the orchard pests? As I wintered near The Oregonian office in 1852, I will sign myself. PIONEER.

> The Pulsannee of Nevada. Louisville Courier-Journal,

There are a few thousand-or nearly a few thousand-people in Nevada (or were when the last census was taken), and acin their Legislature they are about to doclare war on Japan. Of course, when they declare war they expect Uncle Sam to do the fighting—and there is a dire possibility that if Uncle Sam declines the job those valiant few thousand—or noarly few thousand—will turn in and lick both Uncle Sam and Japan.

On special their a continue of the didn't have a continue of the pager seeking aims one night, Met with a millionaire, Met with a millionaire, and his homeward way Hohind a coach and pair—The answer, "This is Lent! The answer, "This is Lent! I've been to hear full founday preach," And he didn't have a continue of all the sisterines. ording to some of their representatives

Jawback—"No, my dear. We proved the contrary when we chose to marry each other."—Cleveland Leader.

Trenton (N. J.) Dispatch.

Trenton (N. J.) Dispatch.

John Judge, of Jersey City, died as the card-table to fill out at the hostesm's request. "But never mind; I always learn things, quickly." "Please cut the cards. Mrs. Furry: "All right. Please hand ms a knife."—Judge.

Clock Stops When Its Owner Dies.

John Judge, of Jersey City, died as the result of a fall on an icy pavement, and all that goes to create wealth, and give her, people gains—result of a fall on an icy pavement, and things, quickly." "Please cut the cards, that friends in his business office noted that the clock stopped exactly at the minute at which the man expired.

A state of all the sisterhood, And righ in mines and grains, and give her people gains—with all that goes to create wealth, and give her, people gains—things, quickly." "Please cut the cards, that friends in his business office noted that the Legislature "Pusted" her—the Legislature "Pusted" her—Lew Slus, Hillsbore, Or,

## Life's Sunny Side

railroad across Southeastern Oregon, Macon, Mo., attended Circuit Court at through Malheur. Harney, Lake and Oskaloosa, In., one day this week, and noticed some interesting features which "On the day of opening the court the Judge lines up the petit jury and asks if there are any members who want to be excused," said Mr. Goodson. "The day I was there every man with one accord began to excuse himself. One said he had just purchased a farm and him if he didn't keep on the road. A great hig woodsman said be was unhe wasn't certain he knew enough to

> had one reason or another why it would be absolutely out of the question for them to zerve. Later the Judge investigated the excuses and found some of them good and others not so good. Where the excuse was filmsy he made

> "One of the lawyers up there told me this story. A lineup of jurymen ap-peared before a certain Judge just the mean disaster to him to serve at that term of court—all but a little fellow at the tail end of the line. This man was a hunter and he had lived in a cabin on the creek all his life. "Have you an excuse to offer?"

asked the surprised Judge. " Haven't you got a sick mother-in-

inw needing your attention?" "No sir, I afn't married."
"What about your crop?"

'Don't raise anything.'

"'Ne fence to fix up?"
"'Haven't got a fence on the place." ""You think you can spare the time to serve on a jury two weeks?"
"Sire."
"The Judge sat a while and medi-

tated. Reaching over he whispered to the clerk, who shook his head in per-

Tourse the only man whose got the time to serve your country as a juryman, he said. 'Would you shied telling me how it happens?' "Sure not,' said the little man prompily, 'heard you was going to try Jake Billings this term. He shot a dog o' mine oncet.' "New York Sun.

"What become of your dog? I haven't seen him for a long time."
"You notice what a cold I've got."
"Yes, but what's that...........?"

"Well, a lot of people told me things to do for my cold, and I was wise enough to try 'em on him first."-Cleve-

"Why," said the millionaire, "do you "So that I can do as I like," I an-The millionaire smiled and shook his head. "Ah, my boy," he said, "it is only "Ah, my boy," he said, "it is only

when we do as we don't like that we succeed."—New York Times. "I understand that your friend has taken preliminary steps toward di-

vorce."
"Why, he was married only this morning. "Yes, that was what I had in mind."

-Philadelphia Ledger. He had appealed to the doctor for

nid.
"Do you stammer all the time?"
asked the man of science.
"N-n-n-n-no," he sputtered, "I only
t-st-st-st-st-st-ammer when I t-t-t-ttalk."—Circle Magazine.

"That is a pretty picture of yours, that orchard scene," said the nearsighted lady; "but why didn't you sign it?"
"I did," replied the artist; "don't you e? Down here."
"Oh, is that your name? I thought that was a part of the fence!"-Yonkers Statesman.

### Reflections of a Bachelor.

New York Press.

When a man puts a high value on club life it's a sign he has a home. The worst thing about being a good example is how you wish it was some Good as women are, they don't bring

the human average up very high because men are so far down. About the only use of the average ex-cuse a man offers is to get him mad be-cause nobody will accept it. A girl looks at a man in a streetcar to see if there is cause for her to grow indignant over his looking at her.

When a Possum Gets a Big Head.

Atlanta Constitution Watch out how you come an' whar you gwine! I has never seen a possum git de big head, wen he felt his fatness, but some hongry hunter come 'long wid a dog an' a gun, an' 'fo' dat possum knowed dat day wuz breakin' de hunter had him bag, gwine home wid him ter

Slot-Machine to Sell Newspapers. Chicago Dispatch.

A slot machine that will supply newspapers is to be given a trial in Chicago.

It is said that negotiations are under
way for installing the machine on street cars and on clevated railway stations. One of the features of the device, it is said, is that it will return the proper change automatically.

Christian Register. Medical Student-What did you operate on that man for? Eminent Surgeon-Two hundred dol-Medical Student-I mean what did

Eminent Surgeon-Two hundred dol-Chantangua Takes Care of Mr. Folk.

Ex-Governor Folk, of Missouri, is to have Chautauqua bookings this year which will not him \$17,500.

When Character Is Formed. Irish Homestead.

The first four years of a boys life at school matter a thousand times more to his character than the four years he may

spend at a university.

NEVER A CENT. A tipster walked the streets one day,
When soon there met his gaze
A stone cathedral, stately, grand,
That cost a "bunch" to raise—
The dister emited and curied his lip,
"Its maney foolish spent,"
No cash of mine is in the thing—";
But he didn't have a cent.

A proble wandered up the strand
And passed a supil cale.
With glass and lights with bues so bright
They glided all the way—
'The mighty glad.' the Proble said,
'That I was haven bent
On spending beneave as such with the