The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 1969.

CENTRAL OREGON RAILROAD.

After many months of waiting, General Manager O'Brien of the Harriman system in the Pacific Northwest, has received authority to proceed with construction of the road to Central The definite news of this project is second only in importance to the announcement made in this city about three years ago, when James J. Hill declared his intention of building the North Bank road into this city. In some respects, the Central Oregon road is of even more importance than the North Bank line, for, while the latter brought into direst communication with this city an extent of territory from which we had previously been barred, except by a roundabout and expensive route, it was all territory in which much development had been made

In the Central Oregon territory to he invaded by the Harriman system there is practically a virgin field of immense area, rich in possibilities. It is extremely doubtful if there is anyhere else in the United States so large an area of rich land on which there has been such meager develop-Awaiting the coming of this railroad is an empire of thousands of square miles in which development has progressed no farther than it had Willamette Valley fifty years ago. It is an empire in which practically every agricultural or horticul-tural product that has made the Willamette Valley rich and famous can be grown on a wonderful scale, and on land which at the present time can e secured at from one-fifth to onehalf the prices prevailing in the older settled regions of the Pacific North-

In selecting the route up the Deschutes canyon, the Harriman forces conformed to the Harriman standards always sought by the eminent railroad builder and financier, whose hobby is elimination of grades. This means that the Central Oregon line, as now projected to Bend, is ultimately to continue southward to that other rich territory in the Southeastern part of the state. The estimated cost of the line is nearly \$5,000,000. and, were the road intended only as a feeder from the territory north of Rend, it could have been constructed at a much less cost and shorter mileage, either from Shaniko or from

Now that the Harriman people have decided on the route to be followed and have provided funds for the work, the only obstacle in the way of immediate construction is the right-ofav matter. This is not of sufficient lay if the Government can be made to understand that a water-level grade railroad into Central Oregon is of much more value than an irrigation project, especially when the latter can probably be handled without interfering with the rallroad.

The opposition of the Oregon Trunk line, which is accused of placing obstacles in the way of the Harriman project, can hardly prove serious. viil be remembered that, when Mr. Hill was building his North Bank road down the Columbia River, the Harriman forces, with millions at their command, placed every conceiv able obstacle in the way of Mr. Hill. Yet Mr. Hill continued to push his construction work, and, in spite of the Harriman opposition, completed the road ahead of schedule time. It is inconceivable that the Oregon Trunk can put up any harder fight against Harriman's Deschutes line than was put up by Mr. Harriman against the Hill line. In the North Bank case, Mr. Hill had the sympathy and moral support of the people of Portland. In the present case, Mr. Harriman will have the same support, if he proceeds in actual construction work with the same celerity as was displayed in the building of the North Bank line.

Not only will Mr. Harriman have the support of the people of Portland and of Central Oregon in his efforts speedily to settle right-of-way troubles with rival roads which may enter the field, but he should also have the heartlest support at Washington in securing approval by the Government for the right-of-way plans. The speedy construction of this road will do more to restore Mr. Harriman to the good graces of the people of Portland and Central Oregon than anything else that he could undertake at this time. It will also be the means of bringing thousands of homeseekers into the last remaining region in the great West where cheap land and golden opportunities still can be had in abundance.

Best of all for Portland, there is no other port in the Pacific Northwest to which this empire of latent riches is directly tributary, and, as Central Oregon grows in population and wealth, this city will likewise g. w. as it now grows with the development of the Willamette Valley and other portions of the great Northwest which have long enjoyed the transportation facilities about to be granted Central Oregon.

It is gratifying to learn that the ap propriation for the entrance of the Columbia River is the largest item in the river and harbor bill, and that the Portland engineering district will receive more than twice the amount carried for any other district in the country. For this favor the Pacific Northwest is under obligations to the river and harbor committee, and it is with regret that we must note some material changes soon to be made in the personnel of that organization. With the importance of the work in

la necessity that the place made vacant by the retirement of Senator Jones be filled either by an Oregon or a Washington man. The greatest interests of the country, in river and harbor improvements, lie along our coasts, and for that reason such important matters should be in hands of Coast men, or men who are perfectly familiar with the waters which appropriations will for asked.

MR. KNOX' DIFFICULTY.

The provision in the Constitution of the United States which has made it difficult for Mr. Knox to become Secretary of State is one of those laws so excellent in purpose and so efficient in action that people forget all about them. It is only unreasonable laws and those which fail of their purpose that are constantly remembered. They are remembered because there is ilways something to remind us of them. Either they are openly broken with impunity, which always causes more or less scandal, or they irritate the public by restricting conduct unnecessarily. The Constitution, in foroldding a member of either House of Congress to be appointed to any of fice whose salary has been increased during his term of office struck at a crying evil, and struck so effectively that the evil disappeared altogether from our politics. The provision is so clearly wise and has been lived up to so uniformly that it has slipped out of mind, and even Mr. Taft and Mr. Knox, who are well informed about the Constitution, never thought of it when the appointment was made. The supposition that either of them

dreamed of evading the Constitution, or of defying it, is of course absurd They were guilty of an oversight and nothing more. Since Mr. Knox' serv-ices to the country as Secretary of State would be valuable, it is well to remove the constitutional difficulty om the way of his appointment if it can be done. Most people think it can be and has been. Last year the salaries of Cabinet Members were raised from \$8000 to \$12,000 a year. Mr. Knox being then a Senator. The repeal of this act, so far as it applies to the Secretary of State, would put that office exactly where it was and eave Mr. Knox free to accept it. In 1911, when his term in the Senate would have expired, the salary could be raised again, but not sooner, because the constitutional provision covers the entire "time for which he was elected." We cannot suppose that the salary is of much consequence in itself to Mr. Knox. He is not ambitious to be Secretary of State for the sake of the pay he will receive. Very likely he would be just as eager for the post as he is now if it carried no salary at Men of his age, character and all. standing in the world do not labor for money, though they do not despise money, either. The temporary diminution of the salary will not be a natter of much moment to him while the opportunity to serve his country in high office and enroll his name among its historical characters he

will value greatly. The expedient by which he can be made eligible to appointment ought not to be called an evasion of the Constitution. It is, on the contrary, the strictest sort of obedience to it. Surey no candid person could object to he removal of a disqualification which is purely accidental from a man who is admitted by everybody to be in all other respects admirably fitted for the position of Secretary of State.

INFORMATION FOR THE UNINFORMED.

Elsewhere in this paper The Oreconian prints a communication from John A. Penton, secretary of the Merchant Marine League. The Oreonian has so frequently exposed the fallacies of Merchant Marine League arguments that it is not surprising to earn that the league has abandoned all hope that anything it can say will have weight with The Oregonian. Regarding the reference made to the Griscom-Morgan-Rockefeller interests, The Oregonian is indeed sur-prised at the ignorance of the 'League'' in not knowing that it was being used as a catspaw for removing the chestnuts which in the past have burned the paws of the interests men-tioned. These interests would profit by a ship subsidy to a greater extent than any others in the United States. They already control more than 560, 000 tons of foreign shipping, in addition to a big fleet that files the American flag, and every dollar in subsidy would be clear profit over and above their present earnings as it would be unnecessary to increase the est of operation and no individual or interest outside of these vast combinations of capital would profit in the slightest degree. We trust that in future Mr. Penton and his league will remember for whom they are working.

The mail subsidy, or to use the proper terms, our payments for carrying the mails, are much greater than those of any other country. We pay the American line (Morgan-Griscom et al.) \$1.60 per pound for carrying the mail, and the German lines with faster steamers, carry it for us for 44 cents per pound. The American lines are paid 49 per cent more for carrying our mall than the British ines are paid for carrying British

mails. The humiliation of having Dutch Norwegian, Italian, German and British ships acting as tenders to our in its cruise around the world would have been spared, had American citizens been permitted to obtain ships as the Dutch, Norwegians, Italians, Germans and British obtain them. Probably the most foolish statement made by this oracle of the insalted seas, is that regarding free ships, which he asserts are "never considered now by anyone who knows

anything concerning the subject."

Every man in the United States ho does know anything concerning the subject, knows that in free ships unrestricted rights regarding their operation lies the solution of the problem. In no manner could this point be more clearly set forth than in the following extract from a speech by Henry Clews before the Merchant Marine Congress in New York a few days ago:

days ago:

We must secure both our ships and our sallors on the best terms possible. That is the foundation of England's extraordinary success. She buys her shipp, her supplies and her labor in the cheapest market. So must we If a slip cost \$1,000,000 here and \$750,000 abroad we must buy abroad If Ansaricans don't want to go to sea because they ean find a more profitable fob ashore, let them do as they prefer and let us employ sallors wherever we can set them. We can never succeed in establishing any merchant marine until we cease depending upon crutches, and get down to the same sound and businessible methods which have brought success to our rivals.

Mr. Penton's "guarantee" that for-

League has the power to change the present laws. A special act of Congress a number of years ago admitted the steamers Parls and New York to American registry, but made it mandatory that two ships of equal size and speed, the St. Paul and St. Louis, be built in this country. latter cost \$1,160,000 more than they would have cost in a foreign yard, and that immense sum will run against the expense account of the company as long as the steamers are affoat. If Mr. Penton is in position to "guaran tee" free ship advantages to all who desire it, he might remit that \$1,100,-000 which his unknown friends, Griscom-Morgan et al., were obliged to ony before they could get American

register for the Paris and New York. The Kroonland and Finland are temporarily under the Belgian flag because the foolish restrictions of the American navigation laws impose burdens not seriously regarded when freights are high, but onerous when Both of these steamers will be back under the American flag as soas we repeal our present absurd navigation laws and give shipping a show.

DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

Charity, like everything else earth, has its fashions. Twenty-five vears ago benevolent people were not content until they had gathered all the helpless and dependent children they could get hold of into institutions of one sort and another. Bables' orphans' homes, homes for foundlings, and so on, multiplied and flourished, doing no doubt a great deal But now thoughtful workof good. ers have begun to look at the subject The keynote of Mr. differently. Roosevelt's address at the Conference on the Care of Dependent Children vas the desirability of placing these walfs and playthings of evil fortune in families. For the old-fashioned 'home" which, make the best of it, was but a poor substitute for a true home, he had only that faint praise which we accord to a man whose fu-

neral we are eager to celebrate. Institutions are inevitably attended by a long train of unhappy onsequences. The best that can be mid for them is that they provide a cheap method of solving an insistent ocial problem. The worst that can be said is that they soive the problem by hindering the development and rushing the individuality of the children whom they receive. The poorest pology for a home in a decent famly is better than the best institution for most children. Social workers have recognized this somewhat obvious truth and they are turning their forts in the direction of placing orphans, foundlings and even delinquents in families, choosing families which live in the country as often as possible. The most direct way to save boy who has taken his first lesson n crime on a city street is to place him in a farmer's household where e will be made to go to bed at 9 o'clock, rise at 5 and exercise his nuscles in useful work all day. The bjections commonly made to child labor do not apply to farm work. In moderation it is the best thing in the vorld for the body of a boy and for his soul, too. But there ought to be ome little emphasis upon the "moderation." The number of farmers' boys with thin arms, crooked backs and narrow chests shows clearly enough that, like other good things, rural toil can be pushed too far.

DANGER FROM DISINTERMENT.

The bodies of 5000 Chinese were chipped from Brooklyn, New York, last week by steamer to their final resting places in "far Cathay." These bodies were disinterred from burying placed in sealed caskets which wer in turn enclosed in pine boxes and sent on their grewsome journey. Great care was taken to preserve the name and identity of each of the silent occupants of the boxes and all were snugly stowed between decks like so many bales of cotton for the long voyage. Upon the arrival of the charnel-house ship the bodies will be sent to places whence they came, and the first chapter in the long ritual of eneration for, or worship of the dead, according to the custom of the centuries in China will be ended.

Ordinarily little notice is taken of the custom of wholesale deportation of the corpses of Chinese. They are as so much rubbish of which caractery associations are glad to be rid. There might be an exigency, however, in which this custom would prove of baleful import. In the event of an epidemic of smallpox, for example, in which a number of Chinamen, more er less, had perished, the public round about these burial places could ill af-ford the risk that attends the disinterment of the bodies for shipment. Presumably the health authorities in every locality where Chinese are temporarily interred would look after this matter, yet the Chinese might turn such vigilance aside by means for which "the heathen Chinee is peuliar" and grave results would fol-

The vitality of germs of what may be classed as Oriental diseases, particularly those of the bubonic plague, is said to outlive time and such other purifying forces of the elements that ssay their absorption or destruction owing earth burial. of this assumption, it is recorded that a violent eruption of the plague folved the digging of Regent's Canal n London through a district in which the dead of that frightful scourge had been buried in trenches more than a

hundred years before. The danger of spreading disease through the disturbance of burial places is a real one, and can only be fully guarded against by cremation of those who die from epidemic dis-To what extent this danger lurks in the disinterment and shipment of a cargo of dead bodies cannot be determined until too late to pre vent the always possible disaster walts upon such an utterly useless and disgusting custom, so rigidly adhered to in the case of Chinese who die sutside of their native land.

Even President Roosevelt sapient versatile, positive as he is, finds that there are some things that he has advocated with zeal without judgment His advocacy of a multiplicity births as the hope of the race is a matter of public record. He now finds himself face to face with the problem of the care of dependent, delinquent and neglected children, a multitude of whom have come into the world since his first severe arraignment of American women upon the indictment of "race-suicide." Mr. Penton's "guarantee" that for- finds too many children where but eign ships will be admitted duty free now he declared there were too few, the Pacific Northwest, it would seem is on a par with his other wild state- and is driven to suggest ways and air.

ments. Neither he nor the Merchant means whereby such children may be rescued from the evils of irresponsi ble parentage and become in the course of time responsible citizens He calls upon Congress to establish a Federal Children's Bureau, and for legislation whereby a systematic plan for caring for children of irresponsible parents may be provided; tells of providing individual homes for the overplus of children of such parents of helping such parents to provide for their children. All of which will encourage irresponsible men and women in casting the care of their offspring upon the public and increase inordinately the burden that thrift is

already carrying in the interest of un

thrift.

It is necessary, of course, that all needful accommodations be provided for the care of the insane at Salem and no citizen will find the slightest fault with the Legislature for any reasonable expenditure for that purpose. There are about 1300 of these unfortunate wards of the state at Salem, and the burden upon the state s not small. But the public has a duty to perform in their care, and it must be discharged, and it will be The asylum buildings are perhaps commodious enough for the present and their equipment is fairly complete, though it appears singular that adequate fire protection has not heretofore been provided. As the Governor and the asylum superintendent point out, something should be done to repair this oversight, and to remove as far as possible the likelihood that, if fire should ever start, the buildings would be burned, for a great tragedy could not then be avoided.

The Ontario gas well, spouting with s force that hurled mud, water and gravel 150 feet into the air is so far ahead of anything that has followed years of effort to find oil and gas in this state that the event may mark an epoch in the industrial history of the state. The importance of the discov ery can hardly be overestimated, and, if subsequent prospecting on a large and scientific scale, which will now be assured, should disclose both oil and gas in paying quantities, the entire Eastern Oregon region will witness such a boom as a few years ago swep over the oil regions of Texas and Call fornia. The announcement of a gas gusher in Eastern Oregon and a rall road to Central Oregon all in one day s reaching for the record for good news for Oregon.

The Portland Produce Merchants association has taken up the matter of increasing the poultry products of the state and will offer prizes for the best results obtained. An effort will e made to interest boys and girls in the industry and literature giving instructions on the care and breeding of poultry will be distributed by the association. The project is a worthy ne, for large sums of money are sent out of the state every year for poultry, which, with a little more attention given the industry, could be se cured at home. While working on this project, the produce dealers might also remember that the supply of butter could be increased without any danger of overstocking the market.

Well-meaning clergymen in a New Jersey town who would open a saloon to sell liquor, with coffee, lemonade and a light luncheon, are wasting time and money. The drinking man is very human. He will buy the real stuff and look with a masant contempt at the side dishes.

Mr. - uter brings the news that Mr. H ney will come to try Mr. Hermann grounds all over the United States and when he has done wis. the Calhoun the Hainses and the like, the Army As that affair has not progressed as far as the jury box. Mr. Hermann could just as well make that

> The judges of the Second District don't know what they are talking about. They are overworked. They need another judge. At least some on needs a job as a third judge, and the Legislature puts the bill through.

If President Van Cleave succeeds in taking the tariff out of politics nothing will be left of politics. Yet perhap the country has long since passed the time when it was willing to be al wrought up over the tariff.

Harriman, it seems, is spending sev eral weeks visiting and recuperating in Texas. What's the matter with Pel-ican Bay? There no coarse whistle of noisy locomotive ever disturbs any one's rest.

Senator Bourne's proposal to ar

range the working hours of the Sen-at, on the plan of the British Parliament is respectfully referred to Judge Hennessey Murphy for an Does President Elliott, of the North-

rn Pacific, think that the most effective way to keep open the Seattle gateway to the A. Y. P. Exposition is to keep the Portland gateway closed? 000 at the Wisconsin primary to be Senator, but "no evidence of cor-

ruption is to be found," it is said. The primary is the poor man's law. Once more we hear that Heney is about to come to Oregon to try Binger Hermann. What's the hurry? It is only four years ago-December 23.

1904-that he was indicted. There is little need of legislative fooling with local option. Wherever it has come it is to stay, for the people have so ordained.

That natural gas outbreak at On-tario occurred while the Legislature vas far away at Salem; else we might have had doubts.

speaking of Mrs. Frohman's prospective second husband. Evidently he's grateful. This country will never be at the mercy of a powder trust. When it

"Nice fellow," says Mr. Frohman,

needs powder it will commandeer the mills. No guaranty of bank deposits for Oregon. Some things even an Oregon Legislature will not do.

Following Congress and the Legisature, the annual May-day strike news will hold attention.

Those Malheur drillers seem to have got their gas, and it is not hot

A VOICE FROM THE BARRACKS. Educate the Public on Japan, but Keep Out Scandal It Says.

VANCOUVER BARRACKS, Wash. Feb. 16 - (To the Editor.)-The Oregonian's editorial article today on ."The United States and Japan" is a most ex cellent statement of the facts of this country's present military unpreparedness for war with Japan; and since, as you say, "Japan has a better estimate of It than the mass of our people have, who think the bigness of a country the neasure of its strength against a smaller out well-prepared country." It seems to ound in the columns of the press, in view of its great interest to the country at large, and especially to the Pacific Coast. The ignorance of the general Coast. The ignorance of the general public in such matters is not small; and such ignorance, and the confusion of the idea of potential military resources (millions of men and money) with avail-able, trained effective strength in men. and war material, has from the begin ning of our history as a Nation cost us enormous war debts and overladen pension lists; yet the fallacy is constantly repeated in debates in Congress, speeches on the stump, and addresses on patriotic occasions. These and newspapers are the chief sources of popular information on this subject.

Reading as I do daily the editorials of The Oregonian with the greatest satisfaction, and while convinced that you know a great deal more about how to conduct a newspaper than I do, it seems to me it can but "make the judicious grieve" to note how much space is given in your news columns to the doings of Colonel Tucker and other military and naval delinquents, as compared with the stfall space real news of military valuoccupies. There are large numbers of our people who seldom read anything ex-cept newspapers, and if their mental food as to the Army is entirely or chiefly made up of the highly spiced dishes preared by scandal-mongering reporters b Chicago and elsewhere to be handed around all over the land, and at great expense, for consumption at the break-fast tables of the country, what a con-dition of mental indigestion the public

Now, were even the half of the troubles Now, were even the half of the troubles of the Tuckers, as reported, true, and they are not, the interests of truth and publicity would be better served by less encouragement of imaginative reporters and less space devoted to their concoctions in the news columns. "One swallow does not make a Summer": the Tuckers are a very small part of the Army, and not a fair sample and the prominence given to their domestic infelicities is certainly not in the interest felicities is certainly not in the interest of the country, the Army, and good morals. Perhaps the public wants that sort of stuff—you know better than I do—but I believe people generally would prefer something of real value on military matters such as is contained in ary matters, such as is contained in fary matters, shall as your editorial in relation to our problem with Japan. No right-minded man can desire war with Japan, either now, or consibly at any time; nor should undue prominence be given to military matters; but in view of the race question, the depolicy of the Government as to news relating to the military phase would be of greater interest than the affairs of Tucker, whose whole career is one of the worst examples we have, of misdirected Senatorial and political influence in the Army, for which the Army at large as been made to suffer, and for which it is in no way responsible.

The Oregonian has only to say with oference to the Tucker matter, that the adiscretions of that unsavory gentleman as reported in the newspapers, have local interest, because of his residence here for several yars. His so-called "affinity" likewise is from Portland, and the Logan family, into which Tucker married, and in which he seems to be having some difficulty in remaining, is known throughout the country. The Oregonian has no predilection for scandal, but it prints all matters of human interest and mportance, for it thinks they should be printed. If no public notice were to be taken of the misdeeds of the Tuckers and would soon be in a sad way sheer moral degeneracy. Publicity is the best possible corrective or prevently of similar misconduct in others. Besides, would not this Army officer prefer to have the truth, and all the truth, known about the Army and its officers and men? Or would be have them protected from the vulgar knowledge of the public when they err?

WHAT SUBSIDY SEEKERS WANT. Merchant Marine League Furnishes Statements of Its Doctrine.

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 10 .- (To the Editor.)—While we are very well aware that nothing we can say, or nothing we can point out in the way of error as to the stand always taken by The Ore gonian with reference to the American merchant marine would have any weight, still, we want to correct two very incorrect statements in The Oregonian of January 10.

In the first place the Merchant Ma-rine League is not identified with what The Oregonian calls the Griscom-Morgan-Rockefeller Interests, whatever they may be. This league, a list of officers we enclose herewith, is composed only of patriotic Americans, whose sole interest in this matter is the upbuilding of the American mer-chant, marine, and the strength of the American flag. It receives no support whatever, either directly or indirectly, from any ship-building ship-owning or ship-operating firm or enterprise. It believes that our mails should be car-ried in American ships-

ried in American ships.

It believes that a sufficient number of American ships should be provided to strengthen our Navy to serve as auxiliary transports, collieries and supply ships in the event of war; and ho one can know better than The Oregonian the conditions in that respect as they exist today. In the event of war, our Navy would be absolutely useless out of sight of land, because there are not enough American ships

war, our Navy would be absolutely usaless out of sight of land, because there are not enough American ships to take care of the Navy as it should be taken care of. Accompanying our fleet on the cruise around the world there is a gathering of Dutch. Norwegian, Italian, German and British ships, carrying coal, provisions and supplies. And then in the closing paragraph of The Oregonian's editorial reference is made to this foolish free ship husiness, which is almost entirely extinct, and is never considered now by anyone who knows anything concerning the subject. The writer will guarantee in the event that The Oregonian or anybody else in Portland, desires to purchase a foreign ship to go into the foreign trade, that such ship will be

purchase a foreign ship to go into the foreign trade, that such ship will be brought in duty free, and will be given an American registration and an American flag, without any difficulty.

Two of the largest ships ever constructed in this country, the "Kroonland" and the "Finland," of the Red Star Line, built at Cramp's shipyards in 1902, have given up the American flag within the past three months, and taken the flag of Beigium. Anybody taken the flag of Belgium. Anybody can see that no advantage is to be gained by bringing in foreign ships duty free, as it is not possible to con-duct them in competition with the low-priced, cheaply-operated, heavily-subsidized ships of foreign nations.

JOHN. A. PENTON.
Secretary of The Merchant Marine
League of the United States.

PUTS BLAME STRAIGHT ON ASSESSOR

Sigier's Colossal Blunder in Boosting Valuations Responsible for Increased Graft and Fresh Raids—Steps Must Be Taken Immediately to Prevent In-crease of the Grievous Burden Portland Is Bearing.

that the Legislature compel ss property at one-half its value is definite admission that he has committed a great blunder in boosting property in the city and county to such a high notch. The general trend f Mr. Sigier's reply of Sunday morning indicates that while he begins to see the effects of his boosting policy, he has no sympathy whatever with the tolling masses, who must pay for this boosting. It is not to be expected that he should have sympathy with the masses. His associations, which radi-ate between the County Courthouse and the clubrooms of this city, and the and the charcooms of this city, and the fraternities, of which he is a member, do not afford him time to mingle with the "common herd," the homebullders of this city, and ascertain how they are going to meet the outageous taxes imposed upon them, for benefit of grafters and official

Sympathy does not usually find a place in the composition of such men And yet Mr. Sigler may console him self with the reflection that he is most popular man in Multnomah; no-body could have beaten him in the last election. It is well known the more you kick and abuse a dog the better he ilkes you and the more popular you become with the dog. Is that the case with the common people of this county-the tighter you cincle them the more popular you assessor Sigler begins to realize that the onslaught on the taxpayers of this city and county is due to high valuation, and is now willing that the Legislature shall compel him to halt in the boosting process, as he has ac-cumulated such tremendous momentum in the boosting that he cannot reach the brake.

Lot us see. Our present valuation has stimulated bond issues that nobody would have dreamed of project-ng. With over \$225,000,000 of valuation avenues for public expenses have been multiplied in every direction that would not have been undertaken, could not have been undertaken, under a

asonable assessable valuation. We have been projected on the highroad of public extravagance that will land this city in financial disaster, un-less a halt is called at once. Other cities, San Jose, Cal., for example, now eels the weight of overloaded bone issue. Here \$7,000,000 in bonds piled up on 25,000 people, based on tentative ad speculative values, with the result that a blight has fallen on that city. A high valuation of property encouraged bond issues and debts beyond the strength of the people to carry.

In Portland we are drifting in that direction. With a tremendous piling up of assessable valuation the people have been led to consider that millions of bonds and debts could be assumed with safety, not taking into considera-tion the public grafting and looting that have kept pace with the march of public debt. Luiled into fancied security by the millions of property val-uations they have been blinded to the future pay-day that must come,

As the initial of this boosting we save started in on the first results. As the statements are being received from the Sheriff's office we begin to understand that something has been going on. The first pay-day has ar-

It is the first taste of what the future has in store for the taxpayers of this city and county.

Mr. Sigler, with all his popularity ind suave and pollshed manners, cannot escape his responsibility. When he started on his career of boosting prop-erty he was reminded that that course would open up avenues of public ex-travagance, but he did say in an interview in The Oregonian that he would insist that the levy would be kept low growing rapidly in this country be-in proportion to the boosting. If any-body heard him protesting against the Friends, we must face these condiconstantly increasing levy the past few years, they should come forward now. longer lucing. It takes over one-sixth of the rent, or two months' income to meet the taxes. The rest of the income is absorbed in repairs, sewers and street improvements. In some states 2 per is fair income on property. This on business property. On residences and houses for rent the taxation this year is tremendously

USE OF MILITARY AERONAUTICS. Work of Airships in Actual Warfare From a Scientific Standpoint.

New York Times. Here is a summary of the uses of air hips in warfare, as inserted in the Congressional Record previous to the vote of the House withholding an ap-propriation for \$500,000 to support adeuately an aeronautic branch of the

1. To gain information in peace time especting harbers, fortifications, etc. 2. Patrols and frontier guards. 3. For reconnoissance and photographic

Dispatch work. Checking an enemy's reconnoissance n land or sea.

6. Signaling and wireless telegraph sta-

ons. Directing artiflery fire and drawing enemy's fire.

8. Destroying the enemy's nerial fleet.

9. Attacking an enemy's base line, destroying stores, etc.

10. Destroying railways and other communications. Raiding the capital of the enemy's

ountry.

12. Making night or surprise attacks on ald forces, using explosives or incendiary statures.

13. Raiding harbors and naval bases.

14. Carrying out oversea vaids.

15. Locating and capturing or destroying observations.

ubmarines.
18. Locating mines,
17. Fellowing up a victory by land or
ea and completing the rout. Russia allotted \$1.083,750 to military seronautics for 1993. France has a sell-organized zeronautical battalion f 24 officers and 432 enlisted men, and a built a built a built and a built a buil of 24 officers and 432 enlisted men, and has built and is building, large dirigible balloons. The German army has four dirigible airships in actual operation, and pepular subscriptions throughout Germany last year raised a million dollars for Zeppelin, his aeronautical plant, and airships. All the first-class European and Asiatic powers at The Hague last year refused to sign the prohibition relative to dropping explosives from airships. Military authorities agree that the only way of effectively opposing military airships thorities agree that the only way of effectively opposing military alreading is by means of airships. And it has hitheto been the policy of this Nation, not to maintain a large war force, but to furnish its small force with the best and latest types of war material, guns, arrestions and conjument of all kipds. ammunition and equipment of all kinds.

Era of "a Bath With Every Room." Boston Herald.

"A bath with every room" is the American idea of the 'comfortable' hotel. It would be difficult to knock it out of the would be difficult to show a road to the public's mind, now it has worked in, but pray remember the days when great-great-grandfather washed in a tin basin no bigger than a finger bowl. Go and look at the tiny corner washstand in the paul Revers house and see what that the paul Revers house and see what that hero used for maintaining cleanliness of person! The ablutions of our forefathers were not extensive, it is true, but they told in the "high thinking" that was kept up in those days of low living. Private residences are not thought first-class unless supplied with elaborate bathrooms on every floor, and the bathrub itself, hewn from Carrara marble or made of porcelain, must be of heroic size, large anough to drown any ordinary family!

PORTLAND, Feb. 15.—(To the Edi-or.)—Demand by Assessor B. D. Sigler lot and built a house last year. He hat the Legislature compel him to seess property at one-half its value though it is but a small cottage. Payment and taxes fall due together, and how he shall meet both he has not solved. At Sellwood a young man bought a lot for \$175 and this year he pays taxes on \$250 valuation on this. lot. And so it goes in hundreds of

Of course, the writer knows that there is no escape from present con-ditions, but there is time to call a half in the career of public extravagance on which the city and county are about embark, and in fact have embarked

Next year the levy must be increased course of expansion and multiplicity of officials.

It is the future in which I am more concerned than for the present—the piling up of a great debt that will result in placing fixed charges on every dollar of the property of this city and county for all time.

And the new Courthouse is a new scheme for the exploiting of the tax-payers of this county—the farmers as well as the business institutions of this city. Of course, Mr. Sigler needs ore room for his growing force. The County Clerk needs more room for his expanding force. More room is needed for Judges of the Circuit Court, and so on and so on. Multiplication of officials in this city and county, already shown in a recent issue of The Oregonian to have now reached an army of nearly 1000 and growing rep-

Idly, need more room.
This year \$350,000 will be raised to erect one corner of the proposed Courthouse. Next year another \$350,000 will ne needed for another corner, and by the time the four corners and the middle are completed with the elegant furniture that must go with the palace, \$2,000,000 will resemble 20 cents. This has been the history of such enterprises precipitated as this has been done without first elaborating a defin-Such a building means

ite policy. Such a building means more officials.

Notwithstanding Mr. Sigler's admiration for Judge L. R. Webster, the Courthouse ought not to be built under his administration, unless he can be held down to a building that will not cost at the most over \$500,000. It ought to be submitted to the people first to determine whether they want a new Courthouse, not to Mr. Sigler or ew Courthouse, not to Mr. Sigler or Judge Webster, nor hordes of officials, and also the cost of this building ought to be submitted to the people, and not permit the County Court to decide for

he people of this county.

Judge Webster is an able and bril-Hant advocate, a gentleman of courtly manners, but he has as much sympathy with the taxpayers as Mr. Sigler himself has shown be holds.

Possibly no city in the Union has a nore promising outlook than Portland, but it remains to be seen whether there shall be placed a colossal debt on it that will prove a perpetual blight. More families own homes in this city than any other of the same population n this country. This year they are grievously penalized for their thrift. Next year the penalty on thrift will e increased. Property-owners in Portand are engaged in vast street im-provements and the construction of ewers, and on the top of this comes 2 per cent levy on a great assessment

Taxation is legitimate for maintenance of government; it also may beit has become in many United States, and it will be come so in Portland. Out of such conditions toward which Portland is drifting, are developed the socialist, the anarchist and the dynamiter element, that are

cause of these burdens.
Friends, we must face these condi-tions whather we want to or not in the city, and it remains to be seen will step in and put a stop to the carreer of public extravagance seems to have embarked on Legitimate enterprises and buildings cannot go forward with such a tremendous handi-cap that is portended. Investment of capital must stop under so great a penalty as is portended by the outlook.

LAYS 130 EGGS IN 60 ODD DAYS. Wonderful Stunt of New Jersey Hen,

JOHN F. WILSON.

Which Doesn't Even Cackle Over It. New York World. If a hen and a half Lay an ogg and a half in a day said a half How many will a dozen lay?

With this arithmetical problem Mrs. George W. Applegate's hen concerns herself not at all. This Industrious and remunerative hen simply goes on laying eggs. Since December 3, last, this cornucopia hen has laid 130 eggs. Although she has beaten all records at laying eggs, she is modest and retir-ing and, so far from beasting, doesn't

mit even a cackle.

The hen got on the nerves of Mrs. Applegate, whe lives on Beech street, Redbank. N. J. Mrs. Applegate was astounded to find 12 eggs in the hen's nest last Thursday sundown. Mrs. Applegate, gasping, stared at the hen; the hen with a suspicion of a mills of the length of the mills of the sample of the suspicion of a mills of the hen; Applegate, gasping, stared at the nen, the hen, with a suspicion of a smile on her face, looked at Mrs. Applegate as if saying, "I'm rather fruitful, eh?" Mrs. Applegate began to laugh and she laughed until she cried. Then, laughing and crying alternately, she got hysterical and her family called in the face of the process of the process who objected her with the Dr. Sayre, who quieted her with the bromides of sodium and potassium.

No nervous collapse threatened the hen. She preserved her mental poise and, attending to business strictly, hild seven more eggs during Thursday night. She kept up a continuous per-fermance during all day Friday; 12 cers were the outcome. Her fame eggs were the outcome. Her fame spread and The World's correspondent at Rodbank heat it to Mrs. Applegate's house. He waw the hen but did not get an interview with Mrs. Appplegate, who is still suffering from nervous-ness. Miss Christine Applegate, aged 16, her daughter, said she guessed the hen had "laid out" and produced no eggs since Friday. The hen appeared to be in a good, condition, but there was a drooping air about her which seemed to indicate that she was disappointed at not being able to tay any more eggs.

A FEW SQUIBS.

"Think of the glories of ancient Rome,"
"The seen 'em." answered Senator Sorshum. "It's terrible to me to consider the
graft they must have contended with in
outling up all those improvements."—Washngton Star.

Ingion Star.

The Vanishing Horse-Thief—The Constable—Now gentlemen, we've traced these here closs—the fut-prints o' the ho'se an' the fut-prints o' the man to this stump; from here on thar's only the fut-prints o' the hose. Now, the question is—Wot's become o' the man?—Life.

"You refuse me because I have a title," said the count hitterly, "but I will relinquish it. I will become a plain citizen," "How noble of you," responded the American heiress. "I, too, fool called upon to make a sacrifice. I will relinquish my fortune, and then—why, how gone?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

delphia Ledger

Three-year-old Norris is fond of the 23d Panim, sometimes repeating it instead of his regular evening proyor. When the name of President-elect Taft was often heard at the dinner table, Norris unconsciously fell into the habit of rendering one passage of the Pasim in this reassuring fashion; "Thy red and thy Taft, they confort me."—Exchange.