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# The Oregonian

# · PORTLAND, OREGON.

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

Sunday one year. 2.50 Sunday and Weekly, one year..... 2.50

## (By Carrier.)

Daily, Sunday Included, one year..... 9.00 Daily, Sunday Included, one month.... 75 aily, Sunday included, one month.... 75 How to Remit-Send postoffice money fder, express order or personal check on our local bank. Stamps, coin or currency fe at the sonder's risk. Give postoffice ad-ress in full, including county and state.

Fostage Rates-10 to 14 pages, 1 cent; 16 28 pages, 2 cents; 20 to 4s pages, 3 cents; 5 to 60 pages, 4 cents. Foreign postage Eastern Business Office-The S. C. Beck-ith Special Agency-New York, rooms 48-9 Tribune building. Chicago, rooms 510-512

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1909.

NOT AN ALLEGORY, NOR A PARABLE; BUT JUST PLAIN NARRATIVE. It may be true, as the Troy (N. Y.)

Times remarks in a paragraph reprinted by The Oregonian today, that

Oregon, when it became a state the wisdom" to insert in its Constitution and statutes features in use in New York. Some things are common in the Constitutions and laws of all our states. Nevertheless, the Constitution of Oregon, till our "urenic dispensation" began, was very nearly an exact copy of that of Indiana-w mean the second Constitution of Indlana, adopted by that state in the year 1851. The first Constitution of Indiana, adopted in 1816, was found later to be a very crude and imperfect affair. It did not sufficiently guard the state against schemes and schemers; it allowed the establishment of a state bank and branches; it did not make it sufficiently clear that the state was not to lend its credit for promotion of paternalistic jobs, and these jobs constantly multiplied, especially in the matter of state aid to transportation projects; the instrument was weak in its control of taxation and in a multitude of ways left too much discretion of the Legislature. By sad experience Indiana had discovered that her promoters and jobbers had put her are at best only half sincere. in the hole, just as the same descrip tion of citizens of Oregon now are laboring for what they call "the welfare of the state," in similar lines. These last are only about three-quarters of a century behind the experience of Indiana.

tory, but not much hazing. It both It was to get herself out of diffiered the University of Wisconsin in culties into which the system now the early days, but nothing has been proposed in Oregon had plunged her heard of it there of late. At the Unithat Indiana made the Constitution versity of Minnesota it has been almost unknown. These schools are all which our people in Oregon so close strongly scientific. They are also loly followed, but which now we are asked to abandon. Hence Indiana's cated in towns of considerable impor-Constitution of 1951 established close tance, which may have something to do with their immunity from the hazexact and even severe constitutional ing scourge. The fact is that students limitations. Oregon, six years later. who betake themselves to scientific copied it in all its essential featuresstudies have neither the time nor the in most, word for word. But in Oreinclination to intrude upon the rights gon this instrument is now called of others. The whole spirit of these an "old fogy document," which it is declared the state "has outgrown," studies is one of sturdy individual and the foundations have been so freedom. But when all is said, the only way deeply cut away that any initiative statute, voted on at any time, may to break up hazing in colleges where the classical spirit rules, is to break abolish or supersede what remains of But it is still good enough for up the class system. As long as any Indiana, which though not "a great institution clings to the old-fashioned freshman, sophomore, junior and state" like Oregon-having only about flye times our population and ten senior classes, with one yearly graduation day, we may assume without times our wealth and industry-still very weighty chance for mistake, that remains a state of some importance. It is not prepared to make much of a with rational and well-regulated government in spite of that "old fogy sacrifice to get rid of hazing. them. The world over taxes are eating up the substance of the popula progressive state of Oregon has so PORTLAND MAKING NEW RECORDS. tions and nobody seems to see any nearly obliterated. February, the shortest month of the way to relief. With us there is the There is a further tale about Indiear, makes a remarkably fine showsame story to tell in state, county and city. Our rulers of every degree ana and Oregon; or, rather, we should ing in all lines of commercial and in say the tale already partly told dedustrial activity. With but twentyserves amplification, for our enlightthree business days in the month, real enment and instruction. Observe that estate transfers reached a total of Oregon, though she copied Indiana's \$2,063,338, an average of about \$90,second Constitution, is now propos-000 per day, while building permits ing to return to her first one, from made a new record for the month which that state was so glad to eswith a total of more than \$1,300,000, Some years before Indiana cape. the average being nearly \$60,000 per framed her new Constitution she had day. Bank clearings for the month embarked in an extended system of were more than \$3,000,000 in excess of "internal improvements," of which those for February, 1908, although a construction of railroads was the chief record-breaking movement of wheat in, feature. The state was to employ February, 1908, ran the figures well its credit to assist or promote railabove normal for that month. Portroads, and it went in very deep. It land has now reached a stage in her sold or guaranteed bonds, just as Oredevelopment where the ordinary obgon now is asked to do. The calamstacles which in her youth could reity was prodigious. Even such of the tard progress are no longer effective. roads or canals as were finished did The city is being swept on to greatness not furnish the revenues that had by a wave of prosperity and developbeen expected. Depend upon it, such ment that is reaching the most remote undertakings by the state never will. districts of the state. After a struggle of years, during The substantial nature of this which the state was forced to default growth is shown to the best possible interest, it managed to effect a comadvantage in the character of the promise with creditors, who took the building operations, especially in resilines over, and the state was left dence permits. For this class of with a debt of \$7,725,262 on account buildings 111 permits were issued in of this business, without any prop-February, and the total valuation was erty to represent it. Here was one \$339,525, an average of more than great cause that made Indiana anx-\$3,000 each, with the valuations given ious to rid herself of a Constitution in every case being much lower than under which such things were perthe actual cost of the building. Four mitted and to make a new one, under permits for reinforced concrete which this sort of business no longer structures, issued at a valuation of would be possible. Indiana was by no \$445,350, give an excellent idea of the means alone in this experience. Other substantial nature of the business states had had much of the same kind structures going up. of "progressive development," which growing more rapidly than ever, be-"promoters" in Oregon now are anxcause the entire territory tributary to tous our state shall imitate. But the this city is growing. No less than postal savings banks and a sensible example of Indiana, when our people three sawmills, which will be among were making the Constitution of Orethe largest on the Pacific Coast, are gon, was just then a pregnant one now under construction or have efand Chester N. Terry, who had refected all arrangements for building. cently come from Indiana, and was at points along the Columbia River made secretary of our constitutional below Portland. Around these sawconvention, had chanced to bring with mills will spring up small colonies and him a copy of Indiana's new Contowns, and these, like other colonies stitution, which was made the basis, and towns, will all be tributary to indeed almost the sole source, of the Portland. Constitution of Oregon. On the Peninsula, just beyond the Will it be said that Indiana then city limits of Portrand, the largest packing plant west of the Rocky was a state far behind the importance of Oregon now? A vast mistake; for Mountains is under construction, and Indiana in 1851 had more than one around it are going up hundreds of million inhabitants and was indusbuildings which do not figure in Port-land's city statistics, but which will be ures must be attributed more to lack trially a great state. It was superior then to Illinois in population and the homes of people who will earn wealth, and its one million of people and spend their money in Portland. were concentrated within an area This city and the vast region which comparatively small, while Oregon has made it great have always been now has no more than 600,000, disin possession of great natural re-sources and abundant opportunities for persed over an area nearly three times as great as that of the whole state of capital and labor. It is only quite re-Indiana. It is well for people to cently that either of these two most know what they are talking a out. potential factors in development has tee rooms and elsewhere. Perhaps Doubtless we shall be told there been favoring us in keeping with our were bad financiers in Indiana, and position. shall be assured that our own Mr. Teal, Mr. U'Ren, Mr. Wood, Brother Throughout the Winter new settlers have been coming into the state Jackson, of the Journal, and the fur- and city in increasing numbers, and ther long list of names which The ther long list of names which the Oregonian at this moment hasn't space to print, would do a great deal better with this business than those dull crease in the volume of this travel. with the coming of Spring and the in- to the old one; but for a National Hoosiers did. Yet perhaps we would Porfland and Oregon have been slow have obtained any relaxation of the men would be the Peeping Tom squad. week

better not be too credulous. might fall into danger. The Constitu- ment toward commercial greatness, but tion of Indiana, which we copied, but now are trying to repudiate, is still the Constitution of Indiana and the commercial cataclysm can check. key to her vast prosperity, while her old Constitution, which we are now urged to go back to and to adopt in the Spring of 1989. for ourselves, is the one which les her to financial ruin and from which

she made enormous sacrifice to escape The Oregonian opposes this whole scheme, on the high ground of the public welfare. It opposes the scheme

because It is the champion of the many against the few. The Teal portage business is exactly a business of this kind. Under cover or profession of regard for the interests of the people it has seduced the state into a partnership through which a few perns make or expect to make money by taxation of all the rest; that is, th tate furnishes most of the money and the projectors and managers take the profits-mind you, always with pro-

essions of disinterested and laborous service to the public. Of this fort of thing there are as many "exterior forms and varietles of outward accoutrement" as there are types of 'promoters,' but never was a state

engaged in this sort of business, nor ever will it be, without having to foot the bill.

which set a high value on tradition

and the "good old college spirit" do

not in their secret hearts dislike haz

ing, and their efforts to stamp it out

Scientific schools are not much

troubled with the pest. Neither are

those state universities where engi-

neering and sociological studies pre-

dominate. Ann Arbor has had a good

deal of rioting in the course of its his

spirit.

THE PEST OF HAZING. Rigorous formal discipline, strong ollege traditions and hazing form a triplet which is often seen complete in little our institutions of learning. The United States military and naval academies enjoy a more inflexible discipline than any other schools in the country, and their courses of study have yielded less to the modern elective impulse. Moreover, there are no other schools where tradition begins to be as inexorable as it is at West Point and Annapolis. Accordingly, hazing makes more trouble at these schools than it does anywhere else. Compared with Harvard, both Yale and Princeton are notably reactionary in It is interesting to remark also that they have more hazing. In fact, hazing is one method of keeping traditions alive. It breaks in the new student to the old ways. College faculties make a great show of disapproving it, but, remembering how it flourishes, one need not take the show too seriously. Faculties in particular

bia River consisted of nine vessels of 9611 tons net register. Five years ago. for the same month, the arrivals were 22 vessels of 19,702 tons. In February, 1909, the arrivals were 55 steam ers of 51,387 tons net register, and with a carrying capacity of more than 100,000 tons. The greatest part of this growth has been in the coasting trade, but there have been substantial gains in the foreign business.

It is by these official figures that we note the tremendous loss of shipping of which our Astoria friends complain.

HOW THE COLUMBIA IS "LOSING."

Ten years ago, in February, 1899, the steamer fleet entering the Colum-

# THE SIXTLETH CONGRESS.

Like the interesting young woman in the poem, Congress "must go to its rest with its work undone." Not that the session just about to close has been wholly fruitless. Although spending money without much thought where it is to come from has

been the principal occupation of our Representatives and Senators, still they have managed to squeeze in a useful work between whiles. Nobody will find fault with the appropriation of \$800,000 for the Ital ian earthquake sufferers, and yet the sum is so immoderately large that it looks spectacular and suggests a play to the gallery rather than genuine charity. If a considerable fraction of this splendid gift could be employed in buying out the absentee landlords who in the long run do more harm than earthquakes in Southern Italy and Sicily, one would regard the matter with more complacency. Congress has also done well in hampering the interstate rum traffic though the hampering is not likely to prove very severe. The shipment of liquor into prohibition districts in C. O. D. express parcels has been a nuisance for years, and has in some localities completely thwarted the will of the people. Congress has provided that these

parcels must be plainly marked with the contents and the consignee's name. This does not seem to be a very rigorous provision, but it will in fact restrict the traffic which thrives upon secrecy. Among the negative virtues of the

Congress just closing must be in-cluded its possible failure to pass the notorious ship subsidy bill, which maintained a serpentine existence in committee, and out of it from the beginning of each session to the end. It is a curious circumstance that both Mr. Roosevelt and his successor favor this measure, which is one of unadulterated iniquity, and has no reason for passage except the greed of a few millionaires. We may learn from this that nobody is infallible, and that even the most well-meaning public servant may be deceived sometimes. History proves clearly enough that ship subsidies never have promoted shipbuilding or ocean trade, but our statesmen still think that they will do miracles for our merchant marine. The experience of mankind elsewhere has no lessons for us. In the way of one who seeks diligently to find some thing else good to say about the departed Congress the billion dollar ap-

propriations stand like a lion. Still, while this is in truth a large sum to spend, and the returns for it are no impressive, one has to admit that governments everywhere have grown to be most expensive luxuries, and ours is no worse than the rest of

We in gathering headway in this moverigor of the Sherman anti-trust law The best we can say of the sixtleth we have at last attained a momentum Congress is that it adopted Mr. Roosewhich nothing short of a world-wide velt's recommendations in part: worst is that it neglected some of the no previous season in the history of the most important of them. city has the outlook been so bright as

"Lucky" Baldwin is dead. The famous plunger and turfman, leaving a vast fortune, yesterday morning passed on to the land where luck does not figure in the final returns. Details of the disposal of this fortune will not be known until the will is read but if "Lucky" distributed it on the plans followed during life, it is questionable about its doing any great amount of good to mankind. The late Mr. Baldwin was a racetrack gambler, who made occasional sortles into the field of legitimate speculation and investment, and in these fields, as on the racetrack, fortune seemed to favor him to an unusual degree. The good done by Mr. Baldwin is a debatable quantity. The eyil is more easily discernible. Every small salaried clerk and racetrack follower who saw the

enormous winnings made by Baldwin was encouraged to bet his own money. as long as it lasted and then his employer's, with the usual result. It is not apparent that the world is much better for Lucky Baldwin's having lived in it.

Thomas W. Lawson has partly forgiven the ingratitude of the "gelatineshrimps" and the "saffronpiffed blooded apes" who failed to follow his infallible scheme for sending Rockefeller, Morgan, Rogers and all the rest of that piratical crowd to the almshouse. He has ceased to bellow threats and imprecations at the plain people, whom he so graphically described, and is now entreating them to follow his tips on steel, copper and a number of other specialties of which he is certain that he knows more than any other living man. Eastern papers are again carrying big ads in the picturesque Lawsonian style and from the wording thereof, artful Tommy has at last got a strangle-hold on the "systom" and is exceedingly anxious that the public should be with him when he finally brings it to the mat.

At the recent primary elections in the City of Chicago less than 20 per cent of the registered voters of the city felt interest enough to go The New York Times, an indevote. pendent paper of Democratic party tendencies, which has always favored the direct primary, commenting on the assumption that "we get an expression of conscience and intelligence" by this method-says: Th truth is that the direct primary does not stand its tests. It does not come up to specifications. It does not meet the expectations or make good the prophecies and promises of those who are its advocates." So it is everywhere. This fact is what leads so able and consistent a reformer as Governor Hughes, of New York to prepose modifications of the general plan hith. erto employed, with such poor results.

say now at Eugene that oung Bristol showed signs of mental weakness before the brutal outrage upon him by fellow students; so the 'hazing" couldn't have made him insane. Quite like the verdict of a Coroner's jury. "The Colonel" had shot his man, who died a few days afterward. But the jury was friendly to the Colonel and quite indifferent to the surgeon who had treated the victim, so it brought in a verdict that the death of the man was not due to the pistol shot, but to the doctor's malpractice.

There is more than one person puzzled to know by what constitutional or equitable right the State of Oregon can justify itself for going into partrship with the Teal Transportation Company. Nice thing for members of the Teal Company, since the state supplies most of the capital and pays the losses; but is the state keeping within its just powers when it taxes the body of its people to support such a partnership for emolument of pri-We vate individuals?

# FOLLY OF STATE OWNERSHIP.

View of a Neighbor on Oregon's Great

Railroad Scheme.

Spokane Review. Oregon's constitution may be defective. but it contains one sound bulwark that | ruary 26 contains an article from needs to be defended against demolitionnamely, that forbidding use of the state's redit to build or aid the building of rallroads

It is proposed by ill-informed, reckless or adventurous spirits to cut away this section of the constitution, with a view it would to those who believe that all to putting the state at the work of building needed railroads which Harriman apparently will not construct.

If needs be, Oregon would "better bear those fils it has than fly to others that it knows not of." National ownership of railroads has been measurably a success in Europe, but ventures of that nature by undeveloped states of the Union stand practically as an unbroken array of failure and disaster. The Spokesman-Review believes that there is no exception to this record where states have attempted to project railroads into new and undeveloped territory. The undertaking would be rash and

rockless, even though there were positive knowledge that no new railroads would be built by private capital in Oregon within the next quarter of a century. But railroad development cannot much longer be retarded in Eastern and Central Oregon. Harriman cannot maintain forever his dog-in-the-manger policy toward that broad and inviting empire His must build ratiroads in there, and that soon, or rivals will do it. He has no right of pre-emption.

The Hill interests are now on the edge of that undeveloped region; the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul is not distant; the Northwestern system will soon be cross ing the Rocky Mountains, and the influx of immigration and capital into the coun try north of the Columbia will surely push settlement and development south into Eastern and Central Oregon.

The miracles that have been wrought with the desert lands of Wenntchee North Yakima, Lowiston and around Boise City are to be repeated in the arid and semi-arid sections of Oregon. The possibilities are too vast, the rewards are oo enticing, much longer to be overooked or neglected

It is not probable that the votors of Oregon, on sober reflection, will plunge the folly of bonding their state to build railroads into a sparsely settled empire, under the delusion that it would punish Harriman. The end of that business would be Harriman picking up some state-owned railroads from the bargain counter.

# CLEAR DUTY OF A NEWSPAPER. Not Only to Print News, but to Expos

Wrongdoing.

From an Opinion by Justice Guy, of New York. The law jealously guards the good repute of all persons in their private character and in their business or profession, unless by their general private conduct or by the character of the business or profession in which they are engaged they have themselves forfeited such good repute. the law is not engaged in the rehabilliation of reputations, or in throwing the mantle of respectability and good

repute around those who deliberately engage in practices in violation of law and follow pursuits which are subversive of decency and good morale.

The defendant was engaged in the publication of a newspaper not marely for the dissemination of news, but with the additional purpose of holding a high standard of public cency and morals in the community and it was not merely its right, but its duty, in connection with a public and official proceeding of the kind in ques tion, to publish truthfully so much of

Three Times More.

gentleman who signs himself "Jefferent condition of the Democratic party. get rid of W. J. Bryan the

men have a right to vote the Repub-lican ticket, but thus far no further. Jeffersonian tells us that he bas voted for Mr. Bryan three times; once enthusiastically, once willingly, and once reluctantly, but yows . that way that men generally backslide. We like to let ourselves down ensy. I, too, have voted for Mr. Bryan three times. The first time enthusiastically second time enthusiastically, and third time enthusiastically, and the willing to do so three times more en-

ERTS. I support Mr. Bryan because of his

cause of his oratory. In point of ex-cause of his oratory. In point of ex-ecutive ability, he stands far above the outgoing and incoming presiden-tial incumbents. But his peculiar fitness is his unwavering stand for civic righteousness. He was right in 1896 when he stood up and defied the com-bined forces of corruption throughout the world; he was right in 1900 when he so nobly defended the American being denied their Constitutional right of trial by jury. He has saved the Democratic party, and in time the

for Mr. Taft last Fall because money lords were threatening to give us a panic if Mr. Bryan should be elected. large manufacturin threats were heard starvation 0.73 every hand.

of true Americans stood for the right in spite of these threats; and we are an spite of these threats; and we are going to continue the good fight until political corruption is driven from places of authority. It is worth noth-ing to say that Mr. Bryan has not been elected. Neither has Jesus Christ ever received a majority set

ever received a majority vote, though he has been a candidate for nearly two right in his heroic defense of human liberly. Any man is right who stands for right principles, regardless

Will Be Submitted to the Voters at the

Regular June Election. PORTLAND, March 1.-(To the Ed!

status of the proposed charter, submitted to the City Council recently by the Char-ter Board of 15 taxpayers? Will it be possible for the electors to vote upon its adoption, and if so, when and how?

he City Council over two weeks ago, at which time City Attorney Kavanaugh submission of a new charter under a

and other amendments to the present charter might be submitted at a special dection, to be held prior to the primaries. This ordinance was subsequently passed, but without an emergency clause, and it must therefore lie 20 days from its passage, as the law requires this interval in order that the referendum may be e facts as with decency it could blish, so that even if the machinery the criminal law pr nadequat

# WHAT! DESERT BRYANT NEVER

Judge Jewell Ready to Be Beaten Life's SunnySide GRANTS PASS, Or., March 1 .-- (To the Editor.)-The Oregonian of Feb-"Whenever 1 see the name of Senator Tillman in print," said an old newspaper man, "I am reminded of a little incident that occurred several

sonian," in which he bewalls the presottle incident that occurred several years ago when I was city editor of a little paper in a Southern city. "Late one night a South Carolina correspondent wired that he had failed to get a desired interview be-cause the Senator had taken a pro-He seems to think that If we could world would become brighter. Well, perhaps will never do so again. This is the 234

nuch importance. "Some time later Bud strolled calm-ly in and informed me that after a personal search of every car on the train he had falled to find Senator thusiastically, and then again if neces-Tillman

nti said L nation, 'wern't a good many of these berths accupied by ladics?' berths occupied by ladies" "Sure,' said Bud. "But what did you do when you found a lady that had retired" "When I busied the curtains open and looked in and a woman jumped up and screamed, I took off my hat and says: That's all right lady, you what has the man im backing as "" Del doctrine that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed; and he was right in 1908 when he colored the when he solved the bank question and ame to the rescue of those who were adelphia Ledger. ain't the man I'm looking for.' "-Phil-

Democratic party is going to save this Democratic party is going to save this Nation from corporation greed, and make it in reality "the home of the brave and the land of the free."

I deny that the people have willing-ly rejected Mr. Bryan three times. We know full well that thousands voted "If one was given her she would throw it into the fire. She would only deal in money having Queen Vic-

local newspaper some time ago, but refused to enter it until a woman was sent to transact business with her. But the records show that 6,000,000 An advertisement for apartments which she published stipulated that there should be no man in the house. She even declined to receive letters because the stamps bore the King's head.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Dr. Walter C. Smith, the Scotch preacher, once tried to explain to an old lady the meaning of the scriptural expression, "Take up thy bod and walk." He said the bed was simply walk." thousand years. Jesus Christ was right when the ignorant mob were putting him to death; and W. J. Bryan

a mat of the lady, "I canna "No, no," replied the lady, "I canna believe that. The bed was a regular There would be no mirof popularity. STEPHEN JEWELL acle in walking away wi' a bit o' mat or rug on your back."-Exchange.

STATUS OF PROPOSED CHARTER.

Admiral Robley Evans had a Con-tressman for a guest, and having run out of his favorite brand of whisky, nade up with some he cound not guar-intee. He explained this, and added or.)-Will you please explain the exact antee. antee. He explained this, and added: "Here, however, is some brandy that Eve kept untouched for a good deal more than 26 years." "Hand me over the whiskey decanter." was the re-joinder. "Why?" asked the Admiral. "What's the matter with the brandy?" "That's what I want to know, Bob," said the guest; "but if you have had it untouched in your possession for more A VOTER.

The proposed charter was submitted to intouched in your possession for more than 20 years, there must be some-thing pretty bad the matter with it."sent in an ordinance providing for the Exchange. single ballot title, and providing that it

An official of the Department of Commerce and Labor, who had been directed by his chief to draw up a summary of conclusions of certain distinguished authorities in engineer-ing, met with disaster when he had occasion to refer to certain stater of A. R. Colquhoun, the British en-

\* \* \*

cause the Senator had taken a train for Washington, but that we might

catch him ourselves when the train

passed through our city. Hastly searching a time table, I found that the train mentioned was due in a few

minutes. There being no other re-porter at hand, I selzed 'Bud' Lunkly

raw reporter fresh from the country

tion and get some sort of expression from the Senator on a subject then of

"Yep, that' what I done, said Bud "'But, Bud,' I exclaimed in conster-

Miss Harriet Evans, an elderly spin-

ster on whom an inquest was held at Hackney recently, was said to have

been a confirmed man-hater. "She was so much against men that she would not have a coin with the King's head on it," her landlady said.

Miss Evans went to the office of a

a mat or rug, easily taken up and car

"Do

toria's head.'

you mean that you looked into

sleeping car berths, Bud?

told him to meet this train at the sta

The official had been told that after Mr. Colguboun's name shot placed the letters "M. I. C. E." applied, should any one desire to invoke (Memit. At the expiration of the 30 days, the er of the institute ers). "That's easy to remember," the afficial had said, adopting an easy sys-mnemonics. "M. I. C. E. ordinance, if not vetoed by the Mayor, eers). tem of mnemonics. spells 'mice.' " This memory system was of little avail, however, for when the official handed in his summary the letters af-ter Mr. Colquhoun's name were "B. A. T. S."-Lippincott's.

# THE MORNING OREGONIAN, TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1909.

demand more and more money. The question where it is to come from begins to be really interesting. used to think that the benighted populations of Europe must forever envy us our freedom from a military establishment. Not having very many soldiera to support our Government would always be inexpensive. we dreamed in our deluded forecasts. Now we realize, to our grief, that we omitted to take account of pensions when we wove our fond visions of light taxes.

Some day, perhaps, a great genius will arise who will devise a method of governing which will actually accomplish what it sets out to do, and which will leave a little something to the taxpayer. Until some such benefactor arises we must in all likellhood reconcile ourselves to see the expenses of Government growing

heavier and the returns in practical benefit continue to be somewhat exiguous. Find as much fault as we may, however the worst grumbler among us must confess that without the Government, in spite of its faults and failures, he would be a great deal worse off financially and in every other way than he is now. Hence our growls at the big appropriations of Congress have their Pickwickian aspect after all. But if the Government continues to ask more and more from us every year it ought in all fairness Portland is to provide a little reasonable stimulus and help to our instinct of economy. It ought to provide us with currency system.

Congress has enacted a feebly palliative currency measure, but for postal savings banks it has done nothing. If we wish to save our wages we do it at our own risk and by our own devices, so far as Congress is concerned. Perhaps, though, this view of the case is too discouraging.

We know that it always takes Congress a long time to do even the simplest things, but in the end it manages usually to accomplish part of what it ought. It is a timid body, trembling at every leaf that stirs, and its reof courage than to depravity, Your average Congressman would like to do a great deal for the public, but in the first place he does not know how to go about it, and in the second place he soon discovers reasons to be afraid of certain looming monsters in the Speaker's chair, the committhe wonder is that Congress gets as much work out of the way as it does.

The new employers' liability law is a creditable achievement, if it steers clear of the constitutional objections

Those enthusiastic Seattle boosters are advertising their Exposition as the only "World's Fair that ever opened on time." The point, of course, lies Thus in the "world's" fair. The Portland Exposition, from the Seattle point of view, was only a dinky little show However, it will be something worth Seattle's while not only to open its fair on time, as Portland did, but to

close it amid universal acclaim, as Portland also did.

Rev. W. G. Ellot warns us not to orry about the possibility of the world's destruction 14 years after knowledge of the approaching calam-ity becomes certain. Chaos would result from the very knowledge, he says. It would. So would chaos of mind come in all probability to anyone from knowledge of what is going to happen to him in the ensuing 14 years.

It would be an unfortunate occur-rence indeed, but it is guite clear that if some law-abiding citizen, peacefully reposing in bed with his lawful mate should be aroused from his slumbers by the moral squad, and in the excitement he should pull his pistol from under his pillow and shoot some one. there would be great difficulty about a conviction.

Even if all claims of "reduction of freight rates" are true-but they are not true, because the comparisons are juggled-why should the taxpayers of Oregon be forced to put up money in order that wheatgrowers and others in the neighbor states of Washington and Idaho may get higher prices?

Only two more days of strenuous life and Roosevelt, after twenty years' service as public man, will take the honorable title of American cifizen at

It is reasonably certain that, for the remainder of this year, there will be small friction between the offices of Governor and Secretary of State.

Queer, but just at this moment Our George is out of a "political" job. But cheer up. March 4 will soon be here, and George will soon be there.

Mr. Patten would make good a just claim to being the universal friend of everybody if he would become a bear on the flour market.

In the end the Southern Pacific yould be money in pocket if it actually gave its Oregon lands to bona fide settlers.

A more appropriate name for Mayor

to reach malefactors of this class, traffic for gain in human life and health and seek to promote immoral

health and seek to promote immoral practices, they might be held up to public scorn and contempt. While newspapers should be held to strict and sovere accountability for unjustifiable and untruthful assaults upon private character, or upon husi-ness standing and credit, they deserve not punishment and rebuke, but pubas in this instance, they truthfully, and in strict conformity to the facts, call public attention to those who are engaged in nefarious practices, injurlous to the public welfare.

# Bold Sparrows Win Two Fights. New York World.

Ambrose Brose, of Montclair, N. J., set out a dish of barley as food for English sparrows. Haif a dozen sparrows began to eat, when two black-birds came and tried to eat out of the same dish. Brose says that the spar-rows withdrew, and after a long con-ference returned and attacked the blackbirds with vigor. The fight lasted five minutes, according to Bross, and ended in victory for the sparrows. The blackbirds flew away, but soon re-turned reinforced by three more of

The five blackbirds attacked the or-iginal six sparrows, and the battle lasted, by Brose's watch, 15 minutes, Once again the sparrows won, and ulti-mately the blackbirds retired. Brose says it all goes to show that

# Troy (N. Y.) Times.

It is a period of semi-centennials as well as centenaries. Probably many persons will be surprised at the fact that the state of Oregon is 50 years old, for youthfulness is commonly associated with most Western commonwealths. Yet Oregon was admitted to the Union under a law passed by Congress February 14, 1859. It would not be inappropriate to call Oregon the Valentine State. At least the 50th anniversary of the creation of that state has been celebrated with fitting ceremonies. The 14th coming on Sunday the exercises took place Saturday. New York should feel a particular interest in Oregon, for that progressive and prosperous state had the wisdom copy much of its constitution and many of its statutes from those in effect here.

# "On the Verge of Going 'Nutty.""

man of muscle, whose sould is clean and whose heart is honest. And with a stick let him separate the sheep from the goats. Let him corral a num-ber of pinheaded reformers who pay stantial element of Oregon can be heard. This state is on the verge of going "nuity" when it even thinks of launching into building and operating railroads. And that's no lie.

# Two Live on 96 Cents Per Week.

New York World. An aged man and wife are living near Windsor, England, on 96 cents a-

become effective. After the ordinance takes effect, the

Council must still pass a resolution. formally submitting the proposed charter to the electors, and as matters now stand, there seems no doubt this will be done, and the vote will be taken at the regular election, in June. It will be neo

essary to change the clause which specifles the time when the charter, if adopted, shall become operative. It will be fixed by the City Council, and Indications are that it will be set at either six months or a year from July 1, 1909.

It will be later necessary to have a special election, if the proposed charter is adopted in June, as it calls for an entirely different set of officers from the present one.

That the proposed charter will be submitted to the electors, there is scarely any doubt, as a majority vote is all that is required to adopt a resolution. Only five members of the Council object t placing it before the electors, which leaves ten who favor submitting it.

# Telephone "Hello" Is Barred."

Montchair (N. J.) Dispatch to the New

York Press. Stern prohibition of the time-hon-ored word "Hello" has been received by the telephone girls in the employ of the Western Union Telegraph Company. An officer of the corporation informed the young women they must not use that word in answering tele

phone calls. He said they must say "Western Union" in response to every burz of the bell, no matter how much mental effort it might cost them to do so. And the officer is a man so high in the councils of the company that what he mays goes, or the subordinate who disobeys him does. It is taken for granted the telephone girls will pear his injunction in mind without a

# Ghost Sustains Three Broken Ribs.

Philadelphia Record. David Mackey, of West Middlesex, Pa., thinking to test the courage of his prother, William, played ghost and was attacked by his brother, the result be-ing three of the ghost's ribs were broken and he was sent to a hospital for repairs.

single slip.

# Dog Leaves After Master's Funeral.

Kansas City Star. When John Behagg died at Evans-ville. Ind., the other day, his dog was by his bedside when he passed away. The animal attended the funeral, looked animal attended the funeral, looked at the face of his master in the coffi-

and after the burlal he disappeared

from his old home. Auto Ride Bounces False Teeth.

Camden. (N. J.) Dispatch,

Because he was jolted so severely while riding in an auto over the rough streets of New Brunswick, N. J., that his false teeth were bounced out of his head, an incensed citizen says he will sue the town.

Few Like Her, Nowadays.

London Cor. Chicago Inter Ocean. Susan O'Hagan, who was born in 1802, has just died at Lisburn. For 97 years she had been in the employment of the same family, having served with four generations.

"Could you give me," inquired the poor woman. "a castoff dress of your little girl's or a pair of your little boy's shoes for my little boy?" "I have no little girl," replied the rich woman kindly. "nor any little boy, but I can give you an old sheath skirt and some puffs."-Puck.

"Physical culture, father, is perfect-iy lovely," exclaimed an enthusiastic young miss just home from college. "Looki To develop the arms I grasp this rod by one end and move it slow-ly from right to left." "Well, well," Exclaimed the father,

"Well, well!" Exclaimed the father, "what won't science discover. It that rod had straw at the other end you night be sweeping."-Success Magazine.

Mrs. Underdunk - I yeahs 'em say. Sistah Poots, dat yo' po' sick husband am pow'ful bad off. Has de doctah given him up? Mrs. Poota.-Well-uh, no'm, Sistah Underdunk. But it do' pear like he's done given him everything els.-Ezhange.

Mrs. Scrappington.-Tomorrow is the 14th anniversary of our wedding. Mr. Scrappington.-Well, you needn't taunt me with it.-Puck.

She Lived in Three Centuries.

Buda Pesth Cor. Chicago Inter Ocean. Born in 1791, a women named Anne Farkas has just died at Korenez, in the County of Gyor, Hungary. The last of her relatives died when she was 97, since when she has been a pauper. She enjoyed good health until the end and, without using eyeglasses, read the daily newspapers,

# SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS.

BY J. HENNESSY MURPHY

Reform cannot rise above its source Well, George has more of a Tati front than Jonathan has

Dick Montague's build pate is the only oasis in that bleak and windy, what-d'ye-call-it?

He that escaped the big stick can now sharpen his wits for the heavy foot. The Hon, John B. Siyan has his reward in his reminiscences.

The danger in throwing open swell churches to the unlaundered and weary live in stirring up a crop of poems to a Spring

What does the seasoned mind think of the new charter? It thinks a wise man's thoughts shouldn't irritate his threat.

So that moral squad passed the civil service examination? Yes; Haw, Haw, Haw, Haw, a long and immoderate Haw, Haw,

Haw, a fong and immoderate Haw, Haw And they are going to plie the cross of reform on to the broad and manly shonl-ders of Judge Van Zante, but it will be packed back again to the license committee of the Common Council with a wreath of steaming logal maxims from a Dutch bake even What tell has reform to do with law, anyway?

law, anyway? Colonel Tom Guinean for Mayori That's the calomell Back to the spirit of the ante-hellum days, the chirairic mich, the in-etfable pose. Here is a protagonust is warm up to, a philosopher, a philosophist and a fear-less municipalogist; a purpative for guile and a purfler for natural scale, a resture that dissipates doubts and actuples with one fell gwipe; a volce cooling the hot air pumps and henceart degrees, an oracular dead-shot theoring innevators, an oracion m-guing.our libertics out of reformers, by gad, air, yoa, air. What conduces more to pace, olvic manners and social amenities than a gentleman and a drink?

# Baker Herald. The big stick will not suffice in Oregon. It is not severe enough. What this state needs is a huge thorny prod held in the hand of a big man of muscle, whose soul is clean and whose heart is honest. And with

their tribe.

birds think as well as eat.

Oregon's Hulf Centenny.