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Portland, Thursday, Aug. 12, 1909.

RIVALRY OF THE RAILROADS.

The "opposition" company that has undertaken a railroad in Deschutes Canyon, towards Middle Oregon, has now an apparent advantage.

The Oregonian would fain believe it a genuine effort. Preparation has been making for it a long time. A good deal of money has been put into it already.

The indications for continuance of the effort are good and strong. Yet there has been some who, hanging and tense, simulation, false-start, double-game and hagger-mugger business, in the matter of railroad construction in Oregon, that something still must be pardoned to doubt, hesitation and feeling of uncertainty.

Now, these movements, having an unusual impulse and activity, must tend towards some result. The situation is more acute than it has been heretofore.

The Irrigation Congress at Spokane opens a wide field of discussion and argument. But what is the real importance, the problem of transportation underlies everything else, irrigation included.

But let us not throw discredit on the sincerity of the effort. Two parties, each apparently having powerful backing, are pushing, or endeavoring to push, railroad construction through a narrow gorge, 140 miles in length, at Oregon.

What we are apprehensive about, however, is this, namely, that these parties will succeed in tying each other up, and that the result will be like that of the Kilkenny cat-fight, when, instead of a single victor, there are two dead.

WHEAT AND THE TARIFF.

The Oregonian at various times has called attention to the brilliant arguments presented by the American Economist in favor of a high tariff on wheat, barley and other grains.

Some laborers for such a large army of laborers or tradepeople, that is an insurance fund against want and a credit to individual endeavor.

These are statements that are readily interpreted. They mean prosperity that extends to the masses—riches in which the people share.

GOVERNMENT'S LAND LOTTERY.

Since the King can do no wrong, a lottery may be carried on by the Government, and censure of the proceeding is useless.

The valid argument against lotteries is the injury they do to individuals, by causing them to waste their substance on schemes of chance, and by weakening the moral foundations of good citizenship.

Incidental to the "drawing" conducted by the Government, and to the expenditure for it, is the expenditure of vast sums of money by the participants, for railroad fares, hotel bills, fees of notaries and lawyers, etc.

MESSAGES FROM ETERNITY.

The Sutton women resort to a dream vision to prove that young Sutton was set upon and killed by his companions. It would be more rational to say, however, that the improbability of the thing makes it more probable.

STOCKS GOING TOO HIGH.

Union Pacific soared up to new high levels in the New York stock market yesterday, selling above 207, with the end not yet in sight.

IMPORTS EXCEED EXPORTS.

The most remarkable feature of our foreign trade for the month of June, as shown in a summary just issued by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor, is the excess of imports over exports.

Dr. Elliot made a mistake.

His five feet of books are excessive. Five inches of books are too many books for a blattant lot among us.

The proposed increase in the tariff on hides is reflected in an increase of more than \$4,000,000 in the amount of imports as compared with June, 1908.

It's a poor rule or rule that will not work both ways, and we are accordingly forced to believe that if the price of wheat is dependent on the tariff we have lost 7 cents per bushel since the bill was agreed on.

SOME COLLIER FACTS.

Fiction of the "Old Cap Collier" and similar lurid tales enabled the founder of Collier's Weekly to accumulate a fortune.

The Lincoln cent is selling in New York at a premium, since no more can be had just now from the mint. Several millions of them were coined, when the work was ordered stopped for preparation of new dies.

It will be a great many years before Colonel Albert A. Pope, who died at the age of 87, will be forgotten by the bicyclists, automobilists and lovers of good roads in this country.

The modern Wall street is becoming a very dangerous place for men of tender years and slight experience. Recent advices from the great financial center report a clever piece of manipulation by which F. Augustus Heinze was relieved of about \$1,000,000.

Why She Was Charitable.

Chicago Record-Herald. "But, mamma, said the judge, 'if you know the name of the woman who has come between your husband and yourself, you ought to make it public.' 'I cannot grant you that, divorce unless you are more specific in your charges.' 'I can give you dates and places, you know that will be enough.' 'That may suffice. Still, I can't understand why, if you know the woman, you decline to let her be named in the proceedings. It is not natural in a case of this kind for a wife to try to shield the woman who has wronged her. You must give some very good reason for doing as you shall be compelled to do.' 'I will, if you please.' 'Well, if you must know, judge, she weighs 185 pounds and has a mistake that you can see across the street. I don't want to be humiliated by having it become known that I was neglected for that.'"

Will the People Bestow Censure?

Chicago News. It is fair to say that Mr. Taft has done what he could. He has made a one-man fight to redeem the pledges of the Republican party and has been moderately successful in the fight.

Murderer Finch is sure the courts have made a mistake.

He is right; they have allowed him too long to dodge the penalty of his crime.

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KEEP THE PRESENT JAIL SITE.

Objection Raised to Both New Locations Now Under Consideration. PORTLAND, Aug. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Now that it has finally been determined that Portland is to have a new City Jail, the question of the selection of proper site is one of paramount importance.

The proposed site near the City Hall is not a proper one either. The only argument that holds good in its favor is that it would be convenient both to the City Hall and to the public.

By reason of long usage, no better site than the present one could be located. The ground occupied by the present structure would afford nearly sufficient ground for all purposes.

It is to be hoped that the Council will be satisfied with this important matter, but will consider the wishes of most of its constituents and decide to build the new City Jail upon the site of the old one.

WATER RATES; NIGHTLY LAWS.

Appeal for Restoration of the Old Flat Rate for Beauty's Sake. PORTLAND, Aug. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Quite frequently I read in the editorial pages of your paper most excellent articles on the perplexing question of meters and water rates.

I have a lot of water in my house, 25x28. Only two in our family. From June 25 to July 27, our family charged for water \$1.50. I did not use water for sprinkling seven days. The month of July was exceptionally cool, consequently requiring less water than ordinary conditions.

The laws of our city are the admiration of visitors. In order to save men and women of moderate means, take as much pleasure as the rich in caring for their lawns, but cannot afford the exorbitant rates in order to have sufficient revenue to make the water works self-supporting, leave the flat rate, which for a six-room house is \$1.00 per month, and for a four-room house \$0.50 per month.

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AGITATE FOR CELLO CANAL.

To Secure Appropriation of the Whole People Must Make Demand. PORTLAND, Aug. 11.—(To the Editor.)—It seems to me that what Brigadier General William L. Marshall, Chief of Engineers of the United States Army, said in an interview reported in the Oregonian of Monday, about the Cello Canal, and the time that may be consumed in building it, is of more than an ordinary interest.

There is no reasonable doubt that Mr. Marshall is correct in his estimate of the matter. The people of the Inland Empire have not asked Congress to put in this much-needed improvement in a way to build the canal, and ask in the right way, they can have it in a shorter period.

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SHOULD VOICE THEIR APPROVAL.

Portland Taxpayers' Duty to a Mayor Who Does Things. PORTLAND, Aug. 11.—(To the Editor.)—I certainly afford supreme satisfaction to every citizen who wishes a Greater Portland to witness the activity of Mayor Simon in doing things that are for the benefit of the city.

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MODERN FARMER A BUSINESS MAN.

Attention to Detail, Which Spells Success, Applies to Everyone. PORTLAND, Or., Aug. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Editorially The Oregonian this morning says "if you are looking for a life of leisure, stay away from the farm."

Why not as well say, "Stay away from the office, the store, the shop, the factory, the house you are building, etc.?" It might also be added, in advisory fashion, "Get an automobile and pay no bills."

Thousands of busy merchants (the average one invests 15 to 18 hours daily to business matters. Infinite detail comprehends and constitutes their survival in the field of commerce.

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SMILE A LITTLE.

St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Dispatch. There's mighty few days when things go so well as they do now.

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