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RIVALRY OF THE RAILBOADS. "opposition" company that has undertaken a railroad in Deschutes Canyon, towards Middle Oregon, has now an apparent advantage. How will It use the advantage? Will it hold the advantage and push it? Or is this monstration only a part of a

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. indications for continuance effort are good and strong. Yet there has been so much felgning and pre tense, simulation, false-start, double game and hugger-mugger in the matter of railroad construction In Oregon, that something still must be pardoned to doubt, hesitation and

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

The Irrigation Congress at Spokane opens a wide field of discussion and endeavor. But whatever may be its importance, the problem of transportation underlies everything else, irriga-tion included. There must be means of getting into a country and getting out of it. People will not go far, these times, beyond the limits of railroad extension-as they did in early times when they trudged over the plains But so great is the facility of railroad construction in these times and so sure are the rewards of build ing, even in advance of settlement of the country—as experience in all our new states has shown-that a new country has a right to express impa tience with the sluggard and obstruc tive policy that keeps it "bottled It has been a favorite theory with the Harriman people that Eastern Oregor was a desert country, which would supply no traffic. Why, then, the sudden effort to get into it, against a

But let us not throw discredit on the cerity of the effort. Two parties, each apparently having powerful backing, are pushing, or endeavoring to push, railroad construction through a narrow gorge, 140 mues in length. At several points they must come into closest possible contact. Yet for the larger part of the way they need not. But if there are to be two roads, they must occupy, here and there, a com mon roadbed-for no long distances, perhaps., yet still there must be some kind of agreement and accommoda-It may be that no more than 10 per cent of the entire line would be subject to these conditions. Now if there are to be two roads, this should be arranged, by some method of agreement or arbitration, under legal stipulation or orders of court, so that neither should obstruct the other, and that the cost at the points of contact and difficulty might be equitably shared. Under such arrangement construction by both parties may go or amicably, and the test would be made or whether both have resolution to see it through. One road is enough, into Middle Oregon, by this route; but if the parties contending there want two, why, of course, all Oregon Only it must be said that all Oregon wants one, for sure.

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 two cats, there weren't Then Eastern Oregon would be remanded to silence and solitude and Some solution doubtless would come, in the course of everlasting to wait much further in these matters upon the movement of the eternal years-though their country has so accustomed to it. Oregon hasn't had a square deal; and even if now it can't get any actual railroad building, it is a break of the protracted silence to find two contending forces trying to prevent each other from doing anything. A herd of buffalo, rushing over the plain, banishes for the gent slience and solitude; and the dull town that gets "shot up" has at

We suppose, however, a railroad into Middle Oregon will come out of this contest. We believe it will. Railroad service is the one need of the state and Oregon is the one state of the forty-six which has been most neglected. It is because that till the pres ent time there has been no effort to break into the one-railroad system that has hitherto always been in control in Oregon, there is general sympathy with this effort now, Hence, of everybody wants this effort to succeed

Deposits in the savings banks of the country are held to be one of the most reliable indications of the prosperity of the common people. Since prosperity that does not extend to the people is fictitious and unstable, the amount of their deposits is a matter of general interest. Statistics are usually and proverbially dry reading. Not so, Controller of the Currency. upon this point. They show that in about 1500 savings banks of the United States, nearly 9,000,000 depositors have on deposit the almost conceivable sum of \$2,560,553,945, or over \$400 to each depositor. This showing in the vast aggregate means nothto the average conception of

The smaller sum, however, appeals diata and pronounced advance the general understanding and prices? proves a nucleus of financial inependence, a certificate of per- cordance with the American Economist | manufactured articles. The effect of a quack doctor.

sonal thrift for each of a large army of laborers or tradespeople, that an insurance fund against want and a credit to individual endeavor Like the tremendous bulk of wheat that is the golden promise of the present harvest, this great sum in aggregate simply staggers comprehens But when the average of \$400 to each depositor is mentioned, the statemen is as clear and satisfactory as is that which supplements the report of great wheat yield with the words Wheat is one dollar and fifteen cents a bushel and is likely to go higher These are statements that are read-

ottery may be carried on by the Gov-

ng is useless. But the government of

the state would send to the peniten

tiary all persons attempting lotteries

even in less open ways than this great

land lottery at Spokane; and the Gov-ernment of the United States would

punish by fine and imprisonment th

se of the mails for forwarding any

such scheme, or any resembling it

even in remote features, as it is now

conducting through its own agents and

The valid argument against lotteries

is the injury they do to individuals,

stance on schemes of chance, and by

good citizenship. Lottery is robbery of the great mass who participate, for

orporation," it has no blushes for its

Incidental to the "drawing" conduct-

preparation for it, is the expenditure

of vast sums of money by the particl

pants, for railroad fares, hotel bills, fees of notaries and lawyers, etc.-

amounting in the aggregate to greater sums that all the land would fetch, if

put up at ordinary sale. A single town

in Washington reports Its people strag

gling along the roads over the way

home, after an expenditure of \$40,000

The Denver Republican joins The Oregonian in the opinion that not one

in a hundred of those who registered

as applicants had any intention, even

a chance" in a lottery, which is always

lowed, invariably rush in upon the smallest hope of winning even the poorest prize. The Government of the

United States ought to be in better

ousiness than that of promotion of

scheme in comparison with which

the little grab game of Puter and his

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 for them,

however, to rely on the improbability

of the young man's shooting himself in

sailants. There was evidently a scuffle

between the quarrelsome young man

was neither suicide nor murder,

and others of his kind, and the result

death from discharge of Sutton's gun. There ought to be some way of ferret-

ing out the surviving parties to this

death scene and of meting out to

them some punishment for their par-

ticipation in it. But that cannot be

shot," the women say Sutton told them after he was dead, "was when I woke up in eternity." If justice is to be ad-

ministered on the vision of a dream, it will be the most wonderful thing in

the civilized world since dreams and

fast-growing intelligence in the world

that disbelieves in dreams and reve-

lations of every age and regards them

as products of imagination and supe

heated brain. Evidence that eternity

sends back any intelligible message

other than the ordinary physical phe-nomena, is wholly lacking, and none has ever been believed by rational

distribution of matter and of phys

forces, in which process one individual ity continuously is lost and another i

created. Intelligence or mind is but a

function of matter; we can conceive of

tell no tales, and if anybody thinks

that Sutton, after his body was in de

cay, could speak in his old voice or move in his old shape, that person be-

longs to the dark ages. If Sutton had been planted under a rose bush, he

could have appeared again in leaves and flowers, but not as Sutton. That

is the only credible message ever re

ceived from the dead. In the death of

the rose and the change to the per-

fume bottle, there would be another

new individuality, or function of mat

last, but the Sutton women are not

Besides, we have only their word for what they allege they saw and heard.

The safest persons to believe are those

WHEAT AND THE TARIFF.

The Oregonian at various times has alled attention to the brilliant argu-

ments presented by the American Economist in favor of a high tariff on

wheat, barley and other grains, of which this country is a large exporter

and never an importer. About six weeks ago, when revision of the tariff

was being made at Washington, the Economist lifted up its voice in an earnest appeal for retention of the present high duty on wheat, and in

support of its demands called attention

to the high prices at which wheat was

selling and the great prosperity of the

farmers. It indignantly rebuked those who sought to show that it was not the

tariff that was responsible for the ab-normally high prices, and predicted

ties if any change other than an ad-

vance in the schedule were made in the tariff on wheat and other grains.

days of July. To be specific, it was July 30, when American steel, wheat

and other great staples were declared

out of danger from tariff legislation

The wheat market had held its own all through the trying four months in which the enemies of the farmer were

seeking to let down the tariff bars and swamp it with cheap wheat, and what

ould be more natural than an imme-

Did the advance materialize in ac-

As will be recalled (perhaps with re-

distress in the farming communi-

now dreaming or not supposed to

who don't dream.

farmers.

Dreams are true only while they

ter, again far different from Sutton.

either outside of matter.

Death is dissolution and re-

witchcraft were banished. There is a

The first I knew that I had been

accomplished through visions.

combat instead of shooting his as

adds that it is the old story of

crowd was innocence itself

attractive to multitudes, who, if

"farming it." The Republican

ed by the Government, and to

by causing them to waste their

the benefit of the lucky few.

since the Government is a

own act.

weakening the moral foundations

rnment, and censure of the pro

which the people share.

before the main sheet of protection was hauled home and made fast. It's a poor rule or mule that will not work both ways, and we are ingly forced to believe that if the price wheat is dependent on the tariff we have lost 7 cents per bushel since the bill was agreed on. Government estimates now place the crop at more ily interpreted. They mean prosperity that extends to the masses-riches in than 700,000,000 bushels, and, reducing the loss to cash, it seems reasonably clear that our wheatgrowers have los GOVERNMENT'S LAND LOTTERY. nearly \$50,000,000 since the tariff bill Since the King can do no wrong, was agreed on.

logic? Not so it could be noticed. As

fact, September wheat was in demand

the day before the conference commit-

tee decided to save the American grain

from foreign competition, at \$1.05 % per bushel. Yesterday it fell as low

as 97%c and closed at 98%c, or

cents per bushel less than it was worth

matter of cold, hard, market-column

SOME COLLIER PICTION Fiction of the "Old Cap Collier" and similar lurid types enabled the founder of Collier's Weekly to accumulate a fortune. The evolution from the dime novel business to Collier's Weekly has brought with it but little change so far as the Collier preference for fiction over facts is concerned. It is doubtful if there is another publication in the United States, making pretensions for accuracy or truth, that is more un-reliable or carcless in its statements than this same Collier's Weekly. topic of transcontinental freight rates interesting at this time, and, in lieu f any facts bearing on the case, Col-Her's immediate successor of the yel low-backed dime novel confidently presents some of its own manufac tured-to-order opinions.

Apparently desirous of belittling the water transportation, on which Pacific Coast ports are obliged to depend for their commercial independ-Collier's in its current makes the statement that "the Amercan-Hawaiian Steamship Company, as oon as it got formidable. pelled to capitulate to E. H. Harriman, who is president of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, which uses the Panama route, and which is the property of the Southern Pacific. The American-Hawaiian Company does not touch at any ports which have South-ern Pacific terminals."

As the Panama rates have never een more than 75 per cent of the rail rates from the East, and at present are but 60 per cent of the rail rates, the only inference that can be drawn from the first part of the foregoing statement is that the "compelling" in fluence in forcing the capitulation of the American-Hawaiian line was the Panama route. The distance from New York to North Pacific ports by way of Panama is 2000 miles greater than by way of the Tehuantepec route which is used by the American-Hawallan line. Portage and termina facilities across the Isthmus of Te-huantepec are incomparably superior to those at Panama. The Harriman steamers on the Panama route are slow, old style vessels, while those of the American-Hawahan line are all new, fast, modern-built craft with every known convenience for ec ical operation and handling of freight. Considering these facts, "capitulation of the American-Hawarian line would

be ensy. "The American-Hawalian Company does not touch at any ports which Southern Pacific terminals, have says the Collier oracle. And yet every man on the Pacific Coast who ships a pound of freight by water knows that the American-Hawailan line "touches" and lands freight at every Southern Pacific terminal on the Pacific Coast. San Francisco has a slight reputation as a Southern Pacific erminal, and last Saturday the American-Hawaiian liner Mexican lande 7000 tons of New York freight in that city exactly twenty-one days after was cleared from New York-fully ten days sooner than it could have reached the "Southern Pacific terminal" over the "capitulation-compelling" Panama e, and in better than the averag time by rall.

In depriving the Pactfic Coast ports of water competition Collier's has made an even more ridiculous show ing than was made by Charles Edward Russell in his magazine articles on

STOCKS GOING TOO HIGH.

Union Pacific soared up to new high evels in the New York stock market esterday, selling above 207, with the end not yet in sight. Other prominent securities shared in the buoyancy of the market, and, viewed from almost any standpoint, it was a very bad day for the bears. Meanwhile increasing strength was reported in the cal ey market.

Here are conditions that cannot very long syist. Either stocks must pause in their upward flight and sag back a little, or money must remain cheap. A feature of the situation that cannot fail to cause some uneasiness is that, the higher prices are forced the greater will be the distance to be covered in the inevitable fall. Union Pacific is a first-class stock, but it is a 7 per cent stock, and when it is carried to double par it loses some of its attractiveness and requires artificial aid to keep it inflated.

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 Depart ment of Commerce and Labor, is excess of imports over exports, it being many years since this seeming balance of trade against us has been in evidence. This excess amounted to but \$5,000,000, but its importance is apparent when it is noted that imports increased from \$92,106,928 in June, 1908, to \$124,665,125 in June, 1909 while the exports of \$117,419,589 for June, this year, compare with \$115,-269,280 in June, 1908. The value of these figures for comparison with the business of former years is, of course, lessened somewhat by reason of the unusual conditions brought about by the long-threatened tariff changes.

Importers who were fortunate enough to guess right, or who might have had inside information on some accomplished and agreed on by the conference committee in the closing days of July. To be specific it gate business of this kind swelled the totals sufficiently to bring about the remarkable showing noted. Not all of this shifting of the balance of trade was caused by the threatened tariff changes, however, for abnormally small exports of foodstuffs and cotton cut down the exports very materially In crude materials for use in manu-facturing, there was an increase of more than \$15,000,000 over the imports for June, 1908, and there was also an increase of about \$8,000,000 in

the proposed increase in the tariff on hides is reflected in an increase more than \$4,000,000 in the amount of imports as compared with June and wool imports also showed a \$4,900,000 increase for the month

A heavy increase in tea imports, but a still greater decrease in coffee imports, is somewhat confusing if we apply the tariff test to determine the reason therefore. Some explanation for this paradox may be found in the fact that coffee imports were abnor mally heavy in the months preced-ing June. For example, we find that in the fiscal year ending June 30, there was an increase of \$12,000,000 in the amount of coffee imported, and the stocks entered prior to June were un-doubtedly so heavy that it became necessary for the safety of the market to ease up during the month of June. As the proposed changes in the tariff had reached a more definite stage July, we may reasonably expect the imports for the first month in the current fiscal year to be even greater than those for June. This anxiety to rush much-needed commodities into ountry to avoid the payment of higher duties offers pretty conclusive evidence even though evidence is not needed, to show that the American consumer t the individual who is being mulcted for the protection of the American trusts. In spite of the inequality and unfairness of the policy, there is some thing encouraging in the increased business shown in June, pointing as it does to renewed industrial activity and a corresponding increase in the pur chasing power of the people.

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. The Director of the Mint, noting the initials of the designer on the coin, "V. D. B., has ordered the initials save the final one to be dropped, and that one will small and obscure. The designer Victor D. Brenner, of New York, who presented a study of Lincoln's face in its kindliest mood. He says he understood that his initials might go on the coin, and that the like often been done heretofore. The New York Times of August 6 said: "Not in the history of the Sub-Treasury has there been a more feverish scramble to exchange money than has been wit-nessed since the mint turned out these ow cents. Wall street, as it looked on verterday, recalled the excitement about some of the institutions which suspended payment during the panic two years ago. So great did the crush become in Pine street, from Nassau to William, that the police reserves were called, to move the crowd."

It will be a great many years before Colonel Albert A. Pope, who died at Boston, Tuesday, will be forgotten by the bicyclists, automobilists and le of good roads in this country. While not the inventor of the bicycle, Colonel Pope was among the first to recognize that it was something more than a pleasure vehicle, and his work in the ause of good roads had much to do with increasing the sale of bicycles and automobiles all over the United The fact that his interest in this movement was partly a merce one in no manner affects its merits, for in nearly every state in the Union will be found stretches of good roads built for the bicyclists or automobilists, which afterwards were appropriated as thoroughfares over which farm produce and merchandise could transported much more economically than before. Colonel Pope was a publie benefactor, even though he profited by his hobby.

The modern Wall street is becoming a very dangerous place for men of ten-der 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 \$50,000. Pre-viously to this escapade the late H. H. Rogers was the only man who ever succeeded in taking anything away from Heinze without the aid of chloro-form or knockout drops. The Walla Walla farmer who was buncoed out of \$2500 by the ancient mining stock game should not feel very badly about it, for the story of his loss appeared on the same page of yesterday's Ore-gonian with that of the Heinze mystery. Wall street will be obliged, however, to keep taking money away from Heinze for a good many years before it evens up the score for what he cost the country's financial headquarters

'A letter to The Oregonian, written one who is puzzled over enthno by one who is puzzled to the logical and cosmological and theological notions, which, he says, "our pulpiteers require us to believe," asks: "Whom did Cain and Seth marry, and where did the two women come from?" It's questions like this that give useless trouble. "De Lawd," said the colored brother, at the beginning of his sermon, "made man out ob dust, which means de clay ob de earth, and set him up against de picket fence to dry." "Stop dar, pahson," exclaimed the skeptic hearer, "who made dat picket fence?" "You shet up, nigwas the retort. "Sech questions will spile any system of theology."

Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, speaking about the tariff, said: "My philosophy from my earliest responsibility has been: Contend for what you want; take all you can get; if you cannot get all you want, fight for the balance. Ther is no rate in this bill too high for me. Whatever criticism there may be of the 'philosophy," this is downright speech,

Mr. Rosenberg, speaking for As-toria gillnetters, says wheels of the Upper Columbia kill the seed salmon. Certainly. And so do the other kinds of gear that, in all, take about 95 per cent of the salmon that are caught in the Columbia River.

Dr. Eliot made a mistake. His five feet of books are excessive. Five inches of books are too many books for a blatant lot among us. Then the decimal might be employed, with no integer.

The warring parties in the Deschutes will await the decision of the court. Thus far, then, there is room for only one railroad in the canyon.

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.

A doctor at Alton, Ill., says that farmers can destroy potato bugs by teaching ducks to eat them. Probably

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 determine that Portland is to have a new City Jail, the question of the selection of proper site is one of paramount importance. There is a well-founded opposition to the acquisition of the site at Park and Everett streets, without denying the fact that it can be acquired for the seemingly reasonable sum of \$12,000. The opposition is largely due to the fact that an institution at this site would be too close to the children's playgrand, and that the disgraceful and degrading spectacles it would present would have a contaminating influence upon youthful minds. Even removing the children's playground a block or two farther south would not help matters much, for it would still be within the sphere of the same debasing that Portland is to have a new City Jal within the sphere of the same dehasing

It is understood that, whereas the Council committee recommended that the resolution providing for the purchase of this particular site "do not pass," yet its recommendation would be ignored. Furthermore, that indications are reported to point to a line-up of a majority vote to this end. Such action would be a serious menace and one which the thinking public should not countenance. The good morals of our children are too important, and such a storm of protest should arise that the Council will not dare to defy public opinion. Then, again, the site is not a convenient one, nor has anything in its favor, but everything

The proposed site near the City Hall is not a proper one either. The only argu-ment that holds good in its favor is that ment that holds good in its layor is that it would be convenient both to the City Hall and Courthouse. The same idea was suggested some years ago, but the resi-dents of that neighborhood bitterly op-posed it in their section of the city as a stench to their moral nostrils, and most properly so, and the scheme failed. The same argument is doubly potent now. By reason of long usage, no better site

than the present one could possibly be selected. It is the only logical location. The ground occupied by the present structure would afford nearly sufficient ground room for all purposes. It is in a sense out of the way from public gaze, yet conveniently near for its special pur-poses. It cannot contaminate the rising generation, for comparatively few children pass that way. It is in a business and not a residence district and cannot offend decent families. The 25 feet along Second street, to the north, adjoining the old building, can be acquired free of charge from the owner, if the city will grant him a lease of the city's ont at the foot of Stark street, for 30 front at the foot of Stark street, for 39 years. This he proposes permanently to improve, to the amount of \$50,000 to \$15,000 and give ample bonds therefor. At the expiration of the lease, the lessee will turn the property over to the city. Could anything be better for the city, all things considered? It is a practical solution of the problem.

It is to be hoped that the Council will not set, bestily upon this important mat-

not act hastily upon this important mat-ter, 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. Questions of sentiment aside, even, does not this plan appeal to the sound husiness judgment of the city? I M. G. GRIFFIN

WATER RATES: SIGHTLY LAWNS. Appeal for Restoration of the Old Fint 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 note it is the intention to raise the rate, as 10 cents per 100 cubic feet of water and the mimimum charge of 25

rate, as 10 cents per law outer text water and the minimum charge of 25 cents per month does not provide sufficient revenue.

I have a lot 48x100 feet, occupied by a house 25x28. Only two in our family. From June 29 to July 27, two days less than a month, my water bill was \$1.50. I did not use water for sprinkling sevendays. The month of July was exceptionally cool, consequently requiring less water. Under ordinary conditions my water bill would have been at least \$2 for the month of July, which amount was my old rate before a meter was installed. I did not waste any water, but kept my lawn in good condition. kept my lawn in good condit

Several of my neighbors, who give their lawns good care, have bills of about the same amount. One man, owning two lots (160x100), used the hose for 20 days in July, and paid 4.30; others, who neglect their lawns, pay very small amounts. I think it poor policy to raise the rate, and discourage the use of plenty of water on lawns. The city is spending large sums for parks and I think it a good investment to furnish water for lawns at a very low price, and thus encourage its use, and thus help to beautify our city. The lawns of our city are the admiration of all visitors, and many owners of n July, and paid \$4.30; others The lawns of our city are the admiration of all visitors, and many owners of houses, men and women of moderate means, take as much pleasure as the rich in caring for their lawns, but cannot afford an exorbitant rate. In order to receive sufficient revenue to make the water works self-supporting, leave the old flat rate, which for a six-room house is \$1 per month, and for the four Summer months add 50 cents per month for a single lot, making the minimum charge during that time \$1.50 per month. If this plan were adopted the amount realized plan were adopted the amount realized from all those taking good care of their lawns would be about the same as in the past and making the minimum charge where water is used for lawns \$1.50 per menth, would encourage the use of water to those now using too little or none, consequently having dried up lawns to the disappointment of their more progressive neighbors, and to the deriment of the city in general.

M. L.

Why She Was Charitable.

Chicago Record-Herald.
"But, madame," 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. What object can you have in shielding her? I cannot grant you a

in your charges."

"I can give you dates and places, your honor, if 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 so or I shall be compelled to dismiss the case."

"Well, if you must know, judge, she weighs 185 pounds and has a mustache that you can see across the street. I don't want to be humiliated by having it become known that I was neglected

it become known that I was neglected for that."

Will the People Bestow Censure?

Will the People Bestow Ceasure?

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. The future of tariff revision rests with the people. Will they bestow censure in the one effective way upon those men in Congress who not only have supported the high schedules of the present high tariff, but have done their best to make some of these schedules materially higher? If so, there will be a noticeable scarcity of standpatters in the next Congress.

The Farmer Boy Wins

New York Mail.

When I was a lad I worked all day at plowing potatoes and at pitching hay. I fed the horses and I cut the corn, and rose at a every blessed morn. I fed those horses so successfulles. That now I have an honorary LL, D.

AGITATE FOR CELILO CANAL. To Secure Appropriation the Whole

People Must Make Demand. PORTLAND, Aug. 11 .- (To the Editor.) at what Brigadier-Marshall, Chief of Engineers of the United States A gonian of Monday, about the Cellic Canal, and the time that may be con-sumed in building it, is of more than The complet passing importance delay of that work may mean many mil-lions of money, lost or won, by the peo-ple of the Inland Empire. What did Mr. Marshall say? He said

the canal could be completed in three and the canal could be completed in three and a half years, or as now going, it might take 20 years. Who can decide whether it shall be the aborter or the longer period? Mr. Marshall says that is a question that is largely up to the people here. If they ask the Government to build the canal, and ask in the right way, they can have it in the shorter period if they do nothing, as in the past, i may take the longer period. There is no reasonable doubt that Mr

Marshall is correct in his estimate of this matter. The people of the Inland Empire have not asked Congress to put in this much-needed improvement in a way to impress that body and the country with its importance. Our three or four deleits importance. Our three or four delegates to Washington have occasionally brought the canal project before the Government, but members of Congress are expected to ask for all sorts of things for their states, and not much attention for their states, and not much attention is given to ordinary requests, and especially for river improvements. To impress Congress there must be a movement on the part of the people. Mass and delegate conventions should be held all along the line of the desired improvements, and these meetings of earnest obtained in these should be set forth in ringing to the state of the term should be set forth in ringing to the state of the sta In them should be set forth in ringing resolutions and eloquent speeches, backed by cold facts and statistics, the reasons for the demands they make on the Government. In no other way can the work building this much-needed improve of building this nuch-needed improve-ment be hurried slong. The people as a mass must speak in this matter or it will not move, and I am glad Mr. Mar-shall has put the responsibility where

shall has put the responsition of the properly belongs.

An effort was made six or eight years ago to inaugurate a movement of this kind, but the people of the inland Empire were dead to its importance of the properties of the p

I grew to manhood on the banks of the Mississippi River, midway between Upper and the Lower Rapids, and I kn how appropriations were secured to edy these obstructions. It was by public meetings and constant pressure on Congress that the people finally got what they wanted. And now, year in and out, they industriously pursue the same policy and Congress gives heed to what they

congressmen are all right enough in a way-a sort of necessary evil-but they do not amount to much, especially in the dependent of the second second content of the second conten matter of river improvement, unless they are vigorously backed by the public. LEVI W. MYERS.

SHOULD VOICE THEIR APPROVAL. Portland Taxpayers' Duty to a Mayor Who Does Things.

PORTLAND, Aug. 11.—(To the Editor.)—It certainly affords supreme satisfaction to every citizen who wishes a Greater Portland to witness the activity of Mayor Simon in doing things and making quick decisions regarding many absolutely necessary improvemany absolutely necessary improve ments which have hung fire and pro-

needs which have hand the and placed concless wrangling in the past, rithout beneficial results to any one. For instance, the cost of paving, the ocation of engine-houses, the cremanand last, but not least, the jail site, have all been productive of more or less acrimonious debate in the past and that was all. Now, Mayor Simon very mensibly decides the present location of the crematory is the best, says so, and goes to work to secure that very much needed improvement at once, without asking every individual property-owner, push club president, real estate agent or minister in town, his individual opinion or interest. Now we will have a crematory. He has used the same good judgment regarding the jail site. Everybody agrees with him, so we will have the new jail and the much-needed emergency hospital, both in close proximity to the busy downtown district, the Union depot and the wharves, where most of the accidents and arrests will likely be made, and in a district where there are comparatively few American children

Again we taxpayers and property owners should certainly voice our ap owners should certainly voice our ap-proval of every move our Mayor makes to lower the cost of street paving and to secure more small parks and rest-ing places. In fact 39 per cent of the best citizens do approve these things, but few voice their sentiments except the "knockers," so that the most valuable services receive but slight acknowl-edgment during the life of the person rendering them. Promoting the public's welfare certainly merits publicl lic's weither certainly ments puonely expressed approval, and here's hoping that politics and politicians will entirely cease to obstruct in the least the future growth and greatness of our fair city and state. Portland's and Oregon's greatest need is doers, not ob atructionists. G. E. WALLING.

Our National Guard No Fiction. New York Mail.

New York Mail.

"National Guard" is a true phrase now. Until very recently it was a fiction. We shall have a true National Guard—when we have the men. But at the present moment the organized militia, on the new basis, does not number more than 110,000 men all told, and perhaps 25,000 of these would not be found fit for active service. There are only six states in the Union that have an organized militia of more than 4000 men, and those six states are all in the northeastern part of the country. All and yourself. You ought to make it public. What object can you have in shielding her? I cannot grant you a divorce unless you are more specific in your charges."

"I can give you dates and places, Milltarism? Not in the least. An or-Militarism? Not in the least. An organized citizen soldiery is the opposite of militarism—it is an insurance against it. Without a National citizen-guard of at least 500,000 men, we must have a larger Regular Army. With it, the Regular Army need never be increased, if the population of the country rose to 15,000,000. It is plain common sense: Is Switzerland, where every man is a trained and ready soldier, and where there is no regular army at all. where there is no regular army at all, a militaristic country? And is Switzer-land the only country in the world that is capable of defensive common sebse?

Sneer at "A Cheap Skate."

The Hon. Willis Lather Stoole, counce of the Weather Bureau, wants young men as forecasters. The venerable vaticinator about to be transferred from this town to Providence totters under his 49 years. Mr. Moore is 53. Young weather seers have the hopefulness and victous pride of youth. The ness and victous pride of youth. The older, except the elastic Micawher Moore, have been saddened by repeated disappointment. That a man more than 25 can go on predicting the weather shows, as Dr. Johnson said of second marriages, the triumph of hope ove experience.

Smile a Little.

St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Despatch. There's mighty few days when things go

wrong.
That can't be helped by single a song, and mighty few burdens placed on us here But a smile will lighten em more'n a tear, and a lough and a song—well, they're just For gettin' the best of grim old Pate!

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 fare."

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."

The writer knows one grocer (and he is one of thousands) who rises at 5:30 A. M., and is hard at work hustling sacks of flour and feed, packing cases and other heavy merchandise until 8 P. M. This man's evenings are given to

Reeping his accounts.

Thousands of busy merchants (the successful ones) devote 14 to 18 hours daily to business matters. Infinite dedaily to business matters. Infinite demrvival in the field of commerce

survival in the field of commerce.

Turn now to the farmer, who, we are
told by The Oregonian, "may have a
very independent life, but he must
assure himself that it requires the
most careful and patient attention to
every detail." What business does not?
Failure is sure to follow a neglected
business.

Modern farming is today the surest form of business investment. Not the farmer who ill-farms 160 acres, but the former who intelligently farms five, 15 or 40 acres, is the man whom The Oregonian about take as the type for a standard. That man who takes from the government 160 acres and sells it. as soon as he, by patent, acquires fee simple title, is speculating, not farming, Soil culture, The Oregonian mays, is not better understood. To quote: "But we don't know our soils better than they did in Vergil's time."

they did in Vergil's time.

Charlemagne made it possible for the tillers of soil under the Franco-Gaulish empire to reclaim neglected farm lands in Normandy and Brittany which had in Normandy and grittany which and become re-forested in the long period of wars. These lands have been for a thousand years the garden spot of sunny France. Does The Oregonian wish to concede that the vitalising principles of these soils could have maintained without constantly proving methods of soil culture? Gibbon and Guizot may be quot

noted to show that in the time of Vergil even the fertile valley of the Po became soil impoverished and received its richest fertilization by the flesh and hones of Roman soldiery and their antagonists.

Roman soldiery and their antagonists.
Dry soil farming may have been practiced in Vergil's time, rather from necessity than for scientific reasons, but there is no record of exhaustive treatises on the subject.

Rotation of crops possibly resulted in those days for the reason that a man may have forgotten what he did plant between intervening and pestilential wars. wars.

It might be interesting for The Oregonian writer to visit the dealers in agricultural implements for evidence how the farmers work is being light-ened and simplified, yet amplified and extended by means of modern ma-

A First-street dealer tells me that a cow-miking device, entirely practical and easy of operation, is on the market. Cream separators I have seen in use in the far hills of Washington and Tillamook counties, by people who never saw a railway train or a trolley ca. The telephone, rural delivery, good roads, the Government departments and the Grange are making the farmer a business man rather than a day laborer.

Administrative ability goes farther in these times than mere muscular energy. The roll-top desk is in farm hom

The roll-top deek is in tarm momes. Card-index systems, daily diaries and ledgers make a part of the modern farmer's equipment.

The farmer today is just as individual, just as apart from the mere speculator, or "land shark," as it is possible to imaging.

A. C. GAGE.

DIRECT PRIMARY OBSERVATIONS. Necessity of Guiding It by Concurrent

and Representative Action. New York Globe and Advertiser. The direct primary presupposes the intimate participation of the rank and file of a party in making its nomina-If It does not secure such participation it is a humbug with large masses of men individually, to instruct them even legitimately, necessarily means the expenditure of large sums of money. It augura softness of head for any one to assume that the voters, without preliminary education, would come together on primary day and have it suddenly revealed to them who should be nomi-

It also follows that men in any way possessed of the notion that the office should seek the man will not ordinarily be chosen by the direct primary. Hus tling, and hustling of an energetic character, is indispensable to winning There is no place where the direct primary prevails for the receptive candidate. Any one who is unwilling to get out and convince his fellow citizens that he should be chosen has a small chance for office. The direct primary means that the offices, with rare exceptions, will be self-seekers, and every intelligent advocate of the priary system knows this and admits

It is perception of this fundamental and permanent weakness that is inducing Governor Hughes to advocate in this state a provision under which party committees may legally submit recommendations. By granting this privilege he hopes to secure for the public the services of the class of men who will not put themselves forward—who insist on being asked, and who may be counted on to refuse entering on protracted and expensive campaigns of self-laudation. There is not a direct primary state where the faults observed at Indianapolis have not been revealed. They are inherent and irremovable, and they will be particularly protuberent in a state like New York, where the urban population is large. It is perception of this fundamental where the urban population is large.

As Matters Stand Today.

Charleston News and Courier.
The Fiorida policeman who was asked
to name the capital of the state, and
answerd Washington, was not so far wrong, after all.

JUST A FEW SMILES.

We believe it can be safely said that the LL.D. epidemic which was so prevalent in June is new under central —Houston Post. "Did your uncle remember you in his will?" "Oh, yes: he left instructions that the money I owe him be collected."—Judge "Are there any other creatures besides camels who can go a considerable time without water. Willie?" "Yes, air." "Who are they?" "Kentucky colonels, air." -- Baitimore American.

"My money is as good as anybody's," said the aggressive citizen. "Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "fortunately for our commercial system, a dollar is not judged by the com-pany it keeps."—Washington Star. Architect (looking over site)—I would suggest leaving the trees; they'll screen you from the gaze of passers by Client—Mein Gott! Vot do you aubboss I'm spenting fifty tousend dollars on a house for? Gut 'em down—Ilre.

"I have been taking some moving pictures of life on your farm," said a photographer to an agriculturist. "Did you catch my laborers in motion" saked the farmer "I think so." "Ah, well, science is a wonderful thing." Philadelphia Taquirer.

"How does Wrigley like his new home in the country". Treity well. He has to get up in the derk to catch the train, and it's after dark when he gets home. And he aleeps all day Sunday. Last week he begged a day off at the office." "What for?" "So he could get a good look at his home by sunlight."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.