# The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY AUGUST 31, 1909.

### A FAMILIAR CHARACTERIZATION.

Edward D. Shurtleff, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, delivered, a few days ago, to the investigators from New York, his opinions about the direct primary, from experience had with it in his own state.

Value may be supposed to attach to his opinion or judgment from the fact that he is an independent politician, who led the fight against the re-election of Senator Hopkins, and was elected to the Speakership by a combinaof "anti-machine" Republicans and Democrats. Hopkins had received a plurality vote in the primary election, but large numbers of Republicans repudiated the nomination and combined with Democrats to defeat him. Lorimer, it will be remembered,

In his statement to the New York committee, Speaker Shurtleff summed up his objections to the direct primary as follows:

It is a law for the man with the loud voice, or the man with the fat purse, or the officeholder who lavishly distributes parrenage for political ends.

The candidate who, by coercion, by news paper cajolary, by use of money, by use of paironage, can control a plurality of the party rots becomes the party. And he is sound by no pledges and need be loyal to

corrupt officeholder has three chances of renomination and re-election under this law where he has one under the convention system. Any man in office, however corrupt, has a following bound to him by fa-vurs and patronage, with which it is easier tol awing a piurality of the popular vota-tinan a majority of a delegate convention. nder this law the mass of the voters are candidates and the head of the state ticket or do not and cannot know the men for

law-a corrupt officeholder's law-a law that builds up political caure.

These objections do not exhaust the Our experience in Oregon has developed many more. We have found that the direct primary produces a acramble for office, in which men who could best serve the public decline to participate; that plurality candidates, so nominated, will not be supported; that the primary fight disrupts parties and exalts political adventurers; that the system opens a wide door for the intrusion of one party into the affairs of another, and puls into office men who would not be their own standing or merit.

son stands; but measures will be taken for correction of some of its principal evils, by use of assemblies or conventions for suggestion of nominations.

## AWAKENING THE GIANT.

The Chinese and the Japanese seem to be getting much closer together on the Manchurian question, and recent advices indicate a willingness on the part of the Chinese to permit the Japanese to proceed with their railroad construction without further objection. Various influences are responsible for this Chinese submission to a fate they seemed powerless to avert. British inluence, thrown to the aid of Japan in"the controversy, was probably the most Important factor, but there is also a belief that the Chinese are somewhat inclined to take lessons from the Japanese and that at least portion of the more progressive Chinese can see, in the Japanese in vasion, possibilities of a future alliance which may place the star of the yellow race still further in the ascendency

in the Far East. China has marveled at the progress made by Japan and is now awakenng to a realization of its own possibillities on similar lines. If the clent empire is to be assisted by Japan in exploitation of the wonderful resources of the country, it will be only a question of a very short time until the Far East will be in a position serlously to disturb the industrial situation in other parts of the world. The Wall Street Journal, a short time ago, printed an interview with Theodors D. Morgan, formerly general manager of the Atlanta Steel & Tin Plate Company, of Indiana, who has spent several months investigating iron and steel conditions in China. He reports that the supply of Iron ore in China is beyond computation, but he believes that it will be sufficient to meet any conceivable demand for centuries to come. He also reports the presence of vast deposits of manganese ores now extensively used to mix with iron in the manufacture of ship armor plates, and other steel products.

The Chinese have been working on this raw material for many years, but have only recently installed upto-date steel-making machinery, and a single company, the Hanyang Iron Steel Works, located at Hankow, on the Yangtse River, employs 20,000 people. It is in the wages that are of these workers that China has posalbilities for flooding the world with steel at such low prices that compelition with white labor seems an im-The highest priced comion labor is paid seven cents a day for able bodied men, and women are paid cents per day. In the mills, the labor is the blacksmiths, who are paid from \$7.50 to \$20 month; bollermakers coming next, with \$7.50 to \$10 a month. For rollers and heaters, \$6 a month is the maximum, while helpers are paid from heavier.

\$4 to \$5 a month. When China, with the help of Japan, "finds herself," the entire world will be confronted with an economic problem that will not be easy of solution. The construction of a tariff barrier stand firm as the crisis approaches. against the automobile. Nor is the face value. He knows.

of sufficient height to shut out sevencents-per-day labor, engaged in the manufacturing, from unlimited supply of cheap raw material, will be no easy task. The industrial battle, for which the Far East is making preparation, may be more deadly in so effects than any that could be fought with powder and shell.

"THE SISTERS" AND THEIR BOOK.

The history of a state should include an account of all the efforts that have contributed to its foundation and growth. Among the efforts that have made Oregon what It is are those of our missionary and religious orders. Prominent among them are Roman Catholics, whose educational and humanitarian work, in conjunction with the propagation of their religion, has been incessant, from the arly time. A beautiful and effective part of this

ork has been done by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, who now have published a book which ves a modest account of the work of the Sisterhood in Oregon-under the "Gleanings of Fifty Years." The true date of the book is Sixth of November, 1859, when the Sisters esablished a boarding and day school n Portland. There were six pupils in St. Mary's Academy on that opening day-three of whom were Catholics, two were Hebrews, and one "a non-Catholic." St. Mary's Academy ever since has been one of the fixed and prominent educational institutions of Portland, and a throng of girls and young women, of various religious denominations, or without definite ecclesiastical connections, have passed through its halls, to lives of active womanhood in Oregon and adjacent

states. The account of the work of the Sisters is most modestly and touchingly written. It is not confined to the work in Portland, but extends to Sato Baker City, to Astoria, lem. Seattle, to Spokane, and to other towns and cities of the Northwest. Qujet as the tone of the book is, there is in it a sort of paean of triumph all the more effective, because not in the least obtrusive. It is a modest historical record of devoted work, of the kind whose fruits outlast all the noisy occasional triumphs of

their little day. The Sisters-twelve of them-left Montreal September 16, 1859. ing via Panama, they arrived at Portland October 21, of the same year On their arrival they were assisted by Mr. S. J. McCormick, well remembered still by the few remaining pioneers of that time.

Much of the value of the book lies in the history it preserves of the introduction and progress of Catholic missionary work in Oregon. Here it meets a want hitherto unsupplied. Many pens have recorded the efforts and work of Protestant missionaries in our primitive field, but no sketch so good as this of the work of the Catholic Church has appeared hitherto.

We are glad this book has been written and published. It fills a gap in our history which it were a pity not to be occupied. What could be more beautiful than such modest record of these earnest, devoted and self-sacrificing lives?

CURBING CANNONISM. The country has no reason to deplore the fight which Representative gave their lives to save those of the Charles N. Fowler, of New Jersey, and passengers. More than this, the pasagainst Mr. Cannon. Apart from the fact that they are fully justified in surviving members of the crew acquitattacking the Speaker by the way he ted themselves of duty nobly. considered at all upon any estimate of has treated them, it is also true that The Supreme Court of Illinois has The President is a progressive man, annulled the law of that state, on con-stitutional grounds. The law in Ore-and next Winter he will present a pro-disputed her passage. Thirty minutes This programme Mr. Cannon will fight by his usual clandestine He will act toward Mr. Taft's adtoward Mr. Roosevelt's, for the and most of her crew to safety. Speaker is a thoroughgoing reactionary and a loyal servitor of the privi-

> But, now that a fight has been started against him in his own party, his power for evil will necessarily be greatly curtailed. He can no longer carry out his quiet and invisible schemes so smoothly as heretofore. There is some hope that he cannot carry them out at all. Mr. Fowler is an able and determnied man. He is the best financier in the lower house, and it illustrates the evil of Cannonism that the Speaker was able to deprive the country of Mr. Fowler's servces by his more flat out of pure personal malice. But the deed has been done and now the member from New Jersey can lose nothing and may gain a great deal by fighting Mr. Cannon and dethroning him. Nor will he lack help. Victor Murdock, of Kansas, a valiant knight, will be at his side unfallingly, and pretty nearly all Congressmen from the Middle West will back them up. Thus attacked by strong and relentless men of his own party, Mr. Cannon will hardly be the ower he has been. He cannot block Mr. Taft's programme as he did Roosevelt's, though he would like to play the same old game again. Morecountry is entitled to the services of the strong and independent members of Congress, even if the Speaker does not love them, and his power to treat them like disobedient schoolboys ought to be cut off. It is an unhealthy growth on our Govern-

SCIENCE AND FRATERNAL INSURANCE. Strike and its riotous accompaniment One of the hopeful signs of the times is the dawn of common sense over the realm of fraternal insurance. The beneficiary societies seem to have tore than 8,000,000 certificates in force, which carry obligations amounting to nine billion dollars. The beauty of the situation is that the great body of the insured is now approaching old Naturally the nine age and death. Naturally the nine billion dollars of insuarnce will fall due with terrible speed in the next few years, and the societies are confronted with the question where the money is come from. The old-fashioned assessment system was based on principles altogether misleading. It assumed that a fraternal order 'could continually secure new members nough to keep the death dues down to a reasonable figure, but the lesson of experience is that this cannot be New members will join new societies, while in the old ones the paying members are crushed under a burden which time makes heavier and

The only way to avoid this is to load the assessments in the beginning with a large enough sum to meet the heavier cost of insurance in old age. The societies which have done this

Those which have not done it must either impose cruel burdens upon their old and faithful members or else go into bankruptcy. There is no other choice. The principles of mathematics and the tables of mortality are just as true for beneficiary societies as for the old-line companies. Whenever they are ignored the penalty is sure to follow. Fraternal insurance is now safer and more scientific than it was years ago, but President Hereford's address at the National Fraternal Congreas in Colorado Springs shows that some of the orders still think they can defy the multiplication table and prosper. It is not difficult to foresee their fate.

EXCURSIVE AND DISCURSIVE.

Spain held the primacy among nations four centuries ago, and down nearly to three centuries ago. She had the empire of the world, and her influence and power were impressed on most lands in both hemispheres. She lost the empire of the world by her effort to enforce a dogmatic religious system.

As Christianity was an offsheot of Judaism, so is Protestantism an offshoot of Roman Catholic Christianity. The "protest" against Greek Christianity is still to come. It is beginning, indeed; but its progress will depend largely on political, social and industrial conditions, throughout the Rusan Empire and related states.

The religious principle sets up its creeds and formulas, and endeavors to pforce them. It falls, and ever will fall; for no expression of the religious principle or sentiment in man can have continuance or permanence. The change in religious conception expression, as in all other opinions and concerns of human life, is inces-But the natural tendency of a predominant religious sentiment any state is to ally itself with politipower, for support and enforcement of the combined policy of church and state. The world is nearly delivered from this combination. France, Italy and even Spain, are getting clear It still prevails in Russia and in Turkey-one Christian, the other

The struggle of the world to clear itself of the forms of religion, worship. ped by many for religion itself, is not yet nearly ended. Here are still a number of mighty good people who shudder at the thought that President Taft is to lay the corner stone of a 'Universalist" church at Portland. Why, of course, you know it is impossible for people to be "saved" un-

less they "believe" as we do! Said Oliver Wendell Holmes, to the livinity student at the breakfast table-"If a man hangs my ancient female relatives for sorcery, as they did in this neighborhood a little while ago, or burns my instructor for not believing as he does, I care not more for his religious edicts than I should for those of any other barbarian." Excuse for this quotation lies in the fact that a lot of people have been interesting themselves in the centenary of Oliver Wendell Holmes.

COURAGE IN THE OHIO WRECK. The detailed account of the wreck of the steamer Ohio in North Pacific waters last Thursday night is a story of heroism that is too often unrelated in connection with shipwreck. Three members of the crew—the purser. wireless operator and quartermaster-Republican allies are making sengers themselves acted well the part of courage, and the captain and the

The rapidity with which the ship their campaign will help Mr. Taft. filled and sank gave token both of the gramme of beneficial legislation to from the time that she struck the sea closed over the ship. In the mean-time everybody in authority had been methods, and if he can he will defeat busy, and in midnight darkness, a swirling sea and a drenching rain, the vanced ideas precisely as he did ship's boats carried every passenger

"Women and children first," rang out above the sound of wreck and wind-the voice of Captain Johnson, The fidelity and courage with which this order was obeyed causes this shipwreck in far northern waters to stand out in bold comparison with many a shipwreck on the Atlantic. Notable this respect was the wreck of a French liner off Newfoundland a few years ago, from which not one woman or child escaped. In spite of the most strenuous efforts on the part of the captain and the first officer of the ship the women were crowded back, the children roughly thrown aside and the

men took possession of the boats. Perhaps men wrought upon by fear and facing death should not be judged too harshly. Certainly, when putting personal safety aside and giving preference in mortal stress to those less able than themselves to buffet unmerciful disaster they are entitled to honorable mention.

A CALL FOR GOVERNMENTAL INQUIRY. That there is a real grievance behind the strike of the foreign laborers who have been employed at McKees Rocks, Pa., by the Pressed Steel Car Company, is more than probable. These men, it appears, are foreigners who are not affiliated with unions. Because of their relative helplessness, as foreigners unacquainted with the language of the country, conditions of supply, etc., they have been subject to the most cruel exactions of the company in regard to hours, wages and prices charged for the common necessities of life. are, according to competent authority, the direct result of "unbearable and unbelievable conditions forced upon these defenseless and helpless wage-

workers.' In view of this statement from a responsible source, and of the inexpressibly shocking condition of these esperate men and their wretched families in the center of a prosperous American community, it is high time that some power of official, prudential and humane potency should take cognizance of the sufferings of these peo-

The case is one that, in the opinion of Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, demands in-quiry by the Government through the department of Commerce and Labor. The suggestion is a timely one, or if not timely, it is long overdue. In such rights as these people have—chief of which is the right to earn their bread and that of their families by labor, at a wage sufficient to buy immunity from hunger and nakedness—they should be protected.

Not all of the grave disaster that results from the violent impact of moving vehicles can be charged

careless driver always a chauffeur. car and a wagon drawn by horses and loaded with persons coming home from a picnic was clearly an act of reckless driving on the part of the teamster or car motorman, or both. An empty car, speeding to the barn; a fous to get home after a long day in the woods; the motorman running his car at a high rate of speed within the city limits, upon the presumption that he had a clear right of way; a driver who thought by increasing the speed of his horses that he could clear the track before the rapidly-moving car reached the crossing-these were the elements that placed in jeopardy the lives of eight or ten persons, caused the death of one and resulted in more less serious injury to half a dozen others. As far as reports of the accident now show, the drivers of both ve hicles "took chances," with the result above chronicled. The game is one so constantly and so recklessly played that the wonder in regard to its outcome is not that it occasionally results disastrously, but that it is so generally played with impunity.

The Government is in the market for several thousand tons of hay and oats for shipment to Panama. trary to usual custom, Portland has been invited to bid on the order. The advantages of Portland as a market for grain and forage are known all over the world that Portland dealers have but little difficulty in winning the orders of men who buy and sell on a strictly business system. Unfortunately for our dealers, there has been in the past a tendency on the part of the Government to either har Portland out of the bidding or to insist delivery at points impossible for this city to reach, except at great additional cost. If the Government does not bind too much red tape around its proposals, Portland will have an excellent chance to secure the Panama order.

The threatened extinction of Portand as a wheat port, which was freely predicted by the Tacoma Tribune a few weeks ago, does not appear to be near at hand. Lest Saturday's Tacoma Ledger, in an article which assured us that "daily receipts are growing rapidly," gave the number of carloads received at Tacoma for the first five days last week as eighty-The receipts at Portland for the same five days were 243 carloads. The movement is not yet well under way this season, but there is every reason to believe that the relative postof the two ports will remain throughout the season about as it now stands. If there is any material change, it will be in Portland's favor.

Announcement of better service on the short railroad between Medford and Jacksonville recalls how the county seat of Jackson missed the opportunity to retain its place as the chief city of Southern Oregon. When the Oregon & California (now South-ern Pacific) was extending its line to the Siskiyous, twenty-five years ago, it offered, for a comparatively small bonus, to make a detour so that Jacksonville would be on the main line. The town declined to raise it, so Jacksonville was left "out in the cold." the railroad had gone to Jacksonville the probability is the active and rapidly growing City of Medford would never have sprung .into existence.

"Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink." This plaint of the "Ancient Mariner" represents the condition of thousands of flood-beleaguered people in the inundated regions around about Monterey, Mex. Saniage of the vessel and of her terrible tary conditions, following the subsidence of the waters, will prove a menenter than the flood itself. The situation is one to arouse the greatest compassion and to call for at least secondary aid in the re-establishment of the people in their homes and in the promotion of sanitary regulations that will enable them to live therein.

The old barracks at Fort Canby, which have long been in a state of dilapidation, are soon to be repaired and properly fitted up for accommodation of fifty enlisted men and one commissioned officer, who will be in charge with the duty of keeping the This is guns of the fort in order. This is well. Our coast defences are inadequate enough, if kept in emergency

Orville Wright denies that he is engaged to or about to marry Miss Ada Miller. "I do not know Ada Miller," declares Mr. Wright, a statement needssly supplemented by the assertion: The story is untrue." This, it may be hoped, will set speculation concerning Mr. Wright's matrimonial intentions at rest, before they take on Hobsonian proportions.

The Jewish Tribune (Portland), replying to a critic, says, truly, that there is no hint in the Old Testament of belief in a future life. That is true, though many modern exegetes, in the interest of various religious creeds, have tried to read such doctrine and belief into various Old Testament passages.

It is gravely announced, in co tion with the Ballinger-Pinchot imbroglio, that some persons in official circles have been "talking altogether toe much." Thus perishes another of our cherished traditions. There are no women in the official circle wherein this strife has been brewed.

If it shall be understood that access the President, at Portland, can be had only through Senator Bourne, the people, of course, will govern themselves accordingly. When the Senate committee on irri-

Commercial Club's committee on Irrigation ought not to ask too often "What's yours?" There seem to be too many health authorities whose duty it is to guard Portland's food and milk. What is

everybody's business is nobody's busi-

gation reaches Portland tomorrow, the

Dr. Brougher's dilemma comes not from the salary question, we are told. There ought to be no difficulty, then,

Is each nation going to decide for self which of them won the greatest honor in last week's aerial contests? Within the past week it has been

demonstrated beyond dispute that aviation is not a local matter. Let us accept Mr. Harriman's statement of his physical condition at its ary Brawls, but Successors Do Not. New York Post.

The early history of New York journalism is filled with stories of feuds and affrays. A belligerent editor had then to stand ready to back up his goose-quill with cane or pistol. Violent attacks were common, and the duello was not unknown. The Evening Post had, from the first, a reputation for not being a rufflanly newspaper, yet its annals show that even its editors were not able to keep wholly out of the journalistic tradition. For example, it once paid its respects to two editors of competing journals, in the following lines, which can hardly be sald to breathe sweetness and light:

Lie on, Duane, lie on for pay; And, Cheetam, lie thou too— More against truth you cannot say Than truth can say 'gainst you.

This was before the editorship of William Cullen Bryant, but that venerated man's blographer records the fact that "once he so lost the control of himself that he inflicted personal chastisement upon an adversary who had given him the lie direct." Tempora

It is needless to speak of later periods in New York newspaper exper-ience, when sudden reversions to the old savage methods startled, or amused, the community. The later as-saults have been purely verbal. When "Judas" and "Ananias" were being flung back and forth like missiles, not even the most imaginative reporter expected to see real bullets flying. The antagonists had merely the fury of their journalistic forebears, not their readiness to follow word with blow. eadiness to follow word with blow But even their kind of newspaper quarreling has now dropped below the It lingers in country journal ism, where the habits are more per-sistent and the personal element more pronounced, but city editors have, for the most part, silently abandoned it. Certain reasons for this change in journalistic manners are obvious.

journalistic manners are obvious.
People in general are better behaved
than they used to be, and it would be
a pity if newspaper men had not
shared in the common improvement,
and learned to repeat with satisfaction Colonel Newcome's favorite quotation about emplit mores. Then, too. tation about emollit mores. Then, the Fourth Estate has now acquired a dignity which it once did not possess, and feels under an obligation to support it suitably. When editors had to fight for recognition at all, it was not unnatural that they should occasion-ally exercise their vocabularies and their fists upon each other; but now that their calling has acquired stand-ing, they are charged with the conduct of large property interests, there is no need of their old offensive assertiveness and quarrelsomeness. We think, also, that the newspaper readers have had an influence. They have lost their taste for newspaper rows. Most of these are unintelligible to the public. A certain element, it is true, enjoys a fight, whether it understands the cause or not, but most editors have no fancy for furnishing the same sort of sport that a couple of newsboys would when pummeling each other in the street or tearing out each other's hair. Hence the growing tendency to avoid mere newspaper disputes, and to adopt the Tennysonian rule, when venomously attacked, that the noblest answer to all such is perfect stillness

when they brawl. when they brawl.

This general disappearance of personal editorial disputes in print, we must account a distinct gain, on the whole, for both the public and journalism. There was, however, a certain vigor and directness about the old style which it would be a misfortune entire-ly to lose. Horace Greeley's voice often sounded shrill in his perennial controversies, but he made himself felt as a man of intense convictions and a power on the side of many good causes. The manner, we may see vanish without regret, but the substance ought jealously to be preserved. In a great civic struggle for righteousness, like that in San Francisco, editors must use plain language about their colleagues who go wrong, and we trust the time will never come when newspapers will be afraid to tell the truth about an unscrupulous and mischievous political agitator, even if he happen to be nominally an editor. Such a direct attack cannot be called paper squabble; it is merely a fight for political honesty.

## Understood at Last.

Freeman Tilden, in Smart Set. cause she felt that no one understood

In her girlhood she was alone-noody seemed to understand. Then she became a woman, and she hoped that the man would understand. he wanted to make her happy, so of rse he couldn't.

At last she met someone who understood. He was a musician who played the violin two dollars' worth in a forty-cent table d'hote where the water was excellent. He told her that she was as beautiful as the rose-

That her eyes were like the sky above Capri—
That she had a Soul that called to his soul-And borrowed money of her early

"At last I am understood," she said.

### Don't Forget How to Wall Baltimore Sun.

The trolley car, the automobile and The trolley car, the automobile and the train have made transportation so easy that people seldom walk any more. They ride to husiness, to the theater, the store, the resort, from the country into town, from one street to another, until walking has become almost a lost art. In a generation or two more we will forget how to use our legs. Man is by nature a walking ani-Iegs. Man is by nature a walking and mal. He was never made to sit still and be swiftly moved from place to place, and he is beginning to show the results of fallure to use the motor muscles. He is becoming too fat and pudgy, and no small portion of his fil health might be traced to this fallure his muscles and use his physical faculties.

New Face and Scalp in Three Years. Boston Dispatch.
Stephen Calabro, 25 years old, of Quincy, Mass., who was seriously scalded, has just been discharged from the Massachusetts General Hospital lit-

erally with a new face and scalp, following a series of operations among the most remarkable in surgical history, extending over a period of three years and done as a work of scientific interest by Dr. Charles A. Porter, of the Harvard Medical School.

## Odorless Onion Is Scored,

Philadelphia Press.

Announcement is made that the odor-less onion has been discovered. No doubt an onion with any other smell will taste as sweet. But no longer can it be said that "in onion there is strength.

### Shorthand Writer, 6 Years, Wins Prize. New York Press. Harold Hunt, 6 years old, of Bristol,

England, has won a prize for rapid shorthand writing. He can write at the rate of 80 words a minute.

April 1 of this year, and it is still busy. | mer.

EDITORIAL SQUABBLES OUTDATED. LAND TAX IN BRITAIN KEEN ISSUE Great Writers Once Engaged in Liter- New Toll on Increments and Undeveloped Land Sets Kingdom by Ears.

Baltimore Sun The livest issue in British politics to day is the proposed tax upon land values by the imperial government. After a debate of several weeks, in which the Conservative minority resorted to all the obstructive tactics permissible under British parliamentary procedure, the House of Commons passed the clauses of the revenue bill mposing a tax on land values. proposed tax was denounced in the House of Commons by Mr. Balfour, formerly Prime Minister and now the leader of the minority in the lower branch of Parliament, as revolutionary, unconstitutional and class legislatio of the worst description. It was de-fended by Mr. Asquith, the Liberal Prime Minister, as just and equitable.

The elimination of the land tax provisions of the bill by the House of Lords would intensify the feeling of hostility to that branch of the British Parlia-ment. It might lead to a dissolution of Parliament and an appeal to the electors by the Liberal government, not only on the issue of the taxation on land, but also on the issue of farreaching reforms in the composition of the House of Lords and further restrictions upon its powers. It is possible of course, that the Conservative party might be restored to power as the result of a new parliamentary election. But the fact that the London Times and the London Mall, representing all shades of opinion in the Conservative party, are now urging the leaders of that party to accept the budget is re-garded in Great Britain as evidence that the majority of British voters are not opposed to the land tax.

In a notable speech a few days ago the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, de-fended the proposed tax on land and pronounced it sound and just in every point of view. It will cost the British government \$10,000,000 to make the valuations provided in the bill. It was first provided that the cost should paid by the landholders and that their right of appeal from the assessors should be limited to an appeal to certain referees provided in the bill. The Liberal Ministry agreed to amend the bill so as to place the costs upon the government. On the advice of the Lord Chief, fustice another amendment was thief Justice another amendment adopted granting the landholders the right of appeal to the High Court of Justice. The revenue from this tax for the first year, it is estimated, will be about \$1,600,000, but Mr. Asquith stated significantly that the tax will be a 'fruitful one" later on. Then he added, "elementary propositions":

as "elementary propositions":

These taxes are not taxes upon land at all;
they are taxes all of them, on the added
value—the realized or the realizable value—
mark that!—given to land by social causes.
Next, they do not apply, any of them, to
agricultural land so long and so far as it
can fairly and properly be so described.
Further, they do not apply to land which is
used for public prinoses or in the public
interest. Again, in assessing and exacting them, we do not go back upon the pastwe start as the datum line for all future
values, with the day when the budget of
the present year was introduced.

Mr. Assurib cited a case in which cer-

Mr. Asquith cited a case in which cer-tain land had increased in rental value, through "social causes," 10 or 15 times more than its value a few years ago; al-though the owner had done nothing to improve the property or increase its value. "Is it not fair," he asked, "that the state should step in now and say when this great additional value is realized, "We are entitled not to the whole of it, but we are entitled to levy tell users it for the purposes of the whole of it, but we are entitled to levy a toll upon it for the purposes of the community which has created it?" This is a tax on increments, the government taking its toll when the additional capital value is realized, according to the Prime Minister's explanation. "In the case of undeveloped land the duty is taken annually, but only if and so far us it can be shown that the land has at this moment a realizable market at this moment a realizable market value over and above its value as agri-cultural land." There are large areas in Great Britain away from the towns and growing communities which, in Mr. Asquith's judgment, while still kept as agricultural land, might be put to a use that would bring to the owners a much larger rental than they receive at present. This land is increasing in value every year, but the community derives no benefit from it, although in many cases, it is contended, it could be used profitably for building and for other Improvements.

other improvements.

The tax on the capital value of undeveloped land is fixed at a half-penny in the pound sterling. On increments it is larger. One-half of the proceeds is is larger. One-mail of the process is to go to the local authorities, the other half to the imperial government. The opponents of the tax assert that it is not designed to serve the fiscal needs of the government for the present year, but that it has a totally different and without or object in view. Mr. Ballour ulterior object in view. Mr. Balfour denounces the valuation project as "a mechanism for carrying out some so-cial scheme of the government and their Radical and Socialist allies." Our esteemed contemporary, the London Telegraph, asserts that "the Radicals and Socialists avowedly mean to raise the increment and undeveloped land taxes to the highest power of their most ambitious schemes." And so the land holders profess to see confiscation and ruin staring them in the face if the House of Lords does not come to

deen presented with a silver medal by the company for superior care, and for having the most perfect pumphouse in the entire system. There have been but two medals presented for the year 1908, one to Mr. Culy, and the other to the pumper at Salem. On one side of the medal are one sue of the medal are the words, "For Perfect Pump-House," occupying the center, and surrounded by a scroll, and on the reverse side the words. and on the reverse side the winds, "Southern Pacific Company," circle the medal, and across the center are the words "Lines in Oragon"; above this is a picture of the rising sun and below a miniature railroad bed with ties. and rails, emblematic of the words. Rising to the setting sun." A silver pin is attached to it, which is above edailion, and on one side of this date, 1908, and on the other the name of Mr. Culy.

Samson in the Marriage Line,

Oregon City Enterprise.
W. W. H. Samson, the veteran Justice of Clackamas County, probably holds the record of the Willamette Valley, if not the entire state, for the number of weddings officiated at or participated in. During the 22 years o his official life Mr. Samson has assist-ed in no fewer than 250 marriage cere-monles, 96 of which have taken place monles, 96 of which have taken place in his residence. During this time he has started in double harness some of the most notable characters of the State of Oregon. One of the first weddings Mr. Samson ever assisted in was that of W. E. Maxum, now at the Bremerton Navy-yard, over 40 years ago. At that time store clothes were a scarce article and the groom was forced to borrow part of the wedding suit from Mr. Samson. Mr. Maxum suit from Mr. Samson. Mr. Maxum was in Oregon City not long ago and paid Mr. Samson a visit, recalling the incidents of the early days and laugh-

## A Syndicate Baby.

ing over boyish escapades.

Turkey Enters a Laying Centest.

Baltimore News.
A turkey owned by Mrs. E. M. Davis, near Brookville, has laid 100 eggs since
O. Ralston and Mrs. and Mrs. Tad Plum-

## Life's Sunny Side

One of the wives of a Mormon comphysician who was attending her hus-

"Is he very HI?" she asked anxiously. "He is," replied the physician. fear the end is not far off." "Do you think," she asked, "I should

be at his bedside during his last mo ments? "Yes, but I advise you to hurry. The best places are already being taken."-Human Life. . . .

"Which do you like best," said Meandering Mike, "de city or de country?
"Well," answered Plodding Pete, "de closeness togedder of de houses in town makes it convenient. But I likes de country because dere's just about walk-in' enough to give you an appetite be-tween hand-outs."—Washington (D. C.)

M. Georges Clemencau, the defeated premier of France, sometime ago at election time established a free dispen-sary and consultation-room in his electoral quarter. One morning a man en-tered, and M. Clemenceau, who was a physician before he became a politician crusquely told him to take off his shirt so that he might be examined After looking at the visitor's tongue

and feeling his pulse, Clemenceau re-marked: "Not much wrong here. What do you think you want?"
"I want to be a postman," replied the And he got an appointment --

"My husband has been out late every evening this week attending important club meetings."

"Yes, so has mine—they belong to the same club, you know." "Why, how queer! My husband says he asn't seen your husband this Summer."— Cleveland Leader.

Herr Schulzer-I am trying to make your parrot talk, but he won't. Newly Knighted Parvenu-Ah, he won't talk to ordinary people now.-Meggendor-

. . . Alice in Wonderland said she could easily believe six impossible things be-fore breakfast. "How fitted for a clubman's wife," they exclaimed.

obvious destiny.-New York Times. "That, my dear," said the husband. who had been supping not wisely, but well, "was a real soul kiss." "So I judge," said the wife, withdrawingly coldly from his embrace,

Sad to relate, however, she missed her

nt of spirits I notice in it -London TIL-BILL She-Well, you married me with your eyes open. He-Yes, and I haven't closed them

since.-St. Louis Times. Scott-Is Jones married? Mott-I guess not, I never heard him blame his wife for anything.—Boston Transcript.

He tolled for wealth both night and day; A chance for gain he never missed. At last he had enough to pay

The cost of a nerve specialist -Exchange.

A man met a physician he knew, and, being one type of grafter, he thought to work him for a free prescription. After some talk he asked, quite incidentally. Doctor, what would you give for a

"Nothing." replied the physician promptly, for he knew his man "I don't want a sore throat."—Philadelphia

. . . Letter Carrier-Rainy weather, farmer Farmer-Yea; our boarders are all kickin'

C.-They can't blame you for the weather. F.-Can't, eh? Gosh, some of 'em seem to think I ought to furnish moonlight nights.-Boston Transcript.

## Concrete in Ancient Mexicol

Springfield Republican At last archaeologists have advanced a reasonable theory regarding the im-mense ruins in Mexico and Central America which testify to the remarkable achievements of a vanished peo-ple, and one likely to be better apernment. The pie, and one thany to be better apsert that it is preciated in this age of concrete than
e fiscal needs ever before. The new contention is
present year, that the great buildings, supposed to
that the great buildings, supposed to
have been built of stone, were really
oreated of concrete that was made in molds of gigantic size. Here is an explanation which explains, and also lies within the realm of the possible. Our boasted civilization has only recently reached the point of large concrets con-struction, and it is not difficult to believe that it is one of the arts about which Wendell Phillips used to lecture. The difficulty that must have attended the transportation of what have been believed to be colossal stone blocks vanishes if they were really made of concrete, for which abundant material was easily obtainable. It is also pos-sible that the remote race concerned

rect primary instead of increasing the interest and influence of the average

citizen in public affairs, lessens one and cripples the other. They will find that under the direct primary the idle electorate has visibly increased

Increased.

They will find here plenty of theorists and immediate beneficiaries to talk glittering generalities for the direct primary. They will not find one who will dare to justify its concrete results. Blinois has seen and felt how the discount of the concrete works, and deesn't care. rect primary works, and doesn't care for any more, thank you. If the New Yorkers are willing to

profit by the painful experience of others they will find here all they need.

### Uncle 10, Aunt S, at Boy's Party. Philadelphia North American

An uncle of 10 years, Percy Stickel, and an aunt of 8, Mildred Stickel, journeyed all the way from Harrisburg, Pa. to attend the fifth birthday colebration of their nephew, Clyde Everett Morris Stickel, of 486 North Sixty-secand street.

About 25 children gathered on the lawn, which was brilliantly lighted with Japanese lanterns, and under the care of the lad's mother and Miss Irene Moore were royally entertained.

Later in the evening the young host, his juvenile relatives and the small guests took a straw ride, and returned just in time to find the refreshments awaiting them.

## Washington's Primary Law.

Seattle Times The primary law of this state de-

prives the citizen in placing candidates before the people—and it does this by compelling that citizen to vote twice instead of once—and by so doing his second vote stullifies the first.