The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.
Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance.

(By Mail.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$8.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months	4.25
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	6.00
Daily, without Sunday, six months	3.25
Daily, without Sunday, three months	1.75
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.60
Weekly, one year	1.50
Sunday, one year	2.50
Sunday and weekly, one year	3.50

(By Carrier.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	9.00
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75

How to Remit—Send postoffice money order, express order or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at the sender's risk. Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—10 to 14 pages, 1 cent; 16 to 28 pages, 2 cents; 30 to 40 pages, 3 cents; 40 to 60 pages, 4 cents. Foreign postage double rate.

Eastern Business Office—The S. C. Beckwith Special Agency—New York, rooms 48-50 Tribune building. Chicago, rooms 510-512 Tribune building.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15, 1909.

IT IS NOT A FAIR TAX.

The Treasury Department is issuing its instructions for assessment and collection of the corporation tax. This is the duty of the Department, under the law. But the corporation tax is not a fair tax. It is not an equal and just tax. It penalizes the corporate method of doing business—for corporations small and great—and leaves untaxed individuals and partnerships doing business in the very same lines.

The corporations of the country—with the exception of national banks—are organized under state law. They are agents and instruments of the state, employed under state law, for facilitation of business. They authorize combinations of capital, without which the capital necessary even for local irrigation projects, for sawmills, for drying hops and prunes, cannot be carried on. The Government of the United States ought not to penalize these efforts. Property of all such, of course, is subject to state taxation. The state taxes the property, and the United States taxes the effort; and yet both the property and the effort belong to the jurisdiction of the state, and the state has authorized the method and the effort which the United States proceeds to tax.

Of course, the law and the tax will be resisted, and on several grounds. The corporation owes its existence to state law. Has the Government of the United States a right to tax a method employed by the state for furtherance of the business of its citizens? It may tax the citizens, because it operates directly upon them. It may require them to do military duty, and even duty in civil office. But the corporation is not a citizen of the United States. It is a fictitious person, created by the state, for its own purposes. Has the United States a right to tax it? Of course, if it has a right to tax, it has a right to suppress—that is, to tax to the finality of suppression. So it has suppressed state banks of issue, under the grant of the Constitution which enables the general government to control the monetary system of the country. But has it the right to tax corporations that exist under state law only? Has it a right to suppress them? This is to be tried out.

The argument on both sides doubtless will be split into many refinements. But this, finally, will be the question, to wit: Whether the corporation tax levied by the law of the United States is a direct tax, or not. There can be no valid direct tax by the United States, enforceable among the states, unless apportioned among the states according to the population or respective numbers. That is a settled principle, written in the Constitution of the United States and affirmed by the judgments of the Supreme Court.

If the United States may tax corporations created under laws of the states, it may tax these corporations out of existence; under the familiar rule laid down by Chief Justice Marshall, that "the power to tax includes the power to destroy," and "the power to destroy may defeat and render useless the power to create." These, added the great Chief Justice, "are propositions not to be denied."

It is most probable, as The Oregonian believes, that the corporation tax will be declared extra-constitutional and invalid. The income tax, collected from the individual citizen, will stand, however, on a very different basis—even though the United States Supreme Court, on reasoning not conclusive even to itself, and by a majority of only one vote—stopped that tax, too, on the ground that it exceeded the constitutional limitation. This, however, is most doubtful; and a Supreme Court, differently constituted, might easily affirm the validity of an income tax without violence to the former opinion of that tribunal. Justice, however, and equity must, in the long run, have weight in decision of these matters; and it cannot be right that a corporation doing business under state law should be required by the United States to pay a tax when an individual person or a partnership, doing the same or similar business, should be passed over.

FATHERS AND CIGARETTES.

It is not surprising that Truant Officer Ketchum, of Seattle, finds some difficulty in keeping an eye on every urchin of that depraved city who wishes to smoke cigarettes. Even in a city of normal piety and sobriety the task would be stupendous. What must it be then in such a place as Seattle? Cumbered with many cares and scarcely knowing which way to turn his head under the overwhelming magnitude of his official burden, Officer Ketchum has asked for an assistant. With this trusty auxiliary at his side he plans to arrest and convict every dealer in Seattle who sells "the makings" of cigarettes to boys, if he can. We are haunted by the fear that his laudable ambition is doomed to disaster. If he had twenty assistants instead of one the deplorable urchins of Seattle would still buy and smoke as many cigarettes as their sinful hearts might desire.

Foreseeing this sad disillusionment why not focus official attention on the boy who smokes the cigarette instead of the man who sells it? It is the bad boy, not the man, who is injured by the habit. To punish the storekeeper for the boy's vice is a vicarious method more elegant than effective. One fancies that all the tobacconists in Seattle might be jailed without convincing a single depraved schoolboy of the error of his ways. Much more salutary, we should imagine, would be a good, pliable hickory withe applied to the boy's tender spot. This simple remedy saved many souls before our day. It is difficult to believe that its efficacy has been wholly exhausted. But Officer Ketchum's single hand can not wield the withe adequately without some aid. Nor is a paid assistant the best helper for him in this noble work. Far better and more potent would be the co-operation of the boys' fathers. If every male parent in Seattle did his duty in admonishing and chastising his sons, there would be no need to arrest tobacco sellers in vicarious explation of the boys' misdeeds. The careless parent may blame himself if his boy goes to perdition by the cigarette route.

FOR UNITY OF ACTION.

The primary law, without guidance of assembly or convention for suggestion of nominations, affords no basis for unity or concert of party action. Without the convention or assembly, the direct plurality primary is a dissolver of parties, especially of the majority party, in a state. This, feared from the first by not a few, has now been completely demonstrated in the experience of the Republican party of Oregon.

Moreover, the convention will be strictly in accord with law. It is nowhere forbidden in the primary act; for, though this act declares that all nominations must be made as this law directs and not otherwise, the convention or assembly will not make the nominations, but will be simply an attempt to guide and to unite the party in making nominations; and the nominations then will be made in the direct primary, by the general vote, strictly in accord with the provisions of the law.

The primary law itself, in a long preamble, declares that political parties are essential in our form of government, and must be maintained; and the law throughout recognizes the necessity of party combination and of party in action. It cannot intend to forbid the use of the proper means necessary to such combination and action. Such, indeed, is not its intent, but the contrary—yet if such were its intent the purpose would be absurd, ineffective and void. There was not, indeed, greatest display of wisdom in drawing up this law; but even those who drew it knew perfectly well that men must act in groups and through organization to accomplish anything.

If the names offered by the assembly or convention are not satisfactory to the members of a party, they will be rejected in the primary election and the party nominations will go to others. The convention, further, will tend to prevent the intrusion of one party in the affairs of another, since it is not likely that the men recommended by a convention will be supported for nominations by the opposite party at the primary.

The only possibility of any approach to harmonious party action is through organization, for recommendation of candidates. The fight of a multitude of candidates among themselves for a nomination for any important office will result in nomination of one by a small percentage of the party's vote; and a period of this vigorous warfare will result further in estrangement from the successful candidate of a large proportion of those who opposed him for the nomination and supported one or another of his opponents. It is nothing short of party destruction. Under the system no Republican Senator can ever be elected in Oregon; nor any Republican for any other high office, after a hot scramble among several candidates for the nomination.

If, therefore, Republicans of Oregon desire any success in future they will come together for counsel about candidates before the primary is held. They then may attain to something like unity of action. Without use of this method, never.

OUR SQUANDERED WATERFRONT.

Councilman Ellis' project of investigating title to stretches of waterfront which have been lifted, as it were, by various individuals may or may not result in anything of direct practical benefit. It is a good deal easier to keep the end of a street when you have it than to get it back again after you have fooled it away. But in any case, Mr. Ellis' investigation may stir taxpayers of Portland to a little wholesome reflection on the way their property has gone and is likely to continue going if they are not on the alert.

It is noticeable that when a corporation wants to get hold of a piece of the city's waterfront the property is never worth anything. The company's lawyers appraise it at zero or less and the people's representatives complacently let it go at that figure. Ultimately a time comes when the public needs the property it has frittered away. A movement to recover it begins and the discovery is made that it is worth big sums of money.

This silly performance has occurred over and over again with the city's waterfront on both sides of the river. The lesson of it all is plain enough. The city should either keep its property or else sell it for what it is worth. The unprofitable business of presenting to individuals land which belongs to the public ought to have ceased long ago. When the fathers made the Constitution they were careful to provide that private property should not be taken for public use without compensation. The country would have fared better than it has if they had added the provision that public property shall not be taken for private use without compensation.

AN INTERESTING LIBEL SUIT.

It was not to be supposed that Judge Lindsey, of the Juvenile Court of Denver, and his collaborator, Harvey H. O'Higgins, a magazine writer, who are telling a story of Denver politics in a New York magazine under the head, "The Beast and the Jungle," would escape a suit for libel. Such a suit has been filed in a Denver court, asking damages for defamation of character against each of the defendants in the sum of $50,000, the complainant being W. G. Smith, ex-Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. As is usual in the case of a sensational story, "the plot thickens." The reading public has taken relatively languid interest thus far in the alleged disclosures of Denver political methods, knowing that much depends upon the point of view. It will sit up and take notice, now that Judge Lindsey has been called upon to make good his charges of official corruption under oath or satisfy this aggrieved party by payment of exemplary damages.

It is scarcely conceivable that a man of Judge Lindsey's legal acumen and political experience would make the charges that he has made against Denver politicians and managers of corporations, fearlessly calling the names of the accused, unless he could substantiate them. On the other hand, the public shrinks from accepting his bold recital of fraud, double-dealing and official and corporate corruption, as detailed, giving names and dates and specific sums of money involved, as a reflex of conditions prevailing in and ruling a populous, prosperous and beautiful American city. In this strait betwixt the two, developments in the suit filed, as above noted, will be awaited with interest.

ONE STEP AT A TIME.

It is a very interesting letter that Mr. C. V. Cooper offers in The Oregonian today. Our first word about it is that Portland can't do everything at once. Chief of reasons why Portland cannot put tunnels (or tubes, if that word suits everybody better) in or under the river, is the belief that the cost would be too great, for present conditions. But this isn't the sole obstacle. At Portland, on either side of the river, are many thousands of owners of land, who wish their property interests preserved, cared for and maintained. They have the numbers and the strength to compel attention. Again, it is not possible at this time to force in Portland conditions as to transit and movement, subways, tunnels and tubes, that but just now are obtaining in old cities, where there is enormous wealth, created and supported by the industries of a vast population.

We must deal with this situation at Portland, as it is. No theory is good for anything that does not take present conditions into account. There is little wealth here; the city is in a stage of growth that suggests uncertainties as to future development in one direction or in another; owners of property are anxious to preserve the values and to enhance them, and each and all contend for their own interests, as they see them. A balance between these interests and forces must be sought, and upon this judgment we must base present action.

In these brief statements lie the reasons why The Oregonian at this time urges construction of the Broadway bridge. The Madison bridge is under construction, the tunnels (or tubes) will come later. Portland is not New York or London.

Let The Oregonian be excused here for a remark. Portland is not to have 500,000 inhabitants by 1912. That is ridiculous. The city is growing fast. But it must work and wait yet a little. The "ocean ship harbor" is a matter of very first importance too; but it will not be seriously interfered with by erection of the high bridge at Broadway.

There will be great things doing here in future years, but children must creep before they can walk; and the idea, of settling now, once for all, the problem of movement over and under the river will disappoint all who entertain it.

NEW LIGHT ON DIVORCE.

One of the professors in the state university of Nebraska has written an extremely interesting article on divorce for the December McClure's. In his opinion the ecclesiastical theory of marriage is one that cannot be maintained either on historical or scriptural grounds. He contends that the sacramental quality of the contract was a rather late innovation in the church. Luther and most of the other reformers repudiated it and its acceptance by many of the Protestant denominations in recent times seems to be an act of retrogression. Leaving the delicate domain of theology our author, Professor George Elliott Howard, presents a number of facts bearing on the divorce question which are of more immediate importance, probably, than the dispute whether marriage is a sacrament or not.

He states, for instance, that the divorce habit is spreading all over the world though we are more subject to it that any other Aryan nation thus far. Of American marriages one in ten ends in divorce and the tendency is for this proportion to increase. The states which harbor "divorce colonies" do not by any means exhibit the greatest number of severed marriage bonds. South Dakota, which once sheltered two or three thriving groups of men and women waiting for the courts to set them free never had so many divorces to the thousand of population as Indiana. Professor Howard does not believe that the divorce scandal in the United States arises from bad legislation on the subject, or that better laws would improve matters much. The evil, if it is an evil, is incident to the profound social changes which this generation is experiencing, particularly the emancipation of women from economic dependence. Both sexes find many of the old domestic restraints irksome and in their efforts to make a new adjustment they often break up their families. Naturally this unrest is a temporary phenomenon. When social equilibrium has been restored it will disappear and the family will resume its former stability.

Reasoning in this way Professor Howard does not see much to worry over in our scandalous divorce record. It is regrettable of course, but in all probability it is an indispensable preliminary to more lasting marriages and happier homes. It seems to be one of those numerous cases, in fact, where Providence manages to bring ultimate good out of present evil.

A TRUST THAT FAILED.

For the second time since its organization, the International Sailingship Owners Union has been obliged to suspend its scale of minimum grain freight rates out of Pacific Coast ports. This organization, controlling more than four-fifths of the available sail tonnage of the world that was suitable for grain carrying, has met with a fair degree of success in maintaining grain freights at a minimum figure, sufficient to prevent actual loss in operation of vessels. But the "combine," like all others that attempt to set aside the immutable law of supply and demand, had its limitations and was obliged to acknowledge them. Ocean freight space is for sale by every prominent nation on earth, and it is impossible to regulate the supply and demand so as to prevent occasional periods of congestion and low rates.

The Sailingship Owners combine was formed to prevent sinking of these rates below the point where the operation of ships would no longer show a profit. The minimum rate fixed from Portland and Puget Sound to Europe was 27s 6d, or $6.60 per ton of 2240 pounds. It is readily noticeable that this is a very low rate for service, which involves loading and discharging, and a 14,000 mile voyage. Regardless of this rate, the Sailingship Owners Union has been held up by the American ship subsidy seekers as a horrible example of the rapacity of shipowners on whom we are dependent for freight carrying. Simultaneously with this complaint against the alleged extortion of the combine, appears the statement that even the combine rates are so low as to preclude all possibility of an American built ship's entering into competition with them.

It has thus been demonstrated that under the rates established by the Union, we were securing a $6.60 per ton rate for a 14,000 mile haul. Now, with the union rates suspended, the idle ships that have been rusting at their moorings in every port on the Pacific Coast will make an effort to get away—not at union rates, which owners have learned to their sorrow are unobtainable, but at a rate that is governed solely and exclusively by the law of commerce. Prior to organization of the union, this rate, in times when the supply of tonnage exceeded the demand, ran down as low as 12s 6d per ton, and it is not improbable that similar rates may be in evidence before the present season ends. It is distressing for subsidy seekers that an over-supply of tonnage in all parts of the world has forced suspension of union rates, just at a time when Congressman Humphrey and his friends are undertaking to show that American commerce is suffering for lack of ocean carrying facilities.

Nero could burn the town and then reconstruct it, and work it out on the plan of "the city beautiful," with the Golden House reaching from the Palatine to the Esquiline, with parks and avenues and fountains, as his own notions, or the flatteries of his courtiers might fancy or direct; and the owner of property who protested was strangled or drowned or thrown to the wild beasts. But it will not be so easy to carry out notions for a city beautiful at Portland. The spurious Napoleon, banking on the fame of the great Emperor, and appealing to the vanity of Parisians, persuaded them to incur an immense debt for a new plan of Paris. Property here and there was bought out, on an immense scale; an enormous debt was created, which isn't paid yet, probably never will be. But Paris was and is the capital of Continental Europe, and all travelers visit Paris. There is only one Paris in the world, and for centuries to come there will not be another. However, the vanity of Paris brought the Germans to her gates, and their Hussars and Uhlans rode under the Arc de l'Etoile. It's silly to talk about another Paris or to hold Paris up as a model. No city can imitate her beauty, and no city desires her experience. Enough for us to be rational beings.

The Twentieth Century Limited was virtually flying when, covering the rails at the rate of 62 miles an hour, it took a siding at a station a few miles from Erie, Pa., before the train ahead cleared the switch. Both trains were running east. The flyer simply overtook a passenger train of the Lake Shore before the latter could get out of its way. A number of hapless passengers were killed, others were maimed and both trains were reduced to splinters. A disaster of this kind will happen now and then as the result of an attempt to fly without wings. This is travel of the Twentieth Century order. Its risks are enormous, but there are plenty of men who are willing and anxious to take them for the sake of "getting there" ahead of time.

The report of special agents of the Immigration Commission on steerage conditions on Atlantic liners, is a most damnable arraignment of officers and crews, and in degree, of owners of the vessels. Insults, indecent conduct, and actual assaults on female passengers in the steerage, are reported by these special agents. As a remedy for such revolting practices as are indulged in by the crews of these liners, the report should have given names of the steamers, and dates when the outrages were committed. The steamship line that was known to permit such practices on board its vessels, would soon receive an unmistakable rebuke in the shape of decreased patronage, not only in the steerage but in the first-class quarters on the ships.

Old King Corn seems to be supplying plenty of entertainment for both the bulls and the bears in the Chicago market. After a wildly hilarious session on Monday, the market closed firm with an advance of several cents per bushel. Yesterday with fireworks of another hue, there was a decline of more than two cents per bushel. The consumption of corn is not of such a world-wide extent as that of wheat, but neither is its production. For that reason, supply and demand quite frequently get so far out of line, that in recent years the corn market has supplied nearly as many sensations as have been credited to wheat.

Aldrich is said to dislike direct primaries. But this is probably false report, because direct primaries in Oregon have produced Senator Bourne, who is Aldrich's most obsequious adherent, and is not ashamed to admit it.

Some now assert that a tunnel can be constructed at or near Broadway at no more cost, or little more, than the cost of a bridge. Demonstration of such a fact would interest many, whose usual motto is, "Show me."

Does the Port of Portland Commission propose to hold up the Broadway bridge until a thousand cars are delayed every day instead of half that number, as at present?

Congress in session eight days and not a thing done worth a first-page story. Isn't there one ambitious man to start something?

Among other questions that interest the public is the probable price of Christmas turkeys next week.

Nobody appreciates a Christmas gift that is purchased amid the ill-temper of the last day.

Day policemen are said to have been shifted to new beats. This may make them visible.

George Washington died December 14, 1799—one hundred and ten years yesterday.

Can any disgruntled citizen point to finer weather for early Christmas shopping?

OREGON COUNTRY'S HONOR ROLL.

George H. Himes Names Several "First" White Children, Born There.

PORTLAND, Dec. 14.—(To the Editor.)—The statement on page 2, section 5, of last Sunday's Oregonian, to the effect that Mrs. Isabelle Cook, daughter of Mrs. Mary Cline, born on Sauvies Island in 1846, "was the first white girl born in the state," needs correction. In order to set at rest all question about this matter, a list of names is here given of a few of the first white children born in the original "Oregon Country," taken from the records which I have personally collected, beginning with the first:

First—Alice Clarissa Whitman, daughter of Dr. Marcus and Mrs. Narcissa Prentiss Whitman, was born at the Whitman mission, Wai-il-at-pu, six miles west of Walla Walla, March 14, 1837. Drowned June 23, 1839. Dr. and Mrs. Whitman came across the plains on horseback in 1836.

Second—Jason Lee White, son of Dr. Elijah and Mrs. White, was born in the Willamette Valley in July, 1837. Drowned in August, 1838, in the Columbia River.

Third—Joseph Beers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alanson Beers, was born in the Willamette Valley, in what is now Marion County, September 15, 1837. Deceased. His parents arrived in Oregon in May, 1837.

Fourth—Mrs. Eliza Spalding Warren, daughter of Rev. Henry H. and Mrs. Spalding, who came across the plains in 1836 with Dr. Whitman and wife, was born at Lapwai, November 15, 1837. She is now living near Lake Chelan, Eastern Washington.

Fifth—A son was born to Rev. Jason and Mrs. Anna Maria Pittman Lee at the Methodist mission, a few miles north of Salem, June 6, 1838. He died in infancy.

Sixth—A son was born to Rev. H. K. W. Perkins and wife in the Fall of 1838.

Seventh—A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus L. Shepard in the Fall of 1838. Died in infancy.

Eighth—Cyrus Hamlin Walker, the oldest child of Rev. Elkanah and Mrs. Mary Richardson Walker, who came across the plains to Oregon in 1838, was born December 7, 1838. He now lives in Albany.

Ninth—John Henry Dix Gray was born at Whitman mission March 20, 1839. He was the son of William H. and Mrs. Dorothea Dix Gray, who came across the plains to Oregon in 1838. Mr. Gray, the father, came to Oregon first in 1836, with Dr. Whitman, bearing a commission as assistant missionary. He returned overland in 1837, was married, and came back to Oregon as indicated. Both father and son have been dead a number of years, the latter dying at Astoria, October 26, 1902.

Tenth—Henry H. Spalding, the second child of Rev. H. H. Spalding and wife, already mentioned, was born at Lapwai, November 24, 1839. He died a number of years ago.

Eleventh—Mrs. Wiley Edwards, daughter of Mr. William and Mrs. Marie Callaby Baldra, who were married in England in 1835, was born on Tualatin Plains, now Washington County, August 1, 1840. She now lives in Newberg.

Twelfth—Mrs. Caroline Gray Kamm, a sister of J. H. D. Gray, above mentioned, was born at Lapwai, October 16, 1840. She has been a resident of Portland most of the time since her marriage, 50 years ago.

Thirteenth—Mrs. Maria Campbell Smith, daughter of Hamilton Campbell and wife, members of the Methodist missionary family that sailed out of New York in October, 1839, and arrived in the Columbia River in May, 1840, was born in Salem October 16 of that year—the first child born in that place. She has been a resident of Portland for more than two score years.

Fourteenth—A daughter was born to Rev. H. K. W. Perkins and wife at The Dalles mission, December 18, 1840.

Fifteenth—Wilbur Fisk Lee, son of Rev. Daniel and Mrs. Maria Ware Lee, the first American couple to be married north of the Columbia River, at Vancouver, June 16, 1840, was born March 23, 1841.

Sixteenth—Mrs. Julia Ellinor Stratton, daughter of Rev. Alvan F. and Mrs. Waller, of the missionary party which came on the ship Lausanne in 1840, was born at Oregon City, May 5, 1841—the first born of Clackamas County, it is believed.

Seventeenth—Edwin Eells, son of Rev. Cushing and Mrs. Myra Fairbanks Eells, of the missionary party that came overland to reinforce Dr. Whitman in 1838, was born at Tshimakain, near Spokane, July 27, 1841. He now resides at Tacoma.

Eighteenth—George Phelps Holman, son of Joseph and Almira Phelps Holman, also of the missionary party of 1840, was born at Salem February 5, 1842. His home has been in Salt Lake for many years. He was the first native son to be admitted to the Oregon bar, September, 1866, and the first to be elected to the Legislature, June, 1868.

Nineteenth—Francis Richmond, son of Rev. John P. and Mrs. America Richmond, of the missionary party of 1840, who established the Methodist mission at the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Nisqually in July, 1840, was born February 28, 1842.

Twentieth—Mrs. Lucy Anna Lee Grubb, daughter of Rev. Jason and Mrs. Lucy Thompson Lee, was born at Salem, February 26, 1842.

Twenty-first—Marcus Whitman Walker, son of Rev. Elkanah and Mrs. Walker, already alluded to, was born at the Tshimakain mission, near Spokane, March 16, 1842.

Twenty-second—A second daughter was born to Rev. H. K. W. and Mrs. Perkins, December 2, 1842, at The Dalles mission.

Of the above-named persons, Mrs. Eliza Spalding Warren, Cyrus H. Walker, Mrs. Wiley Edwards, Mrs. Caroline Gray Kamm, Mrs. Maria Campbell Smith, Edwin Eells and George Phelps Holman are yet alive.

The foregoing will suffice for the present, although if the list were to be extended to 1846 inclusive, many additional names might be added.

GEORGE H. HIMES.

American Birds, All in a Row.

Washington (D. C.) Despatch.

The Department of Agriculture is taking a census of the birds of the United States, and even before its completion is able to estimate that there are about 5,444,000,000. The census is also for the purpose of finding out what birds help and what birds harm the crops, with a view to diminishing the injurious ones and increasing insect-eating varieties.

Young Morgan to Live in New York.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Dispatch.

J. Pierpont Morgan, Jr., who has long made his home in London as the European head of his father's financial interests, is to take up his residence in New York, and it is expected that from now on he will be active in the administration of affairs in the headquarters of J. P. Morgan & Co.

Woman in Her Will Provides for Dogs.

New York Press.

Emma Falck, a wealthy resident of Woodlawn, N. Y., who died recently, provided that the dogs in her household should be well cared for after her death. In her will, just filed with the surrogate, she instructed her executors to pay $100 to each person who will support any one of the dogs during its life.

Where Rockefeller Has Failed.

New York Evening Post.

The Chicago Tribune says of two friends that they were as inseparable as David and Goliath. And yet Mr. Rockefeller's university has done so much for higher education in that town!

No Happy Medium.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

"There are too many highway robberies in this town," announces a Chicago newspaper. It is difficult to strike a happy medium in such matters, without discouraging the industry entirely.

MOST PEOPLE READ NEWSPAPERS.

Ohio Journal Says Magazines Are Superior Only in Paper Used.

Dayton (Ohio) News.

There really isn't any competition between the magazines and the newspapers, but the former are everlastingly harping upon the subject of their "superiority" over the press. It is a part of the game, of course, for magazines and periodicals are made to sell, and it is all right for their makers to dispose of them as other merchandise is disposed of.

But the truth is, notwithstanding the time taken in their preparation and their excessively high price, the magazines are not superior to the newspaper, neither in literature nor learning, nor in the amount of wisdom they dispense. Printing a thing on glossy paper, surrounded by an attractive border, and selling it for 15 cents doesn't necessarily mean that the thing is well or wise.

To illustrate: This paragraph recently appeared in one of the "high-grade" woman's publications:

"Two rooms in One—One large room is preferable to two small ones, and a very good arrangement for making two rooms into one is to have the wall removed between the two."

If the youngest reporter on a daily paper should have turned in such copy as that, he would have been discharged on the spot. If any editor of any daily paper had offered such "opinion" in the columns of his paper he would have been laughed out of office. Yet here is a high-browed periodical, confessing to a superiority in the world of publicity, in all seriousness dishing up such a mental menu.

Then, the magazines have a good deal to say about circulation. Some of them have succeeded in selling monthly, or weekly, a considerable number of copies. Yet the fact remains that the proportion of people who read daily papers and magazine is about 100 to 1 in favor of the newspaper. Practically everybody reads a daily newspaper of some kind. If the magazine makers want to know the vast number of people who read no magazine, let them go among the people and not confine their investigations to a few streets in a city. Or, if they can understand figures, let them consider that not more than 5,000,000 people in this country ever see a magazine, whereas there are 90,000,000 people in the United States.

We would not discount the value of the magazine, nor minimize its importance or its influence. It serves a purpose and affords some comfort in this old world. It has a place, and a large one—a larger one than it has ever filled, in fact but until it learns something of the province of a newspaper, and ceases to print such silly stuff as the paragraph quoted, let it not mention the word "superiority" when making comparisons between the magazine and the newspaper.

SHAW JEERS AT AMERICA.

Irish-English Playwright Fears His Good Looks Might Upset Our Women.

London (England) Correspondence Kansas City Star.

George Bernard Shaw, the playwright, has been invited by Charles Frohman to spend Christmas week in New York, together with James Barrie, Granville Barker, J. G. Ainsworthy, Somerset Maughman and Haddon Chambers. Mr. Shaw refused.

"Why should anyone who is in London go to America?" he asked. "You can understand anyone in America coming to London. As it is I am in the right place. Americans are in the wrong place. At least they seem to think so. Why should I move? The Americans may be mistaken. I notice they never know anything about their own country. They are always astounded if you tell them what is going on there.

"For instance, they are ignorant of the fact that liberty does not exist there. I could be arrested the moment I landed on the charge of inciting the women of America to immorality by my good looks. I could be imprisoned for suggesting reform of the marriage laws, or for questioning the story about Elisha and the bears.

"I do not want to see the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. Even my appetite for irony does not go as far as that. There is another good reason why I should not go to America. If I do, everything else will stop. The people will cease to be interested in politics, commerce, art or anything else. Nicaragua may shoot all the Americans it likes. Then the shots will not be heard in the din of the silly talk about Bernard Shaw.

"I should be a public nuisance, an interruption, a ramrod stuck into the National machinery. For America's sake I'll spare her by staying at home."

Lincoln's Waterways Speech Good Now.

Chicago News.

Abraham Lincoln was a believer in waterway development. One of his addresses made in 1848 contained the following:

"The driving of a pirate from the track of commerce in the broad ocean, and the removing of a snag from its more narrow path in the Mississippi River cannot, I think, be distinguished in principle. Each is done to save life and property, and to use the waterways for promoting commerce. * * * The most general object I can think of would be the improvement of the Mississippi River and its tributaries."

This advice of Lincoln's is as sound today as it was 60 years ago.

Rejane Gives "Newspaper" Rehearsal.

Paris Dispatch.

No more newspaper "roasts" for Mme. Rejane. She has "fixed" the critics. She introduced a striking innovation at the "grand rehearsal" recently of "La Risque," in the Theater Rejane, which may solve the problem of the cruel critic and the aggrieved performer for all time to come. Rejane invited all the critics who ordinarily attend her premieres to come to the rehearsal. The author was there, too, and 25 or 30 regular "first-nighters." Everybody was invited to express his opinion of the piece and the rendition freely, and as a result of some of the verbal criticisms the actress elected to make minor changes in the play.

Eminent Portrait Painter Arrives.

Baltimore News.

Jerzi Koppay, of Vienna, who has painted portraits of John D. Rockefeller, Mrs. E. H. Harriman and her children and other notables, has arrived in New York on the North German Lloyd steamer Berlin. He comes, he says, to open a studio at 12 West Forty-fourth street and paint portraits of seven well-known Americans. The painter brings with him one of his most celebrated portraits, that of Prince Bismarck.

Woman, 93 Years Old, Shuns All Cars.

Springfield (Mass.) Dispatch.

Miss Eliza Corliss, of Meredith, N. H., now in her 93d year, is as spry as any woman 30 years her junior. Although she has lived all her life within 500 feet of where dozens of trains pass daily, she has never ridden on the steam cars. Nor has Miss Corliss ever seen the trolley cars, notwithstanding she hears each hour of the day their bells and whistles as they whirl from Laconia to the Wirs, less than four miles from her cottage.

Jeff Davis, Jr., Mining Engineer.

Confederate Veteran.

Young Jeff Davis is taking a course in mining engineering at Columbus College, New York, and he is giving practical study to it in every branch, devoting much time to its chemistry, laws and advancements. He graduates next Spring, and bids fair to thoroughly understand his chosen work in all its bearings.

CURB SPECULATORS' GREED.

Abutting Property Owners Should Pay in Laying Water Mains.

PORTLAND, Dec. 14.—(To the Editor.)—I wish to support the position taken by The Oregonian in reference to the laying of water mains in this city.

It seems to me that the action taken by the Mayor and Council in calling a special election is not warranted or justified. As stated by The Oregonian in its editorials, all property owners should pay at least a portion of the cost of water mains, if not on a basis of the cost of an eight-inch main, at least that of a six-inch main.

Last June the residents of this city voted to assess the cost of water mains less than ten inches in diameter to abutting property, and while there may be some question as to whether the basis of payment should be on eight or six-inch mains, there is no question that abutting property owners should pay by assessment a portion of the cost of laying mains.

It is asserted that contractors will not bid on the laying of water mains under the present law, because they say assessments will not be paid. If this be true, why has not the Mayor taken this matter into the courts, and tested it, to find out if the action taken by the voters last June is lawful or not? No effort, however, has ever been made by the city officers to determine this matter. They also state that inasmuch as all water mains heretofore have been paid out of the general water fund, it would be an injustice to present property owners to compel them to pay now and in the future. There is nothing to this argument, for if the principle is wrong, it should be so changed and made that the cost will be assessed where it properly belongs.

The manner of assessment in vogue in Seattle, Wash., as outlined by The Oregonian, would on the face of it seem to be fair.

The cost of water to consumers in this city should be kept at the lowest possible minimum, providing, of course, for retiring of bonds, interest, maintenance, etc. Consumers should not be compelled to pay rates that will provide sufficient income to pay for the putting in of mains in front of private property, the owners of which do not pay for any of it, except what they pay in the increased rate for water, to provide such fund.

Six years ago I put in two hydrants for fire purposes, furnishing all the necessary material, without a cent of cost to the city. These hydrants were sealed and not a drop of whater has passed through them, yet I have paid for years $6 a month for the privilege of having the water stand in these pipes, ready for use in case of fire to protect the property of the public, as well as my own. This income has been used to pay for putting in water mains for property owners.

At the election called for February 15, it is safe to say that not over 10 per cent of the voters of this city will go to the polls to vote. There will be several reasons for not doing so. It is called in the Winter, when the days are short and stormy. Many residents are absent from the city on their Winter vacations; and again, what is the use of going to the polls to vote when we have no assurance that the same action will not be taken against the vote of the people on February 15 as has been taken against their wishes, as expressed at the polls June 1909? S. B. C.

Mr. Bryan as a Drone—Not a Bee.

Arizona Daily Silver Belt.

Speaking at a banquet given in his honor at Globe, Ariz., Mr. Bryan said:

"I tell people I never expect to be or never hope to be a candidate for President again.

"One reason for not wanting to is that Mr. Roosevelt took some of my policies and Mr. Taft is taking others. If I ran again they would raise the 'third-term' cry on me, saying I had served two terms already.

"And why should a man have all the worry and all the annoyance of being President when he can get men to do the work for him, left free as I am to go around and meet friends on occasions of this kind and really enjoy life?"

A New Thackeray Story.

Westminster Gazette.

The Hon Sir E. Chandos Leigh, K. C., K. C. B., the former counsel to the Speaker of the House of Commons, in a speech full of interesting literary reminiscences, at the opening of a free library at Irchester, near Rushden, the other day, told a Thackeray story. "I knew Thackeray pretty well," he said. "Thackeray perfectly abominated anything in the nature of flattery. I was with Thackeray one night when a man came up, and for five minutes administered to the great novelist the most fulsome flattery. When the man had gone I said to Thackeray, 'Who is that?' Thackeray replied, 'He calls himself an artist, but I think he paints as much in "butter" as he does in oils.'"

A Wrong That Needs Resistance.

Honey Grove (Tex.) Signal.

If the little preacher who held the position of chaplain in the penitentiary had kept "mum," the horrors of the Texas penitentiary might never have come to light, and the inhuman treatment of defenseless convicts have gone on and on. But in the interest of humanity he quit his job and told what he knew. For this he was abused by many, but a young newspaper correspondent heard his story and began to investigate for himself. What he learned he wrote, and he, too, was denounced for a time. But after a time the Legislature demanded an investigation, and the day is not distant when the shame of Texas will be blotted out. If you know a wrong that needs resistance, speak out.

Modern Statesman.

Dallas News.

The record of our modern statesmen is brief. They first double their own salaries, then increase the cost of living, and double them again.

CURRENT SMALL CHANGE.

"I was very favorably impressed by that young man." "In what way?" "He seemed to give me credit for knowing something."—Detroit Free Press.

"I see there is a correspondence school of poetry." "I suppose it charges by the number of feet." "Or else by the reading of the metre."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Highland Ferryman (during momentary lull in the storm)—I'm thenkin', sir, I'll just tak yer fare; there's no sayin' what micht happen tae us.—Punch.

Madge—As your friend is divorced I don't suppose she has much in her stocking this Christmas. Marjorie—More than ever, dear. There's where she carries her alimony.—Puck.

Indignant customer—I want to return this jewel box. It's not ivory, as represented. Dealer (musingly)—Now, I wonder if it can be possible that elephant had false teeth?—Cleveland Leader.

"The artists' models in Paris have struck for higher wages." "I don't blame 'em," answered Mrs. McGudley. "The pictures prove that the poor things aren't paid enough to buy clothes."—Washington Star.

"How do you suppose she manages to keep up appearances on her husband's income?" "What is her husband's income?" "I don't know, but, of course, it can't be as big as it would have to be if they could afford to live as they do."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Harmless Hop.

Not by William Watson.

He is not old, he is not young,
The Chinese laundryman, Hop Lung.
The yellowed cheek, the slanting eye,
The humble nose, the cheekbone high,
The cheerful face, the willing hand,
That serves the proudest in the land—
His back yard you may scan with care;
No dirty linen airing there!