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DEMOCRATIC PARTY ASSEMBLY. It need not be forgotten that the Democratic party of Oregon has a fine and effective record in favor of "the assembly." A list of those who attended the Democratic assembly of 1906 and a considerable portion the proceedings is reprinted today. You might suppose from recent utterances that the wickedness of the assembly was due wholly to Republican depravity, directed by the most unscrupulous of gangs and rings; yet lo! here is the record of the proceedings of the Democratic assembly held in Portland in March, 1906, which named an entire state ticket, including Representatives in Congress, which ticket was presented at the primary, and nominated without a break, right down the line. To-wit: For Governor, George E. Chamberlain; for United States Senator, John M. Gearin; for Justice of the Supreme Court, Thoma G. Hailey; for Secretary of State, Paul Sroat, of Marion: for State Treasurer, J. D. Matlock, of Lane; for Attorney General, Robert Miller, of Multnomah; for State Printer, J. Scott Taylor, Klamath; for Superintendent of Pub-lic Instruction, E. E. Bragg, of Union; alternate, W. A. Wann, of Linn; Wann was nominated; for Representatives in Congress, First District, C. V. Galloway, of Yamhill? alternate, P. Cochran, of Marion; Galloway wis nominated; Second District, Harvey W18 Graham, of Baker; W. T. Vaughn, Multnomah: Graham was nominated.

There you have the Democratic assembly and its truits. The assembly "suggested" or "recommended" names for all the state offices, and "invited" the persons named to stand as candidates for the primary. The licket thus 'suggested" was nominated from top to bottom. Say, now! was the primary law set aside? Was its sacred chastity violated?

Oh! but perhaps it was all right for Democrats to assemble and "suggest" a ticket, and then turn in and nominate it throughout; but it will be very wrong for Republicans to do the like. In the one case it was "invitation" in the other it will be "dictation." The one was a pure patriotic effort, entirely within the intent of the primary law. The other will be the effort of "a ring of discredited politiclans to subvert the law." Now kindly look over that list of participants in the Democratic assembly, and see if you note anything ringy or bossy about it. Observe whether you find any "discredited politicians in it '

Possibly it will be said that this as-

by putting out its candidates beforehand and keeping solid its own ranks. It has no go-as-you-please candidates. That folly it leaves to its opponents and encourages in its opponents, that It may divide and beat them

THE ECONOMIC LAW.

"Many ingenious reasons," says the New York American, "are offered to explain the high prices of foodstuffs, but the simplest reason is that not enough food is produced." Why not? The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture says: "There are not enough people on the farms producing food, and too many people are going to the towns to be fed."

Asked if he had any plan for inducing people to go to the country to help produce the food, the Secretary answered by quoting James J. Hill, who says "they will go there when they get hungry.

The economic law is the only sure STREE: Though its course may be checked for a time, it will certainly nave Its way at last. The Boston Transcript has these judicious obser-vations: "The sweeping away" of our orests has been universally deplored. So has the enhanced price of lumber. But the latter is economic law's way of restoring the forests. The same is true of coal and water power, and a thousand other things. Through the rising price of leather economic law issues an invitation to inventors and mechanics to bring forth their substitute materials: the development along that line is now rapid. While America may cease to feed the outside. countries it will be a very long time before it will ask them in any large degree to feed us. Rising prices will in the long run put that incentive be-

hind the plow-handles."

FOOZLED AGAIN. The other day the diligent press bureau of Senator Bourne at Washington informed a gasping world that the Senator had made another brilliant coup for the benefit of his pleased constituents. Or. rather, it was announced that he was about to do it. In the exact language of the press dispatch, the Senator was "considering the advisability of attempting to secure legislation to extend the 320acre homestead law to Oregon. He is personally favorable to bringing Oregon within the provisions of the enlarged homestead law, but probably case will not act until he can obtain expressions of opinion from Oregon

Great! Great indeed! The Oregon Senator, ever alive to the wishes of the plain people, wants to receive their imperial mandate. Meanwhile he will do nothing rash. He will take his time while strolling leisurely around the golf links in "considering" the matter with his caddy.

It is well. For Congress and the Secretary of the Interior have already anticipated by a year or more any need for the Senator to worry his brain with "considering" anything about the nomestead act. The 320-acre dry-farm act was passed by Congress at its last while Senator Bourne was session. presumably at Washington. Reference to the recent annual report of the Secretary of the Interior will discover the fact that 8,403,200 acres had been set apart in Oregon for entry under this law prior to November 1, 1909. The Senator's belated purpose to do something big for the dry-farm homesteaders of Oregon is another handsome foozle

DESCHUTES RAILROAD TRUCE.

No regret will be felt over cessation of hostilities between the Hill and the where there is business and one where Harriman forces now rushing WOLF there is none. If Astoria would build on the Central Oregon lines. Compe tition of the kind that has been in evidence since the warfare began, about six months ago, is always expensive, and in the end the public pays the bills. The reported truce has apparently been declared without in any way affecting or retarding early completion of both roads. public is thus assured of a healthy natural competition after the shall be completed, and it will at the involved. same time be relieved of the extra burden of expense that a prolonged struggle between the two companies would have entailed. The money wasted on unnecessary construction work, while fighting for strategic points, becomes a part of the cost of the road, and a fixed charge lles against it until the end of time. The public is seldom, if ever, taken into the confidence of the men formulate and enforce the railroad policies of the country, but it seems probable that the hostilities in Deschutes were abandoned for the same reason that the proposed construction of a second line to Puget Sound was supplanted by a trackage agreement over the line already constructed. The competing forces in both of these projects had shown a determination to reach their respective goals, regardless of cost; once having reached them, all the money spent in obstructive tactics would have been wasted. The rall roads accordingly accepted the inevitable with as good a grace as possible and undoubtedly saved a number of millions of dollars in each case. With this cessation of hostilities between the rival forces in the Deschutes, much less difficulty should be encountered in securing the prompt approval by the Government of the location maps not already passed on. Pending this settlement, this approval was delayed by the obstructive tactics of the two roads and also by objections raised by people unfamiliar with the situation, but who were under the erroneous impression that the water rights of the Deschutes were being jeopardized by construction of the roads on the locations selected With no further clashing between the two roads, the only possible excuse for withholding Government permission to proceed with the plans as now outlined would be the objections of a few theoretical conservationists who fear that the line might interfere with some power sites along the stream. Ase the Interior Department has already approved the west-bank location, no logical reason can be advanced for refusing to approve a simllar location on the east bank. The party. Preparation for it among activity of the construction forces on the two lines, and the enormous sums of money that are being expended in and rushing the work tend to confirm the general bellef that the two enterprises are of greater magnitude than has yet been admitted,

together; a stick and mud chimney

and fireplace half across one end; a

roof and door of shakes riven from

straight billets of vellow fir at the

other: low, square windows along

the sides, each set with a sash

sloping shelf running along under the

windows with a shelf underneath for

of these shelves, a small table on

he fireplace, and a chair with raw-

-this was the old log school-house

strove to master the simple rudiments

of what was then known as a "com"

the sun and air from the fir trunks

make the walls tight, or to fit the win

enjoying his freedom and the respec

ing to accord the honest worker.

which decent mankind is always will-

It is well enough to keep in mind

mon school education."

ever forget it?

Knox.

without railroad facilities anywhere in the United States. Any ruling of the Government that would tend to retard the construction of these roads through the Deschutes Canvon would inture thousands of settlers without offering any counter advantages. The adverse criticism which

has been heaped on Secretary Ballinger by the uninformed muckrakers should not and probably will not influence him in doing what is right by the people of Oregon in hastening the opening of the great Central Oregon empire.

CUTTING OFF OUR OWN NOSE.

The Government is preparing to evy a fine of \$132,000 against a big Hamburg-American liner, which is approaching the California shores with 660 tourists who left New York several months ago on a tour of the world. During the Winter season. when business is dull on the Atlantic these big liners offer very attractive inducements to travelers who seek the maximum of comfort and the minimum of expense. They are permitted to land at "coastwise" ports in every other country on earth but ours.

We are great believers in protection however, and must make an exampl of this ship, that has had the audacity to carry passengers between New York and San Francisco via the Mediterranean, Suez Canal, Singapore, China Japan and other countries. The fine is of sufficient propor

tions to prevent any company from repeating the offense, and American travelers desiring an economical trip around the world can walt until the ship-subsidy bill passes, and we run our foreign competitors off the ocean

AN ASTORIA MISUNDERSTANDING. Elsewhere The Oregonian prints a ommunication from T. O. Trullin

ger, of Astoria. The questions asked by Mr. Trullinger have been answered so often in these columns that an apology is perhaps due our readers for again discussing them. Mr. Truilinger begins with_a statement entirely at variance with the facts. Astoria cannot "ship lumber or salmon to the interior points anywhere in the Inland Empire as cheaply as Seattle can.' Nor is it true that "commodities of any kind can be shipped to Astoria from the Inland Empire as cheaply as to Seattle." The local rate between Portland and Astoria is added in every

There is perhaps some excuse for Mr. Trullinger's opinion that Portland should get a lesser rate than the Sound" from certain territory; but, so long as the railroads maintain tracks. stations and other equipment between the Inland Empire and Seattle, they will meet the Portland rate, no matter how low that rate may be. Northern Pacific officials, however, will not ad-mit that the downhill haul to Portland is anything more than an equal!

zation of the advantage of cheap fuel enjoyed by the lines to Puget Sound The O. R. & N. is in direct competition with the Northern roads at a number of points in the Inland Em-Large milling concerns on Pupire. get Sound, with extensive warehous systems at these competitive points, can thus force the O. R. & N. either to haul their wheat to Puget Sound, or not get any of the business. The cule works both ways, and it will probably be news to Mr. Trullinger to learn that, prior to completion of the North Bank road, in a single year more than 1,000,000 bushels of wheat has been hauled over the Cascade Mountains

through Tacoma to Portland. As explained in the Interstate Commerce Commission decision, no comparlson can be made between a point

NEWS BY GROUND WIRE

what Startling Discoveries After the Manner of Sherlock Holmes. People's Press, Portland.

There has come to our ears of late a ouching tale that our Jonathan Bourne was going to start a morning paper in Portland. Of this sheet W. S. U'Ren and four panes of glass; a long, Portland. would be the editor. Real money, stamped with the Bourne trademark, was said al-ready to be in circulation here; and a slate and books; rude benches in front much larger opening of "the sack" was said to be only a matter of a few days. In fact, it was reported that Jonathan slightly raised platform at one side of hide or splint bottom for the teacher had hired several refrigerator cars and was even now having them loaded with simoleons for the campaign in the dear and its equipment for the comfort of the children of the pioneers as they old Beaver State.

The People's Press at once put its Sher-lock Holmes on the trail of this story. Disguised as a Statement One politician. our sleuth took up his stand half way be-tween Oregon City and the Portland Labor Press, and put his ear to the Fragrant of the balsam, distilled by around. Presently he got up and smiled, having tapped a wireless message pass-ing between these two points, and came of which they were built; well ventiground. lated, since there was no attempt to nto the office to report.

dows snugly; the wide fireplace full of glowing logs during the Winter "You may say without fear of contra-diction," said he, "that Jonathan Bourne has already dispatched \$129,000 to Oregon. term and gay with evergreen boughs to be expended in educating the people as to the great dangers of the assembly in the Spring; the birds singing outside, and flitting now and then through plan. This money is in the hands of six committeemen, all appointed by Jona-than, after consultation with one man Chamberlain. While it is expected that the open door in quest of a safe nest ing place; the path that led to the spring from which the children drank recklessly (the germ theory of disease some of the money will stick to the hands of this sextette of faithful workers, the greatest part will be used to getting out having not yet been evolved)-can any one who ever went to school in one predigested editorial matter for the counof these primitive log school-houses try newspapers of Oregon, and for pay-ing for the insertion of this matter under Harry K. Thaw, who removed the

the guise of legitimate copy. "Mr. Bourne does not intend to start a newspaper in Portland, but will rely unspeakable Stanford White from this orld, has reached the end of his upon the efforts of the Journal and the Labor Press to spread his ideas in Mult-nomah's metropolis. Elsewhere in the financial tether, and has been officially declared a bankrupt. When state, however, he is planning the acthe almost measuresless sorrow and uirement of interests in several papers. heartaches which this worthless son and will shortly require 'good men and true' to take up the editorial responsi-bilities of these sheets, and see that only pro-Bourne and pro-Chamberialn matter is published in consplexous posiof a rich man has caused are considered, it seems a great pity that his father had not become a bankrupt and oft the young man a legacy of debt tions in these papers. There will be more money coming from the East shortly to add to this preliminary \$120,000." instead of millions. Poverty is not pleasant, but it has certain features

which for the development of charac We received this information with great ter and moral stamina are much su to remain on the job, still disguised as perior to anything that riches have ever produced. Had Fortune decreed a Statement One politician. As soon as further information is forthcoming, the readers of the People's Press will be inthat Harry Thaw's days should have the been spent in earning instead of spending money, he might today be formed of developments.

WATER POWER SITES. Presentation of Facts Against Imagin-

ative Theories. New York Sun

that there is to be an election in Port-New York Sun, WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Theoretically water power is the cheapest possible me-chanical energy, yet official reports de-clare that "water power has not held its own, but has steadily declined in relative importance since 1870, when it was 48.2 land school district February 2 to de cide on the issue of \$350,000 bon is for a new West Side High School, Of course no one will say that the West Side should not have a high school per cent of the whole (horsepower in the equal to the two fine structures on the country), whereas for 1905 it was only 11.3 per cent." Reports for the year 1905 East Side; yet there are interests op-11.3 per cent." Reports for the year 1866 show the use in mechanical industries of 1.647,969 horsepower generated by running water. Out of this about 40 per cent was in New England and about 27 per cent in the State of New York. Analysis would in all probability show that the greater part of this is used in mills built many years ago. For various reasons water power is not the first choice as a source of energy in mechanical industries. posed to any improvement even for chools that would, if they could, defeat the project. All who desire to have the West Side properly provided with a high school should govern themselves accordingly on February 2 Russia, Japan, France and Great ource of energy in mechanical industries Britain have declined to assent to the For present use, at least, a power site is not eagerly sought by the factory proplan of Secretary Knox for the neu

tralization of the Manchurian railprietors. It is possible, though the fact is not clearly established, that some grasping "trust," in anticipation of future roads. At this writing the plan has not appealed to anyone except M: This fiasco, following so closeconditions in parts of the country, is "gobbling up" the best and most desira-ble power sites. Even if this is true, it may not be an evil. The use of a power ly on the affair in which Mr. Knox threatened much, and did nothing towards punishing Zelaya, must be site for the development of power is an unprofitable enterprise unless the power oan be sold directly as water power or rather discomfiting to the distinguished Secretary of State As yet it has not been announced that ex-Minindirectly as electrical energy. If powe is offered on reasonable terms, the prot able result is mills and factories employ If power ister Crane has extended his regrets The Hood River Fruitgrowers

ing hands and paying wages, or light, heat and power for towns and cities. If charges for power are excessive, there will be no sale for the power. The prac-Union, after a successful career of 18 years, has been dissolved, and its affairs are being wound up. It has been tical utilization of a power site requires, succeeded by a larger and more im-

ASSEMBLY NECESSARY FOR VOTERS Individuals Can't Personally Know All

Nominees, Says Salem Lawyer. SALEM. Or., Jan. 23 .- (To the Editor.)-

How any man of ordinary intelligence can honestly assert and maintain that the pro-posed assembly or convention plan, for the hates for office by the Republicans of bregon, is a menace to the direct primary law, is what I cannot understand. I am inclined to think that those who maintain that position are not so solicitous for the welfare of the Republican party as they are for their own personal interests. So far as I have been able to ascertain, there are but two newspapers in the state, claiming to be Republican, that oppose said plan, and one of those was, a few years ago, doing all it could to disrupt and defeat the Republican party, and which paper, although now nominally Republican, has not been again received into full fellowship and the confidence of the

party. The paper referred to may assume to voice the principles of the Repub-lican party, but it is the voice of Jacob, while its hand is the hand of Esau. If it is the purpose of the direct primary law to prohibit the people from assembling in a peaceable manner for religious

or political consultation, it is subversive of that liberty which Jefferson declared to be inalienable and which is guaranteed by the Constitution of Washington, Madi-son, Franklin and their compeers, This is a representative government, not

the is a representative government, not mocracy nor yet an oligarchy. All of voters within a voting precinct personally know every candi-therein and be eminently qual-to choose wisely therefrom, may date ified and still be entirely unacquainted with candidates in other precincts within the county and state. Nearly every voter

will know of some representative of his party who is better qualified than he to select candidates for county and state offices, and it is his right and privilege to delegate that man to represent him. In spite of all the restrictions thrown about the voter by the primary law, a large per cent of voters now vote unintelligibly. This is patent to everybody who will watch the process of voting at any general election. Voters find it necessary not only to inquire of some one in whom they confidence the choice they should make, but they even are ignorant of the politics of the men whose names are on

the ticket. myself, I profess to possess average intelligence and an average knowledge of the politics of the state and the standing of many of the candidates. At the same time, I know of men within the Republican party who are much better inform concerning both than I am, and whom I prefer to have represent me in the coun-cils of the party, because of said superior knowledge. Again, no one man will know all of the candidates for all of the county sil of the candidates for all of the condi-offices, to say nothing about the candi-dates for state offices. But an assembly of representative men will contain men who do know them and by conferring and discussing their merits will be more likely to select a good ticket than will the "ebsteme" method of the direct primary.

"shotgun" method of the direct primary. After the convention, or the "assembly," if that name is liked better, has com-It that make is inded better, pass completed its work and made its report, there remains the direct-primary law in full force and vigor to correct any errors it may have made. The primary law is here and it is going to remain. It may be somewhat modified or amended, but it will remain substantially as it is now, and all the conventions and assemblies that may be convened cannot affect it one particle. Let us have the assembly, and then the primary and the choice of the people will be better and more faithfully expressed than it has been within the last four years. Therefore, let the Republicans hold their precinct, county and state as

semblies, and let the "wolf how"." D. WEBSTER.

VIRULENCE OF BRITISH POLITICS No Gentle Words Are These, Addressed

to Englishmen.

It need not to be supposed that British political contests are conducted always with decency, dignity and gravity free from venomous attacks on polit ical opponents. In our own country we seldom or never have anything quite so virulent as the assaults of the or-

ASTORIA MAN WANTS TO KNOW. Asks Some Questions About Common

Point, Answered Elsewhere. ASTORIA, Or., Jan. 21.-(To the Edi-or.)-As I have been a subscriber to The Oregonian for the last 30 years, I feel at liberty to ask you to explain a few matters in regard to the common point rate on wheat from the Inland Empire to As-toria that has just been decided by the Interstate Commission. The Commission thought Astoria was discriminated against thought Astoria was obscriminated against too much, and so they reduced the disori-minative rate of \$2 a ton to be cents a ton. from Portland to Astoria, which, in fact, leaves 90 cents a ton handicap yet. Perhaps this is fair, but it does not seem so to Astoria. With this handicap As-toria cannot expect any business as far

as shipping wheat is concerned. Wheat is the only commodity on which he railroads discriminate against As-Astoria can ship lumber or saltoria. mon to the interior points anywhere in the Inland Empire as cheap as Seattle can, and any commodities of any kind can be shipped to Astoria from the In-land Empire (except whent) as chemply as to Seattle. I cannot understand that, Leave Portland out of the discussion al-together, as The Oregonian recently commenting on this issue, said the railroad balked at a 90-cent rate in competition with the river by tramp steamer, which no doubt from your conclusion is true. As Portland is nearer the inland Em-pire, with the advantage of a downhill haul, I niways believed it should get a lesser rate than the Sound, but I cannot see why Seattle or the Sound should get a better rate than Astoria. That is one of the questions that I wish you to ex-

plain. As the Union Pacific, through the O. B. & N. Company, is seeking business from the Inland Empire to the Sound, I understand that it has made the same rate from interior points to Seattle as it gives to Portland. It does not seem to balk the O. R. & N. Company much to haul wheat down the Columbia River to Vanouver, and from there to Seattle, which is 180 miles, some 70 miles farther than Astoria, which is down-grade all the way. Yet they have to haul up grade to get into the Sound. Strange how the rall-roads balk at hauling down towards Astoria, but it seems to be a pleasure to go up hill to go to the Sound. You might kindly explain that situation.

Now one more little matter. The Oregonian has always contended that a tramp steamer could carry a cargo of, say, 5000 tons from Portland to Astoria to this is like the boy that lived at home and his parents furnished his board and dothes and paid all his expenses, and the money he carned, of course, was his own, and naturally would make a good show-ing. Otherwise the truth half-told, to say the least, sometimes is misleading. Suppose you would charge the expenses that Portland has met in dredging the river against the tramp steamer freight, what would the rate be? Or, in other words, which costs most to maintain, the railroad or the river?

I am not complaining about the cost of dredging, because Portland has borne it cheerfully. I know The Oregonian in discussing the state portage road at The Dalles, counted all the expenses, and The Oregonian said that they amounted to some \$90 a ton. I contend a locomotive can haul 100 cars with 50 tons to the car, or 5000 tons from Portland to Astoria cheaper than the same freight can be handled from Portland to Astoria on a tramp steamer. Or, would a save man think that it would cost \$4500 to continue

that 100 cars on to Astoria? If it does, how much would it cost to continue the same 100 cars on to Scattle. which is 70 miles farther and also an up These are matters which have always been hard for me to understand, and, if you can explain this, you will confer a great favor on me. T. O. TRULLINGER.

DEATH OF AN INDIGENT SOLDIER.

Case in Point of Veteran Too III to Be

Moved in Cars Many Miles. TROUTDALE, Or., Jan. 22.-(To the Editor.)-Rev. C. E. Cline's letter in The Pregonian of this date reads very nicely. But let me tell a true story:

Last May an old soldier whom I have known for 18 years lay near deat vacant saloon building. It was a

THE MORNING OREGONIAN, MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1910.

sembly didn't meet in the name of th Democratic party nor attempt to "dictate" a ticket. It did meet expressly in the name of the Democratic party. put forth a long pronunclamento or platform, beginning with the words: 'We, Democrats of Oregon, In mass meeting assembled at Portland this 7th day of March, 1906," etc. Did it "dictate" a ticket to the party? Well, the ticket it "offered," "suggested" or "invited," was nominated throughout. What show was there for "free choice in the primary," which it is now feared by our Democratic brethren the Republican assembly will cut off?

The Republican party proposes not to use the assembly as the Democratic party has used it heretofore, but to put it on a wider and more representative basis. The Democratic assembly consisted of self-constituted members assuming to act in the name of their party. The Republican assembly, or the contrary, will be wholly representative. Selection by the body of the members of the party of a great number of delegates, as nearly in proportion as possible to the Republican vote in each of the countles, is intended. These appointed representatives of their party will suggest, recommend or invite designated men upon whom assembly may agree, to become candidates for nomination at the direct primary election. Some or all of them may be opposed at the primary by other Republicans. No "ring" in the Republican party has such power of "dictation" as that possessed by the Democratic assembly which met at Portland and "dictated" a ticket which no group or member of the party was permitted to oppose, but which was put straight through according to the programme.

It is just as well to refresh the memory of the people of Oregon about these proceedings, and especially the memory of those of our Democratio brethren who are wont to asseverate, now in indignant, now in soleinn tones, that if Republicans assemble to "suggest" or "recommend" candidates, or to "invite" particular men to be candidates, they are subverting or destroving the primary law. On this point the Republican assembly may as well copy and follow to the letter the proceedings of the Democratic assembly of 1906. Perhaps this might relieve the anxiety of our brethren, and check the flow of their exclama tory holophrasms,

There has been no general election for the state since 1906. This year such election will again be held and the Democratic ticket, as heretofore. will be a product of a conference or assembly of leading politicians of the them, with a view to alliance with Republicans, supposed to be "sore," is going on all the time.

go-as-you-please primary, overv candidate nominating himself, disor ganizes and disintegrates a political -party, especially the majority party The minority party hopes to build itself up by this disorganization of its opponents, and so helps it on all it can. But here in Gregon the minority party for itself anticipates the primary

One and perhaps both of these lines may be intended to form a new transportation link between Oregon and California. There is at stake the de- as likely left in their natural state; velopment of the largest area of rich timber and farm land that remains the corners where they were laid the limelight will cut a neat caper.

mills and elevators as important as those on Puget Sound, and establish warehouses and elevators at interior points where the two rail systems contended for freight, it would have some excuse for asking the same rate as is granted other points which have those facilities, although it would still be necessary to demonstrate where any advantage would accrue to the producer or the consumer of the freight

Mr. Trullinger's knowledge of the tramp steamer traffic is somewhat vague and uncertain. The shipowner does not pay the expense of dredging between Portland and Astoria any more than he pays the cost of the much more expensive river improvement work between Astoria and the sea. It costs him, in the shape of fixed charges, pilotage, crew wages, etc., from 5 cents to 10 cents per ton to

move freight over the 100-mile stretch of water between Portland and Astoria. What Portland has spent in improving the river does not concern the shipowner any more than it would concern the railroad that might carry the freight by rail to Astoria. Portland's expenditures for river work are in the same class as her expenditures for streets, water works and other municipal improvements.

With an assessed valuation of more than \$200,000,000 and a jobbing trade of \$250,000,000 per year, there has never been any objection to the comparatively small amount spent to keep our river in shape for handling not only outward-bound but inward-bound ships. Of course, if we forced the railroads to haul the wheat to Astoria free, they would be obliged to haul the inward cargo from ships coming in for wheat at the same price. The

question of river improvement does not enter into the matter, for the reason that the river channel will not be closed, no matter what rates might be made to Astoria.

THE OLD LOG SCHOOL-HOUSE.

The old log school-house, like the old stage coach-at one time and for long advance guards of civilization in the wilderness-has practically disappeared from the Pacific Northwest. But two of these old houses, we are told, remain in service in Washington County. Probably not more than that number remain in any county of the Willamette Valley. Rude devices reared by the pioneers of a past era to shelter and provide educational advantages for their children in the days when an arithmetic, a copy book and a slate and pencil constituted the individual equipment for study for each child, while two or more of the same family shared in common the reader spelling book, these old log school-houses served well their day

and purpose. Their architecture was of the most primitive type. Logs cut from the abounding forest, with due regard to size and symmetry-perhaps roughly hewn on one or two sides, but quite deeply notched by the settlers' ax at

portant organ but it will no on be forgotten that it was the now defunct organization that first made Hood River famous as a fruit center, and to its wonderful work is duemuch of the remarkable development of the fruit industry in the Hood River valley.

The Albany Democrat thinks Milt mbly-dictated candidates." But

The state Democratic assembly in 1906 didn't "make a ticket"-simply "invited" men to become candidates That is just what the Republican as sembly will do this year, and the Republican assembly will comply more nearly with the primary law than did the Democratic assembly of 1906.

Five Republicans only out of thirtyfour interviewed by The Oregonian yesterday opposed the assembly. This would seem to be about the customary proportion throughout the state, Three of the five hold office. Others who hold office favor the assembly. Now what's the 'answer?

It is now certain that the Irish party, known in the returns as Nationalists, will hold the balance of power in the British Commons. Which of the parties will grant what the Nationalists ask, for the sake of their support on questions of English pol-Will either? ley7

Ballinger is no mealy-mouth when comes to retort upon his assailants, His speech in Williamstown, Mass., on Saturday, was brimful of hot stuff. It is just the kind of speech an able man could make and should make, when in position to defy traducers.

"The more the farmer gets for his products the more prosperity," SBYS the Albany (Oregon)- Democrat. Now what is the consumer in the city, and the wageworker in general, all in revolt against high prices, to think of that

Having found it impossible to make bluffs that would keep each other out, the two railroads up the Deschutes Canyon agree to agree. That is to be expected, since none of Nature's bluffs could keep either railroad out.

Trenton, N. J., has a no-seat-no-fare law, and the women prefer to stand rather than to take the men's seats. The law, then, is several ways a boon

Thaw is declared bankrupt. He might as well be released from the asylum, then, since actresses can find nothing further in him worth while.

With the Irish holding the balance of power in the next Parliament, there be something doing. Paddy in Titu

ceivable that this alleged "water power trust" may be a blessing in disguise, if such an organization really does exist. It may mean new centers of industry and more wage earners, more busines; for rallroads and more wealth for the Na There are parts of the power site con

ervation programme which are obvious y commendable. Such sites have a value The Albany Democrat thinks Milt Miller, as Democratic candidate for Governor, might "silp in," for "the people are not going to vote for any assembly-dictated candidates." But assembly-dictated candidates." But the Democratic party did vote for their assembly candidates in 1906 without a murmur of protest; and one of them "slipped in." derived from developed water power.

"Our Saviors."

Albany (Or) Herald. In a recent issue of the Detroit Times appeared the pictures of Senators Jonathan Bourne and George E. Chamberlain, with the statement that they were joined together in an effort to deliver the peo ple of Oregon from the rule of the "gang." Somebody said something to "gang." Somebody said something to the effect that distance lends enchant-ment to the view. The writer of the ar-ticle probably knows nothing about conditions in Oregon. Or it may be that the Detroit Times runs ads on its first page. We know of but one way to judge a man, and that is by what he has done and by what he is doing now. You can't judge him by what he may do. Judging from the past record of Jonathan Bourne and from his record thus far in the FAITHFUL READER OF OREGONIAN

United States Senate, we should hardly suspect him of leading a movement t deliver the people of Oregon from th gang. It was a wolf, was it not. was going to lead little Red Riding Hood out of the woods? We are willing to be delivered "from." but most of us would like to know what we are to be delivered "to." As to Senator Chamberlain, we have nothing to say at present. He is Democrat and owns up to it.

"Jimmy Wanted It."

New York Sun. We learn from the Nashville Tennesses

Klickitat. Mall service at that time was not adjusted on the Goldendale branch. The second day after Colonel Parker's arrival, The Oregonian of that morning did not arrive. The next 24 hours had strenuous moments for me, and the Coloned at times was correspondingly do Colonel at times was correspondingly de We learn from the Nashville Tennessean that the Hon. James Rudolph Garfield, reported to have been the Hon. William Alden Smith's candidate for Chief For-ester last week, "Is very keen in the race for the Governorship of Ohio." No doubt. "Why," somebody is said to have asked the Hon. Theodore Roosevelt once upon a time "did you make Garfield Secretary The offer of a pipe with a change of tobacco and another attraction did not seem to soothe Colonel Parker's over-strung nerves. The following day, Con-ductor Harry Wherland, who has a proellvity to accommodate the fisherman and healthseeker, was interviewed. Hence a time, "did you make Garfield Secretary of the Interior?" "Oh," replied that fa-mous humorist, "Jimmy wanted it." The Oregonian came every day "on the dot" for the Colonel, six hours after leaving the press. Parker was a changed

Poe and Holmes in Court.

Washington Star. With Edgar Allan Poe arguing a case pefore Oliver Wendell Holmes the clock in the United States Supreme Co eemed to have turned back several decades today

But it was so. Oliver Wendell Holme was on the bench; Edgar Allan Poe was at the bar. Counsellor Poe is a member of the famous Poe family of Baltimore, Justice Holmes' pedigree also is welldians' outbreak. known.

An Error of Early Days.

New York World. In the early days of the republic there was a theory that small salaries would prevent men from seeking office for pe-cuniary reward; but it is a theory that New York Sun. The Indianapolis News gives way to nnecessary regret when it sighs that all

the efforts for the "purification" of the Indiana Democracy have ended in the supremacy of the Hon. Thomas Taggart. this country long ago outgrew. Small salaries are an inducement to the wrong kind of men to seek public office and an obstacle in the way of the right kind of Why kick at Tom? He is one of the nu merous immortal and immutable Demo-cratic principles.

gans of each of the political parties upon the leading men of the other. smelling place and I 'was called Before us is the National Review for Troutdale. I phoned to Greeham for the nearest physician, who urged the man's January, one of the champions of the Conservative cause. Following, are some of its remarks on the Ministry, and in particular on Asquith and Lloyd-George

Corroboration That Colonel Parker Has

Read This Paper for 40 Years.

-I wish to verify Colonel Frank J. Park er's plight, when without the daily visi

of The Oregonian as expressed by him

Some months ago Colonel Parker came for a week at my homestead on the

man, and he bore the marks of old times up in the Walla Walla country when that city was a village and he was the wide-awake editor of the Statesman.

There Are Difficulties.

LYLE, Wash., Jan. 23 .- (To the Editor.)

removal at once to the hospital. The old soldier was a pauper. He had some prop-erty here at one time, and this is his George: They have scarcely a spark of patriolism among them, and are cynically indifferent to the future of these islands, while the word "Empire" never pollutes their lips. They seem resolutely resolved to resort to any faisehoods calculated to catch votes and to anve scharles. The Cabinet avowed-the respect of decent folk, to which, how-ever, they are no longer entitled since their abject surrender to a couple of blatant demagnques, who live only to injure public interests and to advance their own. One is a hysterical Welds attorney, with a pos-titively insane hatred of England-which inde frequent expression in his Welsh spectes and sermona-totally unfit to hold any serious office, whose Chancellorship of the Exchequer has probably cont this un-fortunate nation some (200,000,000, 1, e., the amount of the French indemnity to Germany in 1871. The other is a renegade who only became a Radical politician be-cause he had failed to become a Unionist indentit against all the causes he used to champion. Liberals seem to have adopted as their war-cry, "If at first you don'ts succeed, ile, ile, ile again." and politician incorrerly believed incapable of conscious de-valing epidemic, feeling presumably that and they came in one an ocean of terminological incorrerly believed incapable of terminological incapation from accuracy have caushit the pre-valing epidemic, feeling presumably that and they came in on an ocean of terminological incapation form accuracy have caushit the pre-valing epidemic, feeling presumably that and they came in on an ocean of terminological incapations in a ocean of terminological incapations in a ocean of terminological incapations in a ocean of terminological incapations in an ocean of terminological incapations in a ocean of terminological incapations in a ocean of terminological incapations in a o record: Corporal Company C. Regi-ment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, pension certificate No. 252341. He was too They have scarcely a spark of patriotis sick a man to be taken to the poor farm on the cars on account of the frequent transfers, so I phoned to a wealthy farm-er who had an automobile, and, with an attendant, took him to the County Courthouse. The farmer got in trouble with the people of the building. It seemed they wanted to take the nationt on a hayrack to the poor farm, but the farmer object-ed, and he then drove the soldier to the

poor farm, with his auto. In a day or so after this the old soldier died and the authorities, knowing he had friends in Troutfale, sent the body to a firm of undertakers in Portland, whose bill was \$55. The county was asked to pay it, but a refusal was met with. The moment was waited here by subscription Now I am to be sued for the use of the auto. How about it, Judge Webster? AARON FOX,

Ex-Mayor Troutdale, Or.

Young Men in House of Commons Westminster Gazettte

In connection with the question which has arisen as to who is the youngest candidate at the present election it may be recalled that in 1613 there was no fewer than 40 gentlemen not more than 20 and some not exceeding 16 who had seats in the House of Commons. Hatsell n his "Precedents" remarks that the poet Waller, among others, sat in Parlia-ment (1623) before he was 17 years of age. A statute of William III makes void the election of any person who is not 21 years of age, but members under age have been occasionally admitted not-withstanding the provisions of this act Charles James Fox was returned and sat at the age of 19, but Chesterfield under similar circumstances received from the Ministry of the day, whom he had at-Ministry of the day, whom he had a tacked, a hint that he must withdraw.

Collector's Wonderful Purchases. London Globe

Many remarkable stories might be told of Isaac Falcke, whose death has re-moved one of the greatest of art col-lectors. He was a born convoluseur and in the course of his career made some wonderful finds and no fewer than three means a collections. At one time Mr separate collections. At one time Mr. Faicke and his brother had more difficulty in securing packing cases for their Continental finds than in obtaining ob-jects of art. A writer in the Times men-tions that the finest enamel gold boxes bought by them by the dozen for their hammering away for a transcontinental railroad. Parker, at the time on the Klickltat, related that for the last 40 weight in gold, from which was deducted the weight of the enamel on them.

Still Imparting Information.

Chicago Tribune. Mrs. Chugwater (taking off her glasses and wiping them)-Josiah, what does this

"eternal feminine?" Mr. Chugwater-Lillian Russell, I sup

pose. Takes too much work to dig out a fact for yourself once in awhile, does it?

The Unterrified Improver.

New York Su First Angel-What is the rumpus in the

seventh heaven? Second Angel-A moral uplifter has roken through the roof trying to find an eighth heaven.

years he had dally read The Oregonian with one interruption back in the Sum-mer of 1578, when he was a scout for the late General O. O. Howard, up in the Owyhee country, during the Bannock In-JOHN G. MADDOCK.