# The Oregonian

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LUXURIES BECOME NECESSARIES. The remark that the real remedies for the high cost of living are more industry and less extravagance offers the only suggestion that can be of real value in this field of inquiry. The inquiry before the committee of Congress will produce merely a mass o confusing details, which the committee will have neither the industry nor the courage to digest or sum up. It is not a comfortable truth, to talk about more industry and less extravagance as the real remedies for high cost o living; and the committee therefore cannot be expected to go to the root of the matter. It will take an immense mass of testimony, but reach no conclusion worth anything.

It has often been remarked that the luxuries of one age become the necessaries of the next. This is true now to a greater degree than at any former time in the economic life of mankind. "decent living" of today was a fuxurious living not so very long ago. This inevitably is a great cause of high prices. It has an immense effect on the humbler industries, which lie at the base of production. It creates desire to escape or to avoid them, and causes advance of wage service in the industries that produce neces sarles, as well as in those which minis-ter to luxurious desire. All prices rise therefore, with increase of wants and with use of means to gratify them. Nothing else can reasonably be ex

Recently the trade fournal known as Technical World presented a list of things once known as luxuries or su perfluitles, and very sparingly used, but now the people of the United States spend on them not less than \$2,500,000,000 annually. Look this schedule: European trips, \$170,000,000; railroad pleasure trips and Pullman fares, \$173,924,226; theaters and other amusements, \$250,-000,000; yachts, \$28,451,114; automo-biles, \$110,000,000; carriages, \$55,759, 276; planos, \$48,000,000; 276; pianos, \$48,000,000; talking ma-chines, \$16,000,000; ammunition and fireworks, \$21,930,821; Hquors, mineral and soda waters, \$605,921,000; cigars, tobacco and smokers' articles, \$358, 385,594; candy, \$101,578,000; billiard tables, \$2,222,922; perfumery and cosmetics, \$12,253,255; jewelry, \$93,606, 448: imported millinery, \$15,607.502; laces and embroideries (imported), \$33,611,010; silks, \$197,850,000; imported toys, \$7,206,423; fancy articles 'not specified" (domestic only), \$11.

The total here is nearly \$2,500,000. 000 a year. No Item in it that was not once deemed a "superfluity." Outside this list are all necessary food, clothing and other supplies, about which com-plaint of high cost is made. The latest thing is that the common broom house is going up to three perhaps four, prices, because of scarcity of broomcorn, of wood for handles, and higher cost of labor.

### OVERLOOKING THE FACTS.

The Spokane Spokesman-Review, in objecting to The Oregonian's comment on the terminal rate controversy, continues to ignore unpleasant facts and at the same time keeps up a pleasant flirtation with gauzy theories. Quoting The Oregonian's statement that "water competition, even with the high local rates back from the coast, aiready enables the Coast jobbers to send freight far inland at much lower rates than can be made by any all-rail route," the Spokane paper asserts: "It is manifestly unsound for The Oregonian to say that the railroads cannot afford to carry transcontinental freight to Spokane at terminal rates. This is conclusively disproved by their eagerness to haul freight 400 miles farther for terminal rates, for profits which are necessarily less than they would earn on business carried to Spokane at terminal rates."

The Oregonian based its assertion regarding the inability of the railroads to compete successfully with the water carriers on actual transactions." To be specific, we shall not cite the case of the Spokane drugdealers, hardware men, dry goods merchants, or any of the large numbers of Spokane tobbers who ship Eastern freight by the water route to Portland. The Spokesman-Review might plead lack of knowledge of the route over which their freight was moving. We shall, accordingly, take up the item of printer's ink, a commodity which moves in carload lots and is very desirable freight. The business records of the Spokesman-Re-view will show that the water route from the East offers so much lower rates than the rail route that the pa per saves about \$54 a car by shipping its ink from New York to Portland by water, and thence to Spokane by There is no theory about this transaction. It is a cold, hard, commercial proposition that cannot be explained away by all the quibble and subterfuge and sophistry that the Spokesman-Review can print in a cen-

tury. If the water route to Portland enables the publisher to save \$54 a car on his ink after paying the freight for a 400-mile rail haul after the ink reaches Portland, is it not plain beyond the necessity of argument that Portland has at least the advantage of that 400-mile rail haul? Is it not equally plain that, in order for the railroads to secure any business that will permit them to bring loaded cars west of Spokane to be returned with lumber and other Coast products, they must meet this water rate, or cease to do business? No one questions the brilliant statement of the Spokesman-Review that, "once Spokane wins its fight for terminal rates, it will enter upon an

must ultimately make it the largest

As the only possible method by which these rates could be secured would be by taking the big ocean liners up to the foot of Spokane Falls to discharge their cargoes, that "won-derful trade expansion" must still depend on the great natural resources with which Spokane has been favored The sooner Spokane ceases this twaddle about terminal rates and joins with the Coast cities in a demand for lower rates from the coast ports to the interior, the better it will be for all

Now that the Methodists in Rome have discovered a way to embarrass public men who happen to yisit that city, they seem disposed to make the most of it. Mr. Roosevelt is to be forced to choose between "Protes-tantism" and the Pope, as Mr. Fairbanks did, and, no doubt, every pubman who appears in Rome here after must take sides. There has not been such a grand opportunity in a long time for a bunch of trresponsible seulots to thrust religion into politics.

Since Mr. Roosevelt is not a Metho dist there is no emphatic reason why he should seek out the Methodist school in Rome for a visit. Judging from the sense displayed by its man-agers in the Fairbanks incident it cannot be a very interesting place With the Forum, the Collseum, the art galleries and all the other fascinating, places and things to look at, one can hardly imagine an intellige traveler wasting time on that obscure little school unless he expects to win votes at home by doing it. On the other hand, we cannot imagine any Methodist voter in this country permitting the fact that a man did or did not visit the church college in

Rome to influence him.

The cry that travelers will "show their loyalty to Protestantism" by visiting this intrusive little school is idiotic. If a person cannot see both the school and the Pope, and it seems he cannot, he displays infinite good sense in preferring the Pope. Religion does not enter into the matter at The Pope is a historical figure. He is perhaps the most important personage in the world. It is in very bad taste for the Methodist school in Rome to make it difficult for travelers of that church to call upon him.

#### THE DEATH-DEALING TAIL

Scientific opinion from other sources does not support Professor Booth's prophecy of disaster and death from the tall of Halley's comet. The Callfornia savant anticipates that most of mankind will perish in a month or two when the celestial portent sweeps across the earth. The comet's tall, containing cyanogen gas, will deal out death to all who breathe it, and since there will be nothing else to breathe how shall we escape?

Others, perhaps quite as wise as Professor Booth, do not forebode such sweeping destruction. The tail may kill a few victims, it is admitted, but they will be selected with discriminaton and their end will be easy. Cyano-gen kills quickly and without much pain, while the providence which pre-sides over comets will undoubtedly see to it that only the unworthy and

useless are smitten. Scientists offer additional comfort with the information that no comet's tail, even the biggest, weighs more than an ounce or two. This quantity of gas distributed over the entire earth cannot kill a great many people. It would be unfortunate if every body should escape, for some are fully ripe for the harvest and it would be a pity if they were not reaped. Upon Upon the whole we may properly enough expect that Halley's comet's tall will purify the earth of a few persons whom there seems to be no other way to get rid of decently, but, so far the population in general is concerned, there is no occasion for alarm.

### MR. LODGE ON THE TARIFF.

People who believe that the world ruled by humbug may find some support for their faith in one of Senator Lodge's recent speeches in the relation between the tariff and the price of meat. He says there is no such relation and confirms his opinion by citing the fact that we import no meat, while we export a great deal. he is right, because by imaginable contrivance can a tariff on imports affect the price of exports. Hence, it is impossible to reduce the price of meat, Mr. Lodge continues, by repealing the duty. The price is held up by a combination of brigands, he says, and "you cannot reach them through the tariff. I wish you could. If you could reach them through the tariff, I should be most happy to see that duty taken off, but there is use in undertaking to fool the people

about it." Commenting on these remarks, the Springfield Republican aptly asks of what use the duty is if it does not affect prices. Of course, if the removal of the duty cannot lower prices, the imposition of it did not raise them. If, when you abate a certain cause, you do not touch a given effect, it follows pretty clearly that the cause in duestion never could have produced that effect. What, then, is the use of the tariff on meat? Why was it imposed in the first place? Why is it maintained now? It must have We have discarded the old belief that everything in nature is useful to man, but we still cleave to the opinion that everything in the Payne-Aldrich tariff law is useful to somebody. What high purpose does the duty on meat suberve? Mr. Lodge confesses that its removal cannot fool the people. Does he think its retention can fool them? The people have grown astute enough to understand that removing the tariff on meat will not lower its price, but they have not yet quite seen through the humbug of the belief that its retention keeps the price up.

seems to be Mr. Lodge's position. There are a number of duties which stand in the same dilemma precisely as that on meat. The duty of 25 cents a bushel on wheat and that of 15 cents a bushel on corn are examples. According to Mr. Lodge's logic the removal of these duties would not affect the price of wheat or corn an atom, because we export those cereals and do not import them. Why then retain them? For the same reason that we While they retain the meat duty. do not fool the voter on all imaginable points, still they do fool some voters on some points. Hence it is best to retain them. Everybody sees through the silly figment that their removal would lower the prices of meat and bread, but Mr. Lodge hopes the farm-

figment that their retention mises the price of wheat and bread. The duties do not make the workingman's daily od bill any heavier, but they bring the farmer higher prices for his wheat and cattle.

When Mr. Lodge savs you cannot fool the people by telling them the removal of the duty would cut down the price of meat, by "people" means wage-earners. When, on the contrary, he believes you can fool the people by telling them the duty keeps up the price of wheat and cattle, b "people" he means the farmers. All is fish that comes to his net. The intelligence of the wage-earners teacher them that the duty might as well stay where it is. The stupidity of the farmers, Mr. Lodge imagines, fools them into believing that their interest would suffer if it did not stay. Thus the precious duties on foodstuffs, in spite of their egregious humbuggery are perfectly safe and can be used for trading stock in the future as in the The farmers can be whippe into line for the tariff on ironware and cottons by threatening their tariff on It is a lovely system and whatever we may think of its goodness, nobody can deny that it was made in wisdom.

CITY OF HOMES.

Portland as a "City of Homes" has reputation throughout the land, That there is small likelihood of this reputation suffering is evident from the details of the building permits now being issued. In the month of January more than 250 residence making an even better beginning the first seven business days of the month there were issued 66 residence permits of a valuation of \$139,290, the total building permits amounting to \$223,925. It is not alone in the number but in the cost of the buildings constructed that Portland makes a remarkably good showing. The average valuation named in the 339 building permits issued in Portland in January was \$1840, compared with an average of \$1316 for the permits issued in Seattle for the same month Compared with the January per mits of 1909, there was a decrease of

\$798,460 in Seattle, while Portland permits showed a gain of \$192,695. The figures on real estate transfers for the same month show Portland's total to be \$2,328,802, with an increase of \$127,754, while Seattle with \$2,246,320 for the same month shows a decrease of \$182,699. The "higher cost of living" with which we are con fronted on every hand quite naturally must figure in the cost of bullding average valuation of more than \$2100 for the residence permits issued this month indicates a very good class of dwellings, especially when it is noted that the valuation named in the permit seldom if ever even approximately amount which the house will cost when completed.

Of the sixty-six residence permits issued in the first seven days of February but one was for an amount in excess of \$7500 and but two for les than \$1000. These statistics show that Portland is not only building they also show them to be of a very good type. There is, of course, a close relation between the construction work for residence purposes and the business structures. The presence of one without the other would be impossible-for home-builders of class that dwell in \$2000 to residences do not assemble in cities where there is no business.

RIVER IMPROVEMENT ASSURED. The Columbia River seems to have fared very well in the appropriation recommended by the House of Representatives. It now seems reasonably certain that there will be available ufficient amount of money to enabl the work to continue without inter-A dispatch received yester day from Representative Humphrey reports a total of \$2,645,000 available or the Columb this amount \$1,276,000 is for the Co lumbia and Willamette Rivers below Portland. While the improvement of the upper river is of great importance provement that Portland and the en tire Columbia Basin will reap the greatest benefits. With two of the finest water-level grade railroads in the United States leading down from the interior to tidewater at Portland there is no longer any question of moving the traffic to the ship's side

over the line of least resistance. Between this city and the sea there still remains some work to be done before the river will be in first-class condition for carrying on to the high eas the immense traffic that originates in the rich region east of the Cascade Mountains. Work at the entrance of the river should be vigorouscarried forward until there is a forty-foot channel between Astoria and the sea. The appropriation which now seems assured will do much to ward accomplishing the end sought Above Astoria the task is less formidable, but a thirty-foot channel is nec essary to accommodate shipping that can enter the river when the channel over the river entrance has been deepened to forry feet, the swells at the mouth of the river making it necessary that a ship should have under her keel at least ten feet more water than safety demands in the river.

This appropriation, which is of sufficient proportions to admit of a con siderable increase in the depth of water, is of direct benefit to every pro lucer in the Inland Empire. Everything that tends to the more econor ical movement of freight is reflected in lower rates and correspondingly in-creased profits to the producer.

Portland has spent large sums of money in improving the channel to the sea and now that we have been of Eastern Washington, which in the past has regarded Columbia River improvement as exclusively a Portland enterprise, there will probably be less difficulty encountered in securing as

The law's delay is never more cor spicuous than when it applies to the ase of a confessed murderer, and by legal quip and quibble interposes time between his just conviction and pre-scribed penalty. The Roselair case is in evidence of this fact. Here is a criminal who, without provocation, killed his wife in their lonely moun tain home in Washington County. hacked her body to pieces and then his rage spent-went to Hillsboro to the Sheriff. Nearly a year has passed since the bloody deed was com ra of wonderful trade expansion that ers do not see through the equally silly mitted. He was tried after frequent

delays, convicted and sentenced to be hanged on February 11. Appeal to the Supreme Court has been allowed, pending which stay of judgment has So here is this mallcious, vengeful creature—a self-con-fessed murderer—successfully beating back the course of justice, entailing expense upon the state and bringing

law and its penalty into disrepute. Dr. Mary E. Green, who died in Seattle a few days ago at the age of 66 years, had been active in her profesion and in the philanthropy which attaches to the practice of medicine for more than forty years. She made a specialty of the nutritive value of foods, contended that poverty is largely due to waste and ignorance, and that the laboring man who is not well nourished is he who becomes the drinking man. Her views found favor with temperance workers and employers of labor, and through them she performed an unquestioned service to humanity. Of her four children, two sons and one daughter have become educated in and are practicing the profession in which their mother won rare

One of the most surprising things in world full of surprises is the marriage of a young girl to an old man and her retirement with him to a lonely and practically inaccessible moun-tain home. The surprise stops here however, and refuses to be revived when, a few months later, comes the news of the girl-wife's death either by open murder or through suspicion of poison. The Roselair case in Wash-ington County is a lafe illustration of the ending of an ill-starred marriage by the first means; that of Mrs. Fry, in Curry County, of the latter. Pity for the victims is repressed by the thought that death was the leadreadful feature in either case cited.

The provincial Parliament, new in session at Victoria, has decided to in-terfere with the building of "paper railroads." In the future it will pose the renewals of any charters for railroads on which no work has been done. This action of the Canadian lawmakers will be a hard blow on a promising industry in that country. In the past it has been a common practice for speculators possessing sufficient funds to pay for filing the franchise papers, to exploit unnumbered miles of railroad and promote land schemes that would have been im possible without the ald of the government franchise.

A Philadelphia dispatch says that 'the shareholders of the United Gas Improvement Company at a special meeting, here today voted to cut a \$9,-000,000 melon. They agreed to a 10 per cent dividend, payable in stock. This would indicate that the increased cost of living in Philadelphia might in part be due to the very high price of 'melons." With the farmers organizing food trusts in the country and the corporations raising \$9,000,000 "melons" for the people in the city, the ultimate consumer can hardly re-gard his future as hilariously pleasant

· The usual Chinese New Year's festivities in New York have robbed of one of their chief attractions by an order of the Police Department forbidding the discharge of fireworks. This is undoubtedly a serdisappointment to many of the Orientals, who had awaited the glad new year with joy in their hearts over the prospect of removing their enemies under cover of the popping firecrackers and thus beginning the new year with a clean slate. The ways of the white devils have never been the ways of the Chinese.

The moonlight may be "fair tonight ove, on the banks of the Wabash, far away"; but it will be noticed that It is the spotlight that is again shining on the Fairbanks of the Wabash. distinguished Indianian with the National reputation for frigidity would sit for a long tme in the Vice-President's chair without attracting onehalf the attention that he is now re-ceiving in the seven-hilled city on the banks of the Tiber-also "far away."

Out of sixty-four candidates for teachers' certificates taking the examination prepared by the State Board of Education at Pendleton, but six are men. This, like the closing of a multitude of country postoffices because no one wants to be postmaster, indicates that men are seeking the sturdier, more profitable vocations.

Let's see now if "the good people" at Seattle, who claim, as at Portland. to be the special friends and champions of the direct primary, can beat Gili in the run for Mayor, who obtained the Republican nomination by a vote greater than that cast for all candidates of all other parties com-

Now we get down to something practical and understandable in this increased cost of living. A scarcity of broomcorn may send the broom up to dollar mark. As the average housewife must have a new broom at stated periods, regardless of cost, there is no relief in sight

Now is the time to help the poor corporations crossing the Middle West by writing to Washington for an unlimited supply of public documents Mail-weighing begins next week.

A direct plurality primary bill, with trimmings, has passed both houses in Illinois. It had been supposed that state had about all the political object-lessons it could stand.

With a comet cellar and a bag of oxygen, one may escape the harrowing tall of Halley's comet and its poisonous gas.

"Home from Elba" was disastrous. The big-stickers should not ride a dead horse. Hermiston wants a state normal and

Weston thinks it wants the old school

Roselair and his attorney are simply prolonging the agony Binger Hermann will soon find what

luck there is in comets.

The Dietist. There was a fat woman And what do you think?
She learned in a paper
That victuals and drink
Were making her fat, so
She went on a diet
(And gained twenty pounds
She admits on the pounds) She admits on the quiet)!
—Saturday Evening Post. IDEAS ON PRESENT DISCONTENT. Present Tariff Represents Dominant Peeling of Both Parties. New York Sun

So far as the causes of the increased cost of living can be guessed at or acpolitical contention, there is nothing of politics in them. The tariff, so impulsively blamed, represents the dominant feeling of both parties. The Democrats are as eager as the Republicans to "protect" the farmer and to "protect" the interests of their districts or states. Occasionally a Democratic sage explains without a wink that he votes for protection as a revenue measure. This may save his face, but it must be hard for him to keep a straight one. Republicans and Democrats are tarred with the same stick. As to trusts and combinations, each party seeks to outbid the other in fire

party seeks to outbid the other in fire and fury against them.

The economic argument of the increased production of gold and its effect upon prices is unavailable to the Democrats. They long maintained that there wasn't money enough.

Still, the shoe pinches, and the party in power must expect to be the object of the cursings. People are grumbling. They want to find a visible and tangible vigitm. Perhaps Mr. Cannon will be accepted as a sufficient scapegoat for many miscellaneous resentments of in-

many miscellaneous resentments of Individual and popular insurgence. The high cost of living is, however, one mark of flush times, which are traditionally Republican. There is a good deal of Democratic hopefulness in the air, but, looking beyond temporary resentments and dissatisfactions, looking abead, for instance, to 1912, does the dissatisfied and resentful Republican yet see a Democratic party or a Democratic leader that seems worthy of public confidence? my miscellaneous resentments of inc confidence?

The Republican growling at his bills and longing with natural unreason for somebody to kick has yet a vivid memory of the long incapacity of Bryanism. Will the Democrats ever offer him something a little possible and sensi-

### RIGHT TO "SPEAK OUT IN MEETIN." Choice of Candidates by Assembly Not

Violation of Primary Law.

GOLD BEACH, Or., Feb. 9.—(To the Editor.)—If the right of members of a political party to assemble and discuss the merits and fitness of would-be-candidates for office is a violation of the primary law, then let us disrethat law and proceed to business The right of every American citizen to "Speak out in meetin'" is one of the rights which he will not surrender. Few want to return to the old convention system, but they also want a chance to publicly discuss the fitness of candidates whom they are expected to support, and weed out the undesirables. How can we find out who is the strongest man for a particular office, unless we meet and compare notes? I know of an instance where a man who never paid a cent of taxes in a certain ounty—a man who nominated him-elf, by petition, and because the man whom the people wanted falled to file his petition in time, was elected, and the choice of the people was not voted

As the assembly will act in an advisory capacity, the men recommended by it must be nominated by the elec-torates and they will lose none of their

rights under the primary law.

A majority of the Republicans of Curry County favor the assembly as a means of presenting the best men for office. So, let us not stop to ask our Democratic friends whether we can meet and present the names of good men to be chosen for office. men to be chosen for office J. HUNTLEY.

The Manna of the Wilderness,

The price of beef and eggs b that it is, there is a peculiar timelfness in the Calcutta Englishman's learned and comprehensive discussion of the subject of manna. The English man recalls that Biblical scholars have for a long time been inclined to identify manna with the saccharine exudation from certain species of the tamarisk bush, which flourishes in desert places, In Persia the plant grows extensively. Herodotus speaks of the City of Collatebos, whose inhabitants compounded sweetmeats of tamarisk honey and wheat, and today manna is a common wheat, and today manna is a common article of food in Persia, and from there is imported into India. There has been a difference of opinion among investigators as to whether the sugary deposit proceeds directly from the tam-arisk plant or whether it is the secre-tion of a certain insect that feeds on the plant. In any case, manna is found upon the tamarisk bush in the form of a white, crystallized gum.

### Why Shoes Don't Squeak Nowadays, St. Paul Dispatch.

Most every man and woman remem-ers the shees which squeaked when lew. A few years ago, when a man yore shoes with soles as thick as those worn today, the first few weeks of their services made him think of an overloaded boxcar grinding through a un-lon station. The squeak was agoniz-ing. One good strong pair of boy's new shoes could put a school room out of business. What has become of the squeak?" a

what has become of the squeak? a shoe salesman was asked
"The sale of most shoes are made from two pieces of heavy leather," he replied. "Manufacturers learned that by putting a piece of canvas, or a fiber of some sort between these two pieces, the squeak would be aliminated. the squeak would be eliminated. They did this and that's why the shoes don't

### College Girls Educate Themselves.

Minneapolis Journal.

Professor Ada Comstock, dean of omen of the University of Minnesota, as found that 70 out of 500 university girls work their way through college There are 900 girls attending the uni-versity. Most of the girls do house-work, and others are engaged as stenographers. Dean Comsibek is including those who earned their funds by teaching last Summer

Two Kinds of Offerings. Kansas City Star.

A wealthy lay church worker in St.

Louis said in an address the other day:
"You men put in the plate as an offerlng to God a sum you wouldn't have the
nerve to offer to a Pullman porter."

Kansas Claims a Wheat King. Baltimore News. Kansas claims the wheat king of the country. He is John Fike, of Colby, who last year harvested 19,000 acres at a net profit of \$50,000.

### POLITICAL COMMENT.

Congress seems to be in no hurry about ose Taft policies. The President probably allizes now what it means to have Con-cess on your hands.—Atlanta Journal. The trouble with insurgent Republican propositions at Washington is that it takes time to determine whether they are green goods or not.—Pittsburg Gazette Times.

Representative Davis, Minnesota "insurgent," believes that reformed rules of the House would "tame" Uncle Joe Cannon. Perhaps they would, but would there he anything worth while left of the rules?—Detroit Journal.

There is only one conclusion. The people will have to continuo to look to Republicans for real reforms. There may be Republican elements that will have to be put down before reforms can be accomplished, but it is Republicanism alone that is progressive and responsive to enlightened public opinion.—Buffalo Express.

## AVERAGE WATER MAIN, 6-INCH

Shown by Cost of System, Mileage of Pipes and Needs of Service.

Portland has 261 miles of distributing water mains ranging from 4 inches in diameter to 30 inches. The cost of these mains, covering a period of many years, has been \$1,815.700, as shown by the statement of the Water Department on December 31, 1903. Owing to increased cost of labor and materials, the expense of duplicating this distributing system at the present time would probably be between 40 and 50 per cent higher than that sum, or near \$2,750,000, an average of \$10,000 a mile for mains of all sizes. This is about the present day rost of statement of the Wate

This is about the present-day cost of laying a main of 8 inches in diameter. This average cost of \$10,006 a mile, or \$1.89 a foot, is important just now in discussion of charter amendments proposed for the purpose of assessing cost of mains against benefited lots and of relieving the water consumers, in their monthly bills, from paying for this expense. In theory the lot-assesment plan could be adjusted that landowners will pay for the average size main, for the water system in one connected whole, a network of pipes crossing and reinforcing each other. A lot that is served from a 4-inch main has the benefit of all the larger mains that begin with 30 inches in diameter and diminish through 24-inch, 20-inch, 16-inch, 12-inch, 10-inch, 8-inch and 8-inch sizes , while a lot that taps a 12-inch or 10-inch main has the same service as another more distant, supplied from a s-inch or a 4-inch.

As the charter now reads, lots sup-plied from a main 10 inches or more in diameter, get the main—if it be a new one-at the expense of water consum ers, while lots that draw from a main 8 inches or less in diameter are assessed for the cost thereof. This works manifest injustice against landowners supplied by a main 8 inches or less, on the one hand, and against water consumers on the other; while it affords unfair advantage to lot-owners who are served by a main of 10 inches or larger diameter.

or larger diameter.

Criticism of the existing arrangement and of that which preceded it several years ago, whereby water consumers paid for all the distributing extensions, has been based on the theory that the land-owner should pay the cost of extending the city's pipe system to his lots or suburban tract Many outlying tracts need only city water to make them available for addiwater to make them available for additions to the city, and valuable for speculation. Hitherto, owners of outlying tracts have escaped this expense and consumers have had to pay it. Large fortunes have accrued to lucky suburban speculators at public expense. In 1907 public sentiment revolted against this arrangement and amended the charter by initiative, assessing all such extensions against benefited lots such extensions against benefited lots such extensions against benefited lots

by the district plan.

But, owing to the difficulty of defining benefited districts—on account of network of pipes—it was found difficult to make assessments, and contracuncertain of their pay, declined d. Therefore in the 1909 election to bid. inches or more—to the water fund, leaving the smaller mains to be paid for as under the 1907 charter amend-ment. Now the city is confronted with the same difficulty in defining dis-tricts and inducing contractors to lay 8 and 6 and 4-inch mains as well as those of larger size. This brings the problem down to the present moment.

The Water Department lays no mains of less than 4 inches diameter. some 62 miles of pipes of smaller size but they were all acquired with the purchase of private water plants in Albina and East Portland, which the city connected with its own system. The expense of laying these lesser pipes is not included in the \$1.818,700 total in the foregoing. Neither does this total include the outlay for the conduit from Bull Run nor for the pipes under the Willamette River nor for the tubes that fill the City Park

for the tubes that fill the City Park reservoirs. This figure represents the sums paid out of the water fund for the distributing system.

Ninety per cent of the distributing mains are cast fron. This material is found the most durable and satisfactory. The cost of laying mains has much increased in late years, probably as much as 15 per cent in the year just ended at the Engineer's office of the ended. At the Engineer's office of the average cost per foot have mates of been obtained:

	Cost	Cost.
6-inch	\$1.43 16-inch	\$4.02
8-inch	1.8420-inch	4.94
10-inch	2.30 24-Inch	G.12
12-tuch	276 30-inch	***** 8.62

Based on these prices the cost of laying the city's water mains at the pres-ent time would approximate \$2,750,000. The mains now serving the city, together with present-day cost of lay-

inches.	Miles.		Cost.
30	7.21	- 3	315,000
24	15.33		475,000
20	8.44		212,000
18	2.27		25,000
16	7.63		163,500
14	8.93		150,000
12	11,99		129,000
10	13.15		143,500
8	34,48		127,000
0	102.76		77/1,000
4	30.17		264,000
Totals	201:40	32	782,000

63 miles of small-size The other pipes are as follows: | Miles | Miles | Miles | Miles | 3-inch | 2-541-inch | 10.96 | 2-541-inch | 10.96 | 2-5-inch | 3.5-29 | 3-inch | 3.5-29 | 3-inch | 4.62 | 15-inch | 3.42 | Total | 562.86 | All the latter pipes are in East Portland, most of them in Albina, where

they were placed by private water com-panies that sold out to the city. They are too small for a large city, especially to serve the requirement of adequate fire protection. In the general distribution system

In the general distribution system,
4-inch is the smallest size used and
there are strong practical reasons for
using mains of not less than 6 inches.
For adequate fire protection even
6 inches is deemed too small by the
National Board of Fire Underwriters,
In 1906, engineers of the board made a very complete inspection of Portland's water system and recommended larger than 6-inch mains in districts that ex-pected to have sufficient water supply to fight fires. The engineers in their report to the National Board of Underwriters said:

writers said:

A large part of the hydrants are connected to mains of not more than six inches diameter. While these hydrants commonly discharged fairly good quantities at the tests, some of them gave unsatisfactory results. General experience with those small mains has fully demonstrated their inability to furnish an adequate supply for fire fighting purposes, under ordinary conditions. Six-inch mains when under considerable pressure, well gridfirened and reinforced at close intervais by mains of larger size, may, when in good condition, proved at close intervais by mains of larger satisfactory for fire protection purposes. But, when some of the controlling conditions are unfavorable, it is practically certain that these small mains will fall is meet the emergency requirements. All cast from mains deteriorate with use, but under the same conditions is reduction. It carrying capacity.

From the foregoing totals of Portiand's main mileage and of probable cost of laying the mains at the present time, it will be seen that the average cost of the distributing pipes of all sizes today would be \$10,000 a mile or \$1.89 a foot. The actual cost has been nearly \$7990 a mile, or \$1.32 a foot. The cost of laying an 8-inch main at the present time about equals that of today's average cost of mains of all of today's average cost of mains of all

sizes; while the cost of laying a 6-inch the present time the average actual cost of the mains This means that if the plan should be adopted of assessing suburban lots by districts on the basis of the average cost of all the mains leading the city's water up to them, the lots would be charged as for a 8-inch or an 8-inch main. In Seattle, they are assessed as for a 6-inch main.

for a 5-inch main.

By this plan, each lot served with water, would be charged between \$60 and \$90, that is, either \$1.50 or \$1.90 a foot for 50 feet frontage. Each block would be assessed between \$600 and \$760.

and \$769.

This arrangement would lift a big expense from the water fund and enable a very marked reduction in water rates. In 1995, one-third the gross earnings from water rates were spent for extension of mains, most of the mains being through suburban tracts that were greatly enhanced thereby in value. When this big disbursement for mains was reduced by the amendment. mains was reduced by the amendment of 1997, water rates were reduced about me-third.

In conclusion, it may be added that the 6-inch main just about equals the average size of all of Portland's water mains; also the average cost of all the mains and the average needs of all districts. It will be noted that 40 per cent of the main mileage consists of 6-inch mains. Should 8-inch mains be laid hereafter as 6-inch are now laid in most extensions, the average of laying mains of all sizes would proximate the cost of 8-inch mains.

### PROTECT THE CHILDREN'S EVES. New York School Authorities Make Rules for Safeguarding Sight.

New York World.

Statistics of the Board of Health show that more than 33 per cent of the pupils in the upper grades of the elementary schools suffer from ocular defects, and that this percentage increases from grade to grade through the schools. The conclusion is that such marked increase in defects of vision is caused by the amount of close work re quired by the present curriculum, both

in the school-room and at home.

With a view to putting in practice the essential rules for the preservation of good eyesight, the women principals suggest that a label with the follow-ing reminders printed on it be pasted in all schoolbooks and ilbrary books: "Your eyes are worth more to you

"Safety and success in life depend on the eyes, therefore take care of them "Always hold your head up when

you read. "Hold your book 14 inches from your Never read in a dim or flickering

Hight. "Never read with the sun shining di-rectly on your book.
"Don't face the light in reading, but have it come from behind, or over your left shoulder.

"Avold books or papers printed in-"Avoid books or papers printed in-distinctly or in small type.
"Rest your eyes every few moments by looking away from the book.
"Bathe your eyes night and morning with pure water."
These suggestions are worth keeping

These suggestions are worth keeping in mind by every one. It is a fact proved by systematic investigation that the great majority of street accidents, resulting in all sorts of serious consequences, from loss of limb to loss of life itself, are due to the defective eyesight of the person injured.

### NOTES THAT ARE CURRENT.

Friend-Is it safe to send your stuff in a wrapper like that? Poet-Well, I find is always comes back all right!-Punch. "He was once a member of the Legisla-ture, was he not?" "Oh. yes. And ever since he has been diving on the reputation of the reputation he might have made."— Puck.

Mrs. Jawback—The doctor says I must sleep with my mouth shut. How can I get into the habit? Mr. Jawback—Try prac-ticing it when you are awake—Cleveland

Leader.
"There is Nebuchadnessar eating grass-like an ox?" said one courtier. "Let's hope for the best," replied the other. "Maybe he's trying to get even with the Babylshian Beef Trust."—Washington Star.

Tom (who takes his meals at a hotel)— Do you like your meals served table d'hote? Dick (who patronizes a street waffle wagon)—No; I generally take mine a la cart.—Baltimore American. "Mister," inquired Dusty Rhodes, "have you got any old clothes you don't want?" "No, but here is an old automobile you may have," "Thanks, but I have enough trouble supplying me own wants, without begging gasolene from door to door."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Coalman (who has been summoned from the street to a flat on the tenth story—no lift)—How many hundredweight did you say, mun? Lady (sweetly)—Oh. I don't want any coal; I was only telling my little girl that if she kept on being naughty you'd take her away in your big black bag, but she's behaving better now, thank you wery much.—Punch.

IN THE MAGAZINE

## SECTION OF THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN

#### DETECTIVE CONNOR'S VALENTINE

New series of stories, each complete in itself. They who read "Detective Connor's Christmas Adventure" can form a true estimate of its heart-gripping qualities. These are not detective stories at all, but tales of sympathetic, practical interest in the "submerged tenth." They commend themselves instantly.

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Historical sketch of the Spectator, established February 5, 1846, at Oregon City. This is a notable piece of work by George H. Himes. It is of special interest to the pioneer stock of the Pacific Northwest, but the picture of life in the wilderness 64 years ago will appeal to our new people.

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