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# The Oregonian

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## PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1910

"THE THIEVES OF THE WEST."

It is perfectly clear that people of the Eastern States, who see us using natural resources, even as they or their ancestors have used them, think us "thieves." Chief apostle of this notion is Gifford Pinchot—a mere theorist, a man who knows nothing about conditions of life and growth in. a new country, where pioneer work must be done; but talks of old countries, and of Germany in particularthe most absolute of old monarchies -as examples for our country. Germany must be our model for conservation.

This is the fallacy of "a priori argument," when applied to government and to conditions in one country and another. It is a mistake to suppose that what is good for Germany, and what Germany approves. could be good for us-situated and conditioned as we are. It exhausts patience to find, in our day and time, such misconception of conditions, such sophistry in treatment of the details of public affairs. Each and every great nation must have its own pollcy, in internal afconditioned upon its national All the main follies of modern fairs, life. government in our states arise from the rigor of this a priori argument, Germany has a system suited to herself. We must follow it!

In Oregon we are advised to take "Switzerland and New Zealand for our models. It is the greatest absurdity in the world. Our country has Its own polley, based on its history, its character, its development; and must nursue it. Most of the disturbances most of the evils, that arise in modern government and society spring from the effort to force application of the a priori argument.

The fallacy pursues ways more subtle than the positive example. Even the speculations of Rousseau and the reveries of Condorcet, the vagarious ideas of Karl Marx and the notions of Henry George, have been deemed by large numbers, now and again, as a sufficient gospel. In every age there is a great lot of people who take to hobbies and ride them; who expect to introduce some vagrant idea, borrowed from somewhere or nowhere. as the governing idea of their own A class of this sort of peocountry. ple is very active now. "Conserva is their theme; and they hold that those who would use the resources of the country for the development of states, as always heretofore,

are spollers and thieves. But the spollers and thieves are

way of the Tehuantepec route now reaches Portland in less than one-half the time formerly consumed, but the ceasity of trans-shipment at the Isthmus has tended to hamper shipment of Oregon products to Europe The new line will remedy this disadvantage and will undoubtedly shorten the time and reduce the cost of serv-ice to such an extent that in a short time the slow-moving sailer will be entirely displaced.

## "NOTHING DOING."

Newspaper controversies are profitess. The Oregonian has no desire to enter a controversy with any news-paper. It studiously avoids everything of the kind. It now quotes this from an Oregon journal, not from any desire of controversy with it, open a way to make plain a matter of ublic interest:

Fublic Interest: The insistence that the Pinchöt conser-vation policy is destructive of development is belied by the unparalleled conditions of growth and enterprise in Oregon, where the exact spirit of the conservation policy was made statute law by the last Oregon Leg-bilature. The whole opposition to con-servation is based either on ignorance of what real conservation means or on wifful hat real conservation means or on wilfu isrepresentation of the facts by those who ow better but incorrectly state the

There is steady development in Oregon, but not under the water power act passed by the Legislature of Oregon, at the last session. That act provided that all water, hitherto unappropriated for power purposes, should be subject to certain close regulations, and pay fees to the state Even if the stream were on one's own land, the owner could not use it for power purposes without compliance with burdensome conditions imposed by this law. But this law does not affect nor

can it apply to power water rights or use of them. There is activity under these, but nothing doing on the water powers affected by the new act. Nor likely to be.

## HAVE WE A CIVILIZATION?

The Springfield Republican seen to be a little out of patience with the habit of saying that everything which happens in this country, if it is wicked, is a "blot on American civili-In its distaste for the illzation." conditioned phrase, the Republican raises the question whether there is any such thing as American civilization, and, after a discussion more or less adequate, answers it in the nega-There are many local civilizations, it thinks, but no National on The too-numerous murders which all Europe holds up its hands in horror at and unanimously declares are a "blot on our civilization" are, according to the Republican, "the direct result of the abnormal social and racial hand. conditions in the South." This conclusion is so comforting to our National pride that we wish it had some justification in fact. The sad truth is, however, that while murders are more numerous in the black belt than elsewhere, similar orimes exceed the number which decent sentiment tolerate in to most of

tive.

ought

the Atlantic States and throughout the West. The negro is not a factor in the affairs of Oregon. but we have many more murders here in proportion to the population than any of the progressive European nations. The evil of reckless disregard for human life is a National one and any explanation of it which begins by denying the facts is worse than none

at all. So far as the prevalence of murder goes, the Republican is certainly not justified in saying that "America, far from having one civilization, has many." The plain truth is that we have a pretty uniform civilization ughout the country in that particular, but not a very high one. Passing to the subject of divorce, which is another of the "blots," the Republican finds that it is merely a local trouble, after all. The Southern States have very few divorces and South Carolina Hence we have no truly Nanone. tional evil of that kind to deal with. Our contemporary finds the reason for the Southerner's dislike of divorce in the reaction of the white taste against negro looseness. Perhaps this plays a part in the matter, but we fancy, when the subject comes to be analyzed searchingly, it will be found that the South has fewer divorces than the North simply because the economic reasons which cause them here have not yet begun to act very strongly there. Southern women are still in economic dependence upon their men. The desire for self-support and the ability to carry it out are comparatively rare among them, and in consequence they submit to outrages from their husbands which would drive a Northern woman to the divorce court. Divorces increase in number every where in proportion as women become individualized by earning their own living, by taking part in public affairs, or by any other independent activity. Hence it cannot be said that Southern civilization is essentially different from the Northern and Western in this respect, but only that it has as yet felt the modern impulse less keenly. Such difference as exists is evanescent. What the Springfield Republican vants is to localize our various mischiefs and hold each section responsible for its own sins. Thus it tries, without much success, to shoulder the evil of murder off upon the South and divorce upon the West. Just where it would locate municipal misgovernment it does not specify, though that is by far the most interesting all our psychological disorders. But the question whether the various ills which afflict us can be localized or not is really trivial. Even if each one could be strictly set off by itself and assigned to a single state or county, it would still be a "blot on the civilization" of the whole country. The diverse parts of this country are closely united by commerce, National feeling and a common language that they are much like the members of the human body. Nobody would think of calling a man healthy who had an incurable ulcer on his leg, even if his face appeared ruddy and his arm was There is something wrong strong. with his system or the ulcer would heal. So it is with our murders and divorces. Grant that most of the killings are in the South and most of the divorces in the West, and what follows? Simply that the inner poison of the body politic works out wherever conditions permit, taking one form here and another there. The effect which our various "blots" produce on the minds of observers in other parts of the world is pretty well summed up in the phrase, which is becoming common, that America is a American-Hawaiian steamship line, misgoverned country. The reproach European freight sent to Portland by is often made more polgnant by add-

## THE MORNING OREGONIAN, THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1910.

ing the remark that the United States is the only badly misgoverned democ racy in the world. France has a pop ular government, more democratic than ours in some respects, but life and property are safer there than here, while domestic morals are not so badly threatened by divorce. England is also a democratic country, but it has escaped some of our worst troubles. It is not afflicted with the murder mania, nor with an excessive

number of divorces, nor with municipal corruption. Many other critics would answer the question, "Is there an American civilization?" in the negative, as the Republican does, but in a different sense. The Republican thinks we have many local civilizations, they think we have none at all.

## HELPING THE BOYS.

It is impossible to praise too highly motives of the men who have pledged themselves to act as "big brothers" to the delinquent lads of the city and help them to lead worthy lives. The bestowal of personal serv. ce is the most Christian species of help and the only kind that is of much avail in the formation of character Next to abating the need for help to delinquent boys by lessening their number, this enterprise is the most numanely beautiful that could be

imagined. Perhaps the notion that more boys otween the ages of 10 and 20 years to astray than is absolutely necessary is but an idle dream. Most aspira tions for genuine improvement in things seem to be more or less dream; when they are critically examined; but we have a suspicion that there is some connection between the curriculum of the public schools and the fact, as stated by Judge Bronaugh, that "there are 400 boys under parole in this city." Between an antiquated and un-practical course of study in the schools

and bad boys on the streets, there may possibly exist a relation of cause and effect. Suppose the public schools were

doing for the little boys who attend them what the Y. M. C. A. does for the big boys who frequent its courses? The old maxim that an idle brain i the devil's workshop states a partial truth, as most maxims do, but not a whole one. The devil works with an idle hand quite as willingly as with an idle brain. The failure of the schools to hold the interest of the boys is acknowledged by everybody who has studied into the matter, and the reason for it is also perfectly well cnown. It is because they deal with abstractions instead of realities. They eek to educate directly through the brain, while it is as certain as anything can be that to educate a boy you must reach his brain through his If the public schools should begin tomorrow to teach real things to the boys, what would be the effect upon the number who need to be haled into court and paroled? Would not the schoolteacher make a better

big brother, or sister, all things considered, for these boys than even the most kindly amateur? TOLL OF THE STORM.

Not since the coming of the railcoads have the elements played such havoc with the transportation lines of the Pacific Northwest as during the present storm. For loss of life and descruction of property a new record has been established, and it will oc weeks before the extent of the disas ter can be fully determined. It is for-

tunate, indeed, that only once in a generation, or longer, do these wild orgies of the elements levy heavy toll on life and property, for there is no precaution that will prevent them leaving such a wake of destruction distressin part of this widespread storm is, of course, the heavy loss of life. Rallroad grades can be rebuilt and buried towns will emerge from the ava lanches which overwhelmed them, but the loss of life is irreparable. Flood damage, unlike fire, is never covered by insurance, and is absolute and complete. Nominally it is borne by the railroad companies that are called on to repair it, but in the end it becomes a fixed charge against the industries of the people who support the railroad. In the present storm all of the railroads seem to have suffered to a greater or less degree, but the physical damage inflicted on the Milwaukee road has been the most severe encountered by any of the lines, al though the Great Northern loss is also It can't be managed under our politivery heavy. The Milwaukee, being a new line, was ill prepared for such un usual conditions and was placed out of commision long before the older and more thoroughly seasoned lines began suffer seriously.

while the only difference it has made with the owners has been "merely the inconvenience of holding two cer tificates of stock of different colors instead of one and of keeping track of

two different sets of securities. While Mr. Hill finds fault with the restraint placed on the railroads by the present laws, he is emphatic urging correction of the evil of overcapitalization, terming it the simplest most effective regulation to be plled to modern business. The article throughout quite naturally leans to the side of the railroads, but it is filled with wisdom, and its criticism of the results that have followed the efforts of the Interstate Commerce Commission is to a considerable extent fustified.

## The Senate has passed the bill au-

thorizing an issue of \$30,000,000 worth of certificates of indebtedness to complete existing irrigation projects. This is a measure that will not only hasten the date when thousands of settlers along the uncompleted projects can begin getting their land into productive shape, but it will also enable the Government to realize on its investment, which will remain worthless until the lands are provided with water. Very few projects for which the Government appropriates money will make as large returns on the investment as will be secured from the various irrigation projects which can be completed in a very short time. if there is no further delay in securing the necessary funds. Aside from the financial part of the deal, the Government is under moral obligations to many settlers who have bought land in the irrigation districts with the understanding that there would be no unnecessary delay in securing the needed water.

Opposition to assembly is simply pposition to party organization That, and nothing more; that, and nothing less. But how can rational men expect to do anything in direction of public affairs without combination and action through party? Has any other way ever been discovered? Note the closeness of party division in England now. Likewise in Germany and France-where, however, the conditions are such that action through parties is within limits less distinctly defined. Where there is free debate, and opinion controls, men must act in parties, if they expect to accomplish anything. Assembly, debate, conference, consideration as to candidates for presentation for election, are necessary to party organization and party action. Are men to act a separate and disconnected part, and accomplish nothing, or to unite to-gether on principles on which they are agreed, for accomplishment of their objects?

The possibilities of "wireless" are great. Thus far, the principal use of the new agency for spreading news has been the summoning of aid to sinking ships, but something under the head of new business is reported

in a Newport (Or.) dispatch in The Oregonian yesterday. The cook on the steamer Alliance fell down the hatchway and was severely injured while the vessel was fifteen miles off shore, and, there being no physician aboard, a wireless message was flashed to Yaquina asking a physician at that port to prescribe for the injured man.

Whatever may be the merits of the dispute between Secretary Wilson and ex-Forester Pinchot as to the former's sanction of the famous Dolliver letter, it is clear that Wilson never saw it until after it had been read in the Senate. Why did not Pinchot sub-It the letter to Wilson for approval? Because he wanted to take no chances of his disapproval and he expected to claim afterward that Wilson told him to go ahead. There is no other Interpretation of Pinchot's course to be made. It is dishonest and contemptible.

## THE EAST AGAINST THE WEST. All Are Thieves and Liars but Pincho and Glavis.

Tacoma Tribune. Ballinger-Pinchot controvers

has been attracting wide attention all over the country for months, yet there may be many people who have only a very hazy idea of what it is all about. They know, in a general" way, . that the people of the West support Ballinger, and the theorists of New England and the great "Interests" support Pinchot; but because of the very extensive press bureau maintained by the Pinchot administration, which is still turning out tons of literature, at the public expense, and at the behest of Pinchot, the public is kept con-

fused as to the real issues.

Perhaps the Cunningham coal case vill serve, as well as any, to show the lineup. Cunningham and some other prospectors found coal in the Copper River country. It looked promising and Cunningham induced C. J. Smith, perhaps one of the best known coal me of the Northwest, and H. C. Henry, a prominent banker and contractor, to grubstake him to make further prospects The field looked better. To carry on the work, they took in Miles C. Moore, of Walla Walla, and several other live mer who had money and were willing to risk It for the development of the mines.

About this time overtures were made to the Guggenheins, who were proposing to build a railroad up into country, to sell them the find at a handsome profit; but, after taking an option, the Guggenheims allowed it to lapse, subsequent events indicating that they expected an easier way of getting control

Pinchot, hearing the prospect was worth something, sent in his men to secure evidence, or make it, to prevent these prospectors from getting the coal. In order that after they were driven off the find might be made by those in the favor of Pinchot, not knowing that Smith and Moore and Henry stood for anything more than any com-mon tenderfoot that would be easily bluffed when the "Government" got after

When they saw the fight was on the local men "got together" with other strong men in the Northwest to pre-pare for the coming fight. Senator Borah, Carter, Congressman Mondell and other leaders of the Northwest took a hand, and the tissues of lies and accusations by which the "Government" had been accustomed to drive out Western prospectors and their backers is laid bare. But Pinchot, with his head up and eyes flashing, boldly defies them all and declares they are all thieves and llars and he is the only good and true.

MOST INSOLENT CITY ON THE GLOBE

## F. Hopkinson Smith's Harsh Criticism of Greater New York,

New York Times. F. Hopkinson Smith, artist, author, and engineer, told the 700 members of the being failures because they do not spring a sensation every day in the New York Southern Society gathered at year. the annual "Dixie dinner" at the Hotel Astor last night that New York is "the most insolent city on the face of the globe.

Mr. Smith was introduced by William G. McAdoo, president of the society and toastmaster, and his hot Southern blood seemed in the ascendant when he rose to

"All here tonight have a feeling of exile," said he. "People are kind to us here, but it is because they want our brains to lead them on to success. It is exile." hardly 25 years since the Southerner was considered as lazy and quixotic. He had a reputation for not paying his debts --some of which ought not to have been -some of which ought not to have been paid. When, however, the old type of Southern gentleman passes away who will teach the present generation manhood? We live in the most insolent city on the face of the globe. That is a hard state-ment to make, but it is true. Hardly a streetcar conductor or a policeman gives one a civil anywar. Thomsade are cour-

## A WORKING, NOT TALKING CABINET President Taft's Advisers Sawing Wood Steadily All the Time.

Washington Letter to Boston Advertiser. Now one hears knocking that Presi-

ient Taft's Cabinet is unsatisfactory and that it is not the equal in ability of those that have gone before it-at all events seeming to lack conspicuous achievement and timber. This is comment read from outside, and seems urious to Washington, which has been thinking that the Cabinet has been dong finely. People seem to be very impatient. The critics appear to be very impatient. The critics appear to want things accomplished in one year that it has taken others four and even seven years to do. President Tatt is himseff expected to accomplish in the first year of his term more than his predecessor in the seven years of his two terms. Knox is thought not to be as great as Root, MacVeagh as Cortelfou, and so on.

But this is a working Cabinet. Not or some time have the members been uch responsible heads as these of to-They are not mere clerks. Cab-meetings mean something. They day. last for several hours instead of less than an hour. Not for a long time has the State Department had such vexng questions before it, and it is ac complishing wonders between the na-lons and ourselves. The Central American situation has to be tenderly handled, and the China question is a large one. Things cannot be done in a moment in diplomacy. Mr. Knox has not been able to go about the country making speeches. He has been too busy and is interested in his work. Secretary MacVeerb is introducing Secretary MacVeagh is introducing business methods in the Treasury and has made some good addresses. The application of the tariff has to be closely studied. Never before has the office of Attorney-General been so busy as today and influential is busicities. as today, and influential in legislation. but here, too, some critics would not wait for results. The War Department is now so well established in all its poli-cles and working so smoothly and car-tain of the governments to the south of us behaving so well that sensations cannot be seized out of that depart-ment, and the able Dickinson, who has

been journeying about familiarizing numself with his vast duties, is put iown as "colorless." Hitchcock, as Postmaster-General, is fiving close attention to the immense outliness proposition his department is and some politics. But he never did own a megaphone, and so therefore in the opinion of some outsiders, he must be a failure. Ballinger is proving him self a most efficient working Secretary of the Interior, and Nagel is also am-

bitious to make his Department of Commerce and Labor successful in a business way, and Meyer is hard at vork over his problems to make the Navy really efficacions. Perhaps after a while the members of the Cabinet will have time to go about the country becoming "conspicu by making speeches, but meanime they are serving their country by staying in Washington doing real and great service. Their deeds when rounded out will speak for them. Meantime it may be believed they will willingly worry along under the accusation of

## Secretary Ballinger. Philadelphia Ledger.

The Secretary of the Interior is behaving very strangely for one who is supposed to be an "enemy of conservauppos His withdrawls of land from settlement are even more frequent and quite as extensive, in the aggregate, as those made by his predecessor. Thedifference appears to be that under the former administration these withdrawals were made in mass and with-

## INCREASED COST OF LIVING.

All-the-Traffic-Will-Bear" Spirit Responsible for Most of It.

SALEM, Or., March 1-(To the Editor.)-The reasons advanced for the alleged increased cost of living are leglon. The Oregonian of March 1 says editorially: "The enormously increased ost of government with all the multitudious methods employed through the agency of commissions and local boards is among the chief causes of the in-creased cost of living, if not the chiefest cause." Preacher Mathews, of Se-attle, says it is "joy rides," wine and similar wickedness. A Portland man thinks it is because we patronize street-cars and do not shine our own shoes and scrape our own chins, and all that kind of economies. What carfare has to do with the patro est cause." to do with the price of eggs, or shoes-blacking with the cost of onions, butblacking with the cost of onlong, but-ter or potatoes, is too deep a question for me. Many unite in asserting that it is because we spend too much for whisky and clears, but as the price of bread, butter and "bran mash" for breakfast is just the same for temper-spee crapk and toper allke, this exance crank and toper alike, this explanation does not explain. in laying the blame on all kinds of extravagances, and each and all think

they have "touched the center of the raw." I will add my individual opinion to I will add my individual opinion to the long array of those already offered. for I do not think the main cause has yet been even hinted at. The average workman is not taking any joy rides, drinking champagne, or even blowing in his seldom dollars on contributions to spectacular revivalists who pose as makers of long block in the set to speciacular revivalists who pose as makers of long-haired epigrams, and use long-eared arguments to keep in the lime-light, and yet it is his class upon which the burden of high-priced food products falls heaviest. The Oregonian's reason accounts for a considerable portion of the for the tax (collected always indirectly from the consumer) now con-sidered necessary for carrying or the government, National, state and is something enormous, prob amounting to \$20 a yea every man, woman and child local. ably year child every in the United States, and to \$75 to \$100 a year for each ablebodied male inhabitant.

This cuts some ice, but there is still another thing that is the main cause for high prices, and that is the com-mercialism of the age that has brought our business standard down to the basis of "all the traffic will bear."

To illustrate: The Oregonian of February 22 had a local story to the effect that the storm raging at that together with the Weather Bu-statement that it was general time, reau's and might continue for some time, caused the dealers to jump the price of eggs several cents a dozen, and to also lift the price of butter. Now the

eggs and butter were already in stock in Portland and were, no doubt, being sold at a satisfactory advance on the price paid for them before the stormsuggested raise. The price was jumped, not because the articles were worth more, but because the storm might cause a falling off in the supply, hence the wide-awake dealer jumped the prices in advance of increase in the cost at the sources of supply, and, in fact, collected this increased price from the consumer, when indeed there was not at the time, or since, any increase in

prices by the producer. The latter got nothing from this increased price, while the consumer got it in the neck, and the dealer got his—in his pocket. This is the custom, not in Portland alone by any means, nor is this intended as a slam at the Portland deal, ers, for it is the "American spirit;" perfectly legitimate, highly commendable, and an evidence of the husiness sagacity of the dealer. The consumer is simply the victim of the system of "all the traffic will bear," everywhere and

drawals were made in mass and with-out discrimination, whereas the law authorizes such action only in regard to certain kinds of land and for spe-cial reasons. This applies especially to mineral lands. The Secretary has asked for additional legislation to regu-late the great mining privileges, and pending this has temporarily withheld from entry many large tracks in Alas-ka. The special advocates of conservaonsumer from arriving at all if it was a matter of choice with him, and he had to pay the bill himself, has soon as he arrives the increased cost of living fastens on him with a grip that will never loosen during his life. When he gets his first bottle, the glass, milk and rubber trusts each take a whack at the artificial bosom from which he draws his nabulum, and from which he draws his pabulum, and to balance things, the cotton or linen trusts levy toll on his diapers, while the wool trust gets in its work on his little shirts and the swaddling bands around his little tummy. The leather trust chivalrously refuses to wear shoes and walk. As soon as he starts to school the book trust demands a rakeoff before he is permitted even to learn "a-a-b-a-a, black sheep," and while his pretty little Sunday school teacher is inculcating in his un-suspecting mind the duty of helping the heathen, the same book trust helps Sunday itself to a percentage on the Sunday school library, for the trusts, like a winds of mortgage, work just as hard Sundays as any other day, and then it is safer to take your rake-off yourself, instead of walting for contributions as the uneducated heathen have to. And it is not only for the things of this earth that have gone up in price, but high salaries and the fact that the modern minister gives us only about 10 per cent of religious doctrine and 90 per cent of advice as to worldly things has so diluted the real religious influence of the pulpit that salvation has almost got beyond the reach of the common people, while the undertakers' combination and the florists' union ave made death almost a luxury. Sure it costs much more, Intever the reason, to live on this good old considering how they lived and how little they had to do with, it is per-

those who set up and establish an immense official system, which checks and hinders the development of the country, and devours, meantime, in salaries and expenses, sums tenfold greater than all the value they con-The system burns the candle serve. at both ends; it stops the development of the country and lays heavy charges for its own expenses upon the public treasury.

It is a result that always will follow theoretical notions carried by innovators into the administration of public affairs. Here in the remote West we are politically weak; and, therefore, we shall be compelled to submit to the taunt that we are "thieves," because we object to change of the historic policy that has made the older states great. But, until we are deprived also of the right of free speech and free press, we shall still have a word to say. We have among us here a few shallow politicians and journalists, who know nothing of the West, and who, therefore, approve the policy of strangulation. But they are contemptible. There are Judase everywhere. The one thing in the course of George Chamberlain, Senator from Oregon, that meets highest and practically universal approval, is his stand for his state and for the whole West on this question.

## STEAM SUPPLANTS SAIL.

Announcement is made of the establishment of a regular line of steamships between Antwerp and other European ports and Portland, the service to begin with sailings every six weeks. There are two features of special interest in connection with this announcement. ; One is the fact that Columbia River territory is thus drawn much nearer than ever before the markets of the Old World; steamship service facilitates trade to the advantage of both buyer and seller. The other feature of special interest is the substitution of steam for sail on one of the few remaining trade routes of the world where up to the present time the sailing vessel has succeeded in holding its own.

For many years after the tramp ceamer had driven the sailing vessel from the North Atlantic and from the Far Eastern trade, the grain trade of the Pacific Northwest and the nitrate trade of the west coast of South America continued to be the special preserve of the sailing ship. Steamers have been breaking into the nitrate trade for the past five or six years, but it is only quite recently that they have made their presence felt in the North Pacific. Regular lines already ply out of Puget Sound ports and San Francicso to European ports, and the establishment of a regular between Portland and these line ports will put Columbia River territory on even terms with other ports.

We have already had an opportunity of judging of the value of this rapid communication with the World ports by the service of the

That the storm was unexpected and unusual severity is plainly shown by the fact that in the twenty years during which the Great Northern has been crossing the Cascades there have never before been any signs of danger near the scene of the present trag-

edy. All of the precautions which man can take against the forces of Nature will not prevent occasional disasters, but it is noticeable in the present trouble that the lines which suffered the least were those which followed the Columbia River down

through the gorge at the Cascades.

## ALL COMPETITION ELIMINATED.

In the language of James J. Hill, in the current number of The World's Work, "The principles of rate-making laid down in the Interstate Commerce law and the decisions rendered under it absolutely prohibit compe-tition." The great railroader dis The great railroader discusses at length this big problem, which has cost the railroads millions for attorneys' fees and court expenses. He states emphatically: "The assertion by the state of control of the rate making power, in the slightest degree, at once logically destroys the possibil ity of competition, for universal com petition can exist only where prices are absolutely free to go up and down without regulation or limit, until the competing concerns and the public that they serve meet on the level of the cheapest service that is consistent with a reasonable profit, or until some competitors are forced to the wall." In his defense of the consolidation movement, Mr. Hill cites the fact that in the twenty-five years covering the period in which weak roads were being absorbed by the strong, the average receipts per passenger per mile dropped from 2.42 cents, in, 1883, to 2.01 cents in 1906, and the average freight rate per ton per mile dropped nearly 40 per cent from \$1.22 to 77

cents. Mr. Hill contends that the dissolution of the Northern Securitie Company has resulted in a loss to the public of advantages which the simpler plan of operating the consolidated properties would have afforded,

"We look," says the Independent (New York) "to see a very large share of town taxation paid by utilization of town power." That is, by utilization of power of streams flowing through towns or near them. But we look for nothing of the kind. The multitude of officials and expenses of administration, under management professedly for "the people," will leave the people in debt, every time. cal and electoral system.

Wouldn't all railroad trains, better quit the route over the Cascade Mountains, to and from Puget Sound, and the Columbia River route? It is evident that the North Bank Road was and is a necessity and was not built too soon.

The assembly does not "fight the direct primary." The direct primary is the law for all parties and for all the people. The assembly's function will simply be to submit the names of candidates for consideration at the direct primary. .

A" Seattle-Portland train was lost temporarily from sight yesterday somewhere on Cowlitz River. For some of the passengers it might have been a pleasant resort from first-ofthe-month bill collectors.

There need be no fear of Japan, if our false conservationists should have heir way, because the Japs would find on the Pacific Coast only a wilderness.

Is it fair for Pinchot men to declare themselves the only foes of land fraud and to condemn persons who oppose their schemes as friends of fraud?

The plumber works the hold-up by day and the "gun man" by night, but the effect on the victim is much the same in either case.

According to Mr. Pinchot's idea, as revealed in his testimony, there is only one "conservation" and Pinchot is its prophet.

These warm chinook storms are pretty hard also on the dealers who sell higher-cost-of-living fuel.

The last Winter month is February. by the calendar, but some persons expect too much all at once.

When plumbers fall out, honest mer nay get their dues.

And the equinoctial storms are still in store.

one a civil answer. Thousands are cour-teous here, but it isn't in their blood as it is in ours. My father took off his hat to the man he met on the street, not from courtesy's sake, but because he was a man and a gentleman. Let us keep alive our old traditions, for we are the custo dians of the records.

People are too busy here. Materialism is rampant. If we meet a man on the street can we stop to take our hat off to Not at all. When he wants to him? us he makes an appointment at his office with a stenographer on one side, a type-writer on the other, and a messenger boy waiting outside. When all is over it life, what is accomplished? What's be come of the cheerful chat over the ol Madeira, the warm bandclasps and th statements, the warm handclasps and the real friendships? What's it all gone for? I tell you, the accumulation of money and a large-sized bank account. Let's get back to our traditions, let's be courteous to women, true to our friendsin a word, the Southern blood.' Mr. Smith's remarks were received with enthusiasm by men and women whose

homes were formerly in the South.

Uses of Poetry

From an Old Scrapbook. A girl said to me a few days ago of a friend of hers, "I never in my life knew anybody who had such a flow of

language as she has. She is neve language as she has. She is never at a loss for a word of comparison, or an appropriate quotation. How in the world does she do it?" Well, I asked her, and this is what the good talker

"When I was a very little girl my

poetry. I learned poems by heart to recite at school, to say to my mother and my brothers. I have always kept up that habit, and every day as I am dressing, I have an open book on my bureau and learn something by heart, even if it is only four lines. I have never given drawing-room recitations for I know I should simply bore peo

ple, but I have gained a great deal pleasure myself from the habit, and I believe it has done more to give me a good command of words than any-thing else."

## An Obstacle to Success.

Los Angeles Times. Senator Elkins, deploring at a din-ner in Washington the dishonest methods of one type of business man, said with a smile:

"It all brings back to me a dialogue

I all brings back to me a dialogue I once heard in a Southern school. "Children, said the teacher, be dili-gent and steadfast, and you will suc-ceed. Take the case of George Wash-ington, whose birthday we are soon to celebrate. Do you remember me telling you of the great difficulty George Washington had to contend against?

"'Yes, ma'am,' said a little boy. couldn't tell a lie.'" 'He

## All the Comforts of Home.

Chicago Record-Herald. Charles Frohman announces that he is to have a theater on the steamship Mauretania. It will soon be possible while at sea to do about everything one does at home except shovel snow from the sidewalks in the Winter and mow the lawn in the Summer.

Overdoing the Historical Picture.

ka. The special advocates of conserva-tion ought to join in perfecting and passing the legislation required instead of exhausting their energies in abuse of Mr. Ballinger.

Sentence Sermons. Henry F. Cope, in Chicago Tribune.

seldom suffer from a sense of Saints uperlority. Unity of aim is more than identity of

appearance. You can never pray for another with our lips alone A good man is never blind to the good

in other men. The best pride of ancestry is to be a

ight to posterity. Faith does more than defend oid facts

t makes new ones. can never know men who will not stop to know children.

Some men come near proving the devil when they argue on their god.

Anxiety tries to see the mountains in the way and trips us up over a pebble He who sets his sails to the winds applause steers with his back to the

future. A present annoyance will try out sainthood much better than a prospective

martyrdom.

## Suitable Honor.

Birmingham Age-Herald. "I once found a Pullman porter who was a perfect Chesterfield. He furwas a percect chester may wants with thermore looked after my wants with as much care and consideration as if he had been my personal servant. When he had given me the final brushdown and I was about to leave the car, I

merely thanked him and did not hand hlm a "What did the porter do then?" "He smiled, and said: 'Don't men-tion it, sir. It's a pleasure to wait on you.' Honestly, I--"

"Hold on! Hold on!" "What's the matter?"

"I'm going down town and call a special meeting of the Liars' Club to elect you president for life."

## Pointed Paragraphs.

Chicago News. People with the complaint habit invaria. bly slop over. A lazy man is always whining about

## his tough luck. You hear a lot about "blushing brides,"

The man who distikes you nearly al-ways likes those you dislike. Many a man who knows himself is for that reason suspicious of others.

Anyway, a girl looks better in an au-tomobile than she did on a bicycle. The meekness of a sleeping-car porter is conspicuous because of its absence

## Usurer Rebuked.

New York Sun. Shylock was bargaining for his pound of flesh. "Nothing doing," answered Portia, "we are on the vegetable wagon." Not understanding the terms, Shake\_ speare wrote µp a different version.

Can Do It Alone. Philadelphia North American. A row was caused in the Reichstag be-cause a member said the Emperor ought to have the power to send ten soldiers

and shut off the debate. Now, in free America, one man can do it any time,

Ask Uncle Joe.

## Is It Possible?

New York Evening Post. Of course, there will be a "national welcome" to Roosevelt next June, but isn't it a little cruel to ask President Taft to join in it? If we remember, Louis XVIII was not requested to go Chicago Record-Herald. There are in the United States Senate several men whom we are almost sure George Washington would disapprove of if he were here now, to meet the other man from Elba.

haps worth the price-and much mor J. H. CRADLERAUGH.

He Did.

Housekeeper. Tommy came out of a room in which his father was tacking down carpet. He was crying lustily.

"Why, Tommy, what's the matter?" asked his mother.

"P-p-p-papa hit his finger with the

"P-p-p-papa hit his inger with the hammer," sobbed Tommy. "Well, you needn't cry at a thing like that, comforted the mother. "Why didn't you laugh?" "I did." sobbed Tommy, disconsolate.

## Current Newspaper Jokes.

"This is Lent," said the footpad. "I know it," said the podestrian. "Well, what are you going to give up?"-Louisville Courier-Journal.

# "How did they manage to get all those facts about the Milk Trust?" "In the nat-ural way. I suppose." "How was that?" "Pumped the wilnesses."-Baltimore Amer-

Kind Lady (at the kitchen door)-So you were in the Army during the war with ipain?. What was your capacity there? lungry Hobo-Double rations, ma'an.-Hungry Hobo-Double Chicago Daily News.

"Have you been married, Bridget? "Twicet, mum." "And have you any chil-dren?" "Yis, mum-Uve three. One be th' third wife ov me second husband, an' two be the second wife av me first."-Cleve-land Lender.

"Wouldn't a railway increase the popula-tion of this village?" asked the enterpris-ing person. "Dumno's It would," replied the native. "It 'ud be a constant tempta-tion to a lot of us inhabitants to get away." --Washington Star.

Young Professor's Wife-Lysander, you have explained to me several times how the overproduction of gold causes high prices, but somehow I can't get it through my head. Young Professor-Oh, yes you can: the passage from one ear to the other seems to be entirely unobstructed.-Chicago Tribuna.