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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1910.

ANOTHER WORD AS TO CITY DOCKS. J. N. Teal, William MacMaster, ferman Wittenberg and others, representing the Chamber of Commerce and the Taxpayers' League, urge the city to go into the wharfage business end they assert that Mayor should allow sale of \$500,000 bonds for that purpose These three gentleompanied by others, pressed through the State Legislature last year B constitutional amendment that would permit the state t go into the rallroad business. They are just as insistent now as they were then and just as full of warnings about the "will of the Yet their railroad project was and is impracticable and absurd It would plunge the state into ruinous debt and burden property with heavy taxes. Their city docks project is equally dangerous to the city.

The City Council passed the bond sale ordinance Wednesday without knowing how much docks are going to The members were "lined up" for this new scheme of taxation and debt just as the legislators were last Now, after an interval of fifteen months, the state railroad proposal is seen to have been useless and dangerous. Should the C'ty of Portland enthe dock business it will come to the same realization, only in worse degree, because it will not be able to turn back; whereas the state has discovered the folly of the railroad scheme before going in.
The Oregonian thinks it is not too

conservative about debt plans for upuilding the city. This paper has supported bond issues for larger water supply, for bridges and ferrles, for parks, for schools, for drydock and for pilotage and towags facilities. In each of those undertakings, the cost has been accurately measured in advance and there have been no doubtful plunges. But this dock undertaking will have no limit of expenditure nor do the gentlemen from the Chamber of Commerce and the Taxpayers' League mark any limit. It will add of dollars to the city's debt and hundreds of thousands to its annual interest payments. These gentlemen would not dare to undertake an uncertain venture in their private business; yet they press upon the city to do this very thing. If they have mind any sites for purchase by the city they co not take the public into their confidence, and yet this is most important for the public to know. If they have no such sites in mind, they are going at this business In a most

haphazard manner. This is a time for men to reason to gether instead of indulging in high-flown oratory or threats of the people's supposed vengeance. The venceance of the people will come home to the men and officials who make take of buying for taxpayers a pig in a poke.

This dock project is the most costly that the city has ever been called upon to consider. It ought to 1 : thoroughly examined as to plan, site, cost main, and earnings before it is entered. None of these things has been looked after. In its present undefined shape it is foolhardy, and the tation would dare to launch the city

The Oregonian is not making a "fight" against these men nor against their pet scheme. It is only making a plea for what it deems common sense. If they carry this project past the Council and the Mayor, they will be punishing the people of this city for many years to come. That ought to be something worth thinking about.

KEEPING A SALMON AGREEMENT.

The State of Washington has ordained closed season for salmon tween March 1 and May 1, in the Co lumbia River and its tributaries and in all waters and sloughs thereof below Cellio. The State of Oregon has cutablished the same closed season on its side. The two states have done this through mutual understanding. necessity for which was forced upon them by long years of conflicting reg-

Yet Mr. H. M. Lorntsen, of Astoria, secretary of the Pishermen's Union, undertakes to inform The Oregonian that there has been no such agreement or understanding between the two commonwealths so far as concerns tributaries of the Columbia River in Oregon-Willamette and Clackamas Rivers-and that the closing of those two tributaries has been trumped up by Upper Columbia River wheelmen

The Oregonian expects to see con flict between salmon interests of the Columbia River and its tributaries. just as long as there shall be salmon remaining. But this assertion that Willamette and Clackamas fishing should be allowed to open before May 1-that is, before the State of Washington permits' taking of salmon to begin in its tributaries—displays an unreasoning disregard for the comities | the gallows. that nearly two years ago brought the Legislatures of the two states into ac-

Mr. Lorntsen's assertion will not hold with fair-thinking men and it certainly is disputed by the circumances of the joint conference of the Legislatures of the two states and their enactments. The Legislature of Washington included all Washington tributaries in its statute, and, while the same clause was omitted from the Oregon act in order to pacify legislators from Clackamas County, who oththe State Board of Fish Commissioners has asserted its authority under an | for manslaughter completed the story. earlier act to make the Oregon regula-

tions conform with those of the neigh- lice Court in this city, the dispute boring state.

Mr. Lorntsen's contention is wholly at variance with the best interests of the salmon industry and with the testimony of competent witnesses as to what the understanding with Wash-ington was. Furthermore, Lower Columbia interests of the Oregon side do not sustain Mr. Lorntsen's criticism of the action of the Fish Commission and the Fish Warden in closing Willamette and Clackamas Rivers between March and May 1.

BREAKERS AHEAD.

An organization known as the Pro gressive Republican League has been formed in Washington state to mote the Senatorial candidacy of Representative Poindexter, The league sent out letters to the rarious candidates inquiring whether they would expect to abide by the result of the Senatorial primary. the league designed by this simple question to stir up a hornets' nest, it ucceeded admirably, for it ascertained beyond a question just how at least two of his opponents look upon Mr. Poindexter. John L. Wilson wrote a long and eloquent letter, wherein he committed himself to abide by the "spirit and letter of the direct primary law to the last detail.' But, added Mr. Wilson:

sem it necessary to state that if it shall own that the intent and spirit of the primary law has been violated by the ipation of Democrats in the Republi-vinary, then of course the election i go to the Legislature.

Mr. Wilson knows, the Progressive Republican League knows, and every ody knows that it is the intent and purpose of thousands of Democrats to invade the Republican primary and vote for Poindexter. That is The Poindexter crowd wants game. no questions asked and is trying in advance to insure Poindexter's election by the Legislature in Democratic-insurgent-progressive scheme shall succeed.

John E. Humphries, in his letter, eclared that

There are rocks ahead for the Poin dexter insurgent band-wagon

ADVICE TO A BRIGHT BOY.

The father of a boy 9 years old vrites to ask The Oregonian for adlee as to what books on ancient hisory his son shall read. The child has gone through the ordinary school ooks, it appears, besides "numerous other publications relating to the subject," and now he wants to get hold of something more satisfactory. In course of his letter, which printed in another part of the paper, the father speaks of his son's inclina tions as "prematurely developed." We do not agree with him. There is nothing premature, or precocious, in a boy of 9 years liking to read ancient history. The subject is fascinating, and any bright boy would naturally be fond of it if he had not been spoiled by bad teaching. The reason why a taste for history is not more com among boys and men is because they learn to detest the subject in school just as they learn to detest geography literature and numerous other inter-

esting things. As for good books on ancient his tory, the world is full of them. Why not give him Plutach's Lives to be gin with? There s nothing better nothing that will stir his soul more deeply or fill him with loftler ideals. After Plutarch he might take up a translation of Herodotus and then try some book like Arnold's History of Perhaps after that he would be ready for the narrative chapters in Grote's Greece, which are among the most fascinating ever written. Grote's narrative of the Sicilian expedition is a noble piece of tragic writing, and it has the supreme merit of being simor a boy of 9 or 10 years to understand.

Very likely after the boy has read these books he will not need any more He can then go alone on his advice. delightful way through the paradise of literature. The writings we have named are not to be included among boys' books." They are emphatically men's books, and that is why we have chosen them, for the wisest experience of the race proves that a book which od for a man to read is also a good boys' book, while we all know that among the most interesting books in the world for adults are two or three written expressly for boys,

DON'T JOSTLE.

Despicable to a degree is the spirit seeks to "get even" upon a neighbor for some real or fancled slight, encroachment or annoyance, by means that depreciates the value of his property or makes untenable his The "spite fence" built to shut out the light from a neighbor's windows and give a prison-like appearance to his home; the barn with its disagreeable odors and noises placed maliciously in close proximity to the offending neighbor's front door; the unsightly poultry yard under his kitchen or bedroom windows are some of the occasional devices used to work out the mean and unneighborly spirit called "getting even with him." these things the law offers no redress, and those who stoop to such devices are impervious alike to the shafts of adverse public opinion and judicial

These things being true, it is w beware of the beginnings that arouse the antagonism of small minds, beginnings in which neither the one side nor the other is wholly at fault and which lead to consequences so disagreeable, not only to the parties immediately concerned, but to the entire neighborhood in which they In the country these unneighborly differences take the form of boundary line disputes, the land question often being insignificant in Yet such a dispute has not infrequently led to family and neighborhood fends of years' standing or ended in murder, the penitentlary or

"When people walk close together, they should be careful not to jostle each other," said a wise old farmer called upon to adjust a boundary line dispute involving a few feet of land which both disputants claimed and about which they were waxing ex-Disregarding this he two men began ceedingly angry. Disregarding this friendly advice, the two men began "splte-work" tactics, one letting down the fence so that cattle got in on the other's grain; the other wrathfully closing the gap and mounting guard over it with his shotgun, until finally one Summer morning murder was done on the boundary line and a term

seems originally to have arisen over a difference of eighteen inches across a fifty-foot lot line—a total of less than seven square feet of land. Reflecting upon the proportions to which this yet unsettled dispute has grown, the worry, the heartburnings, the real injustice suffered from a depreciation in property values, the neighborhood or feeling engendered and the material cost involved, we may well exclaim: "Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth," and repeat the

counsel of wisdom which bids those

who walk close together to be careful

not to jostle each other

PAINT PRAISE FOR DIRECT PRIMARY Senator Bourne's "speech" had much to say about the excellence of the people's rule in Oregon that planted himself and a Democrat in the United States Senate in opposition to the sentiment of the dominant politiparty in this state, through the juggle of Statement One. But the 'speech" made no mention of poils system in which Bourne and his eform followers have been careful to keep the dear people enthralled and as to appointment of Federal officeholders.

This omission was so glaring that Senator Bacon, of Georgia, called at-tention to it and the oratorical Senator from Oregon confessed he "did no touch that phase of the subject.'

Further, the "speech" did not ex-plain the reasons for the blind attachment of the people's Senator fron Oregon to the people's foe from Rhode Island, Senator Aldrich. The Oregon Senator admitted, during tariff legislation, that Aldrich knew so much about tariff matters that he felt the need of no ideas of his own. This has een confirmed by Collier's, the organ of the "uplift" forces with which the Oregon Senator professes to be other, wise affiliated. According to that au-Senator Bourne voted with Aldrich fifty-two times and against him only twice, and was absent from voting seventy-five times-which was the most frequent absence of any Senator except Richardson of Dela-

ware. These two subjects would have been very appropriate for the "speech, though not altogether so in the eyes of the political spoilsmen who are occupying Federal offices in Oregon, or who hope to "land" in such post tions eftsoons. The people of Ore gon have seen the old game continued of rewarding henchmen and hangerson with the Federal offices of the

There are some reforms, evidently which direct primaries and Statemen One cannot accomplish. Nor have direct primaries secured for Oregon Senators in the National Capital a conspicuous standing or note le influ Never before was Oregon's weight in National affairs so insignifi-

PULASKI AND SAVANNAH.

The Polish patriot, Casimir Pulaski, o whom President Taft paid a touching tribute at the unveiling of his statue in Philadelphia on Wednesday lost his life at the assault on Savannah by the combined French and American forces in the Fall of 1779. H was only 31 years old at the date of his death, but he had been through adventures enough to fill several of dinary lifetimes. Born in Poland in 1748. he was still a boy when the revolutionary outbreak occurred which ended in the partition of his country in 1772. Pulaski was one of the eight nobles to sign the articles of confederation which began While he was the most perstruggle. sistent of all the Polish rebels against the overwhelming power of Russia he was a brilliant and dashing partisan rather than a great commander. At the teginning of hostilities he was couted and driven into the Carns in retirement. The next Summer he took possession the fortress of took possession c the fortress of Czenstochowa, and when the Russians ald siege to it he defeated their forces so decisively that for a moa real prospect of success seemed to open before the Polish

It was delusive, however, like most other promises of good fortune which have heartened that unhappy coun-The French, who had formed a fleeting and inconstant alliance with the patriots, soon deserted them. The great Russian General Suwarrow butmanoeuvered the factious Polish commanders disastrously, and presently the hopes which Pulaski's victory had excited disappeared completely. Pu-laski's final exploit in this unfortunate war was to try to kidnap the King, Stanishas Poniatowski, who was in the possesssion of his country's enemies. If the project had succeeded might have revived the patriot cause but it failed. Pulaski and those who aided him were denounced as regi cides, and those who were not put to death fled the country. laski traveled first to France and the made his way to America, where, as President Taft pointed out, he dered valuable service by organizing the first cavalry force the colonies His adventurous disposition fitted him admirably to lead the brave but not very well disciplined horsemen whom he gathered to his standard. At the head of Pulaski's Legion, as his troopers were called. he made his way to the South and took part in the desultory operations in the neighborhood of Charleston and in Georgia which preceded Clin ton's resolute effort to conquer that section of the revolted colonies. When the patriots laid siege to Savannah

The Fall of 1779, with the Winter which ensued, was probably the darkest period of the Revolution. olonies, to be sure, had defended themselves for five years against the British, but it was with with failing courage and with resources which now seemed almost exhausted. Washington had on paper only 15,000 troops. In reality he commanded no more than 10,000 or 11,000, and their equipment was pitiful. Congress was rent with factions. The various colonles were torn with mutual jealousle and Arnold was already meditating Clinton, on hand, had a fine army of 30,000 men well equipped and in good spirits. Apparently he had only to choose whether he would begin the final campaign of conquest in the North or South. holiday to his confident battallons The defeat of the colonials at Savan-nah decided him to overrun the South first and then the middle states and in a matter recently before the Po- | New England. Thus man in his of hanged.

blindness proposes, but a higher power turns his plans to naught.

The Americans at Savannah were led by General Lincoln, who had acquired some reputation by his opera-tions at Charleston. The French troops co-operating with him were under the command of D'Estaing, who brought his fleet from the West Indies for that purpose in September Naturally Lincoln permitted his noble ally to direct the initial operation but this concession was fatal. D'Es taing was an impulsive, dilatory man who could show valor in action, but was worthless in council. He began by giving the British commander twenty-four hours to make up his mind whether he would surrender or The energetic Provost used the te to build fortifications and call a band of reinforcements into the town. Almost defenseless when he was summoned to surrender, commander was now D'Estaing's kindness master of th situation. He withstood a siege of a month successfully and in the assault by which Lincoln finally hoped to take the town he put the colonials and French to rout with great slaughter. Among the slain was Pulaski. This brilliant success decided Clinton to move his troops southward the next and undertake that series of operations which met with scarcely a epulse until Greene was sent to oppose his forces, then under Corn-wallis' immediate command. Greene urged Cornwallis gradually northward until he was fain to shut himself up in Yorktown. Thus the mysteric ways of Providence ultimately turned the disaster at Savannah into the dawn of victory for the American arms.

Official denials of the report that here would be nowrate war between the Pacific Coast Company and the San Francisco & Portland Steamship Company over extension of the Harri man water-line service to Los Angeles were hardly necessary. In the old days, when Portland and San Francisco were the only ports of importance on the Pacific Coast, there was always competition on the route. the present time, however, ment of a direct line from this city to Southern California ports would be no more of an infringement on the Pacific Coast Company than the line from Seattle to San Francisco would be on the line from Portland to San Francisco. So long as the Pacific Coast Company does not give Portland a line to Los Angeles, there can be no reasonable objection to the San Francisco & Portland Company establishing the service. Aside from this, \$10 for a first-class cabin passage from Portland to San Francisco is not a very attractive figure on which to start a rate war.

The steamer Corwin, which for many years has enjoyed the distinct tion of being the first boat to reach Nome in the Spring, has sailed from Seattle and that Winter-locked gold enter will soon have a few months' communication with the outside vorid. While the arrival of the Corwin at Nome will be a big event in that far-off land, the return trips of the Nome steamers will be awaited with much interest at this end of the line. The output of the Nome placers has cut a large figure in the American gold supply. If this year's receipt are as large as anticipated, they will go far toward offsetting the heavy gold exports which have recently caused some uneasiness in financial circles. The Alaskan gold output for the past dozen years has in the aggregate reached a figure so imposing that but for those discoveries the world's finances would have been in a much more strained condition than at the present time

The Government crop report credits Oregon with 476,000 acres of Winter wheat and Washington with 676.00 acres. Idaho is credited with 345,000 acres in Winter wheat. This is a total of less than 1,500,000 acres of Winter wheat in a region that at no time in the past ten years has had less than 2,000,000 acres in Winter wheat. figures of the Government, of course do not mean that there is a shortage of 500,000 acres in the area sown to Winter wheat in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. It simply means that the talented farmers who make up statis. tics for the Agricultural Department either do not know the difference be tween Spring wheat and Winter wheat or they are wonderfully careless in segregating their figures.

A Linn County woman, applying for divorce after thirty-eight years married life, says she had but a single dollar to spend in five years, will make most wives sniff with contempt at her lack of resource. She began wrong and kept it up.

The woman left her baby in a go art while she joined a crowd at a real estate auction one hundred yards distant. When she returned the boy was gone. A baby ought to be more valued than all the lots in the land.

Spokane waiters to the number of hundreds are on strike, and one griev. ance is, they are not allowed to select food from the menu. Host waiters, being on the inside, would eat else

That Californian might have held

back his four-unit business until the passage of the comet. There is a week's supply of science on hand. Municipal Judge Bennett is acquir ing the wisdom of Solomon. He threatened a jail sentence on two

Seattle streetcar outlaws are wiser than their victims. A saloonkeeper who carries a \$1000 roll at 1 in the than their victims. morning is tempting robbery.

women principals in a neighborhood

Why does not somebody organize a ometary meet for next Wednesday and charge a dollar for seats in the grandstand?

Booker Washington is the guest of Katherine Gould, and no one ever sus pected her of color blindness. Automaniacs who interfere with

the streetcleaners at night ought to be flushed, by accident, of course. The Scattle faster died yesterday

The local fasters resumed the habit

just in time. The Gohl jury recommended leniency. He might be drowned instead

IS DOCK SITE YET SELECTED! Should Not City First Find What It

Wants and What Will Be Cost?
Portland People's Press.
Regarding public docks, some people may a site for the dock has already been relected, and that some of the dock advocates know where it is, the price asked and everything else about it. Some Councilmen oppose the dock and others favor it. Mayor Simon continues strongly opposed to the scheme, saying that \$500,000, the amount voted by the people in not executed. people, is not enough to do anything with. Of course, it is not possible that any one is trying to make any money selling a dock location to the city. Certainly not. It might be well for the committee to ascertain what a desirable dock site will cost, and how much me it will take to build the dock. It would be folly for the city to sell \$500,000 dock bonds without first knowing that the bonds without first ar \$500,000 will go around. No business man would borrow \$500,000

and turn it over to some one for a build-ing purpose with the remark, "Do the best you can with it." That is just exactly the position the without the Council and Mayor Simon first having ascertained that the \$500,000 will be enough to purchase the site, and complete the building work. Accordingly a desirable site must first be found, and the price ascertained. Following this, the plans for a dock must be made, and the cost figured out. Then, if it is found that a suitable location adjoining the railroad terminals can be secured, and the dock built, and all for the \$500,000 voted by the people, the sale of the bonds can be seriously considered by the City Council, and not before.

LETTER FROM ANCIENT ATHENS Leaden Tablet Reveals Bit of Life of Old Greek Period.

Scientific American. A little leaden tablet, tarnished, ugly and otherwise trivial in appearance, was sent a few years ago from Athens to the Imperial Museum of Berlin. On one side of it is some writing which only recently was deciphered with preclise correctness by Adolph Wilhelm, an Austrian savant who lives in Athens. The tablet is the original of a private letter that was written about the time of the orator Demosthenes.

The writer of the letter lived in a

rural neighborhood and wished to send a commercial order to a town. The form of the address was: To be taken to the pottery market and to be handed to Nausias, or to Thrasykles, or to the son" (perhaps the son of the writer was meant). The weekly market, to which the Attl. countrymen had gone to offer their produce and wares for sale, may be imagined as in progress. There the boy who was bearer of the letter was to find the stand or booth of one of the three property when it of one of the three persons to whom it was addressed and deliver it to him. The text of the letter says:

"Mnesiergoes greets you cordially, he greets your family with the same esteem and wishes them good health, and he says also that his own health is good. Please be so kind as to send me a mantle, either of sheepskin or of goatskin, and let it be as cheap as possible, for it does not need to be trimmed with fur. Sand with it. cordially, trimmed with fur. Send with it a pair of heavy soles also. As soon as I have an opportunity I will pay you."

So much for the letter, to the motive of which the reader can point with as much precision as the author. Apparathly the world with the send of the

ently it was written in Winter, poor Mnesiergoes having been surprised out in the open country by one of those by snow storms, which sometimes, even at this day, cover the temples of the Acropells with a mantle of snow. Therefore he desired to receive as quickly as possible the heavy and warm garment of the poorer country-men, a goatskin, which could be bought for four and a half drachmas; and the strong soles which were worn under the ordinary sandals on the rura rural blains and hillsides. A good pair of the latter could be bought for four frachmas, as a well-preserved bill of

A noteworthy feature of this artless letter is the formula with which it begins, the very formula that may be found used in very numerous letters that were preserved by the Greek literature of later times. Even at the present day every letter written by a rural Greek begins with the same cor-dial inquiry about the health of the person to whom the letter is written and with the brief information about the health of the writer.

A "HOLD-UP" GAME IS SUSPECTED Writer Thinks Clay Pipe Interest Ought

to Be Called to Account. PORTLAND, May 12.—(To the Ed-tor)—I read with much interest Frank Bollam's communication in The Oregonian of yesterday on the cement sewer pipe question. It certainly is timely, pipe question. It certainly is timely, but only partly covers the matter. I am one of the 95 per cent of the taxpayers referred to by Mr. Bollam who desire to know fully the trouble and cause of this holdup by the City Council, who the holdups are and what is the color of their hair. There is not a sane person but knows that cement pipe is far superior to clay pipe for sewerage or for any other purpose of drainage. There is no better time to lean house than now. Just as Portwho's who, and what's up, and then dig down and find out the inside motive. We might find a "nigger in the wood-

Portland is going to have cement pipe. We want the best and at a mate-rial reduction from the price of an inferior article. I cannot believe the City Council will attempt to make this downright holdup. The people will not stand for it.

W. M. KILLINGSWORTH. Ed Howe's Philosophy.

Atchison Globe. Women are modest enough until a doctor begin asking them questions.

There are so many lazy men that prizes should be given for those who

second wives as industriously as they of others. Women think one of the best things

We don't believe the men look for

that can be said about a man is, "He isn't hard to cook for." Let any man lose a good office, and Let any man lose a good office, and become poor, and soon he has the symptoms of an anarchist.

A woman whose stocking doesn't wrinkle is said to be a good house-keeper, but then how can you tell?

You may have noticed that the preacher who is opposed to circuses will risk a look at the street parade. If a man is willing to be a husband seems to be more important these days than if he is capable of being a good

than if he is capable of being a good When there is a fight in a small own in a prohibition state, the ques-"Where did the whisky m?" attracts as much attention as

the time a woman remembers the size of the glove, shoe, shirtwaist, collar, corset, hose and helt she wears, collar, corset, hose and helt she wears, she hasn't enough mind left to be burdened with further statistics.

A girl is clever beyond her associates if she learns enough after leaving school to pay back her father all that her school books cost. All girls start out to pay off a mortgage, but no girl ever does it.

Much Too Small.

ROOSEVELT CAN DESTROY TAFT But What Would Become of Roosevelt and Republican Party!

New York World. Mr. Taft denies the report printed in a Washington newspaper that he has reelved letters from Mr. Roosevelt "clearly dicating that he thoroughly indorses the present Administration" and believes that the re-election of President Taft is the Republican party's duty."

Such letters may never have been writ-en, but what other course is there for Mr. Roosevelt to follow? What excuse ould he offer for repudiating the Taft Administration? What would be his place American history if he attempted to sacrifice his personal friend Taft in order to gratify his own ambition?
Those fervent Rooseveltians who expect
the ex-Fresident to turn against Mr. Taft
pay a sorry tribute to Mr. Roosevelt's

Sense of honor, decency and obligation. They regard him as capable of using all his political power as Chief Magistrate to nominate a friend for President and then using his popularity to destroy that friend in order to reach the White House again over the ruins of a wrecked Administra on. The World is no great admirer of heodore Roosevelt, but it has a better pinion of him than that. It does not beleve that he would be guilty of the base reachery that some of his friends so ex-berantly proclaim.

Mr. Taft is entitled to Mr. Roosevelt's

Air. Taft is entitled to Mr. Roosevelt's heartlest support. There can be no question about Mr. Taft's loyalty and devotion to his predecessor. He has done his full duty by My Policies. He has tried to carry on the Roosevelt Administration to the best of his ability and has probably succeeded as well as Mr. Roosevelt himself would have done had be best of his ability. self would have done had he been elected for a third term and compelled to grappie with tariff revision. To be sure, Mr. Taft has broken with some of Mr. Roesevelt's personal friends, but Mr. Roose velt used to quarrel with his own friends, as the "My Dear Maria" letters so elo-quently testify, to say nothing of the Harriman correspondence. In any case there is nothing in Mr. Taft's Administra. ion for which a politician with Theo-

Mr. Taft is not much of a politician, and Mr. Roosevelt could probably destroy him, out where would this leave Mr. Roosevelt? And where would it leave the Republican party?

DRAWBRIDGES NEAR NEW YORK Even Here Government Will Not Accommodate the Public. New York Times. Editor)—This morning 14

Erie main line trains and New Jersey and New York commuter trains were delayed from 20 minutes to one and a half hours at the Hackensack draw bridge by reason of a brick schoone being wedged in the draw. Several years ago the Erie, in asso

ciation with the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, the Jerssy Central and Pennsylvania Railroads, took up vigorously with the War Department the question of having the drawbridges on the Hackensack and Passale Rivers losed for an hour or two in the morn ing and an hour or two in the even-ing in order that commuter traffic might be handled promptly. For many years, as is quite well known, the opening and closing of drawbridges during the rush hours has seriously delayed the suburban trains. Fully 7 per cent of the delays to Erie commu-ter trains is due to open drawbridges The Government some years ago issued instructions relative to the Harlem River drawbridges, but the traffic of the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers hardly 10 per cent of what it is on the Harlem River, yet the Government has steadfastly refused to put in effect such

an order for these waterways.

This is a rather serious matter to railroads carrying New Jersey commuters, and any assistance you can give us toward agitating the subject I have no doubt will be thoroughly appreciated by the patrons of Passaic Rivers. There is really not sufficient traffic on these rivers to justify taking the chances that commuters have to take in being seriously delayed as they were this morning

New York, May 4, 1910.

Complaint That 99 Applicants Out of

Every 100 Are Denied Lands. VANCOUVER, Wash., May 12.—(To the Editor.)—I have seen in The Oregonian from time to time communica-tions stating there was land available in the forest reserves for homesteads, and that homesteads were being allowed in the reserves. lowed in the reserves.

I have been in touch with possibly several hundred applicants for land in the forest reserves, and believe the facts are that the applications of the

settlers are denied in 99 cases in every 100 applications.
If The Oregonian will invite the

If The Oregonian will invite the settlers seeking lands in the forest relands to make public the result of their applications, I believe readers of. The Oregonian will be shocked with the results of the settlers' attempts to get lands. the results of the settlers' attempts to get lands. Extend an invitation to all parties who have applied for lands in the Vancouver, Wash, land district for lands in township 4 north, range 9 east, 4 north and range 10 east and north, range 9 east, and see F. P. WAGNER.

Rending for 9-Year-Old Boy. Reading for 9-Year-Old Boy.

PORTLAND, May 12—(To the Editor.)—I am a father and have an only son who is aged 9 years, in the fifth grade, a great reader and is deeply interested in ancient history.

In my desire to encourage and assist him in his prematurely developed inclinations, I ask some of The Oregonian's interested readers to advise means of the oregonian's interested readers to advise means of the oregonian's interested readers.

regarding the proper or at least the most comprehensive works to procure I have obtained both public and high

school books used in our schools, be-sides numerous other publications remore or less incomplete. In order to avoid the possibility, or probability rather, of having some one advise me to have him read the Bible. I will state that it was through reading this and Darwin's theory of evolution that my son became so interested in both history and natural sciences. P. W. P.

A Sober and Proud English Village. London Standard.

At Steeple Ashton Brewster sessions, the report of Superintendent Scott said that there had been no case of drunkenness during the year, and that has been the record for several years past. The division has a population of 2500 people; there are 13 licensed houses, and the last case of drunkenness was heard of nearly six years ago. It is believed that this is the only petty sessional division in England that possesses such a clean rec-ord in sobriety for so many years in suc-

An Idle Dream.

Washington Herald. The funniest political suggestion we have heard in many moons is the one promulgated by some unnamed person to the effect that Mr. Roosevelt might be "shelved" by electing him to the United States Senate.

> Human Nature. Atlanta Constitution.

Chicago Tribune.

Roosevelt for Depew's shoes? He buildn't get into them with a shoe horn.

The Boston Globe says Secretary Knox "is human after all." To be sure.

He threatened to resign, but did not.

## LIFE'S SUNNY SIDE

A bunch of merry souls gathered in the den of Ab, the cave man. A tender young pterodactyl had been slain that day, and as they dined off the toathsome mess sly jests went round.
Flint, the hammer man, told one on his mother-in-iaw; Jock, the arrow hewer, said that all the Cave City policemen were Irish; Hitt, the corn pounder, told of the fire sale in Jerusalem, and every fresh outs heavy of leave. fresh quip brought out roars en vigorously sucking a bone, looked. up with a merry twinkle in his eye.
"I know whose grandmother will be dead tomorrow," he announced.
"Whose?" cried the bunch, springing

from the floor of the caver "Everybody's," said Nip. "It's the opening of the Cliff Dwellers' baseball association season." Then everybody groaned. The joke was so everlastingly old.—Judge.

A guest in a Cincinnati hotel was shot and killed. The negro porter, who heard the shooting, was a witness at the trial.

"How many shots did you hear?" asked the lawyer.
"Two shots, sah," he replied.
"How far apart were they?"

Bout like dis way," explained the negro, clapping his hands with an in-terval of about a second between them. "Where were you when the first shot was fired?"

"Shinin' a gemman's shoe in de baze-ment of de hotel." Where were you when the second shot was fired?" "Ah was a passin' de Big Fo' depot."

Robert Herrick, professor of English at the University of Chicago, was talk ing about the curative power of the im-

agination. "The imagination is wonderful," he said. 'I know a Chicago man who went last summer to Asbury Park. He, in a quaint way, proved my point.

"He didn't reach Asbury Park till 10 at night, and, very tired, he turned in at once. As he settled his head comfortably on the pillow he said to his wife

Listen to the thunder and hiss the surges, Maria, I haven't heard that glorious sound for 40 years. No more

insomnia now! "And, indeed, for the first time in three months the man slept like a log But when he awoke in the morning he found that the uproar which had julied him to sleep was the uproar of a garage in the rear of the hotel. was over a mile away."-Washington

"The venerable Countess of Cardigan, the author, you know, of that book of memoirs, thinks the modern girl is too athletic and hoydenish," said an Eng-lish visitor to New York.

"The Countess of Cardigan often tells of a young man who was drinking tea with a beautiful girl, when her little brother slipped into the room.

'Mr. Mannering,' the boy asked, 'can you stand on your head?
"No,' said the visitor, laughing. 'I don't believe I can.' 'Well, I can,' said the boy. 'Look

"And he stood on his head very neatly in the corner.
"'Ha, ha!' laughed Mr. Mannering.
'And who taught you that?'

The urchin frowfied.
"'Sister,' he said, 'told me I must never tell.'"—Washington Star.

One time Mark Twain met the late James McNell Whistler, the artist. friend having warned the humorist that the painter was a confirmed joker, Mark solemnly averred that he would get the better of Whistler should the latter attempt "any funny business." Furthermore, Twain determined to anticipate Whistler If possible. So when the two had been introduced, which event took place in Whistler's studio, Twain, assuming an air of hopeless stupidity, approached a just completed painting and said: "Not at all bad, Mr. Whistler; not at all bad. Only," he added reflectively, with a motion as SETTLERS BARRED ON RESERVES If to rub out a cloud effect, "if I were you I'd do away with that cloud. exclaimed "Great heavens, sir!" Whistler almost beside himself. "Be careful and don't touch that; the paint is not dry yet."

Two California Cities.

Mark, with an air of perfect nonchal-ance, "I'm wearing gloves."—Kansas

City Star.

don't mind that," replied

Houston Post. Pedestrian Weston says if he owned a house in Frisco and one in hell, he would rent out the one in Frisco. Los Angeles, he declares, is worse than Frisco. If it were not for Chicago and

> In the Magazine Section of the

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