The Oregonian

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as econd-Class Matter. iption Rates-Invariably in Advance (BY MAIL)

included, one year 9.00 included, one month75

Eastern Business Office—The S. C. Beckwith Special Agency—New York, rooms 45-50 Tribune building. Chicago, rooms 510-512 Tribune building.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1910

THE ASSEMBLY'S OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.

Today's Republican assembly Portland is the first representative conference of the party of Oregon in six years. It is the largest representconference of party ever held in the state. Disruption of party through unguided plurality primaries and minority nominations have presented the eed of remedies so strongly that onference has been called of party delegates from all the counties. The are, first, to define party policies and, cond, to name candidaets who shall be acceptable to majority members of

party members nor that of any candidate should guide today's deliberations. This is not a time for "lining support for faction or candidate. is a time for men to reason together; to review the past and think on broad-gauge lines for the future; to devise ways for rational party or ganization; to submerge factional dis putes and to call fittest men to seek nomination in the primaries. It should be more important to the assembly who these men shall be than to particular aspirants for office.

A political party has the right to tion who its candidates shall be. This principle has been enunciated recently in forceful manner by Roosevelt, Hughes and Taft. It means that the Republican party of Oregon has full right to determine, by means of to day's assembly and September's primaries, who shall be its chosen candidates

The spirit and conscience of thirds the voting citizenship of Oreon-of Republicans-are represented in this gathering. Else the call for assembly would not have found such Immediate response throughout the commonwealth. This conference can mark a turning point in political af-fairs of Oregon. It can begin a new epoch. The responsibility and the opportunity are great. The assembly is expected to rise to full realization of

MR. JOHNSON AS A FINANCIER.

Much current comment appears in city of Mr. Johnson. We mean, of course, the particular Mr. Johnson whom future historians and epic poets will mention as the glory of the negro race and the champion who laid low the hope of the whites. When a worshiper inquired what he intended to do with the \$168,000 he made by his prowess at Reno, Mr. Johnson replied that he would invest it in Government bonds. "They don't bring so much," he saplently commented, "but they's gilt-edged.

Fo tunately this eminent personage is in a position where he can pay more attention to security than to the rate of interest. The sum of \$168,000 enough to produce a comfortable subsistence at 2 per cent unless one's tastes are more luxurious than athletic. Many less famous mortals are not so happily situated. To them the income which their investments will produce is a matter of prime moment and many are so eager to obtain an extra \$10 or \$20 a year that they risk their principal for the sake of it. Our colored luminary is wiser.

The problem of safe and productive investments for small capitalists is one that has not yet been solved in the United States. Our financial geniuses have been so occupied with other subjects that they have not given their minds to it. Whether the other subjects to which they have seen fit to devote their attention were more important than this one or not question which deserves consideration. Several European nations have made the financial interests of the small investor a matter of pro-found study and careful legislation. They have found it possible to obtain for him a fair rate of interest on his money with complete security. cerning big capitalists, they have not been so anxious on the supposition that these people are competent to look out for themselves. Here it is the ittle fish who are told to swim as they may while the anxious care of Government is devoted to the whales. Which policy is the wiser,

The United States is full of scheme for separating ignorant people from their money which would not be tolerated in France, England or Germany. Persons who have not studied finance with assiduity have no way to distinguish between dishonest and reliable investments when both kinds are advertised in similar language. The consequence is that dishonesty thrives and habits of saving are dis-Happily, there is now a movement of wide extent to educate the general public concerning investments and save the simple from the wiles of the swindler. Many periodicals publish financial articles every which are truly educative They appeal to the man of ordinary intelligence as well as to the specialized capitalist and doubtless have helped to save many from rulnous

investments Something more is needed, however The United States would profit largely by establishing some financial institution like the French credit foncier which deals in mortgage loans and investments on a scale which is adapted to the means of very humble people. We do not mean that the Government ought to undertake this business, but that it offers an inviting field to private enterprise of unimpeachable integrity.

Here is the Ancient Order of Hi- ity."

bernians holding an assembly. In Oregon, too, where assemblies "unlawful." It is a good week for "unlawful." It is a good week for as-semblies, though. The Irish couldn't be kept apart, or separated, with a shilleish.

"BALLOT TITLE" EVILS.

Ballot titles of Oregon's thirty-two nitiative and referendum measures have been prepared by the Attorney-General. These titles purport to give the gist of each bill. By them the mass of the voters will judge the respective measures when "legislating" in the election booth. Yet these titles do not tell the de-

tails and particulars that should be taken into account in lawmaking. hey give voters no fair knowledge of whether the proposed me should become laws or not. measures never do even in a lawmaking assem Constitutions of every state for bid reading of bills on final passage in Legislatures by title; they compel reading of bills in full. Yet on final in the election booth there is no reading of bills in full; only by

The titles give no idea of the inner merit of the eight county bills, nor of conflicting boundaries, nor of local needs and interests. They tell nothing of the vicious contents of the so-called employers' liability bill. They dress up in fine words the pet fads of U'Ren. They utterly mislead as to the constitutional amendments on tax-The title of the woman auffrage amendment flatly misstates the purpose of the measure by representing it as "granting to all taxpayers, regardless of sex, the right of suffrage," whereas instead it grants the right of suffrage to all women citizens of 21 years, regardless of whether they are taxpayers or not.

These shortcomings are due to the limited carrying capacity of the few words that compose the title of a bill. The Attorney seems to have done his best, except as to the woman suffrage mendment, whose title he certainly should have made true to the purpose of the measure. It is manifestly impossible for a title, containing but 100 words, to cover completely a measure carrying several thousand words. A title cannot do this in assembly lawmaking, nor can it in election-booth lawmaking. Most "legislators" in the latter case will listen only to the fair-

sounding title—an act that constitu-tions forbid to delegated lawmakers. This is one of the many reasons why "direct" legislation is a menace to the public interest. Yet U'Ren and Bourne aver that the "direct" method should be substituted for that of legislative assembly.

THE YEAR'S FOREIGN TRADE.

Whatever misgivings may be felt over the liberal decrease in that "bal-ance of trade" which represents the difference between what we sell to foreign countries and what they buy of us will be softened by the details of our foreign commerce for the fis-cal year ending June 30. The figures of the Bureau of Statistics show total exports of \$1,744,966,203 and imports of \$1,557,854,854, thus leaving a balance in our favor of \$187,111,349. This excess of exports over imports is the smallest that has been reported since 1896, although the total amount of exports and imports is, with the single exception of 1907, the largest on record. The shrinkage in the "balance of trade" was almost wholly due to a falling off in exports of food stuffs and heavy increases in imports

of materials used in manufacturing These figures quite unmistakably show that an increasing army of workers in our factories is supplying a home market for large quantities of food stuffs which were formerly ex-ported to Europe. The import figures also reflect the increased demand for materials to be worked up into fin-ished products in this country. Details on each commodity are not yet available for the entire year, but for the eleven months ending May 31, a financial condition does not warrant decrease of \$67,000,000 in foodstuffs the ownership of automobiles disposes more than offset by of more than \$93,000,000 "manufactures in partly finished state," and manufactures ready for consumption. To supply employment for our factory hands who in supplied the increased home demand for foodstuffs, it was necessary greatly to increase the importations of raw and partly finished material, needed in this country.

In hides and skins there was an increase of \$36,000,000. The enor mous growth of the automobile industry is reflected in an increase in the imports of rubber of \$40,000,000 over the imports for the preceding year. Iron ore, chemicals, drugs, fibers leather and numerous other commodities needed in manufacturing all showed heavy increases over the preceding eleven months. This great economic change may not meet with the approval of the theorists who be lieve that our greatest prosperity lies in an enormous balance of trade created by selling so much more to the foreigners than they sell to us. A close analysis of the various features of the year's business will, however, reveal a condition far from unsatis-When our manufacturing industries reach the point where they can employ enough people to consume all of the foodstuffs at home, the immense sums now paid for freighting the surplus to foreign countries will

REVISING THE BIBLE.

Irrespective of their religious opin ions, all readers will be interested in the proposed publication next May of a new and revised edition of the English Bible. It is intended to signalize in this way the 300th anniversary of the authorized, or King James' ver-sion. The work is to be done under the supervision of Oxford University. but many distinguished scholars this country and Canada will partici-No extensive changes will be made in the text of the King James The purpose is mainly to version. substitute modern words for those which have become obsolete and possibly to correct some of the mistrans lations which deface more or less seriously the received version.

Very likely there is no danger that

the spurious passages will be excised from the New Testament so that those who base their religious hopes on these texts need not fear for their stability. The revised version, which was prepared some years ago by a band of competent scholars, never has be come as popular as might have been expected from its surpassing merits No doubt the reason may be found in the slashing changes it made in cer-tain much-loved passages. In Paul's famous 13th chapter of Corinthians for instance, the bold revisers substi-tuted "love" for the mythmic "char-Many plous believers were also traits of character, chief of which

repelled because "heil" was replaced here and there by some such expression as "Hades."

It is extremely doubtful whether any revision of the Bible is desirable. Accuracy in translation is a subject which interests nobody but scholars and they can make their own transtions. To the great public the Bible a monument of English literature, fully as much so as Lear or Robinson Crusoe, and it is difficult to convince readers that they have not been im-posed upon when any alteration is made in the accustomed phraseology The plea that it is a religious document as well as a work of literary genius does not amount to much. Nobody can be expected to alter his re-ligious opinions merely because a score of learned revisers see fit to correct the language of a text, and if opinion will not be affected by verbal changes, why go to the trouble of making them?

The fact of the matter is that any alteration in the language of Scrip-ture, however guarded, tends to shock religious faith and unsettle the convictions of the plain people. the Bible just as it reads, with all its defects, errors and spurfous passages, is inspired by the Almighty. Either, it is implety to alter the language the Bible or else the doctrine of its inspiration, as this doctrine is understood by the multitude, must be abandoned. And when you impair popular faith in the literary work of the Crea-tor where are you going to stop? Better let the obsolete words stand and popular theology from the shock of novelty.

OREGON'S BUSY TAX COMMISSION. Last week the Oregon Tax Commis sion-C. V. Galloway and J. B. Eaton

members-issued a letter to County Assessors telling them it is their law-ful duty to list-mortgage notes on assessment rolls for purposes of taxa-tion. The Commission was plain in its instructions and read the law to

This week the Commission backs away from those instructions, saying they were not "mandatory," but "advisory," for the purpose of equalizing state taxes between counties that assess mortgage notes and those that This is mere quibble of words and

evasion of responsibility. The Com-mission could have no other object, in last week's letter than taxation of mortgage notes. Else why should the Commission

take up the subject at all? Effort to tax loans of money is absurd and foolhardy. The Commission did not, obviously, foresee the consequences of its letter to County Assessors, After hearing the protests against its action the Commission says it leaves the whole matter to discretion of Asses-sors. That is where the matter has rested heretofore, yet for state "equal-ization" 'the State Commission has not needed assessment of mortgages.

Tax officials in the State Capitol are getting their eye-teeth cut. Having been called to their present jobs for political qualifications instead of for knowledge of tax business, are learning as they go along. It is pleasing to see that since last week they have learned a useful lesson

about mortgage tax. This threat of mortgage tax has been felt by borrowers already. Mortgage notes and contracts hereafter made will certainly fix upon borrow ers the obligation of paying this increment whenever levied. Most of them already carry this requirement.

ANOTHER GUESS COMING. There is a slight decline in the birth rate in Kansas, as shown by the vital statistics for 1908-1909. A statistician heretofore unknown to fame comes forward with the accusing cry that the growing popularity of the automobile is to blame for this showing. The fact, known to everybody, that the birth rate is kept up by parents whose the ownership of automobiles disposes In point of faccasional child, but children in regular

rotation, until families of from six to

ten are acquired) take little note of

automobiles, except to keep their little

ones out of the way of rapidly-driven machines. They would as soon think of riding in or owning an aeroplane. The relatively few women who go speed crazy do not belong to the class about whose homes little children with their small demands upon the time of the mother and the revenue-producing abilities of father. Clearly, therefore, the Kansas statistician will have to guess again in his endeavor to account for the shortage in the baby crop in his state last

After all, the birth rate in Kansas showed a diminution of but slightly over 2000—not a startling reduction in view of the fact that many enter prising Kansans removed from that state to the Pacific Northwest last year and are yet to hear from

AMERICAN INDIAN IN HISTORY.

On June 27 an International Congress of Indians was held at Mus-kogee, Okla., to which went representatives of every tribe in the United States and some from Canada and Mexico. A year before there assem-bled in the Valley of the Little Big Horn, in Montana, the aged and eminent chiefs from nearly every prominent reservation in the country. A striking and son ewhat pathetic spec was presented of an old-time Indian council. There was a primitive camp of old-time tepees and moving in and out among them were the chieftains, dressed in the full regalia of savagery. Moving pictures were taken of them that will be preserved as a historical portrayal of a sturdy and fast disappearing race, each chap-ter of whose history since the advent of the white man upon the American continent has been replete with romance and tragedy.

Human above everything else, the race has resisted at every point the advence of civilzation. There is many tale of tragedy in connection with this passing that never has been told and never can be. Not all of these tales, if told, would redound to the credit of the red man. Upon his side there has been treachery and cruelty and blood thirstiness, often vented upon unresisting helplessness slaked upon the blood of the innocent.

In support of the spirit of reprisal that bade the Indian, if he could not strike the right one, to strike any member of the hated race of the paleface, deeds of murder and acts of atrocity were done. But he is passing; he will soon have passed, and the estimate of his faults will give place in story to the events that caused them to over-shadow his many really admirable

were bravery, endurance and loyalty to his tribesmen in peace, and to his race in stress of war.

The names of Massasoit and King Philip and Tecumseh, of Joseph and Moses and Geronimo and of numberess others, who dogged the footsteps of civilization from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, are in evidence of these racial traits. As estimated by Ridpath, the most striking character-istics of the race were "a certain sense of personal independence, wilfulness of action and freedom from restraint." Upon this basis it is no wonder that the race has retired slowly and vengefully before the advance of civilization, making a desperate stand wherever possible, and marshal-ing the forces of savagery to its aid when hard pressed. These things are matters of history, yet they have so far receded from the present that the glamor of romance has fallen over them. Especially on the Eastern border the Indian has come to be lauded for what was noble in his nature and pitled for his savage characteristics.

To preserve and commemorate that which especially pertains to the North American Indian, in a racial sense, as evolved from his contact with the white man, a movement was inaugurated several years ago by Rodman Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, and others for the erection of a National memorial on some Government reservation in New York on a site to be selected by the Secretaries of War and the Navy. Other memorials representing state, rather than National hisory or sentiment, have been erected in various places. In Portland's City Park are "The Coming of the White Man," and the statue of "Sacajawea." Others representing the massacre of settlers are found in many localities, one on the Muskingum River, in Ohio, above Marietta, telling a tale of horror equal in its line to that told by the

Juster monument in Montana. In spite of all this, a recent writer, who has been studying the history of the North American Indian from the viewpoint of pity and admiration, says; "When the last member of the race shall have folded his blanket about him and passed over the Great Divide, we shall remember the Indian as brave, loyal, self-sacrificing and honorable to a marked degree.'

Distance may lend this enchantment to the review of Indian history. But whether it does or not, the act of Congress whereby a National me-morial will be raised to the Indian is commendable, since he certainly has been often in the foreground of the history of the occupation and settle-ment of the North American continent by the white man.

It is unfortunate for a large number of citizens of the thriving town of Gresham that the short-sighted policy the Mount Hood Railroad to change its route so that the corporate limits of the city will be missed by about two miles. The attempt of this road to secure, on reasonable terms, right of way and depot grounds at Gresham was not different from that of other transportation companies in various parts of the Pacific Northwest. Land which has been practically worthless for years, and which would, without railroad facilities, remain so, on the approach of the railroad suddenly becomes so enormously valuable that the roads are in many cases obliged to make a wide detour in order to secure the right of way at a reason-The worst feature of able figure. The worst feature of these hold-up games is that broadminded, liberal property owners are obliged to suffer for the avarice of their neighbors.

er to be erected by Klaw & Erlanger. cording to a dispatch from the City of Destiny, it is to be fully as elabrate an affair as any of the others which the "personal representative of Klaw & Erlanger" has been building around the Pacific Northwest. "Klaw & Erlanger now have the Northwest well in hand and developments will be | p Having the situation "well in hand" a new expression. England's greatest Generals had the Boer war situation "well in hand" for so many months that the British war the soldiers were almost barefoot from running away from the Boers, while the General was "leading them on." Can it be that Messrs. K. & E. are simply leading the trust-busters on with this fine line of conversational theaters?

The suicide carefully planned and deliberately executed in the City Park some days ago was that of a man who had lived forty-five years to so little purpose that he did not see the incongrulty of marriage with a young girl of nineteen. Because he could persuade her to overlook this discrepancy between youth and age he took his own life, not rashly but deliberately, accounting life as without value to him. In point of fact the world loses nothing when a man who refuses to learn the simplest lessons of life grows tired at middle age and voluntarily quits living. There this to be said in behalf of this individual, however: the pistol used to accentuate his weariness of life was turned only against himself. young woman was permitted to live the enjoyment of the sense with which kind nature had en-

Now Thomas J. Cleeton, who was candidate for County Judge before the county assembly, refuses to be bound by that body's action and bolts. Of That's Cleeton. He was not recommended by the assembly because the assembly knew him and his record and would not and could not trust him. The campaign of 1895 and the betrayal of Senator Dolph by Cleeton are not forgotten

Twelve hundred Republicans from all over Oregon ought to know what the party wants and to be entitled to speak for it. Their assembly today makes it clear, after all, that there is a Republican party.

soles, with the uppers made entirely of The inspiration of the "non-partijudiciary movement is a congan' certed effort by interested lawyers to keep on the bench the present Democratic judges. That is how "non-partisan" it is.

Across the peninsula at Vancouver they are taking steps to hold a county fair this Fall. By all means arrange for a Portland day and see how large

Oregon is a law-abiding state. South of the Ohio River, that Pullman porter wouldn't have lasted sixty seconds, whether he did it or not.

Candid Plea for Exemption of Notes

Accounts and Cowh. CORVALLIS, Or., July 17,--(To Editor.)—The Oregonian's editorial to-day, "The Folly of Mortgage Tax" is timely and to the point. During four years, just prior to the repeal of the mortgage tax law, Benton County ac-cumulated \$47,000 delinquent mortgage taxes. This \$47,000 the county never received. But the county paid the state about \$8000 state taxes, that being the state's proportion of the delinquent tax on mortgages during that time. It tax on mortgages during that time. It was much the same in other counties. The balance of the property paid double and unequal tax to that amount, in plain violation of section 1, article 2, of the Oregon constitution, which provides that "the legislative assembly shall provide by law for uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation. And shall prescribe such regulations as shall secure a just valuation for taxation of all property, both real and personal" . (excepting exempt property). What the county failed to collect one year the overburdened taxpayers made up next year. That is one effect of trying to tax intangible personal assets.

Out of over \$100,000,000 on deposit in the banks within the State of Orecome.

in the banks within the State of Oregon, in 1909, the assessors found for purposes of taxation less than \$13,000,000, of which \$11,000,000 was in Multnomah and Marion Counties and included the notes and accounts of those counties. And likewise on taxation of notes and accounts the proportion was not far different. The effort to find such assets for taxation results in great injustice to such persons as are surprised into including in their property lists this species of assets.

I would like to call attention to the article of the constitution referred to. The state tax commission, which is supposed to be composed of experts in such matters (and its deliverances suresuch matters (and its deliverances surely prove it, don't they?) appears to pay particular attention to making "Nick Carters," or "Old Sieuths" of County Assessors in ferreting out money, notes, and accounts, and to pay much less attention to the real spirit and the plain letter of that constitutional provision which guarantees a uniform and equal rate of taxation. The taxation of money, notes and accounts operates, and always has operated, to secure an unequal rate and a not The taxation of money, notes and accounts operates, and always has operated, to secure an unequal rate and a not uniform scale of taxation and every person, every assessor, and every institution handling money and its representatives well knows this. The tangible property—lands, houses, livestock, etc.—always pays for this blunder whenever an assessor eager to make a record undertakes to find the money, notes and accounts. It immediately leads to subterfuge, evasion, concealment on the part of a class of taxpayers. It is a direct premium on dishonesty—according to the Tax Commission's interpretation of the law.

But, fortunately, the Assessors and the people generally recognize that interpretation of the law which the Tax Commission has failed to discover, and by almost unanimous consent does not regard these lintangible assets as lawfully subject to taxation. The unanimous will of the population upon any given subject interprets the constitution in accordance with that will, and when at variance results in constitutional amendments. The sooner the

tion in accordance with that will, and when at variance results in constitutional amendments. The sooner the Legislature recognizes this will of the taxpayers of Oregon and declares no tax on money, notes and accounts, the better it will be for Oregon. The present law keeps vast quantities of capital from Oregon which the state and the undeveloped resources need. The its undeveloped resources need. The City of Los Angeles alone has more money on deposit in its banks than all the banks in Oregon combined.

But for purposes of assessment, to go a step further, what is money? When one says he has money in a bank, is that strictly true? I think not During 1969, the Benton County banks reported a combined deposit of about \$1,000,000. But was the money actual-\$1,000.000. But was the money actually in Benton County? The reports published do not show it was in Benton County. They report certain specie, certain currency. Approximately 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the deposits or something like that, and that is a high percentage of actual money. The money itself; where is it? As a matter of fact, there is no such an amount of money in existence as the combined bank deposits the world over represent, and every financier knows it. That being the case your Assessor seizes one man's ready cash for purposes of taxation, and that man is paying almost exactly that propertion more tax than others who do not place more tax then others who do not place their money in his sight. Out of \$1,000,000 on deposit in Benton County last year \$28,000 was given in to the Assessor! Is comment necessary furth-er to illustrate the futility, the absochest was as empty as a drum, and lute ridiculousness of undertaking to make a few taxpayers bear an unequal burden of taxation on this account? The people who entertain the views here expressed owe it to themselves and to the purity of our state laws to demand of every candidate for election to either house of the Legislature a pledge to vote to repeal any laws which seem to require money, notes or accounts to be taxed.

When a rattle-snake strikes a man it causes his blood to coagulate so it will not circulate in his veins, and unless something is done to counteract this the man dies. Taxation of money, notes and accounts does in a lesser de gree to the free and untrammeled circulation of money about the same thing that rattle-snake poison does to thing that rattle-snake poison does to a man, and as a result Oregon has always been avoided by outside capital. Worse even, our local capital itself goes to other states, with more liberal laws, for investment. These are facts well known to most people who have much to do with money, and to some who do not. It would be well to look closely to what kind of material goes into the Legislature, that such evils may not be too long continued.

J. H. WILSON.

Panama Shoes Quite the Thing.

Boston Traveler.

"Have you seen my new Panamas?"

"There is nothing new under the sun,"
says an old adage; but did you ever hear
of panama shoes? Well, they are here,
but not with bells. Plain in the extreme. Most women will have them this Summer. They may be bought for \$10 or \$20.

For some time large consignments of panama hats received by a large Lynn shoe firm have caused comment. Was there not enough money in the shoe business and was the firm going to sell hats? was but one of the queries. But now the mystery has been solved. The carloads of hats which have been re-ceived are being turned into shoes. The shoes, so the fashion notes say, are to be the real thing this Summer, but not only the women. The only pleasure the men will derive from the new novelty is to dig for the necessary 16 or 29 spot. The shoes are to have leather

> Atlantic City's Latest. Boston Globe.

A newspaper paragraph says that fat women are rolling on the sands at At-lantic City to decrease their girth, but because of pressing duties it is impossible for us to make a trip to Atlantic City

Civil Service for Cows. Buffalo Express.

The Department of Agriculture will conduct a model dairy farm in Maryland. Now is the time for cows aiming to get a situation there to prepare for the Civil Service examination.

WHY TRY TO TAX MONEY AT ALL! DEMOCRATIC NON-PARTISANSHIP. Logic of the Nomination of a Non-

Partisan Judiciary. PORTLAND, July 20.—(To the Editor.)—The assembly of non-partisan lawyers which has nominated a ticket of non-partisans for the four places on the State Supreme Court to be filled at the November election declares in its

the November election declares in platform:

"We believe the non-partisan selection of the judiciary will tend to elevate the dignity and independence of the courts and that the plan adopted by us will enable the voters of the state, without political obstruction or interference, to select candidates for interference, to select candidates for judicial offices rather upon their merits and qualifications as judges than upon their political affiliations or the strength of the parties to which they

And then, on the heels of this bom-bastic pronunciamento this "non-parti-san" assemblage of lawyers, none of whom, it is to be inferred, belongs to any political party, proceeds unant-mously to nominate the identical judges who are now on the bench by virtue of the operation of the very system which the assemblage condemns:

If the "operation of political parties" for almost a generation succeeded in keeping Judges McBride and Moore on the state and supreme bench, where does the "elevation of the character of the bench" come in by the nemination of both of them for another term? of both of them for another term?
Why pass high-sounding resolutions
declaring by assumption that a condition exists which loudly calls for reform by reason of the continuance of
certain men on the bench by political
parties and then proceed to nominate
the very same men for re-election?
If tweedledum has made a mess of a
certain thing why oracularly call pub-

certain thing, why oracularly call pub-lic attention to the fact that you are going to prevent a repetition of the mistake by inaugurating tweedledee as a new force when it is universally admitted that there's no difference 'twixt

tweedledum and tweedledee?

If Judges McBride, Moore and Cle-land have heretofore been unfit judges by reason of their being Republicans. why are they named for re-election at all? And if they have made efficient and satisfactory judges where is the need for this stilled cry for a "re-formed judiciary?"

formed judiciary?"

Everybody knows that Judges King. Slater and Gatens were named for the positions they now held because they were Democrats. Governor Chamberlain appointed them solely and admittedly because they were Democrats in order, as he claimed, that we might have a "non-part'san judiciary." But why select Democrats unless it is for why select Democrats unless it is for the reason that it is expected they will counteract in their decisions the parti-san attempts of the Republicans to give political color to their findings? Why does the presence on the bench of a Democratic judge make it non-partisan unless his pronounced Democracy asserts itself to "stand off" the Republicanism of the Republican

If they do not use their belief in the creed of the Democratic party to offset the appearance of Republican tendencies in the decisions of their col tendencies in the decisions of their col-leagues, what has been gained by the selection of Democratic judges at all? And if Judges Moore, McBride and Cleland were worthy of recommenda-tion for re-election, being Republicans and having made splendid records and worthy of unanimous indorsement, what need to fear from the presence of two or bree more like them?

what need to fear from the presence of two or three more like them?
And since Judges King, Slater and Gatens are recommended for re-election because they are Democrats, it was of course so ordered because without this recommendation it was feared their places would be filled by Republicans and since, therefore, it is a movement to see to it that a few Democrats are given judicial positions it follows that it is a distinctive partisan movement in the interest of the san movement in the interest of the Democratic party of the state—as all so-called non-partisan movements have been for several years past.

Further, if the lawyers as a class are better fitted to name candidates for judicial positions, as they openly claim themselves to be by reason of their familiarity with court business, why are they also not better fitted to elect them without the intervention of other classes of voters, who are quite as apt to spell the choice at the polis in November as at the polls in the primary nominating election? It is an old-fashioned notion, even yet quite generfashioned notion, even yet quite generally held, that decidedly the most interested person in any kind of litigation is the party to the suit himself—not even excepting the lawyer—and that he should have the widest possible freedom in the selection of the mar freedom in the selection of the man who shall preside at his trial; but this latest phase of the "non-partisan" movement in Oregon, admittedly 'n the interest of the Democratic party, and, therefore, flagrantly partisan in its essence, takes for its fundamental justification the assumption that the justification the assumption that the parties most directly concerned in the results of a judicial opinion shall have the least to say as to the character of the man who shall deliver it!

Finally, this cry for "non-partisan-ship" has been the main stay of the movement which has stealthily but by regular degrees fed the Democratic party of the state until the Republicans are disorganized and utterly at sea. It is now to be seen if the State Assembly, which has been called to turn the tide, if possible, will seriously give heed to the latest manifestation of the effort to elect Democrats to high official position lest, without it, as is odmitted by its sponsors, the purely Democratic partisan movement might otherwise fall. T. T. GEER.

One Weak Spot in the Scheme. Newark News.

"You ought to have your car equipped with demountable rims," said an automobile man to Richard C. Jenkinson, the other day, "All you have to do is carry an extra rim with inflated tire. In case of a puncture it can be easily at tached by a 12-year-old child in two

minutes."
"Yes." said Mr. Jenkinson, "but the trouble is always to find the 12-year child."

Why Boys Are Brave.

Brooklyn Life.

To his teacher's request that he give the class ideas on the subject of "Bravery," little Johnny delivered himself of

the following:

"Some boys is brave because they always plays with little boys, and some boys is brave because their legs is too short to run away, but most boys is brave because somebody's lookin'."

"The proudest boast of the cld-time robber barons was that they never robbed a poor man."
"Those fellows were amateurs at th

game." explained the great captain of in-dustry, "and didn't understand how much money there was in it." China's Predleament.

Providence Journal.

It begins to look as if, when Chins wakes up, she will find the bed so crowded as to make it difficult for her to turn over without raising a with the parties on either side.

> What He Had. Pittsburg Post.

OREGON INVITING FOREST FIRES. Carclessness Along the Tillamook Road

That May Spell Disaster.

PORTLAND, July 18.—(To the Editor.)

The Oregonian publishes an account of the great loss of life and property in the states of Washington and Idahe by forest fires, and in nearly all cases caused by the careless work of man.

Our State of Oregon, so for this season. Our State of Oregon, so far this season, has escaped any dangerous or expensive forest fires, but the country is very dry, and we are having our usual northwest winds. If every precaution is not used Oregon will suffer from man's careless-

ness.

The writer has just returned from Tiliamook over the Wilson River road. Along that road in the timber belt, the timber owners have five men acting as fire wardens whose duties are carefully to watch for fire, and should fire break out at any point to get men quackly as possible and subdue it, thus protecting the timber. The expense of this is borne by the timber owners alone; they get no help from county, state or Government. her. The expense of this is borne by
the timber owners alone; they get no
help from county, state or Government.
On this same road, Tilliamook County
has a crew of men repairing and building roads. They are cutting logs and
brush and piling up great windrows of
infiammable material along the county
wagon road, a main thoroughfare between Forest Grove and Tilliamook City.
The stub of a cigar or cigarette thoughtlessly thrown by a passenger on the
stage might cause a fire whose damage
no one could guess. Tilliamook County
has one of the largest and finest bodies
of timber that the sun shines on, a body
of timber that draws the attention of
the greatest financiers of the country.
They realize the great future value of
this immense tract of virgin forest and
are trying to protect it from fire.

are trying to protect it from fire.

The Hill and the Harriman interests have heard of this great timber belt and want the carrying of it to the consuming market and are rushing railroads into It as fast as men can do the work but the people of Tillamook who will reap the largest benefit from the timber do not seem to realize that they have any Interest in the timber. They do not make

Interest in the timber. They do not make any effort to save it, but, on the contrary, are increasing the fire hazard as fast and as much as they can.

The State of Oregon has a fire law. There is a penalty for setting out fires during the dry season, but there is no law and no way to stop the cutting and piling of brush along the public highway, where in a few hours of hot sun and wind it gets dry as powder and will burn just as quickly. Cannot something be done to prevent this work?

The writer personally spoke to the man in charge of the work and cautioned him against the danger of fire. His reply was, "Oh, if anyone is mean enough to

was, "Oh, if anyone is mean enough to set the timber on fire they will go out in the woods and set it." He could not see where there was any hazard in the work he was doing. The writer does not believe there is anyone mean enough mailciously to set the timber on fire. It is making the fire trap or the inflammable heap, and the careless or thoughtless one who does the damage.

P. S. BRUMBY.

OLD EVIL IN "DIRECT SYSTEM" If People Can't Elect Good Lawmakers How Elect Good Laws? Aberdeen Wor'd.

Aberdeen Wor'd.

People know enough to make their own laws, contend Government faddists. Possibly and perhaps. Considering the quality of some Legislatures and legislators, the argument would appear to be good. But do the people care? In view of their indifference in the matter of se'ectlen of public officers—an indifference that extended so far that they surrendered control of their affairs to bosses and ward politicians and were forced to devise a means of regaining it—is it supposable that they will pay any attention to laws? That

will pay any attention to laws? That they will give such laws such study and attention that laws deserve? True, not enough study and attention attend legislation in Legislatures, and

attend legislation in Legislatures, and it is also true that law-making in such bodies is largely a case of compromise, but more care is devoted to laws than would be the case were the people to enact acts by direct vote.

Experience in a sister state shows that the people do not know hatf the time what they are voting for. The system is combersome, expensive and useless. It destroys government as it was devised in this country. Need for such destruction is not yet apparent. Present sovernment is all right if the people will take an interest in it. If they will not, it is silly to argue that they will become interested is something new. Whole remedy for is something new. Whole remedy for evils, real or fancled, lies in the hands of the people. If they do not want to undertake it now, they will be to later when the entire fabric ment becomes rent through their own

United States Still Lives.

Boston Transcript. There is no government in Washington, but the United States still lives. The Cabinet is as much scattered as ment in Washingwere the thousand cattle on the thousand hills mentioned by the clergyman who stumbled in his speech.

Early Harvest in Lake County.

Silver Lake Leader.

George Cooley came in from the Sican country and spent Sunday in town. George during his absence of two or three months had cultivated quite a beard, which he had promptly harvested upon his arrival. upon his arrival.

The Trouble With Bryan.

Richmond Times-Dispatch "How can I tell? How do I know?" said Mr. Bryan when asked if he would run again for the Presidency. He never did know and always tried to tell. That's why he almost ruined the party.

Force of Habit.

Montgomery Advertiser. "Your wife wishes to speak with you."

Might Have Made a Fortune.

Had Messrs. Taft and Roosevelt looked out for the really necessary they would have made a contract with a moving-picture machine man before

Philadelphia Inquirer. A leather belt 243 feet long and val-ued at \$5500 has just been made. No, gentle reader, it is not to be sent to

Beverly. Atlanta Constitution Every time they hitch the lame ele-phant to the Republican bandwagon they may look to see the insugents

cut the traces, A Wasted Chance.

Come. give me back my life again, you heavy-handed Death!
Uncrook your fingers from my throat, and let me draw my breath.
You do me wrong to take me now—too soon for me to die—
Ah, loose me from this clutching pain, and hear the reason why.
I know I've had my forty years, and wasted every one;
And yet I tell you honestly, my life is not begun;
I've walked the world like one asisep, a dreamer in a trance;
But now you've sripped me wide awake—I want another chance.
My dreams were always beautiful, my thoughts were always beautiful, my thoughts were high and fine;
No life was ever lived on earth to match those dreams of mine.
And would you wreck them unfulfilled?
What folly, nay, what crime!
You rob the world, you waste a soul—give me a little time.
—Henry Van Dyke.

"Well, I think the doctor is about through with me. Told me my allment is practically cured." is practically cured."
"What did you have?"
"Two hundred dollars, originally."