The Oregonian

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STLAND, THURSDAY, JAN. 26, 1911.

### THE STATE'S MONEY.

The Oregonian has a request from e Astoria Chamber of Commerce to pport the proposal for \$100,000 apriation by the Legislature for the toria centennial. The Oregonian ly approves the plan for an adeute celebration at Astoria of its e hundredth anniversary. It is an ent of historic interest and imporce, and it is creditable to the enterof Astoria and Clatsop County at they have set about to commem-The Oregonian is ate the event. ore than willing that the state paripate officially in the celebration. id it hopes and desires that a suitaappropriation be made.

The Oregonian cannot fail to te that the demands on the Legisture for money from all sources are traordinarily heavy. One is startled, r example, to see that the estimates the State University reach the great the great of \$557,258, in addition to regular biennial appropriation of 59,000, making a grand total of 17,258. "An endeavor will be made 27,258. the faculty"-so a news report runs "to show that the whole amount ould be granted."

The whole amount cannot be grant-The state cannot afford it. The versity is an admirable institution, id its deserts are great and obvious t there is a limit to the tax-produc g resources of the state. If there e no other insistent demandsany of them imperative, and unanrable except by granting theme state might be willing to respond vorably to the cry from Eugene; but is not in the humor to justify so avy an outlay, following the receat fight on the \$250,000 blennial propriation, won by a narrow marover strenuous protest from many arters.

The Oregon Agricultural Collegeinstitution of at least equal merit id value to the state with the State -is somewhat more moder raltye in its demands, though probably necessities are as great as Eugene's. asks about \$400,000. The state has lared for a single normal school at amouth, and already a movement under way in the Legislature for ds to equip the institution with a dormitory, and doubtless there ill be other demands. Yet we obon that a realous advocate of noral schools has presented to the Sena bill for \$100,000 for a normal hoel' at La Grande. Adoption of ar defiance of the definite instrucn of the people at the last election. enactment would undoubtedly be llowed by a referendum and by deschool agitation? Is the stion not settled even when the versign people themselves undertake settle it? The insane asylum authorities at alem are asking for over \$\$00,000 hey will not get it, and they should not; but the asylum must be "main-ained. With the most careful and vatematic pruning the item will necsarily be very large. Other state intitutions will roll up the aggregate r maintenance alone to \$1,500,000 or hereabouts; all to be expended in and round Salem. It is a tidy sum, and till go a long way to keep things movng in certain thrifty circles at Salem; ret there is an ambitious project there expend \$150,000 more on additional Capitol grounds. This is a scheme hat can and should wait. Meanwhile, the bill to make it unlawful for state cers (all state employes should be acluded) to lobby in behalf of any easure should be passed, we migh ear less about the pressing need of w buildings and grounds at Salem. A bill has been introduced at Salem or 1650,000 for roads alone. We tave evidently made up our minds to into the business of roadmaking brough state aid, but hardly on so tensive a scale. Some zealous friend of San Francisco proposes to give 1200,000 at this time for the great nama international exposition, and me one else wants \$5000 for an auitorium at Champoeg. These are ere illustrative requests. There is a ultitude of other new suggestions ad importunities for money, many of hem worthy and some of them doubtnecessary. But the Legislature hould and must go slow. The state rying to maintain many expensive tutions on the same basis as older. tcher and more populous states. The axpayer's pocket has a bottom. The egislature should attempt in some easure to cut the state's garment ac arding to its cloth.

almost impossible to secure money for repairs, extension and equipment. Both Kuhn, Loeb & Co. and J. P. Morgan & Co. in the past have always had at hand plenty of capital available

for railroad and industrial investments, but it is quite apparent that there is something radically wrong when their clients decline their former favorites in railroads and industrials and invest in 4 % per cent city bonds.

This showing alone ought to be sufficient to cause some of the most aranti-railroad, anti-corporation dent nighters to let up, thereby giving capital a chance to recover from its fright and again take up something more profitable in earning capacity than city bonds.

# SHIP SUBSIDY HALF-TRUTHS.

There is something about the shipubsidy question which seems to render its advocates incapable of preanting the case on its merits or submitting it for approval or rejection in accordance with the facts. The scarcity of legitimate reasons for a ship subsidy, of course, accounts for this substitution of theories, half-truths and untruths for plain facts. Mr. James

L. Elwell, secretary of the Merchant Marine Committee, of One Hundred, in his address at Washington Tuesday attempted to show "the way in which a nation's export trade is vitally connected with its merchant marine" by citing the case of the Oceanic line of steamers, which made regular trips out of San Francisco until 1907. The last year these boats were in operation, before being driven from the field by the subsidized Canadian and Japnese competition," said Mr. Eiwell, "they carried from the port of San Francisco to Australia \$25,000,000 worth of products. Last year, in the absence of any line from San Franisco to Australia, depending exclusively upon tramp steamship service, exports from San Francisco shrank to a total value of only \$2,000 .-000.

The average reader, not particularly familiar with the facts in the case, would hardly fail to get the impression from Mr. Elwell's words that our export trade with Australia had actu-ally shrunk from \$28,000,000 in 1997 to \$2,000,000 in 1910. Let us consider the facts. The exports from the United States to Australia for the year ending December 31, 1907, were \$33,206,-The complete figures for 1910 890. are not yet available, but for 1909 the exports to Australia from this coun-try were \$\$0,847,350. That the detry crease was perfectly natural, due to unsettled financial conditions in Eu-rope and all foreign dependencies of the big powers, is shown in the trade with Europe. Not even the silliest subsidy advocate would dare assert that there was a shortage of ships on the Atlantic, but in 1907, the year mentioned by Mr. Elwell, our exports to Europe were \$1,313,067.256, while in 1909 they were but \$1,169,672,326.

While the complete figures are not available, the 1910 returns will undoubtedly make an even better showing than was made for the preceding year. Every shipping man in the country who is at all familiar with the mat-

ter knows that the Oceanic steamship line out of San Francisco was put out of business by the low rates made by steamers running out of New York. Another factor in retiring the steamers of that line was the enormous cost of operation. The vessels were poorly built, slow and out of date, and so expensive to operate that they would have lost money with the largest subsidy that could be granted. Facts have never bothered any of the shipsubsidy advocates, but Mr. Elwell, of the Committee of One Hundred, must have a very poor opinion of the intelligence of the people if he thinks his Is there never to be an end to biased comment on San Francisco's Australian trade will ald the cause.

ble, and that railroads are finding it to be placed in the position of fighting a huge corporation, or perhaps a union of corporations, for compens tion when he is injured. It ought to be given to him as a matter of course.

Governor Wilson is just as refreshing in treating of the corporations. They are not private affairs, he says, but public from their very nature. They are not a species of supermen which ought to be regarded with apprehension and awe, but mere devices which the law has invented for handling large business conveniently. Since they are public concerns the public ought to control them fully and since they are created by the law it regulate or even annihilate them if need should arise. The lawyers had taught us to believe that a corporation is a magnified human being possessed of vast capabilities and im-

Wilson punctures the imposing fiction by reminding us that a corporation is nothing but a group of men whom the law permits to do business under a corporate name. The monster is resolved into a little band of human sinners whom it is quite possible to punish for their misdeeds if we really think they need punishment. But Governor Wilson is not nearly so eager to impose penalties for the sins of the past as he is to prevent the sins of the future by a Public Utilities

sion with power to act. SPIRIT OF THE WEST.

The overwhelming burst of enthusiwith which the cause of San Francisco has been taken up throughout the country can hardly fail to have material effect on the decision regarding the location of the Panama-Pacific Exposition. It was perhaps natural that the entire West should rally to the support of the Western We may have private differences elty. between communities, but on any proposition in which the West as a whole is to profit we stand pretty well together.

But while the unanimous support of the West was to be expected, it is in the support of a great state like New York that San Francisco and all of her Western friends will find most cause for congratulation. New York, financially, commercially and socially, is closer to New Orleans than to San Francisco. Rall and steamer facilities between the two cities are much better than between New York and San Francisco, but New York, fully recognizing the superior claims of the Pacific city, has rallied to our support The geographical location of San

Francisco and the close relationship of the Pacific Coast cities with hte Oriental trade were big factors considered when the canal was projected, and are indisputable points in favor of San Francisco, but the financial feature of the undertaking carried much weight. Every exposition that has been before Congress for support since the Chicago Fair has been grudgingly received. So strong has come sentiment against financial aid by the Government that it is doubtful all the other advantages New Orleans might offer would offset this

has established a precedent by which Congress can be guided in the future No money is asked and no favor other than the official recognition of the Government. The magnificent support which the West has given the cause of San Francisco is such a splendid example of the true spirit of the closer touch with the rest of the coun try that its effect will be far-reaching and emphatic.

In an article in the Saturday Evening Post for January 28, Samuel G.

good measures and a few bad ones were adopted. As to some of the approved measures we do not yet know

ow good or how bad they are. No one knows what they mean. On the whole, Mr. Blythe's article should be of service to other communities in indicating that the Oregon system has faults they should avoid in adepting the initiative and referen dum.

Since the arrival of the six-day boat several years ago, the efforts of steamship men have been mainly directed toward increasing the speed of steamers instead of shortening the run across the Atlantic. When the Cunard line selected Fishguard as a port of entry the distance by water was ma-terially shortened, and by crowding matters it was possible for the Mauremune from all accountability. Mr. , tania to make the round trip in twelve days, including unloading and loading in New York. The Canadian Pacific, by using the Straits of Belle Isle route has secured what is sometimes termed a four-day route, as it has been possible to make the run from land to land in that short space of time. Now comes an enterprising Irishman with a proposition to establish a line from Galway on the extreme edge of Ireland to Trepassy on the south coast of Newfoundland. By this route, with the aid of fast trains and steamers, it is said to be possible to cover the dis-tance between London and New York In three and one-half days. The world

is growing smaller.

The reported boycott of the Chinese against the Portland & Aslatic steamship line will probably have but little effect on the volume of business handied direct, for an unsatisfactory steamship service has reduced the business to such an insignificant amount that the company can hardly regard it worth handling. And yet Portland imports through Seattle, Ta-coma and Vancouver, B. C., nearly as much merchandise as is imported di-

rect, and the amount is steadily in-It will never be known what creasing. the Oriental trade in and out of Portland is worth to a steamship line until some of the companies that operate on a vexatiously irregular schedule make a slight attempt to handle the business on a schedule which will admit of exporters and importers making deliveries or receiving goods within a month or two or three of the time they expect to ship or receive them.

# Most, or at least many, teachers in

the public schools join in the opinion that fewer school holidays would be beneficial. For at least two or three days before the Christmas holidays and one or more days thereafter school work drags and it is impossible to cover the work effectively. The same true in a less degree after, the Thanksgiving and other single day vacations. One holiday means prac-tivally the loss of three school days and is so regarded. This is reason sufficient to prevent the institution of more school holidays, though it will probably not curtail the number of those we have, since custom rules and

Apart from its intensely practical use as an agency for exploitation, Oregonian's anniversary edition on its merits alone should find its way into the homes of thousands living east of the Rockies. In several years past the annual edition-not comparable with the one to be issued February 4—has been exhausted within a few days; hence the sugges-

tion that orders for extra copies be placed with newsdealers at once or directly with The Oregonian counting-room

We dare say Senator Lodge speaks by the book when he says that a trust ntrols the ocean, but his method of fighting it is puzzling. To destroy the shipping trust he would give it an annual subsidy of several million dol-In the Pilgrim's Progress Bunyan tells of a man who tried to put out a fire by pouring oil on it. Mr. Lodge might find the tale instructive. Mr.

Ill-advised were disapproved. Some REPEAL OF FISH LAW IS URGED, INDIAN VS. PINCHOT CONSERVATION Grants Pass Correspondent Condemns

#### Initiative Measure. OREGON CITY, Or., Jan. 24 .- (To the ASHLAND, Or., Jan. 24 .- (To the Edi-

tor.)-Let us have a little more light on the Rogue River fish law that closed stream to commercial fishing by the initiative process at the last election. Was it not represented by those who circulated the petitions for this act that there was no intention to interfere with the large salmon fishing business in tidewater on the lower river? What interest had the railroad in this act of business association that their em-ployes should circulate the petitions. How many men were truthfully informed on this question when they voted on it? Who is benefited by this, the worst place of legislation ever adopted by a people who boast of their intelligence and honesty and who would like to have it said of Oregon that it has the best system of government in the world?

Only by persistent inquiry can one se-cure the facts. The railroad company is cure the facts. The railroad company is the only beneficiary of this act, as it now gets the long hand of all fish for Southern Oregon from Portland instead of distributing them from Grants Pass and the form the form the factor of the facto as heretofore. There was about \$15,000 worth of salmon caught each year at Grants Pass by residents of that city and vicinity, but they did not have the large amount of capital in the business that the lower river fishermen had. Can it be possible the big vote in Multcan it be possible the big vote in since nomah County for this haw was due alone to fishermen voting to help their business at the expense of the fishing business on Rogue River? Don't you think some Portland business men could see that this ast would bring Southern Oregon money to Portland for fish? The only other follow who thinks he is benefited by this freak law is the so-called rod and line sport, who takes a bottle and a bite and wades the riffles once

or twice a year for salmon trout. The decrease of trout in Rogue River is not due to the salmon-fishing business

 and on this stream and its tribu in- taries.
in- taries.
in- Had the promoters of this angling act hat to stoped the washing of gravel into this sacred stream by the placer mines.
in- tis is for all Oregon to be proud of such legislature-what would be said of a lefenseless deer and sinks his teeth into the jugular verse, with an solut every. If they should change is not to the policy. If they should change is not the solut is solut of a defenseless deer and would take so long that is not to set would take so long that is not to set would change is not the solut with an solut were solut to solut a solut with an solut were solut to solut the solut and solut with an solut were solut to solut the solut and solut with an solut were solut to solut the solut and solut with an solut were solut to solut the solut and solut with an solut were solut to solut the victim's blood he stands on his captive and looks about with an expression of triumph and self-satisfaction. Oregon needs employment-giving industries be-fore her population can increase much more. How do was in other states who

heeds employinant arrow increase much more. How do men in other states who contemplate developments on this Coast look upon such laws as this one? Is it a commendable act to assassinate the principal business in isolated Curry County and throw many men with famil-ies out of employment there on the shal-low excuse of catering to the so-called sportsmen? It took the late R. D. Hume many years to build up the fishing in-dustry at the mouth of the river; he not only expended hundreds of thousands of dollars but he maintained hatcherles where he propagated at least three sal-mon for every one that he caught. Is it where he propagated at least three sal-mon for every one that he caught. Is it an act to be proud of to assassinate the remnants of a business that has always been and is yet legal on every river be-tree will not run under them, but will be made it will be so damp that the be made it will be so damp that the be made it will be so damp that the ine will not run under them, but will protect them from a Summer fire. Now as to my information concerning these matters I will say it pertains to the west-ern siope of the Cascadea in Clackamas County as I have lived in the county Si years and have bunted and fished on every stream from Mount Hood to Mount jefferson and have seen the Indians at their camps putting out these fires so as to protect their berry patches and make hunting easy for them and make

This is one act that deserves prompt reversal by our Legislature now in ses-sion or the fruits of it will be most un-profitable to Oregon. Before we brag too much of the Initiative or recommend it too strongly to others, let us watch its results a little closer. A few mistakes like this will keep as many business men with capital out of Oregon as all the boosting literature we send out will at-tract this way. INVESTIGATOR.

### Pioneer of '47 Upholds Aborigines' Plan of Burning Underbrush.

Editor.)-I have read with a great deal of interest the communication from the do with the back-to-Ireland movement different ones, also The Oregonian's that sent so many Irishmen home for editorials upon the conservation of our forests, and how to prevent forest fires. I agree with Mr. N. F. Throne, of Ash-I agree with all only way to prevent the Summer fires is to clear up the light growth that has accumulated in the old burns since the General Government has taken charge of the same. Before that time the Indians and early settlers was nothing to burn. Early in the Spring or as soon as the snow was gone the Indian would go up to hunt the elk, which were numerous

in early days. The indian would take his lagoon stick, or, as we call it, pitch-wood, and he would put out fire wherever there was anything that would burn in the old burns, with the result

that when the dry weather came there 

make a hiding place for the cougar, coyote and bobcat that are destroying our game. The settler or sportsman who goes on an outing will have to look for some swamp where there is a little sour grass for his horse feed, and about the time he has made camp along will come a forest ranger, who will tell him to take his horses out, as about the time he has made camp along will come a forest ranger, who will tell him to take his horses out, as I think it was Mr. N. The caretaker heard his yells and came out. Finding Kilkenny hanging there in the air, he looked up at him and said: "Weat

I think it was Mr. N. F. Throne who asked for the opinion of some old pio-neer in regard to the Indian method of burning. As I have only been in Ore-son 63 years, I have been waiting for one who had been here longer theor. A well known New Yorker new dest

charge of our forests and send out a few men in each county to pursue the In-dian method of early Summer firing, these

men can elean up the old burns, and burn around the standing timber and make it impossible for a Summer fire to do any harm. And the same can be done with logged-off lands by the owners. They can be burned over early in the Spring and afterwards the limbs and heavy stuff

can be piled and burned in the Summer at any time, as there will not be any danger of the fire spreading or doing any harm After these early Summer the grass and peavine will grow in these burns and make Summer feed for thou-sands of head of cattle and sheep. Now as to the destruction of the young

A Resourceful Diploma

Life's Sunny Side

Francis Kilkenny, who had much to a visit this year, and is in the Treasury a visit this year, and is in the field of the population of the second s ond-hand lawn-mower and make some money cutting grass. He got his mower and asked where the good lawns were. He was directed to the North were a rare thing, for the reason there blace where the big houses and fine

hawns are. He went up the steps of a mansion, hammered on the front door and was vastly astoniahed to have a man stick his head out of an upstairs window and ask: "What are you doing there, you greenhorn? Can't you see this house is closed for the Summer'

"But you're in it," answered Kil-

the peavine and grass grew in all these burns and made fine feed for the gams, and also their horses. But how is it now. These old burns have grown up so thick that a jack rab-bit can hardly get through them. They make a hiding place for the cougar, covote and bhogat that are destroying

George Barr McCutcheon was walt-ing for a train in Chicago, and as he passed through the station he saw one of his latest best sellers displayed on the news stand counter. He picked it up, wrote his name on the fly leaf and handed it to the boy behind the counter. He was moving away when the boy

called excitedly: "Hey, mister, come back here. You've got to buy this book, 'cause you've spoiled it by writing your name in it."

spoiled if by writing your name in it. "Yes, but did you see the name?" the author asked. "That don't makes no difference," the lad insisted, "nobody'll want to buy

it now. And hearing his train called, Mr. Mcutcheon was forced to pay real money one of his own books .-- Success Magazine.

. . . . They were talking about the decisions of a judge in a recent case up in Saratoga County, when Senator Hamilton

"Speaking about judges being influ-enced in their decisions enced in their decisions, I recall a County Judge up my way was hearing a rather technical case when the attor-ney for the defendant launched forth ney for the defendant isunched forth into a legal argument which dashed the judge onto a sheal and left him there. The opposing atterney, Thomas Scott, was a lifelong friend and asso-ciate of the judge, and to the latter's surprise remained silent, waiting for the judge, in the Atter a few me the judge, to rule. After a few mo-ments' silence the judge said very naturally

'Now we'll hear Mr. Scott and when he's through I'll rule accordingly. New York Herald.

BURGLAR'S VICTIM PROTEST Paroled Ex-Convict Decinred to Be Habitual Criminal. PORTLAND, Jan. 24 .- (To the Editor.)-Kindly permit me space in The Oregonian to express a few facts. On the night of November 24, last, my house was entered by breaking the window in the back door during our absence and considerable cash and property stolen. One Jeff Stanley was arrested on November 28 for the crime, having some of the property on his person, among which was a revolver ready for use. He admitted his guilt and also that he had been released from the San Quentin Penitentiary only on Nocember 15, after serving five and half years of a nine-year sentence for theft Now if our penitentiary is for any purpose at all it is certainly for the confinement of such confirmed criminals Judge McGinn paroled him last week with my house keys yet in his posses-sion, on his promise to be good. If this is to be the continued prac-tice of Judge McGinn in the future we I have tice of Judge McGinn in the future we may as well save the expense and lives of our city detectives and police officers and turn the city over to the criminals completely to prey upon the public as they see fit without moles-tation. There can be no hope for a constant who has arbot the major poreriminal who has spent the major por-tion of his life in a penitentiary at different times. How can we expect our city detec-tives and police officers to do their duty and risk their lives in making arrests of guilty criminals only to have them turned loose by the courts? In-deed, what is the use of it? Is it child's We shall not only have to be content with oriminals now here, but such "justice" is an invitation to all the bees throughout the land to come here, as this is the only city in the world where there is no punishment for crime. A. E. JACKSON.

habit is strong.

Blythe discusses the workings of the

feeling of disfavor. San Francisco, on the other hand, land which the canal is to bring in

WHAT BLYTHE LEARNED IN OREGON.

referendum

### MONEY PLENTIFUL, CONFIDENCE SCARCE.

The success of New York's great nd sale yesterday ought to have a trengthening effect on the financial ituation. The \$50,000,000 issue bearig 414 per cent interest was subcribed more than five times over, the mount offered was \$324,933,680, and as submitted by more than 500 bld-The award was made at an avlers. rage of 100.9 per cent. Kuhn, Loeb E Co. received the largest individual ward of \$11,000,000. J. P. Morgan & o, made a bid of 100.87 for "all or This "greatest bond sale that me." uns ever taken place in any municipality" certainly discloses considerable oney available at a low rate of interest. In this respect it is highly gratifying to note that there is no lack of money for what investors regard as sufe dividend-earning bonds.

The situation is less pleasing, how ever, when we remember that for onths good railroad and industrial d stocks, which in the past ands a have paid 6 and 7 per cent with clocke regularity are practically unsala-

GOVERNOR WILSON'S FIRST MESSAGE.

The forceful candor of Governor Woodrow Wilson's public speeches and writings flows in part from the clarity of his thought. And he is able to think clearly because he is not afraid of anything,' so far as one can make out, and has no unavowed motives to

pervert his mind. He seems to face every subject as it comes up with alnost childlike frankness. With simple directness he tells the public what he thinks and why. This is extremely engaging. It is so rare for aspiring politicians to do anything of the that people are apt to take it for a sign of great genius and perhaps it is. No doubt it requires a good deal of genius to be perfectly honest in thought and conduct.

In his message to the New Jersey Legislature Governor Wilson takes up for discussion some live topics; the compensation of injured workmen, how to regulate the corporations, how to obtain true representative govern-ment. He ends the message with a little homily-a brief sermonette-in which he contrives to pack a lofty thought or two for the benefit of the

Legislators. "We are servants of the people," he tells them, "of the whole people. Their interest should be our constant study. Our reward will be the satisfaction of furthering large purposes, of being an intimate part of that slow but con-stant force of liberty and enlightenment that is lifting mankind to new levels of progress and achievement. It is not the foolish ardor of too sanguine or too radical reform that I urge upon you, but merely the tasks that evident and pressing, the things that we have knowledge and guidance enough to do." This is grand talk and it appears all the grander from its contrast with the tenor of the usual gubernatorial message. After all, the greatest luxury in the world

is to have thoughts of one's own and the courage to express them frankly Even if the thoughts are nothing very nagnificent it is well to have them "A poor thing, but mine own," said Touchstone of his Audrey. The em-

phasis is on the last word. The first of the "obvious and presstasks which Governor Wilson ing" presents to his Legislature is that of enacting an adequate law for workmen's compensation. He does not take refuge from the issue in feeble suggestions of investigation and delay He knows perfectly well that the subject has been investigated by the most ompetent men in the world. Sooner or later the cost of injuries to workmen is borne by society. If it does

come upon us in the form of higher prices for goods then it comes as taxes to support the impoverishd families of the maimed artisans. Gov. ernor Wilson tells his Legislature that

society should assume this inevitable burden without evasion. It should be laid directly on the industry concerned and distributed to everybody in the price of the output. The workman with his limited resources ought not | ed.

nitiative and standpoint of a looker-on. He offers neither favorable nor adverse criticism, but tells plainly some things ac complished by the people as a legislalars. tive body in Oregon and leaves the reader to form his own conclusions. The article has an unusual value to

persons interested in the system because it is a departure from the abstract discussions which have appeared from time to time in Eastern publications.

Mr. Blythe has detected attempts a "initiative logrolling" in some of the measures submitted in Oregon, but fails to mention specifically the imposition of undesired laws upon the people by use of the "joker."

Undoubledly an unguarded initiative such as exists in Oregon, may be used improperly by special interests, wealthy busybodies and class organizations just as readily as may the old mothod of legislating solely through representatives. It required many years for manipulation of Legislatures to become almost an exact science, but manipulation of the electorate as a legislative body has been accomplished to a degree in eight years' use of the new power.

In repeating some of the defens offered for the unrestrained initiative Mr. Blythe quotes an argument that has circulated quite generally from the Pacific to the Atlantic. This argument is that, inasmuch as the people of Oregon adopted only nine of thirty measures submitted in the last election, it is proved that the people can do their own thinking and do not need to be instructed as to their welfare.

Wonderful logic this. Why not at ply it also to Legislatures? In 1909 Washington Legislature, not aided the or advised by the initiative, considered \$26 measures and passed 249. The number of laws defeated was almost identical with the number of laws de feated by the voters of Oregon inst November, in proportion to the num-Why may it not be ber presented. held. therefore. that lawmaking through representatives is all that car

be desired? The argument stems to be founded on the strange premises that all proposed laws are bad and that legislative virtue is measured by the number defeactd. Such reasoners should go a step farther and advocate abolishment of all lawmaking.

The real test of the initiative and the real test of a Legislature are not in the number of laws passed or de-The tests rest in the characfeated. ter of the bills disapproved and in the worth or harm of the measures adopted.

Oregon defeated twenty-three out of thirty-two measures proposed in the recent election, in the main as a protest against abuse of the initiative and referendum. Numerous bills were defeated without any thinking whatever by the mass of voters. The electorate simply did not have the time or inclination to study and investigate the merits of all the propositions present-ed. Some good measures and many

Very likely modesty prevented Chauncey Depew from openly stating is most convincing argument against the popular election of Senators. But for that charming quality he would

have hidden his blushes and 0.8claimed, "Can you ask for a better system than the one that produced me and my late lamented colleague"?

To be or not to be, that is the question. Whether it be better in the long run to renig and hang on and thereby defy the bolts of Jove: or, like the man who looks ahead and sees better things beyond, take heed and crawl For politics municipal from under. 'am mighty onsart'in."

Maybe it is all right for those who demand up-to-the-minute features of odern drama; still, to millions theater-goers who have enjoyed Maude Adams in Barrie's delightful plays, the thought of her appearing in "Chanticleer" goes ag'in the grain.

While the big apple-growers are creating a selling agency, it is up to the army of small Oregon orchardists to raise such fine fruit that every town in the United States will be a spontaneous buying agency.

Further proof that gambling is universal and ineradicable vice is offered by the fact that men are betting nd gamblers are making books on the verdict in a murder case on trial at Wheeling, W. Va.

After reading reports from state capitals, East, West, North and South, the conclusion is inevitable that a lot of peanut politicians are still playing the game of peanut politics.

Playing host to the Oregon Legislature is one of Eugene's happy ways of doing things. It generaly pays to

Far better it would be to carry petty domestic quarrels before Judge Tazwell than for either party to jump

-Stormy scenes precede election of Senators in states that adhere to the old way. In Oregon the storms fol-

Well, the country must adulit, whatver the result, that San Francisco

The watchdogs of the treasury on the job at Salem.

Lust for office makes liars of all ROGUE VALLEY AS WINTER RESORT

District Is Recommended for Oregoplans and People of Middle West.

District is Recommended for Orego-nians and People of Middle West. GRANTS PASS, Or. Jan. 24.—(To the Billior.)—The editorial in The Oregonian of January 23 recommending Rogue River Valley as a Winter resort is not out of order and is in keeping with our views. The idea is laudable and the statistics of the Weather Bureau in Rogue River Valley will bear you out and back you up with facts sustaining the theory. The idea that people living in North-ern and Western Oregon and Washing-ton have to "take a hike" to Southern California or Mexico to better weather conditions for the Winter is and has been a fad so long that it might be hard to convince them of the error of their ways; but if they would only stop to compare our elimatic conditions in south-western Oregon they would find that as compared with many places along the coast and interior of California, our elimate for a Winter resort has very few climate for a Winter resort has very few equals on the Coast, and is superior to many prominent points on the California

The writer could name Californians here The writer could name cantor make the now who have invested in Rogue River property, who prefer this climate to the California brand. They have tried and tested both. Being wealthy people they could Winter wherever they chose to

Another factor that ought to be taken into account by our people with means is the matter of expense. It is cheaper to migrate a short distance, generally. to migrate that a long one. The matter of spending our money among our own people and thus increasing and bettering their conditions ehouid not be lost sight of. This is one

our money among our own peoper out money among our own peope frequently impoverish their own condition and those of their neighbors by disregarding these things. How much better is your climate than ours? I hear some one easy. Well, now-to illustrate: How much difference would you note by being drawn up out of a well to a lighter and dryer atmosphere; or how much milder here than on the wind-swept plains from 1000 to 2000 feet higher elevation? Expectally in the Lower Rogue River Valley the bard winds are all shut off by high mountain ranges, which are covered with evergreen timb ... The warm wind from the Japan Current finds its way in the valley up the Illinois and Rogue rivers, which tempers the Winter and produces a semi-thermal zone. Old camping grounds of the nutive tribes of Indians can be seen in the coves and bottom lands in the surrounding sheltered places all over the Lower Rogue Valley. The intense heat of the Summer is moderated by the prezes from the foliage of the dense forces, ferns and evergreen hils. The clear, pearly mountain brooks are full of field. With the advent of new proposed railroad routes to the coast-either down Rogue River or Gold Beach, or across the country and down the Smith Rivers to Crescent City, Cal., will make our coast points veritable Summer resorts. We will not be so iso-Cal., will make our coast points veritable Summer reports. We will not be so iso-lated and bottled up as we appear to

It is earnestly hoped that the visionary It is earnestly boped that the visionaly and crary ideas of the "conservationisis" will not bottle up the climate in Southern Oregon along with other undeveloped re-sources and keep the manufacturer and millionaire from enjoying some of the God-given bounties nature has so lav-ishly bestowed upon us. It would be a great and unpardonable sin. H. R. HENDRICKS. London Tit-Bits. The late Lord Salisbury was careful

not to confer too much authority on young men in diplomatic circles. On ne occasion, he sent an emissary

one occasion, he sant an emerge make some demands upon a certain re-public. Before setting out the emis-sary, to whom his lordship had ex-plained the exact nature of the de-mands, desired to be informed as to the course to take if, after he had said

everything, there was a refusal, "Oh," answered Lord Salisbury, "this is not a matter in which we have the least thought of fighting. If the President refuses, why, you will simply have to come home again." The emissary went, and had his say to the President of the Republic, who biankly refused to give in: and the diplomatist retired to think things

over A few hours later he wrote the Pres-

| ident: "I regret that your excellency

not see your way to recognize the justice of the claims which I have had had the honor to present. I have now to say, on behalf of her British Majesty's

government, that unless your excellen-cy yields on all points which I have named it will be my painful duty to act on the second half of my instructions." Under this vague and significant

threat the President yielded at once. Girl at Hend of Fire Brigade, Boston Herald.

Boston Herald. No capital in the world save St. Petersburg can boast of a municipal fire brigade commanded by a member of the fair sex, but for the last 18 months the splendidly manned and magnificently equipped brigade which is the pride of the Czar's capital has been under the sole control of a young lady of 28 Summers-the daughter of the Russian Minister of Agriculture. Mile. Marie Alexandrovna Vermaloff has all her life taken an intense interest in the brigade, to join which seven years ago her life taken an intense interest in the brigade, to join which seven years ago she obtained special permission from the Caar. During the prolonged absence through illness of Captain Spirindonoff, the actual head of the brigade. Mile. Yermoloff, as acting vice-captain, has most ably filled his place.

One of Our Extravagances.

Wall Street Journal. We are anxious to see the fullest jusdone to the genuine veteran; but no one who has investigated the sub-ject even on the pitifully inadequate information vouchsafed by the Pension Bureau, will fail to come to the sion that of the annual \$150,000,000 sion that of the annual size, wood of spent upon pensions at least one-third and probably more should never be dis-bursed at all. The whole list is honey-combed with fraudulent and unworthy ases. This is one of our extravagances and it may be pointed out again that public extravagance is quite as bad as private waste.

#### Spanish and German Taught.

PORTLAND, Jan. 24 .- (To the Editor.)-Will you please let me know through the columns of your paper whether there are any schools of languages in the city where night classes in Spanish or German are taught?

The Y. M. C. A. in its educational department conducts night classes in both H. R. HENDRICKS. Spanish and German.

# "Go Away to Hear the News

Milwankee SentineL "Oregon ranchmen have a brand new plaint; it is that the moving picture how is spolling the cowboy," said a Westerner who is visiting Milwaukee. "Film makers demand their services said a

and pay them handsomely for riding bucking horses in front of the movingand picture camera or for taking part in an alleged 'Western drama.' The cowboys like the idea.

The old ranchers are sore and Ill conceal their hostility. They declare the pictures only make ornery cowboys and give Easterners wrong ideas of life in the cattle country. "As a matter of fact, they say, rid-

ing bucking horses is but a small part of a cowboy's life. As for the tra-ditional Western drama, where the anchmen's daughter marries the herole cowboy who folls the traditional 'gun fighter' of the frontier, the dwellrs of the range country have only contempt.'

Sonnds Ominous.

Chleago Tribune. Secretary Dickinson asks Congress for two or three aeroplanes, and in the next paragraph recommends that inefficient army officers be dropped.

be hospitable.

into the river.

low later.

putting up a good fight.