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FORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15.

WAR AND HONOR.

President Taft took a bold stand when he said that he could see no good reason "why matters of National honor should not be submitted to arbitration." Usually it has been held that when the National boonr is at stake there is nothing to do but go to No matter what the cost may war. be in life and property, no matter how much misery may ensue, fight we must when once a question of honor has arisen. Not many years ago the situation was the same between individuals. They might properly submit the courts all questions affecting their lives and property. Their lib-erty and all their dearest interests were perfectly safe in the hands of the judges, but let anything come up which affected their honor and they must straightway fight a duel. War be-tween nations stands logically and ethically on the same basis as duels between individuals. There is no more or better reason for one resort than for the other. We have seen the prog-ress of Christian civilization gradually extirpate the duel. In English-speaking countries gentlemen never think any more of settling their difficulties with sword or platol. The practice still survives in France, but even there it has been reduced to a harmless absurdity. Nobody is ever seriously injured in a French duel.

It is impossible to doubt that war will travel the same road as the duel. Ultimately it will become indecent for two civilized nations to fight each other. No doubt it will take time to reach this desirable consummation. The pathway to It will be long and devious, but we are certainly moving in that direction. The growth of sentiment in favor of international peace has been astonishingly rapid in the last few years. There is good ground for hoping that it will grow faster and faster in the years to come through the impetus of its own momentum We are not so rash as to believe that no more wars will ever be fought. There will be many more in all likeli-hood. The number of hotheaded fools is discouragingly large. The multitude of men who find their profit in war is numerous and influential. Peoples are separated by mutual ignorance, by prejudice, by rooted suspicion, by the memory of wrongs unavenged, by commercial rivalry, but in spite of all that the feeling that war is absurdly useless makes itself manifest more plainly every day. Strip war of its anoply of false splendor, make mankind perceive how silly it is beneath all its magnificent pretensions, and its end will be at hand. It is useless per-haps to urge death, misery and wagte much the same with our actors. The

provocation whatever. It would give the Peace Tribunal a prestige which no government could afford to insult. It would make war disrespectable as well as foolish.

THE USUAL SPECIAL SESSION.

Two special sessions of the State Legislature have been made impera-tive in recent years through faulty leg--one to enable the state to carry forward the usual and necessary processes of public taxation and the other to rescue the state institutions from the accidental failure of the general appropriation bill. A special session for 1911 has been narrowly averted-if indeed it has been finally avert-

d-by discovery of indispensable leglaiative records in some remote pigeonhole, where they had been placed by a thoughtless clerk.

Is anybody to blame for the muss and muddle of the legislative records? Undoubtedly. But what benefit will it be to the public to fasten accountability for ignorance or carelessness or incompetence on a fat-headed clerk or an inexperienced assistant whose chief qualifications are devoted per-

sonal service to some political machine? The lesson to be learned from the all too frequent blunders in legislation is that the Legislature should have expert clerical help. The special session to retrieve errors of haste and inadvertence should not be the usual sequel of the regular meetings of the Oregon Legislature. The Oregon Legislature considers at

one session 700 or 800 bills. The ses-sion is forty days-a short enough period for so great a labor even when the legislators devote themselves assiduously to their duties. But the leginlators do not. The first half of the session is given over to dawdling, lay and getting ready. The last half is given up to bustle, hurry and crowding. Three-fourths of the bills that go in should never be introduced. One-half the remainder or less are worthy of real consideration. If the inexper-ienced legislator would make it his business to get experienced advice and this work would be well assistance. done, and half the public criticism

SINGING IN ENGLISH.

would cease.

Last November, when Signor Bond returned to America, he made up his mind to try the novel experiment of ainging in English at a recital in Carnegie Hall. His success was surpris-The papers said the next morning that Bonci had sung "with an excellent pronunciation and a diction that might put native singers to This must have been agreeshame." able indeed to the Italian, but there was a drop of bitter in the cup. Mr. David Bispham could not rest until he had made up a story that Bonci was going into the business of teaching American singers how to pronounce English. Of course this was nonsense, as Signor Bonci shows in a pleasant letter to the Times, which The Oregonian reprints today. The distin-guished Italian has other work to do. But if he is not ready for the task of teaching our singers how to pronounce their own language, it is a pity that somebody does not take it up, for such instruction is sadly needed. Our vocal artists spend a great deal of time learning how to enunciate Italian, German, French, but nobody ever dreams of teaching them to enunciate

English. They sing beautifully in all tongues but their own. When they undertake to render a ballad or a madrigal their pronunciation is slovenly to the last degree. Nobody could tell from hearing them whether they were trying to seek a thirteen-mile ride for 5 cents.

England never to go to war upon any renewed on the original terms. This year China decided to terminate the treaty, and the first Russian note,

which was the beginning of the pres-ent trouble, demanded that China state the relations which she desired to continue to maintain with Russia after the termination of the treaty. The reply of China was, as usual, evasive and unsatisfactory. The Rus-

sian forces promptly moved up a little closer to the frontier. This brought from China a second note, which was somewhat more liberal than the first, which still failed to declare but whether Russia was to be permitted to enjoy the favors which were granted her as a reward for putting down the Tartar rebellion forty years ago. The receipt of the second note was the signal for Russia to send reinforcements into the field and to send China an ultimatum. If China could count on

the sympathy or assistance of the powers in resisting the Russian demand, further evasion and possibly a display of arms might result. The rest of the world, however, is not particularly pleased at the scaling up of such a vast territory of great natural resources. If it were developed today it could feed a few millions of the starving Chinese who are now dependent on the charity of civilized people. If China would build railroads, open the country and increase the means for keeping allve her swarming millions, the rest of the world-might be inclined to ask Russia to keep hands off, although Russia clearly has rights in the matter. Past performances, however, do not justify the be-

lief that China will do anything in the way of development, and for that reason Russia will not be molested unless she becomes too aggressive in her efforts to retain her rights.

TESTING THE SEATTLE SPIRIT. Seattle, having by a large majority

decided to embark in the street rallway business and authorized the sale of \$800,000 worth of bonds to provide for the purchase of thirteen miles of trolley line to Renton, is now looking for a purchaser for the bonds. The City Controller has recently returned from the East and states that his observations have led him to the conclusion that, although the credit of the city is high in the East, it will be a very difficult matter to market these particular bonds. He therefore recommends that the bonds be offered to the citizens of Seattle in small de-The City Controller nominations.

states that by this method the interest on the bonds would be kept in Seattle and a further advantage would result because the "interest of the citizens in a road which they themselves were financing would be greatly increased."

Seattle has always been noted for that famous spirit that could conjure up dollars for almost any scheme that would "save her face." For that rea-son this bond issue of problematical value may be taken up by the Seattle taxpayers - not the nontaxpayers whose votes saddled the scheme on Seattle. The sentiment which dragged Seattle into this unfortunate predicament was caused by the refusal of the Renton line to carry passengers the entire length of the road for less than 10 cents. Under municipal ownership a 5-cent fare will be in effect. The distance to Renton was so great and the volume of travel so light that the owners of the line contended they could not handle the business on a 5-cent fare except at a loss. Under municipal ownership the large body of taxpayers who do not use the line will make up any deficit which is created for the advantage of those who

The experiment will be watched with interest. It attracted attention in the East before the vote was cast. The New York Financial Chronicle,

resenting an enormous investment may be supplied with the greatest possible amount of traffic. It will be no easy matter for the

THE MORNING OREGONIAN, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, '1911.

roads to secure all of the money needed for this new construction, but in no other way does it seem possible for them to get even with the heavy increases in cost of operation and maintenance. This seems to be a case where the necessity for retrenchment has forced the railroads to spend a lot of money getting in shape for economizing.

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"Night-riding," which has become rather common pastime in the halfivilized regions of the South, will never gain much of a foothold in the West. The leader of a band of cowardly outlaws who were terrorizing the new settlers on Camas Prairie in Idaho was shot and killed by a man he was trying to drive out of the country. As an example of the feeling which the Idaho people have for the undesirables, it is stated in the news reports of the acquittal of the slayer that "cheers rang in the courtroom when the slayer was freed and he was carried from the scene of the three days' trial on the shoulders of his admirers, one of whom was a Baptist minister." Desperate cases require desperate remedies and the law of self-defense is older than any that has been placed on the statute books. For that reason the act of the Idaho man will be generally commended and may have a wholesome effect on the conduct of other cowardly night riders who are skulking around Camas Prairie.

The death of Mary Porter Logan,

which occurred a few days ago at the home of her brother, Judge William Waldo, of Salem, will recall vividly to many minds an era in pioneer history in which Mrs. Logan-then Miss Waldo, of the Waldo Hills of Marion County-was well known. She came to Oregon Territory in 1847, a child of three years. Her childhood and girlhood were passed in the Waldo Hills on the home ranch of her father, the late Daniel Waldo. There, at the age of 22, she was married to David Logan, one of the most brilliant of the early lawyers of the state-a contemporary of Judge Deady, Hon. Amory Holbrook and Judge William Strong, and others whose names are connected with our territorial jurisprudence. David Logan died many years ago, as did all of his contemporaries mentioned. The passing of the woman who was fifteen years his wife and thirty-six years his widow closes a long chapter in ploneer life, replete with incident and adventure that would grace the pages of old romance.

The most encouraging feature of the colonist movement now under way is the fact that nearly all the newcomers are headed for the country instead of the city. If we can only divert the stream of newcomers to the country where there are opportunities for creating new wealth by tilling the soil and producing the great staples for which the world is waiting, the city will in due season feel the effects of the new population. The city cannot grow and prosper unless the coun-try is prospering. The colonists need-ed in the city are those who come with plenty of money and are prepared to engage in manufacturing enterprises. Portland needs a larger dinner-pail brigade. Until our manufacturing is increased there will be but small demand in the city for colonists who come here without money expecting to find immediate employment. Oregon can support a million new settiers, but some discretion is needed in placing them.

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BONCI ON SINGING IN ENGLISH JOE CANNON REVIEWS HIMSELF. Champ Clark Gets Pointers on Sp Distinguished Tenor Henps Conls ers' Manifold Duties.

"Oh, well, now, let's be serious."

"I am serious. I can quote chapter and verse as to my unworthiness. It seems to me you contributed something

to my conviction." "You will have your little joke. But

really, I should like a 'steer' about a few things."

"Good as can be, I'm happy to say.

"They should not be too good. There will be times when you should not be able to see Republicans when they rise to make motions. Keep your good

eyes for your own side. You'll need

"But that would subject me to cri-

ticism." "My boy, don't shrink from criticism.

Rather court it. Make a few husky

enemies, by all means. And try to in-clude among the number some dad-

gasted windjammers, who carry a full

"I hadn't thought about that. Let me consult with Underwood before giving

you an answer. Suppose we change the form. Will you treat the Court with proper deference?" "Most assuredly. With all deference.

Williams and have him come over and lament the successful ambition which removed him from so live and inter-

Minsters of the Word.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

ance has not thus far been happy, al-

few things." "How are your eyes, Champ?"

em, even as a judge."

away their wrath.

introduce it."

esting a chamber."

Why?

Fire on Bispham's Head. Washington (D. C.) Star.

Letter in New York Times. It is only today that I read the ac Washington (D. C.) Star. "Come, Mr. Cannon, give me a few points out of your abundant experi-ence as Speaker." "Champ, not a bit of it would fit your case." "Why not?" "Well, I was a tyrant in the office. I because law I preserved the power office. It is only today that I read the account appearing in Musical America of the dinner given recently by the Fratynal Association of Music Teachers, at which the principal topic of discussion was "Opera in English," and that one conpresiding officer-a sort of judge in the chair."

"Opera in English," and that one con-tribution was a paper sent by Mr. David Bispham (unable to be present at the dinner and read by Mr. Gareizsein). I note that Mr. Bispham, after paying a tribute of admiration to my singing, tried to heap ridicule on me on the assump-tion that I pretend to teach English pro-nunclation to American singers. Now, this is quite untrue. Two years ago in Chicago, at a banquet tendered to me by the Press Club of that city, I first ex-pressed my opinion that the English ianguage is singable and that singing in English should be quite enjoyable. The somewhat indefinite color of some of its language is singlote and that singlates in English should be quite enjoyable. The somewhat indefinite color of some of its vowels, its guitural sounds with their tendency to prevent the bringing of the voice to the front of the mouth, I said, will no more be a handicap to the produc-tion of a beautiful tone and to the rendertion of a beautiful tone and to the rendering of the legato style, if the singer will submit to a proper training of his vioce and will make a special study of articula-

When I returned to this country last November, I decided to give a public demonstration of my ideas as to singing in English at my recital in Carnegie Hall. On the morning following the recital, I was surprised to read in several New York papers, that I had sung with an excellent pronunciation and that my dic-tion might put most of the native singers tion might put most of the native singers to chame. I was surprised at such opinions as well as I am now surprised to learn that Mr. Bispham has chosen to attribute to me the pretension of teach-ing American singers how to sing in English and the American people how to represent how to your approace

"You have enjoyed 'em?" "Very much. They have helped me. Now you give me a pointer or two. As Mr. Bispham, on the other hand, found it necessary to state in his oration that Now you give me a pointer of todge, are you going to hold on to the old form of addressing the Chair? Shall it be Mr. Speaker? or 'May it please your hon-or?" If there is to be a change, let me I "sang with an accent and manner so foreign as to be laughable." The disa-greement between the opinions of Messra Rawling, Henderson, Krehbiel, Sanborn, etc., and that of Mr. Bispham, is rather striking. But this is the only thing in the whole matter that does not come to me as a surprise. In fact it may be said that the artists never agree with the critics except when they are the re-cipients of the praises of the latter. Mr. Bispham in his paper puts this juestion: "What would be thought if I Mind you, I shall reserve my right un-der the Constitution to cuss the Court, but shall never exercise it until I went to Italy to teach people how to pro-nounce Italian?" Incidentally, I could have reached the tavern or the quiet precincts of my committee room. I know my duty to a Court, whether of country much more sectional than America) nobody is tolerated on the lyric stage unless he can pronounce Italian well, but should we be unable to speak our language well and should we dis-cover that an American could teach us "We shall get along, Mr. Cannon." "We shall get along, Mr. Cannon." "Undoubtedly, Champ, and all the better for an occasional sharp ex-change. And when the performance be-gins we'll send to the Senate for John Williams and bays him come over and cover that an American could teach us how to pronounce it correctly in singing, we would no doubt welcome and bless him. It is not Italy that has not yet understood that "chauvinisme" in art (and in America there is unfortunately an abundance of it) is perhaps the most serious handleap to the development of the serious function of a country But

the artistic possibilities of a country. But I do not want to enter such a discussion. I am satisfied with stating most em-phatically that I never claimed ability to teach English diction to American DR. AKED, "TWEEN HAY AND GRASS Questionable Wisdom to Import Foreign

singers. Therefore, the adjective "ridiculous was improperly used by Mr. Bispham, to qualify an attitude that I never assumed. This being the case, there is no reason for further comment on Mr. Bisphem's paper. There is however, another point-perhaps the main point-which justifies at least to a certain extent, what Mr. Bispham has expressed in his paper and even the "clearness and eloquency" with which-according to Musical America-it was read by Mr. Gareissein. From the words of Mr. Bispham it appears that he is almost in despair over the possibility of a large "backing of money" for an in-stitution headed by me with the purpose by imported clergymen are too severe as yet in this country, the mere fact that England and America have the same lanof giving opera in English, and "calls to account the Americans who have suggested such a thing." Now, I do not know Mr. Bispham per-

sonally, but I sincerely wish to be on the best terms with him. Therefore I am quite willing to turn the Americans in

7 NNE WARWICK is a wise young woman, or else her New York publishers are very enterprising. She is the knew no law. I possessed the power of authoress of the new novel. "Compensa-life and death over legislation. As I understood it, you are to be simply a activities of Washington. D. C. of the present day are attractively mirrored. and a discreet note from her publishers states that the name Anne Warwick is a nom-de-plume, that she is a Portland. Or., girl, and that she and her father

are both well known here. That statement is calculated to arouse and does arouse local interest in the novel, and its sales ought to be materially helped. That is why Anne War-wick is wise beyond her years. Her story is so good, however, that it does not require any mystery to recommend it. With really clever dialogue and well-sustained interest, it keeps the reader guessing, and its problem affecting the marriage relation is well handled in or-thodox, non-shocking style.

George Bernard Shaw, Socialist, satirist and novelist, has a keen sense of the value of the unusual in making the public aware that he still lives.

Very few authors, nowadays, contribute wordy prefaces to their books, but Shaw is in a class by himself. He has just caused to be issued three of his plays, line of coarse vituperation. The Lord, you know, tempers the wind to the shorn lamb. He also, at thmes, advances "The Doctor's Dilemma," "Getting Mar-ried" and "The Showing Up of Blanca Posnet," with a preface of over 25,000 words. Part of this preface is amusing. our fortunes by the enemies he sends us. Pray to receive the right kind of enemies, and when you get 'em held on to 'em. Never, whatever you do, turn and other parts wearlsome. In "Getting Married," Mr. Shaw makes this shy, shrinking allusion to himself:

shrinking allusion to himself: Louis-You imagine that I'm simply an ordinary oriminal. Walpole-Not an ordinary one, Dude-bat. Do yourself justice. Louis-Well, you're on the wrong track altogether. All your moralizings have no value for me. I don't believe in morality. I'm a disciple of Bernard Shaw. Sir Patrick-Bornard Shaw? I never heard of him. He's a Methodist preacher, I suppose. suppose. . . .

A. C. Benson has just been appointed to the chair of English literature, found-ed by Sir Harold Harmsworth, at Cam-bridge University, England. Mr. Benson is the first to receive this distinction.

New and hair-raising stories about the great Thomas Carlyle are promised in the forthcoming memoirs of the late Charton Collins, also hitherto unpublished letters by Swinburne.

R. F. Johnston, one of the English officials ruling in Wei-hal-wei, in a newly-published volume on his Chinese experi-ences, notes that the local magistrates have difficulties in dealing with village shrews. He asked one complaining hus-band why he ran away from a woman "Is she not your wife and can you not make her obey you?" The plaintiff's face is described as broadening into a mirthless smile as he replied: "I am afraid of her. Eight men out of 10 are afraid of their wives."

A new edition of Messra, Potash and Perlmutter, Ladies' Cloaks and Suits, by Montague Glass, will be issued soon. These stories, in serial form, have al-Springfield (Mass.) Republican. Dr. Aked's resignation as pastor of the Fifth-Avenue Baptist Church in New York City after a brief pastorate might well raise the question of the wisdom of calling ministers from other countries to fill American pulpits. Dr. Aked's experi-ence has not thus for hear happy. diready won immense popularity and warm criticism. . . .

The autobiography and biography of the automography and biography of the late Father Tyrrfil is being pub-lished in London. The priest's account of his life was written in 1901 and it ends just before the time of his mother's death. Note: ence has not thus far been happy, al-though that fact may signify nothing con-cerning the question referred to. It is stated that the Fifth-Avenue Baptist Church will not go to England for its next pastor under any conditions what-ever. Perhaps that, too, means nothing. Possibly the handleaps to be overcome to imported chargement for savere as ends just before the time of his mother's death. Notes and supplements to each chapter are supplied by Mfss Maude D. Petre, who adds a record of the moderu-lst's later years. Father Tyrrell was born an Anglican, but he became a con-vert and entered the Jesuit order, from which he was expelled four years ago. His biographer, who is a daughter of Lady Catherine Howard, comes of a long Catholic line, and she is herself a "founder" of Westminster Cathedral Be-sidos writing several devotional books grage being a very slight basis for a free interchange of ministerial timber between the two countries. It is to be hoped that as time passes, the conditions senally, but I subcerely wish to be on the bost terms with him. Therefore I am quite willing to turn the Americans in question over to film. I am an extremely busy man. Let Mr. Bispham assume the adminis-tration and reap the glory. I ask merely not to have assigned to me things that A. BONCI.

Charles Rann Kennedy's

sons for peace. Death does not frighten an excited country and men woo misery like a bride when their passions are aroused, but tear off the deceptive mask and show them the Idiocy of the performance and it will be shorn of its attractions.

Mr. Taft is qualified to take a sensiview of warfare by the habits of his life. He was accustomed for many years to see men entrust all interests, including honor, to # halr udges and come off vastly better than if they had fought with one another With admirable logic he asks himself Why should not nations do the same thing?" Is it not safer, upon the whole, to entrust the national honor a bench of grave and fair-minded judges than to the arbitrament of Does war always decide justly? What of Poland? What of Denmark In the fight for Schleswig-Holstein? on said in his candid way that the Lord always takes the aide of the heaviest battallons, which is a very different thing from taking the side of justice. Gibbon expressed the same subt of the final rectitude of milltary success when he wrote that "the winds and waves are on the side of the ablest navigators." There is no more justice to be expected from the outcome of a war than from a fist fight between two bullles. The man with the best wind and training will be victor, and there it ends. National honor and national right are far safer in the care of a group of impartial udges than an army can make them. Not that armies are useless by any We only say that there is means. something better.

Commenting in the House of Comas on President Taft's suggestion, Sir Edward Grey expressed a thought which must have occurerd to every reflective observer of current affairs. "The growth of armaments," he said, must in the long run break civilization down." Where can the insane race for armies, fortifications and battleships and if not in international bankruptcy? It costs more today for the world to live on a peace footing than active warfare did a century ago. Almost every civilized country is inging into debt to keep up its army and fleet. If some of them, like the United States, can manage to foot the bills as they accrue, it is only because the war maniacs have not had their way. They will never be satisfied as long as they can beg or borrow another dollar to spend on their favorite But the time is not far off when there will be no more money for them to waste. Pretty nearly every country in the world is approaching the limit of its resources and the increase of armaments must stop. An arbitration agreement between Great ritain and the United States which should include their honor as well as other points would be welcome to all the world. It would set an example which every other country would be glad to follow. No nation really wants to fight. If they all felt certain that

last art they ever think of acqu the utterance of the language in which their roles are written. Upon the stage they stammer, gasp and mumble, but they do not speak. A few good lessons in elecution would be worth a fortune to almost any actor who has

visited Portland in the last ten years. to say nothing of actresses. English is about as well adapted to singing as any other tongue. As Signer Bonci says in his letter, our vowels are not so elaborate as the Italian, and we have rather too many gutturals, but training would overcome these difficulties. It is not necessary in order to neutralize them to reduce the language to an unintelligible hash of sounds as most singers do. Would that Bonci might be persuaded

to give some singers we know of half

CHINA'S FRONTIER CRISIS.

a dozen lessons.

Russia, apparently tiring of the evasive, dilatory tactics of China regarding a renewal of the treaty of 1881. has dispatched an ultimatum to Pekin | ment by which they can effect savings and matters will reach a crisis in the The grasping spirit of near future. conquest that for generations has been | Economics has just issued a summary moving the Russian outposts farther of revenues and expenses of the railand farther into Asiatic territory will not in the present case meet with the outside interference that checked the but cheering to the railroad men. The advance on Constantinople, or in Afghanistan, or even at the Corean frontier. The present case seems to be one of the few diplomatic events in which

usual note of warning which it is accustomed to issue whenever Russia starts to grab new territory. The province of Ill, which is the ne of contention between the two countries, is one of the richest of the of 54.5 per cent in 10 years. Car ca-Chinese provinces. In the ancient days of the caravan routes to the East it was one of the great sources of commercial wealth. Its principal city, Kashgar, was so well known as a trading center that it is frequently mentioned in the decidedly ancient and interesting "Arabian Nights." The province is divided into two districts, Sungaria and East Turkestan, with a combined area of 580,000 square miles. This wonderfully rich territory, larger than Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, price, Michigan, New York, Kansas, Kentucky and Minnesota, is more than 500 miles from a railroad. Today it is but | and construction of feecers. The Inlittle farther along on the road to civilization than it was during the reign of Haroun el Raschid. This vast territory extends south from Siberia to the northern border of Tibet. Russian interest in the territory dates back about forty years, when a Tartar rebellion became so serious that Russia was obliged to intervene.

The Muscovites were practically in esession of the rebellious province for ten years, but in 1581 handed it back to China. In return for restoring order and successfully handling the province for a decade, Russia was given by treaty special trade privileges to fight. If they are the peace their armaments would keep the peace their armaments would be disbanded to-morrow. It is impossible to overesti-might settle and develop the country if

nearly a month before the election, forecasted the failure of Seattle to market the bonds in the East in the following words:

following words: Capital from the conservative investors of the East cannot be expected to flow in municipal bonds or otherwise, in those com-municipal bonds are otherwise. In those com-municipal bonds are otherwise, in those com-municipal bonds are otherwise. In those com-municipal bonds of the capital secensity of the frequences of the capital secensity are in possession of the capital secensity of thance the Sevelopment of the Pacific Coast and the Far and Middle West; here is as yet no statute. Fodersi or state, com-pelling them to make investment egainst their will and their capital will go to those communities which show the least speculative and visionary spirit in the con-duct both of their public and their private business.

RAILROAD ECONOMIES.

The railroads, thwarted by the Interstate Commerce Commission in their attempt to equalize the increased cost of operation and maintenance with an increase in freight rates, are now seeking a method for readjustwith which to meet the increased cost of service. The Bureau of Railway

roads and the comparative statements report, however, discloses some encouraging features by means of which the roads have done much to overcome or equalize the increased wages the rest of the world will withhold the and other dividend-affecting factors. Among these encouraging features mentioned is an increase in the tractive power of locomotives in the past eight years of nearly 99 per cent and an increase in number of locomotives pacity increased 73 per cent in eight years while the number of cars in-

creased but 53 per cent in ten years. Larger cars and heavier engines of course tend to reduce the cost per ton per mile of moving freight, and it is hardly probable that the limit of economy in this direction has been reached. this direction the railroads may effect some of the saving made necessary if they are to keep their securi-ties at anything like an attractive Other avenues through which some improvement in earnings might eventually flow are double tracking terstate Commerce Commission has made it very difficult for the roads to secure funds at advantageous rates. but all of the transcontinental lines have announced their determination to proceed with the announced improvements as rapidly as possible.

The possibilities of saving with a double track are very great. Many of the single-track roads are working so close to the maximum of their physical capacity that an immense loss is suffered through delay in moving trains. Just prior to the 1907 panio some of these roads were so badly contrains. gested that 100 miles per day was about the best distance that a freight armaments would be disbanded to-morrow. It is impossible to overesti-mate the moral effect upon the world of an agreement between two first-class powers like the United States and until this year, it has been

Captain Evelyn Briggs Baldwin, who has had eighteen years' experience in polar exploration, has arrived at San

Francisco to make preliminary arations for a polar expedition in 1913. Now that the Government has awarded Peary \$500 per month for life and the people have tied a can to Dr. Cook, the American public ought to be in a receptive mood for a polar discovery duly witnessed and vouched for by some one besides the man who claimed all the glory. Captain Baldwin apparently sees an opening for this kind of a North Pole discovery, for he says: can't see where I can fail to reach the exact spot where the Pole is supposed to be." It is unnecessary to state, however, that if Captain Baldwin comes back with pictures of the Pole

showing the American flag nailed thereto, his observations and data will be very carefully looked over before any wreaths or halos are hung around him by a hero-worshiping people.

It is to be hoped that the postal department will hasten the general opening of the savings banks. No measure can be imagined which will be of more economic advantage to persons of small means. In the United States this class of people are almost without facilities for absolutely secure investment of their savings. quently they fall a ready prey to the "get rich quick" schemer. It is said that hundreds of millions of dollars go annually into the pockets of fraudulent promoters which a complete sys tem of postal savings banks would rescue. The excellent record which the new banks have made is encouraging, but their number is too small.

It must be romantic to live on Camas Prairie, Idaho. To be visited at the holy hour of midnight by a gang of bullies and ordered out of the country on pain of death would give almost anybody a delicious thrill. But Joseph Vaught was not fond of thrills. He preferred to shoot and luckily he got his man. His brave deed will break up night-riding on Camas Prairie and enable people to live in peace there. His courage has proved to be contagious. Other persecuted settlers now dare to defend themselves and the associated blackguards will have to decamp. It is the first step that costs and Vaught was bold enough to take it.

It is a pity that some adventurous experimenter does not plant a few almond trees somewhere between Portland and Salem. We hear of filberts, walnuts and pecans, but no almonds. The tree is known to be hardy in this latitude, but perhaps it would not bear. Perhaps, on the other hand, it would produce abundantly. Nobody will ever know until it has been tried on a considerable scale.

A church dedicated to the memory of Jason Lee, a ploneer missionary, teacher and preacher of the Willamette Valley, is to be built in Salem, the

New Light on Dispute Between George Shepherd and Consul Laidlaw

PORTLAND, March 14 .- (To the Editor.)-A number of readers of The Oregonian were seated around a square table discussing the probability of war arising because of England's alleged insult to the United States of America, England acting through its Consul James Laidlaw, and the United States represented in the person of George, of course, we mean, Captain George S.

Shepherd, of the Navy. These questions arose: "Does the maxim; The greater the truth the greater the libel" hold good in intermational matters? That is, admitting what Consul Laidlaw said about George was true, as we think it was, can a truthful statement be an insult? If so, and this difference is settled without bloodshed, will George be an international figure? Can such a difference be settled un-

der any treaty now in existance tween the nations, or are all now isting just to cover minor matters? If England apologizes rather than go to war, will King George person-ally do it to George, or will Mr. Lald-

aw do it to George? If I have taken out my first papers can I express my opinion of George without recourse by him to my native land?

How must one go about it to get exclusive moving picture rights of the apology that will be worth one million? We so often hear the expression We so often hear the expression "Let George do it." Does that always refer to Captain George S. Shepherd of the Navy? There are many who don't chew

interested in the above. B AND S

Extent of Louisiana Purchase.

PORTLAND, March 13. -- (To the Edi-tor.)--Would you kindly oblige an old subscriber, and inform him the extent of "Louisiana Purchase" from Napoleon Spain at an early date? I wish to con-vince a stubborn son, that he don't know anything about his own country. I believe the price paid to France was \$15,000,000 and that the country comprised about 800,000 square miles. SUBSCRIBER.

The Louisiana Purchase, closed in 1893, extended from the Mississippi River on the East, (including the New Orleans district east of the Mississippi) to the main divide of the Rocky Mountains and to the Arkansas, the Red and the Sabine Rivers on the West; and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian line. The territory now comprises in whole or in part, chiefly in whole, Louisians, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Da-Nebraska Kansas, Colorado, kota. Wyoming, Montana. Oklahoma and In-dian Territory. The area was 55,000 square miles and the price paid \$15,000. 060. Florids passed to the United States in 1821, by treaty with Spain in 1819.

Damon and Pythias of 1911. Chicago Record-Herald.

"Pa, who were Damon and Pythias?" "I've kind of forgotten now whether ey were a champion bowling team or they

POSSIBLE RUMPUS WITH ENGLANDY to him. At present, he is between hay and grass.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, March 15, 1861. We notice a movement on foot to or-ganize a regatta club. There is certainly no better way to develop the muscles than a jolly good pull at the oars. Let us have one by all means and then another.

Colonel Tom Cornelius delivered a drove of cattle in this city, which were fat, at seven cents net.

The demand for good Indian horses and pack mules continues, both in this city and at The Dalles.

It is reported that the British govern ment has determined to build a naval depot at Esquimault and that \$150,000 is siready set aside for the purpose.

grand jury report that, having ex The

The grand jury report that, having visited the penitentiary and investigated its condition, the details of its adminis-tration, and of the keeping, treatment, employment and subsistence of the con-victs; that they found the said peni-tentiary in a bad and insecure condition for the safe keeping of convicts; that the cells and many parts of the building are to divby and unsatisfactory condi-

are in flithy and unsatisfactory condi-tion, that the provisions (with the ex-ception of injured meat which has been onlied the prisoners), is of a good and wholesome kind.

During the months of January, February and the first week of March there has been sold, contracted or driven to market 2719 head of Oregon cattle which we have received accounts of. The aver-age value of these may be placed at \$28 per head.

Senators in New State.

NYE. Or., March 19 .- (To the Editor.)-Will you please answer these quostions through the columns of The Oragonian: First-When a new state is admitted into the Union how do they determine for how long the first Senators shall serve? Second-Could a boy born in China of American parents acting as missionaries

become President? STUDENT.

First-The method of determining the First-ine method of determining the length of terms of Senators is prescribed in the constitution, plans varying in different state. In Oregon the first Sena-tors elected were divided by lot into two classes, the first class holding office two years and the second class four years. In Washington Senators chosen from odd Washington Senators chosen from odd numbered districts went out of office at the end of the first year and Senators elected from even numbered districts went out at the end of the third year. Second-A boy born in China of Ameri-can parents who returns to the United States to reside before attaining his majority is eligible to become President.

Profanity and Pew Rent.

New York Times. Charles M. Jessup, of White Plains, further illustrated the idea of wei-come by a story of Rear-Admiral Robley D. Evans. He entered, it is refated, a church and was shown to

play, Servant in the House," familiar on the stage a few seasons ago, and the subject much discussion and reading in book form, was produced last week with con-spicuous success at Germany's most celebrated playhouse, the Court Theater of the Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen.

"My hero dies in the middle of my "My hero dies in the middle of my latest novel," said the young author. "That's a grave mistake," replied the editor. "He should not die before the reader does."-Atlanta Constitution.

The great Gaelic Dictionary, compiled. set, stereotyped, illustrated and pub-lished by one determined man, with the lished by one determined man, with the help of a little home press, is nearly completed. The three volumes contain full references for over 80,000 Gaelic words. Edward Dwelly has been ab-sorbed in the work for 30 years, and has been at the printing part of it for the last 12 years. His is an almost incredi-ble story of labor-for he has been forced to earn money as a printer at night in order to carry on the dictionary work by day. He has even had to sell the Gaelic library from which he worked. Gaelic library from which he worked. His enthusiasm has brought him tri-umphantly through many discouragements. . . .

Kenneth and Demetra Brown, instead of going on to Rome, as they intended, have stopped at Florence for a short stay, and are hard at work on their new novel.

. . . An unusual number of the minor manuscripts of well-known American au-thors have come upon the market this Winter-notably those of Poe and Sted-man, included in the Stedman Ibrary, dispersed last month; the Eugene Field 16-page pamphlet addressed to Mr. Sted-man sold for \$1700 at the same sale; those of several of Mark Taxin's shorter manuscripts of well-known American auman sold for \$100 at the same sale; those of several of Mark Twain's shorter stories, which were recently disposed of with the humorist's collection of books, and two of Bret Harte's, which formed and two of Bret Harte's, which formed a part of the collection of Judge Jacob Klein, of Sts Louis-"A Ward of the Golden Gate' (375) and "Sally Dows" (\$500). Notable prices have been paid for authors' letters also-especially those of Swinburne, the Brownings, Hawthorne and Harta and Harte.

. . .

A new novel by Miss Frances Powell, "An Old Maid's Vengeance," is promised within a few days. The heroine is an American girl and the story, with an element of mystery typical to this author, runs its course in the Riviera.

Late in the Spring there will be issued a new novel by Owen Wister, "Members of the Family," telling a story about of the Family," telling a story about the same people as those who figured in Mr. Wister's "Virginian." There will also be "The Love That Lasts." by Mrs. Mabel Osgood Wright, described as a novel of human nature in which prob-iem studies and historical features do not appear. Late in April will be pub-lished "The Sovereign Power." by Mark Lee Lather. This has to do with the at-tempts of a European prince to regain a feudal heritage. An American girl and an aeroplane are leading factors in the story, the scenes of which are laid in various well-known places of continental Europe. Europe.

. . . Mrs. Hubert Barclay's novel of mar-ried life, "Trevor Lordship," and "The Income Tax," by Professor E. R. A. Seligman, are just out. The latter au-thor believes that the income tax will be adopted in this country. His book is "a study of the history, theory and practice of income taxation at home and Mrs. Hubert Barclay's novel of marrefated, a church and was shown to a pew near the door. Its sole occupant glared at him and then, pulling out a card, wrote on it the words: "I pay \$500 a year for the exclusive use of this pew." The Admiral, said Mr. Jessup wrote underneath as he passed back the card: "Then you pay a d—d sight to much."

in 1803? I mean what states were comprised in that territory. How wide and long, north and west of the Mississippi River? Also did we not get Florida from