The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Matter. Rates—Invariably in Advance. (BY MAIL)

(BY CARRIER)

Eastern Business Offices Verre & Conk-lin-New York, Brunswick building, Chi-cago, Steger building. European Office-No. 3 Regent street, &

PORTLAND, MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1911.

OREGON'S CAMPAIGN FOR TAFT.

The Republicans of Oregon are favorable to the renomination and reelection of President Taft. A full and fair expression of sentiment among them would, in the opinion of The Oregonian, reveal a definite and emphatic purpose to support the President in the coming April Presidential preference primary and in the ensuing November election. Confidence in President Taft, and a genuine and obvious satisfaction with his personality, his policies and his administration, are confined to no single ele ment or body of Republicans. He has not adopted the extreme views nor met the radical expectations of the so-called insurgents; nor has he heeded the let-us-alone admonitions of the reactionaries. He is a progreeenced in the formation of his administrative plans by no consideration of his own personal or political fortunes. but by an unwavering purpose to promote the common benefit. He has allenated friends among the insurgents and the regulars; he has made enemies among the factions and groups that have their own reasons for supporting other men and other measures; but he has steered an even and straightforward course and has wrested from unwilling mouths the commendation that he has striven honestly and fearlessly and has done rivel1.

The appointment of a Taft campaign committee of prominent Oregon citizens who will undertake the work of carrying on the Taft campaign for the forthcoming Presidential primary is a sign of the times. The committee is made up of well-known citizens who are all Republicans without any prefixes, If they have had differences of opinion as to the desirability or practicability of this or that party policy, they have none as to the importance and even the necessity of bringing about the re-election of a Republican President and of the merits and availability of Taft as a candidate. They are for Taft. They believe in him. They appreciate his great abilities, high racter and honest worth, He is entitled to the country's confidence, and it should be made manifest in Oregon next year. The hearty and united response offered by the members of the Taft committee to the invitation to direct the campaign is gratifying swidence of the enthusiastic interest felt in the Taft candidacy by all members of the party whom the committee so conspicuously

The Oregon plan of direct nomina tions provides that there shall be an putright vote in the respective party primaries for candidates for Pre and Vice-President. The Republicans and Democrats of the state-and perhaps other parties—on April 19, 1912, will express their preference as to the men to fill these great offices. The open primary gives the voice of the party free opportunity to declare n its delegates shall support in National convention. Each delegate firmly bound by oath to carry out "To the heat of his indement and ability, the wishes of his political party expressed by the veters at the time of his election." It is inconceivable that any delegate should seek or wish to violate his official pledge. It is not important, then, who may elected delegate to any convention; for the principal question—the names the nominees for President and Vice-President-is determined by the voters themselves; and the delegate has no alternative.

The prime issue being the candidacy of Mr. Taft in the Republican primary, the Taft committee will ubtless devote its efforts to a campaign of education and organization throughout Oregon in his behalf. It is announced that committees will be formed in the various counties. They will serve the general cause there, in confunction with the central body. The naming of the Portland group is but a preliminary step in the general

scheme The Taft campaign in Oregon has been successfully launched. It is to be carried forward by men who are known to be disinterested, who have no axes of their own to grind, who are embarrassed by no entangling alliances with any political machine and who will be zealous in performing a public service for the sole reason that they think it should be performed.

MUCERARING RUNS ITS COURSE. Reform for revenue only, which is fairly correct definition of muckraking, has been found by the magaes not to pay. Some of them are being absorbed by others; still more are being sold to syndicates, which are toping them down to the point of making them harmless, respectable and dull-mere purveyors of inferior literature. They completed the work of self-discredit by organizing a trust on the lines of those very trusts they had been denouncing and thereby fell foul of the very law for the enforcement of which they had been clamoring.

The history of magazine muckraking is the history of a good work carried to extremes. When a few of the magazines branched out into the disboss rule, of business influence in politics, of trusts and tariff, the innovation was welcomed and these magazines built up surprising circulations. But these pioneers, while not hesitating to state plain and startling truths, ere careful as to facts and reasonably moderate in tone. Their success

attract attention in the growing crowd roads as their salvation from the deof muckrakers by violence and intemperance in language and statement and by carelessness as to facts. They throve mightily for a while, but the public tired of their highly-spiced dishes and turned to more homely fitte.

The public began to class yellow magazines with yellow journals and conceived a distaste for both. Their circulation dwindled, they ran on financial rocks and combined to raise prices. That means of salvation not proving efficacious for the imitators, they combined in syndicates with other publications. No longer directed by the strong personality of a single, though misguided, individual, they are now under the timid, colorless rule of a board of directors having regard only for the seiling power of the output. The quality of the fiction and general literature they published has deteriorated to such a degree that, the market for their muckraking articles having died away, little excuse for their existence remains except in the desire of those who only want "something to read," no matter whether it be good or bad. This is not to say that there is not

s field for magazines of the type of those which first took up the work of reform before it degenerated into muckraking. A magazine canginvestigate public questions with a thoroughness which is not possible for a newspaper; it can secure readers for an article the length of which would cause it to be ignored if published in newspaper. But in order to fill this field it must have a strong directing personality who will take up a good cause because it is right, not solely because there is money in who will not distort facts to pander to prejudice; who will live up to a standard of good literature throughout his pages, not "feature" one or two sen-sational articles and fill in with trashy short stories. The person who wants "something to read" will enjoy it all the better if it is good literature and will cultivate a taste for more of the same kind. The editor who assumes that he must publish trash because a certain number of people will read it must remember that a hungry man to whom dry bread is offered would like it better if it were spread with butter.

IDITAROD HARKS BACK.

Return to use of gold dust as money takes one back to the times when every merchant had his scales and weighed the uncoined gold and silver given in payment for his wares and tested then as to purity. As the Iditared miners are accused of mixing black sand and brass filings with their gold and the merchants are accused of spilling some of the gold and appropriating it, so tricks were played in ancient times which led merchants to stamp pieces of gold with declarations of their weight and fineness.

Thus were the first coins made, but there was such a confusion in the size, shape and purity of privately minted coins that the state took upon itself the duty of coining money. The searcity of coin and paper currency at Iditarod has taken that town back to conditions which existed in ancient Greece before the time of Herodotus, but by sending to the United States its gold in exchange for coin and currency, Iditarod can quickly return to

the 20th century.

It is by such forced recurrence to first principles that we are reminded of the real nature of money and the hazy ideas born of centuries of custom are blown away like fog. If we would recur to first principles in other things, as circumstances have forced Iditared to do, and would adhere closely to them, many of the complex problems of civiliza come simple and we should frequently avoid wandering from the right path.

RAILROAD TERMINAL NEEDS

The great trunk railroads of the East find themselves confronted by an expansion of their traffic beyond the capacity of their terminal facilities to handle it. The New York Cen-tral, while building a \$10,000,000 passenger terminal at New York, has oposed the construction of a new freight terminal to cost \$65,000,000. The Pennsylvania had not completed its New York terminal at a cost of \$113.000,000, including tunnels, when hicago, Philadelphia and New York began making demands for enlarged

In fact American cities are grow ing too large to carry on all their traffic by rail unless they introduce extensive economies in the use of the area they now occupy, by which it can be made to handle more traffic. Possibly this was one point which L. D. Brandeis had in mind when he said he could show where the railroads could save \$1,000,000 a day. Mr. Hawley may have indicated one way out of the difficulty when, instead of enlarging his St. Louis terminals, he substituted a trolley system for trucks in loading and unloading freight cars and thereby increased the number of cars handled on a given mileage of yard track in a given time.

The railroads have been the means of increasing their own troubles. They have stimulated the growth of cities, which has vastly creased the volume of their traffic. This increased traffic has created a demand for larger terminals, which necessitates the purchase of great tracts of land in or near these cities. But the growth of the cities stimulated by the railroads has increased land values so enormously as to tax the financial resources of the railroads.

The railroads may find that the only escape from this dilemma is to encourage the development of greater use of waterways. With our rivers deepened and locked and connected by canals and adequate water terminals constructed on their banks, the great volume of heavy freight which pays the railroads low rates could be transferred to the water. Such freight as building material, iron and other ore, coal and steel, could be carried more economically by water. The railwould be left free to carry only the higher-class freight, which would pay them a higher rate per ton per mile. The blockade in their terminals would be relieved by the elimination of whole trainloads of heavy, low-class freight and the higher rate received by the high-class freight remaining dealer patented articles unless ould offset the constantly-growing value of the land occupied on which raliroads must earn interest. Such a policy would be in line with that of ! the owner of city real estate, who order to earn interest on the enhanced value of the site.

Waterways have long been regarded as the means by which shippers may escape the exactions of the railroads. encouraged imitators who strove to They may yet be regarded by the rail- a close parallel in the plumbing busi-

mands of a traffic which is growing beyond both their physical and financial capacity to carry.

SUPREME JUSTICE HARLAN.

In the death of John M. Harlan the United States Supreme Court loses one of its strongest figures. Even though one may not agree with his dissenting opinions, one must admire the independence and courage which led him to dissent. What the people desire in their highest tribunal is not only deep legal learning, but the combination with it of sound commor sense, independence of thought, and degree of statesmanship which wil interpret the law and Constitution in harmony with the spirit of the times and with economic conditions. In the exercise of these qualities the court needs to be animated by a singleminded patriotism which will rise high above bias, prejudice or personal or political advantage. Such qualities were displayed in general by Judge Harlan.

The selection of a successor to Judge Harlan gives President Taft an opportunity still further to make the Supreme Court. His own udicial experience, his sympathy with popular aspirations and his proved oundness of opinion on current problems were displayed in the selection of Justices Lurton, Hughes, Van Devanter and Lamar and the elevation of Justice White to be Chief Justice His judgment has been sustained by the trend of recent decisions on important cases and by their approval by all except extremists. That he will show equal wisdom in selecting Judge Harlan's successor we con-

fidently believe.

President Taft enjoys the unique distinction of having the appointment of a majority of the Supreme Court Of the nine justices he has already appointed four and the appointment fill the present vacancy will make e fifth. Mr. Taft and his predecesthe fifth. sor, who have been committed to fore the court of most vital importance, will have filled seven of the nine places on the bench. Mr. Taft has also placed the seal of his approval on the appointment in 1894 of Justice White by making him the presiding judge. The remaining one of the nine is Justice McKenna, appointed by President McKinley in

The death of Justice Harlan moves the oldest member of the Of the survivors, the oldest is Justice Holmes, aged 79. Chief Jus-White and Justices McKenna, Day and Lurton are in their 60's, Jus tices Van Devanter and Lamar in their 50's, and Justice Hughes, the oungest of all, is 49. As supreme judges go, it is a youthful bench.

NEW YORK'S SWOLLEN POPULATION. New York State is steadily becoming a state of cities and towns where the only use for the country is to fill up the intervening spaces. Of the total 9,113,614 in the year, population of 185 494 lived in cities and towns and 1,928,120 in the remainder of the state; that is, 78.8 lived in the cities and only 21.2 in the country. How great is the drift from country to city is illustrated by the difference in percentages of increase in 1910 over 1900. While the increase for the whole state was 25.4, that for the urban territory was \$4.2 per cent, and that for rural territory .6 per cent. New York City, that enormous hive of industry, misery and luxury, increased 38.7 per cent, but other places of over 100,-600 gained only 22.4 per cent. The smaller cities of 25,000 to 100,000 are growing faster, their rate of increase of "a hard Winter." og 33.8, and those of 2500 to 25, 000 have a slight percentage being 24.8. Of the state's total increase in population less than one per cent was contributed by rural

Of the 61 countles, 46 have increased their population, the smallest increase being .4 per cent in Cattaraugus and the largest, 88.3 per cent, in Schenectady, Fifteen counties show a decrease, which ranges from .1 in St. Lawrence to 11.6 in Hamilton. Rural population decreased in 38 countles urban population in only five coun-

How great is the influence of New York City on every feature of the statistics is apparent. It contains more than half the population of the state and almost two-thirds of the entire urban population. The increase in the proportion of urban population is almost wholly due to that city, the ratio for the combined urban population outside New York City being almost stationary. New York City has increased in population about one and one-half times as rapidly as the state as a whole, and contributed almost e-fourths of the state's entire increase during the last decade. having between 25,000 and 100,000 population increased about one and one-third times as fast as the whole state, while those of 100,000 or over, exclusive of New York City, increased a little less rapidly than the state as

A study of these figures will convince the most casual reader that there is ample room for the backto-the-farm movement in New York State and ample explanation for the high cost of living. When four-fifths of the people of a state move into town and leave the other fifth to produce food for them they must expect to pay more or go, without some things.

ANOTHER TRUST THROTTLED The decree dissolving the electric amp trust will have the effect of destroying a network of trusts tangled together as close as a bunch of snakes, and will deal a deathblow to the practice of fixing the price at which an article is to be sold all the way from manufacturer to retailer, which has been increasing in vogue among the trusts. It will also stop the practice of using a patent to serve the ends of monopoly.

The electric lamp trust shut out competition by compelling manufac-turers of its supplies to refuse to sell to any other lamp manufacturer. It continued its monopoly in the sale of certain articles long after the patent had expired by refusing to sell a bought his entire supply of the firstmentioned articles from the trust. It forced dealers to sell its goods prices dictated by it under penalty of being driven out of the business. tears down a two-story building and tyranny thus reached all along the erects one of ten or twelve stories in line from the producer of raw material to the consumer of the finished product, its object being to create a monopoly and to obtain extertionate prices for its products.

This far-reaching combination has

ness of Portland, which is ruled by three trusts bound together in a triple alliance. The supply men contract to sell only to members of the employing nlumbers' association, who turn agree to buy only from the supply trust. On the other hand, members of the employing plumbers' association agree to employ only mem-bers of the plumbers' union and members of the plumbers' union agree to work only for members of the employing plumbers' association. this means the public is compelled to pay three prices for plumbing. If the truth were known, it has prob-

ably been paying three prices for electric lamps. Trust magnates have been very ready with explanations of the high cost of living, their favorite scapegoat being increase in consumption out of proportion to increase in production of the necessaries of life. This cause may be responsible for part of the ncrease in prices, but when Attorney. General Wickersham has completed his present campaign against trusts we shall know better to what extent high prices are due to trust manipulation and to what extent they are due to economic law.

The movement to provide suitable and adequate quarters for young women in attendance upon the State University at Eugene is commendable It is under the auspices of the Episcopal Church, and an effort will be to provide at moderate cost ideal living arrangements for all outof-town women students who do not care to assume the responsibilities of sorority ritualism or who may not have an opportunity to do so. A simflar hall, but one totally inadequate to the number of young women who attend the university, is maintained by the state, but for years past many young women have found it prace ically impossible to secure acco dations suited to their needs and circumstances in Eugene. The state has een remiss in this matter. It has housed the young men who attend the university in a suitable and adequate dormitory, leaving the young women. in the main, to get such boarding and rooming accommodations as they is all wrong. The action of the Episcopal Church, as above noted, comes in response to the request of many mothers who hesitate to send their daughters to the State University, because they are by no means certain of finding for them suitable and pleasant places to live while pursuing their studies. The building contem plated will add greatly to the popularity and prosperity of the State Uni versity as a co-educational institution, which the interests of young women are properly guarded.

The census report on irrigation in Oregon in 1909 takes the ground from under the feet of Director Newell of Reclamation Service, who said that land was not put under cultivation as fast as irrigated. The capacity of all irrigation plants in the state in 1910 was \$30,526 acres and the area under irrigation in 1909 was 686,129, acres, a difference of 144,397, from which must be deducted the new acreage put under irrigation in 1910. If Mr. Newell will supply the water, farmers will be forthcoming to put it on the land.

Yellowjackets are more plentiful, it s said, than for many years past. east they are more persistent in their raids upon the fruits of orchard and At this statement the vineyard. hoary prognosticator rises up and with wise waggings of the head declares that this is an unfailing sign

A few years ago bonanza farming in the Dakotas seemed remarkable but the industry in the Inland Empire gets into the commonplace. For that eason the sale of part of the Drumheller crop of bluestem wheat for \$82,500 receives passing notice.

Klamath Falls, with possibly 5000 population, has three daily papers. Anywhere else this would be a great strain on commercial life, but Klamath Falls business men believe in advertising.

One man won all the cash prizes or potatoes displayed at the recent Linn County Fair. That is the kind of man Oregon needs. As Puddinhead Wilson said, "he puts all his eggs into basket and watches that basket." No sooner does the housewife fin-

sh preserving fruit for the Winter and reduce her demand for sugar to the minimum than the price of sugar goes down. What's the use of cheap sugar when you don't use much of it If the Chinese revolutionists carry

out their intention to make their government like that of the United States, will they include all the modern improvements-woman's suffrage and all?

It is in harmony with the Portland pirit that the new Public Library is to be built without outside aid and largely from the increased value of the present site, just sold. The depravity of the Hill murderer

is almost equalled by that of the boys who conspired to fasten the crime on an innocent man for the sake of the reward.

Resources of the banks of the country are reported to be a billion dollars greater than a year ago, but that is little comfort to the man with a proposition. There always seems to be direct

ings and women who have pictures Old John R. Walsh, out of jail, is reported as intending to go into business again. If he does, he will be a

connection between divorce proceed-

mighty sane banker. Baseball fans will about have laid their rooting voices up for repairs when football fans get theirs in work-

With 33,000 acres near Prineville restored to entry, there will be something doing in Crook County by and

ing order.

To keep out bubonic plague, Seattle orders alleys to be paved. This action is rough on rats.

Oregon is made up of men who get Iditared appears to be short of money to move the crop,

The Taft campaign committee of

REPLY TO MR. HENRY IS MADE

W. S. U'Ren Incists Vancouver Tax System Promotes Growth.

OREGON CITY, Or., Oct. 14 .- (To the Editor.)-I beg to submit an answer to the letter by Mr. Henry on the single tax in Vanceuver in The Oregonian of

Single-taxers claim that the exemp tion of personal property and improve ments from city inx has been an important factor in causing the wonderful growth of Vancouver, B. C., and in forcing Victoria last year to allow the same exemption. They believe that this exemption tends to induce lot owners to will on their property in Vancouver to will one to be a second to the control of their property in Vancouver to will one to be a second to the control of the c ers to build on their property in Van-couver who otherwise might continue to hold it unimproved. Mr. Henry does not express an opinion on this question. suppose everyone who has paid any tiention to the subject knows that ritish Columbia tries to tax everything for state purposes, just as Oregon

As to Mr. Henry's doctor who has \$200,000 in loans: Instead of demanding that men pay taxes in proportion to their ability to pay, or in proportion to the protection they receive, why not require them to pay taxes in proportion to the value of the apportunity. tion to the value of the opportunity the government furnishes them? That is the principle on which Mr. Henry rents his buildings. The doctor he speaks of is well able to pay 100 times as much rent as some of the tenants are paying, but Mr. Henry would not think of asking him any more rent think of asking him any more rent for an office than he would ask the poorest young doctor in town. One man may be able to pay a thousand man may be able to pay a thousand times as much as another for a street-car ride, but the company demands ex-actly the same price from each, though in one case it may be the man's last nickel. Many a cripple needs and re-ceives from the government very much more protection than Mr. Henry does, but he description to the company does, but he does not pay 1-1000 part as much for it in the form of taxes. The owners of the old shack fire-

traps adjoining Mr. Henry's beautiful building on Fourth street are using a lot, the value of which is created by all the people, and it is worth as much as the lot he uses. Suppose Mr. Henry is paying \$5,000 tax on his lots and building and they are paying \$3,000 tax on would it hurt Mr. Henry, or anyone else, if the tax on buildings was abolished and his neighboring shack owners were compelled to one \$5,000 tax ers were compelled to pay \$5000 tax age them to put up a safe and decen building? Or, if only \$8000 revenue 1 needed, would it be wrong to reduc Mr. Henry's tax to \$4000 and increase the shack owner's to the same amount The city is not furnishing his \$200 dats on taxing his money be will either tax. W. S. UREN.

MRS. DUNIWAY CHEERS FRIENDS

No Cause for Alarm Seen In Anti-Suffrage Movement in California,

PORTLAND, Oct. 14.—(To the Edi-tor.)—The rage of our Los Angeles friends, the enemy, who threaten to prapare an appeal through the initiative and referendum, to repeal the re-cent triumph of the equal suffrage amendment in California, need not cause the patriotic women of Oregon any uneasiness. Should that little hand of master-ruled "antia" succeed in get-ting their petition to a vote in 1912 the pattle would not be one-sided as be fore, for the women would have an equal chance with the men, and would surely vote them down. These "antis" are like stephants in captivity whose masters train them to ensnare, and if possible, enslave their more numerous

classes of the free jungle.

The enfranchised women of six free states are wiser and warter new than the women voters were in Washington Territory in 1886-87 when their poli-tical masters succeeded in driving them into a one idea embroglio which cost but didn't "feaze" the enemy they attempted to assail

We still remember the futile attempts of a few out-voted women of Oregon, who, in 1906, under the whip their mustors of the ruling so movement onto a side track.

Let the large majority of the women of Oregon, who are anxiously awaiting their enfranchizement at the November election of 1812, possess

awaiting their enfranchizement at the November election of 1312, possess their souls in patience. A few maneymad "antis" will again attempt to overrule the votes of our patriotic brethren in the interest of their masters, but they will only help us to victory, as they did in Washington and California. As a railroad could not move it's wheels without friction, so our cause could not proceed without opposition. It requires but little effort to place obstructions on a railroad track, but there are always reserve forces ready to clear the way. There are mighty unseen forces at work for equal rights for women of which the average obstructionist little dreams.

"It must needs be that offenses will come, but we unto them by whom they shall come." So saith Hely Writ, and so echoeth the spirit of liberty, whose vibrations are filling the Oregon 3it.

ABIGAIL SCOTT DUNIWAY.

Good Seen in Tax Agitatio

PORTLAND, Or., Oct. 14.—(To the Editor.)—Having attentively rend Mr. Wilson's letter on the editorial page of The Oregonian. I want to hoist my signal of warning to Mr. Wilson: Unless he throws out his anchor he surely will alide into the single-taxers camp. He already concedes that money should not be taxed, because, being improduc-tive in itself, it cannot be taxed, or is

tive in itself, it cannot be taxed, or is only attempted to be taxed when and wherever it is employed.

Mr. Wilson favors "the working of capital," but he wishes to tax the banker and the merchant. As an old bookkeeper I can inform Mr. Wilson that banker and merchant have in their ledger a tax account and do not care a fig how much they are taxed, as long as their patrons or customers will "stand" for it.

All this tax agitation revolves round

All this tax agitation revolves round All this tax agitation revolves round the question: Shall the producer or consumer pay the taxes? If you put them on the former, he naturally wants to shift the burden onto the latter, and vice versa. Let the fight proceed; some good will come out of it. It was only a shart time since the "best people" looked upon slavery as the "correct thing." Public opinion has changed and will change in spite of established are willeres. In spite of slaveholders or and will change in spite of staveholders or land speculators. "E pure at muove" is as true today as when pronounced several hundred years ago. C. BIRCHER.

Courts and Congress.

NEHALEM, Or., Oct. 13.—(To the Editor,)—Can you tell me which of the Supreme Justices presides over the district Oregon is in?
How many states and parts of states are in the district?
How many Representatives will be in

the House at the next session?
A SCHOOL GIRL

U. S. Supreme Court Justices do not preside over districts. The U. S. Circuit Court Judges for the district in which Oregon is located are William B. Gilbert, Erskine M. Ross and William W. Morrow. Oregon is in the Ninth District, with Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Washington and Hawail.

The House membership in the next session will be 391. The reapportion ment does not become effective until t election of 1912, after which the men bership will be 426, assuming that zona and New Mexico complete their admission as states MUCH CREDIT DUE GOV. BENSON.

T. J. Randolph Denles Claims of Gov. West to Institutional Improvements.

ROSEBURG, Or, Oct. 13 .- (To the Editor.)-Studied efforts upon the part of certain Democratic newspapers attempt to credit Governor West with all the recent improvements in and about the various state institutions at Salem. According to news reports published in these organs after the recent visit of the Portland Progressive Business Men's League to Salem. Governor West is responsible for about all that is good at the various institutions and there is a constant reflection upon the policies of his predecessors in office. I had the honor of being a persona friend of the late Governor Benson and from personal observation, I know that the various institutions were brought he various institutions were broader breakin' loose, a their present high state of efficiency breakin' loose, a their present high state of efficiency breakin' loose, a fine different supering the West, and the different supering the West, and the different supering the West, and the west of the different supering the West, and the west of the different supering the west. argely the efforts of the different superintendents. It was during the Benson administration that the new receiving ward, the central heating plant, the laundry building the magnificent dairy attentions of the structures. barn and numerous other structure were built at the Insane Asylum. was during the Benson regime that the was during the Benson regime that the new chapel was built at the Peniten-tiary, new shops erected, old buildings renovated, old lamps discarded and each cell provided with an electric light. The Benson administration also supervised the erection of new build-ings at the State Institution for Feeble Minded, the dinded, the new home for the School or Deaf Mutes, the State Tuberculosis Hospital and the various improvement around the Capitol building

Governor West's apologists would also make it appear that the policy of self-support for state institutions orignated with him. As a matter of fac-Penlientiary, Asylum and other in stitutions have for many years raised their own grain, vegetables, fruit and garden truck. During the Benson ad-ministration, convicts were worked at the brickyard, fair grounds, asylum and other institutions. About the only which Governor West has es tablished is his "honor system" convicts, but the "system" has een in operation long enough to have

of these improvements were made

long before Governor West and his Man Friday" Olcott assumed the dutles

of the offices which they are now fill

final judgment passed on it. Sentimental writers have filled news supers and magazines with articles howing the cruelty that was practiced at the Penitentiary before Governor West's regime, but the prison records show that there have been no floggings or other unusual punishments ince the advent of Governor Chamber sin and Benson the convicts were treated humanely and were given such liberties as, in the judgment of the Warden, seemed proper. In fact, under Sovernors Chamberlain and Be the Oregon State Penitentiary generally regarded as one of the best conducted prisons in America, and there is not a particle of truth in the tories about the "awful condition be-ore West became Governor."

Such stories spring from the fertile erains of sensational writers and y purpose to discuss Governor West' convict policy, but merely to explode sinutly put forward by the Governor's riends at the expense of his predeces-or in office—that capable efficial and splendid man, Frank W. Bens THOMAS J. RANDOLPH.

RATES AND THE PANAMA CANAL

Big Ditch Will show Up Railroad Absurdities, Believes Writer. PORTLAND, Oct. 13.—(To the Edi-or.)—In Mr. Teal's elucidation of the tate and interstate freight-rate concoversy, and The Oregonian's able edisurdity looms up if the railroad conten-tion is sustained, "that no freight or passenger rate ran be proposed by state or Federal legislation that infringes on medical treatment for injuries inflict system, and that the courts must

rotect it by prompt injunction."
This contention is now pretty well stablished, so that corporations swolon with watered stocks, bonds and enforced exactions safe in the arms of the law. The absurdity of this situa-tion becomes more apparent when it known to a certainty that with the coming of the Panama Canal and the aper freight rate that will prevail om ocean to ocean, the seven or eigh anscentinental reads new doing tha service will be superfluitles so far as the bulk of their present carriage is related. What will happen then? Will the Federal courts enjoin carriage of freights at less than the valiroads can cares it without bankrupting them! Freights that now sverage \$25 per ton across the continent will be not over \$5 unless interdicted by the courts.

And when palatial steamships will desire to sail from our harbor with 2000 or 4000 passengers from here to

New York at a rate not to exceed \$30 each, will the courts under the presen-construction of the law enjoin them as the rallroads cannot carry passen-gers to the same termini for less than \$100, and to permit it would deter the railroads from making proper earn-

Likewise if four or five corporations, over-capitalized as is the custom, are constructed and find that their lines from here to Salem, for instance, are not producing sufficient revenue, will the public be ordered to give them patronage even though they would pre-fer to travel by sutomobile and ship freight by the river?

freight by the river?
The situation is surcharged with such leads in one direction, court dictum seems to fend the other way. It will not be very long, however, before we shall see some ground and lofty tumshall see some ground, bling over this matter, C. P. CUHRCH.

Give and Take Fels-men. PORTLAND, Oct. 12.—(To the Ed-litur)—As neer as I can figger it out.

ere are two kinds ov single taxersthem that wish ter give, an' them that wish ter' get! Since ye can't recall sum peepul like dogs and jedges, ain't anny law ter shut a clothes pir on their tongues? JOSH SWILLINGS.

Guess Who? Thirteen Thousand Thirteen Thousand Smilles. And never once said "bully"!

States; Open Were

And never said "dee-lighted"!

Little-Laughed. Questioned From street, spire and steeple,
And not one was called a "liar!"

—William F. Fenton.

By Dean Collins.

N. NITTS ON UNREST

Nescius Nitta, whose deep mind, at it Kept Punkinders Station for year plumb impressed, Made pause in his chewing to let hi jaws rest. While a nicotine stain down his shir

unrest. By scannin' the papers with diligence The world, for a week past, has been

front progressed; Then spake on the general state of

plumb uneasy. No sounce does one thing subside fo a truce, Than somethin' begins somewhere els-breakin' loose,

It 'pears there's a general state o unrest. "In fact, things in general sin't been appealin' To me with sech general unrestfu-

Since 'fore '66 or since maybe 'fore that I can't scarcely see where we're comin out at. This here Public Eye, of which often I've rend. Must be fairly whirlin' around in the

feelin'

There's strikes on the callroads; the Turks and the Dagoes Is startin' a riot, most overywhere they Down there in the South, these here women, they win The vote, and then starts to repeal to

agin; Baseball situations, they keeps us in motion A-watchin' the scoreboards from ocean to ocean. 'And China's revolted, and we have go

that fuss To drive everyone, on a run fer an atlus, To learn to pronounce, in an uncon Sech names as Elangsu or Foo Yat Mow All this right on top of the pains we

has spent, To learn how the 'Tallan and Turkes names went. 'Alaska, that once stood as firm as a Is changin' her map ev'ry hour by the

Till most ev'ry morn, we must look to observe
If she's got her coal lands still there to White 'most ev'rything in the whole blamed creation Has got plumb unrestful-'cept Punkin-

dorf Station

Portland, October 11. KLAMATH LAWYERS MAKE DENIAL

District Attorney's Office Defended Against Published Churges. KLAMATH FALLS, Or. Oct. 18-079

the Editor.)- in The Oregonian Octo ber 11 there appears an article, dates at Klamath Falls, under the headin 'Kuykendall Under Quiz" which co tains statements intended wholly reflect upon and injure the member

of the firm of Kuykondall & Coveuso Had the writer of the article denire to be fair and ascertain the truth. was an easy matter for him to have secured a statement of the facts a they exist. He could easily have discovered that

the court terms for Klumath County as established by law are in June and December of each year. He could also who was not in full and whom he say was under special guard at a cost \$180 a month was all of the time und suicide, and that it was on this a count that he was not confined in in He could also have discovered th many witnesses on behalf of the Sta on with watered stocks, bonds and nortgages to an extent from two to to court protection and continue their account protection and continue their unknown to the District Attachment to the process of the court protection and continue their process of the court process of the c and that their present whereabouts are unknown to the District Attorney and that some of the members of the gran-jury, not expecting to be called until that date, were not within the county and could not be found by the Sheriff He could also have ascertained that Mr. Ferguson resigned from the office of Deputy District Attorney for the reason, as stated by him, that he pre-ferred to resign rather than try the ceriminal cases without an opportunity reiminal cases without an opportun of presenting all or the evidence on half of the state, and for the Furt reason that civil matters were deman ing his attention at that particula

He could further have ascertaine that Attorney O'Nelll never made an

KUYKENDALL & FERGUSON.

Sugar and School Law. MEDICAL LAKE, Wash, Oct. 13.— (To the Editor.)—(1) What is the cause of sugar being so high? Some say it the trust; others say it is the scarcit; (2) To what age does the taw dompo-children to attend school in the Stat

(1) Probably both. (2) The Wash-ington law requires children who are between their 8th and 15th birthdays pation.

of Washington?

Napoleon Davis for Harmon. Napoleon Davis has sent to The Ore-conian what he describes as an open etter. It follows: Portland, Oct. 14.—Hen. D. M.

Portland, Gcl. 14.—Hon, D. 33.
Watson; Referring to our recent conversation, permit me to say that in my opinion Governor Harmon is the mar for the Democrats to nominate next year for President. Very respectfully NAPOLEON PAVIS.

Half a Century Ago

We see it stated that Colonel Dryer was in had health at the latest dates from Honolulu. Letters from his family are silent on the subject, from which we suppose his illness was not

The Washington County Fair was to take place on yesterday and today. Our friends there have had bad weather. Fairs should not be held in October.

On October 7 Ovegon apples were selling in San Francisco at from f to ing in San Francisco at from 3 to 5 cents per pound, pears at from 3 to 3

M. B. Burke, of Polk County, has cultivated "Syrian wheat," a small quantity of which he first received from the patent office. It is a heavy, linty wheat and yields large crops. I loss not make good flour, but it make fine meal, which very much resemble but is superior to corn meal.

Mr. Stephenson has been progressing main in making the road going south from this city. Persons who have sub-soribed for this work may be assured that their money had been properly ex-