The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, NOV. 10, 1911.

SPECIAL AGENTS AND IMMUNITY.

More power to Governor Hawley! He is thoroughly aroused over the surprising Robnett episode and he purposes to expose to the President the abounding infamy of the common practices of "special". Government prosecutors and "special" Government agents who purchase testimony with pardons or immunity. The Western country is alive with "special" agents sent out from Washington. They seek make good by heaping dirt on stalwart and useful citizens like William Hanley, in Oregon, or Sen-Borah, in Idaho.

There never was a more frivolous charge brought against any man than the indictment of Mr. Hanley for his purchase of well-nigh worthless juniper trees cut from the wilds of Steins Mountain. No grosser outrage on any citizen anywhere was ever perpetrated in the name of justice than the arrest and trial of Senator Borah for his tion with certain so-called timber land frauds. The utterly groundless and miserably indefensible charnoter of the accusations was demonstrated when Mr. Borah submitted the case to the jury without introducing any testimony except his own, without cross-examining a single witness of the presecution, without raising a single technical point, and without a syllable of argument. The verdict, be ing unanimous, was a most complete vindication of a high-minded man hounded by the law through a gang of "special" agents and "special" prosecutors who sought to make a reputation by involving in scandal the name of a citizen of character and influence.

It may be justifiable for a prosecution in a given case to give immunity to an accomplice in a crime when testimony may be had in no other way and justice would otherwise be wholly defeated. But it is not justifiable in the United States Government to employ ar army of "special" agents and prosecutors who adopt a uniform polley of bargaining for testimony with self-confessed criminals, with the fixed purpose of dragging to fall men in the nekground, whose conviction would be really worth while from the standof the prosecution. agents, having entangled some fellow in the net of their investigations, immediately set about to break him down In order to find who; besides himself, inspired him to commit the crime. Where a scoundrel, finding himself face to face with the law, learns that by Mr. Childs' letter. he will be leniently dealt with if he tells such a story as the "special" agents want him to tell, he is quite likely to turn state's evidence.

such suggested syld How easily may the accisuch a fellow be converted into deliberate conspiracy through him to break the law. How readily may any Oregon, man unfortunate enough to be known by any malefactor find that he is alled upon to explain acts and words that had no criminal intent except in the ingenious interpretations of a too zealous prosecutor. What citizen, un-der such methods, is free from the gie experiences that gave William Hanley and Senator Borah a hundred sleepless nights and called upon them. nexpectedly and without warrant, not only to defend their reputations but avert the imminence of prison?

It is high time that the President of the United States directed his Department of Justice to seek the administration of law and the prosecution of accused persons by more worthy methods and through more direct practices.

THE COMING MESSAGE

The message which President Taft is now preparing and which he will submit to Congress in December will no doubt be directed mainly to two topics-the tariff and the trusts. A topic almost equaling these in importance will be the Federal supervision of the issue of securities by interstate rallroads and amendment of the land laws which will reconcile the development of the country's natural resources with a reasonable conservation policy, especially in Alaska. Of secondary importance, but probably the subject of much controversy, will be the report the commission on second-class mail matter and the report of the board on economy and efficiency in

the Government service. The President has been assured that the report of the Tariff Board on the recognizes as existing. wool schedule will be presented in time for him to base recommendations for revision upon it. He expects it to the recommendations the result might recommend downward revision and to have been different is the strong intibe unanimous. The board may resame time and this report is also expected to be unanimous for downward revision. In case the latter report is delayed, it may be made the subject of a special message.

Federal incorporation will be the chief feature of the President's recommendations on the subject of the trusts. He is convinced that such a asure would at least give them a certificate of character to begin with, though they would still be liable to prosecution, should they violate the Sherman law. He favors supplemental law, making clearer the distinction between lawful agreements, reasonably restraining trade, and those which are pernicious in their effect, and particuarly denouncing the various devices for monopolizing trade.

The report on supervision of rallroad securities is understood to be in pected to have the President's Indome-

already been clearly voiced by Secretary Fisher.

As the coming session will immediately precede the National conventions, there will be much jockeying for political position by both parties and all factions. The President will have the advantage of putting forward a constructive programme, based on ascertained facts as to its every feature, and of urging measures indorsed in advance as to principle by his opponents, both in his own and in the opposite party He can put them in the hole, for, if by haggling over details, they defeat any one of these measures, they will put themselves in the position of lighting that which they have champloned and will be kept busy explaining. Senator La Follette in particular has made a hobby of Federal supervision of railroad securities and will have difficulty in remaining consistent that subject without sacrificing his insurgency.

ADVICE THAT IS VALUELESS.

The Oregonian, perhaps, cannot chide Mr. H. W. Stone for not having familiarized himself with the Presidential preference bill adopted by the voters last Fall, and remain consistent, for we have repeatedly as-

serted that the measures and issues then presented were so numerous and so complex that very few voters could spare the time necessary to give them proper consideration.

Mr. Stone's statement in The Oregonian yesterday, that "Not having studied the measure carefully, I have no definite opinion concerning it," not only confirms the truth of the assertion, but also establishes the conviction that some, perhaps many, of the members of the People's Power League are lending the influence of their names to measures devised by Mr. U'Ren and a few associates without having been fully advised of the import of the laws or amendments

The Presidential preference law was presented to the voters last Full with the official and emphatic indorsement of the People's Power League, Mr. Stone a member of the executive committee of the league. His name is attached to the affirmative argument in the official pamphlet. Yet Mr. Stone now frankly admits that he has not studied the measure carefully enough to form

definite opinion concerning it. Once again we say that Mr. Stone is not seriously to be blamed for not having fully performed the stupendous task heaped upon him through the initiative in 1910. But it is very patent that Mr. Stone and the other membors of the People's Power League who have not time to engage in the busy activities of Mr. URen should retire from the organization. What does the advice of Mr. Stone amount to if he does not understand the provisions of the measure on which he is advising?

BROMIDIOMS IN POLITICS.

Mr. Richard S. Childs, who has a etter in The Oregonian today, is the author of the book entitled "Short Balot Principles." The work contains this "The government should he a democracy, but the party should be an autocracy." In "Short Ballot Principles" Mr. Childs outlines a plan for leadership of parties which he seems to believe would be practical and successful in its workings. This plan so closely resembles the assembly dea tried out in Oregon that The Oregonian recently expressed the conviction that it would not succeed. are we now convinced to the contrary

If Mr. Childs would turn to the first chapter of his little book and read over what he himself says in regard to the potency of catch phrases he might be able to discover what really The heads of such corporations now defeated the assembly ticket in this dental association of any man with state and learn why "autocracy of parties" would be knocked down out of hand if it again showed itself in

> Here are some extracts from the chapter of Mr. Childs' work dealing with catch phrases:

Plead that a referendum on a technical subject is little better than leaving the de-cision to chance and the query. "Dust's per trust the people?" is supposed to retire you

That in our political reasoning we should be the slaves of these gib "bromidlems" is probably because the subject is the common property of the millions. The power of these catch phrases to sway men's minds, regardless of ressoning, is a fascinating thing to see.

Perhaps it will help if I take the liberty of warning you against the greatest catch-phrase of all, namely, "the people," pronounced "pee-pull" Or, worse yet, "the plain people," who, I believe, have certain supernatural virtues not possessed by "the neonie."

It is "less majeste" to allege that there are any limitations to the people in either

orals or learning.

If Mr. Childs had been in Oregon during the campaign of 1910 he would | torney-General for prosecution. have heard a great deal about the virtues of "the people" and their ability to select their own candidates without the advice of any leaders, and more of "machine rule" and "return to These were effective slogans against assembly candidates. The last expression carried away many, just as it seems to have carried away this Short Ballot officer, who with sarcasm derides the influence of the catch-phrase upon others. The people became convinced that the direct primary was assailed. They resented the self-imposed leadership of the assemblyites and they defeated the assembly ticket. This is related herein not in a spirit of repining, but solely to show how Mr. Childs' theory was here upset by a condition which he

In the suggestion that had the "Pecples' Power League" officers presented maintenant. The board may re-on the cotton schedule at the part is perfectly justified on ours." But undoubtedly an assembly under any other guidance than that of the old leaders would have failed just as miserably if the group on the outside had realized the potency of the query,

"Don't you trust the people?" and had used it in the campaign. The voters of Oregon certainly re sent the imputation that any man or group of men can lead them by the nose in selecting officers or passing on laws. You may term this a "catchphrase" or "bromidiom," but it depicts, nevertheless, an actual condition legislation, not amendment of that | So long as this condition exists, any assembly scheme, even if called "short ballot principles," or leadership of parties, and no matter how pure the motive of its promoters, it will fail.

President Taft's critics at the two political extremes are, to use words credited to him, "In danger of electing favor of that measure and may be ex- him President of the United States." The big corporations don't like his doing business in violation of the Sher-

it does not give them immunity from prosecution under the Sherman and the Bryan Democrats don't like it muse it gives the Government too much power. As the reasonable people of both parties believe the trusts should not be given immunity and that the Government should be given more power over them, they are likely to vote for him and prove the truth of his remark.

MOVEMENT OF POPULATION.

While the center of population has moved westward 557 miles since the first census was taken, the difference between its farthest northward and its farthest southward movement is only twenty-one miles. It has hugged the 39th parallel of latitude pretty closely, and in 1910 was only 71/2 miles south of the point where it started in 1890. Its greatest westward movement was sighty-one miles between 1850 and 1860, its least fourteen miles between 1899 and 1980. In the decade ending in 1910 it moved westward thirtynine miles.

The center of area of the United States is in northern Kansas, ten miles north of Smith Center, the county seat of Smith County. That would be the center of population if the population were evenly distributed. It is 657 miles west and fifty-one miles north of the present center of population. While the movement of the center of population westward has been due to the settlement of the West, its movement north and south has closely corresponded with the acquisition of new territory. Thus the annexation of Louisiana caused a slight southward movement between 1800 and 1810, rather more than offsetting the inrease of population in the north.

In the next decade the settlement of Mississippi, Alabama and Eastern Georgia again pulled it a little southward. Its most decided southward ovement was between 1820 and 1820, due to the annexation of Florida and the great extension of settlement in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas. From 1830 to 1840 rapid settlement in the prairie states and in Southern Michigan and Wisconsin turned the tide northward, but in the ext decade the annexation of Texas brought a change to the southward.

In 1860 another slight northward movement was recorded, and in 1870 a most decided movement in the same direction of 13,3 miles was shown, due to the ravages of the Civil War and an imperfect enumeration of the negroes, In 1880 the census showed a decided movement southward in consequence of the partial recovery of the South and the better enumeration of the negroes. In 1890 foreign immigration and rapid settlement of the West almost exactly offset the southward movement of the preceding decade. In 1900 the settlement of Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Texas is shown to have more than counterbalanced the increase in northern population to the extent of a southward movement of

about three miles. During the last decade the increase in population of New York, Pennsylvania and other Northern states almost exactly balanced the increase in Texas, Oklahoma and Southern California. The westward movement was largely due to the great increase in population of the Pacific States, which was given the greater weight in changing the center by their greater distance from it. Thus the combined population of San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and Sacramento—906,016—had as great influence on the center of population as that of Philadelphia, Boston and Baltimore combined-2,778,078,

SUPERVISION OF CORPORATIONS.

The movement for the regulation of interstate industrial corporations has at last reached the constructive stage. submission to the anti-trust law. The officials entrusted with enforcement of that law and those who resist its repeal or material amendment recognize that it needs to be supplemented with another law defining what a corporation must and may do within the law and providing an administrative body to carry out that law.

Secretary Nagel truly says that the present law is purely negative. It forbids certain things without positively stating what is permitted, and imposes on the courts the duty of informing corporations what they may legally -a duty which the courts are illadapted to perform. The present law, being purely corrective, looks the stable door after the horse is stolen. We need a preventive law-an administrative body to which the organizers of a corporation can go for a charter or license to do business, which can keep corporations under its supervision and stop tendencies to monopoly their inception and can discove violations and report them to the At-

Such a commission is provided in the skeleton of a bill presented to the sub-committee on plan for the Federal incorporation of trusts of the National Civic Federation by Samuel Untermeyer, chairman of the sub-com-mittee. This is based on these prin-ciples: That the people favor rigid enforcement of the Sherman law; that future mergers of competitors shall only be allowed by permission of a Federal commission, which also controls dissolution of existing trusts held by the courts to be illegal; that the present law requires enforced free competition, even to the point of the ruin and extermination of the weaker competition; that enforced ruinous competition is not an economic benefit or necessity, but is impracticable and inconsistent; that the alternative is to permit a just and reasonable limitation of competition subject to super-vision and control, or to suffer secret violations of law that are practically impossible of detection and with no epportunity of protection to the public

Mr. Untermeyer recommends a Federal charter or license for all corporations doing interstate business which have gross assets or authorized capital of \$1,000,000 or over. He prefers a Federal charter as ending the abuses which have grown up under state corporation laws. If a Federal license is adopted, he would require amendment of state charters to procure uniformity to the extent of preventing: (1) The continuance of the "holding com

pany."

(2) The issue of watered stock.

(3) Improper immunity of stockholders and directors from liability.

(4) Statutes of limitations in favor of corporate wrongdoers that her causes of action before the victims can possibly know that they have out, and

(5) All the numerous other tricks and (6) All the numerous other tricks and takers which corporate cupidity and dishonesty have engrafted upon the state corporation laws.

He would create an Industrial Corp.

He would create an Industrial Commission of seven members to grant charters or licenses to corporations not ment. His opinions on Alaska have Federal incorporation scheme because man law, after thorough investiga-

tion; to exercise all the powers of the present Bureau of Corporations; to make investigation on its own initiative; to recommend prosecution by the Attorney-General of violations of the law, which should be made a felony separate and disintegrate corporations held by the courts to exist in violation of the law, with all power incidental thereto; to sanction trade agreements for not over two years after investigation has satisfied the

(a) That the output is not to be restricted beyond the usual and legitimate demand for the commodity; (b) That the maximum price chargeable by the pelitioners under the terms of the agreement does not allow an undue profit;

(c) That as a result of competition be tween the petitioners and with others (if there are others) who do not care to join in the petition, the industry on the whole has been unprofitable for at least one year next preceding the presentation of the petition due to over-production and ruinous competition.

It is recommended that the commission have power to annul or modify such agreements at any prosecute the offenders if the parties thereto pursue unfair business methods towards competitors. Such agreements would be enforceable in court. Orders of the commission would be subject to appeal to the Commerce Court. In favor of this plan, Mr. Untermeyer says:

termeyer says:

The allowance of trade agreements of this character will do away with the plaushible pretexts that are being urged in favor of the organization of trusts and consolidations that they are the only means of preventing business destruction. Their allowance would at the same time obviate the evils of such permanent organizations with their accompanying stock inflations, oppression of competitors, closing of factories and like practices, and would render it easy to secure convictions of persons guilty of entering into secret understandings and "gentlements agreements" to levy tribute upon the people by taking from them the existing excuse that they are pursuing the only course for self-preservation that is open to them.

Under these licensed trade agreements each party would retain the management and control of his own property and the extent of his profit would be measured by the economies he is able to put into effect.

In short, the plan is to keep alive

In short, the plan is to keep alive competition, but to stop it at the point where it would become destructive or ruinous; to preserve the existence of separate business corporations but to allow them to combine without merg-

ing; to keep a tight rein on such combinations that they may be promptly dissolved when they become a public An effective means of gaining the same end would be to prohibit the holding of the stock of one corporation by another. This would compel

one corporation absorbing another to do so by buying its property outright and would prevent the disguise of a merger in the continued existence of separate corporation. Inter-c porate stock ownership may be fairly defined as: "Monopoly made easy."

The depreciation to 92% of 2% per cent Government bonds, which are available for the investment of postal savings bank deposits, has created a demand that they be made legal security for National bank circulation, which is expected to raise their value to par. . The only alternative seems to be an increase in the rate of interest to 3 per cent, at which rate they would be worth par without the circulation privilege. This matter is of more direct interest to the general public because the depreciation of the 2 1/4 per cent bonds is injurious to the postal savings bank system.

If the shipbuilders who have been lamoring for years for a ship subsidy and opposing every effort to secure the admission of foreign-built ships to American registry have really combined to build no ships for an independent Panama steamship line, they have adopted a course which has irreparably injured their own cause. They will find public indignation stirred up against them to such a pitch that not only will their long-deferred hopes of a subsidy be destroyed, but the passage of a free ship bill will be brought within the range of practical politics.

The Hood River Indian, who forced his tribal wife of several years' standing to remarry like white people to offset and otherwise prevent any affinity trouble, is departing from the ways of his fathers. Effete civilization has grasped him with its insidious suckers and the tomahawk dulled with rust.

"Pure Food" Wiley's campaign against absinthe will receive the hearty support of every person who knows the ravages made in France by this seductive but destructive liquor. It wrecks a man, not only physically and mentally, but morally, as is depicted in Marie Corelli's novel, "Wormwood."

The Chinese pirates who risked their lives to steal some cheap tin alloy which they imagined to be silver, can get sympathy from the tenderfoot who eagerly grasps glittering sulphite of tron, imagining it to be gold. Hence the name: "Tenderfoot's Gold."

If development of Oregon is now up to the land owners, they must develop and elaborate a new set of prices, somewhere between what they are asking and the assessment figure

Ne court can inflict punishment on the Oregon City girl who killed her husband by accidental discharge of a gun, eleven days after the wedding. Naturally, her mental anguish is so great that anything legal would not be

By the time Nat Goodwin has paid Edna Goodrich that \$65,000, he will have learned caution as to pre-nuptial agreements-provided he is not again blinded by a passing infatuation. The City Council should not stop at requiring that a pound loaf of bread weigh a pound. It should also insure

that the bread be made of the right ingredients. Housewives should refuse to buy potatoes "by the sack" and insist upon measure by weight. The sleekest creature on earth is the "vegetable"

Whether it be intuition or plain hunch, woman is all right. One in Seattle, defendant in a case, refused to allow any of her sex on the jury.

Instruction in how to live 95 years vill not be complete unless it teaches how to make each of those years use-

bread be "heavy."

The paroled prisoner finds it easy

Gleanings of the Day

Sarah Josepha Hale, editress of Godey's ady's Book during and after the Civil War, has the distinction of having suggested two National holidays which have been definitely established. At her suggestion President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November 1864, to be a day of National thanks giving for Union victories, and since that date it has been a National holiday every year. At Mrs. Hale's suggestion Memorial day was first observed in 1866, and has also received general observance. The idea of a day set apart for public thanksgiving dates back to Roman times, when the Consuls set apart days for public fejoicing over great victories. Even King George III found cause for thanksgiving at the close of the Revolutionary War. When asked what this cause was, when he had lost the American colonies, he replied: "Let us be thankful that things are no worse."

Colonel Hofer, jealous of his title of rainmaker, seeks to rob Gipsy Smith of his credit of stopping the storm at Portland with his prayers by calling it a coincidence. He goes further by reflecting on the morals of Portland which, of course, need improving, and which the Gipsy is doing his best to improve. He, however, claims the greater glory by saying: But it is quite another thing to secure the

nd crops are suffering.

That is all the Salem man claims to have one—broken the drouth and made the state done—broken the drouth and made the state go wet in time of need.

He did not do the praying himself, but acted as a promoter of a public prayer meeting that brought the rain.

At is a little tough to bring a man all the way from London at a \$16,000 salary to take away the giory of a clinen of Oregon, but we will have to stand for it.

Glysy Smith can have the title of rain-maker, or even Colonel, if he will do ever so little to improve the morals of Portland.

The experience of the housekeepers' club of Brooklyn women, which was described in The Oregonian a few days ago, goes to show that the reduction in the cost of living can be effected women themselves. All they need do is to combine in large enough numbers to buy at wholesale for cash have the goods delivered at the headquarters of the club and carry them home themselves. By adopting this plan the Brooklyn women saved all the way from 25 to 75 per cent of the retail price. They also secured full weight and the best quality, which they often do not secure at retail stores. How they cut the cost of staples may be seen from the following table:

Retail Lettuce, a head....\$ Radishes, a bunch... a bunch ... dest eggs dos40 and \$.42 otnices a bushel. 2.40 ppies a bushel. 1.25 omatoes a quart. 10 audiflower, each. 10 to \$.15

As the New York Sun points out, requires consistent and regular business methods on the part of six or a dozen women in a community accessible to good wholesale markets to make such a club a success. On Friday evening each member calls on the woman who does the buying and hands over her cash and the list of things she wishes bought. The next morning, when the busiest time is over, the buyer goes to market and picks up bargains. The goods are delivered at her house early in the afternoon, and each housekeeper calls and takes home her own supplies. She receives any balance remaining of her advance or pays any deficiency then and there. This method requires cash, forethought and willingness to be one's own delivery boy. It also requires willingness of each in turn to buy for the whole club. Buying cannot be done at the last ment by telephone, nor will the neighborhood grocer be inclined to make prompt delivery of articles suddenly needed in an emergency when the customer buys the bulk of her supplies elsewhere. But when a woman finde that a dollar will go twice as far if she buys through a market club, she will probably be ready to put up with these drawbacks. The British Tories now have an

American-born leader in Andrew Bonar Law, a native of New Brunswick, who succeeds Balfour. A furious factional fight between the protectionists headed by Austen Chamberlain and the true-blue Tories headed by Walter Hume Long ended in Law's selection as a compromise. Law has long lived England, where he has proved a hustling campaigner, a ready debater and a good mixer with the masses. He has never served in the Cabinet and has only been in Parliament about ten years. He is by no means the first native of this continent to reach high office in England. Lord Lyndhurst, son of John Singleton Copley, was born in Boston and served as Lord Chancellor in three Conservative Cabinets. two Bartletts, who recently played leading parts in the Tory ranks and one of whom married the aged and enormously wealthy and philanthropic Baroness Bourdett-Coutts, were both born in the United States. Edward Blake, a Canadian, who had a distinguished career in his native country, has been in Parliament as an Irish Nationalist for 16 years, but lacks the pugnacity requisite to success in that party. Joel Herbert Leaverns, a native of Boston and a Harvard graduate, is also a member of Parliament. A Canadian who has pushed himself to the front in the Liberal party is Joseph Martin, who had a brief but stormy career in British Columbia. He was a party all by himself in the Provincial Legislature, and, when the Lieutepent-Governor quarreled with the leaders of both regular parties and the Cabinet resigned, Martin was appointed Prenier. He had a hot skirmish to form a Cabinet, and for several weeks was the whole Cabinet. He was hopelessly braten in the election and, after a brief career as a lawyer at Winnipeg, moved to England, where he is again a stormy petrel. James B. McCreary, the Democratic

Governor-elect of Kentucky, is dubbed the "prince of political comebacks" by the Chicago Inter-Ocean. He will return to the Governor's chair after the lapse of a third of a century and his election is a repudiation of the Osler theory by Kentucky, for he is 73 years old. This is his second political "comeback," for after serving 12 years in the House, he was retired in only to be returned to Congress in 1903 as a Senator. He is almost the sole The pound loaf will weigh out if the survivor of a group of brilliant Kentucky politicians which filled the stage when he was first elected Governor, including J. Proctor Knott, John G. Carlisle and J. C. S. Blackburn.

MR. CHILDS DEFENDS HIS PLAN Assembly All Right if Engineered by

Certain Group Is Argument. NEW YORK, Nov. 11 .- (To the Ed itor.)—In an editorial November 1 The Oregonian associates the Short Ballot Organization with my suggestion for "leadership parties." I ask your attenwhich I am careful to state that any short-ballot advocate is free to differ with me on that and many other mat-ters in the book without in any way mpairing his orthodoxy. My ship party" idea has little, or nothing to do with the short ballot, for the book includes many things which lie

utside the short-ballot principle

Now for the argument you make re garding the Oregon assembly: that assembly was undoubtedly an attempt to upset the direct primary method and was properly rebuked for that reason when the people declined to follow that leadership. It reveals fust what strength and weakness that set of self-constituted leaders of the people had when they are excluded from the opportunity to make use of complicated machinery. Suppose a complicated machinery. Suppose a more popular group, such, for instance, as the "People's Power League" offi-cers, had issued recommendations to the voters in the party primary. You might have found the people willing and glad to have such frank leadership. Carry the whole thing a step further by making the primarles non-partisan, just as they are in commission governed cities, and you would soon have these leadership parties has a commission. there leadership parties, based on my lines, in full effect. The Lincoln-Roosevelt League in the Republican primaries in California constituted a leadership party. Pit such a party against your assembly in Oregon with either a party primary ballot or a non-partisan final election ballot as a battleground, and you will have a very simple, fair and practical system of politica

To prevent the development of abuses it would doubtless become advisable to reate conditions that would permit the evelopment of new and strong partle of the same kind. To get such condi-tions you would need the short bal-lot and the "wieldy district." with the open and free competition for public office which they would bring to RICHARD S. CHILDS.

ART APPRECIATION IN PORTLAND No Other Western City Has as Great

Discrimination, Says Sculptor. PORTLAND, Nov. 17 .- (To the Editor.)-On turning to the always interesting editorial page of The Oregonian, this morning, my eye was caught by these words, "How many Portlanders throng the Art Museum on free days? Not half a dozen." Doubtless this was not intended to be taken literally, granting this, may I not be permitted, through my official connection with the Art Association, to make a state ment both for the sake of those who might consider the "half dozen" too literally and in behalf of what the

ctual figures represent?

During the past year, the highest attendance during the free hours on any day was 320, the average attendance for free afternoons being well over 50. The total attendance for the year was more than 19,000. Not overwhelming numbers, certainly, but resp considering the classic nature respectable considering the classic nature of the Art Association's collections and the fact that its acquisitions in the way of the more widely appealing objectsuch as modern paintings and sculpture are yet small.

Whether or not the Athenians spent their time gazing on the Parthenon and listening to the plays of Sophocles, tes-timony to the wide diffusion of artistic knowledge, feeling and skill, in the City of Pericles, is mutely borne by the excavation of innumerable small objects-figurines, vases, jars and

grave monuments of unknown Greeks-of wonderful artistic quality. The statement of a visiting sculptor. Phimister Proctor, that in no other Western city is there the artistic apreciation and discrimination that finds in Portland, proclaims an intel-lectual attraction which, instead of being minimized, might well be placed by those attached to Portland, with her attractions of climate and scenery, attractions of climate and scenery. Those things deserve consideration which, in a city, make on the economic side for more effective building and manufactures and on the moral for simple and rational pleasures, A. B. CROCKER, Curator.

GIPSY SMITH IN THE OREGONIAN Committee Expresses Appreciation of

Reports of Meetings.

PORTLAND, Nov. 18 .- (To the Ed-itor.) -- On behalf of the Gipsy Smith ommittee, and also because prompted by my own inclination, I am writing a word expressive of our great appreci-ation of the manner in which you have reported the work of the evangelist in his special mission in the City of Port-You have been most generous in the space afforded us. And in your successful effort to secure a consecutive report of the great work going on under the auspices of Gipsy Smith, the friends who are far away, and those who are unable to attend the meetings, can easily, from your published reports, obtain a good and adequate understanding of the work being

wrought in our midst.

And for the sake of the good the published account of these meetings may do outside Portland—or indeed outside Oregon-I would earnestly urge that all those interested in the meetings procure a complete copy of your report of the services and send it far and wide, so that it may source of information and a means of grace to those reading it.

With hearty appreciation of your kindness for the space so generously

afforded us, and for your good will and co-operation in the work, I am, on behalf of the committee W. B. HINSON.

White Temple, Portland.

Potatoes Bound to Go Up SPRINGWATER, Or., Nov. 17. — To the Editor.)—With a Government re-port of 50,000,000 bushels of potatoes less than last year and tubers selling at \$2.50 and \$3,25 last Spring, I see no reason why the tuber will not reach the enormous price of \$5 per hundred by next May. So why should the farmer turn one-half his crop or the whole crop over to the dealer at the present price, thereby giving the dealer a chance to monopolize this short crop and fix the price far in excess of what the farmer should get for them? With Colorado, an "exporter," importing tubers at \$2 per hundred, and Texas and Mexico, exporters, importing now, and California with a short crop, which has always produced more than half the total output of the Pacific Coast, and potatoes selling at \$2.40 in Chicago, it wouldn't surprise me to see the tubers go to \$7 before next May. a few to sell, but I will hold till J. B. H. next Spring.

Cause of the War.

BEAVERTON, Or., Nov. 16 .- (To the Editor.)—(1) What caused the war be-tween Italy and Turkey? (2) Who are the Representatives and how many of each to both houses of MISS VALLIE STITT.

(1) Italy laid claim to Tripoli and declared war on Turkey because of alleged commercial unfairness and misreatment of Italian subjects in Tripoli Turks look upon the war as an attempt at land grabbing by Italy.

(2) There are 90 members of the division which oregon Legislature. The Oregonian at Bull Run at cannot again give space to a list of in that battle.

Nitts on Exclusiveness

By Dean Collins.

Nesctus Nitts, he whose wisdom im-Made Punkinderf marvel with wender intense, Perched on the top rail of a stable worm fence.

Filled the dust of the road with his nicotine dents. And spake of "them exclusive candidate gents."

"It 'pears the Great Commoner jest can't abide A one of the prospects lined up fer his side. Ner Harmon ner Wilson appears to him Fer Dimmycrat leaders, ner vet Under-Which 'minds me of how Mr. Bill Benning Ryan In Punkindorf always for office was tryin'.

Back there in the 'Ses, fer 'bout seven We had two main parties in Punkindorf here; The People's and Citizens', which last was kickin Each Spring at the polls, and receivin' a lickin'. Well, Bill lost three times, in consecutive order, As Citizens' man up fer City Recorder.

"About the fourth year they starts in and objects; 'Bill ain't jest the man to win out, we suspects.'
And so they selects one Heracleus Hickett To run fer the place, on the Citizens' ticket.
When Bill Benning Ryan seen how these things be. He riz up in wrath and he ses thus,

'I don't approve Hickett to run fer the place.'
And therewith he punches Heraclaus' And then these here Citizens picks out one Brown. Which same was the next best of prospects in town; But Bill, when he hear it, jest goes fer a gun, And Brown moves to Baconburst,

plumb on the run. "The Citizens, seein' him rampage and rave, They meets in a caucus in solemn con-And says. The best thing's to confer this great honor Of candidacy upon Town Marshal Conner. Next day they seen Conner a-doin' his To run in Bill, who was resistin' arrest. "When Conner seen Bill was so sot 'gin the thing

He says, 'I can't run fer Recorder this Spring! Then Bill lets up Conner, and calls Dr. Main tch up his wrist, which has suf-To patch fered a sprain. I disapproves any one leadin', says he "The citizens into defeat—'ceptin' me."

Portland, November 19.

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

A man had three disagreeable relatives visiting him and complained to me about it. I savised him to tell them that their visit was not convenient. He thought a while and replied: "Do you know that is mighty hard to

The greatest amount of good is performed by heighbors every day. If the little help afforded every day could be known, and represented in a bulk sum, it would amount to millions.

Every man knows there is dishonesty in business; he has been robbed too often not to know it.

If a reform is adopted, it develops within a year or two that there is something the matter with it. The meanest things done in this

world are done by rivals in business, and they are more numerous than any other class of mean things. Many other good things are as un-

popular as a good day's work. It is said that in Adams County, Ohio, 55 per cent of the voters have been guilty of buying or selling votes, violation of law. should kill a cow for an Adams County man, would be ask more than it was worth, and would a jury give it to him?

Some writers have a style so disagreeable that following them tires you as much as following a plow in stumpy

I don't care particularly for judges or ourts; still, when a man does he cannot be safely trusted to try him-

A new reform is like a new patent medicine-most of us are willing to median pay a dollar for a bottle, take a few doses without relief, and then let it atand around in the way.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, Nov. 20, 1861. The last two Eastern dispatches were received by mail from San Francisco. They furnish dates to the 11th of November, Our Southern expedi-tion had captured two robel forts at tion had captured two rebei forts at Port Royal, S. C.; also had taken Beau-fort Port Royal Island. Beaufort was partially burnt while being captured. The rebeis were leaving the Potomac as rapidly as possible for the South. A report was current at James River that Charleston was attacked on the 8th. This is not improbable. Rebei regiments had been sent south from Invest River in great baste. Our James River in great haste. Our troops had gained a splendid victory at Belment, Mo., some miles below Cairo. The last accounts from Price left him fortifying himself near the Arkansas line. The election in Maryland is overwhelming for the Union. There was a manifest elongation of sec countenances in Portland yesterday.

The grand jury concluded their labors for the term yesterday and were discharged. Speaking of the peniten-tiary they say: "We censure the practhere they say:
the of allowing the convicts to run at
large and as being placed as guard
over others. It is unjust to the community and calculated to make culprits regard the punishment as merely nominal, and is contrary to the sen-tence of the court. We hope it will not be allowed hereafter."

Benjamin Stark, United States Senator appointed by Governor Whiteaker, sailed on the steamer last night.

In India, where the cholera in its most malignant form first emerged and spread throughout the world. It has again made its appearance and is terribly destructive to human life. It is probable that it may a second time pass over Europe and this country.

General Hunter, the successor of Fremont in Missouri, commanded the division which did the most fighting at Bull Run and was severely wounded in that battle. He is called a gallant and accomplished soldier.