The Oregonian

PORTLAND OREGON.

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, DEC. 19, 1911.

THE READY PISTOL.

Two men engaged in a pistol duel Portland remind us that, whatever else we may lack, the deadly pistol is always with us. Not long ago a certain prosecuting officer was beseech ing a jury to convict a man accused of murder. In the course of his powerful argument he said: "Gentlemen, if the prisoner at the bar had not had pistol in his hip pocket when the quarrel occurred, he would not have felled his antagonist. But he had the dstol and he did the deed, and now you do your duty by the commonealth you must hang him." fervor of his speech he threw off his coat, and there in his hip pocket, in full sight of the judge and jury, was the protruding butt of a revolver was a case requiring the removal of beam from his own eye and the court very properly fined him before he was permitted to finish his speech. Would that by some such summary process every man who "totes a pistol" could be made to feel the enormity of his of-

There are now at large in the United States 100,000 men who have done the deed of Cain and ought to wear his mark on their foreheads. to say that a heavy majority never would have committed murder if they had not been in the habit of carrying In the fatal moment deadly weapons. the weapon was at hand and they used it. Had the pistol pocket been empty, blood would not have flowed. Ready access to a revolver may transform a mere neighbors' quarrel, begun on day and forgotten the next, into bloody murder.

We grant that the execrable habit of carrying weapons is not accountable for all our murders. It is aided in its dreadful work by the laxity of the a laxity which, according to Federal Judge Amidon, has broken down the criminal law. The pistol toter, aided by the technical judge. ade human life a plaything in the United States. The other day a South Carolina court dismissed an in-dictment because the "r" was inadvertently dropped from "father." The Supreme Court of Missouri set free a man convicted of a crime little less helnous than murder if at all because the article "the" was left out before

What better allies could the pistol toter desire than such judges? gether they have rendered life just about as safe here as it was in Central when Stanley made his first trip. We need a law against the habit carrying weapons which careless officials cannot make a dead letter and which easy-going citizens will not dare to break.

BILL TO STOP DYNAMITING.

Regulation of the manufacture and sale of explosives has been taken up by the National Metal Trades Associaon the lines heretofore approved by The Oregonian. A draft of a bill covering the entire subject has been nission to the State Legislatures, in consequence of a recommendation wade at the last annual convention. This was prompted by the numerous recent dynamiting outrages. The hill appears to cover fully the

entire subject, so far as the states can deal with it. Transportation of expleatives is already fully covered by ooth Federal and state laws. The bill requires persons or corporations man-ufacturing, handling, storing, selling or dealing in explosives of any kind to btain a Heense from the County Clerk, describing their place of business and the maximum quantity to be stored there. The County Clerk is required If they accord with the law, to issue a Moense at \$35 a year.

A good feature of the bill is a provision that manufacturers and dealers In explosives baving more than 100 pounds on hand at any time are rejuired to give bond to the state for the payment of damages caused by an provision is made for tracing every sale of explosive by a requirement that the seller take a statement from the buyer giving the purpose for which the explosive is to be used and the name and description of the buyer. nd that he file a certificate embody ing these statements and declaring his belief in their truth. No explosive is to be sold to a minor or any Irresponsible person, and the purchaser who sells again is required to file a like certificate. Packages containing manufacturer or seller, the name of the contents and the word "dangerous in large letters. A penalty is provided for non-observance of this provision ford the Portland public to enjoy or for defacing or obliterating the great compositions is inestimable.

A fine of \$100 to \$5000, or one to ten years' imprisonment, or both, is provided for violation of any of these provisions or for carelessly or negfigently exposing or handling ex-plosives or for trespassing on or about the land or buildings where explosives are made, stored or sold. Death or injury to person or property through violation of the law renders the person responsible guilty of murder, as-sault with intent to kill or malicious destruction of property and punishable for such offenses. Making of false ears' imprisonment.

far to bring to justice men like

outrages.

RESTORE THE CANTEEN.

Doubtless there will be opposition to Representative Barthold's bill for the re-establishment of the Army canteen abolishment of the canteen was brought about more by ignorance and fanaticism than by any other causes. It was supposed by many excellent persons to be a loafing place where young soldiers acquired all sorts of bad habits and indulged without restraint in As a matter of fact, it was quiet, wholesome resort where only the sold mildest beverages were where no man was permitted to fall nto debauchery.

The canteen was conducted in a odel manner and the profits which it visided were used for the improvement the soldiers' conditions. Its abolshment has been followed by evils of the worst description. While the can teen has been closed within the limits the posts, vile resorts on the outskirts flourish without restriction and the troops, being deprived of legitimate amusements, naturally flock to these dens of iniquity and vice.

Of course the immediate conse-quence of closing the Army canteen has been a terrible increase of drunkenness, and would that this were its worst effect, but it is not. Something much more terrible has happened. The dens to which the young enlisted men have been driven are, of course, haunted by women whose character cannot be described. Association with them has raised the proportion of loathsome diseases among the troops from a tle more than 8 per cent to about 20 per cent. This frightful increase has taken place since the canteen was ed, and is a direct consequence of that foolish and wicked act.

Enlisted men ought to retire from the Army to become the fathers of healthy children, the husbands of happy wives. As it is, their children will be born tainted and their wives will be almost certain to be infected with dreadful maladies. In short, the best blood of the country must be pol soned in order that ignorant fanatielsm may gain a hypocritical triumph One would think that we had had almost enough of

SPOKANE STILL FIGHTING NATURE After twenty-eight years spent in

litigation that has pretty thoroughly advertised the undesirability of Spo kane's location as a distributive center the fighting spirit in the interior city seems not to be diminished. more the hat has been passed and again a fund has been raised with which it is hoped by some man-made plan to overcome Nature's insurmountable obstacles

Spokane will now send a delegation to Congress to demand the enactment of an absolute long-and-short-haul amendment to the interstate commerce Spokane shippers are told that lnw. the decision over which Spokane bustness men paraded and burned red fire a short while ago does not give the This disappointing conclusion, how-ever, does not mend the greater disappointment over the commerce court's decision enjoining the putting in of rates now criticised. The com-merce court must go. Spokane has Spokune reminds us of one of those

ayed and persistent nursers of fancled claims against the Government, hang about the halls of Congress year after year scraping up good money to throw after bad. They are easily encouraged by someone who has lesigns on their funds, but cannot be discouraged by cold, matter-of-fact logic. It is unfortunate that there is not some cool-headed reasoner in Spokane who has the influence to end a hopeless and detrimental fight. The adoption of an absolute long-andshort-haul clause would mean the elimination of the railroads as competitions with water carriers. As transcontinental carriers, the railroads, to practical purposes, would then end at some interior point. The portion that remained operative would necessarily have to pay its operation, main tenance, returns on capital and the like, and also make up for losses in coast traffic. The proposed amend-ment would not reduce Spokane's It would only deprive the rallroads of the small profits now derived from terminal rates. This loss would obviously react on the interior rates and tend to increase rather than di-

minish them. Coldly stated, there is an immutable law obeyed in fixing through rates on Western rallroads that cannot be overcome by subscriptions, ravings or boyotts, or be repealed by act of Con

THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

Those who were lucky or wise enough to attend the concert of the Portland Symphony Orchestra last Sunday enjoyed a musical treat of the first quality. This orchestra does not receive the advantage of a large aub explosion about their premises. Strict aldy from any millionaire enthusiast. depends for support entirely upon the patronage of the public and the generosity of the members and their friends. The members are of course professional musicians. Nobody else could be expected to possess the knowledge and technic necessary for their performances. But not all professional musicians would have the energy and public spirit to undertake such an enterprise and carry it through the numberless difficulties which must be traversed before success is in exposives delivered for transportation sight. The sacrifices of time and oney which they must make are eavy. Naturally the orchestra deheavy. sires to perform the best music there is, and the opportunity they thus af-

Each year Portland is visited by a acore or more of the best musical artists in the world, and their presence is highly appreciated. But it is also true that there is no logical connection between their concerts. Each gives what he has to offer without the slightest reference to any of the rest, and in consequence the music which our public hears is disconnected. Sel. dom is a great composition heard often enough to be remembered and understandingly enjoyed. It will be the business of the symphony orchestra to remedy this defect in some partic ulars. It is to be an institution of the other infernal device to be used for and not reappearing for months or an unlawful purpose is declared a years, if ever. Its work will be secutive. It will render the immortal productions of the masters time and again, at proper intervals, so that the

went to the local orchestra. Portland has not yet the degree of artistic devo which makes it willing to spend \$65,000 a year on its symphony orchestra, but it will have some time.

Musical culture and the true love Here It must be encouraged at home. and fostered. Not only is "the kingdom of heaven within you," but most other good things at their best and highest are profoundly domestic. Henry Van Dyke describes in one of his charming books the musical cul-ture of a little village in the Tyrol which wakened the enthusiasm of his soul. It had a giee club capable of singing the greatest music in the world, and, better yet, it had a home in the emposer who could write songs suited to the local genius. What is there to hinder Portland from reaching the same degree of culture? Nothing but the vain belief that good music must us from somewhere else. truth is that we can produce it here if we are willing to support those who try as the symphony orchestra is try-

DEATH FOR LIARS, BUT NOT FOR MURDERERS? MURDENERS?

Is the man who wrote that editorial willing to spring the trap tint would send a murderer into oblivion? Does he stand ready to turn the electric switch that would end all on earth for some criminal wreton? If he stands so ready, then his opinion may have some weight. If he is not willing to himself break the murderer's neck, he has not the courage of his correlations and is merely pratiting. By the same token, if Governor West does not feel that he could himself, in the name of the law, take the murderer's life, it is his plain duty to commute the settlence.

The foregoing is silly enough; but The Oregonian will discuss it serously closing paragraph in comment by the Cottage Grove Sentinel on an editorial in The Oregonian which had said that society should exterminate for its own protection such wretches

as the Holzman and Hill murderers. The questions propounded may be answered cheerfully and truthfully The author of the sentiments expressed by The Oregonian would not care for the job of locking in their cells the several hundred penitentiary prisoners at Salem, but this fact need not discount his opinion that lawbreakers should be locked up. Nor would he care for a job in an abattoir, yet he feels that he still can consistently advocate meat diet. Neither would he be an undertaker for a good deal of money. concerning the propriety of burying or cremating the dead are entirely right and proper. There is no intent herein to deride or condemn either of the honorable occupations mentioned.

One chooses, in large measure, his own life work. The Oregonian believes that if in the course of events duty devolves upon a person in pub-He or private life which involves his or his dislikes or his con-Hicen scientious scruples, he should either perform that duty or resign. A person who would permit his scruples concerning the infliction of the death penalty to override his duty is as plainly disqualified for service as Governor of Oregon as he is for service as the juror in a murder trial. Capital punishment is provided for by law. The makers of the constitution or the legislators never contemplated giving the Governor the power to suspend the law because of personal opin-ion as to its justness. The Governor is sworn to uphold the law, not his personal scruples.

But, really, does any sane person elleve Governor West is conscientiously opposed to capital punishment? Remember, this is the same Governor who offers a standing reward for escaped "honor men" of "\$50 alive or \$200 dead." He has a tender conscience indeed who by affirmative act prevents the legal hanging of a coldblooded wife-murderer, yet offers a premium for the slaving of the convict who breaks his word of honor.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Oregonian observes that young Mr. Eaton has taken his troubles to the Eugene newspapers. Being an alumnus of the State University and the chief agent as a member of the recent Legislature in bringing that in stitution into its present financial plight through the subsequent ref erendum on its appropriations. Mr. Eaton felt a personal call to reapond to some recent strictures of The Oregonian on the so-called higher education, as furnished by the universities. He wrote a long letter to The Oregonian, which was duly edited and printed. It was given a conspicuous place and was shortened cut down about one-third to a column-because of space limitations, and for no other reason. Now, it seems that Mr. Eaton charges that Th Oregonian mutilated his copy for the purpose of effective reply, and causes the entire letter-including the superfluous third-to be printed in the Eugene papers.

Not because The Oregonian cares very much about the Eaton incident, but because he has raised a question about a practice of all well-regulated newspapers, it is well enough to say that no correspondent ought to regard communication as privileged against the necessary editorial rules or requirements of any public journal or if he does it is clear that he should request publication in unabridged form, or the return of his manuscript. Of course no newspaper has the right to change the meaning or expression any letter, or alter or modify spirit or purpose, or omit any essential argument or principal statement. Few correspondents object, however, to abridgment or correction vision that is obviously intended to improve or that is made necessary by space limitations or other mechan ical needs. Obviously, if the editor has eliminated any important statement or vital sentence, or has mutilated and perverted the intent and argument of any letter, he has violated his plain obligation to his readers and done his correspondent an unpardonable injury. The process of editing, it is clear, must be limited to non-essential and immaterial features, or must dispense with those paragraphs which are merely repetitive and contribute more to length and prolixity than to

portunce. It is not always easy to satisfy a correspondent that unwarranted liberties have not been taken with his manuscript. Not long since Harper's Weekly received and printed a violent letter from a writer who objected because the subscription had been changed from "yours truly" to "I have musical public may learn them and the honor to be, yours," which is the may be the one san comprehend their full beauties. Last rule of address to which all letters to break with Russia.

action" in labor disputes, and such year St. Paul, Minn., spent \$130,000 that publication must conform. It desperadoes as perpetrate Black Hand for music, of which exactly one-half was interesting to note that the editor, with sardonic humor, had faithfully followed his rule by altering the se-

ond letter to "I have the honor," etc. Young Mr. Eaton, having caused the full text of his original letter, including its superfluities and non-essentials of noble compositions cannot be to be printed in the Eugene papers, brought to us from abroad. It is is welcome to all the benefit he can get omething which must grow up here from that appeal to local prejudice, for it will be at once evident to all those who read The Oregonian that no violence was done by The Oregonian except to the sensitive feelings of Mr. Eaton, who appears to assume that this paper must open its columns to his communications, no matter how dull or interminable or value-Possibly it may comfort his ruffled soul to know that the article was shortened after it was in type in order keep it within a single column and in a place where most corre spondents feel honored to have their letters printed-on the editorial uage. Is The Oregonian, or any newspaper, called upon to open its columns to any and all correspondents who feel moved to write in reply to something it may have said? Or must it remove space limits upon a correspondent who may be recognized by it as having a right to speak? Should it or should it not say that a correspondent's let-ter must be respectful, pertinent and reasonable as to length? Should it permit him to question the motives of the writer of an article or drag in the personnel of The Oregonian staff for discussion? Where is the line to be drawn and by whom? By the editor or by the correspondent?

It may be agreed that the editor who asserts the right to edit all mat-ter that goes into the columns of his paper must practice discretion, cau-tion, reason and fairness. If he falls or takes advantage of any writer by suppression or improper emendation, he ought to be censured and brough The Oregonian account. hears a complaint such as Mr. Eaton has made, though it freely abbreviates long letters, or, if it finds that they cannot well be revised and shortened, it often returns them to the writers with a request for the writers' own supervision and abbreviation,

It will be remembered that the flood of 1894 in late June and, early July was preceded by Spring rains that kept the Columbia and Willamette Rivers at Winter stage up to the time when the melting snows of an unusually se vere Winter about the sources of the Columbia began to move through this great channel to the sea. As expressed by river men at the time, the river was "high" even before the anow began to Great reservoirs in the interior would have stored a large volume of these surplus waters, and ditchproperly constructed would have distributed them where they would have done good instead of evil. This flood remedy will doubtless be employed later as the Government sees fit and the necessities of population decree both in the Willamette Valley and the Columbia Basin, There is no need, however, to apprehend that Portland is likely any year to be inundated the depth of three or four feet. It is possible, of course, that a repetition of the flood of 1894 may be realized, but the probability is at least remote. the meantime, it will be the part of wisdom to install as many irrigation systems as can be properly financed as opportunity offers and need devel-Thirsty fields and parched crops languish for lack of these wasted wat ers during July and August of each and every year. It is the country rather than the city that is menaced by the prodigality of Nature that finds expression in Spring freshets and

A writer in the Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette controverts the common opinion that Robert Louis Stevenson died of tuberculosis. On the contrary, we are told, he smoked himself to death with cigarettes. The weaknesses of literary men are always interesting, and under the hills. those of Stevenson are invested with the pathos of untimely death. Still is he, after a fashion, committed suicide some of our tears might well be spared for other sufferers. Stevenson's cigarettes can hardly be deemed more pathetic than De Quincy's opium.

Italy is within her rights in protesting against the picture shows depicting massacre of Arabs and Turks by Italians. If one stops to think, he will see the absurdity of the affair, for moving-picture cameras are no part of army equipment and anything that pretends to be a reproduction of such scenes must be a fake,

As estimated by Portland merchants ore than \$5,000,000 will be spent in this city for Christmas presents. Yet in the actual presence of this great "potlatch" there are those who talk out hard times and bewall the sad fortunes of the masses.

It can hardly be possible that young Mr. Eaton at Eugene and the Eugene newspapers think they are making friends for the State University by their recent outbursts Yet it may be that they suffer in common some such delusion.

Elleabeth Freeman, the voung Anglo-American suffragette, wants co-workers to take lessons in throwing tones, preparatory to militant cam palgn work. Better begin with mud.

The mysterious disease that has attacked the tame buffalo in Yellowstone Park is likely due to civilizing effects. The bison and the Indian need be wild to thrive.

Swapping of wives among the 400 of ciety and the 400 of the stage is becoming as favorite an amusement with them as swapping jack-knives is with the small boys.

Chicago will have quite a ropefest

Friday, when four murderers are to be hanged. Chicago is in no danger of catching up on the count. The local Boston "tea party" has been cause of much wrangling and will though the authorities

would forget it. The present wave of crime means that some people are short of holiday money and care not how they get it.

There is danger of the fad spread ing. Now Frank J. Gould is giving his wife a half-million-dollar necklace. Civil service in Cuba is something

erans are supplied with jobs. / Heyburn, flighty and hysterical, may be the one same man to stop the

It GREAT PYRAMID NOT CONCRETE Writer Disputes Statements Made Concerning Artificial Stone.

PORTLAND, Dec. 16.—(To the Portland Por 210 perfect courses of stone, almost invisibly jointed, of Mokatten lime-stone blocks at an angle of a little more than 51 degrees. Its four sides swept up tapering to the pointed apex 480 feet above the ground. In it were 85,000,000 cubic feet of stone, not con-

Aurelian walls about Rome are built of concrete, as Mr. Corey states, but all of this wall is not standing today, as it was destroyed at different times and restored successively and by various Pones

He also states the towers built by He also states the towers built by the Druids are of concrete. About 120 examples still remain, mostly in a rulned state, but 18 or 20 are almost perfect. Their height varies from about s0 feet to 122 feet, the oldest example being built of almost uncut rubble work, and the later ones of neatly-jointed Ashler. Probably the rulned ones are of concrete, I can't say. But the finest existing tower built by the Druids stands by the Church of St. Apolline in Classe, the old part of the City of Ravenna. It is of brick divided into nine stories.

The sugar refineries in Greenock,

Into nine atories.

The sugar refineries in Greenock, built 50 years ago, are from nine to thirteen stories high, and are strictly fireproof throughout. The falls and floors are of brick. These buildings are as good now as the day they were built. Also in Glasgow there is a smokestack, built 50 years ago, 465 feet high, of solid brick walls, including foundation, as good now as when it was built. And I think that it will be standing where there will not be be standing where there will not be much left of some of the concrete stacks in this country. Of course, concrete is no new material. It was used a good many years ago, but that does not signify that we know all about it. If we did, there wouldn't be so many buildings of this type collapsing and killing workman. Take that concrete dam that broke for an example. ROBERT M'BRIDE.

RELIEF FOR STREET CONGESTION Writer Suggests Subways and Elevated Sidewalks as Parts of Plan.

PORTLAND, Dec. 17.—(To the Ed-tor.)—The shortsightedness of the ongheadedness of our "ancestors" is ecoming more and more apparent to a all as we tor along the narrow us all as we jog along the narrow streets of Portland. Much as we regre this, it is high time to take stock and come to an immediate realization that something must be done for the future Portland, for even now there is much ongestion in the streets, and unles some provision be made, the only room available for the ubiquitous pedestrian mobiles, trucks, delivery wagons and carriages they will get along some way, for they are in a class by themselves, I plead for more room for the future downtown district, which will become always more congested as the number of calendar samples increases. But how, is the psychological as well as the mechanical question. To me there is but one solution, and that is to create a large civic center,

and just now there is but one available location—along the west bank of the Williamette River from Burnside to Madison streets, and from the river to

Second streets. Build the great union depot at one Build the great union depot at one end, probably the north end of this civic center, for all the steam trains entering and leaving Portland. Per-haps at the south end build a union depot for the electric cars. Converge all streetcar lines to this civic center with a transfer depot. At some time will come the tunneling of the river, radiating in three directions, one northeast, one east and the third southeast—that is to say, run three tunnels. all converging to somewhere near the center, say between Washington and Morrison. Bring also here—underground—the streetcar tracks from beyond Council Crest, which, of course, would utilize the proposed tunnel

The above plan, which an expert could elaborate into a system, would bring every streetcar, electric line car and every train with passengers into the civic center. To carry out this plan might take 25 years, but when completed the city would have a gorgeous downtown, parklike waterfront which would afford "storage" space for all the automobiles and servolanes. for all the automobiles and aeroplane that may be in use by the denizens of a million-soul metropolis. To relieve the congestion of pedes-trians build elevated sidewalks in the

centers of selected streets. E. E. GRISWOLD.

Paving Problems Propounded

ALBANY, Or., Dec. 16.—(To the Edi-tor.)—I read in The Oregonian that several owners of real estate living in Portland are not able to bond their property for enough to pay for the pav-ing of the streets. This state of affairs seems to me very strange, for the folowing reasons: One of the first things preliminary to

One of the first things preliminary to the paving of a street is for the representative of the paving company and an enthusiastic booster of the city to call on the owners of property along the street (that is, on those whom they think they can influence), and with carefully arranged arguments prove to them that the cost of the paving will not be as much as the increased value of the property. After the paving is some and the paving company wants its one and the paving company wants its ay, there seems to be a surprising hange in the situation. The property annot be bonded for enough to pay for cannot be bonded for enough to pay for the paving.

It seems to me a curious proposition

that the paving which they ask pay for and which was to increase the value of the property, added to the value of the property, does not make them both worth as much as the paving costs, If you can explain this problem or find

any paving company that will, you will confer a favor on several people who are very much puzzled.

I would also like opinion on the fol-lowing: If the Warren Construction Company can afford to make presents of Thankegiving turkeys to the city of ficials of the cities where they have done the puving, how many turkeys could they afford to present to the vic-tims who have been compelled under protest to pay for paying they did not need or want?

ONE OF THE VICTIMS.

(Town Topics.) Owner-How did you come to puncture the tire? Chauffeur-Ran over a bottle of Owner-Didn't you see it in time? Chauffeur-No; the kid had it under

A Love-Song. New York Evening Pest.
Love me for nothing time may take away,
But for my very self that must endure.
Pixed he the stars along the sternal way.
Strong for your strength and for your
love's make pure.

his coat.

Then though this glowing force and frame ough gradual changes to the withered worst. Thre Still through the velled defeat you shall rtal soul that turned to you at

Half a Century Ago

manufacture. The clothing was manufactured in France in the short spac of 26 days from the receipt of the oder, employing the services of 400 operatives. If it should be asked why was not all this work distributed at home among our own starving operatives the answer is ready in the fact thail we have no starving operatives at home in the tailoring line, every man, and child who can swing a needl manage a sewing machine being able to command full employment and, as to the cloth, it has been demonstrated that all the woolen mills in the coun-try, kept up to their full capacity, could not supply the Government demand for the next 12 months. The same stat of activity exists in the shee business There is not an idle journeyman who i willing to work to be found anywhere Our small manufacturers in the cit are annoyed very much in onsequence of the want of help, and many of them have recently falled very often in their promises to their customers, a thing before unheard of in the shoemaking line

A bitter controversy is springing up between the friends of Colonel Baker and General Stone, under whose orders Colonel Baker advanced on Leesburg. It is attempted on the one side to show that Colonel Baker acted without orders or in violation of his instru tions, and on the other that he was sacrificed through the ignorance or incompetency of Stone. The friends of Baker will demand a court of inquiry to determine the real facts. In the meantime both sides are being supported and attacked by the local papers As is getting to be the case in almost every instance, the officers of the regular Army and those of the volunteer force. forces are arrayed against each other and there is more crimination and re-crimination than is beneficial to the service. In this connection the closing sentence of the order issued by General McClellan attracted much attention. In declaring that the troops composing General Stone's division will, when they next meet the enemy, retrieve the next meet the 'enemy, retrieve the check "for which they are not account-able," he implies a blunder and a re-sponsibility somewhere, and one that requires more to be said, and "by thority," too.—Washington correspo ence New York Times.

Owing to the continued activity in our Northern navy-yards, together with the incessant forward movement of troops, the belief has become very prevalent here that the Government ha determined upon a second naval expedition of dimensions scarcely less formidable than the first. During the past week some dozen or more of steamers and sailing vessels were hauled out from the Brooklyn yard alone, all fit-ted for sea, while other purchased ves-sels have taken their places at the yard to be put into fighting trim. Several have already sailed, their destination believed to be Annapolis or Hampton Roads. At the first named place, it is said, there are now upwards of 12,000 troops who are awaiting transportation to some unknown point.

As a vast deal has been said about the invincibility of the famous Captain Hollis' steam ram, it will be found well enough to keep in view the exact per-formances of that craft when the Southern navy attacked our blockading squadron in the Mississippi River. In the darkness of the night she drifted afoul of the Government steamship Richmond, by which accident she broke her iron nose, which was to have an hilliated the entire Union fleet; dis arranged her machinery and finally ran away towards New Orleans, when only guns of the squadron were bear-ing on her. The ironclad nondescript was constructed at a cost of over \$200,-000 and appears to be about as for-midable as a dredging machine.

SURETHING," BUT NOT SWINDLE. Councilman Watkins Criticises Pacific Telephone Subscription Plan.

PORTLAND, Dec. 15 .- (To the Edi-Oregonian yesterday relative to state-ments made at the City Council meet-ing about the Telephone Company's system of doing business in this city, the reporter quotes me as saying that the method of business as done by it is "an open and shut swindle game." when the term applied by me was "an open and shut surething game." I did open and shut surething game. not accuse the Telephone Company of

swindling any one.

The reason I made the statement that I did was from the fact that applicants for telephones are obliged to deposit \$5 with the company when the apply, and then are made to sign a contract that they will keep the phone a year or forfelt the \$5, and if they wish the phone moved at any time they are forced to pay \$2.50 for having that done. The company pays 6 per cent interest on the \$6 deposit.

cent interest on the \$5 deposit.

I refer to the Pacific States Telephone & Telegraph Company in this letter, and had reference to it in my remarks to the Council. I also wish to add that the company collects its bills monthly in advance, and I base my assertion that they are operating a "surething" game on the public when they require the \$5 deposit, force you to keep a phone a year, charge you \$2.50 to move it from one location to another, and force their subscribers to pay monthly in advance for a phone and to put up the money to carry on their business operations, which they do, for they advertise on their lass phone directory that they have 42,590 telephones installed in this district. If each one carries a \$5 deposit, they have the sum of \$212,950 now on deposit with them—the people's money and absolutely unsecured. Such a condition should not be per-mitted, and I do not believe it will be

when the City Council gets through with the consideration of the ordinance

FRANK E. WATKINS. Councilman, Fifth Ward, Portland.

My Lady Rain.

Archibaid Sullivan, in the Smart Set.
There is a woman in the rain;
Here are her tears upon the leaves.
I saw her move on ashen feat
Between the gold dust of the sheaves,
She flung dim circles in the stream
And on the path where popples hlow;
She left for mirror to the stars
A little looking-glass of woe.

Oh. I would bind her brows with sun,
And smooth her cheek with burnished
days.
And spread a carpet amber clear,
That she might walk brounded ways;
And that is why I keep the sun
Upon my window sell and why
I wait in red-roofed maple town;
My Lady Rain may pass me by.

September's gold has long been spent;
The days are dark, the winds are chill;
No more the popples pitch their tents
In scarlet splendor on the hill.
Lord Autumn's hosts are everywhere;
Their crimson shields floar down stream.
And withered bullrushes are but
The gallant lances of a dream.

Yet in a sad pavillon.

Beneath the tattered beggar treet Clad in her gray and inted to By one half-hearted little breeze. My lady sits all erowned with team Embroidered source decks her tra

N. Nitts on Seat of Power

By Dean Collins.

Nescius Nitts, he wnose glory will stand Supreme over Punkindort's reverent band, ted a nicotine jet o'er his hand And a hovering fly from the window ledge fanned. Then spake on the powers that rule o'er the land.

"We all has opinions bout who holds O'er this here Columbia, 'Liberty's flower'
And 'Gem of the Ocean' and Home of the free'

(And seviral names more that don't jest 'cur to me);
But, by the late papers, I've jest been of still a new ruler, and I am shere

"At 'lection times, speakers convinces us quite, The peepul alone holds the governin' might; White Socialist papers asserts we're in chains
On 'count of the cunning of corporate brains Which same they calls 'capital' (capital hissed, With 'propriate gesture of cru'l, graspin' fist).

"Some pints us to 'Wall Street,' a-raisin' the moan That there lies the power that sets on But I have jest read in the papers to-That none of these rumors is right. anyway; Fer he who holds 'Merica gripped by Has let his identity now to the air.

"The Reverend Sandford, the head of Some sect Or cult—I ain't sartin jest which Word's correct— Comes out and declares he's the shore enough power That handles our destinies every hour; America rises, or mebbe she falls, Dependin' entire on jest which shot he

"It shore is strange news, that this man is the boss Who's handled our fate, unbeknownst unto us,
While we thought the 'Peepul' or In-

t'rests' or one Of them 'Plutocrats' was a-makin' it run. When them other powers finds out this ril wager a heap they'll feel plumb took aback." Portland, December 18.

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

The older you grow the more con vinced you become that you must be

Do you want justice? Maybe you have it, and don't know it. One defini-tion of justice is conformity to the principle of positive law. The old man who is racked with pain, and dying, is the victim of justice, and there is no help for him. The only mercy is that the law of reward is as sure as the law of punish:

Always remember that the neighbors watch you closely, and that the neighbors are very particular.

I have noticed that scrawny women are very discreet in the matter of cutting their dresses low in front.

When a wife dies the husband nearly always says: "Well, I was a great trial to her; I would do better if I had my life to live over." But when a hus-band dies the widow nearly always says: "Well, I did my duty."

Most people are always expecting something important to happen. As a reporter I have noticed that nine peo-ple out of 10, when asked for an item, reply: "Nothing new, as yet."

So many things easy to recommend are hard to do.

Love is a game in which both players usually cheat. There is no such thing as a convinc-

ent, although every man thinks he has one. It is not a pleasant thought for the men, but most widows seem to jog along pretty comfortably; no widow

looks as though she had cried all night.

T. R. Already Eliminated? PORTLAND, Dec. 16.—(To the Editor.)—As a constant reader of The Oregonian, and especially of the editorials on topics of the day, I was quite surprised to notice the editorial last Wednesday, "Eliminating La Fol-lette." It would seem to most anyone who takes any interest in present-day politics that the Colonel has been "eliminated" for some time—say from "eliminated" for some time—say from
the time he preferred the company of
a small band of alleged proselyting
Methodists to an audience with Pope
Plus IX. Fersonally, I am not a Catholic, neither am I a Methodist, but I
do realize that the Vatican incident
will not be forgotten for many years
to come and we must all acknowledge
that the Catholic vote in this country
is a power in politics. No doubt the
Colonel has already found this out, to
his political sorrow. The difference his political sorrow. The difference in his reception right here in Portland compared with the reception of Fresident Taft was noticeable.

Your question in the same editorial

whether the Colonel enjoys the contin whether the Colonel enjoys the contin-ned clamor of his candidacy does not seem to be a question with the major-ity of people who have grown tired and weary of this political acrobat. But, leaving all religious questions out, I think our own President Taft is plenty good enough for American citi-zens, to the elimination of both La Foliette and Roosevelt. HIRAM KNOX.

Praise foo the "De'il."

PORTLAND, Dec. 17.—(To the Edi-tor.)—In last Sunday's Oregonian a correspondent had an effusion in refer. ence to a noted Deist. The praise re-minded me of an old Scotchman at a prayer meeting years ago. He allowed his feelings to get shead of his comms teerings to get shedd of his com-mon sense, and said as he rose to his feet to testify: "I have na heard any prayer for the poor old de'il this night; the de'il was fine to his friends and no lazy lout." A BIGOT.

A Promising Youth

Harper's Weekly.

I dign't think much of that kid of mine
Unil Fourth of July came along.

I loved the lad with a love divine.

And he'd filled all our hearts with song:
But I dign't believe he'd amount to much,
He seemed so slow and sedate—
He appeared to be to be lacking the touch
That goes with the truly great.

But Fourth of July with its boom and blare
First changed all that outlook block.
And I sort of felt there was genius there
For reaching some pinnacted peak;
For he suddenly popped from his quiet shell,
Straight out of its confines dire.
And seemed in a flash to give promise of—

Of setting the world on fire! And later on, when the Christmas chime
Was making the world ciate.
It seemed to me if we gave him time
He'd rank with the wondrous great,
For I tried to sleep for an hour or two
On a nice little divan curied.
And then in another flash I knew
He'd make a big noise in the world!