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PORTLAND, MONDAY, DEC. 23, 1911.

"Taft is no politician," is the oftrepeated criticism of the President by the politicians. Well, is that any disication for the Presidency

TAFT NO POLITICIAN.

"He does not know how to play the game and he does not want to; only sim is to serve the people," him S. A. Perkins, of Tacoma. Is not that what the people consider the ! qualification for the Presidency? the first

If the recent history of this country teaches one thing so plainly that it cannot be gainsaid, it is that the people are tired of seeing politicians play politics with public office. The aver age voter has a fixed idea that a man elected to office to perform certain duties for the people, to do what Taft alms to do-"serve the people. Through many years the voters have seen politicians make platform pledge to do what the people want done and nominate men for office who were presumed to be under obligation to carry out those pledges. those pledges violated with such regularity that it has come to be an axion that platforms are made to get in or not to stand on. They have seen a party pledged to economy gain control of Congress, only to pass "pork-barrel" They have seen a party pledged to tariff reduction try how little it could reduce the tariff. They have een a party pledged to reciprocity pigeonhole reciprocity treaties in the Senate. They have seen every agency created to serve public interests per-

orted to private ends.

They grew tired of this game of polities, which was nothing but a game of bunkoing them. They expressed their disgust so plainly that they forced the politicians, against their will to adopt the direct primary, and are about to force the adoption of di-They are rect election of Senators. turning for relief to the devices of direct legislation and the recall in order to secure the measures they desire and to get rid of officials who play What are the short ballot and the commission form of city gov ernment but devices by which the peo ple may weed out those men who politics? What else is the Civil Serv-ice reform law? All these are signs of times so plain that any man can read them.

That Taft refuses to play politics and aims simply to serve the people will be his strongest recommendation in the eyes of the people. He can safely plead guilty to this indictment, for it redounds to his highest honor.

Had he been willing to play politics, he would have sacrificed when that official was made the object of a campaign of calumny almowithout precedent. Being no politician, he manfully stood by a lie ant whom he believed to be shameful ly wronged. Had he been a politician, he would not have dismissed Pincho and left Garfield out in the cold, thereby causing a coolness on the part of velt and antagonizing an influ ential element.

Had he been a politician, he would have joined in the hue and cry against the Payne-Aldrich tariff, though he knew he had wrested it to his purpose to increase Federal control over cor-porations and revise the tariff on the basis of facts ascertained by the Tariff Board. Had he been a politician, he would not have praised the public services of Aldrich in devising a scheme of monetary reform which has commended itself to the good sense of every business man who has studied it, for he would have recognized that to do so was to bring upon himself much of the ill will provoked by Aldrich's handling of the tariff.

Had he been a politician, he would not have called an extra session to pass the Canadian reciprocity nowing that he would thereby divide his party and give the Democrats an opportunity to appropriate a large gun tariff bills for political purposes Being no politician, he forced the measure through, because the people and the people's interests demanded it, and was only thwarted by the loose-tongued Jingoism of Champ Clark and the misguided loyalty of the

Canadiana. Had he been a politician, he might have been scared by the Democraticof their blacksmith work on the tariff, but he knew it was blundering work, that the Tariff Board's report would prove it blundering work, and he was content to endure the attacks of its authors until the production of the facts should vindicate his action.

Had he been a politician, he would have gone slowly with his prosecution of the trusts and would not have wounded the vanity of his predsor by accusing the steel trust of Belleving that laws should be enforced, he went ahead without hesitation, indifferent to the

storm he raised. Had he been a politician, he would have concealed his opposition to the recall of the judiciary in Arizona rather than antagonize the insurgents, Being simply an honest man. claimed his opinion and left Arizona free, as a state, to adopt the measure

without his sanction. Had he been a politician, he would have often sacrificed his convictious to concillate the insurgents. Not be ing one, he left the insurgents themselves to betray their factional spirit and their versatile principles. they have effectually done, with the result that Taft has weaned away a

large proportion of their following. Those of the American people who are fair-minded and not blinded by partisanship - and an increasingly large majority can be thus describedrecognize that Mr. Taft has usually shown great wisdom and has always acted honestly with a single eye to the interests of the people; that he has been progressive without being radical, conservative without being reactionary. They believe rather be right than be President again, and that, because he holds to that position, he is the right man to be President

> THE SWEET OLD STORY. It was the Winter wild While the heaven-born child, meanly wrapped, in the rude manger

Nature, in awe of him. Had doffed her gaudy trim, With her great master so to sympathics. Thus opens the beautiful hymn or the Nativity sung in the dim past by John Milton, the blind bard of Eng-iand. Replete to the end with the lofty imagery of the first stanza, this hymn stands, after the lapse of two centuries and a half, an incomparable presentment of the simplicity and eauty and plous, unquestioning belef in the story of the Nativity. And today, while some will deny the statenents so positively made, there is to all exaltation of spirit in these words, set to music or read by the fireside of

ome on Chfistmas eve. Acrely visions of childhood and dreams of home are called up by these lines, even though cold, material laws discard the thread of miracle that runs through the sweet old story of the babe of Bethlehem, "wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a man-

And peaceful was the night Wherein the Prince of Light This reign of peace upon the earth began So will sing the many-voiced her alds of Christmas in choir lofts throughout Christendom on the return of this precious festival of "peace on earth, good will to men." And as imagination soars with the sacred strains heavenward it will not be difficult to realize that

White-winged legions from on high In dazzling glory fill the sky. While this mood lasts the simple belief in the miracle of the virgin held by the shepherds that watched their flocks by night on the plain of Bethlehem will be explained.

WHAT IS MINCEMEAT?

The Pure Food Board has per formed another great service to the public in telling us what is mincemeat. Thus it is solving the mysteries of what we eat and drink, one by one For years it was struggling with the seemingly unsolvable problem: "What whiskey?" It has cleared up the mystery of how rotten fruit and vege tables are prevented from revealing through taste or smell, their decayed condition. It has decided what are the effects of benzoate of soda as a preservative. But greatest of all its achievements is the answer to the question: "What is mincement?" Those of us who have recklessly tak-

en our lives in our hands and eaten the mince pie served at the restaurant had about decided that the only answer "Indigestion and nightmare, and had given up the attempt to trace any affinity between the mince ple of the twentieth century and mince pie our mothers and grandmothers used to make. All we could see was a mixture of everything in general chopped up together and laid on a crust heavy enough to sink a ship, with another crust almost heavy laid above it. With a faith as great as that which moves mountain we ate it and, with agonies equal to those of appendicitis, gout or cancer, we endured its passage through our digestive organs. Far from home and driven to recall memories of home by partaking of the cold hospitality of hotels and restaurants at holiday seasons, we have eaten mince ple at Thanksgiving and Christmas through a sense of religious devotion than because we enjoyed it. We have found only a melancholy pleasure in speculating what in thunder it was

made of. Now we know, at least, what it ought to be made of, for Dr. Wiley has told pressed, that enemy of canned indigestion and baked cramps, has gone further and warned the manufacturers of mincement that they must not make it of any other ingredients or must show cause why not. How he will distinguish the ingredients when they have once been chopped and indistinguishably mixed is beyond any ordinary comprehension, but he has performed so many other miraculous ats that we are ready to believe he will even dissect and analyze, a mince ple and draw up one of those portentous tables showing the percentage, even to one-hundredths of one per cent, of apple, meat, suct and all the other component parts. Then he will call on the manufacturers to to the line, let the mincement fall where it may.

IRELAND'S NEW VIEWS OF HOME RULE. With the passage of a home rule bill through the British Parliament practically assured at the approaching session, there has been a great modification in the tone of Irish opinion on the relations of Ireland and England. Formerly Irish newspapers asserted with much heat that nothing short of omplete separation from England could satisfy Ireland. Today the cham-

onship of the cause of home rule by the English and Scotch Liberals has sensibly cooled Irish animosity and the near approach of the realization of moderate Nationalist hopes has led Irishmen to consider the advantages as well as the drawbacks of the connection between the two kingdoms. They now turn to a federal union of the three kingdoms and their colonies as offering benefits far surpassing

those of total separation, This is the view taken by the Chica go Citizen, which voices Irish-Ameri-can apinion in the Middle West. This reaffirms Ireland's right to national independence as a separate na-tion, but doubts Ireland's ability to stand alone and denies that she would invalidate her rights if she were to secure by co-operation the strength she lacks individually. This paper quotes with approval Grattan's assertion "that the crown of Ireland is an imperial crown inseparably connected with the crown of Great Britain, on which connection the interests and happiness of both nations depend." It

continues:

Some hot-headed reader will jump up with the question: "Do you believe that Ireland's interest depend on an inseparable connection with Great Britain!" We do; the form of connection through what is called the yolden link of the crown is only a figure of apsech, but the connection is demanded by the situation in which both islands find themselves. They are interdepedent on each other. For that reason they must be friends. Murual emity is murual weakness. Either both islands must be interlocked in bonds of mutual love and confidence, or one must externinate the papulation of the other.

Nature dug the tremch of the sea between

The Citizen recommends the adop of a federal system like that of the United States, but holds it vital that Ireland control her own customs duties. It predicts that, if Ireland is given the powers and privileges of Canada she will distance all competitors in agriculture, lines of freight leviathlans will sail from Queenstown and Galway for American and Cana-dian ports and a large transfer of capital from Great Britain to the siser isle will take place. It concludes: There is nothing to prevent Ireland be-ming one day the predeminant instead f the junior partner in the firm of Great critain and Ireland.

This is a glorious vision, well worth striving to realize, and it puts to shame those narrow Englishmen who see in an Irish parliament nothing but sepa ration. The Irish writer sees, on the contrary, a federation of each under the democratic rule of its own parliament. Such a federation may easily expand into a federation of the whole British Empire patterned after that of the United States, each kingdom and colony sovereign within its own boundaries, but all bound to gether by common nationality, the pledge of mutual defense, common interests and aspirations. This is a nobler vision than that of Ireland as a petty, independent republic or king-dom, living only to herself and nursing the memory of ancient wrongs

COME TO THE BUSINESS.

There is a mistaken impression in such cities as Spokane and Tacoma that the Interstate Commerce Commission was created for the purpose of adjusting railroad rates to the disadvantages of location. the people of Spokane planted them-selves, they knew full well that Nature had neglected to put navigable water at the falls of the Spokane River and that rall transportation costs more than water transportation. founders of Tacoma knew that Na-ture had placed a lofty range of mountains between them and the stockralsing country, but had cut it with a gap leading to Portland. Yet these people ask that Portland people be deprived of the benefits of their superiority in location by means of reduction of rates proportionate to the natural handicap under which the people of Spokane and Tacoma volunta-rily placed themselves. To grant their request would be to penalize good judgment in the choice of locations for business and to offer a premium on ignorance of or blindness to, the working of natural law.

If the merchants of Spokane wish to do a wholesale business, they should as everything in nature does-follow the lines of least resistance. These lead to Portland. If the butchers of Tacoma wish to do a packing business, they also should follow the lines of least resistance and come to Portland, whither the cattle come. They should not ask the law to compensat them for their mistakes. The remedy is in their own hands. If business will not come to them at Spokane and Tacoma, let them come to Portland, to the business.

SOCIETY'S RIGHT OF SELF-PROTEC-

A letter on the "Accountability of Murderers," which was printed last Thursday on the editorial page of The Oregonian, should not be permitted to pass, perhaps, without further com-We will quote a few sentences ment. from the letter to refresh the reader's "Should society seek to memory: punish the individual who commits a crime because of debased and perverted passion? Is the mentally deficient or perverted individual responsible for his deficiency or perversion? Would it be just to hang an insane criminal?" This is not the whole of the letter, but it is enough to base our comment on.

In our opinion the man who wrote the letter misapprehends the true rea-The purpose is not to punish crime. the criminal so much as to protect itself. The right of the state to put a man to death, if it exists, does not flow from his responsibility at all, but from the necessity of preserving the social organism from destruction. common saying that the state "has no right to take what it cannot give ounds pretty, but it is fallacious on its face if we stop to reflect a minute.

Should we accept the doctrine that individuals and states have no right to take what they cannot give, should be obliged to cease killing flies, rats and wolves, because we can no more give back the life of a fly than we can that of a human murderer after he has been executed. A similar reductio ad absurdum can be carried out with pretty nearly every one of those so-called "humanitarian princi-ples" which forbid the state to take life. They are in reality not humanitarian at all but grossly cruel, since they seek to deprive the virtuous element of society of the effective right to defend itself from the vicious.

Should we look a little more closely at the maxim "that society has no right to take what it cannot give," new absurdities would break out of its ample bosom every second. For example, it forbids us to imprison a man just as much as to hang him. know of no "humanitarian" who We cles that the state can give back the years of a prisoner's life which have been passed in confinement. In all general principles of that order there is a substantial proportion of folly which it does not require a great deal of acumen to bring to light.

It amazes one to see how frequently the opponents of the death penalty their argument on "responsibil-If a man is not responsible for his acts, they contend, then it is wrong to put him to death for them, no mathow hideous his acts may he. But on the other hand, if a man is not responsible, can it be right to throw him into prison and keep him there for year after year deprived of the solations of his family? If he acted as a mere machine, is there not some thing grossly repulsive in the thought of penalizing him in any manner degree? Would it not be fantastical to penalize a saw for cutting off a man's arm? In the judgment of some of our friends who write letters on capital punishment a murder is a mere saw or hammer, nothing more. Back of every human action there is a sufficient cause," quotes our pres-ent correspondent, just as there is a sufficient cause back of the saw's mo. tion, and the man is no more to

This raises, of course, a disputed point in philosophy. Whether we really possess free will or are nothing more than automatens "acting," as

blamed or punished than the machine

Froebel says, "under the form of free dom," nobody has yet been able t decide. But so far as the right of so clety to punish criminals is concerned the decision is of no consequence man may be a free moral agent or he may not, but the moment he makes himself a peril to the community, or is made a peril by causes beyond his control, the right of society accrue either to put him to death or him in prison. And which it shall do is not a question of metaphysics, but of expediency. Society has the right to protect itself from the individual or it has not. There is no choice b sesses the right at all it is posse We can in all possible completeness, not say that society has the right to protect itself only in some ways and by some methods. The choice of the ethod is left wholly to the state. There is absolutely no rational ground which the right of organized soelety to choose any device which suits it in handling criminals can be logically contested.

Of course we must restrict this statement by adding that there is ustification for cruelty, but it lacks, justification not on philosophical rounds, but because experience has shown it to be useless. If the less of history taught us that cruelty tended to prevent crime and establish the welfare of society, then we should be perfectly justified in using it. the life of the individual nor his sensations weigh an atom against the general good. Could it be demonstrated that capital penalties did not upon the whole tend to protect the state we should then be estopped by our own argument from favoring them, but as long as the facts seem to prove that they are efficacious the plea that the prisoner is not responsible is of no avail. The rattlesnake is not responsible for its bite, but we extirpate it all

the same. The point we wish to make is that it is utterly unscientific to bring the concept of "responsibility" in between the state and its delinquent citizens Responsibility is at best something vague and metaphysical. Nobody has ever yet succeeded in showing exactly what it is or even whether it exists or not. To base the conduct of society upon a concept so illusory is to con mit a folly which is beyond pardon. Answering the last question which we have quoted from our correspondent we should say, therefore, that if I promoted the general welfare to hang insane criminals it ought to be done but whether it does or not is, of course, a wholly different matter.

Perhaps Mrs. J. P. Morgan thinks her husband gets enough publicity to serve both of them. But what will Mrs. August Belmont say to mark that it is dreadful for a woman of refinement to find things in the newspapers about herself? That seem to imply that Mrs. Belmont lacks re-finement, for she has been much in the newspapers, and with her own consent.

The Secretary of the Treasury says that Government assay offices have been outgrown, that they are a needless drain upon the Treasury and should be abolished. He supplements this assertion by many and good reachief and sufficient of which is that there is no longer any call for their existence or maintenance. All of which being true, they ought to be

Could not some of the unemployed workmen be set to work charpitting stumps on logged-off land near Port-Property-owners would confer land? a triple benefit-on the workmen by providing a living, on themselves by making the land marketable for farm ing and on the city at large by helping to increase the supply of produc in the market.

descendant of Daniel Boone, in obtaining divorce from the greatgreat-grand niece of Thomas Jefferson, alleged she often told him her family was better than his. This will bring a smile to the millions of men who have een the object of similar reflection without calling for aid of the law.

Now that Food Commissioner Balley has received advice from Dr. Harvey Wiley as to what mince meat should be, his attention is called to various concoctions of dried fruit masquerading under the name that belongs to the proper article.

Howard S. Reed and his ex-wife seem to consider the honeymoon the only good part of married life, for have had one every year for five years. The world awaits news of another reconciliation and another honevmoon.

One of the papers to be read at the

meeting this week of the American

Association for the Advancement of

"The Structure of an

Atom. elucidation of the La Follette candidney. The Oregon Immigration Bureau should secure that Jackson family in Oklahoma. Any couple that can add thirteen to the population in five years will make a grand filler for this

growing state. When there is nothing else to do. Seattle can always make life interesting by electing or recalling a Mayor. With "Hi" Gill in the race, there will not be a dull moment in the cam paign.

When the New York reporters interview the Colonel they should enlist the aid of the dictaphone and avoid these misunderstandings and additions to the membership roll of the Ananias Club.

starved into agreement by refusal of the Occidental powers to lend them money. Even the Chinese cannot carry on war with empty treasure-chests, The ruling that only Marasca cherries shall be labeled "Maraschino"

Warring elements in China may be

does not affect the Oregon product which is in a class of its own. When the Canal is ready for bust ness its owner may ask other nations

who is running it.

La Follette as a candidate may be a joke, but as Mr. Bryan discovered. publicity pays.

Dense fog is a scheme of nature sidetrack intense cold.

Epicures who eat game out of se son find it high

e moon rose o'er the purple height, coding the desert with sliver light. Three shepherds, each his eyes. Upon the mystic east had bent, And as the three tall figures sped. On and on with soundless tread. Like spectres fleeing from pursuit Of hateful shedows, dark and mute, And as they gazed, athrob with fear, It shaped a star, sharp focussed, clear Prone to the earth the wise men fell. For in their hearts they knew full well This was the sign, to them God-given. To guide them to the Son of heaven. The Star! The Star! They cried aloud: Then, in God's presence, humbly bowed. For him, whose love had guided them To Christ, the Child, at Bethlebem. And if we seek, with hearts contri We too will find the Savier dea

THE YULE TIED. (Uncle Ike, having went to a Chrisee in Los Angeles, tells what he soon, rows in a few novelties in metrical runtion. Reading will convince the 6d it that Californians don't tie their The Yule tied senson it has came, And Christmas cheer abounds; Old "Santy" looks about the same, And slyly makes his rounds. The missel toe hangs on the wall,

As precious now as it was then: "Peace on earth, good will toward men BURT E. KNAPP. Portland, Or., Dec. 22.

The holly wreaths is green: The Christmas tree, though rather small, Is purtiest ever seen. Just "fir" the limb they had to pay

Four deliars and a bit; Twas brung from Oregon," s "Where one bit could buy it." And popcorn strings and sich; Red and blue candiles, ingines, dolls,

And this and that and walch, All kinds of presents they are got,-Suspenders and silk hoes; So many things, I don't know what-Which has been careful chose.

Red berries in big bunches hang. Agin the winder pane: And gewgaws which are a new fang-Eld kind are now the reign.

The gas stove tries to five a heat, (No fireplace is than); The Yule log is asbestos cheat, And freezing's do'n to par.

A thousand chunks of cotton bat-

Ting makes us think of snow; But none to it dare touch at mat-Ch and watch it melt and go. Oh, merry is the Yule high tide, And happy are the kids; But let me in a old sled ride Where there is snews and skids

So let the Yule tied high be gay. And hearts be opened wide; Let good deeds one this Christma day, And ev'ry day beside. SAAC BLUM.

Los Angeles, Cal.

A LOGGER'S ACCEPTANCE OF CHRITMAS FEED. accept your invitation, friends, To come and get a square.
When od Santa Claus his greeting nends
To bless the Yuletide fare of

The man that has the price! So let Rena do her nicest, then; I'll promise to be near to the thing that looks the biggest when We join your Christmas cheer— It's name, that cuts no ica.

Be it beast or bird or swimmer, Walt, Fil help you fight the thing: If it kicks or squirms or shows revolt When landed in the ring Of the Christmas-feed brigade Be its clothing hair or bristles rough Or fur or feathers fine, It's got to make me yell "Enough!" Before I quit the line Of the knife and fork parade.

The it may have sung the gobble And danced the "Turkey Trot," Fil wipe with bread the china clay Where Mr. Turk is not— Or break some Bible text. tho' it have no tuneful boast And judge it by its noise As follows in the next:

If it squeals, I'll have some spareribs

rich;
Or crows, I'll take a wing;
If it swims, I'll get some brain food—
Which I need like everything
To help me get the goods.
If it ba-as, I'll think its phony, the'
I'll eat it just the same;
If it barks, I'll eat bologna—no!
Don't try that little game—
On yours truly from the woods. On yours truly from the woods,

CHRISTMAS AND NIITS. Nescius Nitts; he whose wisdom ranks high In Punkindorf Station, leaned back with a sigh, d out of his quid the rich nico-Chewed out This may or may not be an tine dye, Observed a lone spider its spinning stunt ply, And aimed at the insect with unerring

The spider spied doom in the aim of the chewer;
A cold chill of terror went vibrating through 'er; She clung to her strand with a grip of despair. Intent to run up and duck into her lair, Where she had lived safe for a full to her strand with a grip of In a holly wreath hung up in Higginses store. week or more

With desperate speed up the thin strand she clawed. While Nitts still held aim, and while aiming, still chawed, Compounding a douche that should scatter the wider
And be the more certain of nailing the and still, as the insect strove madly to He kept her well covered, with unerring

The haven of refuge, the big holly wreath, When Nescius noted the bright Christ-And just at that instant the silence was broken By entrance of Spriggs and another or Dropped in for their diurnal confab and

And now she was climbing a bare foot

"Wal, now, merry Christmas," they chorused aloud.

The eye of the sage turned and noted the crowd:

He hastily shifted the buik of his chew, "Wall, howdy now, boys, and the same thing to you."

The spider ducked into the holly wreath, free, and muttered in spiderese, "eame thing to me."

to me."
—Dean Collins, Portland, Dec. 24.

SERVANTS SHOULD UPHOLD LAW. If Opposed to Law's Enforcement

Should Decline Office. PORTLAND, Dec. 22 .- (To the Edi-(or.)-Let the agitation go on, the matter is too serious to ignore. Those criminally inclined can hardly be expected to advocate capital punishment. Many good men, through the softness of their hearts and lack of investigation oppose it. But the people of Ore gon have said it is the law. The most numane government in the world was a theocracy, and the laws governing are commonly called the laws of Moses. Centuries before that God had said: "Whose sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." law of Moses embraced that fundamental idea and provided the forms by which it should be carried out, pun shing with death more than one kind of crime. But the objector says the ten commandments say "Thou shalt not kill." So it does. But that command ment, like the balance of them, is addressed to the individual, and not to a

community or state or nation.

The whole tenor of scriptural teach-The whole tenor of scriptural teaching is to regulate society by law instead of individual vengeance. If the people of Oregon in their law-making capacity say that the murderer shall hang, it is their right, and every citizen is notified to that effect. If any one, prefers to violate that law, he should take his medicine like a man and not whine about barbarism.

When Major Andre was arrested as a spy, tried and condemned to be shot, an effort was made to get General

effort was made to get Genera an effort was made to get Washington to spare him because he was a gentleman of culture and refine-ment and an officer in the British army. But Washington said no; public safety required his execution. Does anyone think Washington had murder

After the kind-hearted Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated President of the United States one of his earlier official

ties, to execute the penalties law upon a brutal murderer.

If Governor West is opposed to capital punishment he should not have run for Governor until the law was changed. Then he could honestly and consistently have taken the oath to execute and upould the laws as he found them. If the law is wrong, the people are the gullty ones, not the servants of the

There are other crimes almost as vicious as murder that the people have not yet provided a sufficient punishment for, and perhaps will not until the ballot is given to the women. It may seem very nice to talk about safeguarding a man in prison for life; it can't be done. Too often, like that man Tracy, they break out and kill a number of innocent people before they can be recaptured. The Oregonian is right; degenerates are responsible, and it is a vicious indictment of the law-abiding people of Oregon, whether Christian or non-Christian, to accuse them of voting for the death penalty in a spirit of revenge or economy.

438 East Thirty-seventh Street. There are other crimes almost as

438 East Thirty-seventh Street.

WHO THE STATE'S FIGHTERS ARE. H. D. Wagnon Discusses Patriotism and Argues for Single Tax.
PORTLAND, Dec. 22.—(To the Edi-

tor.)-May I reply to our lawyer friend, E. F. Riley, who has told the public what he does not know about the single tax. He has missed the truth, like the man he quotes from, he tells us that Colonel Ingersoll once said, "Most men will fight for their homes, "Most men will fight for their homes, but who ever heard of a man who would fight for his bearding-house?"

Would Mr. Riley have us to believe that all the men who went to the front in 1881 were landowners? As a matter of fact not one in ten had any land of his own. Then, as now, the men who own the valuable land do not do any fighting. The fighting in all ages has been done by the "landless man." any fighting. The lighting is all ages has been done by the "landless man," and after every war the landlord has reaped all the benefit from the war. If our country was to get into a war ten hobos would be found on the fire-line to one lawyer, and you would find 160 labor union men on the fire line to one member of the Employers' Association. Lead-value and natiotism

do not always go together.

Mr. Riley speaks of "confiscation" as
though it was a dreadful thing, and so it is. I am opposed to confiscation as now practiced by our landlords. They take \$20,000,000 every year from the industrious people that are tributary to Portland for the use of the downtown land that the people have made valuable by their collective labor. This value created by the community as a whole belongs to the community and should be taken by the community for

Land-value and patriotism

its common needs.

What the individual makes is his,

What the individual makes is his, and it should be held sacred, and no part of it taken for taxes so long as the community has a value that it has made by its common labor.

If our lawyer friend would think just a little he would see that the merchants use more land-value than the farmers. The Heliz Bros. have to pay more than \$200 per day for the use of the 100 by 100-foot square on the corner of Fifth and Washington streets—over \$6000 per month, and it the corner of Fitth and washington streets—over \$6000 per month, and it is all community value and should be taken for the common needs. That value has been made by all the people, even the "hirelings and tenants" have helped to make it.

H. D. WAGNON.

HOME BUILDING IS NOT RISKY. Renlty Owners Rendy to Help Buyer on Installment Plan.

PORTLAND, Dec. 24.—(To the Editor,)—The editorial article in The Oregonian last Monday, relating to home builders was one of the best on the subject I have read. Naturally, we would be interested in a matter of this kind and think whatever is said on the subject would be for the good of the country. But this article is especially good because it relates to the oppor

good because it relates to the oppor-tunities afforded the poor man.

There is an idea among the laboring classes that the capitalist is always ready to take advantage of the poor man and take his few dollars away from him on the installment basis, and, if he defaults on thirty days' demand, to jump on his few hard-sarned dollars and squeeze him out.

On the contrary, any one who is really interested in the growth of the country and wishes to continue in busi-

really interested in the growth of the country and wishes to continue in business and help the growth of the community, cannot afford to be small and unreasonable in his dealings with the poor man. The facts are, we are confronted with this proposition almost daily, and in the last five years, handling suburban property, as we have, we have disposed of perhaps over 6660 tracts of land, mostly to small home builders. With the exception of one case, not a single mortgage has been foreclosed, and in that particular case, after three years of attempting to sefter three years of attempting to se foreclosed, and in that particular case, after three years of attempting to secure a proper adjustment and being unable to locate the party, who had evidently left this country, we were compelled to foreclose the mortgage. Even to this day, we would be very glad to remit the payment made by that man, if he should return, as he had only paid 10 per cent of the total amount of purchase price.

There are more people who are ready and willing in a conscientious manner to help the poor man to get on his feet than the majority of people realize.

majority of people realize. E. L. THOMPSON.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of December 23, 1881.
Funeral obsequies of Colonel Baker took place in the City of San Francisco on the 11th inst. The Herald says that "never in the history of California has there been witnessed a civic and military display equal to that paid to the memory of Colonel E. D. Baker." We need not repeat the great points in the character of the fallen Senator. The hall was crowded and Montgomery street was densely lined with people. The funeral coremonies at the hall were performed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Kip, the oration was pronounced by Honorable Edward Stanley, and the solemn and plaintive music of Mozart's Requiem was most impressively performed.

The most telling and effecting fea-ure of the occasion was the appropriate and feeling address of Rev. T. Starr King, followed by an eloquent and

king, followed by an eloquent and beautiful prayer.

After the ceremonies at the hall, es-corted by several companies of troops, the procession moved to the burial ground. During the procession the sol-emn tolling of the bells, minute guns from the Alcatrax Battery and the Rus-

sian corrects were fired.

The last rites at the grave were performed by Rev. T. Starr King and the three rounds were fired over the last resting place of the departed hero. He sleeps alongside the lamented Broderick, the young Senator from the Pacific Coast, whom he so eloquently eulogized. Kindred spirits in death they are not divided. Requiescat in

The news (from the East) leads us to believe that the country is on the eve of great events. We have not sup-posed that General McClellan was de-sirous of a battle on the Potomac, but that his policy was to keep a large rebel force in the neighborhood. In Kentucky the Union troc strong and confident and a seems to be inevitable there, pedition for the Lower Missis troops United States one of his earlier official acts was to call for 75,000 men to go south and kill their brethren. I beside this act was never called brutal. Neither can it be called brutal for the state, through its constituted authorities, to execute the penalties of the tax upon a brutal murderer. we are not certain it is so. Charleston has been fired by the slaves and a good portion of it burned. This must be a terrible fact for the reflection of South Carolinians. There is no disposition to flinch from the prosecution of this war by our Government or people. will be finished and well finished

will be finished and well finished.

John Bull seems to be disturbed by
the taking from one of his vessels of
Stidell and Mason. War is even threatened. We, however, suppose this has
come from newspaper blusterers and
not from the Government. In the act
complained of we have only copied the practice and doctrines oftentimes repeated and set forth by John Bull him-self; and if he chooses to fight us, we shall have a busy time, more especially if Johnny Crapeau should take a hand

in the melee.

John Bull has permitted the Nash John Bull has permitted the Nash-ville steamer to repair at Southampton and to go out thence for the destruc-tion of American commerce. The Mex-ican government, anticipating diffi-culty with England, is disposed to avail itself of the same privilege to prey on English commerce, by fitting out ships of war in our harbors, that the English government accords to Con-

At a meeting of Harmony Lodge, No. 12, A. F. and A. M., held on Monday evening, 23d inst, the following officers were elected: John McCracken, W. M.; Thomas H. Rearne, S. W.; Albert G. Walling, J. W.; S. M. Lyon, T., and Henry Law, secretary.

Christmas being the great feast of the Catholic church, the customary services were held in this city at midnight. High mass was celebrated by Rev. P. Macken, and an eloquent dis-course delivered by Rev. M. O. Reilly

The Episcopal Church, on Second street, was well filled last night with the children and teachers belonging to Chicagonal Sabbath school. The the Episcopal Sabhath school. The building was decorated with ever-greens and a large Christmas tree was erected at the western end of the church, festooned with fruit, cakes and many other nice things in which chil-dren generally take delight. The sing-ing by the choir and a host of boys and girls was truly charming.

The Sunday school of the Methodist Episcopal Church had a pleasant time last night. A gigantic Christmas tree was erected in front of the pulpit, litwas scale overed with presents candles, cakes, fruits, flowers, etc. Smiling faces, pretty girls, social intercourse, happy reunions and general good feelwere the order of the eve

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

When a mother is indulgent with her little son, he kicks her on the shins when she mildly corrects him. Aren't you a little that way with your friends who are good to you?

There is no riddle in life that cannot be solved by practicing the simple vir-tues more patiently, that it may be said of you after you are gone: "How patient he was in his sufferings:"

Probably we are all too indignant when we dislike a thing. I'm always glad when Christmas is over with. I am never satisfied with my Christmas conduct.

Of all the people I know anything about, telephone girls are the most polite and patient, although treated more impatiently and unjustly than any other class. I recommend that young men marry telephone girls. I note that some of the women have

I note that some of the women have determined to obtain the right to vote at the point of the bayonet. Let no woman jab a bayonet into me; I hereby give notice that I surrender. The relatives of a mean man, in giv.

ing excuses for him, always say the same thing: "He's so nervous." I have noticed that my likes and dis-

likes do not cause any great excite-ment. And how people struggle to get away when I try to talk!

That which we call "nerve" has a habit of deserting all of us when the occasion is just right to use it. It's a trick most people have not to take great interest in a great many others.

Seal Not Essential. PORTLAND, Dec. 22.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me if a will without the seal will stand in Oregon. If a husband and wife hold a joint deed can the survivor hold the whole of the property without a will.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Absence of a seal does not invalidate will. The Oregon State Supreme ourt in the case of Oliver against Court in the case of Orier against Wright, reported in the 47th Oregon, page 322, decided that "a conveyance of real property to a husband and wife creates a tenancy by the entirety, a dupon the death of either apouse the survivor takes the whole of the estate."

New-Old Idea in Telephony.

Indianapolis News.

An English Inventor has copied an old idea in the history of telephony by designing a transmitter shaped like the human ear.