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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, DEC. 26, 1911.

WHY DOES NOT ROOSEVELT TELL US? The New York Evening Post, a sharp critic of the Taft Administration and a probable supporter of his Demcratic opponent, has an edit ticle calling for fair play for Taft. The Post's comment is directed toward Colonel Roosevelt, and it says a number of caustic things about the Colone's methods and motives. With these it is not necessary now to deal. but one paragraph is worth reproducing, for it reflects a sentiment that has long been in many minds. It is:

Curiously enough, the same thought is expressed by another Democratic newspaper, the influential and sensible Charlotte (N. C.) Observer:

Charlotte (N. C.) Onserver.

What grounds for personal revenge can the Colonel have against Mr. Tatt? What has Tatt done to him that he should seek to destroy Tatt? Have they not been for many years the most intimate of personal what has occurred to distort the smally of their relations? What has Tatt done to the Calonel that the Colone; should now seek to get even with Tatt?

The today of the Tatt done or not

What indeed has Taft done or not done that Colonel Roosevelt should not love him any more? Why does not Colonel Roosevelt tell us? The country might possibly have a different view of Taft-or Roosevelt.

SOCIALISM AND ITS REMEDY.

What is the cause of the great increase of Socialism reflected in the recent elections is a question which is being asked by farseeing politicians. statesmen and economists throughout the country. Their answers are as various as their political or class opin-ions and prejudices, but with few exceptions they agree on several pointsthat Socialism is gaining atrength belife harder, while they see vast increase of wealth at the other end of the social scale; because the poor have a general belief, hazy among most, fixed and flerce to the degree of fanaticism among some, that their growing poverty is the consequence of other men's growing wealth; because the poor believe that this condition is the fruit of unjust laws, which it is hopeless to expect the old parties to amend; in short, because they believe that others get a large share of what they produce and that the Socialist party offers the only hope of redress.

A symposium of political opinion on growth of the Socialist party. which has been published by the New York World, shows general agreement that the increased Socialist vote is due n increase in conversi the Socialist theory than to a general protest against existing conditions. It is lattributed to the growth of trusts, to the injustices of the tariff, to the control of the old parties by and the interests, to the failure of wages to keep pace with the increased cost of living, and to abundoned hope securing just laws from the old

This Republic was founded on the principle of equal opportunity for all and special privileges for none. It is based on individualism, but it has been turned away from its principles. Every which has been taken away from individualism has been a step towards cislism. Laws which impose a tariff tax for the benefit of a few; which grant subsidies to men engaged in particular industries; which allow corporations to capitalize these privileges and then to form a federation of corporations, commonly called a trust, intended to exterminate all rivals seeking a share of those privileges; which give away, or sell for a song, large sections of the public domain to men who then sell the products back o the givers at extertionate pricesall these are steps toward Socialism

Such laws have produced drones like Frank Gould, who, having pro duted nothing, is able to give his 1 \$500,000 pearl necklace. He is unmaking Socialist votes. Such laws have produced E. H. Gary, the captain of industry who has capitalized more than half the steel business of the country at double its value and is able out of the proceeds to give his wife jewels equal in value to Gould's gift. He is making Socialist votes and, when he pros that the Government regulate the price of trust products, he is talkoutright Socialism. The Socialist propaganda is thus being preached on one hand by the soupbox agitator and on the other by the acts of the

drone and the exploiter. It is rank Bourbonism to say, as does ex-Senator Scott, of West Virginia, that the spread of Socialism is due to "howl of the press making the aboring man of the country believe he is not properly cared for," or, as says Representative Steenerson, of Minneota, that it is "due to muckraking." The press does not howl unless there is something to how! about. The muckraker can find no work unless material is at hand for him, Such fatuous explanations are worthy of the old regime in France, which persisted in from the state is as vicious as it is

The Socialist tide can be stayed only by seeking its cause and finding and applying its cure. A large majority, probably, of those who vote the So-cialist ticket are not Socialists by conviction, do not even know what Soialism means. They are simply voicing a protest against unjust laws which favor the few at the expense of the many and deprive them of that circulates a falsehood is as culpable as clety do not stop at prison walls. The visited by the stork.

tion guarantees. The remedy lies in a return to that individualism which is the very antithesis of Socialism. It lies in rooting out of our laws all provisions which favor some at the expense of all. It lies in the enforcement of all laws already existing for the purpose of securing equal oppor-tunity for all, whether the offenders be dynamiters like the McNamaras or monopolists like the beef-packers. lies in recognizing lawlezsness as an-archy, whether practiced by the head of a great corporation or by a street

agitator, or a labor union leader. To restore equality does not mean a return to outdated industrial conditions, wherein competition was carried to the point of mutual destruction. It means free play in applying modern economic methods, that the nefit of those methods may be turned to the public good, instead of private greed. It does not mean a dead level of equality in men's earnings. It means that the man who has the industry, ability genius, without the artificial aid of legal favors, to accumulate a million, shall have freedom to acquire that million. It means also that he who has only industry, ability and genius to acquire a thou-sand shall have that thousand, all of it, and that the law shall not take half of it to add to the other man's

Socialism can be successfully combatted only by justice, which gives equal opportunity to all, which is individualism. Let us make the laws conform to this principle and let us enforce them without favor, and the Socialist vote will melt away as fast as It has grown.

CALIFORNIA'S WAY.

California is insurgent—oh, so in-urgent! It has an insurgent Governor, who fairly cozes insurgency by day and dreams insurgency by night. It has an insurgent or two in the lower House of Congress. It has an insurgent Senator, who spouts insurgency by the hogshead. It has an insurgent, or near-insurgent, Legislature, and it has population that swallows whole any insurgent balt its self-anointed band of popularity-seeking apostles offer

When President Taft visited California last October to break ground for the great Panama-Pacific 1915 Exposition, Governor Johnson condescended to meet him at the state line; but he declined to take part as guest or host in a great banquet at San Fran-cisco in the President's honor. The entire demeanor of California's insurgent Governor during the President's stay was of forced courtesy and sneer ing and jaunty hospitality. The President was made to feel that California would have been glad if he had remained away. California was so busy with its preparations for the Panama-Pacific Exposition and in its wild and ostentatious rejoicing over the designation of San Francisco as the seat of the official celebration that it was obviously annoyed by the interruption of

a Presidential visit. The latest news from the California Insurgentville is that under the recently-framed Presidential primary law. California is going to send a solid anti-Taft delegation to the Chicago convention. No doubt, no doubt. The Great California Noise must make itself heard somehow.

Yet President Taft was the main influence in winning the battle between San Francisco and New Orleans for San Francisco, President Taft will be the most potent factor in future legislation for the 1915 exposition. President Taft will be the voice through which foreign nations will be called upon to participate. President Taft's active and continued friendship is indispensable to the success of the exposition.

But President Taft is broad-minded and generous, and will overlook the meanness of California and the little-ness of its Governor. California knows that and relies upon it, and will continue to bid for favors to come and

WHERE TRUTH IS UNSOUGHT.

A number of falsehoods have been uttered concerning what has been printed in The Oregonian about escaped convicts and Governor West's policy toward state prisoners, but no more brazen falsehood has been ut-tered anywhere than one in a recent ssue of the Pendleton East Oregonian. Undoubtedly knowing it to be untrue in its vital particulars, the Pendleton paper's fugleman in Portland, Journal, has given somewhat wider circulation to the yarn by reproducing it in its columns.

"Enemies of Governor West have taken advantage of his absence from the state to attack his prison policy anew. The Oregonian has had much to say about two Mexicans whom it classed as 'honor men' and who were reagrested at San Diego, Cal., not long begins the article in the East Oregonian. At no time has The Oregonian asserted that the two Mexicans were "honor men." In headlines, news article and editorial they were invariably referred to as "paroled" men. The following is from The Oregonian's news account of the incident:

"Serving past their minimum sen tence, they were paroled on condition they would return to their Mexican homes. On the bottom of the parole of each, Governor West wrote that would be granted a full pardon if they could reach Mexico.

Governor West's "honor" system is his own pet scheme, which has only inferential endorsement by law, if legal sanction at all. The parole system is created by law, and the Governor is the officer responsible for its proper administration. The prisoner who has served the minimum term of his sentence is not "entitled" to parele; no right to freedom is vested in him by that fact. It is up to the Governor to say whether he shall go free on parole or await the expiration of a longer term of imprisonment, the latter in no case to exceed the maximum sentence imposed upon him. Neither The Oregonian nor any other critic of the Governor's policy fixed the time for the two Mexicans to make spectacular display of misplacement of confidence by the Governor. The implication that the news accounts of the de ings of the two Mexicans and the comment thereon were timed to appear during the Governor's absence

The Portland paper which passed this stuff along has established a kind of stoolpigeon department, where any garrulous gossip, or irresponsible busyedy, who thinks he has spied a crime against truth or decency in The Ore-

gonian, is encouraged to tattle imaginings or untruths to the public. The adage that he who knowingly

equal opportunity which the Constitu- he who originates it is either unknown or ignored in the stoolpigeon depart-

GOOD CASE FOR COMBINATION.

If the Oregon delegation in Congress expects to secure the appropriation for roads in Crater Lake Park recommended by Major Morrow, it will do well to secure the co-operation of delegations from other states which de-sire appropriations for like purposes. Next to Oregon, California is most nterested, for tourists going to Crater Lake Park will be as likely to choose the southern as the northern route across the Continent, and California always needs something for Yosemite Park. Washington also is interested, for it needs roads in Mount Rainier Park and will benefit by the travel to Crater Lake which comes by the northern route. Idaho, Montana and Wyoming are all interested in improvement of Yellowstone Park and should be induced to join hands in pushing a general appropriation bill for all these Western wonderlands.

Since the Government has set aside these natural marvels as parks, ex-cluding private enterprise from them, and has undertaken their preservation and development, there is legitimate ground for asking that it provide the necessary funds. Success is only possible by combining the Pacific and Northwestern states on the basis of ommunity of interest. By this means each can secure something, while each alone could obtain nothing.

THE PRESIDENT "PLAYS HOOKEY." President and Mrs. Taft "played

hookey" on Christmas eve. With all the pleasure of schoolboy and schoolgirl going off on a secret escapade, they einded the watchfulness of the President's guard and escaped from the White House to visit their friends

as plain American citizens.

This little incident brings into strong relief how great a burden is the Presidency to its incumbent. He must not only give all his time and all his thoughts to the duties of his office, but he must sacrifice to it that free-dom of action which is dearest to every man. For the time being he becomes the one person whose safety is of the greatest moment to the whole Nation, therefore he must be guarded as carefully as the banker guards the wealth entrusted to him. Every person who gains access to him must pass muster after close scrutiny. When he goes abroad, detectives must follow him to The avert possible attack by some malicious or ill-balanced person. A single act by one such person may, by laying low the President, change the course of our history. Against such an act constant vigilance is necessary.

But what a sense of restraint such necessity must beget in the President-to have a watch set upon goings out and comings in, to feel that he cannot mingle with his fellows as others do, that he can enjoy no privacy as to his movements. No wonder he sometimes flings sside caution, awaits his opportunity to be a free man for a few hours and "plays hookey."

WHY NOT PROTECT PRISON SOCIETY?

Several of the questions asked today by Dr. Seth C. Maker in his letter on capital punishment have already been answered in The Oregonian in the The Oregonian believes they should be answered. Mental ac-countability of the sinner against society is not a complete gauge of the penalty that should be meted out. Yet we could not agree that the Holz-man murderer revealed a total lack of moral restraint were that a vital factor in determining what should be done with him. Doubtless if someone had seen Barbara Holzman in company on the street with the man who afterwards took her life, and that man would never have been taken to his room. How often, before and since The Treasury Department is accord-then, has this man's purpose been ingly kept busy reissuing paper money foiled by fear that his actions were | -buying new clothes, as it were. seen and noted?

Fear of consequences to ourselves if we commit deeds which we know or believe to be wrong dominates the life of many of us. Fear of torment after death keeps many in the straight and narrow way when inclinations attract them to the broad path that leads to destruction. Fear of the rod has suppressed the mischlevous inclinations of millions of youngsters. Fear of a short shrift and a quick shrift would halt many a murder. Yet to us, it seems nonsensical to contend that he who would be deterred from crime by open danger of discovery is not responsible for crimes he commits when fear This is what Dr. Maker's philosophy means in its final analysis, and, followed in all cases, it would

wreck society. "Should society seek revenge or protection?" The question is not in issue. Few if any intelligent advocates of capital punishment maintain that society should avenge the against it for the mere sake of vengeance. The death penalty is advoated not only to remove a dangerous element from society, but also as a de-

terrent of crimes not yet committed. What more is there to be gained hanging a criminal than by restraining him for life? Why clamor for the blood of one who is walled in with his own lik?" asks Dr. Maker. But are ur life prisoners restrained for life? James B. McNamara, a "life prisoner," with a score of murders to his dis-credit, entered San Quentin "looking to the future." To what future? To the future when the public mind shall occupied with other atroclties; to the future when a crowded prison may cause some weak-willed Governor to measure the murderer's claim on parole by his good behavior under re-straint, instead of his past deeds, his inclinations or the effect his liberty

may have on society. The parole law and indeterminate sentence are in themselves excellent examples of the effect certainty of punishment has upon criminal tendencies. Infraction of prison rules, under the indeterminate sentence. means absolutely a longer term for the recalcitrant convict. Parole as given in this state is nearly always a reward for good behavior in prison. Denial of parole and service of the maximum term are punishment for wrongful acts against that portion of society within the walls, not punishment for wrongs against society at large. The law makes prison disciplin more easily maintained among the most hardened inmates.

We do not concede that the murderer, serving a life term, is walled with his own lik. He is walled in with men of weak moral restraint many of whom are paying the penalty for crimes of minor character, yet men are susceptible to evil example and evil influence. The boundaries of

men within are human beings. opportunities for spread of moral con-tamination exist within as well as We establish reformatories for youthful first offenders that they may not be led to further criminal deeds by the influence of the hard-ened criminal whom they would see and associate with daily in the peni-

took his own life in his private office. took his own life in his private drilled the requiem stamp-stamp of the requiem stamp-stamp of feet sounded by convicts on the reverberating steel floors of corridors and compensate them equably and adequately for our usufruct. cells throughout the whole prison conveyed the first intelligence to the guards that an untoward incident had occurred. He who commits crime for or divert it to any use he would not have it used for. Since the land be-

The irrepressible conflict between democracy and despotism, be tween religious intolerance and religious freedom is thus brought to a head.

An order of the New York Public Service Commission that the Interborough Company must post notices of blockades on its lines within ten minutes after they occur is heartily en-dorsed by the Railway-Age Gazette, which also recommends that all steam roads follow the same rule. The traveling public will certainly feel more kindly disposed toward a railroad frankly tells of delays to its trains than toward one which keeps it in suspense with no information at all. No man curses a railroad more heartily than he who stamps about a depot waiting for a train which does not come, but which, for all he knows, may come at any moment. If he were informed that the train is an hour late, his suspense would be ended and he could find some means of whiling away that hour.

One outcome of the general acceptance of the germ theory of disease is the demand for new money instead of the ragged, dirty bills and the worn, discolored coins which have hitherto passed current. This demand is particularly strong about Christmas, had known he was observed, Barbara | many people call for crisp, clean bills and bright coins to send as presents

> If the British Tories had an orator ly sanctioned by Britain, as Gladstone made for the Tories over the Bulgarian atrocities thirty-odd years ago.

> Yamhill County for \$30,000 shows business acumen on the part of the buyers. deals of this kind when the owners prepare them for market. However much parties may wrangle

in Congress about the wool tariff, they longer dispute about the fundamental facts. The Tariff Board has supplied the basis for either a protec-tive or revenue tariff. In Alaska men stampede to find in the rest of the country to

spend It, when Christmas comes, Nov

to spend next Christmas. Social war between the Astors and Vanderbilts, marked by reckless squandering of wealth in rivalry of display, furnishes the Socialists with a new

campaign argument. The Sale family fills the light this week. All are with us, including Annual Clearance, Pre-inventory, Anniversary. Alteration, Sacrifice and the Great White.

If the boy who begins by smoking cigarettes would eventually use a pipe, there would be hope for him, but the coffin-nails sap his spirit and he cannot improve.

So long as there are women who love mystery, there will be fakers like Oom to initiate them into mystery for a price which is not all money.

A special brand of sympathy is due to teachers whose holiday vacation must be spoiled by attending an in-A big dinner fills a poor man's

stomach on Christmas, but doesn't help the aching void in days to come The author of that classic, "The Night Before Christmas," has a per-

Give the letter-carrier the glad hand for the force did a good holiday job. Old Santa Claus is tired this morn-

ennial monument.

ing, after a day of strenuous labor. The official forecasters made good weather for the day.

The lucky family yesterday was that

UNCLE SAM AS BIG LANDLORD. Writer Advocates Single Tax With a

Income Tax Adjunct.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Dec. 24.—(To the Editor.)—I see an explanation of this single tax thesis, now being discussed in The Oregonian, from the facile pen of E. F. Riley. If he is right, I must learn it all over again, because must learn it all over again, because and associate with daily in the peni-tentiary.

A state prison is a small world in itself, with changing population. It has its avenues of interior communi-cation, often mysterious to the offi-rights; that he has only the absolute cers of the institution. It is related right to what he covers with his feet that when a warden, detected in graft in the penitentiary of a nearby state, to others, but he may use what he finds took his own life in his private office. Idle. He has only a usufructory right.

crime's sake may boast of his deeds within walls as well as without, and make of himself a hero in the eyes of the weakling.

There is as much reason for pro-

make of himself a hero in the eyes of the weakiling.

There is as much reason for protecting prison society from further contamination as there is for protecting society at large from original contamination. The prison population goes forth in time, bearing unconsciously or knowingly the impress of association with others. Each unit of this population has a moral weakness. This weakness is not cured—it is more likely aggravated—by association with Webbs. Hassings and the murderers such as those who butchered Barbara Holzman and the Hill family. There is but one safe way to protect society from such perverts as these, and it is not clumoring for blood or crying for vengeance to say that they should be put out of the world.

Europe recognizes that the abrogation of the Russian treaty by the United States will force to an issue two questions which have long been in controversy between this Republic and the despotic monarchies. One is the right of a man to transfer his allegiance from one government to another. The other is the right of any government to discriminate as to race or creed between citizens whom the government of their own country places in an equality. The United States holds that the country to which men owe allegiance must fix their legal status and, if it declares them all equal, any country giving rights to trade or travel must concede the same right to all. The irrepressible conflict of the wealth of the land or season of the reason of the individual of the land of the same right to all. The irrepressible conflict of the remains turned landlords—the tenants turned landl

tenant no worse than the landlords do

now.

I am not a Socialist. I never met one who could tell what alled him. I met one who said every man should met one who said every min should have a right to all the wealth he created individually and collectively. Single tax will go a long way towards this, but I think we ought add an income tax, so as to share in the community wealth that we create for those engaged in commerce and transportaengaged in commerce and transports

SINGLE TAX COLOSSAL STEAL. Umatilin Assessor Believes Schem

Would Retard Development. PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 23 .- (To the PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 23.—(To the Editor.)—Knowing that our land owners are threatened by a rising issue that would sweep away their wealth more completely than famine or plague, I feel that I ought not to keep silent longer. I would say to the press and people of the state through The Oregonian that what is known as single tax is the issue referred to, and that inclusively average have already cleared the single-taxers have already cleared the way for adoption of their scheme in this state. This was done by amending the state constitution so as to legalize the single tax in event of its

legalise the single tax in event of its emactment by the people.

The purpose of single tax is to destroy private property in the land. Acceptance of the system would result in confiscation of land values and of money loaned on land security.

When a government takes private property for public use or forfeits title thereto or value thereof by legislation without paying for it, the act is called confiscation, and this is what well-informed single-taxers aim to do.

They regard the payment of rent to private land owners as a species of

of Gladstone's power, he could make as much trouble for the Liberals over the Russian atrocities in Persia, tacitly sanctioned by Britain, as Gladstone such persons for their land. They do not propose literally to abolish land titles, but to absorb the full rental

Purchase of a prune orchard in taxation, which, in effect, amounts to amhill County for \$30,000 shows the same thing.

When the owner of land shall be usiness accumen on the part of the when the owner of the same economic relation to his holdings that tensus now occupy in relation to private owners, it seems absurd to expect further reclamation of land in the state. For no one would expend labor or money to reclaim new land only to ac-quire the right to rent it from the state, paying the full rental value thereof. To support single tax is, therefore, to participate, as principal, in a colossal steal, and at the same time to arrest the progress of an unstate. C. P. STRAIN, Assessor Umatilla County. developed state.

GULLS MENACE THE WATER FOWL we begin a stampede to find more gold, Writer Declares Countless Eggs and

Writer Declares Countless Eggs and Young Birds Are Destroyed in North. PORTLAND. Dec. 22.—(To the Editor.)—I notice a great deal in the papers lately regarding the destruction of the game birds and while "tolling," bailing, "game-hogs" and the coyotes, have considerable to de with the destruction of game, they cut but a very small part compared to our seagulls which are protected by the laws. One has but to go to the breeding grounds of the duck and goose, in the unds of the duck and goose, in the grounds of the duck and goose, in the North during the Summer, where he will see regular patrols of the sea gulis in every slough where ducks and geese are hatching their young. As soon as same are located by the gulls the young are all devoured in a very short time and the gulls are off to another feast, there being no limit to their capacity. Nor do the gulls wait for the eggs to hatch, for whenever they can locate a nest they will devour the eggs. oggs to hatch, to whole the eggs.

One has but to ask any of the crews of steamers on the Lower Yukon River, in Alaska, which is the greatest broeding ground of the present day, to verify my statement.

my statement.

Do away with the gulls, which to my knowledge, are the greatest destroyers of water fowl in existence and save the ducks and geese.

J. R. D. the ducks and geese.

Center of Population.

FALLS CITY, Or. Dec. 23.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Is there the same number of people living west of the center of population as there is east of that Where is the center of population according to the 1910 census?

(1) Yes. Otherwise it would not be e center of population.
(2) Near Bloomington, Indiana.

CLEVELAND, Or. Dec. 22.—(To the Editor.)—Has a person who is a legal voter, but not a taxpayer, a right to vote at a road meeting called to levy a special tax in a road district."

A READER,

REVIVAL RESULTS NOT UNUSUAL Mission Worker Tells of Observations

Made in Other Cities. SHERIDAN, Or., Dec. 23 .- (To the Editor.)-I am glad that the report in The Oregonian on the Gipsy Smith meetings was published for many rea-All such have been in the past kept a secret and the public have not been able to ascertain the actual facts in the case. I have been in many of the largest meetings in Chicago, and several of the Eastern cities for the past 30 years and have watched the results with interest. I have been called pessimist because I did not believe in and indorse the wholesale movement of evangelization as some wiser ones did, but this has not hindered my taking notice of the results. Some years since in Chicago there was a canvass of the churches to learn when, where and by whom were the members brought into the churches. The percentment was so small toward the great evangelistic movement that the matter never came to public notice. A very large per-centage were converted in early life and in rural districts by men little

and unknown. About 20 years since 18 churches in Chicago called one of the noted Evan-gelists of that day to hold a three weeks' meeting. At the close the same weeks' meeting. At the close the same results were harvested as in Portland today. Any two of the 18 churches would have filled the auditorium to overflowing, and hundreds were turned away the first night, but it made a wonderful impression on the minds of the people who did not know the actual workings or think far enough to measure the different influences at work. I was at that time in mission work there and several of those pastors who were interested in the meetings were on my advisory board. I asked were on my advisory board. I asked one of them when he called to see me, "How many accessions did you have from the meetings?" And the answer was, "I wish you had not asked me that question." "Is it not a fair one?" I asked. He said, "Yes, but I do not like to answer it, but I will. No one." And he save the same the one." And he gave the same reasons that are given for the results of the Gipsy Smith meetings.

I hope the time has come when per ple will get their eyes open and their understanding cleared up, and that such syndicates in the religious world will find their level with the trusts and combines in other business lines. It has been taught for better than 30 years that Christianity is a business and needs business tact and men as much as in other lines of business Perhaps that may be true but those advocating the movement have failed to prove their theory and have failen to the ground in every instance.

the ground in every instance.
Through such movements infidels
have caught on and come up with,
"Where is your God now?" The Bible
has not lost its power, and the Gospel
message will have the same effect today as in days gone by when men listened and obeyed God's leadings. The Holy Ghost is in the world teaching and leading men as he did in the apostolic days. I know personally many of these men and know them to love them as good men, but the love of the great and applause of men has taken all vital plety and trust in God's leadings away. But God will have a people and is con stantly looking for men who can and will go and hear his message. Where they do his will, men are truly con-verted, God is honored and infidel mouths are stopped. The way is marked out so plain a wayfaring man, though the most inconsiderate, need not err therein. But men cannot improve upon God's plan, for his ways are higher than man's.

Pity for Murderers?

PORTLAND, Dec. 21 .- (To the Edior.)-I had never conceived it possible that any person of sane mind, or possessing any intellectual qualifications whatever, could be guilty of such mawkish sentiment toward a degenerate fiend, as that which is displayed in a letter to The Oregonian printed December 21. It contains a paragraph to this effect: "I am not surprised at the attitude of those who think they are good Christians in their insistence upon the enforcement of the death penalty. Their reasoning processes, like their religion, may be compared in some re-spects, to those of the 'disnatured' and perverted criminal who murders a 6year-old girl. They are more to be pitled than censured."

How anyone could take up the cudgel in defense of such a fiend, or others like him, is beyond belief. Has he a little girl of his own? One would hard-ly suppose so, or he would take the matter home more seriously. Who can think with calmness on the dreadful thing with calminess on the dreading fate of an innocent, unsuspecting child, vistim of a flend? Who can imagine her sufferings, her pitiful cries, her thy struggles before her life is ended? Who can imagine the mental agony and suffering of the heart-broken parents, which will never be assuaged as long as their lives shall last? What as long as their lives shall last? What about the victims of these murderers and the loved ones who are left to sufand the loved ones who are left to suf-fer for them? Who pities them, or offers a plea for them? No, let them be forgotten, they have no right to cry for justice. The murderer must be "packed away in lavender," and handled with kid gloves, lest his feelings should be hurt, forsooth. Let the old Mosaic law stand, "an

eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." Let these laws be in vogue today, and we shall hear less of these murders and fiendlish crimes, for the fear of hanging will act as a deterrent in many cases. "Selfevation is the first law of nature let it be practised for ourselves and those helpless innocents for whom we are responsible. A MOTHER.

Plague Only a Bugaboo

PORTLAND. Dec. 24.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian Saturday a news item stated that a fund of \$5000, provided by the Assembly of Oregon to assist in fighting the bubonic plague, will not be paid by Secretary Olcott. The reason given for this refusal is that the bill for the appropriation was important to the paid for the appropriation was important. The reason given to this task.

the bill for the appropriation was improperly drawn. Other reasons why
this bill should not be paid will doubtless occur to many of your subscribers.

Prominent among them will be the fact that the population of Oregon is not being decimated by bubenic plague. This may not look like a good reason to those who would have been entrusted with the expenditure of the fund in question, but it will appeal to your iverage taxpayer. Anyway, one cannot but feel that the latter class are to be ongratulated on Mr. Olcott's action.

No doubt your legislature was influenced in making the appropriation fluenced in making the appropriation by stories of the plauge in San Francisco. I say "no doubt" because the California plague has been used to scare so many legislators, to frighten so many Congressmen, and to excite so much alarm outside of California, as to make Californians wonder which is more dangerous and spreads faster—bubonic plague germs or misinformation about them.

tion about them.

As I understand it rats and fleas and As I understand it rats and fleas and squirrels carry the germs, and—in this case—the Marine Hospital Service carried the misinformation. Of the two the former is less deadly. As a matter of fact the plague never had a foothold in California, and the uproar occasioned about it was due to hasty and reckless diagnosis, or to mere inference without any diagnosis at all. Subsequent rational investigation proved this, but the impression has clung in some quarters that San Francisco really had a plague, nevertheless. this, but the some quarters that San some quarters that San really had a plague, nevertheless.

N. Nitts on Mincemeat

By Dean Collins.

Nescius Nitts, he whose wise talk for Will keep all of Punkindorf wondering "Why?"
Had fixed on the spider a venomous eye, Then swiftly the nicotine volley let I. Then he spake upon Wiley and pie. It fell.

"I shore found the Christmas a nice pleasant day,
With all of its givin' of presents away.
But there was one thing discomposed
me in my Interior-it was my daughter's mince The night after Christmas, and presents and Santy
And grub, I dreamed dreams that shore Danted Dante.

"I sees by the papers that Wiley has found
Jest what things go into the mince-meat compound.
Thus solvin' a problem the which, beyond question. Has cost many lives, and a lot of digestion, Fer mince pies, in all of their war togs arrayed, mortals, is 'fearful and wonder-ful made.' Like m

I long sence gave up, and no longer I fussed To figger the contents that's under its crust. crust,
But in simple faith and in calm fortitude
I ate it, 'cause daughter had said it
was food;
Therefore Wiley's stunt plumb miraculous seems
To analyze out this here forger of dreams.

But 'spite of all that, still the task is not done.

There yet is a field for some deep minded one.

To map out the nightmares, that mars out content, And figger which comes from which ingredient:
And then the pore mortal may knew without doubt
'Fore bitin' his silce, jest what dreams will come out." Portland, Dec. 25.

RESPONSIBILITY OF CRIMINALS Moral Control Not Always With Moral

Consciousness, Says Writer. CENTRALIA, Wash., Dec. 23 .- (To the Editor.)-In The Oregonian Saturday, R. A. Westfield endeavors to answer some questions propounded by me in a letter published Thursday. If I may be permitted to impose againupon your courtesy, I would like to say few words upon the subjects of

hanging and moral responsibility. The Oregonian and its correspondent Mr. Westfield each assumes that because the criminal realizes the enormity of his misdeeds, the necessity for concealing them and comprehends the penalty prescribed by law, that there no question about his moral responsibility.

Mr. Westfield says: "I wonder if this sympathist really thinks that it is impossible for the thug to prevent himself while walking along some dark alley pulling a gun, thrusting it in some man's face and demanding his money." This is measuring by self standard. It is a common error to assume that the crividnal has as much moral restraint as his critic. The latter will concede to the evil-doer a preponderance of victorsness, greed and hatred, but forgets that contfol or in-tellectual domination might be defi-cient. Mr. Westfield has no trouble in holding his own murderous tenden-

cies in check; ergo, the thug should be able to do the same. Moral consciousness is not always moral control. A knowledge of evil is useless when other elements of the mind are strong enough to overcome whatever of restraint the individual may possess. Complete responsibility implies complete mental freedom, and there is no such thing. We frequently speak of the will as if it were an independent mental entity, but the act "willing" s the result of a cor

pulsory mental process.

A criminal may commit a criminal may commit a criminal may commit a criminal method frequently used by insane criminal methods. inals, and be utterly devoid of moral responsibility. The Holzman murderer doubtless realized the awfulness of his crime and knew of the penalty, but a force stronger than this knowledge dominated his actions. Of course this dominated his actions. Or course this is nothing more than an application of the doctrine that man is not a free moral agent, but the great lights of science and philosophy all concur.

It seems to me that it ought to be

a consolation to society to know that a murderer, whether of the disnatured or vindictive type, was safely behind the walls of the penitentiary earning his keep and helping to defray the ex-penses of the state. Should society seek revenge, or protection? What more is there to be gained by hanging seek revenge, or protection? What more is there to be gained by hanging a criminal than by restraining him for life? Why clamor for the blood of one who is walled in with his own ilk? And suppose for the sake of argument —and I believe the argument is sound that not only the acts of criminals but the acts of altruists are alike compelled, does it not invalidate the theory of legal or divine punishment and re-

venge? is the duty of society to protect It is the duty of society to protect itself, but the days of savagery and barbarism are waning. The people of Oregon, a state foremost in political achievement, should take pride in the fact that they have a Governor who has attained to that degree of bigmess where he is not hampered by primitive vindictiveness nor swayed by a battleberg philosophy. butcher's philosophy

BETH C. MAKER

Horsepower Tax on Autos. Horsepower Tax on Autos.

BROWNSVILLE, Or., Dec. 22.—(To
the Editor.)—In reference to an item
a few days ago on road legislation by
a Polk County farmer that it would be
necessary to curb the scorching tourist
before the farmers would feel justified
in making special levies, I for one
and as an owner of two machines
would be willing to meet the farmers
half was by placing a tax of \$1 per would be willing to meet the farmers haif way by placing a tax of \$1 per horsepower on each machine in the state annually, to be applied to a special r ad fund. I understand some states have such a law and it has not only built good roads but maintains them in first-class condition. I believe every automobile owner will agree with me that money invested in good roads will bring better returns than the same amount invested in regular. the same amount invested in regular monthly repair bills. If anyone is in doubt, let him make a trip from the upper valley to Portland, and if the mishaps and wear and tear of the

mishaps and wear and tear of the various parts are properly enumerated they will find that very often a single trip of this kind will place a special tax several dollars to the good. The speed limit is of course subject to a great difference of opinion, but for asfety and comfort, would think an extreme limit of 25 miles per hour would be practical, although the average motorist will cut the corner and nearly run over people to get to his destination as soon as possible and seldom has anything important when he gets there.

he gets there. CHARLES STERLING.