The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

tered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as -Invariably in Advance (BT MAIL)

unday and Weekly, one (BT CARRIER)

How to Hermit-Send Postuffice money or-er, express order or personal check on your cal bank. Simmys, coin or currency are the sender's risk. Give postuffice address full, including county and state. Postage Bates—19 to 14 pages. I cent; 16 75 pages. I cents; 16 to 45 pages. I cent; to 45 pages. 4 cents. Foreign postage, this rate. stern Business Offices Verrs & Conk New York, Branswick building, Chi Steger building. ropean Office-No. 2 Regent street, 5.

PORTLAND TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1912.

OUB NATIONAL SIN. "There is no place," said Senator Borah, in his recent remarkable address before the Young Republican Club of New York, "where life is so insecure against the bomb or the bulcriminal laws are so incf fectually enforced, where corruption is so little condemned by public opinion where defiance of law in the highest of business so generaly pre-The severe indictment of walls." eloquent Idaho Senator was against the entire people of the United States. The impotence of law-enforcement and the shameful indifference of the bublic toward the law he declared to "our National sin, pervading all classes and fastening its demoralizing hold upon all our institutions."

The justifiable words of Senator Borah were recalled to The Oregonian by an article in The Oregonian Sunday about the course of justice in Mult-nemah County. Statistics were printed to show that 299 persons had been indicted for various offenses in the first eleven months of 1911. Of the 259, twenty-one-about 8 per centwere sent to the penitentlary. Ninetynine of the 199-or less than one-third were found guilty, but fifty-three of the ninety-nine escaped the penalty of their crimes by being released on parole by the court.

It is not the purpose of The Orego plan to fasten primary responsibility for this lamentable situation upon the courts, but to hold directly account able the spirit of lawlessness of the people-or rather their light and unscerned attitude toward the law and their exculpatory and Indulgent view crime and criminals. It is easy to understand that a judge may be im portuned to show leniency toward every culprit who may happen to have sympathetic friends or a dependent family; and it is also easy to see why he should be influenced toward a mod-ification of the law's severe judgment in individual cases when the laws are urposely framed so that the way of the transgressor shall not be hard. The path of the criminal newadars is strewn with the persuasive tears of appealing relatives or the potent adings of meddling humanitarians, so that the exact course of justice is diverted into coddling evasion and downright defeat.

A foul murder is committed, and the instrumentalities of the law through the ingenious devices of lawyers are invoked to secure immunity from punishment. But if perchance the assa-sin is convicted, and jury and judge decree that he shall pay the full penalty, the scaffold is wrecked by a Governor, the hangman's rope is cut into hits and distributed as souvenirs ng weeping spectators and admiring fellow-convicts, and the orderer is showered with flowers and congratulations.

If perchance a villatnous Lothario, after a long career of debaucher; lust, is brought to book for the ruln of young girls, and is found guilty, the jury and judge think their duty ends when they turn the scoundrel loose ith a hypothetical but invisible scarlet letter pinned to his breast.

If a criminal is perchance sent to the penitentiary, he is, or is likely to be, paroled or "honored" by the Governor; if he is freed by the court, or escapes through quibble, or trick, or neglect, or collusion, he is a smart fellow, and the public regards him with a feeling almost akin to respect. The criminal, in or out of prison, the publie ought to despise, and the law ought always to punish

The cure for this deplorable condition is not more law, as the public appears to fancy, but more rigid law forcement. We have law enoughfar more than enough. But we have not enough regard for law, and because we have not, we fancy that the remedy for our own weakness or lax-ity is more and more law.

When we take care to elect law officers who we know will enforce the law, and when we insist that the law is the law and must be obeyed, then shall we find corporations under just and proper restraint and individuals under correct discipline. When soclety does its duty to itself through its stern insistence upon law observance, there will be less orime and fewer, far fewer, criminals.

THE PITY OF IT.

Saicide, we are wont to say, is the act of an insane person, or a coward. In this latter diagnosis selfishness is often a prime element-solfishness of the type that shrinks from self-denial even for the sake of wife and chil-This estimate is corroborated in the case of a man who committed spicide in this city New Year's morning, leaving his wife and six children. oldest sight years and the youngest-twins-three months of Selfishness culminating in cowardice is unmistakable in this case. This charge is supported by the fact that this prolific father was a stationary engineer, capable of earning good wages; that instead of putting in all available time at his vocation, earning what he could and applying his earnings to the mainof his helpless family, he quit work as Winter approached and that he had received from the sale of me tand, and went to New York to | down 5 to 10 cents a pound. visit his parents. He returned after having had a good visit, entirely without money, to his destitute family. He ey or may not have been able to get given to a more stable man. as it may, the earning power of this man seemed to have vanished. Otherwise it would be difficult to account | make better profits.

m are at the breast. This case is typical of individual irresponsibility that is illustrated first by inconsiderate marriage, later by inconsiderate assumption of manifold pa-rental duties, and at last crouches whining in a corner and drains a bottle of carbolic acid.

Self-murder is, of course, shocking; in a sense-looking to its ultimate. seen and unseen, which its victims never do-it is pitiful. But, disclaiming all intent to take harsh judgment, we cannot forbear an expression of the belief that since this was to be this man's chosen means of shirking renabilities that are sacred to manly men in whatever financial station or strait in life, it is to be regretted that his case was not one of the many wherein carbolic acid or the piatol is the recourse of the jilted-the balm for wounded self-love that seeks expression in marriage. Surely the act of a weak young man who kills himpression in marriage. self because the girl he desires to marry will none of him, is less censurable than that of the husband and pied as producers than as parasites half a dozen helpless children without support

GOVERNOR STUBBS, INSURGENT. Governor Stubbs, of Kansas, prefers his party. Rather than have a direct fraternities. Of course the greatest primary law under which he cannot pains are taken to conceal each secure the Republican nomination for of these "accidents," or explain primary law under which he cannot Senator by means of Democratic them away, but now and votes, he will have no direct primary at all. When the demoralization of their hideousness. The youth the Republican party by the intrusion was burned almost to death the Republican party by the intrusion was burned almost to death at a of Democrats will help his ambition, fashionable Philadelphia academy Stubbs welcomes such deadly injury

to his party. This peculiarity is common among insurgents. They seek personal suc-cess, not through the success of their party, but by courting the sld of members of the opposite party at the mouth as a usual thing. It is only in them it is a game of win-at-any-price, | ing instinct which prompts a man cheerfully to accept defeat rather than win by unfair means.

HARRY THAW'S INSANITY.

How farcical is the law under which a murderer's life is saved by the plea of insanity is well illustrated by the intrigue through which Harry Thaw is expected to gain his liberty. Thaw was found to be a dangerous lunatic, liable at any time in a gust of passion to commit homicide, and as such was confined at Matteawan. His family has been intriguing ever since to secure his liberation and is reported to have succeeded so far as to have brought about a change in the management of the asylum favorable to him and to have overcome the objections of Jerome, who prosecuted him for the murder of White, and of his wife to his liberation.

These facts go to prove that a life sentence for a murderer is not really a life sentence. It is merely a sentence to imprisonment until political personal influence can secure a pardon or commutation of senten There can be no doubt that, if the sound principle on which were formerly judged, as defined by Carl Snyder, had been adhered to, Thaw would have been convicted of murder. A sentence of death would have removed all future danger to other men's lives from a man proved to have murderous instincts. Pattering with the insanity plea has kept him alive as a source of evil influence on the affairs of the state and its prosecuting officers and as a shin-ing example of how to commit murder and escape the death penalty.

SHANK, THE CONSUMER'S DE-

Low Shank-everybe "Lew"-Mayor of Indianapolis, has wilderness of philosophy, as to the middleman, who uses his position to beat down the price paid the is his reasoning that fills one with producer and to raise the price paid amazement and bilarity. by the consumer that his rake-off may be larger. Regarded at first as a demagogue, Shank enlisted the support of the conservative element of indianapolis by frankly confessing his inability to run the city without their aid and he has now so completely won the support of all elements by his

Receiving many complaints of the high prices of provisions in the city market, the Mayor investigated and learned the tricks by which the middlemen "gouged" both producer and the middlemen and a city ordinance prevented selling on the curb without a license. The Mayor virtually abroposite photograph, which, as every gated this ordinance and prices began to tumble. Corn dropped from 20 cents a dozen to 8 to 10 cents, other produce sold by the farmer dropped proportion and only things the farmer did not sell, or of which their supply became exhausted, remained inary mortar everybody who As Fall came on and the prices soared again.

bought a carload of Michigan potatoes. The price had been \$1.60 a bushel, but he cut it to 75 cents and bushel, but he cut it to 75 cents and The pestle which grinds us in this sold his carload in three hours to peo- magic mortar is "the initiative and ple who went away with full baskets, blessing Lew Shank. He brought in carload after carload and sold none higher than 85 cents. By his competition he forced down the market price for the best Eastern potatoes to 90

farmers through the Fall the Mayor brought down the price of all hog products and of fruit, but he did not interfere again as a dealer until just before Thanksgiving. Then he ran a three days' sale of turkeys, goese, ducks, chickens and country butter, all the money available, including \$350 and "knocked prices galley west," as your peace: dealers expressed it, sending them down 8 to 10 cents a pound. He followed this up by selling a carload of discoverer. Sir Isaac Newton, poor English walnuts, hundreds of pounds creature, said he was no more than a

work at his vocation. Naturally his The result has been a fall in prices job was not held for him, but was all along the line. Even the commison men hold no grudge against him.

make better profits.

The people have taken into their against the general welfare." This is

cide, that the family was dependent own hands the work begun by their such a comfort. It relieves one of any for necessary austenance upon the Mayor. Housewives to the number of mother of six small children, two of 500 have combined to buy their supplies by competitive bids for one year from the firm offering the lowest price, postoffice and railroad employes have combined in the same manner. and one such organization is buying hams, bacon and other cured meats at cents less than the retail price. The Mayer is flooded with inquiries from officials of other cities and has been compelled to employ extra help to answer them. He is preparing to con-tinue his campaign through the Spring amiss. nd to buy vegetables by wholesale in

the South Shank has proved that the remedy for high prices is in the people's own ands and he has shown them how to apply it. The remedy for a producers' or middlemen's trust is a consumers' trust, for if the consumers only hang together they can quickly bring the Work can producers' trust to terms. be found for some of the displaced middlemen in managing co-operative associations of consumers and the rest of them can join the back-to-the-farm ovement. They will be better occu-

FRATERNITY INFLUENCE.

It would be interesting to learn the exact number of young men who are killed year after year at their initiahis personal success to the integrity of tion ceremonies into the Greek-letter the real facts come out in all cannot be the only one who has suf fered from the worship of the fetich this Fall and Winter. There must mouth as a usual thing. It is only in cases rarely exceptional that the truth expense of their own. They are Re-publicans only so long as it pays in lonks out in spite of efforts to conceal results for themselves. When the rules , it. The Greek-letter societies are an of the political game stand in their undemocratic factor in college, as they way, they set uside the rules, for with are in school. The good they do is of a sort that it is hardly discriminated They are sadly deficient in that sport- from evil, while the undeniable evil is manifest. At colleges where the fraternities

are strong there is always a great deal of politics of the "sharp" variety. All the underhand manipulations are understood thoroughly and practiced In athletics, class elections, student parties and the like the fraternities are all-powerful. The honors which they hold out are preferred by ambitious students far above any in-tellectual distinctions. The faculty has nothing to offer which can compete for a moment with the glory of an lection to the leading fraternity.

In this way the ambitions of the student are perverted. The true object of attendance at college is forgotten and false standards erected. lectual prowess becomes something to be despised, while "social" and athletic eminence are all in all. The fraternities stand very high among the influences which have made the modern college a factor of questionable value in our civilization.

A REATIFIC VISION.

Senator Bourne's article in the Janpary Atlantic on "The Initiative, Ref-brendum and Recall" may, for the ake of profounder study, be divided into two parts. The first, as the reader would naturally expect from the philosophical bent of the author, is theoretical. The second is practical. Let us dispose of the latter first in order to get it out of the way and permit ourselves to revel unperturbed the metaphysical beauties of the The second part of Senator former. Bourne's learned disquisition deals with recorded facts, and inasmuch as look them up for himself, it follows are fairly accurate. While wandering with stately step through the flowery found the solution of the problem how may say almost anything that happens to reduce the cost of living. He has to pop into his head, but in dealing actually demonstrated that high prices | with facts his exalted station does not are due not so much to the increase relieve him entirely of the danger of of urban in comparison with rural being tripped up if he envelopes them population, not so much to short crops in a poetical halo of illusion. So Senator Bourno's facts are all right. It

The object around which Senator rne's ardent intelligence burns with a lambent flame in this article is something of his own invention, a poor thing but his own, or at any rate he thinks it is his own. We may find cause to differ with him about that ome time or other, but let it pass practical success in reducing the cost of living that he is talked of as a future Governor.

now. This thing of joy and beauty is the "composite citizen." Do not be frightened at the weird conception. The composite citizen is not a Frankenstein's monster formed out of bits of flesh gathered here and there, now from a tomb, now from a tipsy reveleleeping in the gutter. Not at all. consumer. The market was rented to Senator Bourne has nothing so horrid in his mind. His composite citizen is site photograph, which, as everybody knows, collects all the beauty and virtue of successive sitters on the plate and cancels all their frailties and ugly spots. Mr. Bourne's composite citizen is a sort of superhuman mush made by grinding together in an imagote and doing the product up in pelfarmers' supply became exhausted, lets. We are supposed to be deprived ices soared again.

Then Shank went further afield and faults and selfish folbles. Nothing is left of us but exalted devotion to the

mmon good. referendum." By its witching influence we are all so transformed that we simply can't vote against the highest good of the commonwealth. No matter how ardently you may long to be mean and pestiferous and cantanents to \$1.

By keeping the market open to the struggle, for the initiative and referendum will make a saint and statesman out of you, wriggle against it as you may. Do you think we are exaggerating this miraculous power and its influence upon the voter? Rash doubter; read the Senator's own inspired words and forever after hold

"I have demonstrated"-notice the sublime self-confidence of the great of mincement and hundreds of Christ-mas trees at about half price. boy picking up pebbles on the shore of the boundless sea of truth, but Senator Bourne is not troubled by any such silly affectation of humility has "demonstrated." We luxuri We luxuriate in for they admit that prices were too the mighty word. "I have demonstrathigh and that they now sell more and ed that under the initiative and refer-

necessity to study public questions, to pore over initiative measures, to ponder upon the effect of proposed laws. Since we cannot vote against the general welfare and are compelled by evitable necessity to vote for it in spite of all we can do if we vote at all, what is the use of reading or study? Away with all such tiresome impostures. When election day comes we will shut out eyes and cast our votes confident that, as molecules in the Composite Citizen, we cannot vote

Was ever a doctrine promulgated

which tended more to make ignorant stupidity popular and respectable? It is a nity that the Senator did not perceive the extensions of which his all too fascinating theory is capable. Let us delight our souls with a brief re-hearsal of his "demonstration" that the composite citizen cannot vote unwisely or selfishly. It comes to this. Our selfish interests and our follies are all pulling in different directions, while the little spark of energy in each of us that works for the public good works in harmony with the kindred spark in everybody else. Hence father, whose postponement of his on the community and their health all silly and selfish measures proposed chosen means of exit leaves a wife and morals will be improved. anything that promotes the general welfare must survive. We repeat that this principle admits of extension to other spheres than the political. We can prove by Senator Bourne's logic that no mean or selfish trick can ever be played by a man on his neighbor. The "demonstration" runs in this wise. Every other man in the community is trying at the same instant to play some mean trick on our intended victim. These tricks are necessarily conflicting in their purpose. They agree only in being mean. Hence they neutrailse one another and try as Henry may he never can do anything but good to William. Beautiful conclusion, lovely logic. How does it come that the world is full of despicable tricks? It isn't. You are dreaming when you think you see the "spurns that patient merit from the unworthy "There ain't no such spurns They are all imaginary. The lofty principle of the "composite citizen" demonstrates that those things can-

not be. It is with rending reluctance that we leave this engaging theme. The more one dwells upon it the more it seems full of grace and spiritual sweetness. One parting word and then we shall sorrowfully compel ourselves to let it vanish like a blessed vision in the twilight cloud. Whenever you think you are cheated, or oppressed by an evil law, or hounded by a de-testable neighbor, remember that you are part of the great composite of gen and that as such you can neither do nor suffer anything unpleasant or injurious. Then a blessed peace will suffuse your soul.

The country beholds Wall street's "gloom" with resignation, considering the cause, which is a dearth of "lambs" for the last year. The truth is that intelligent people have lost the taste for gambling with their savings and are seeking sound investments. This makes Wall street sad, but since it spreads joy through thousands of omes perhaps the compensation is adequate,

The attack on Consul Smart furnished Britain a convenient excuse to strengthen her forces in Persia, lest Russia should mistake the boundary between the spheres of influence and should let the Cossacks stray over into the British sphere. It is well enough to have a friendly understanding with Russia, but it is also well to watch her, that she lives up to it

The expected is about to happen in Harry Thaw's case. The law has played with this deliberate murderer long enough to satisfy the decencies and now he will soon be released. This anybody can go to the documents and adds a superfluous instance to the multitude which prove that our courts naturally that most of the statements care more for several different things are fairly accurate. While wandering than they do for punishing criminals and preventing crime.

Apparently there is a brain center for each separate language. The Dayton high school girl who was injured in the head has lost her English, but retains her newly-acquired German. No doubt a fragment of bone presses upon the brain at the point where English speech is controlled. It is nable to expect complete relief by a simple operation.

The slogan suggested to Portland by Dalles correspondent, viz., "See the Rose City on her fresh-water seaport om when the canal comes through' is long-winded, rather than "catchy as a slogan is supposed to be. The expenditure of breath in voicing it will out of all proportion to the enthuslasm that it will inspire.

Vancouver, Wash., is noted for its umber, its big bridge, its musical frogs, its historical associations and its marriages, principally its marriages. Seattle, with its many divorces, has a bond of sympathy with Vancouver, which mates, mismates and remates the couples.

Winter comes to the Middle West with roaring wind, flying snow and zero temperature. It comes to Oregon with just enough frost to make the air bracing and exercise enjoyable, with calm air and clear sky. The young murderer at Centralia

ascribes his downfall to-poker. That is a slur at an ancient and more-oress honorable game. Craps were more to his hand. The rural free delivery carrier must confine his energy to the postal

card, for the latest Presidential order forbids him talking politics. For one whose career on Wall street was comparatively brief, Charles W. Morse accumulated a nice assortment

There is refreshing change in the news from Tennessee that a mob of negroes has killed a white man,

The big earthquake is soon forgotten and San Francisco revelers seem not to fear possible wrath.

All "frats" do not kill their victims, but some come very near it. Yesterday's good resolutions will feel a chill toward night.

Portland is in the million dollar postoffice class to stay Milwaukee is paying for its experi-

nent with socialism.

Socialism Gains as Result of Displays

by Idle Owners, Says Writer.

CHEHALIS, Wash, Dec. 31.—(To the Editor.)—The editorial in The Oregonian, December 24, under the caption, "Socialism and its Remedy," is one of the fairest articles on the subject that I have ever seen. But it does not seem to me that you get quite down to the real cause of the disease.

The steady increase of large fortunes and a corresponding decrease in the standard of living of the working class is no doubt the real cause of the trouble. This condition has always been with us but it is only of late that the hig majority of people have commenced to inquire. This is a natural sequence of development caused by the exhaustion of the public domain. As long as there was free land for the exploited and disposaessed part of our people to go to and commence the struggle for existence again the crisis was avoided. All of our commercial fight and, in fact, all of our business turmoll is over and for the possession of surplus value. Surplus value as rightly defined is the fact, all of our business turmon is over and for the possession of surplus value. Surplus value as rightly defined is the difference between what labor applied to the raw material creates and what it gets in the form of wages. It is out of this surplus value that Frank Gould buys his wife a pear necklace to the value of \$500,000, and it is out of this value or soupped, and it is out of this surplus value that Anna Gould buys a bath tube for the same amount of money. It is also out of this same sur-plus that cities are built; in fact, all of our boasted improvements and evidences of civilization are built from the same source. fault of our system is not so much

that these improvements are bought, not out of this surplus value but that this surplus value is mortgaged and it has been mortgaged in the past and we are now paying the interest on it, as well as paying the dividends to private owners. As a result, we have a class of idie owners squandering the surplus

and a big class producing it.

Our troubles do not arise from trusts, but from trust ownership. The trusts have solved the question of production, for they are producing cheaper than ever in the history of the world. But the cost to the consumer in proportion to the cost of production never was so high as now. This differential can be high as now. This differential can be regulated by law, but there is but little difference between regulation and own-ership. If the trust beneficiaries do ership. the regulating the condition is not remedied, while if the consumer does the regulating, we might as well have public ownership.

The newspapers themselves are much to blame for the condition. They publish the accounts of such purchases as Frank Gould's necklace and Ama Gould's gold-lined bath tub and the mass of the people see it and look around to see where they get the money When the common people make from. When the common people make up their mind that they are the ones that are furnishing the wherewith to buy these haubles they commence to look for the reriedy and naturally turn to political conditions, and when they hear the philosophy of the Socialist agitator it appeals to them and they are content to

oing to it. on't think that they go to the Socialist party so much as a protest or out of revenge, but because of careful investigation, and the rule is that when a person accepts Socialism in some form as a remedy they rarely quit. Once a Socialist, always a Socialist. Remedies of all kinds have been tried for this same feeling of discontent, burning at the stake, crucifixion, slaughtering of discontents, but when-ever the feeling of discontent becomes general, it is the same old fight over

surplus value, Are the present ruling classes going to be able to cope with the situation any better than rulers of the past? Time alone will tell. The Socialists may be right when they claim that the only remedy for economic ills is the democratic ownership and control of the means of production and distribu-tion. At least, it is wise to be fair. CARL MOTTER.

ARGUMENTS EVADE REAL ISSUE Real Question Is Whether Governor Has

Right to Usurp People's Sovereignty. PORTLAND, Jan. L.—(To the Edi-tor.)—I have read with some interest the various comments upon Governor West's prison policy that have ap-peared from time to time in The Morning Oregonian. One of the latest that I note on this interesting subject is a communication in The Oregonian De-cember 24, from John A. Jeffrey, which was led to peruse, not through any hope of enlightenment, but through an exaggerated idea of a man's gence and learning can lead him use abusive language in the vain belief that it constitutes a most effective and conclusive argument. It seems to me that Mr. Jeffrey and

many others are only beating the air, as the subject of the argument is, as the subject of the argument is, not, "Is it morally right or wrong to hang a murderer"; but, "Has Governor West any right to usurp the sov-ereignty of the people of the State of Oregon?"

people have, through their the people have, through the chosen representatives, declared it be a law, that a man found guilty murder in the first degree shall hanged; and they have elected men as hanged, and they have elected hear as public servants (not as rulers) to enforce their laws, and have imposed upon them an oath binding them to do so to the best of their ability. Governor West has taken this oath, and is legally and morally bound to obey it without any reference to his own ap-proval of or opposition to the laws. If the people wish to change this If the people wish to change this law, they may do so whenever they see fit; but until that time the present laws must be enforced by our public servants. Upon this point there can be no argument. The people must rule. no argument. The people must rule. MARTIN ROSTVOLD.

THE BALLAD OF THE WAGON.

The midnight bells were ringing In mellow tones and clear,
The call for Time to get the hook
For the decadent year,
I climbed The Wagon, full of glee;
Another gink climbed up by me.
"Speed on, brave chauffeur! Let And we'll outrun the Demon Rum!"

The Wagon rumbled on its way,

And merrily sang we Our round of vows for 1912; "Hooray, we all are free! We've ducked the clinking glasses! The morning-after katzenjammer!"
For three full days we carolled gay—
The Wagon rumbled on its way.

A fourth day and a fifth flew by. The Wagon, once replets
With choiring songsters, here and there
Displayed a vacant seat.
Where, with apologetic cough.
By ones and twos they'd tumbled off, Departing for a gay care To celebrate their busted vows

The sixth day, past two swinging doors
The creaking Wagon ran,
And only two remained aboard;
I and the other man.
"What he!" he cried, "My friend, methinks

We two are sure the faithful ginks! For six full days we've stayed aboa Such constancy deserves reward!" pardi I bade adieu and watched him leap.
Alack, I did not note
That, as he leaped, his friendly hand

Was tangled in my coat.
Was tangled in my coat.
' Dlump!' We hit the pave amain.
The swinging doors were cast in twain.
A seventh day began to dawn.
"Ding! Ding!" The Wagon rumbled on.
—Dean Collins.

Labor Is Available and Weather Is Propitious for Economy.

PORTLAND, Dec. 31 .- (To the Editor.)-The editorial paragraph, printed in The Oregonian Christmas day, suggesting that some of the unemployed be set to work charpitting stumps on logged-off land, is certainly pertinent, considering the amount of interest manifested in many localities regarding the problem of reducing the cost of land clearing, as well as the real need of more cleared land. The sentiment expressed is timely.

The men are idle at a season of the rear when the most can be accomplished at land clearing, and the demand for the products of the soil is so great as to warrant the expense of clearing it. No better investment can

possibly he made of a few dollars than as you have suggested.

This is the propitious season to do just this kind of work, as has been This is the propilious season to do just this kind of work, as has been demonstrated by those striving to establish a universal system for clearing land most economically. If only a few hundred owning uncleared land will put a few of these idle men at work, and now when they can get them, they will not only make a most profitable investment but materially assist in proving that land clearing is not the investment but materially assist in proving that land clearing is not the terrible work it is supposed to be. If they will only keep records of their work they will help establish a fixed cost in both labor and money that will forever dispel the erroneous ideas now prevailing on this subject, and at the same time render great service to the prevailing on this subject, and at the same time render great service to the state.

Charpitting should be started at this season of the year. The weather is cool and the ground soft. The first operation necessary is to dig a shallow trench around each stump, then remove the bark for, say, 26 inches up from the ground. Any person can do this work, irrespective of his age or

this work, irrespends to the strength. An ordinary person can thus prepare from 10 to 20 per day, according to size and conditions.

Stumps prepared at this season of the year and left until next July or August, when they will be dry as tin-August, when they will be dry as tinder, will burn out, together with their
roots, without fail. Also, this is the
best season to cut up all small stuff,
such as poles and logs under 18 inches
in diameter, to be put in small piles.
This work can be done much easier,
better and cheaper in cool, moist
weather than in hot, dry weather.

Men are available now and are not
in Summer, especially for this work. If
landowners would only learn to use

landowners would only learn to use system in clearing their land, i. e., pre-pare everything to burn at the proper season of the year, when the weather is cool and labor plenty and cheap, and burn only when stumps and logs will burn best, when fewer men are needed, they would soon find them-selves striving only for the cheapest and easiest methon of getting fire to everything encumbering the ground, in place of trying how best to get every-thing to the fire. Professor Sparks' system is a one-

man system. It provides work for men when they are idle most and when they can accomplish the most. Everything encumbering the ground can be easily burned right when it stands or lies, except the brush, so what is the use of handling this enormous tonnage?

Special bulletins fully describing this work can be had by writing Professor Sparks at Pullman, Wash, now, and n about 20 days from now they can be obtained from the merce of this city.

F. B. HOLBROOK. the Chamber of Com-

TWO MASTERS SERVED IS CHARGE Writer Declares Fire Marshal Is in

Writer Declares Fire Marshal is in Employ of Underwriters.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. I.—(To the Editor.)—Will you be so kind as to allow me small space to say a few words about the oil tank ordinance now before the City Council.

Mr. Roberts, the Fire Marshal, demands that the tanks be located 2000

mands that the tanks be located 2000 feet from the river and 500 feet from apy dwelling. This will be an impossibility, and Mr. Roberts knows it. The Fire Marshal puts this restriction on the oil companies to drive them out of e city. He is not doing it for the nefit of the city, but for spite work the part of the underwriters, whom is representing in this matter, not

the city. The underwriters have no use for the oll companies for the reason the oil companies do not insure with the underwriters. They carry their own risk. It is about time the public is informed of the situation in this control formed of the situation in thi versy. Mr. Roberts, the Fire

formed of the situation in this controversy. Mr. Roberts, the Fire Marshal, is paid \$100 per month by the city to act as Fire Marshal. He is a paid employe of the underwriters and he works for them to the detriment of the city. It is about time the City of Portland had a Fire Marshal of its own and not let the underwriters make a monkey of them any longer.

Regarding the distance the oil tanks should be from the river, Mr. Roberts knows just as safe as 2000 feet, if the plant is constructed on proper lines. If the oil ordinance now before the Council is passed as Mr. Roberts insists, it will be of great damage to the City of Portland, but what do the underwriters care for the city? They are a foreign corporation and have no interest here. If the ordinance is passed seattle will ship all the oil to Eastern Washington, Eastern Oregon and Idaho, and every jobbing house in this city will feel the effects of it, no matter what line of goods they handle, for the reason that if the merchants east of the Cascade Mountains have to order oil from Seattle they will order other goods at the same time. oil from Seattle they will order other goods at the same time. Seattle has its largest oil plants

Seattle has its largest on plants right on the waterfront and the City Fire Marshal does not insist they be moved. Why? Because he is not paid by the underwriters.

M. G. THORSEN.

NO HYDROPHOBIA IN SHERMAN.

County Inspector Saya Disease Has Not Attacked Livestock There.

MORO, Or., Dec. \$1.—(To the Editor,)—The Oregonian has published an article regarding a report of Prof. E. F. Pernot to the State Board of Health with reference to hydropho-bla in horses and cattle in Eastern Oregon. This article states that the Gregon. This interpretation of the action of

County.

As stock inspector of this county it is part of my duties to investigate and quarantine all cases of supposed conduarantine an cases of supposed contagious diseases among stock in my territory, which I do at intervals, whether called upon or not. I also have a deputy at Kent, in the south end of this county, keeping a lookout for disease among stock there. In ad-dition to this Dr. Joseph Sanders, V. S., practicing all over this county, as-sures me that he has not seen a single with the symptoms described in

I trust that you will give this pub-licity. I am sorry to learn that they are losing so much stock from this disease in Morrow and Gilliam Counties, and hope that a remedy may soon be discovered.

JAMES STEWART, Stock Inspector, Sherman County, Or.

A Count of Cigar Brands Washington (D. C.) Post. Nearly 1,560,000 different brands of cigars are made. Fet at the outside there are but 150 different kinds of tobacco grown,

FIGHT IS OVER SURPLUS VALUE. | NOW IS TIME FOR CHARPITTING. | PRAISE GIVEN POLICY OF CITY

Correspondent Commends Treatment of the Unemployed. PORTLAND, Jan. 1.—(To the Edi-tor.)—I desire as a free-born American citizen, former newspaper man and citizen of Portland to offer a word of approval and congratulation respecting

approval and congratulation respecting the noble and charitable act of our Mayor and Council in providing for the worthy and needy ones a means of escape from the rigors of cold and hunger. In their act in making such hunger. In their act in making such provision they were wise to discriminate between the man who is willing and anxious to work at a reasonable compensation for services rendered, and the man who says he will not work at any wage offered, or the one who claims to be destitute, but who will not work

unless he is offered a certain wage to suit his own desires. Now to be perfectly frank we could not blame the man if he had a bank account or sufficient means to lay off during the Winter months for refusing to work at a small wage during the inclemency of the weather. That would be his own privilege, for he would not necessarily be infringing upon another necessarily be infringing upon another or the public for support. But it is quite a different thing for a man who is broke in the midst of Winter to refuse positively to go to work at even a small or a very small wage. It is foolishness, and, by such conduct, he places himself in the eyes of the public as a professional tramp or hobo. How can such a man reasonably expect food and shelter and the comforts of life lavishly bestowed upon him by other people who earn their living by honest industry? And still we have in every city just such class

When the test comes and the man when the test comes and the man out of a job and financially handicapped is offered employment at a reasonable wage but refuses to work, what can he expect but to be admonished to leave town. D. L. MATSON.

Seven Kinds of Advice

Donald A. Kahn in Judge.
Advice is cheap, unless one goes to
an attorney for it. He who's ever begging a match is nuisance, but a lesser nuisance than the woman who's always trying to

make one. The man who wears a celluloid collar and the woman who paints fool no of but themselves.

man has representative If a woman has re

The other man's word is an assertion, your word is truth, your wife's

aw.

If you buy a friend a drink, you are generous. If, in return, he buys you one, he's a gentleman. If, then, you both let it go at that, you're both un-commonly sensible.

The man who is nobody's friend makes few enemies.

Seville as a New Scaport.

In 1914, upon the completion of the canal to shorten and straighten the Gaudalquiver River from Seville to the Gaudalquiver River from costs of the Atlantic Ocean it is proposed to hold in Seville a Spanish-American exposition to celebrate the opening of this new era in the history of Seville as a seaport. This port, now available for scaport. This port, now available seaport. This port, now available for coean-going vessels with draft of 25 feet, is expected by this Alfonso XIII Canal to secure a larger ocean trade. Situated on a tidal river, Seville combines the advantages of an industrial and distributing conter and a seaport for trans-Atlantic commerce.

Opportunity for Poet.

Opportunity for Poet.

PORTLAND, Dec. 30.—(To the Editor).—The dispatches state that one Frank Garrison has just been sent from Marshfield to Salem to be hanged for atrocious murder. Now let some little girl write a bit of silly twaddle to our Governor (?) giving him an opportunity again for spectacular display at the expense of the security and peace of decent usefule.

A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

Parable of a Wooden Leg.

Kansas City Star.

It is not wise to pooh-pooh the legacy of a wooden leg. A man in Oklahoma willed his wooden leg to a pauper at the poorfarm, and the pauper found that \$10,000 was stowed inside it. The wan who made the fift was also a man who made the gift was also a pauper, and nobody supposed that he owned a penny.

Italy in the Flying Game.

London Standard. The latest country postal service is Italy. The Italian aeronaut, Dal Mistro, recently carried a sack of mall between the Bologna and Venice postoffices in a Dependussin monoplane, covering the distance of 191 niles in 1 hour and 28 minutes

Washington Evening Star "What shall we put on the Christmas tree for you?" asked Mr. Growcher's wife.

to play Santa Claus, as usual, all I am is to have my yarn whiskers and can-ton flannel clothes firsproofed."

A Poet's Advertising Sense.

New York Times.
Friend—But why did you publish your poems under the name of Smith?
Poet—Just think how many good people will fall under suspicion

Mensuring a Statesman. Harper's Bazar.
Little Elmer—Papa, what is it that
makes a statesman great?
Prof. Broadhead—Death, my son.

Femininity and Cities. Kansas City Journal.
"Why are cities referred to in the minine always?" "It may be because

feminine always?" "It may be some of them pad their figures." Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

It's a foolish man who can be moved by a compliment he does not deserve,

The girls who kiss may depend upon it that the boys will tell, People want to handle things; "Hands off" signs only make them

WOTSE. Judging from what I have heard, no one ever lived who had not been disappointed in love.

Visit the dry goods stores any after-noon, and you will laugh at the stories of hard times. What do women do with the stuff they buy at dry goods stores? No man knows.

What has become of the old-fash-ioned woman who used to say to her boy, when he came in late: "Til at-tend to your case after supper!"

A man worries because he doesn't get along in business as well as he thinks he should; a woman worries because she doesn't succeed in society as well as she thinks she should.

When a man asks you for informawhen a man asks you for informa-tion, half the time you can make it up, and he won't know the difference. When was Julius Caesar born? One date will satisfy him as well as an-

To a woman it seems easy for a man to make money. To a man, it seems

I am becoming very tired of the men who have great love for the people, but who lack ability to help them.