

The Oregonian

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tion arranged that the Governor might offer reprieve of murderers for exceptional or unusual reasons arising after trial and sentence. The Governor replies that the law is not to be modified or repealed through the fancy or feeling of a Governor, what other law on the statute books is safe from his whimsical and destructive interference?

The Governor stacks the cards against the public by his proposed hanging bee. But never mind. Possibly the people are not so easily fooled. They may call his bluff.

THE OLD CRY OF LET-US-ALONE. Mr. Farrell is an honest man and a good man. Of that we are sure. We imply no sarcasm when we add that he is also a commission man, and as a commission man he appears to be a great deal alarmed about the purpose to inaugurate right municipal inspection in all cities.

THE ENVIABLE SMALL MAN. The advantages of being small have never been adequately celebrated in song and story. This disquisition is not a song, nor can it properly be called a story, but it aims to supply a long-felt want and render belated justice to the small.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE AS APPLIED. In its practical application the Monroe Doctrine aside Uncle Sam the financial guardian of republics which have proved incompetent to manage their own money matters. He has held that relation to Santo Domingo to the great good of that little republic, and has incidentally snuffed out a couple of republics and a war with Haiti.

STACING THE CARDS. Governor West seeks to divert the issue from capital punishment to the wholly irrelevant question as to whether the State Penitentiary shall or shall not be made a slaughter pen. He could have had no other purpose when he announced that he would reprieve all murderers until a certain day in December, 1912, when, if the people should approve execution for murderers under the initiative, there should be a grand hanging-feast for the accumulated felons.

THE HOME-GROWN MUCKRAKER. Ordinarily the Oregonian consigns news of the state to the editor. Occasionally, however, one of our sort commands notice. Such is the following from an individual who belongs to the common or home-grown variety of muckrakers.

THE PUBLIC DANCEHALL. The public dancehall, as the first step toward the pitfall, has gone. Italy and Turkey would be glad of intervention just now.

STANFORD, names four financial transactions and the London Race Congress as the year's most notable triumphs. The hand is colored by the dye it works in and where a man's treasure is there will his heart also be, to say nothing of his eyes.

A THREATENED REVOLT. The younger doctors of New York, says the New York Commercial, are beginning to think they must choose between ethics and starvation as represented by advertising and business. There are indications of rebellion in the ranks of the younger set against the code prepared by their seniors who are well-established members of the profession.

THE POSTAL SAVINGS SYSTEM PROMISES to be a golden plume in the official cap of Postmaster-General Hitchcock. The Department has already reached a total of \$15,000,000, and it is freely predicted that these will grow within the current year to \$50,000,000.

THE GREATEST EVENTS OF 1911. In its laudable zeal to diffuse knowledge and promote happiness, to say meritment, the New York Times cabled to the magnates of the earth a list of events to name the "five greatest events of the year 1911."

AGITATION BY ENGLISH LABOR UNIONS for nationalization of railroads and the making a political campaign issue of the movement causes the Railway Age-Gazette to speculate on what Ernest Hancock "knows or imagines about the attitude of labor after nationalization."

COMMON SENSE WOULD HOLD that a gift made by a man who thinks he is dying ought to be revocable if he recovers. The \$1000 check supposed that he had no further use for money. Now his health is restored and he thinks he needs it. The condition precedent to the gift having vanished the gift itself ought to be annulled and the check should be returned.

JULIAN HAWTHORNE, who has been indicted for mining frauds, is the son of Nathaniel Hawthorne, said to be our greatest novelist. But great men do not always have great sons. Julian has won some renown in letters, but not many of his adventures are always to his credit.

THE INDIANA DELEGATION to the Democratic National convention being pledged to support Woodrow Wilson may be swung after giving Marshall a few complimentary votes, we may safely assume that Tom Taggart has it in his pocket ready to be traded.

THE GIRL who declares she will marry a man when he is freed from the rockpile is due for a unique coming-out party, of doubtful benefit. The young man obliged to borrow a dollar to get a marriage license may eventually make a good citizen, but all the chances are against him.

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RULES FOR LETTER WRITERS. The Oregonian is glad to receive letters from its readers and to give notice that certain rules must be complied with to gain consideration of communications. They must be brief and should be signed with the true name of the writer.

PURPOSES OF THE FISGAW HOME. Regulations Do Not Appeal to Professional Tramp Says Mr. Mohler. PORTLAND, Jan. 5.—(To The Editor.)—In The Oregonian January 4, you draw correct conclusions regarding the indiscriminate dispensing of charity.

THE STONE FLEET.—This fleet sailed from London on its way south in the last week of November. They comprise a large lot of old whaling ships, loaded with stone and coal.

THE JULIA, which started on Saturday last for Astoria to receive the cargo of the bark industry, now lying at that port, returned yesterday without reaching Astoria.

SOME 50 CALIFORNIANS, arrived here on the Cortes, started overland for the Salmon River mines on Saturday last. There was "a bit of a row" at a New Year ball at the house of Mr. Jacob Kandle in Clatskanie county.

WHY TAFT SHOULD BE RE-ELECTED. HOOD RIVER, Or., Jan. 4.—(To The Editor.)—Taft was elected in 1908 because Theodore Roosevelt knew Taft was a great man and therefore gave him his support.

PLEA FOR SILENT HOMESETTERS. J. H. Wilson Believes Industry Would Benefit From Issue of Patents. CORVALLIS, Or., Jan. 4.—(To The Editor.)—When Henry and Burns arrived on the scene, in Oregon, to prosecute the land-grabbers, which Lane and I had stirred up, a tremendous change came over the dreams of divers and sundry speculators in timber lands.

COUNTRY TOWN SAYINGS BY ED HOWE. Occasionally I look at a man's ears, and it seems to me I have never seen anything so funny or ridiculous. In the same way I occasionally encounter a word in common use that looks so odd I am almost willing to believe I have never before seen anything like it.

PARMA, Idaho, Jan. 3.—(To The Editor.)—Kindly state if streetcars, drams, hotels, were ever operated in Portland at any time in the last 30 years. If so, please state time they were started. P. EASTON.

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian of January 6, 1862. Affairs at and about Fort Royal up to November 24. On the 14th the 75th New York Highlanders were ordered to take possession of St. Helena Island.

LA FOLLETTE'S ARIA. By Dean Collins. (Excerpt from Canned Opera.) La Follette: (Meditating, sober face.) Strauss round the stage—the spotlight giving chase.)

ROMBONE: (In orchestra, grandiose) "You think perhaps: (Ta-ra!) I know so!" (Oom-pah!) Your course has been quite so-so!

LA FOLLETTE: (Agitato, to a snare drum obligato.) (Ta-ra!) I know so! (Oom-pah!) Your course has been quite so-so!

LA FOLLETTE: (turning in an instant pale) "He will not say—still I forebode a sale. Methinks this sphinx becomes my jinx; My fair, straight path is full of jinks. If I must meet you fella, Me for an umbrella. To shield myself from such a storm and storm."

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MANY OTHER FEATURES