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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1912,

#### TAFT AND ROOSEVELT.

The Oregonian is indebted to the New York World for a painstaking search of recent history for the purpose of disclosing the real opinion of Colonel Rooseveit about President

March 15, 1906, Theodore Roosevelt wrote from the White House to Will-

My belief is that all the men that have appeared so far, you are the man who is must likely to receive the Republican nom-mation and who is, I think, the best man to receive it.

June 18, 1998, after Mr. Taft had been nominated for President, Mr. Hoosevelt said:

Hoosevelt said:

I do not believe there can be found in the whole country a man so well fitted to be Freeldent. He is not only absolutely fearless absolutely disinterested and upright, but he has the widest acquaintance with the Nation's needs, without and within, and the broadest sympathies with all our citizens. He would be as emphatically a Freeldent of the plain people as Lincoln, yet not Lincoln himself would be freer from the least tainst of demaggar, the least tendency to arouse, to appeal to class haired of any kind.

September 9, 1998, Mr. Roosevelt wrote to Konrad Kohrs, of Helena: In Mr. Taft we have a clean man who com-bines all these qualities to a degree which no other men in our public life since the civil war has surpassed.

September 18, 1908, the Success Magazine made public an interview with Mr. Roosevelt in which he said of Mr. Taft:

Taft invariably does do the ordinary blings and he does them exceptionally well. That is why I say he will make one of our greatest Presidents. September 30, 1908, a letter from

Mr. Receivelt to William B, McKinley was made public in which the President sald: It is urgantly necessary from the stand-point of the public interest to elect Mr. Taft and a Republican Congress which will support him.

September 21, 1908, Mr. Roosevell ssued a statement in regard to the Foraker disclosures in which he said

of Mr. Taft: His attitude on this question, as well as on countless other questions, convinced me that of all the men in this Union he was the man pre-eminently fit in point of uprightness and character, of fearless and aggressive honcety and of fitness for championing the rights of the people as a whole to be President.

There are other laudatory Roosevelt nions, but these will do. The record is clear. The country accepted Mr. Taft at the Roosevelt valuation. still regards President Taft as big. ing a system of good roads. strong, brawny, capable, honest, true. What has Mr. Taft done to cause Colonel Roosevelt to change his mind? | tion to his desire, or will, or real ca-Or has he changed his mind? If he pacity to pay. ness he ought to tell why. If he has ten years an expenditure of \$40,000,000 not, he owes it to himself, to Taft, and to the public to show how his former opinion, gained by an intimate person.

They contemplate and attribute in ten years an expenditure of \$40,000,000 of the taxpayers' money.

Let us get down to earth on this good roads matter. The West bills are

al view of Taft, has been vindicated. What is the matter? Much? Then the public ought to know. Nothing? Then the people also are entitled to the truth.

#### TWO NATIONS ITCHING FOR WAR.

Prequent evidences of irritation over every little incident serve to strengthen opinion that war between Great Britain and Germany is inevitable. Each nation is sending out spies to learn the military secrets of the other. Whenever one of these is captured the mutual hatred bursts into a flame. It has recently been fomented in England by the secret trial and sentence of an English spy in Germany. When the public mind of two nations is in a condition of chronic hostility. the alightest incident may cause an

Great Britain has reason to welcome an early struggle, while Germany may med to desire delay until her navy can meet that of Britain on someere near equal terms. So rapidly is Germany's naval strength growing that Britain's resources will have to be strained in order to maintain a navy at a strength equal to the navies of any two other powers. Germany has already stepped past the United States into second place, and Lord Charles Beresford says that Britain's two-power standard has already disappeared, so far as battle craft are concerned. If Germany and the United States were to combine, they would have five more battle craft than Britsin and, if the present building programme is carried out, they will have even more such craft than Britain five years hence.

The only ships now considered in calculating the fighting effectiveness of the first line of battle are dreadnoughts. Of these Britain has twelve to Germany's seven, while we have but five. Thus the British navy is just equal to the German and American combined, in this respect. But when the ships now authorized and building are completed, Britain will have twenty-two to Germany's sixteen and the United States' ten, and will therefore be outnumbered by four. The second line of battle is composed of the older type of battleship and the new type of battle cruiser. Of battleships Britain has forty-two, Germany twenty-one and the United States twenty-five, the two latter powers thus outnut first by four. Of battle cruisers Britain and Germany have five each closing the gap, having 286 guns of eleven inches and more to Britain's

Germany has a definite, consistent, the country to catch up with them. where it was placed to fight Indians,

shipbuilding programme, which is reaching after equality with Britain. The latter country cannot long endure the strain of building two ships to Germany's one. Britain now has the superiority, but the only hope of main. taining it is to crush the German navy before it becomes a match. Delay also may bring a new grouping of the Eu-ropean powers which would deprive her of the aid, whether open and ac-tive or secret, of France and Russia. Though Lord Roberts says her army is miserably unprepared, she may now be able to keep a war entirely on the sea and escape the necessity of using her army. If by delay that ability is lost, greater risk is run of defeat at sea, to be followed by invasion. If she must fight, Britain would better fight now and be done with it.

DO WOMEN WANT TO VOTE? Colonel Roosevelt is for woman suffrage, if the women want it. He is against woman suffrage if the women do not want it. He proposes a refer-

endum of the women. The difficulties of getting a fair and representative expression through a ballot of women are obvious. The women who want to vote would go to the polls. The women who do not want to vote, or are indifferent, would, nearly all of them, remain away. If they feel that they ought not to be called upon to vote on any question. why should they decide women suffrage? Let the men decide it. They are the sovereigns, in the opinion of the pampered or indifferent or hostile

Colonel Roosevelt feels about woman suffrage as many good men do. They think the woman ought not to be troubled about suffrage unless they are willing. But how about the many women-good, capable, intelligent, active women-who are known to want suffrage? Shall they be denied the right to participate in elections for their own benefit, and to the public's great advantage, because there are other women who are timid, or slothful, or ignorant, or incapable, or weak, or helpless, or merely well kept? If the right or duty of suffrage shall be determined on that basis, it will also have to be denied the men.

#### THE COST.

Governor West wastes a lot of elo-quence in making his appeal for good roads. Nobody is against good roads; but the Governor is diligently and skillfully seeking to have it appear that the critics of the West bills are hostile to the movement. They are not. They are friends of good roads. They are also advocates of reason, sanity and prudence.

There, for example, we see a number of gentlemen from the Rotary Club and the Ad Club and other local organizations running around with initiative petitions to get signatures to the West bills. Those bright young men have apparently been selzed with a panie of fear that they would be accused of mossbackism or reactionism or some other infamy if they stopped for a mo-ment to read the bills and inquire whether they are desirable from the standpoint of the man who pays.

The West bills will saddle upon the larger and more progressive counties the burden of building roads in remote and poorly populated counties.

They penalize Multnomah County by giving back from the state fund from one-tenth to one-twentieth the amount Multnomah contributes. They discriminate in effect against

the counties which have already on their own account built, or are build-They impose on the taxpayer an extraordinary burden out of all propor-

would appear that in all fair- They contemplate and authorize in

extravagant, absurd, fantastic, faulty

and likely to prove rulnous. Let the public read and study the bills. There is no great difficulty about understanding them. The way out will be clear if the people only

#### BLOWING BUBBLES.

The word "malicious" is handy word for disputants and is more often used no doubt because of the severity of its sound than to impart its true meaning. Former Mayor Tayfor, of Vancouver, B. C., uses it in a letter printed today, but probably has not the slightest cause for believing that there was malice in Mr. F. S. Myer's statements concerning conditions in Vancouver. As a matter of fact there is not very much practical difference between Mr. Myer's statement that Vancouver has established souphouses and Mr. Taylor's admission that "an average of 200 men are given

meal tickets a day" by the city. We surmise that Mr. Taylor is hurt more by Mr. Myers' reference to Mr. Taylor's hobby, "single tax," than by in Vancouver. So far as The Oregonian is concerned, it believes it is kinder toward Vancouver than even Mr. Taylor when it asserts that Vancouver's tax system has had nothing to do either with Vancouver's building boom or its present oversupply of labor Vancouver's tax system is largely local, so far as exemptions of improvements are concerned. In the complete (provincial and local) system the process of collecting needed revenues is ferent from the process applied in the complete (state and local) system in Portland. Some things are exempted there that are taxed here, and vice versa. Practically, that is, in actual payment of tax money, there is no material difference. There is no more inducement to improve city lots in Vancouver, so far as tax exemptions are concerned, than there is in Portland, except in the imagination of hobby riders who do not reason out a proposition to its con-

cluston. But suppose taxation of realty in Vancouver were so high that the many property-owners were compelled to build business blocks and residences to protect their original investments Remember, the system is local. Improvements in the province are not exchided from taxation. The "taxing into use," if it worked out as singleand the United States none, but when taxers forecast, would be in the city they have completed ships now in only. The overbuilding of the city hand Britain will have nine, Germany on this hypothesis would be in-eight. In gunpower Germany is fast evitable. City and country must the Army. The cities near which the progress together to gain a sta- posts are located regard them as a prosperity. This fact has been The United States has 260 such demonstrated a thousand times. guns and the American and German In the early boom days several towns navies combined thus far excel the on Puget Sound overbuilt. They were British in the weight of metal they can prosperous while the building lasted, since the battle of Wounded Knee, in They they had a long, weary wait for 1890, we have not only kept the Army

The same thing happened years ago in

Therefore we say that if Vancouver's building activity is forced by penalin-ing the owners of property who do not improve it, the conditions Mr. Myers says he found there are certain to come if they do not already there exist. But, as we have said, The Oregonian is kinder toward Vancouver than Van. couver's own ex-Mayor. The Orego-nian believes and confidently asserts that Vancouver's prosperity is due to the growth of Western Canada, to railroad and shipping activity, to the fact that it is the natural Western metropolis of a great and progressive nation. is not the growth that single tax advocates assert single tax produce—a hothouse growth to be blighted by the first breath of general adversity and to wither ere it reaches maturity. When ex-Mayor Taylor implies that Vancouver's wonderful progress is due to the writing of what in America is called a city or-dinance, he is in effect forecasting disaster for that city that will make the present influx of unneeded labor seem like a blessing by contrast.

SAVING AT THE WRONG PLACE.

President Taft could carry through all his plans for economy in the public service, he could not only increase the efficiency of every department, but could save a total estimated at \$100,000,000 a year. But his economy plans would abolish graft and the pork barrel, with many fat offices and other pickings. The Democrats do not want that kind of economy. They regard the graft, the pork barrel and the offices as sacred, and would economize in other ways. Their course has the ardent approval of many Republicans and innumerable private and local in-

terests. A demand is made for \$16,690,000 for public buildings, which is quite moderate, since the passage of all the public building bills now before Con-gress would cost \$253,510,000. This demand is fought by a large element in the House which would build one battleship this year. The public building faction in effect retorts: "No build-ings, no battleships." Hence Congress must stand for a \$16,000,000 hold-up in order to prevent the decadence of the Navy.

The Democrats also propose to econ omize in the necessaries of efficient public service in order to enjoy the luxuries of pork and pensions by cutting \$500,000 from the census appro-priation and thus crippling it, and by slicing \$2,000,000 off the appropriation for the District of Columbia, even though this would leave the capital without adequate school facilities. While giving these examples of economy combined with inefficiency, the Democrats attack the President's economy commission, an enlightened statesman from Arkansas asserting that economy and efficiency are the business of the House, not of the President. If that be so, the nation is to be pitied.

A MONUMENT TO SAM L SIMPSON. The proposition of Dr. C. L. Large to provide a suitable monument to mark the grave of Sam L. Simpson, Oregon's poet laureate, as set forth in a communication published last Monday, is worthy of consideration. Dr. Large proposes to be one of one hun-dred citizens of Oregon, or personal friends of the late poet, to give \$20 for the purpose named. Response to this failing, he suggests that the people of the entire state be invited to contribute to a fund for this purpose. A fitting nument to the memory of Sam L. Simpson should mark his grave in Lone Fir Cemetery. This statement is amply supported by the place he occupled in the thought movement of his time. The people of the state, more especially, perhaps, those who, like Dr. Large, shared this time and called Sam L. Simpson "friend," should be aroused by proper pride and senti-ment to consider this matter from a personal standpoint. There are others to whom this tribute to the poet may appeal more closely as a duty, and one will, no doubt, in their own good time, see to it that his grave is properly marked with a monumen suitably inscribed to his memory and his literary achievement.

It would be a gracious act, however, to give this memorial a wider signifi-cance than that which belongs strictly to ties of blood, and in this view the suggestion of Dr. Large is just and timely. Certainly the dust of the author of "Beautiful Willamette" should not be allowed to sleep in an un-marked grave, on the banks of the river that he so dearly loved and de-scribed so grandly in song.

Lone Fir Cemetery is likely to be converted in due time into a beautiful memorial park. The Oregonian, ever his friend in life, entertains the hop that by that time, at least, a suitable monument will mark the last resting place of Sam L. Simpson, poet of the "Gold-gated West."

THE ARMY PORK BARREL. Had the Army been distributed among eight large posts, located at strategic centers with a view to effec-tive training and quick mobilization, its annual cost could be reduced, at a conservative estimate, \$5,507,038. With this sum we could increase its enlisted strength by \$000 men, divided into ten regiments; or we could add twenty privates to each company, troop or battery; or we could maintain a reserve of 100,000 men, sufficient to bring the entire mobile Army to war strength and to maintain it at that strength without impairing its efficiency by filling the ranks with raw recruits. We could also increase the number of effective officers and men 5 per cent by reducing the number on guard and fatigue duty. We could in-crease the effectives between 5 and 10 per cent, in case of a sudden call, by reducing the number of detachments needed as caretakers.

The Army is now distributed among forty-nine posts, located with a view to conditions which have long since passed away. Fourteen posts were established as protection against Indians. one as far back as 1820. Conditions have so changed that we need only to protect the Indian from the white bootlegger. The Army posts have come to be regarded as social centers, where society girls may enjoy the beauties of a military uniform. ambition of the post commander has been to create a beautiful, park-like perquisite, both for purposes of society and recreation and as a source of

business for the merchants. Though we have had no Indian war

but have spent more money on new construction in these obsolete locations. We have absolutely ignored economy, for in ten years ending last June we spent \$37,185,408 in new construction at posts where the cost of construction and maintenance reaches of War have worked to Induce Congress to carry out the concentration policy, but they have succeeded only in reducing the number of posts from sixty-five to forty-nine. They have had Representatives who backed up the protests of the interested communities. One of them frankly said: "We would find it hard to square ourselves with the community if our promises were

not made good." The Army appropriation has been spent, not where it would accomplish most for the Army, but where men having the most influence wished to have it spent. Senator Warren's position as chairman of the military committee has enabled him in the last ten years to secure the expenditure in his own State of Wyoming of \$4,893,164 at Fort D. A. Russell; \$1,120,268 at Fort Mackenzie; \$659,604 at Fort Yellowstone, a total of \$5,673,086. About one-sixth of the entire expenditure was made on three posts in a sparsely settled state having no large centers of population and having no network of railroads to afford rapid transportation in any direction. The late Senstor Carter of Montana, kept alive tor Carter, of Montana, kept alive Forts Harrison and Missoula in his state, though they are condemned in Secretary Stimson's plan of concentration. Everywhere local interest has pulled against economy and efficiency.

The posts already abandoned had cost \$3,058,861, and Mr. Stimson proposes the ultimate abandonment of twenty-five others, including all three of Senator Warren's pets. The construction of these posts has cost nearly \$20,000,000, but Mr. Stimson contends that it is justified on the same ground that a great business corporation tears down a six-story building to erect a twenty-story building. The land is mostly good suburban real estate which can be sold at good prices, and many of the buildings can also be sold.

But Warren and all others of his stamp will close their ranks to defeat the Secretary's plan in defense of their beloved pork barrel.

The testimony of Joseph Gaston before the Federal Court in the Southern Pacific land-grant case was inter-esting as unfolding the history of early railroad building in Oregon and the strife engendered among its promoters. As a side light turned upon events that are nearly half a century old. his testimony was illuminating. The endeavor of Mr. Gaston in this line was co-ordinate with that of Ben Holladay, S. G. Elliott, Governor George Woods, Secretary of State I. R. Moores and of the Oregon Legislature of 1866-67. The chapter of transactions thus revealed was interesting as ancient history, recalling as it did names that long ago were engraved on gravestones and of events that have been practically forgotten. Of all the men who were lined up in this halfcentury-old fight, Mr. Gaston alone remains to voice the truculent tale. Time at least has been on his side.

What does the man in Portland who has been struggling to pay his ordinary taxes and has been loaded up with street assessments, sewer assessments, paying assessments and the like, think of plunging deeper into tax difficulties for the purpose of building roads in remote countles like Malheur, Coos, or Josephine, without the slightest or only the slightest, direct benefit to Portland, and Multnomah

There will be no end to the dissengion in the Agricultural until it has a new head. Until all the facts are disclosed it will be impossible to form an opinion on the Everglades dispute, but Solicitor McCabe's conduct towards Dr. Wiley has put his every action under suspicion. Secretary would long since have unloaded such a disorganizer.

He proposes to finance the overthrow of the Portuguese republic that she may become a queen. At best she would gain but an unsteady throne and she would risk the loss of her head and her crown at the same time. If Chinese were allowed to settle their differences in their own way, the

It is a strange turn of affairs when

a woman born in the American repub-

gain to the community would be great; but law must be respected and murrestrained. Foreigners China, however, resent native interference, but that is another matter. Will Tacoma ever finish tinkering

less as the woman who changes the position of her furniture once a week. This is, indeed, a world of contraries. The author of "The Family Beautiful" is seeking divorce from an unsympa-

with her charter? That city is as rest-

thetic husband. Garrison, the Coos County murderer to have been hanged today, will have

ten more months for contemplation. Another man is "out" for Coroner. There is grim humor in the desire of many to hold this position.

What a profound blessing it is that these warring Chinese do not get into the dynamite habit!

Headlights on baby buggles! What next? Airbrakes on boys' speeders perhaps. Abe Ruef deserves credit for keeping

knowledge of his crimes from his aged

mother. The news from Belfast is disappointing. There was no riot and no ruction.

Tom Word stopped gambling and Tom seems determined to keep it stopped. That was joyous news from the Cali-

fornia mine that all escaped without injury. There are about forty trembling dy-

namiters in the United States today. Russia is manufacturing fine cuses for interference in China.

Local equal suffragists think Roose velt is doing a two-horse act. Fifty new policemen and just one MORTGAGE AND THE SINGLE TAX

Real Estate Lonns Threatened by Proposed Revenue System.

PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 7 .- (To the Editor.)-When the writer was a boy, the maker of a mortgage was thought the maximum. Successive Secretaries to be on the verge of bankruptcy; but, as the people have progressed in financial matters, mortgages have been found to be a blessing when not too freely indulged in, as any blessing may be, and now borrowing of money to ald to face the opposition of Senators and in the purchase of land and the imnt thereof and for other purwhat relation would these mort-

gages bear to the socialistic scheme of the single tax, which means a double tax on the land mortgaged? It is very tax on the land mortgaged? It is very avident that the burdens of the mortgagers would be very much increased by piling on the land the taxes which should be paid by the owners of personal property. This would be expecially grievous to the owners of lands and lots in Mulfnomah County on account of the vast amount of personal count of the vast amount of personal property in Portland to be relieved of taxes, while there is such an enormous expenditure required to goven the city and to protect this personal property.

These added burdens would certainly cause many mortgagors to fail, for height

son of excessive taxes, money for mort-gages would become scarcer and scarcer, and as the scheme becomes more apparent, would cease altogether. This would cause a strong demand for money on chattel mortgages—those signs of impending bankruptcy—and the field for the cent-per-cent men would be materially enlarged.

What would a borrower think of his

What would a borrower think of his mortgagee who would vote to increase the amount of a lien which stands ahead of his mortgage, in support of a scheme to destroy the title altogether? E. F. RILEY.

#### NATIONAL AIR NOT MADE BY LAW Alaskan Cites Yankee Doodle Demon-

stration in Dawson. JUNEAU, Alaska, Jan. 23. - (To the Editor.) - I have noticed that every once in a while some person or some paper has something to say about the National air of the United States.

An article appearing in The Oregonian, January 7, under the heading.
"Few in Portland Know The StarSpangled Banner' Is National Air," attracted my attention, and I would be
pleased to inform the writer of that
article that if he had been in Dawson,
Y. T., during the Winter of 1899 and
1990 and had visited any of the theaters
there when the orchestra would play a there when the orchestra would play a medley overture of National airs in which "Yankee Doodle" was included, he would not have had occasion ever after to inquire what the National air of the

to inquire what the National air of the Unites States is.

I was in a theater one night in Dawson, Y. T., in the Winter of 1899, when the orchestra played an overture of National airs, among which were "My County, "Tis of Thee," "Hail Columbia," "Marseillese," "Star-Spangled Banner," "Yankee Doodle" and a few others. When "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" (God Save the Queen) was played there was great applause, but when "Yankee Doodle" was commenced, semebody started something, and when the building had quit vibrating and the pandemonium had somewhat subsided, I was brought to a full realization of the fact that all the lawmakers or legislators of the United States or any other country could make but one National air of the United States, and that is that little tune of "Yankee Doodle."

Logislators may possibly be able to mass laws compelling people to rise and United States is.

Legislators may possibly be able to pass laws compelling people to rise and stand at attention while "The Star-Spangled Banner" is being played, or sung, but they never can be able to pass a law and make it become effective not to applaud or even yell or scream if the people think the occasion prompts it when "Yankee Doodle" is being played. If any citizen of the United States thinks that he, under similar not have made as hig a demonstration as I and all the rest of the citizens of the United States who were present on that occahe doesn't know what he is talking about and has never been tried ou AN ALASKAN.

Why Not Apply Direct Primary?

SALEM, Or., Feb. 6 .- (To the Editor.)—The writer begs space to express a couple of opinions upon the recent and bitterly fought contest for Republican Congressional Committeeman from Oregon. Seidom do politics afford such a tender example of the sacrifice of one man for his brother, or sacrifice of one man for his brother, or of that commanding personality which is commonly attributed to the late Joshua, and which can stampede a mass meeting in favor of its owner. However, some people are so constituted that the brotherly-love assumption does not appear to be free from flaw, so it will be dropped on merit, and the second condition haled forth. According to reports, the meeting assembled disposed of minor business. According to reports, the meeting assembled, disposed of minor business, and took up the grind of electing a candidate. Reports also have it that after several the ballots, one candidate took advantage of his slower-witted opponent's natural trepidation by intimidating him with a meaning look, and that said opponent collapsed in a way that showed unfamiliarity with little political tricks. The assembly voted again and elected the shrewder candidate.

candidate.

Now this will result in the defeated man being unduly hesitant in seeking office a second time. Further it will be difficult to find a person willing to oppose the successful gentleman when his reputation is known. In our opinion this is very serious and will tend to impress new-comers unfavor-ably. MEEK AND LOWLY.

## Registering of Voters.

PORTLAND, Feb. 7.—(To the Editor.)—I came to this country from Germany in 1882 at the age of 12 years. My father had his second papers before I came of age. I served nine years in the United States Army, then settled in Portland two years ago. I was rein Portland two years ago. I was re-fused registration because, as they claimed, I was not an American citi-zen, and I would have to take out my second papers here, or send to my father for his second papers. Now, would you advise me as to whether I could register without my father's pacould register without my father's pa-pers or not, providing I show proof as to my having been an American soldier, as I cannot get any other proof A SUBSCRIBER.

Citizens who become such on account of their fathers' acquired citizenship should not be obliged to exhibit their fathers' papers when they register, but may be required to swear that he took out papers. The fact that a foreigner served in the Army does not make him a citizen, nor entitle him

#### Trades Schools.

MMINNVILLE, Or., Feb. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Is there a trade or manual training school in Portland which gives training in machinists' work? Or is there any technical school or college in or near Portland that gives instruction in machine shop work?
E. B. MANLEY.

The Young Men's Christian Associa-tion and the Portland School of Trades have courses in machine shop work.

VANCOUVER STILL PROSPEROUS. Former Mayor Disputes Statements

Made by Portland Visitor. VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 5 .- (To the Editor.)-Grossly exaggerated accounts of the "actual conditions here at the present time," and a malicious misrepresentation of the causes which have led to this alleged state of affairs, are given in The Oregonian, of January 20, under the caption "Single Tax Argument Smashed-Vancouvar Now Running Souphouse and Having Hard Times."

Your correspondent, F. S. Myers, is badly out on his facts and suppositions.
In the first place there is no soup-house being run in Vancouver, and the statement "thousands are being fed daily by the city" is absolutely with-out foundation.

It is true that in common with other

Coast cities Vancouver is dispensing relief, but applicants are given tickets for meals and beds, and in the case of men with families orders are given for groceries, fuel, etc.
Only on an average of 200 men are

given meal tickets a day at the pres-ent time, and out of that number a large percentage are given a few days' employment every two weeks and re-ceive meat and bed tickets for their labor. It is estimated that there are only about 600 unemployed in this city at the present time, and the early start on the regular work for the city will provide nearly all of them with jobs if they want them.

The records keep by the city's relief

The records kept by the city's relief department show that the majority of the men who apply for relief are newthe men who apply for relief are newcomers. A great many of them spent
their last cent in railroad fares to get
here in order to escape the arduous
Winter of the prairies. With men
gavitating here from the East, North
and South as soon as the Winter starts,
it is no cause for wonderment that
there is a large floating appropriation.

there is a large floating population in Vancouver at this season. Because the relief department is kept busy looking after the men who have recently come to this city and become a public charge, there is not the slightest grounds for the belief that single tax is to blame. Mr. Myers by advancing that theory, shows a woeful tack of knowledge of political economy, or as he puts it, "the in-exorable law of supply and demand." Under the exemption of improve-ments from taxation system, Vancouver ments from taxation system, Vancouver has advanced in every line of business and commercial development fully 30 per cent, whether you take the monthly, weekly or daily records as a criterion. This assertion can be easily verified.

monthly, weekly or daily records as a criterion. This assertion can be easily verified by consulting Bradstreet's, an authority which can hardly be said to be biased in any respect.

Real estate values are not affected on account of the influx of out-of-works; no signs of a financial panic are discernible; building activity here is as great as ever, as the records in-disputably prove; bank clearing re-cords continue to be broken almost daily, and the prosperity which Van-couver has been enjoying during the past, and noticeably since improve-ments were exempted, is still as pro-

nounced as ever.

The allegation is also made by Mr. The allegation is also made by Mr. Myers that "retail merchants report business the dullest in years, holiday trade poor," etc. To show the utter absurdity of this assertion I attach a clipping from the World of January 21 giving comparative figures of the bank clearings for January for Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, Tacoma and Seakers, Vencouver, heads the list: Spokane. Vancouver heads the list; no comment is necessary. Bank clearings are universally conceded to be an unfalling criterion of the financial conditions of a city. These figures are not compatible with the assertions made egarding the state of affairs here. In rebuttal of the allegation "th

In rebuttal of the allegation "there is more city at Vancouver than there is demand for," I wish to state that it is an exceeding difficult matter to keep pace with the demand for houses and stores in this city at the present time. There is more building activity being manifested here now than ever before and more construction work going on than in any other city of the Pacific Coast. The number and value of the building permits being issued indisputably prove the truth of this con-

banks from loaning on real estate. Mr. Myers tries to argue that because the banks of Vancouver are not loaning money on real estate "a pitiable" condition of affairs exists here. This theory, together with the other gross misrepresentations in his letter to The Portland Oregonian, only exemplify the axiom "a little knowledge is dangerous." L. D. TAYLOR,
Ex-Mayor of Vancouver.

#### Oregonian Is Homesick.

SAN BERNARDINO, Cal. Feb. 5 .-(To the Editor.)—I notice in The Ore-genian an article by Judge Colvig. of Medford, dated January 15, and headed "Tour South Unhappy." I wish to in-derse his statements in full. I am an Oregonian, I may say a Port-lander, and only wish I had never left the state. This talk about Sunny California should be taken with a grain of

Of course, in Summer it is sunny; too sunny, in fact. Last Summer it ranged around 105 degrees. At present it is as cold as ever I found it in Oregon.

We residents know these things, but

you do not find a word about it in the newspapers here. Nor do they say anynewspapers here. Nor do they say anything about such small matters as earthquakes, of which we have had a few. It is the National Orange Show here on February 19 to 24, and that may stir things up a little, but at present everything is very dull in Southern California.

AN OREGONIAN.

#### Whose Testament? PORTLAND, Feb. 6 .- (To the Editor.)

-In glancing through The Sunday Ore much impressed with the originality of this sentence, "The Greek word, trans-lated 'miracle," to the early Christians, had no unusual significance, merely meaning a sign or evidence of the truth." With no intention of engaging in the three-cornered scientific and theo-logical battle waged in your columns, I am writing to ascertain, if possible, the authority of Mr. Van Meter's learned assertion and the ground for his interesting assurance. In the ordinary Greek texts, there are two words which are translated "miracle," one of which means a sign, while the other does not, at least according to the dic-tionaries. A third word frequently applied to the miracles of Jesus and translated "wonder" expressly signifies the very unusual. In view of this, one is led to the conclusion that Mr. Van Meter uses an unusual Greek testa-ment. Perhaps your correspondent will give us the name of its editor. F. M. RAMSEY.

#### Here's the Word.

BURNS. Feb. 5.—(To the Editor.)—
In the search for a word to express the whole period of the 24 hours, why not keep in mind the two features of euphony and the suggestion of the two distinct divisions. I think the word "Niday" would about fill the bill.

F. D.

## Spotlight Civilization

By Denn Collins.

Still another Ishl story; how the lonely redman's glory Spread abroad throughout the coun-

try and continued spreading till Managers began to fly to the archaic man to try to
Sign him up to do a little stunt in
modern vaudeville.

"You shall stand with buck-and-wingers and near-operatic singers, And your name shall shine as bright as Elbert Hubbard's on the bills.
Ishi, you will never rue it. All the
greater people do it-Ex-pugilists and novelists and men who peddle pills,"

What a marvel it will be then, when he

What a marvel it will be then, when he sets his talents free then.

As "Expositor of things-that-used-to-be-one-time but ain't."

And, for twenty minutes daily, shows the gaping public gally

Of the prehistoric people's many customs strange and quaint.

Megaphone annunciator shall proclaim

Megaphone annunciator snail processing to the "Theayter"

Ishl's entrance. In the background woodland scenery will sag;

And the piccole and tom-tom, kettle drum and Eastern pom-pom Will lend color to his acting, with a "Prehistoric Rag."

They will teach him fancy dancing and will have him neatly prancing As they think in times primeval, men

archaic should have done,
And no doubt he'll sing a rondel, into
which, of course, they'll bundle
Something 'bout "My sweet archaic muld, you've got me on the run."

Oh, indeed! With little training, there will soon be naught remaining But to trot the dark phenomenon be-fore the spotlight's rays

To disclose, in proper setting, all the notions he's been getting Of how primeval men behaved in pre-Portland, February 7.

## Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

Agents have sucker lists, which they trade with each other. Is your name on a sucker list?

Some women are so thin that there is hardly enough of them to dress.

I have a longing to live in Germany. Germans say a man is as good as a woman there. A woman I know is mad at her hun-

band. She isn't jealous; his offense was that he said he couldn't tell his rubbers from hers. After it is positively known that a man is rich, people begin saying to him that they never did, and never will, bow down to the Golden Calf.

Some mothers should really think twice before naming their babies; some of the names are awful. "Rip Van Winkle" is very popular in

literature; but what a nuisance he was in the village of Falling Water; what a trial he was to his industrious wife! It is a big joke on a man of 25 or 20 to be sued for breach of promise of marriage; but if he is 70, news of the breach of promise suit is sent out by telegraph, that the world may enjoy it.

#### Flowers Have Eyes on Their Leaves.

Harper's Weekly. Many common garden and wild flowers-the nasturtium, begonia, clover, wood sorrel and bluebell among others -possess eyes on their leaves, More-over, these eyes, in their principle of over, these eyes, in their principle of construction, resemble those of ani-mals. They consist of minute protu-berances filled with a transparent, gummy substance, which focuses the rays of light on a sensitive patch of tissue. The nasturtium has thousands of such eyes on its leaves, and these form as many images of the surroundform as many images of the surround-

## New Special Features

## SUNDAY'S **OREGONIAN**

We Need Better Schools-So says Uncle Sam, and he has set to work helping get them. This is a hig article that should interest everyone. Full page, illustrated. Abraham Lincoln-With the ap-

proach of his birth anniversary the man is dissected and his great soul laid bare by the woman who modeled him for the famous statne now standing at the Nation's capitol. Leap-Year Pointers-One of our Eastern correspondents compiles

eligibles, together with facts that will be of use to girls who intend taking advantage of leap year. Running Booth to Earth-Two Portland men tell of their part in the pursuit of Lincoln's assassin. Into the ears of one of these men

a complete catalogue of desirable

Booth gasped his last words. Fables in Slang-George Ade writes another mirth-compelling fable. It deals with the "Galumptious Girl Who Tried to Start Something and Did."

Big League Pitchers-That is Christy Mathewson's subject for the third of his big baseball series. In this article the Giant's star pitcher is at his best.

Going to Send a Valentine?-If you are, you want to read up on just what a Valentine is. And, by the way, it's something quite different this year.

The House of Dreams-A tale of love and adventure. Complete in Sunday's issue.

The Jump-ups-They enter society this week-and have rather a distressing time of it.

Pretty Anna Belle has new cutout clothes, and there are new adventures of Sambo, Slim Jim, Mrs. Timekiller, Hairbreadth Harry and Mr. Boss,

MANY OTHER FEATURES Order From Your Newsdealer Today.