## The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

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(BY CARRIER)

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THE OREGON SYSTEM AND THE COURT In deciding the initiative and referendum case the Supreme Court drew a fine but perfectly clear distinction between the government which makes laws and the laws themselves after they have been made. It is within the power of the court to judge of the coneffrutionality of laws, but as to the propriety of the form of government which makes them it has nothing to say. That is a political question which Congress must decide and Congress alone. The complaining telephone company, Chief Justice White remarks, did not allege that it was unjustly taxed. No formality in levying or equalizing the tax had been omitted as far as the documents in the case showed. The company did not like the form of the state government under which the tax had been levied. That was the long and short of its cause. Had the same tax, to the same amount, been levied under the old form of state government, we are bound to infer that the company would have submitted and paid it without controversy, but inasmuch as it did not theoretically approve of the initiative and referendum it requested the Supreme Court to overthrow the government in which that feature is bodied and incidentally relieve it of the disagreeable duty of paying its tax. Says Chief Justice White, "The towault which the contention here adcanced makes is not on the tax as a tax but on the state as a state."

The telephone company was in about the same affuation as an Englishman would have been in Cromwell's time the had refused to pay his tax beause the Lord Protector was not a gitimate monarch. A contention of his species, the Supreme Court declares, is not "justiciable." In comion language, it is not an issue to be recided by the courts, but a political question to be decided by the voters arough their representatives in Conress. It may be passed upon when a ew state asks for admission. Indeed has already been passed upon at such times, incidentally if not explicitand Congress is on record as failing disapprove of the Oregon system ven if it has not in so many words sciared for it. Again the subject may ome up when the Senators or Repreentatives from Oregon or Arkansas, their seafs in Congress, Should they be forbidden to take their seats the Oregon system would naturally fade away. But heretofore states living under the Oregon system have n treated in Congress just the same

minds that the initiative, referendum and recall have become a permanent art of our governmental machinery, f them until the people experience a hange of heart and vote them out of long time before that happens. In the untime dissenters must reconcile living under the new system. Adjustment may come slowly in some in-

The Oregon system must involve some points which are in harmony with hu- affirms, man nature or it would not have persisted in the world as it has, It did not originate in Oregon, in spite of its misleading name. Nor was it invented in Switzerland. It is as old as the republics of Greece and Rome, where it was habitually practiced even to the recall of public officials. Like all governmental devices, it has come down to us with some original faults and some which arise from local conditions. It would be absurd to suppose that a change so radical in ordinary American ways of governing could be put into operation without many blun-Now that the system itself is secure from assault it may be possible to give these blunders candid consideration and correct some of them.

As long as there was any doubt about the constitutionality of the Oregon system a person who criticised any of its faults was supposed to be an enemy confusion of thought need no longer exist. The new method of government being out of all danger, one may be permitted without an accusation of treason to point out some respects wherein it is not quite infallible. is not our purpose just now, but we may take the liberty at another time. No doubt the Supreme Court has examined the subject in a broadminded panics. way and decided the issue for the best interest of the country. Relieved of petty and ephemeral considerations. the controversy hardly admitted of any other handling, as The Oregonian observed some time ago. No doubt the court could have found plenty of arguments looking the other way if it

had been so inclined. Had the Oregon system been in to their capital than the large banks, practice nowhere outside of Oregon, This centralization of the reserve court might have seen the law in a different light. Circumstances alter of commercial paper at a uniform cases. It is one thing to throw a solistate into chaos and a very different thing to revolutionize half a in one section, a scarcity in another. dozen or more. Our highest tribunal Not only would commercial and agrinot only fixes an intelligent gaze upon the election returns, but it also casts a judicious glance now and then over the world outside the chamber where therefore, cut off the supply of money it sits and modifies its reflections ac-

and when he hurls a thunderbolt it is done without disturbing any more Titans than the case requires.

THE GREAT DEFECTION. What is the matter with La Follette, anyway? The pseudo followers of the Wisconsin man say he is sick. says he is well and strong-well and strong enough to run for President. They may he is not a candidate. He says he is a candidate. They say he cannot be nominated now, poor fellow. He says he can be if the progressives, or insurgents, who so valiantly and noisily lined up behind him early in

the campaign, will stay by him. Medill McCormick, who roared out a vehement denial to The Oregonian. that Bourne would ever desert La Follette, himself is the first to strike the La Follette flag, and make a dusty exit toward Oyster Bay. The brave Pinchot goes into mock heroics about his virtuous motives in helping break La Follette's back in the interest of his old friend, the Colonel. Governor Johnson suddenly decamps, issuing a burning proclamation of fealty to the A lot more bold warriors toin the army of evacuation, desertion and despair. The great alliance is at an

Mr. Roosevelt got Mr. Taft in the Presidency and left him. Mr. Roosefor Presidency and left him. We have no doubt that Colonel Roosevelt had sound reasons in each instance for his action. No doubt at all. But we can hardly restrain a powerful curiosity to know what they were.

Principal Jenkins of the Jefferson High School did a very bold deed, it seems, when he advised his pupils to shup extravagance in their attire and forbade lavish display at class parties. If he had foreseen what a terrible visitation his words would provoke likely he never would have let them slip out of his mouth. The first thing "senior class" did after Mr. Jen kins had offended its aristocratic ears with his advice was to hold an indignation meeting! If the boys and girls have not the inborn right to be as ex-travagant and foolishly wasteful of their parents' money as they please this senior class was going to know the reason why. At the indignation meeting, or somewhere else, an exquisitely cruel revenge was planned. It was decided to appear at school on Monday in a grotesque caricature of the clothing which Mr. Jenkins had urged them to wear. The boys clad themselves in flannel shirts and rough boots, the girls in plain skirts with their hair in braids. It was supposed that these costumes would fill the principal's soul with remorse and make him wish he had not said anything about his pupils' clothes.

In our opinion it ought to be made a rule of the Jefferson school that the girl seniors should always dress just as they did on that day. Hair in braids is the proper thing for school-girls and so are "plain skirts." They never ought to be allowed to attire themselves in any other fashion. Girls of their age should be thinking of their pooks and not of their clothes and beaux.

These foolish young people have enlost sight of the purpose for which they are sent to school. The district does not pay taxes and employ teachers in order to provide boys and girls with an opportunity to show off their fine clothes. The hope is that them earn a living afterward. more attentive they are to their studies and the less they think of social grandeur the better it will be for all

Bryan is haunted these days by two s the rest, and we may safely assume | bogies—the money trust and the Nathat they always will be. Congress is tional reserve scheme. He is conant a body which goes around looking vinced that the purpose of the National Monetary Commission in recommend- fee and doughnuts. ing the National reserve scheme is to the money supply of the country as an impartial inquiry is needed to prove the existence of the trust, and Very likely it will be a that the trust is endeavoring to con- tively few alert, public-spirited, proceal its existence by having a sham instances, but it will come in course of Only by a special committee, not subtrust and its workings be uncovered, he them on their career as homemakers.

> Now comes John V. Farwell, president of one of Chicago's greatest first session of the Oregon Irrigation banks, and chief advocate of the Na- Congress of the largest number of deltional reserve, and asserts that, while there is no money trust, there is a centralization of money and credit in a resentative of all parts of the state, few great banks, which will become greater unless we provide a remedy. east of the Cascades, but the humid The remedy he proposes is the adoption of that very National reserve scheme of which Bryan expresses such He would make bogey a reality in order to kill the

> The centralization of money is the result of our National banking system, which requires banks in smaller cities banks of the reserve cities. These latbank deposits in liquid form-that is, in loans which can be quickly called in order to meet the demands of country banks. The most liquid form is call loans on securities. Loans on commercial paper which run sixty days or more are not liquid enough, banks may need the money before the Day and the Malheur by the Governoans mature. At certain seasons the New York banks become glutted with money and they lend it at such low rates as to stimulate stock speculation, inflate prices and thereby provoke

reserves under the control of an association governed by all the banks of the country instead of by these few. The smaller banks of the South and West would really control, for they would have more votes in proportion would have for its purpose the discount would no longer be a surplus of money cultural loans be the prime purpose, but loans on securities would be forbidden. The National reserve would,

which follow collapse of the specula

In fighting against the National reserve scheme Bryan is fighting for the money trust and Wall street. If he wishes to break the power of the money trust, he should join Farwell in urging Congress to create the National Reserve Association.

At first glance it may not seem to be much of a trick to catch a baseball which has fallen directly downward 300 feet. Why could not anybody do it as well as Elmer Zacher? Lincoln Beachey, the aviator, dropped a base ball to Zacher from a height of 300 feet and he caught it. The feat is deemed so remarkable that the newspapers are talking about it. To fall 300 feet would take the baseball between four and five seconds if Beachey dropped it without a throw. When it came within reach of Zacher's hand it was falling at the rate of about 150 feet a second, which is something like two miles a minute. Hence the impact of the ball on Zacher's hands must have been very perceptible. Had he not caught it just right, no doubt it would have made his fingers tingle and per-haps it might have broken one or two of them. A bullet shot from a gun may have a yelocity of 1500 feet per second, which is seven or eight times as fast as Beachey's baseball, but not very fast when we compare it with

The earth travels on its axis at the rate of a thousand miles an hour. That s, a spot at the equator does. Toward the poles the motion is not so swift. A thousand miles an hour means about the same as 1500 feet per second, so that a bullet shot toward the east at the equator might possibly keep up with the earth for a little while. But the bullet would be pulled to the ground by gravity pretty soon, while

the earth would glide smoothly on. The earth is a torpid old reptile, compared with light, which travels at the rate of 180,000 miles a second. That is to say, light slips round the earth simost eight times while the heart beats once. This is some speed, but there are things which go faster. If gravity is not a fixed influence per vading the whole universe equally it must travel with a certain speed, but if it has a velocity it is so rapid that nobody has ever perceived it, much less has it been measured.

DEMOCRATIC COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS A stock phrase in Democratic platforms is "expenses of the Government der to discover its meaning we must by its authors as evidenced by deeds.

The first important act of the Democrats at this session of Congress, in connection with the expenses of the Government, was the passage of the \$75,000,000 Sherwood pension bill. Then came economy in refusal to build more battleships and in cutting the number of cavalry regiments from fifteen to ten. They pay for the pension luxury by crippling the Army and Navy. That is what economical ad-ministration means to them.

Taft in the meantime has stopped the annual increase in governmental expenses and has effected an actual decrease of \$25,000,000 a year. In so doing he has not crippled any department or any bureau of a depart-ment, but has secured better, more efthey may learn a little something dur-ing their school years that will help postal deficit at the same time that he has established the postal savings banks and extended the rural free delivery to the remotest parts of country. He gets a dollar's worth for every dollar expended, and spends what is saved in giving the people

more facilities. Taft is the real cratic economy is that of the spend- place in life. Just now, however, they thrift, who squanders his money on are fully persuaded that the joke is on making "a night of it" and saves Principal Jenkins. next morning by breakfasting on cof-

give the money trust such a hold on THE OREGON IRRIGATION CONGRESS. Irrigation in Oregon has now There is no practical way to get rid cannot be broken. He avers that awakened the active interest of the whole state. It has ceased to be the subject of enthusiasm for a comparagressive citizens. It has ceased to be quiry made by the House committee on the subject of mere oratorical flights themselves the best way they can to banking and currency, in which evil about making the desert blossom like purpose it is sided by Underwood and the rose. Attention is now turned to the other leaders of the Democracy. the practical question of how and where to put water on the land and servient to "the interests," can the how to plant settlers upon it and start

That is the encouraging conclusion to be drawn from the presence at the egates which has ever attended such a gathering. It is also thoroughly repnot only the arid and semi-arid section section of the west. net only of the capitalists whose money is essential to the development of irriland to be irrigated, but of practical trrigators fresh from the soil, who have solved the problems in daily work. The whole state is moved by the impulse to water the dry land and bring it under cultivation

This congress recognizes that the ter banks must keep their country | day for generalization is past and that we must now deal with specific undertakings. We shall hear of progress on the Government projects on the Umatills and Klamath and shall have the merits of the west extension of the former project threshed out. We shall hear what can be done on the John ment. Next in order of importance come the Carey act projects on the Deschutes and in Harney County, of which the former have become subject of controversy between the state and the promoters. The state, The National generoe scheme would having incurred obligation to the Gov-break the grip of the few great banks ernment to secure the watering and on the money supply by placing the settlement of this land as a condition of acquiring title for transfer to the settlers, clearly has both the right and the duty to insure that the settlers get what they pay for, which is not only the land but water for irrigation at the price stipulated and a clear title when they comply with the terms of the contract. The congress may well declare itself on this subject without any appearance of taking sides in the

Following in order of importance the Carey act projects are several projects east of the Cascades, some of considerable magnitude, which are being carried out by private corporations. These have the merit of being free from many of the conditions imposed on settlers on Government and Carey cordingly. Jove doesn't lurk in a cav. divert it to productive and mercantile act projects. Where the enterprise is srn. He dwells on the very top of industry. It would check the inflation conducted on sound engineering and Dlympus and scans all that lies below of stock prices and prevent the panics

its contracts with settlers in good faith. it should have the encouragement of the congress. By the same rule, any attempt to exploit such projects for the enrichment of the promoters by practicing deception on the settlers should be unhesitatingly condemned. This is necessary to the material inould be unhesitatingly condemned. terest and good name of the state, for the efforts of all development bodies will be thwarted if word should go forth that homeseekers are with im-

punity victimized by promoters. West of the Cascades the congress will have a new feature in irrigation to consider. Because this section has a humid climate, it has been assumed until recently that irrigation would be superfluous. So it would be, if the rain were about equally distributed throughout the year. But this section is less humid than is popularly supposed and it has a long, dry season in the Summer during which irrigation is necessary. God sends enough water to make the land yield abundantly, but he leaves man to distribute it at the only be done by storing water during the wet season for use during the dry season. Hence have come two large irrigation enterprises in the Willamat Stavton, for watering of land when the crops most need moisture, from saturated.

The development of both Eastern and Western Oregon thus depends to a large extent on irrigation. The Irrigation Congress can, by interchange of ideas and experiences, spread knowledge how best to bring water to the land and how best to apply it. The congress can also voice public opinion on any legislation which may be needed and can exercise powerful leverage in bringing about such legis-Its character as representing the most energetic and best informed people on this subject entitles its recommendations to respectful considera tion, both by the voters and the Legislature.

A crusade in the name of decency against obscene postal cards is long overdue. It is unaccountable that the mails are open to some of the postal cards that pass through it. The explanation probably is that the practice of sending objectionable picture postals through the mails is of insidious growth and has fastened itself upon the pretty, inexpensive and convenient souvenir postcard which met with such instant and wide popularity as festal day remembrances. The city economically administered." That is vice commission, after due investigaa general term which sounds well, but tion, finds that the state law covering conveys no definite meaning. In orobscene books, pictures and papers is examine the interpretation put upon it | not comprehensive enough to cover publications that are suggestive of indecency and immorality-usually of pictures and postcards-and urges supplemental legislation that will be both deterrent and punitive. In the meantime proper complaint and evidence lodged with the postal authorities would doubtless in due time shut these indecent postals out of the mails, while a city ordinance could be made to clear the display cases in stationery

The pomposity of "Young America," and the silliness to which it leads when it clashes with sedate and competent authority in the public high school were witnessed in the garb in which the students of the Jefferson High in this city appeared in their classes last Monday. Very properly their bumptiousness passed unnoticed by the principal who had incurred their mighty

The romance of Mrs. Upton Sinclair and Harry Kemp, the Kansas poet, has run its brief race, and after the manner of fitful things snuffed out. This announcement with various and sundry details stifles any lingering sympathy for "Uppy" that the sentimentalist may have indulged, while a glance at the pictured faces of Mrs. Sinclair and Harry Kemp that accompany the printed statement of their blighted romance leaves one in doubt as to which of the two to congratulate on release from the other, and fain to trike refuge in the old saying that it is "a pity to spoil two houses with them."

Harry Atwood's proposed flight across the Atlantic looks romantically difficult, but probably it can be managed well enough. With a good engine and plenty of gasoline he ought to complete the journey in safety. Should an accident happen, the danger will not be so serious as on land, wa-ter being softer than rock. Besides, Atwood will carry a lifeboat. We see no reason why he should not succeed.

The only reason we have heard for dismissing the eighty bribery indictments against Abe Ruef is that there are eighty of them. If there were only one everybody would say, "let him be tried and punished." But since there are eighty there is a shrick of protest. The poet Cowper wisely counseled his readers either not to commit any crime at all or else to commit such a big one that the world would forgive it on account of its magnitude,

What sort of an entity is memory? A while ago J. W. Kendall lost his and now he is finding it again little by little. Is memory something like a bird which flew out of his skull and is trying to fly back again? Or is it a mere variety of brain action? Perhaps Kendall's brain lost the knack and is now recovering it. But what a queer knack it is.

Not least among the achievements of President Taft is the appointment of six among the nine Supreme Judges. He has practically remade the Supreme Court, and of good material.

If Wellman intends to be the first to cross the Atlantic by the air route, he must hurry. Atwood is out for the same honor, and, unlike Wellman, has a record for success.

the operation for removal of his appendix is starting an innovation much more interesting than dentistry, If the Vice Commission stops the

The San Franciscan who watched

sale of suggestive postcards, it will have done at least one good act. Why not send John Barrett to Co-

Writer Opposes High Finance Bills and Offers Plan.

PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 19.—(To the tor.)—Since it is fashionable I would like to contribute a short article on the road question. I, too, am a crank on good roads. No other public question is of more importance in the state in my opinion. With the proper road laws we might today have had a good many miles of roads. I am not in favor of bonding the state for a large sum of money and putting the fund in one man's hands and letting him appoint road commissioners and state and man's hands and letting him appoint road commissioners and state and county engineers at high salaries to gobble up the road fund. I believe the majority of taxpayers would be more than willing to be taxed a sufficient amount to improve our roads if we had assurance that we would get value received in return. I am in favor of a state-aid road law, we will say I mill placed in the state treasury the same as our school fund and an apportionment made to each county.

I favor the county baving full control of the appropriations same on our

trol of the appropriations same on our roads under certain instruction of our road laws. The County Surveyor is ason when it is needed. This can fully competent to engineer or take may be done by storing water during grades of any of our roads. Now this state-aid fund properly andled would state-aid fund properly andled would be just as much inducement to encourage road building as our school fund is to school instruction. Then I would favor each county duplicating its pro-portion of the state fund and I would organize the road district. crops most need moisture, from organize the road districts to convenient supply stored when the earth is size and have the districts build the road beds in such an amount as their proportion of the road fund would cover, with crushed rock. Then I would require the County Court to let the contract to put the rock on the road just the same as they now contract the county bridges. In that way every dol-lar could be used in rocking our roads with no high-toned salaries to road commissioners or state or county en-

Now, some will say this will be a failure because we don't know how to build roads. I will answer those by just saying: Go down to Washington County, just north of Hillsbero, and look at the job the county did there. That was its first experiment at a cost That was its first experiment at a cont of about \$4000 a mile. It has built a road that is just as smooth and as permanent as the paved streets of Portland. If we had such roads all over the state, there would not be a voice raised against our roads. I think if we had a good road bill or law on these lines it would give better satisfaction than the bills of the Good Roads Association or West bills. I agree Association or West bills. I agree with The Oregonian that it would be much better for us to raise the \$100.-000 interest and use it on roads than bond the state for \$2,000,000. I agree with the Good Roads Association that Portland and Multnomah County are interested just as much and more than the interior to have good roads all over the state. Their plate to catch the sugar is much larger than ours. agree with our County Judge, Mr. Pierce, if they just assist us a little, say one mill, and have a little patience,

WHY DIXON'S BOILER EXPLODED Writer Questions Theory of Low Water

and Thinks Shell Was Wenk. YAMHILL, Or., Feb. 19 .- (To the Edi-Editor.)—Regarding the explosion of the Sarah Dixon, I would say that a "fire box" boiler does not blow up on account of low water. In a shortage of water in such a boiler the "crown sheet," which is the roof of the fire box, becomes dry, it being the highest part of the portion of the boiler which is directly exposed to the flames, being softened or weakened by the heat, is blown down, and the boiler has "dropped her crown sheet." When the outside shell of a fire box boiler lets go, as it did in the case of

the Sarah Dixon, it is because the shell was not strong enough to carry the pressure imposed, and the reason why displeasure last Friday by advising it failed to burst several months previously, when a somewhat greater cold water pressure was applied, will have to be laid to the "fatigue" of metals. With the old pattern return flue station arging the averaged water pressure was applied, will have to be laid to the "fatigue" of metals. With the old pattern return flue station arging the averaged water get to the total statement of the statement of th upon this display of childish indigna-tion against the principal who advised them to dress as became their age and place in life. Just now, however, they boiler heads from spreading, the boiler head might blow out, causing the boller to jump like a skyrocket. Were I in Engineer Lewis' place I would not fret over losing my posi-tion, for when he has to work with bollers so bunglingly tested the next time he might not be so lucky. P. W. BRITTS.

House of Commons, Etc. PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Edi-tor.)—Please answer these questions (1) What salary is paid to a member of the House of Commons? (2) How far has the Cape-to-Cairo Railroad been constructed at the present time? (3) What is the modus operand for determining who is the leader of the majority party in the House of Commons when the appointment of a new Pre-

mier is necessary? HERBERT B. AUGUR.

(1) Four hundred pounds a year. (3) Each party elects its leader and when a party gains a majority in the House of Commons the King summons its leader to form a cabinet with the latter

(2) In November, 1910, the total length of northern portion of Senner is 1501 miles, and that on the southern portion is 21,312 miles, reaching Star of Congo. The gap between the two is 2060 miles. (Hazell's Annual, 1911.)

Plutus and Shakespeare. Plutas and Shakespeare,
PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Does the word "Pluto" mean
the god of wealth? If not, is there any
such a character which signifies such
a meaning? (2) In the Tales of Shakespeare," by Charles and Mary Lamb, are
the characters and places referred to
real or invented by Shakespeare?

A READER.

(1) Plutus, son of Demeter, was god of wealth, in classical mythology. (Seyffert's "Classical Dictionary.") (2) The historical plays of Shakes-peare are the only ones founded on fact, the English history series and the Roman series. But they are not told in Lamb's "Tales," the characters in the latter being purely imaginary or legendary. (Gowinus "Commentaries,")

Are Lights Useless Downtown. PORTLAND, Feb. 18 .- (To the Editor.)—I would call the attention of the proper officials of the city regarding the utter uselessness of the arc lamps in the down-town district, where the in the down-town the transfer of the streets are already so brightly illuminated by the street lamps. Why this waste of money, which the taxpayers have to make good? It were better to move these superfulous are lamps to some of the residence districts that are at present greatly in need of more light, than to have them remain with-out any benefit to the city. SIMON HARRIS,

Tables May Be Turned. GOLD BEACH, Or., Feb. 15 .- (To the

GOLD BEACH, Or., Feb. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Two years ago the voter: of Multnomah County rolled up a large majority in favor of closing Rogue River to commercial fishing, almost paralyzing the business of Curry County. Now, by reason of wise (7) legislation those same people are, or will be, called upon to pay millions to make roads for us and other counties. Verily, strange things do happen under our new-fangled ways of making laws.

J. HUNTLEY

TAX LEVY RATHER THAN BONDS NO COUNTY SEAT FIGHT PENDING. Rurns Will Remain Canital of Harney

County, Says Writer. BURNS, Or., Feb. 10. - (To the Editor.) - In The Oregonian and an evening paper of the 13th apan evening paper of the 13th appears an article quoting "Joe Mahan," of this county, as saying that Burns and its people are shivering in a great fear over the danger of the removal of the Harney County seat from Burns. Of course, the informant is the redoubtable "Big" Jim Mahan, the right bower and spekasman for Government of Covernment of the course, the informant is the redoubtable "Big" Jim Mahan, the right bower and spekasman for Government of Covernment of the course right bower and spokesman for Gover nor West and "Our George," the sup-posed Democratic boss of Harney County, who owns a large amount of property 25 miles east of Burns and another large amount 50 miles south-east; a man who has fought Burns for 25 years, tried to prevent it from get-ting the county seat in the first place and from getting the United States land office.

The fact is, there is neither probability, possibility nor design for the removal of the county seat. Burns is the commercial center as well as the legal center of Harney County and when there is sufficient development in the unsettled portions of the county to warrant it, the immense territory embraced in the county will be divided, but Burns will remain the county seat of Harney County. There is opposition to the proposed

new courthouse, but it is fostered mostly by the promoters of paper town-sites and by the P. L. S. Co. and kin-dred corporations that own large amounts of land over the county and amounts of land over the county and that never relish the call for con-tributir; to public improvements. The supremacy of Burns as the com-nercial metropolis of this region is not threatened in the least and will not be disturbed for many years.

LEPROSY DYING OUT IN NORWAY

Hospital Surrounded by Homes and Patients Walk Streets Unmolested. PORTLAND, Feb. 18 .- (To the Editor.)-In an editorial about lepresy you say that the leprosy germ was isolated and described by a scientist named Nansen in 1871. This is a mistake, Dr. G. Armauer Hansen, Bergen, Norway, is the man who isolated and described the leprosy germ in 1871. He is still the leading physician of the leprosy hospital in Bergen, and in his last report he states that there have not been any new cases in the last years, and if the government in the hext coming years will take as good care of the disease as it has done to this date, there will probably be no lepers in Norway by the year 1920.

All the lepers in Norway are now confined in one hospital in Bergen, and they are old people altogether. The hospital was built 50 years ago just outside the town. The town has grown 200 per cent since the hospital was built, and it is now surrounded by fine residences. The disease is not considered dangerous for the neighbors, because it has never been transferred. because it has never been transferred to any of the attendants of the hospitals. The patients walk around town and nobody is alarmed. They are treated as other sick people. treated as other sick pe ALBERT BOYE.

Killing Wild Birds Unlawful,

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Feb. 15 .- (To the Editor.)—In our neighborhood a young man makes a business of killing the birds, canaries and snowbirds-in fact, anything that flies, including buzzards. How can we stop it? MRS. S. B. MORSS.

It is unlawful to kill or have in one's possession, dead or allve, any wild bird (other than a game bird at the proper season) with the exception of the English or European house sparrow, crow or hawk. Violations of the law should be reported to a deputy game warden, such as the Sheriff Denuty Sheriff or such as the Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff or

Send 'em Away," Law. DALLAS, Or., Feb. 18.—(To the Editor.)—In view of the fact that we are living in an age of freakish legislation and the "mill" at Oregon City seems unable to supply sufficient food for authority to ostracize "undesirable citi-zens"? We have the power to recall zens"? We have the power to recall
'em, why not the power to send 'em
away? Strange U'Ren never thought
of this!

History of the Ferris Wheel, PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Please say whether or not the Ferris wheel at the St. Louis fair was the same one which was used at the Chicago world's fair in 1893. WILLIAM H. PATTERSON.

There is no local information handy. Write to the St. Louis, Mo., Globe-Democrat newspaper.

His Henring Is Very Good.

Boston Transcript. Moore-My sense of hearing is the keenest ever. Do you know, I can hear your watch ticking, although you are six feet away. Poore-Then Poore—Then you're a wonder, My watch is at the pawnbroker's, six blocks

A Word o' Mouth.

Chicago Tribune.

The doctor—Most of the sickness comes from what we eat and drink. People are not half particular enough about what they put into their mouths. The professor (sniffing)—No, they're not. Do you often smoke such a cigar as that?

Conductor. NATRON, Or., Feb. 15 .- (To the Editor.)—Please tell me whether pure water is an insulator or a conductor of electricity. C. L. GRUTZE.

Yes; Asphyxintion.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20 .- (To the Editor.)—Is there any known remedy for snoring? X. Y. Z. The Deadly Dictagraph

By Denn Collins.

A youth, in Leap Year, sat and blushed .Beside an ancient spinster dame, And heard her tell him all about The warmth of her affection's flame; And, by the sanction of the year, She strove to make her meaning clear, So the coy youth could understand She offered him her heart and hand

He had a line of talk arrayed, Such as a youth in idle hours May peddie out to any maid. "My darling." he declared, "I am-" And then he closed up like a clam. His soul was smitten with a doubt Lest she'd a dictagraph about.

A politician sought the ear Of one, to ask for his support, Who had already pledged his vote To sev'ral other men, in sport.
"Why sure," th' obliging one began,
Then, in a panic, turned and ran.
"Suppose," he gasped, "these other Had hidden dictagraphs perhaps."

"I am the ruler in my house,"
A rounder said, "I ramble out
At any time, and never tell
My wifey what I am about.
A man must rule his better half—" But then he thought "a dictagraph, Stopped short and looked beneath his To see if one was hidden there.

Ah, in the days of dictagraphs, Full direumspect became each man, And murmured "Sh-h-h," and looked

Before a sentence he began All day he quaked in constant fright, And e'en when he retired at night, "I may talk in my sleep," he said, And looked, full cautious, 'neath the

Portland, February 20.

## Half a Century Ago

Messrs. E. A. Light, Montgomery and to start in a few weeks for the Salmon River mines by way of the Nucheas Pass.

The steamer Emily Harris arrived last night from Burrard's Inlet with 12 passengers and \$15,000 in dust.—Vic-

The Cortes-This steamer left San Francisco with about 550 passengers aboard on the 7th inst. and reached Portland on Tuesday night at 10 o'clock. About 450 of the passengers remained at Portland and the balance continued on to this port—Victoria Ccionist. The real balance probably amounted to 50 persons. For Salmon 500 miners; for Carlboo, 50. This proportion will probably hold good during the season.

There is good sense in the following extract from a communication written by a Salmon miner, in yesterday's

Times:
"As to the farmers of Oregon, who
are preparing to abandom their farms
by thousands, I think they are simply by thousands, I think they are simply crazy. If those mines prove as they are generally supposed to be, a good farm will be more valuable to the farmer and yield him more gold in the next two years than the best set of mining claims in the Nez Perce country. Stay where you are and if it proves a falkure, as most of the great gold discoveries of late have, you will be no worse off. If it proves a sucbe no worse off. If it proves a success, walt-let the gold come to you."

The pirates of the Buccaneer Beauregard threw overboard \$4000 in specie when they were captured by the United States gunboat W. G. Anderson, to pre-vent its falling into the hands of Captain Rogers.

Two horses attached to a truck loaded with apples in boxes and be-longing to Mr. Holman, which were standing on the wharf yesterday, took a notion to stampede, and away they went up Front street, scattering the apples on their way, much to the alarm of foot passengers and the no little not slow in gathering up some of the

## Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe

People who wouldn't rob a cripple have less scruples about taking ac vantage of a man who can afford it.

If it is true that our ancestors were for the true that our ancestors were so had that it became necessary to drown all of them except Nonit and his family, people are not that had now; so while we have not improved as much as we should, we have improved some.

When a reform movement results in the use of firearms, it is a sign that one side or the other has gone too far Peaceful public sentiment is usually powerful enough to bring about every change that is necessary and proper.

People admire a man and wife who are happy, but if the happy husband and wife talk too much about it, there will be ill-natured comment.

Every good thing is promptly over-aded as soon as we know positively that it is a good thing.

In a big job, a man can't hang on month after month, and make explana-tions every Saturday night; he must either make good, or quit. Some men are as incapable as a wolf of appreciating that industry and fair-

ness pay better than idleness and petty violations of the rules.

A friend not only tells the secret in trusted to him; he makes it worse than

Look out for the man who says his prices are reasonable, and that the prices of others are always too high.

Advertising is a tremendous force. Tell the public, through The Oregonian columns, of the wares you have to offer. Every day in the year vou can reach an audience composed of the greater portion of Portland residents.

Think how simple and easy it is. Write out your announcement in the evening. Send it over or phone and a representative will call for it. That is all you need do. In the morning your message will have been printed 53,-000 times. It will reach at least 53,000 people. Almost every copy of The Oregonian is read by two or more people. There is no other method of reaching so great a

number of Portland buyers at so low a cost.