The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27.

THE DEMOCRATIC EXCISE TAX.

The Democrats answer the question When is an income tax not an income tax?" by saying, "When it is an excise tax." Taking as a pretext the Supreme Court decision validating the corporation tax, they have passed through the House a bill imposing a tax of I per cent on all net incomes ever \$5000 of persons or partnerships doing business in this country. They interpret the phrase "doing business" to cover every kind of occupation, from a judge to a carpenter. They expect this bill to stand fire in the Supreme Court in the face of numerour decisions adverse to their theory. They contend that the decision validating the corporation tax justifies this assumption, although the court in that case distinctly said that the tax was levied on the privilege of doing business in corporate form. They call their tax an excise tax, although the very nature of an excise tax is that it is levied on some business of which the law makes an exception, such as liquor-selling and tobacco-selling.

The effect of the bill would be to treat the earning of an income in exceas of \$5000 as a privilege. Does any sane man honestly believe it to be a privilege? Doing a business or pursuing an occupation means the application of one's individual industry and ability, one's accumulated savings to the earning of a living. This is not a privilege, it is a right; more, it duty, the doing of which has made the United States what it is.

But we are informed that this tax would reach not only income derived from active business, but that derived from investments in real estate or other forms of property, provided the owner was engaged in active business Thus a man who draws \$1000 net income from a candy store and \$5000 from real estate would pay tax or \$1000 under the bill. It is contended that the Supreme Court sanctions this its corporation tax decision, as it holds that income on real estate owned by corporations is subject to taxation together with other income, the court distinctly says that it is the privilege of doing business and owning property in corporate form which is taxed and that a direct tax on real estate and personal property can only be levied in proportion to population, To not in proportion to income. maintain that the Supreme Court can be fooled by such word-juggling is to write down its members the nine most lible men in the United Stacs.

But we are told that it is just to tax the rich and to relieve the poor. True, but who are the rich whom equity repulres us to tax? Are they the men sions as individuals? Every man in his senses knows they are not. men whom it is most desirable to tax are the holders of great landed estates like that of the Astors, the owners of great fortunes held in trust like that of Marshall Field, men like Henry Phipps, who distributed \$10,000,000 worth of real estate among his sons to escape the worry of its care. Such fortunes would escape taxation under the excise bill, though they are held sired to tax. These idle rich are offered every inducement to remain idle, for, according to the sponsors of the bill, they would no sopner engage in some useful occupation yielding however small an income than their entire Income from every source would become subject to taxation

When cornered on this point, detenders of the bill make the excuse that it taxes all incomes of the rich that can possibly be taxed under the Constitution as interpreted by the Su preme Court, and they accuse Republicans of striving to prevent imposition of an income tax in any guise. These gentlemen have marvelously short memories. It was a Republican President who proposed, and a Republican Congress which submitted to the states, a constitutional amendment empowering Congress to levy an income tax on the idle and active rich the moderately and extremely rich, alike. That amendment has been ratified by thirty of the thirty-six states necessary to its adoption, and a malority of those thirty states are Re publican. Only six of the eighteen states which have not yet acted favorably are needed, and a majority of these eighteen are Republican.

If the Democrats earnestly desired to impose an equitable tax on wealth, they would defer action in Congress on this income tax in the gauzy guise of an excise tax and turn their efforts to promoting the ratification of the amendment by such Demo cratic states as Virginia, Florida and attel or acted adversely. But they are more interested in manufacturing buncombe, which will yield lawsuits instead of revenue, and in sending to the President bills designed to put him in a hole. If he approves this bill, he opens the way to endless lawsuits and anctions the imposition of an unjust ax; if he vetoes it, he exposes him-self to the false charge of opposing in pretended purpose.

HOW OREGON IS BLESSED. The prevalence of the coal miners

other kinds of fuel than coal and to other means of generating power. On the Pacific Coast we are less affected by such strikes than are the Eastern tates or European countries. We have abuneant water power in every mountain stream, which has enabled us to substitute electric for steam nower in almost all industries. The

in many cases where steam power still survives.

England and Germany are entirely and our Eastern States almost entirely dependent on coal for fuel and their sources of water power are so slight as to supply but a fraction of the power they must have. Thus it is that, when a strike suspends operation in the coal mines, it stops all industry and the whole nation suffers acutely. There is no slabpile on which the English or German householder can draw to smaller average income than the American he must pay famine prices for coal or freeze.

The troubles of our neighbors serve remind us how greatly we are blessed in our forest and mountain streams, which remove us from danger of enforced idleness or cold through lack of coal.

THEN AND NOW.

There is no reason why anyone in Jackson County aboutd vote for Mr. Seiling. When the Medferd detegation visited Salem Mr. Seiling promised his support to the Crater Lake read bill and afterwards violated this cerbal promise given at a luncheon to half a dozen Medford men. He did not oppose the hill on grounds of its unconstitutionality, not solely on the grounds of economy. When is saw the bill was going to pass despite its opposition, he offered an amendment utting the sum in half. He afterwards subtribed \$100 to the highway fund as a sop is win the good will of this section.—Medorid Mail-Tribuns. THEN AND NOW

Here is an appeal to the local preju dice that would be contemptible enough if the statements on which it is based were true; but, since they are not true, it could only have been inspired by an unscrupulous purpose to go to any extreme of misrepre. sentation to injure Mr. Selling. Sena-tor Selling never attended any luncheon given by Medford men; never promised to support the Crater Lake bill, and never opposed it on the ground of economy. He objected to the measure on the basis of its unconstitutionality-an objection afterwards ompletely sustained by the Supreme Court.

Two years after the Crater Lake episode, Senator Selling as candidate for President of the State Senate reopen support of ceived same Medford newspaper and the Sen-ator from Jackson County. If he had offended greatly by his vote on Crater Lake, why the subsequent indorse ment of Jackson County through its Medford paper and Senator Von der Hellen? Why this post facto hostility? There was gross stultification then, or is now. The Medford paper may decide for itself whether it was then or

WHO'LL BE THE NEXT?

Mr. Severson's generosity has en hanced the efficiency of three praise worthy institutions. Willamette University, which has stood for advanced education in Oregon ever since the be ginning of pioneer times, is at last in a fair way to acquire an adequate en Mr. Severson's gift dowment. \$100,000 does not by any means complete the sum which the university needs, but it helps materially. donation affords no excuse for the friends of the institution to relax their efforts and it will not be so under stood. On the contrary, it ought to be an inspiration to renewed zeal. The Portland Young Women's Christian Association had no endowment whatever before Mr. Severson gave it \$50,000. This is a noble gift. It is a worthy beginning to which generous onors will no doubt make additions from year to year. The meritorious work of this institution is too little known. The good it does in an inconspicuous way is beyond all estimate, while its lack of means hampers effort in every direction.

Mr. Severson's gift of \$50,000 to th brings its endowment up to \$125,000 which may to some persons look like large sum, but, compared with the money at the command of other institutions doing work of the same kind it is pitifully small. At the Portland Young Men's Christian Association about 1500 young men are receiving an education in many kinds of practical studies. From their own resources they pay on the average 85 per cent of the cost of their teaching. Contrast this figure with what the student does at Yale or Amherst. In those heavily-endowed colleges the student pays but 15 per cent of the cost of his education from his own resources. The rest is charity. reader perceives, therefore, that the Y. M. C. A. is much nearer being selfsupporting than the great colleges of

the East. But no educational institution car be wholly self-supporting. The larger and better its work the more mone it needs. The students at the Y. M. C. A. pay by far the greater part of what their education costs, but they cannot pay all of it. Like Willamette University and our other schools, it needs an adequate endowment. Mr. Severon's generous gifts are no doubt an earnest of good things to come. There must be many quiet, unostentatious men of wealth in Portland who are watching the course of events and making up their minds what to do with their money. They should re-member that it is unwise to scatter gifts too much. Money must be con centrated in order to attain the best results with. "Give where others have given before you" is an excellent rule to follow. What could not Willamette University do with a round million for an endowment? With the same sum the Christian Associations could win the whole of Portland to practical Christianity. No doubt Mr. Severson's benefactions will open the eyes of our men of wealth to the noble opportunifor doing good with their money which lie in plain sight before them

THE ISSUE BETWEEN TAFT AND ROOSEVELT.

Colonel Roosevelt persists in his attempt to obscure the issue between him and President Taft by misrepre senting the President's opinions. The Colonel reiterates that the President believes in rule of the people for the people by a part of the people, which he calls the bosses. The President has never said anything which would bear such a construction by any possible On the contrary, the President has said:

I believe in popular government but it believe in popular government ordered by legislation and by law.

The issue between the two men is not whether the people shall rule, but der this outrage any longer? how the people shall rule. As Mr. The Italians, too, have a jus Taft said at Boston, the people do rule and have ruled. In so doing they have provided means by which their In.ws and constitutions shall be changed from time to time to conform to their will. He proposes that they shall continue to use these means of constitutional amendment when Jew. It is idle to reply that neither The Colonel proposes desire.

means; that, when a principle laid down in the Constitution is interpreted will, the people shall make an exception in that particular case by reversing the court's decision, thus creating a special instance. The President proposes, in effect, that, the interpretation of any provision of the Constitution is not in accord with the popular will, the people avail themselves of the means already provided to embody their will in the Con warm his house, and with a much stitution; that they change the provision so as to reverse not only that one decision, but to lay down a new principle covering all similar cases That is the obvious meaning of the Pres-ident's words: "Popular government ordered by legislation and by law,"

The President's policy gives broader exercise to the popular will than the Exercise of that will by Colonel's. law would not merely reverse one court decision, but would lay down a new general rule for the guidance of the courts. Though the Colonel is lege, his policy would inaugurate a new era of special privilege under the

name of special instances. The tone of the speeches of the two men is a clear indication as to which is the safer leader. Roosevelt flatters the people with the catchwords: "Let the people rule," and invites them to carry that principle into the details of interpretation of the law. Taft says: By all means, let the people rule, but he courageously tells them they are too busy with their personal affairs to attend to details. He advises them to lay down broad principles and then intrust the details of carryng out those principles to men elected by themselves. The Colonel's policy is that of the demagogue, appealing to the people's vanity, the President's is that of the patriotic states man appealing from their vanity to their reason

LAW REDUCED TO ABSURDITY.

Could any absurdity be more absurd han that phase of our criminal jurisprudence that permits and encourage man who has confessed, giving all the horrible details, to a most revolting and unprovoked murder, to come nto court and plead "not guilty" the formal charge? But now the pubic was shocked and horrified by the onfessions of George and Charles Humphrys of the attack upon, murder and the disposal of the body of Mrs. Griffith, near Philomath. Now appear in court these confessed murderers with the plea "not guilty" on their lips and a lawyer asks a con-tinuation of their case for ten days in order that he may have time to arrange proofs of their innocence! Could absurdity further go? Could justice be more impudently mocked in her

wn temples? It is common to deplore the fact—apparent on every hand—that the American public, and primarily American youth, have no respect for law. What, pray, is there in law as thus exemplified to command respect? Why, indeed, should not men of mature years as well as reckless youth mock at and deride the manner in which the law is administered through

shameless evasion? Every man, it is said, is entitled to his day in court. True. But the day in court to which these men were entitled should have been marked by arraignment and the passing of sentence on the accepted plea of guilty, with declared penalty upon their own estimony of their guilt.

This is not in accordance with law, it is said. So much the worse for the law and for the society that it is supposed to protect and with which it should deal justly. Why not have a aw covering cases where guilt is a mitted by the gullty, upon the simple basis of common sense? Why all this verbiage and circumlocution and nonsense? Why but to screen the gullty give the lawyer his day in court and

A SUBSTITUTE FOR SHAKESPEARE. In one of the old French monas-teries where girls were educated there not wash their arms above the wrist on account of the immodest exposure that would be required if they should. This is carrying delicacy to something like an extreme, but it goes not much farther than some of our literary puritans would in choosing reading matter for the public schools. Prudery working in alliance with a dozen other sorts of prejudice will leave nothing whatever for the wretched scholars to eruse before a great while except tracts and Marie Corelli's novels. The latter are unexceptionable on the score of purity both in language and senti Marie can safely assert on her dving bed that she never has penned a word which the most hardened Anthony Comstock of either sex would blush to read. She is far ahead of the Bible in this respect. The people who will not let their little girls read the "Merchant of Venice" because the Prince of Morocco exclaims "Oh hell," on a certain occasion certainly

But there are other objections to the "Merchant of Venice." The hools of several cities have stricken it off from their curriculums because 'it gives an unfavorable picture of a Old Shylock is a disastrous caricature of his race. To permit an American youth to read what he says and learn what he does in the play is nothing short of a scandal. wonder that our fellow-citizens of Hebraic lineage have not long ago risen against the outrage. we may expect our English immigrants to demand the exclusion of "Richard III" from the schools be cause it portrays an English sovereign not only as a debased moral character, but as a hunchback. It would be difficult to treat a monarch with more contumely than Richard suffered from the pen of Shakespeare. Even Shylock was spared the disgrace of crooked spine, whatever his morals may have been. On the same principle the Scotch will presently rise in righteous wrath against "Macbeth." The way their ancient sovereign is slandered in that play is simply shocking to a truly alert patriotic sensibil-ity. He commits murder by the wholesale, he consorts with hired assassins, he consults witches, he sees ghosts. "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled," are you going to sit down un

The Italians, too, have a just ground complaint against Shakespeare. Think of that miserable lago, what a flend he was. There was no truth no honor, no fidelity, no human kind-ness in his black soul. And yet Iago was Shakespeare's typical Italian fully as much as Shylock was his typical one of them was meant for a type waste of our sawmilis is used as fuel that the people shall change the The proper rule to follow in these

matters is that where offense can be taken by stretching a point it ought to in a manner contrary to the popular be taken. Never give an author, not even Shakespeare, the benefit of any doubts. It is irrelevant to say that he did not deal in types, that his measureless dramatic superiority consists in his power to depict individuals, Where it is necessary to take a character as a type in order to afford an American school board an opportunity to play the ass it should by all means be done. Opportunities of this en-gaging species come to school boards with such comparative rarity that none should be missed.

We may add, to strengthen the case

that there is another ground of complaint against "Othello." lago is not its only slanderous character nor its most deplorable. The reader will readily guess that we are thinking of Othello *himself. What a concrete calumny he is against the entire colored race! Is there a colored man and brother in this broad land who would treat a sweet, gentle, loving loud in denunciation of special privi- and innocent wife as Othello treated Desdemona? We trow not. If there is a public school which still permits this offense to our negro fellow-citizens to be read by the pupils we demand its instant suppression in the cause of decency, or at any rate in the cause of plety. If it is sinful for the Prince of Morocco to call upon hell it must be a great deal worse for Othello to invoke the devils themselves. But he does it, incredible as blind Shakespeare idolators may find the state-"Whip me, ye devils," shouts ment. Othello in an access of impious rage after he has smothered his beautitful oung wife with a pillow. Shall we tolerate language of this kind in our public schools?

The lamentable fact is that there is scarcely any respectable nationality on earth whom Shakespeare has not outrageously slandered. The unspeakable Monsieur Delgrado was a Frenchman. The ineffective Hamlet, who was always talking and never acting, was a The rebel Fortinbras was a Norwegian, and, to make matters It does not seem possible to read any play of Shakespeare's in the public schools without justly offending some of the numerous nationalities of whom our population is com-Shall we prefer the fame an old and useless playwright to the feelings of our fellow-citizens?

The solution of this difficulty is very simple. We wonder that nobody had the courage to propose it long ago, for it is so obvious that a great many school directors must have thought of it. Our plan is to exclude Shakespeare entirely from the public schools. Then the Italians, the French, the English, the Norwegians. schools. the Danes and the Jews can send their children to the house of learning without fear of their patriotic feelings being outraged. If we were asked what to substitute for Shakespeare's plays we should not hesitate for a noment for an answer. This is intended to be a constructive article, not merely iconoclastic. We should intro duce in place of Shakespeare the writings of Marie Corelli. She never slanders any race of people and praises every institution on earth except the Catholic Church, which is big enough and strong enough, we imagine, to overlook her attacks.

Wandering Wilhelm seems likely to eregrinate quite a bit among the isles of Greece, where burning Sappholoved and sung, before he goes back nome. Having mingled his tears with Victor Emmanuel's over the vanquished splendors of Venice, he sails Here between Athens and Sparta. William will ponder over the glory that was Greece and plan to enlarge the majesty that is German.

If one suffragette can stop the ma jestic current of Colonel Roosevelt's oratory for fifteen minutes, how many ould it take to silence him forever As soon as the suffrage clubs have worked out the answer, it is hoped that they will set aside a sufficient number of their members to acconplish the great and good work. Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori.

New Mexico begins her bribery rec ord so early that she gives one an impression of precocity. The young state is almost an infant phenomenon when it comes to expertness in corrupt poli-Apparently her Legislature has nothing to learn even from Illinois and

there will be no objection to appropriation of \$2000 by the county to encourage its best endeavor. The latest charter commission de cides to put the civil service blanket on all city employes. Under a free-

The Multnomah County Fair at

Gresham is an institution of merit and

for-all primary system there is no po could not stand the story of Joseph. litical machine that can use them, for, Swindler Maybray, despite crooked thousands he made during his

career, is a vagrant in Kansas City. There is no sticking quality to easy If Senator Reed is to be believed the new style by which Stephenson was elected Senator is no improve-

mer won his uneasy seat. A camel could as easily pas through the needle's eye as trusts could be convicted of being

trusts.

ment on the old style by which Lori-

The majority report says Stephenson did not make corrupt use of money in his election. Necessity of such finding is obvious.

It is to be hoped the moving-picture man was on hand to shoot William and Victor Emmanuel as they ' braced repeatedly."

There is no danger of a potato fam ine in Portland. Wise growers who stored their crop are unloading at good figures The Democratic House purposes to

disinfect the Indian Bureau, this be ing housecleaning time. Apparently in the interest of a bull

ish market, the packers are found not

guilty. A "dead" volcano in California i smoking. Mount Hood must wake up.

The straw hat is budding.

MR. SELLING'S UPRIGHT POLICY. Objections to His Candidacy Carefully Considered. Medford Sun.

The only objections to Ben Selling in this neighborhood seem to be that he voted against the Crater Lake Highway and he sells more pants in Portland that anybody else

As to the first objection it is only fair to Mr. Selling to remember that he was not representing Jackson County in the State Senate, and that he voted against the construction of the highway at the state expense, not because he did not favor such an improvement but because in his opinion it was not constitutional. This position was upheld by the courts.

When some Medford citizens went to Portland with a subscription list for Crater Lake road it will be reme ed that Mr. Selling gave \$100 out of his own pocket. Mr. Selling is not unreasonable when he claims that it would have been easier and cheaper to have voted for the bill and kept his \$100, but he believed he had a right to give away his own money, but not the people's money, contrary to his oath of office.

But in our opinion the best thing about Selling is that he opposes Senator Bourne. He is the strongest candidate that has appeared against the man who pays \$2.44 in taxes in Oregon and spends a proportionate amount of time In the state he is supposed to represent. It is high time that Oregon was represented by an Oregon man, who does not ote for a high tarif on wool because he is a heavy stockholder in Massachusetts Woolen Mills, whose interests and sympathies are not Eastern but Western, who is progressive and honest in his progressiveness, and who believes that if Oregon is good enough to represent it is good enough to live in.

But as to Selling selling pants-that's pretty difficult thing to justify. We have heard they are good pants, that they wear well and look well and if they are made of shoddy Ben doesn't worse, he was a prince. And so it claim they are made of wool, but this doesn't alter the situation. Nor does t change matters to call attention to the fact that if there is any worthy cause, Ben Selling is the first man to dlp down into his own pants pockets and help that cause along,

One might say that in our present divilization pants are as necessary as efficient public service. If Ben should flip flop and come out on a platform for a pantless proletariat-well-we doubt it. There seems nothing for Ben to do but admit the corn and let the Democratic press paddie his pant policy intil the last vote is cast.

Perhaps-you never can tell-per haps Jonathan B. would not cut an impressive figure as an anti in such a campaign. What the other fellow has to do should always be considered, in this raging political whirlwind.

BROACHER ADVERTISERS HIT.

Aid Given by Them to Effort to Destroy Property Rights.

PORTLAND, March 25.—(To the Editor.)—The Henry George Club of Portland, in conjunction with the paid Fels fund brigade, has flooded Portland with 50,000 copies of a single tax broacher.
Investigation shows that political candidates at the primaries have paid about \$500 in cash for advertisements in the broacher. Do these various can-didates stand for the single tax? If

not, why do they give such substantial aid in furthering its propaganda?

Every man who is a candidate for any office should have studied single tax ugh to know that it leads straight to state Socialism and is destructive to the inalienable rights of property as youchsafed in the Constitution of the

"Private property in land is a bold, bare, enormous wrong like chattel slavery." On page 403 Mr. George further says: "It is not neces-sary to confiscate land; it is only necesn the value of land would be in effect putting up the land at auction to whom-soever would pay the highest rent to five cent fares. the state.

the state."

Let not these publicity craving candidates who have used the single tax "broacher" reply that it was cheap advertising for them. They know full well they would not offend public opinion by placing their pictures in the windows of the most prominent and redows of the most promined speciable saloon in Portland, even though free space were given them.

A man is known by the company EDWARD BROWN even EDWARD BROWN.

Consult a Lawyer.

Consult a Lawyer.

ALBANY, Or., March 24.—(To the Editor.)—A purchases a farm in which transaction an error was made in the description of it: A now sells to B giving a correct description of same. Now we find this blunder, and also a right-of-way lease which is to extend a certain time yet. The latter was a matter of record, which wasn't looked. matter of record, which wasn't looked up at the time of said deal; but A promised their lease had expired, and also gave a deed warranting and de-fending against all lawful claims whatsoever. Kindly advise us what

versies. Only elementary and simple question will be answered.

THE BALLAD OF ANYMAN. By Dean Collins,

I met a man in a cafe.

Who o'er his coffee, villified
The evil int'rests that he said
Were loose about the country We should arise and get their goat By use of our untrammelled vote," Said he. I bit my rich requefort And answered, "Even so, old sport."

Again I met him at a stand Where smoking stuffs are put on sale Once more against the state of things I heard him paw the air and rail. "The ship of state's a sinking boat Unless we save her with our vote." He offered me a cigarette Which same I took, and said, "You bet,"

Weeks later by a swell buffet We hung about the gratis lunch,
And still be said, "The state of things
Is very bad, I have a hunch.
A thousand evils I can note
And we should fix them with our vote."
I delyed into the pot of beams And answered firmly "By all means."

Still spake he, when we met once me Within the club, of how the land Is in the grip of grasping greed From trusts and such, on every hand. "The Int'rests have us by the throat, And we should club them with our And we should vote."

I dropped my ace upon his king

And said, "Yes, that's the proper

Election day we met once more,
"Are you a freeholder?" said he,
"And wherefore," I replied to him
"Is that of interest to thee?"
He gave a sad and sheepish grin:
"Kindly come help to swear me in;
I've heen so busy, as it were,
I taked the said register." I failed to go and register.

NEED FOR PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD Mr. Gaston Compares Portland Rates With Those of Other Cities.

PORTLAND, March 25 .- (To the Editor.)-Mr. C. M. Clark, of Philadelphia, speaking for the Portland Rallway. Light & Power Company, recently contributed a column to The Oregonian hat is entitled to respectful consideration. Mr. Clark's first proposition is that the payment of \$450,568 annual taxes and \$522,416 for paving between the tracks is sufficient compensation for all franchise rights. The answer is that Mr. Cark's company does pay those sums of money at all, that they are contributed by the people of Portland entirely. The company's customers handed over to the corporation for fares and light \$6,500,000 last year, and the corporation kindly passed back to the city \$973,384 for taxes and

Mr. Clark insists on it that his company is in favor of a "square deal." Let us see how much so. The city compelled the abutting property owne to reduce the street to a general ; to receive the railway track, and pave the street outside the railway track so the general traffic would not wear out or obstruct the railway track. Does Mr. Clark think the property owner ought to give the company the franchise and then build its road also? If not, why set up this item for street paving?

But let us be liberal, and give the railway monopoly credit for keeping its own track in repair, and also accept \$450.968 as a gift of the corporation out of its abounding generosity to the people. Then what becomes of the bal-ance of the \$6,500,500, contributed by the people? According to my arithmetic (but I am very poor in figures) that balance will pay 6 per cent annual interest on over \$90.000,000. Of course the operating expenses and in-terest on bonded indebtedness mus-come out. But right there is where we need a lot of electric light turned on by an honest, conscientious publiservice commission. A great many tax payers in this town are wicked enoug to believe that there is in this service corporation, as in all like it, a very large issue of capital stock that represents nothing as good as Bull Run water.

For one customer I most heartily sympathize with Mr. Clark's desire to give every man (and the city included) a square deal. People who walk up t the company's office and pay their by regularly don't like to be "skinned" of of even a few cents if it has the colof injustice in it. I know people it this town who get their electric light (or half of it) for five cents per kilowatt hour, while other people whose money is just as good are compelled to pay three times that price. I know the city of Ser Presented furnishes it. the city of San Francisco furnishes its itizens electric light for two and on half cents per kilowatt hour, and th city of Pasadena, where wire and pole cost four times as much as in Portland furnishes all its people electric light for five cents per kilowatt hour; and that in both San Francisco and Pasa-dena, electricity is generated by steam power which costs six times as much as water power of Portland, Or.

The average householder of Portlan gets water for his home for 75 cents per month, but electric light for his home costs him four times as much. The water plant owned and operated by the city cost \$10,000,000; the electric light plant devoted to furnishing light exclusively did not cost one-fourth that as it affects the householder, costs times as much for light as for water.

We once had a Mayor, who urged
the erection of a city lighting plant,
saying the city has already in the city the water power, all we have to do I build the station, attach the turbine and pay for the wires already in place Why was not that public official sup-ported in an effort to relieve the tax-payers of a great burden? Why? The

easons would not look well in print. At another time and place the cost franchises, "stub ends" and extension and the gratuities given by the prop erty holders to secure the same, all which I have seen and some of whi away to Corfu, which used to be Corcyra in the days of Pericles. It was Corcyra which gave occasion for the and Poverty." says on page 356: and Poverty." made money hauling people around with horses in primitive box cars at All became millionaires; all gave their patrons the "squa deal." JOSEPH GASTON.

Gun Law Opposed.

PORTLAND, March 25 .- (To the Editor.)—In regard to declaration made at Portland by State Senator Bean, of Lane County, that he would legislate the pump gun out of business in the state. I wish to corroborate the statements in a letter recently published in the last been a member of the Commission that allows such business as this is wrong.

On the present Commission there is one other man, Captain Shaver, who is directly interested in towing, and since he has been a member of the Commission that allows such business as this is wrong. The Oregonian, from A. G. Propst, that sion, the Shaver Transportation Compact a law would accomplish nothing toward the desired result of better tows and has assisted the Port of Portland regular towboat Ocklahama game protection At Sauvles and Deer Islands, on the

Columbia, where both types of gun are used, the "pump" and double-barreled, the comparison of destruction done is based on the methods of the shooter almost entirely. The type of gun used is a minor consideration. I have observed also in other localities that a man in-trenched in a battery or concealed in a blind can bring them down with a double-barreled gun in a way that will make his fellow-hunter with a pump gun turn green with envy. Any hunter will tell you that to shoot at random into a flock of ducks or covey of birds will most generally net him nothing. After each shot an especial aim must be taken, and the time taken for that is too great to allow more successful shots with either one make of gun. The ejection of the spent shells, done automatically by the double-barreled gun also, with the automatic ejecter, and snapping the gun together again after reloading is a matter of but a few semonds.

It is contended by the old-timers of double-barreled gun in a way that will nake his fellow-hunter with a pump The Oregonian cannot undertake to give advice on involved legal contro-

ew semonds.
It is contended by the old-timers of the shooting fraternity, who adhere to the double-barreled gun, that they can "keep up" to the ones using the pump gun, which, considering the rare occagon, which, consecutive shot can be made successfully, is no rash statement. A hunter can often pack all the cartridges he needs right in the magazine of one of those old pump guns, if game is near at hand; therein the value of that type of gun is is the value of that type of gun, its convenient size and shape, and its hard and never-failing shooting and its low

We need no such law preventing the use of the pump gun (not to be con-fused with the "automatic") nor can the unlawful destruction of game be stopped merely by changing the type of weapon used. This view is shared by many others that I know of who have an interest in game preservation as well as a liking to get out "amons them" when the seaso J. FRANK BOONE

Baby and Mother's Vote. PORTLAND, March 25 .- (To the Edi-

201 Yeon Building.

tor.)-In reply to the question of Mrs. Lena Hartwell Wallace, published in The Oregonian Saturday, "What shall be done with the baby while its mother goes to vote?" I wish to assure the anxious ones that we will leave the baby just where we left it while we went to the City and County Treas-

orer's offices to pay our taxes. Ver respectfully, MRS. M. T. LEROY.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of March 27, 1862. An intercepted letter from Charles-ton, S. C., to a friend in Bordeaux, France, represents a frightful state of things in the rattlesnake emporium. The writer says that "existence is such as to become a burden. Butter, 50 cents a pound; tea. \$2,50 per pound; com-mon calico, 50 and 75 cents per yard the happiness of the people destroyed. mmerce at a standstill; without money, without credit.

Mr. Edward Huggins, agent of the Indson Bay Company at Fort Nis-ually, stated on Monday last that he ild not think he would be able to save 000 head of the company's sheep. It's well known that this company here tefore has been the largest sheep-owners on the Pacific Coast. On the Nisqually plains last Fall, they had about 7500 head, 6000 or more of which have already died.

The Dalles, March 25 .- The remains of some of those unfortunate men who were lost between Deschutes and John Day's River have been found, but in such a mutilated condition as not to be recognized. In one instance only a leg and an arm were found, and another body much eaten by wolves.

The little old Wasco towed up about tons of rails for the Dalles & Deschutes Railroad yesterday. This is the first shipment of railroad fron in Oregon, and I might add that this will e the first section built of the great ranscontinental railway. The world myes. Organization of the Oregon Tele-

graph Company, the whole amount tock \$75,000, is now all taken. company was organized last night by choosing W. S. Ladd, president; S. G. Reed, secretary; H. W. Corbett, treasurer, and J. McCraken, superinten-dent. The material for the line is al-ready ordered from New York and is ow on the way.

A. J. Dufur and R. J. Wilmot are the delegates elected from Sandy Precinct the Union County convention in this ounty.

As "Ed" Howe Sees Life

In pursuing big and impossible modest but excellent rewards escape you.

The Good man who is always trying o benefit the people must hate to let hem out of his sight over night. Don't ask your friends to do any-

hing they don't want to do; that will esult in coolness. A woman's watch doesn't run very often, and when it does run, it runs

Every man who says he is willing o die, if need be, to help others, is eally very anxious to live to enjoy the totoriety he is getting with his selfish

statements. The greatest thing in the world in plain honesty; yet how slowly we ad-

The Big Questions of the day are often nothing more than foolish quarrels.

A new idea is not enough; it must be There are plenty of new that are worthless; millions of themin trying to do better than you can,

on are liable to make a fool of your-

Towage and Port Commissioners.

PORTLAND, March 23.—(To the Edi-or.)—In The Oregonian, March 15, was a report of the regular session of the Port of Portland Commission, held on March 14. At this meeting the rights of the shippers were taken up in re-gard to the closing of the new Steel bridge. The permit for the completion of the new bridge was extended ety plank road dodging along among that if the bridge was not completed on the stumps, with mud holes here and May 15, How would the shippers above there in which a team and wagon could the bridge be protected in this event there in which a team and wagon could the bridge be protected in this event be buried in their depths. It has grown and also up to May 15? To quote the sary to confiscate land; it is only necessary to confiscate rent." On page 435 of the same book Henry George says:

"The simple device of placing all taxes Woodward, Bent Killin, and others who with the Diamond O fleet to lighter works of the same book that the same book Henry George says:

"The simple device of placing all taxes woodward, Bent Killin, and others who with the Diamond O fleet to lighter works." cargo to and fro from points in the

harbor, etc. "aguare STON. Now, the point of my letter is this:
"By the point of my letter is this:
"Aguare Mr. O'Reilly, a member of the Port of Portland Commission, had arranged with the Diamond O Towing Company, of which he is president, and large stockholder to do this towing. This move of the Port of Portland virtually

in nearly every move.

Now, is this right, that a member or members of the Port of Portland Com-

mission are given the power to get business for their own companies? H. B. EVANS. A Good Ronds Suggestion

PRINEVILLE, Or., March 21.—(To the Editor.)—I have taken a great in-terest in good roads articles appearing

wagons to be equipped with a 2-inch tire; 3-inch wagons with 4-inch tire, and 3½-inch wagons to have 6-inch tires, and other sizes in proportion. Give the implement dealers and other owners of wagons five years in which to accommodate themselves to the change, thus working a hardship on no one. Then we can roll up our sleeves one. Then we can roll up our sleeves and begin building good roads with a clear conscience, knowing our work will not be destroyed faster than we can build it. Every time a wide-tired wagon passes over a road it will then have the same effect on the road that a roller has in the field, smoothing and packing it, and the more travel over a road the better will the road become, GEORGE M. WYATT.

Calling Out of Militia.
CHEHALIS, Wash, March 24.—(To the Editor.)—There was in The Oregonian recently an article which gives it as Mr. Wickersham's opinion that the President of the United States has not the Constitutional right to send the National Guard to any foreign soil. Will you kindly inform me if the Presi-dent is empowered to call out the militis or any part of it at all without the

The call for militia for use in repeling invasion or for any service required by the Government must come from the President, who would not necessarily need the authorization of Congress, although such authorization Very doubtless would be sought-