# The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1912.

### THE REPUBLICAN CRISIS.

The Republican party is rent by division and dissension. Only the wisest counsels of its wisest men, inspired by dealre for the triumph of those principles which Republicans consider easential to the National welfare, can heal the breach and make victory in November possible. The time calls for the sinking of personal animosity and personal ambition by every leader, in the interest of party unity and the maintenance of party organization. It can be done without sacrifice of principle by either of the contending

The Republican masses in the West and in some parts of the East are in revolt against the party organization. The Röosevelt movement is sweeping over the country like a prairie fire. Turning local issues to account wherever possible, it has used the keytones in Pennsylvania to overthrov Taft, together with Penrose and Oliver, the disgust with Lorimerism in Illinois to bear down Taft together with Cullom. It has carried Oregon and Nebraska in a standup fight There is no telling how far it will go. The next great contest will be in Mas sachusetts, where direct primaries will choose National delegates and where the issue will not be clouded by nominations for Congress or for state officers. We shall then see whether the old Bay State will reverse the verdict of Pennsylvania.

In the number of delegates elected, Taft has a strong lead, but nearly half these are from Southern states which will contribute no electoral votes to the nominee. Even should the National committee decide in his favor the many contests the allegiance of the Southern delegates to Taft may be shaken by the fear that Roosevelt's nomination will deprive them of their bread and butter. Should Roosevelt win half of the delegates yet to be elected and should the La Follette and Cummins men stand firmly by their favorites, the choice between Roosevelt and Taft may hinge on the decision of the Southern contests or on the ability of Taft to hold his Southern delegates after they have been awarded seats. Or the balance f power may be held by La Follette, who is even more hostile to Roosevelt

than to Taft. The conflict is not between progres sive and reactionary, but between progressive and radical. The Republean party has always been progressive, but its advance became too sto to please the rank and file. Taft has continued the accelerated pace set by his predecessor and has whipped the reactionary element into line with him, personal animosity and ambition, has set up a new standard of progressive La Follette goes even farther than Roosevelt. Aroused by the appeals of the two radical leaders, the Republican voters have turned against the organization and have made Taft

the scapegoat of its sins.

When such is the temper of the party battalions and the enmity of Roosevelt and La Follette to Taft is so embittered, the nomination of Tart means wholesale desertion of party standard by those who have imbibed radical ideas, even if it should not cause Roosevelt to lead a bolt. That means defeat in November. The nomination of Roosevelt means de sertion by the conservative element. which abhors his radicalism, by those who cling to the anti-third-term tradition and by those who regard Tait as the true exemplar of progress and as man deeply wronged by a former friend. The nomination of Roosevelt would rend the party as hopelessly as the nomination of Taft. could be followed by his election only through the support of the yearly swelling independent element, which gives adhesion to no party and of the radical Democracy, which has made Bryan its idol. In short, Roosevelt would run simply as a radical, thinly disguised as a Republican. Should the Democrats numinate a reactionor such a representative of the old-line Democracy as Champ Clark, Roosevelt would wreck both the old parties by his success and would build a new radical party, no matter by what name it might be called, on their

To avert the catastrophe which must result from the choice of either alternative is the task now set before the Republican leaders-not leaders whom the party is day by day repudiating, but those men whose readiness to interpret party principles in the light of the needs of the day and of the popular will qualifies them to lead and ensures that they will be followed. The obstinate Bourbonism of such men as Aldrich, Cannon, Penrose, Payne, whose eyes are never opened until long after every other man is wide awake, has brought about this chaotic condition. A new type of leader must step to the front, who not only knows what the party thinks today, but can foretell what it will think morrow, who will re-form the broken ranks and lead them along the blazed trail of progress without adventurous excursions into untried paths.

### TRIFLING WITH THE PEOPLE'S VER-DICT.

Any opinion that the Presidential primary law does not mean what it was intended to mean, and what the voters of Oregon understand and believe it to mean, ought to receive very small consideration from anyone, Attorney-General Crawford says in efci-if we understand this eminent legal light aright-that Colonel Rooseand therefore the delegate who anthat he was for Taft or for La Follette | ture of a friendly suit to determine the free to vote for Taft or La Follette. The Oregonian protests against so echnical and strained an interpretation of the law. It is trifling with ts clear intent and is a perversion of the expressed will of the people. The Presidential primary law enjoins upon every delegate the sacred duty of car-rying out "to the best of his judment and ability" "the wishes of his politi-cal party as expressed by its voters

at the time of the election. The wishes of the Republican party of Oregon, plainly and fairly declared last Friday, are that Roosevelt be the Presidential nomines. The delegate at Chicago who chooses to evade his to give an hourly service on Fourth definite obligation will be embarking on hazardous seas.

### BLAMING THE PEOPLE.

Ten thousand citizens, presumably n their right minds, voted for Lafferty for Congress. The reason they cast their ballots for Lafferty is apparently that they wanted such a man as Lafferty to represent Multnomah County and Oregon in Congress. The public knew all about his record, but thus gave him a certificate of their admiration and confidence in defiance of the facts.

The surprising success of Lafferty is used by some of his enemies to express their concern for the Oregon One professional newspaper champion of the direct primary gives

champion of the direct primary give this mournful prognostication:

The direct primary cannot carry such bur dets and be responsible for such product as Lafferty. It must yield better results out will lose heavily of the strong support in ow has. It must nominate better candidates than Lafferty or many who have stood staunchly by it will lose some of their conditions in the plan. It is not, however, the famil of the principle of the direct primary, but very largely the famil of the people.

The people are all right, even the ten thousand Democrats and Socialists

ten thousand Democrats and Socialists who are registered in Portland as Republicans and who now foist upor the Republican party, through its divisions and dissensions, such fellows as Lafferty. But the people are often confused and distracted by the coun-sels and importunities of their selfappointed mentors, newspaper and otherwise, who designedly produce the identical result they profess to be anxious to avert, and then blame the onle for it.

Lafferty's nomination, even with Democratic and Socialistic support, yould have been impossible except for the serviceable Shepherd. The fellows who put up the money for Shepherd and the newspaper that offered ald, comfort and countenance to his bunco campaign, by giving him and his insincere guff continued prominence in its columns are responsible for Laf-

Why blame the people, after systematic deception of the people?

### EXPLAINING A DEFEAT,

Senator La Follette, after two days' cogitation, has spoken, explaining Oregon and its primary election, which did not indorse him and did not indorse Bourne, though La Follette had indorsed Bourne. It was a rare compliment, for La Follette's rule is never to indorse anybody but himself. Colo-nel Roosevelt got the popular ap-proval, but, adds the Senator sagely, Selling was openly the choice of the corporate interests, led by the standpat Oregonian. With the (progressive) issue so clearly defined Selling received the nomination for the Senator. ship by practically the same plurality as that given Roosevelt."

Now here we have an illustration of the manner in which the great radical statesman often gets his facts when they are invisible to all others. The Wisconsin prestidigitator merely reaches up into the illimitable air and produces something that to the amazed udience looks like passes for a fact because he says it s a fact. Great is Bunco Bob.

The interests supported Bourne. Th little whirlwind kicked up around Portland last week in behalf of Bourne so-called rattled interests. What deal they made with Bourne is as yet buried in their corporate souls, but it will out some day. For there was a deal. The radicals and the interests thus worked together for Bourne, Extremes meet, clasp hands, wink the other eye and strive for the same end in politics. The end this year was Bourne's re-election. Some of the Bourne's re-election. people can be fooled every time.

# THE FOURTH-STREET FRANCHISE

The Fourth-street franchise, needed by the Southern Pacific Railway for carrying out its extensive plans for an system through the Willamette Valley, ought to be granted in substantially its modified form. It is entitled to exactly the same consideration, without regard to previous controversies or interjected issues, that should be given to every other business enterprise seeking to de business

The Southern Pacific is desirous of building up a heavy interurban traffic in the territory tributary to this city. It announces that it is in readiness to spend large sums of money for building and equipping the necessary rail lines and, by the terms of the franchise, it agrees to begin work within 90 days and finish within a year. What the expenditure of the large sums needed for this work and the attendant increased development of the territory concerned mean for Portland can easily be understood by noting what other electric lines have done in

their respective fields. The large outlay at Portland, at a time when nearly every other city in the country is halting or retrenching in its operations, will be a material lift in the midsummer dullness that usually precedes a Presidential election. The immediate advantage, however, will be small in comparison with the benefit sure to follow the establishment of the extensive electric railway service which will pour traffic into Portland as soon as the lines can be builf, or changed from steam to electric power. Replacing of the steam trains, with their infrequent, unsatisfactory service, by hourly electric trains gathering traffic from the best part of the Willamette Valley, will make that rich region vastly more attractive for the small farmers and other suburban dwellers and also for the steadily increasing number of tourthe scenic attractions of Portland and its environs receive much free adver-

In granting the franchise by which the railway company may enter the city with this increased volume of traffic, it is, of course, necessary that the interests of the city be properly velt has not received a majority over safeguarded, and this point the pro-both Taft and La Pollette in Oregon, posed new franchise seems to have covered pretty thoroughly.

exact rights of the city and the raiload company under the terms of the In the event of the old franchise. court deciding in favor of the rallway company, the new franchise specific ally provides that the regulations of the ordinance granting it shall govern, with exceptions only relating to the limits of the franchise and the common user on one of the tracks. Under the terms of the proposed franchise the Council can regulate the speed of the trains, designate the stopping places, the number of cars to be run in a train, fix the fare at 5 cents within the city limits, compel the company street and to increase such service whenever deemed necessary.

The ordinance in its vital provisions seems to have thrown reasonable safe. guards around the city. It limits the franchise to twenty-five years on both the existing track and the new track, subject only to the United States Supreme Court decision, which may affect one track. In the case of the ommon-user clause the Council is made referee to fix regulations governing the common use of the tracks.

Every improvement made in the transportation facilities by which traffic can get in and out of Portland adds to our population and wealth. The Southern Pacific's proposed electric system will radiate through one of the richest regions of the state, where the resources are as yet very meagerly developed.

BROWNING'S CENTENARY. The celebration of the 100th anniversary of Browning's birth on May 7 will be an event of the first importance in the literary world. Like all great poets, Browning is more admired than read, but he has probably more readers than any other poet of his The obscurity for which he is often blamed has really been of assistance to him in securing readers. The ability, or the pretended ability, to understand his enigmas became at one time a sort of social guinea stamp certifying that the individual who pos essed it was built of finer clay than

The illuminated Browningite was a person to be envied with awestruck reverence. The inspired hosts formed themselves into idolizing clubs and nade Browning rather ridiculous with their moppings and mowings, but of course all this folly was temporary poet of genuine inspiration could not be permanently monopolized for the worship of a set of conceited simpletons. Browning has passed safely through the stage of weak-minded idolatry and we can now judge him as we do Shelley and Burns, solely by his

Browning's obscurity, so far as that is concerned, has been greatly exaggerated. His best poetry is as lucid as that of any other writer of the highest genius. Of course it requires som exercise of the intelligence to understand hlm, but since he exercised his own intelligence in producing his that is to be expected. only the work of blockheads which is perfectly clear to dunces. In some of his productions Browning was no doubt willfully obscure. His thought is not well disciplined and his language is so involved and turbid that sometimes it has apparently no meaning.

The best way to treat these poems i to skip them. There is no poet who repays judicious skipping so well as Browning, and none who gives larger returns for study of the parts which ought not to be skipped. Most of his shorter pieces are full of sane thought and aglow with poetical beauty. Some of them rise to the very highest rank of artistic excellence. Probably no writer of modern times has so success fully combined profound philosophy with genuine poetry as Browning.

# ISMAY'S SELF-INDICTMENT

There is a letter published in The Oregonian today from a corresp who takes as his text an editorial paragraph stating that "It were better to be a Smith dead than an Ismay alive." From this text he endeavors to preach a sermon on the duty of an editor when discussing an event of note. We cannot agree with this writer's opinion that only those acts which are lofty and noble should be sought out and made the basis of comment It would be a sorry world if deeds of selfishness, thoughtlessness and care-lessness in time of catastrophe were go unchallenged and uncondemned Human frailities are not corrected by a mantle of sentimental charity. The

thought is preposterous. In this particular case Mr. Ismay will undoubtedly hear words more painful to him and criticisms graves than have heretofore appeared in The Oregonian. The testimony that Mr. Ismay has given before the Senate investigating committee and the ac knowledgments he has made in his letter to the press contain his own in-dictment. It is the unwritten law of the sea that the commanding officer of the ship shall go down with his vessel. The lives of his passengers are in his care. When through his carelessness those lives are put in jeopardy it is not meet that the one responsible should give thought to himself. If the time comes that the safety of even one of his charges rests upon his stepping aside from rescue the law is absolute, is right and is invariably obeyed.

If we consider the reasons for the custom and acknowledge that it is a proper outgrowth of those reasons, same rule in all justice ought to apply to the owner of a sinking vessel when through his carelessness there are inadequate lifesaving appliances on

board. It is idle to say that the loss of the Titanic was inevitable. The captain knew there were icebergs near the path of his vessel. The chief cause of the wreck was maintenance of high speed or insufficient outlook. Even if granted that Mr. Ismay was not responsible for either of these factors, he was the one and only man on board who was responsible for the in-sufficient number of lifeboats to save every passenger and every member of the crew. If the overconfidence or carelessness of Captain Smith made it proper that he should die that one more might be safe, the overconfi-dence or carelessness of Mr. Ismay demanded the same sacrifice for some

he had put in danger. Mr. Ismay was one of the few men on board the Titanic that knew the vessel was doomed. He was told by both the captain and chief engineer that the accident was a serious one. He admits this himself. Yet he stepped into a lifeboat, leaving behind men who knew not that if they remained

on board they were doomed.

Mr. Ismay in his letter asserts that in the boat in which he escaped there was room for several more persons. nounced on the ballot as his slogan before the Supreme Court is in the na. Yet the boat rowed away from the

seeing men swimming in the water after the ship went down. Harrowing stories are related of men clubbe away from the sides of overloaded lifeboats. Colonel Gracle and other heroes pulled drowning men on board the waves and the rescued stood knee deep in the icy water. J. Bruce Ismay sat in a dry lifeboat in which there was the sinking ship pushed an oar to drive himself away in safety from the ter to be a Smith dead than an Ismay

struggles of the drowning.
In his testimony before the Senate ommittee Mr. Ismay admitted that he obtained a comfortable cabin on board the Carpathia and remained in it. But have an eternal stigma, more than while he remained behind its locked likely by historians to be declared unthe Carpathia and remained in it. But doors, incommunicado, women and children, weak and suffering from exposure, slept on the cabin floors of the vercrowded vessel.

Ismay. We may believe we could sup-press the instinct of self-preservation and stand back that those whose lives discussion in the press about the Tipress the instinct of self-preservation and stand back that those whose lives we had placed in jeopardy might be saved. But there should be no question as to what we ought to do, and we venture to say that as years go by the president of the White Star line himself, unless he is totally hardened

Our correspondent's assertion that woman lost an opportunity to show her equality with man in the Titanic wreck is but one degree removed from absurdity. Woman is not demanding the right to demonstrate physical endurance equal to man's. She is asking equal political rights and recognition of her mental qualifications. She is not demanding the right to plow the fields, clear the land or perform other tasks which require strong backs and hardened muscles. It is not silly chivalry that puts woman first in time of shipwreck. Strong men died of exposure on the life raft that carried men. What chance would women have had on it, or even to reach its unstable deck? If this sort of "woman's rights" had been demanded on the boat at his command. Titanic the grewsome length of the death list would have grown materially

But the element of endurance is not the real basic influence that causes men to put women first in place of safety when both are in danger. It is an all-powerful, pervading and everlasting instinct. It is the instinct of preservation of the race. It has always existed. It always will. Woman could not destroy it if she would; man would not if he could. We shall hold it and cherish it and obey it through-

Lady Hyde, wife of the son of the Earl of Clarendon, going to farm in Canada, reckons on doing her own work after dismissing the two servants brought over with them. There are millions of women on this continent who will welcome her into the noble order of domestic martyrs, confident that after a spell of doing the cooking and washing, feeding the poultry and performing such other arduous du-ties that fall to the farmer's wife, she will send out a hurry call for the maids. Whereupon the million sisters will laugh.

As population grows denser the annual slaughter by tornadoes and cyclones grows greater. The laws by which these storms are governed are pretty well understood, but no effectual protection has been devised against them. Most of the fatalities in their path would be prevented if April 15, 1912, would have inaugurated buildings were of stone or brick instead of wood. Perhaps Edison's cement dwelling will ultimately be the
best practical safeguard against cy-

The Klamath Falls pure-seed movement is in the right direction. The anseed runs into the hundreds of millions of dollars. If one out out of every three sown fails to germinate a third of the crop is lost. In Iowa the betterseed propaganda has produced wonderful results. The same may be done in Oregon.

So long as powerful interests hire lawyers to fight over Harry Thaw's insanity, it will remain an open ques-Such long-drawn-out contests over a worthless member of society are the chief cause of criticism of the courts and induce people to lend a ready ear to advocates of popular elections to decide points of law

An amateur electrician of Wisconsin has been given \$100,000 by the Government for a device that will kill rats on warships, but what the country needs more is something that will do the work in the poultry yard. Probably half the chickens hatched in the Spring are eaten by these pests, entail-ing tentative loss of millions.

The proposal of a coastwise shipping concern to handle grain in bulk would eliminate a heavy burden of expens in sacks and their handling if the scheme became general. The sack tax of more than 5 per cent comes out of the crop and could not be equaled by additional elevator charges.

There is no hope of changing the aundiced view of the Titanic disaster held by such men as the Milwaukee Socialist who was chastised by Mr. Stone, but the chastisement will at least check the open expression of such views.

While the whole state is deliberating how to build good roads, Multnomah County is building them. The crushed rock road to the Sandy River is only one of several.

Suppress all baby-farming. The hap-

less infant would better be cared for

by chilling institutional machinery

than drag out an existence in squalid Though the Titanic disaster is appalling, there are death and destruc-States that call for substantial sym

There are something less than a hundred tales of how it was done, but the most potent is not given-the defeated failed to get enough votes.

The Hon. Steve Lowell invested \$1031 and had quite a run for his

Better than 17 cents for Oregon wool is fairly well for a start.

Stop gambling on baseball and keep the game clean.

Writer Defends One and Mourns Loss

of Others' Opportunity to Die. PORTLAND, April 21 .- (To the Edi tor.)-The loss of the Titanic has cast shadow over the civilized world, this a raft until the craft sank beneath Western city even having homes rendered desolate thereby. Thinking peo-ple have surveyed the scene in spirit, have praised or blamed as they found room for more and with his back to the balance weigh, and now the verdict

alive." I hardly think you should have said that. A great newspaper's work is not to repeat, parrot-like, words per-sonally painful to an individual, that justified. Rather should not the jour nalist, through the medium of his cul-ture and experience, build into every passing event of note, high thinking, wercrowded vessel.

We all may think we know what we lofticst of ideals—building nothing into yould do if placed in the position of the structure of his thought that might

tanic has not been sufficiently reasoned out. We know that the public demands satistion of its news-hunger, and that it needs to be fed daily. But are there not master minds in the editorial chairs? Then, where are the masterconclusions?

to public opinion, will express to him. self the tenor of the thought, "it were better to be a Smith dead than an Ismay alive."

Our correspondent's assertion that lifeboats lowered, these having room for only one-third of those on board. Officers are in charge at the gangways. and the order is "Women and children first!" There is no panic; everywhere is obedience and good conduct, all the men helping where possible. As the boats are being filled, a husband and wife essay to go together, linked are in arm; but the husband and father is pushed on one side, to die, the woman being hurried in alone, followed by other women. Several times this hap-pens, but one or two instances are recorded where the brave wife refused leave her husband's side, so must, therefore, die with him. And she did! We are told that four men were shot by an officer, and their bodies bundled overboard, because they re-fused to give up their places in a life-

Sir, are not women claiming equality with men? Do they not loom large in the world's activities? Are they not already a force to be reckoned with intellectually, commercially and politially? Are they not heads of business organizations and firms? Are they not judges in our courts, lawyers, doctors, jurors? Are they not en-throned everywhere, and holding up their end well, to the lasting good of us all? In the office, in the workroom, in the social circle, in the home, and in all forms of athletics, either in the sky or in the field, are they not ably represented? Then, where was the greater, nobler woman in this crisis of greater, nobler woman in this class of life or death on the Titanic's deck? She claims equality with men in all else; why not claim the right to die like men? Was not she who took the husband's place when torn from his wife's side unworthy of her sex, the nobler, greater women? Was not she crayen, coward, deserving of oblivion eraven, coward, deserving of oblivion only?

Woman's opportunity had come! He Woman's opportunity had come! Her destiny was in her hands, and the world was watching. How giorious for her would not this midnight hour have been if, instead of letting mere man stand aside, to die, for her, she had commanded that he pass on in his turn to the boat, to life—had demanded, with one united feminine demand, that is this dread crisis they be not priviin this dread crisis they be not privileged.

"No, sir! After you!" How those words would have echoed and re-cehoed round the world, raising count-less thousands to the height of enthuslasm, for their cause was won, I Their deeds that to

I claim that if this nobler woman-ood had asserted itself at that epochal oment, a new page would have been begun in the story of mankind, a mo-mentous era been ushered in, heralding a potent advancement of man and

JOHN CHARLES WRIGHT.

### MATTER OF WHISKERS AND TRADE A New York Traveling Man's Quee Experience on the Rond,

Exchange Charles A. Cotterill has a grand and gorgeous set of whiskers which, in their own gold and tawny way, show as many varying hues, as changeable silk under the midday sun. There are

all kunder the midday sun. There are mixed up in that growth of beard all the marvelous tints of the sunrise, the South African gold mines and the circus posters. But there is a sad story connected with the facial adornment. The first year that Cotterill traveled for a big drug firm of New York City he waved the whiskers up and won a wide territory, selling much merchandise and making many friends. At the end of the sesson he got a shave, and on his next trip the tragedy began to unfold. Nobody knew him. Every time he want up to a man to whom he had he went up to a man to whom he had made a sale previously, the fellow

would say:

"You are not Cotterili. How well I remember Cotterili! He was a merry, good-natured, entertaining fellow, and he told such good stories. Besides, he had whiskers, and you have none. You can't be Cotterili."

After a week of this Cotterili.

After a week of this, Cotterill, ut-terly dejected by the fact that he could make no headway in his business, tele-graphed his firm as follows: "Must have leave of absence long enough to grow a beard."

He has not shaved since He has not shaved since

A Tragedy. Hubby rises from his chair, gazing Hubby rises from his chair, gazing round with vacant air. Wifey guesses instantly, he wants a thing he cannot see. "George," she whispers sweet enough, "what is "it?" He answers gruff, "Can't you see that I must and go, and in this garb I'll be a show, Don't resist me. Let me fly; I will find this thing or die." To the kitchen hubby swishes, overturning pans and

hubby swishes, overturning pans and dishes; up the quiet, somber stairs to the second floor he soars; to each wardrobe, through each room—but in vain. He sinks in gloom upon the cold and polished floor; he was late—it made bits sore.

Wifey finds him lying flat—hears him mean, "I want my hat." Glad is she that he's not dead, and she cries, "It's on your head." G. NORBREY PLEASANTS.

JEFFERSON, Or., April 21.—(To the Editor.)—I would be very much pleased if you can tell me the number of men in the United States standing Army.

AMY J. STEINBERG. It is limited to 199,000, staff and line. The enlisted strength is now about 77,500.

# Peru of Potato Fame.

Indianapolis News.
Peru is the natural home of the po tato, which grows in many varieties, of these the most famous is the Peruvian yellow potato. It is of exquisite taste, highly nutritious, with a golden color and a thin skin.

Dozens of survivors tell of ISMAY AND WOMEN PASSENGERS WORKINGMAN'S RIGHT TO STRIKE Writer Declares No Controversy Over

Orderly Ceasing of Work. BEAVERTON, Or., April 22 .- (To the Editor.)-Under the caption of "Hicks Verdict Stirs," The Oregonian prints a letter over the signature of one Edgar W. Stahl. Now, as to some the points in Mr. Stahl's article. We all know them by heart; it's the same old whine. We quote: "It is said the working man should not strike."

That depends entirely upon the con-struction we give to the word "strike." If it means that the laborer is to go to destroying property the moment he quits work; intimidating those who want to work; trying to prevent transportation companies from performing their legitimate duties to the public by isabling engines, cutting air brake weakening bridges, blowing up build-ings, etc., and thereby jeopardizing scores of innocent lives, I say if that is what is meant by a "strike," then I believe that every man in Christen-dom who loves justice, mercy and fair play would answer most emphatically "No, the laborer has no right to strike."
On the other hand, there is not one those men who would not concede

him the perfect right to quit work the moment his contract expired. All that is asked of him is to keep his hands off other people's property, go his own way and attend strictly to his own af-fairs. All this your correspondent is fairs. surely intelligent chough to know as well as I do. But instead of admitting these things, he tries to work up senti-

ment and sympathy by rehashing the time-honored cry of "poverty."

I have worked many a day in the Portland sawmills, have seen scores of men spend every dollar they made over the hotel bar as fast as they earned the many felt at the time that thousands. It and felt at the time that thousands others in the city were probably ing the very same thing. I have worked in railroad and logging camps and found exactly the same conditions there. Suppose their wages had be \$10 per day, does any one imagine that they would have been any better off at the end of the year? And these are the very men who are eternally setting up the howl of "poverty,"

I have in mind a man who worked when a boy for \$2.50 per week, and he won out. Why? Simply because he wanted to; because he looked to the won out. future; because he early had an aim and object in life, and because he didn't wait until middle age, with a family dependent upon him, before he began to think of those things. No wonder he succeeded. Death alone was the No wonder only power that could have prevented it. But had he quit work and laid around half his time, and had no ambition to rise above the common level of a day laborer, he would undoubtedly be one among them to this day.

Your correspondent speaks of a man "without a dollar to his name." Well, had that man kept his share of \$290,000 or \$300,000 that the unions sent to Darrow to defend a couple of the most inhuman monsters that ever lived he might have several dollars to his credit now. He draws a very pitifu picture of the greed of the employer and the gnawing hunger of the em ploye. Perhaps had the latter gon back to work last Fall when the rai road company begged him to, instead of loafing around all Winter, his financial condition might not be quite deplorable as the writer would like to have us believe. No wonder he has "little or no credit." What conservative banker is going to lend a man money when he is liable to lay down his tools and walk away any minute at the beck or call of some labor leader (usually a foreigner)?

(usually a foreigner)?
In reviewing the remainder of Mr.
Stahl's letter I find it nothing but the
stock argument of the unions at all
times. But the intelligent citizen knows something about the railroad strike last Fall. It wasn't altogether a question of wages. They were probably getting better wages than they had ever gotten in their lives before. It was a question of dictation and bossism on the part of the unions. But the company, like the striker himself who has any pride or spirit about him proposed to manage their own business in their own way. The laboring man has a perfect right

demand higher wages and better myself (have done it again), and if he only had sense or principle enough about him to stop at that instead of destroying property, dictating such conditions to a railroad company, for instance, as would surely impair its efficiency, if not actually jeopardizing the lives of the traveling public, he would soon find a wave of public sentiment in his favor that would sweep everything before it.
A. N. LOWE.

### REFLECTIONS ON CANAL HISTORY Writer Thinks Roosevelt Made Bac Bargain in Panama

VANCOUVER, Wash, April 22,-(To the Editor.)—A paid advertisement in The Oregonian prior to the recent pri-mary election reads, "Vote for Teddy; started the Panama Canal, let him finish it."

This suggests a question which I have not heard discussed during the present campaign, Why the Panama Canal?

Canal?

If memory serves me right, Senator Morgan, of Alabama, began talking Nicaragua in the late '70s, but at that time Ferdinand De Lesseps, backed by a strong French company, had started the Panama Canal, and as he had been successful in digging the Suez Canal, there was every reason to believe that he would succeed in opening the Panama ditch. Therefore, it was diffi-Panama ditch. Therefore, it was diffi-cult to interest Congress in the work of building a rival canal at Nicaragua, but at the time Theodore Roosevelt acquired the Panama property the French company was bankrupt, charges of dishonesty were pending against De Lesseps, and there was no prospect

be lesseps, and that the work would ever be resumed by the French company.

The United States Government was under no obligation to take over the properties of the French company, and investigation by competent engineers the property of the seas level canal can has proved that a sea level canal can be constructed by the Nicaragua route at considerable less cost than the lock canal at Panama. Why, then, did at considerable less cost than the fock canal at Panama. Why, then, did Roosevelt pay \$40,000,000 for a job let of wornout, antiquated machinery and caved-in ditch which had to be practically all reconstructed by the Americans, when for less money rights could have been secured from Nicaragua and a saving made of several million dollars in constructing the canal?

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The advantages of a sea-level canal over the lock type are manifold. There are no delays to shipping, while lock gates are being opened and closed, No expensive gate machinery to get out of order and wear out; no crews of gate-tenders to draw pay year in and year out, and, in addition to all this, the costly locks of the Panama Canal may be rendered useless at any time by one of the frequent earthquakes on the isthmus.

As President Taft has made the best

As President Taft has made the best of a bad bargain, and has so vigorously and successfully pushed the construc-tion of the Panama Canal, it seems to me that he, having borne the main bur-den of the work, should have the honor of completing it instead of Roosevelt, who, to say the most in his favor, made but a bad beginning

FRANK W. STONE.

Junior. ONTARIO, Qr., April 20.—(To the Editor.)—What is the meaning of "second," following a name on a calling card, for instance, Mrs. James Frederick SUBSCRIBER.

## Half a Century Ago

from The Oregonian of April 28, 1862. The San Juan Island Occupation— This matter was brought up in the House of Commons on the 21st ult, by a motion of Mr. Hallburton, asking upon what terms, if any, the Americans retain possession of a portion of the Island of San Juan; whether there was any negotiation pending upon the sub-ject, and the nature thereof. Lord Pal-merston's reply was that without preju-dice to the claim of cither party to the whole of the island, there should pro-risionally be a joint occupation, the oc-cupying force on each side to consist of not more than 100 men, either soldiers or marines, to be stationed on separate parts of the island, so as not to come into contact, each party to exercise control over the inhabitants of that portion subjected to its government and o repel any attacks from Indians. From that time negotiations have been car-ried on between the British govern-ment and that of the United States with a view of the final settlement of the disputed question relative to the dis-puted channel between Vancouver's Island and the mainland-a dispute which, of course, involves the question of the Island of San Juan

Among the civil officers of the Gov-Among the civil officers of the Government recently confirmed by the Senate are: J. R. Meeker, Surveyor of Customs at Nisqually, W. T.; C. H. Haie, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the same territory; H. Stout, United States Attorney, and J. L. Gibbs, United States Marshal, for Utah, E. D. Shat-States Marshal, for Utah; E. D. Shat-tuck, United States Attorney for Ore-gon; W. Wasson, United States Marshal of Nevada, and Thomas Spencer, Consul at Hilo.

The Metropolitan Hotel has been thoroughly renovated and refitted for a first-class hotel. It will be open to visitors today and tomorrew it will be ready for the reception of guests.

Tonight the benefit of Miss Virginia Lawrence comes off. She has, during her stay among us, made many friends and become a universal favorite.

We are informed that a number of pretty young men, recking in hair oil and bad cologne, are in the habit of meeting young ladies of the Portland Academy at noon and recess every day in that vicinity and walking out with them. The young ladies keep up a fele-graph with these bummers by waving handkerchiefs, throwing kisses, etc., wherever and whenever seen at a distance. The neighbors are becoming dis-gusted with these proceedings, and they are talking rather strongly about the virtue of tar and feathers. No girl who has any self-respect or regard for her parents would speak to a man of this character, let alone keep his com-

Married-At the residence of the Married—At the residence of the bride's father at Silverton, on the 16th inst., by the Rev. T. H. Small, Mr. David Kelly, of British Columbia, to Miss Nettle E., daughter of the Hon.

# As "Ed" Howe Sees Life

No one appreciates a favor very long.

I am not a millionaire, but I have always had a square deal in that I have always had a right to be one. The brutal truth finally gets along

better than the pleasant fib while starts people in the wrong direction. You receive many messages from brain and heart that are not true; but when your stomach speaks, you may

depend upon it. After a man has attended funerals 50 or 60 years, he begins to realize what death actually is.

A wise man will not rob you, because he knows you will make a disagreeable fuss about it that will injure him more than the profit of the robbery will

There is an intoxication that comes from the imagination more dangerous than a whisky lag; the crazy man is suffering the delirium tremens of

A man doesn't care much for a feast of reason and flow of soul unless he does most of the talking.

When a girl is desperately in love with a young man, and expects a great deal of marriage, it must often occur to the young man that the poor girl is doomed to a lot of disappointment.

People are not as grateful for past favors as they think they will be for favors they expect in the future.

### THE WORLD'S BUSIEST STREET A London Thoroughfare Does a Business of \$675,000,000 in One Day.

Answers, Londo: "Yes, we are proud of this, our street," remarked a stockbroker who was stroiling through Throgmorton street, "We call it the Street—just as If it were London's only thoroughfare. One of the shortest, it is certainly the stocket in the world. What other richest in the world. What other street has transacted business aggregating \$675,000,000 in one day"

gating \$675,909,000 in one day"
"Amusing comedies, and even farces, are here played daily. The inexhaustible spectacle of finance, with its romance, plucky exploits, brigandisms, daring adventures and tragical collapses, is far more attractive than most artificial dramatic inventions. Nowhere else is the play of human emowhere else is the play of human emo-tions so varied; here are experienced a rapid succession of hopes and fears, sickening failures and intoxicating suc-

"Here, when markets are 'booming." is a scene of palpitating, nervous ex-citement unknown elsewhere, except when a wild panic is engineered by frenzled financiers in America. But, compared with London, New York is a mere local market; we deal in the securities of the universe. Money rules the world; we control the total gold supply. In the street values are constantly being managinglated; fortunes are promptly made—and lost, Be-tween the 'bulls,' who want to force prices up, and the 'bears,' who strive to bang them down, a flerce battle rages incessantly."

An April Day. Oh, what is so glad as an April day.
When the sun shines bright and the
heart is gay.

heart is gay.

And the robin calls to his merry mate.
"Tis wooling time, why do you wait?"

Don't your heart somehow beat in a different way?

Oh, what is so glad as an April day?

Oh, what is so glad as an April day? Yesterday may have been cold and

gray; But today the sun shines so gloriously It makes me long to be free, free, free,

Free to listen to song of mate, Never to stop or hesitate. Oh, this is a wonderful world, I say, And what is so glad as an April day? LOTTIE F. KELLY.

# Naval Rank of Nations

EUGENE, Or., April 22.—(To the Editor.)—We wish to know which is first, second and third in the fighting capacity of the navies of the world. How loes the United States rank?

Great Britain is first, Germany second. United States third, in number of modern battleship-