The Oregonian

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as iter. Invariably in Advance.

(BY MAIL) included, one year ... \$8,00 included, six months ... 425 included, three months ... 225 included, three months ... 225 included, one month ... 75 Sunday, one year ... 6,00 Sunday, six months ... 225 Sunday, six months ... 1.73 Sunday, one month ... 400 car Hunday Hunday Sunday ekly, one year day, one year day and Wesk Weskly, one year, (BY CARRIER.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year...... 9.00
Daily, Sunday included, one menth..... 75
How to Remit—Send Pustoffice money or
der, express order or personal check on your
local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are
at the sender's risk. Give postoffice address
in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—10 to 14 pages, 1 cent; 10
to 35 pages, 2 cents; 30 to 40 pages, 3 cents;
40 to 60 pages, 4 cents. Foreign postage,
double rate.

Kastern Business Office.

Eastern Business Offices-Verre & Conk-n-New York, Brunswick building. Chl-ago, Steger building. European Office-No. 3 Regent street, S. J., London.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1912.

CAUSES OF THE QUARREL.

An essential part of the insurgent sose is the assumption that President Taft's estrangement from Roosevelt is the result of acts of ingratitude, of disregard of tacit agreements and of s policy which outrages the Colonel's most sincere convictions. This view of the quarrel between the two former friends is exploited by so close to Roosevelt and so long intimate with him and contains so many statements of fact obtainable from no other source that the conclusion is forced upon us that it came in the first instance from the Colonel him-

Of this nature is an article in the American Magazine by William Allen White, entitled, "Should Old Acquaintance Be Forgot?" This article contains abundant internal evidence of having been based on intimate personal conversation with Roosevelt, with whom White is on the closest terms of friendship. It conveys so distorted and so grossly unjust a view, both of Taft's public acts and of his relations with Roosevelt, that it revolts the editor of the American himstaunch admirer of Roosevelt though he be, and moves him to say in a footnote that he "finds it impossible to follow his friend and collab-orator (White) in all his interpretations of personal fact," and to add:

We are admirers of Mr. Rossevelt. Yet we feel that Mr. Taft has appeared the more dignified figure in sume of the events alluded to. And, mal apropes as it may be, we take occasion to say that neither seems clearly to understand that the policies and attitude of a considerable body of their party are mainly due to the work of certain other men, especially Scnator In Policies.

White's article dwells particularly on the difference in temperament be tween Taft and Roosevelt, but he exaggerates Taft's shortcomings and Roosevelt's strong points, while dwell. ing not at all on Taft's strong points and Roosevelt's shortcomings. what White has overlooked can be read between the lines or is known to any man who has kept ordinarily well informed on current events.

Roosevelt is depicted by his friend who probably wrote while the impres-zion of the Colonel's recital of his grievances was still fresh in his mind, is mortified because he was made to play second fiddle to Taft's brother Charles as a maker of Taft's political fortunes. The Colonel's vanity hurt. His extreme egotism is here

brought into strong relief. White assumes that, in inheriting Roosevelt's polices, Taft also should have inherited Rossevelt's Cabinet. Without directly saying so, he implies that Taft promised as much, for he says that Roosevelt's assurances to be retained "could have come only from a definitely expressed request from Mr. Taft." Could these assurances not as well have come from the Colonel's own exaggerated idea of the obligation under which he had placed Taft? The President is described as say-going and therefore yielding to the standpatters, who began to surround him. If he was easy-going, would he not have been more apt to secome an echo of Roosevelt, as many of his critics predicted? Would he not have more readily yielded to the forceful man who had placed him under such obligations?

The more reasonable conclusion is that Taft determined to carry on the Roosevelt policies with instruments of his own choice. He made some exceptions, for he retained Wilson at the head of the Agricultural Department, transferred Meyer from the Postoffice to the Navy, and recalled Ballinger, who had been Rooseveit's Land Commissioner, to be head of the Interior Department. Mover has made good, but Wilson has been a source f weakness and, false as have been the attacks on Ballinger, it would certainly have been better for Taft had he allowed that gentleman to rethat the freedom with which Roosevelt predicted that Taft would retain certain of his officials prompted the President to assert his independence by dropping men he might otherwise

But we are told that he selected a Cabinet of corporation lawyers, Well, how have the corporations liked it? Were the railroads pleased when the rate advance was enjoined, or trusts when they were dragged into impartiality beyond precedent? Has there been any joy in Vall street over his policy?

During the interval between his election and his inauguration Taft is accused of having been "hand in glove with the members of Congress who were doing all in their power to insult and discredit Roosevelt" and of having gone to Georgia, "as far away from Roosevelt as possible," and of having "conspicuously smiled while Congress baited and humiliated Roose.

Then it was Taft's duty to inherit not only Roosevelt's policies, but Roosevelt's quarrels! That would Roosevelt's quarrels! have been a brilliant opening for his Administration!

White says: "Taft's idea of Congressional leadership was found in Cannon and Aldrich," as though Congress allowed the President to choose its leaders and as though Roosevelt had not advised him to get together with Cannon. Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, one of the insurgent leaders who fought Cannon, is authority for this statement and says: "I have seen the original corre-

spondence " Taft is accused of having shirked ploneer work in legislation. Was there poration of the corporation fax and could not be safely done if the use of make one word substitute for six or the Tariff Board provisions in the Payne bill? Or in the fight for Ca-Payne bill? Or in the fight for Ca- rural routes now cost \$37,000,000 a significance corresponding to some dis- can find fault,

nadian reciprocity? Or in his plan of schedule revision of the tariff, Democrats and insurgents eagerly anapped up? Or in his Alaskan coal and railroad policy, which even Pinchot could not criticise?

Aloofness towards Roosevelt after his return from Africa is another of Taft's offenses. White makes it evident that the Colonel expected the President to go to New York to welcome him home and was "huffed" when Taft did not go. He waited for an invitation to the White House, which did not come, and again he was "huffed." It is related that on one occasion, while Taft was Secretary of War and Roosevelt was President, he was so angered at certain criticisms that he tendered his resignation. Roosevelt wrote in reply at the foot of the letter: "Dear Will: Fiddle-de-dee." On reading of the petty, boylsh 'grouch," which White's article trays, one is disposed to exclaim; Fiddle-de-dee," and to wish that Roosevelt had continued to be unimated by the same spirit prompted him to make that laconic eply to Taft.

Perusal of White's article leaves the impression that the difference be-tween the two men has grown from small misunderstandings, studiously magnified by Taft's enemies, rather than from any disagreement in policy. But the personal differences have rendered easy the work of these same enemies in swelling the small political differences until they grew to the first magnitude,

GONE TO THE SCRAP-HEAP. It is a surprise to find the following paragraph in a newspaper so intelli-

gent and careful as the Jefferson Review:

Review:

West's \$40.000,000 road bill should be defeated, and will be, unless it is carried by nou-taxpayers, who should not be permitted to vote on the question at all. There is something not just right in a custom that allows a man to vote a heavy burden on his neighbor, while he escapes any part thireof. Such a sum as asked for in the road hill is heyond the bounds of reason. To incur such a debt would not only prevent homesessures coming to our state, but would drive out many of those now here. A debt of that magnitude is not to be lightly assumed.

The \$49,000,000 road bills have been consigned to the waste-basket. Our Jefferson friend will not be troubled more about them. Nor, we fear will his deep aspiration that none but taxpayers be permitted to vote on any tax-creating measures be realized. The good old days when your property-owner only held in his hands the destinies of the Nation have also gone never to return. Big flusiness is not so very popular nowadays. It sowed the wind and the ensuing whirlwind is still blowing away. Things will be calmer after awhile, but Big Busines will have just a voice in affairs—not the whole voice. That's all.

Let our friend of the Review read the compromise road bills. He may like them better than the original proposals. They offer a much smaller sum for roads. They secognize the principle of local control. They carefully provide against the one-man power of the Governor. They arrange for a remarkably fair distribution of funds. They authorize bonds not to exceed \$1,000,000 per year for ten years. They define all around a comprehensive plan of state and county construction, with emphasis on the latter

We want good roads for the benefit of the present generation, as well as for fliture generations. The time to build them is now,

AS TO BETTER ROADS.

Representative Shackleford, of Missourt, has offered an amendment to the Postoffice appropriation bill now pending in the lower house of Congrees, providing for payment by the Government for the use of certain roads over which the rural free deliv-ery routes run. Under this measure these roads are classified as follows: Class A shall embrace roads of not less can one mile in length, upon which no class A shall embrace roads of not less than one mile in length, upon which no grade shall be steeper than is reasonably and practically necessary in view of the natural topography of the locality, well drained, with a road track not less than nine fest wide, composed of shalls vitrified brick, or macadam graded, erowned, compacted, and maintained in such manner that it shall have continuously a furn emocit it shall have continuously a furn emocit. pacted, and maintained in such manner that it shall have continuously a first, smooth surface, and all other roads having a road track not less than fine feet wide of a construction equally smooth, first, durable, and expensive, and continuously kept in proper repair.
Class B shall embrace roads of not less

Class B shall embrace roads of not less than one mile in length, upon which no grade shall be steeper than is reasonably and practically necessary in view of the natural topography of the locality, well drained, with a road trake not less than nihe feet wide, composed of burnt clay, gravel or a proper combination of sand and clay, sand and gravel, or rock and gravel, constructed and maintained in such manner as to have continuously a first, smooth surface.

Class C shall embrace roads of not less than one mile in length, upon which no grade shall be steeper than is reasonably and practicably necessary in view of the angue of the continuously as for the locality, with ample side ditches, so constructed and crowned as to shed water quickly into the side ditches, continuously kept well compacted and with a firm, smooth surface by dragging or other adequate means, so that it shall be reasonably passable for wheeled where at all times.

t shall be reasonably passable for wheeled The bill fixes the annual sum to be paid for the use of such roads as fol-lows: Class A, \$25; class B, \$20, and class C. \$15. For the use of ordinary dirt roads there will be, under this measure, no payment. The classification will be under the direction of the Department of Agriculture, and the director of that department estimates that under the bill the payments would be about as follows:

58,600 miles at \$25 per mile 117,200 miles at \$20 per mile \$20,500 miles at \$15 per mile 2,844,000 12,307,500

Total (996,300) miles. the rural routes now cover 1,172,171 miles of road this would leave 175,871 miles of roads for the use of which nothing is to be paid. Should this amendment be adopted it would be the opening wedge for the expenditure of vast sums by the Government in the near future. amounts fixed by the bill are insignificant when the cost of good roads is considered. It is estimated that class A roads cannot be constructed for less than \$11,000 per mile, and their up-keep amounts to over \$300 per mile per annum. The cost of the gravel roads varies according to the nearness of the material used in their onstruction, but the sums to be annually paid for their use is far below the cost of their maintenance.

It is safe to say that as soon as the precedent should be established to pay for the use of roads there would be tremendous pressure brought to bear use of a copious vocabulary with "the for the payment of sufficient sums at gift of gab." Many speakers who are least to keep the roads in repair; so fluent to the last extreme use only a the \$16,000,000 would soon swell to few words and do not use those few three or four times that sum. Whether this would be good legislation or not depends upon the way we look at it. The Postoffice Department now costs us nearly \$250,000,000 per year. We all wish to see postage reduced from

make of them a National disgrace, as so had Plato. they are at present. Of the leading civilized nations on earth our roads be taken by our people to better their condition

MAKE THE TERM LONGER. As regularly as elections come around, discussion of the drawbacks of short terms of office is revived. Opposition to Roosevelt on the ground that his election would be a violation of the anti-third term tradition has brought the subject to the front. Voluntary retirement of members of the House because biennial elections hamper their usefulness and impose upon them an intolerable burden of expense fastens attention on the sub-

The custom of parties in renominating Presidents of their own faith who have made good is a tacit admission that a four-year term is not sufficient time for the working out of a definite line of policy. The anti-third term tradition is a precaution against perpetuity in office, which might in time transform the republic into a monarchy. President Taft has prosed to meet both difficulties by tending the term to six years and limiting any man to a single term. should then make an end of the charge that Presidents use their official power to secure re-election. We should end all danger that any President might secure re-election indef-We should give each Presiinitely. dent reasonable time to show the result of his policies and we should escape the quadrennial political and business disturbance of elections. It is surely sufficient to change Government at six-year intervals. France elects the President for seven years and does not re-elect him. Surely a popular verdict on the important is. of the day should be decisive enough to stand for seven, or at least

six years. In electing Representatives for only two years we have gone to the opposite extreme from the six-year term of Senators. In giving Senators six-year terms and in electing them indirectly we have placed them out of touch with the people. In electing Representatives for only two years we have not given them a term long enough to work out results. Since their terms do not begin until fourteen months after election, unless they are called together in extra session they no sooner begin work of legislation than they have to lay plans for re-election. This necessity often influences their legislation and makes them moral cowards.

If Senators and Presidents are elected for six years it would seem wise to retain the lower House membership under a condition responsive to the people's will. New issues are almost certain to arise within a period of six years on which an expression by the people is desirable. The short term may be hard on the Representatives but many of its drawbacks may be avoided by providing that the first ssion of the House elected in No vember shall begin in the following March. The responsiveness of the Senate could be improved in the mean-time by adoption of the long-hoped-for mendment providing for direct election of its members.

SLANG IN THE COLLEGES.

Following up a very common and most commendable practice in our colleges and high schools, the University of Kansas has made a collection or slang phrases which it urges the students not to use. Among them are one or two of the really bright bits of slang which appear now and then, such as "you can search me," and "never again." At the basis of these expressions there is a sound psychology and an interesting human experi-"You can search me," is a figurative way of pleading not Go to the bottom of all the individual's pockets and examine the abysses of his mind and you shall not discover that of which you have been accusing A piece of slang which can stand analysis as well as this one certainly has something to say for itself. While it may not become an integral part of the language, still it is not like. ly to perish immediately in spite of the rather pedantic opposition of college faculties. Much the same is true of "never again." It expresses a re-pentant mood with poetical fervor and intensity. Having erred once and experienced the consequences the reorseful sinner sadly shakes his head and exclaims "never again," quite like Poe's Raven with his "Nevermore,"

The only objection to bright and poetical slang of this sort was stated by Poe in the Raven as well as the college faculties can state it and probably better. The trouble was not that "Nevermore" was not good English or that it violated the proprieties or that it shocked somebody. The only fault to be found with it lay in its damnable Iteration by the Raven. It was the only word he knew. He tried to pour out the whole burden of his soul in that one word, and naturally he strained it to the bursting point. It takes more than a single word to convey all the emotions and purposes of a human soul. The accusation which we bring against the slang-users is the same as Poe brought against the Raven. They forget or ignore the rich and coplously expressive English vocabulary and limit themselves to a meager set of phrases which may be very well in themselves, or may not, but which are far too exiguous to serve the purposes of language in these expansive days. Human brain power has developed step by step along with hu-man speech. When there were few words known to man he thought but little. As his vocabulary grew larger his mind acted more widely and generously.

Language is in fact the instrument of thought. The persons who use but few words, making a poor and mean vocabulary serve all their purposes, are likely to have but few thoughts and those far from elevated. The discriminating reader will not confuse the correctly. This is the case with most spellbinders and some lawyers. ting aside people of that undesirable stamp, we may say with sufficient assurance of truth that men of large intellectual power use a great many dif-

year, and all of the mail collected on tinct turn of thought and they apply them reaches only a trifle over \$14,- it to that use and to no other. The 000,000. On the other hand, if the greatest intelligences of the race have Government were once started in the employed the most extensive vocabuway of general assistance to our high- laries. Shakespeare, who was no doubt ways it might go a long way towards the brightest of all men, used more improving our roads and bringing words than any other writer. Burke them up to such a point as not to had a rich command of language, and

The simple truth is that the slang habit does not indicate wit or shrewdare the poorest, and some steps should ness, but the opposite. The person who seeks to express all his thoughts by a few slang, or cant, phrases has but thoughts to express in any manner and those few are apt to be blurred and confused. If his mind worked clearly he would not rest until he had found a corresponding clarity and diversity of speech. The prevalence of slang in our colleges shows not so much that the students despise the beauties of their mother tongue as that they have lost the fine art of thinking. There are other indications of the same lamentable loss. The preference of football over study may be mentioned as an instance. That we are not amiss in saying that the disease is widespread may be inferred from the fact that almost simultaneously with University of Kansas, Wellesley College in the East has begun a warfare upon slang. At Wellesley students who speak slang are to be fined. Since many of the girls who attend that institution are rich, this rule will probably result in making the use of slang an aristocratic privilege. Those who can afford to pay the fines will speak nothing else and glory in it, while the poor girls will refrain be-cause of their poverty and bewail the sad restriction. The new rule will ex-alt slang instead of sliencing it. The use of slang, cant, argot, and so

on, is characteristic of persons whose minds run in a single channel. Religious sects in the fervor of their early zeal are apt to develop a set of slang expressions peculiar to themselves. These few phrases, constantly on their tongues, acquire an exact technical value. They express the meager think-ing of the sectarians with mathematprecision, and, furthermore, they provide a means by which the members can recognize each other. It is the same way with thieves' argot. the initiated it is highly expressive, and it also serves in place of signs, grips and passwords. We thus perceive two reasons for the hold which slang has on the affections of the college student. For one thing, its saves him the trouof thinking. If he tried to use many words he would be forced to find thoughts to fit them which would be a sad exertion. Again, his slang stamps him as a member of a certain "set." The cant phrase, with the accompanying giggle or wink, signifies that the miss or youth belongs to the elite of their little world, a clique which no more dares to have an original idea than a sheep dares to forsake the lead of the bellwether.

We hope the colleges will wage reentless warfare upon slang, but for a different reason from the one they commonly assign. There is not the lightest danger that the talk of college boys and girls will corrupt the English language, but there is some danger that they will graduate with minds so empty and flaccid that they will be nuisances to the end of their days. If they are compelled to learn and speak an extensive vocabulary it will help prevent this dire calamity.

Nobody cares who comes out ahead in the Democratic primaries. The first question is always about the Republican candidates. Then as an afterthought there is a tepid inquiry about the Democrata. "Wilson gets it? Really, you don't say. Terribly rainy this Spring, isn't it?" This may mean that any Democrat can be elected and it may mean that the country expects the Democratic party to make a fool of itself and takes the news that it has ne so as a matter of course

The Emersonian law of compensation may be seen at work in the conse. quences of the Titanic wreck. Colonel Astor's death restores the elder and legitimate Mrs. Astor to her place on the throne of New York society and returned from Europe to claim her discern something providential

Mr. H. J. Heinz is the man who has made millions by preparing and selling food products which are strictly hygienic. He asks for no favorable 'interpretations" of the Federal pure food law, or any other law. Dr. Wiley never had any terrors for him, because all his goods are honest. If he erects a plant in Portland he will stimulate the production of tomatoes and beans and at the same time stiffen our morals.

The weak and oppressed of all the earth look to the United States as a haven, and the country will suffer little by allowing terrified Chinese in Mexico to cross the border to safety. At the same time, the Mexicans need to be taught a lesson.

It must be all in the "know how. for a man fell eighty feet off the new bridge to his slight damage yesterday. while a window washer dropped only thirty feet and will die.

The cucumber flourishes in Oregon and the grower who takes a "flyer" in It this season stands a chance of put-ting "57 varieties" of profits in his

barks. There are thousands of men who want to lift their hats to the col-Those Mormons in Chihuahua are showing the proper fighting stuff. All

Mexico needs is a brigade of them and

By all means, let this ctiv see a pa-

rade of the First Infantry ere it em-

the trouble will cease. The spirit of Dowie still hovers over Zion. Not being present in person to cause contention, his picture does duty in his stead.

The men handling the job of depressing the butter market found the article too slippery and the price is restored.

The waves of oratory will roll high n Ohio during the next two weeks and the Ananias Club will receive recruits, The man who neglects his home get contempt that is the due of the

Ridicule of the fex is as sure a of hostilities in Los Angeles as in Fez.

This is a Spring with which nobody

veriest of "common scrubs."

AMENDMENT TO BORAH BILL BAD. Compliance With Cultivation Require-

ment Impossible in Timbered Section. ROSEBURG, Or., May 5 .- (To the Editor.)-Published press dispatches from Washington say that the Borah-Jones homestead bill as finally agreed upon in conference committee requires that one-sixteenth of the area be in cultivation the first two years, and one-eighth of the area be in cultivation at the end of three years from date of settlement, 10 and 20 acres of the 160 acres. If this amendment is rethined in the bill and it becomes a law, it will practically cut out all setlement under the homestead laws in the timbered regions of Western Oregon and the coast countles. If cultivation means that the land be cleared of stumps the best Timber Jack in Oregon could not, with ax, shovel and grubbing-hoe, clear, burn and remove

grubbing-hee, clear, burn and remove
the logs and stumps from 20 acres of
land in 10 years if he worked every
working day in the year, unless it be
along the river bottoms where there
is no large timber, and this kind of
land has long since been taken.
By the common method of clearing
lands in the timbered regions of Oregon, which is to slash, burn and remove the small stumps under six to
eight inches in diameter, the average
homesteader does not in 10 years as a
rule get more than from five to 10
acres of his 160 in actual cultivation.
But, added to this he queually has from But, added to this he usually has from 10 to 20 acres cleared from the brush and logs, the small stumps cut low and the big stumps left from two to four feet high, and this land is seeded to hay, and the homesteader cuts this hay among the stumps with a scythe until such time as the stumps rot out when a mower may be used. This can be verified by any one who has ever lived in the timbered portion of Western Oregon or the coast countles.

consider the Borah bill the best introduced in Congress for the actual bons fide homesteader before this amendment was attached to it. Its enactment in its present reported con-dition would mean that lands in Oregon and other Western states would not be settled under the homestead laws. I make this statement after having lived

make this statement after having lived in the timbered portion of Western Oregon and the coast countes for 43 years and having homesteaded and actually lived upon and cleared and improved this class of lands.

It must also be remembered that the settler is now very much handleapped by very strict fire laws which do not permit him to burn his slashings in the dry season of the year as the homesteader could do in the past. Therefore it is an utter impossibility for the settler with his own two hands to clear the amount of land and put it to clear the amount of land and put it into cultivation that is required by this amendment. It is true that a man who has the money to employ help to clear and improve the land could c with the law, but this class of men do not take homesteads or improve land. It is cheaper to buy and he has no hardships to contend with #If some of the Eastern and prairie state Senators and Representatives would not investigate the condition of the poor homesteader while in his richly furnished office in Washington, but would come out to the timbered portions of Vashington, Idaho and Oregon and Just spend one month in carrying a 50-pound pack on their backs wading mountain streams and traveling a foot trail for from one to 20 miles he would be willing to pass laws in the interest of the homesteader.

Not all of the homesteaders have to pack their supplies in to their claims on their backs over a foot-trail, but there is not one claim in a hundred now left on or adjoining a wagon road. The most of the settlers must cut foot and horse trails to their land from one to 10 miles and it is often years before they have a wagon road. This is largely the case where lond grants largely the case where land grants have been made to railroads and by reason of the fact that the Northern Pacific Railroad Company and other big concerns have scripped many thou-sands of acres of land. Thus the homesteader is surrounded by land that is not being improved and where there are no roads and schools. Official reports show that more lands have been conceded to railroads by state and Na-tional land grants than have been aken by homesteaders since the first homestead laws were enacted.

As a rule old laws under new condi-tions are amended or new laws enacted to meet the conditions of modern developments, but the homestead laws have remained on the statutes pracexiles his second wife, who was Miss the law now applied to the homesteader force. The divorced Mrs. Astor has in the timbered regions just as it did in the timbered regions just as it did tically the same for over 50 years, and in the old days in the prairie states, own. Much as she must lament her where a settler could plow and seed former husband's death, no doubt she more land in one day than he can clear can discern something providential and seed in a year of actual hard labor the class of land now left for the

The Oregonian during the past thre months has made a splendid fight in the interests of the Borah bill which means so much to the West, and should receive the thanks of the settler well as all the people who want to Oregon's wild lands settled and i proved. Every commercial club in Ore-gon ought to urge our delegation in Congress to defeat this amendment.

A STRONG MAN'S QUEER WEAKNESS John Arbuckle, Who Fought the Sugar Trust, Afraid to Make a Will.

Wall Street Journal.

In one of Thackeray's best-known poems on what he calls "the old, old text of folly, fortune, glory, ruin," he draws the reflection:

How very weak the very wise, How very small the very great are. There is something in the death of John Arbuckle which recalls those lines. He died a lonely and disappointed man He nover really recovered from the humiliation of paying a huge fine to the Government for importing sugar under conditions which amounted to organized smuggling, with the corruption ganized smuggling, with the corruption of minor officials which it involved. Arbuckle was a strong man. He fought what was perhaps the most powerful industrial corporation in the United States, after the Standard Oil Company, and held his own. The American Sucar Company, under the presiican Sugar Company, under the presi-dency of H. O. Havemeyer, with power-ful protection at Washington, was a formidable adversary for any single man, but that dour old Scotchman fought it in the open market and beat it, many a time. It might be believed that there was little imagina tion in his character, except that which enabled him to foresee the great movements of markets, and to base operations accordingly. But he had one weakness extraordinary in such

He was curiously superstitious. It was not in any twisted religious sense, it was the peasant superstition of the country in which he was born. All his family had it. He died without making a will; and so also did his brother Charles and his sister, both of them having much to leave and strong opinions about the use of their money. John Arbuckle was afraid to make a will. The desire to do so would have seemed to indicate to his mind that he was what his Highland fellow country-men call "fey," or under a warning of

He was a man of large benevolence, measured by the amount of his gifts in his lifetime; and he would doubtless have taken the warmest interest in providing for those intelligent philan-thropies with which he was associated. To the melancholy of his last years was added this curious, unreasoning, haunting fear, not merely of death, but of the premonition of it.

SAFETY APPLIANCES NOT COSTLY Doors and Mattresses Capable of Con version Into Rafts at Sea.

PORTLAND May 5-(To the Edior.)-The sinking of the Titanic With its attendant loss of life suggests the necessity for improving the life-saving devices that should be carried by each passenger-boat. I have had som experience in travel by sea and at such times it has frequently occurred to my mind that with slight attention to de-tail, the door, the mattress and the bunk rall of each stateroom can be so constructed as to be easily and quick-ly converted into a life raft suf-ficiently strong and buoyant to bear up two or more persons for many hour two of more persons for many hours. The door can be quickly detached by withdrawing the hinge boits and will form a substantial framework for the raft. One or more bunk mattresses placed upon the door and lashed or otherwise fastened to it complete the raft. If the mattresses happen to be filled with air or of the true happen. filled with air or of the type known as air mattresses, so much more favorable for their buoyancy. With slight modification the bunk rail can be made detachable and would serve a good pur pose as an oar for propelling the raft These things can be so constructed as o be thus quickly convertible without to be thus quickly convertible without the additional cost of more than 50 cents to \$1.50 to each stateroom and with posted directions for their use in emergency, would provide each stateroom with the means of escape without being forced to depend upon uncertain lifeboats and their stupid crews. In emergencies, there is nothing quite so helpful as self-help and if each stateroom were provided with each stateroom were provided with these simple, yet efficient devices, with directions for their assembling and use, there need be little loss of life fires or other mishaps at sea, these provided, each roomer have a chance for life by helpng himself.

In most fatal accidents the heavy los of life has been caused by failing t get clear of the endangered vessel a an early date. The Slocum fire and the Titanic sinking both linetrate this necessity of getting clear early on something that will float. Wireless gives the call for help, but pending its arrival, passengers must expect to depend upon keeping themselves afton independent of the disappearing ship. A raft of this kind can be assembled and launched by one person alone in from two to five minutes. If the unfortunate vessel happens safely launch a sufficient number of I boats, the floaters on the improv raft will be picked up by them; if not they will have an opportunity to wait for rescue from other sources, GEO, MELVIN MILLER.

CURE FOR FALSE REGISTERING. Plan Proposed to Keep Democrats Out

of Republican Primaries. WARRENTON, Or., May 5.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian has frequently mentioned the fact that many who vote the Democratic ticket at regulaéléctions régister as Republicans and participate in Republican primaries For some time I have endeavored to trace the cause and have learned from several men that their reason is that the majority of candidates for the various local offices, from Constable or Justice of the Peace to the members of the County Court or Port Commis sioners, are to be found on the Republican ticket and, inasmuch as th roters are often more directly inter ested in the offices immediately affect ing their community, they register as Republicans to assist their friends to work against candidates that do not meet with their approval.

In Multnoman County, the Willam etts Valley and on the Lower Columbia I know many men who advocate the removal of many offices from primary or political strife and suggest that only such offices as are directly concerned with the continuance of the party prin

ciples should be made a question of In the recent primaries a few of the candidates for non-political offices re-ceived the majority vote on both tick-ets, which shows that voters of opposite political faith considered the can-didates men of merit and wrote their names in on the ballot, thus making the candidates Republican Democratic

election in the Fall. Now, we should either dispense with this needless work during the politi-cal primaries or allow all candidates for non-political offices to appear on all primary ballots and accept the ver-dict of the majority of all votes. Would not some such plan assist in the effort to induce voters to register their true political

CLIFFORD BARLOW.

NIKISCH AND THE WILD DEUCES One Renson Why Great Musician Was Willing to Visit Us Again, New York Cor. Cincinnati Times-Star

There is a story about a musician and a poker game. Arthur Nikisch ar-rived the other day to go on tour as conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra. Years ago he was conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, but returned to Europe because conditions there were more to his liking. He had not intended to return to America, but Warren R. Fales, a cotton mill owner of New England, who declares himself daft on music, wanted him to make the tour. "I will not." said Nikisch. "I am my own master. I will not go to America unless you make me—and you can't make me." Well, it looked that way. Fales could

well, it fooked that way face tour not stir him by argument. But one night he sat in a game of poker with Nikisch, who learned that game of skill in Boston. Do not sneer at Boston. The game of poker rises to intellectual heights in that city, and Nikisch is considered one of the best poker players to Europe. False won from him. ers in Europe. Fales won from him at the old-fashioned game, 'It's luck," said Nikisch, "You out-

"It was skill," said Fales. "I out-thought you."

To prove it he persuaded Nikisch to

undertake a round of tackpots in that alluring variation of the straight game known as "wild deuces." He cleaned known as "wild deutes. He deaned out the musician. Then he offered to stake his winnings against Nikisch's promise to make the American tour at the terms offered. They played all the terms offered. night and when Nikisch rose he didn't have a chip left. "But I don't care," said he, "you have introduced me to a new game and its master. I will gladly go to America, if only for the privilege of playing more of those wild deuces with you. I am going to tame those with you. I am going to tame those deuces,"

Wireless Danger Calls.

NASEL, Wash. May 5.—(To the Editor.)—Kindiy print the literal meaning of the wireless call C. Q. D. and that other one, S. O. S. ALFRED MATTHEWS,

C. Q. D. stands for "Come quick, danger." S. O. S. is an abreviation of 'Send out succor."

London Opinion.

"Glad we met you. Our boy, Stanley, insists on marrying that chorus girl. I shall cut him off absolutely, and you can tell him so,"

The Family Lawyer—I know a better plan that than. I'll tell the girl.

soned such things out

The Logic of Experience, Chicago Record-Herald.
"What will the woman of tomorrow be?" sighed the pensive person. "Oh, a year or two younger than she is today," replied the one who had rea-

Nitts on Half Cents. By Denn Collins.

Nescius Nitts, Sage of Punkindorf Spied several ants crawling with slow ambulation. Projected his quid with but slight hesitation, Engulfing the group in complete devastation Then spoke on half cents in our coin circulation.

seen in the papers, the Government 'tends To add some new styles to the money we spends; For scalloped 3-cent pieces now they declare.

(Appropriate change for a 3-cent carfare) And furthermore it is within their To start a-comin' a lot of half cents.

When I speaks about it in Higginses we give our political arguments o'er. And turned our attention to talkin' Them currency changes that's like to come out;
And some of 'em 'lowed Uncle Sam
was not wise
A-makin' of coins in that sort of odd size.

And Jenks, who lives up at the pore farm, sezee: "They'd be too durned bulky, it just seems to me. Now think what a burden twould be if us gents Must lug all our money in copper lug all ou half cents." hair cents.

He borrowed à dime, and he roamed home to bed.

And we lowed: "That's maybe some truth, what he said."

Spriggs says, "This here is a schange that I thank." (Spriggs, he's a director in Punkin-dorf's bank.)
"Because all my life past, I jest used to hate To 'tend Sunday school, where they

passes the plate; But now 'twill be easier like.' And us gents Agrees that there's maybe some good in half cents. Portland, May 6.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of May 7, 1862, A friend has sent us the returns of the Oregon City charter election, held on Monday last. It is the first election in which the opposing lickets were strictly Union and secesh, and resulted in a glorious victory for the Union party in a town, too, which gave a plurality for Breckenridge in the Presidential election.

The steamer Eliza Anderson has com-menced running between Victoria and Olympia. For some time there has been no steamer running on the Sound, and the mails have been carried in a small boat.

W. W. Page has been appointed Judge for the Fourth Judicial Circuit, vice Aaron E. Wait, resigned. Judge Page has appointed J. H. Mitchell, Esq., Prosecuting Attorney for the Fourth Judicial District, vice Page resigned.

Cairo, May 1 .- The Memphis Avaanche of April 26th has been received. The conscription law is being rigidly enforced. Union citizens are secreting themselves or flying to avoid its opera-tions. Memphis is in a high state of excitement, anticipating the arrival of removing their goods to places of con-cealment. the Yankees. Secession merchants are

Washington, May 1—A letter from a gentleman in high authority in Tennessee mays that so soon as the rebel army is driven from the limits of that state, Tennessee will stand for the Union by an overwheiming majority.

We are glad to notice the return of our fellow-citizen, E. R. Geary, Esq., from a visit to his former home in the Atlantic States.

Tonight will be presented "The Soldier's Daughter" and "Nature and Philosophy," Mr. and Mrs. Forbes in

As "Ed" Howe Sees Life

age, there is more talk about it than if she looks older than she really is.

When it is announced that there are a "few choice seats left" for a lecture concert, it means that a good many One of the Rights of Man is the right

not to be forced to fight in unnecessary wars for \$16 a month, when he might earn very much more in a less danger ous and disagreeable job. If you are a good and capable citizen, you have not only done your duty to yourself; you have done your duty to society. Every worthy man reduces the public charge for jalls and police

officers, and reduces the affliction that comes from liars, loafers, disturbers and drunkards. Behave yourself, and you are not only

I have lived a long time, and know many worthy men and women, but I have never personally known a hero or

Every really good thing will steadil; become better, as surely as every bad thing will steadily become worse,

To Napoleon the Great, it was easier to beat an enemy than is commonly believed; but to you and to me, it is more difficult than is commonly be-

It is better to enslave a man as a workman, at \$3 a day, than it is to. enslave him as a soldier, at 50 cents a

GAME STORY CAUSES CRITICISM Reported Prowess of Hunters Out of Senson Causes Writer to Protest,

SILVERTON, Or., May 5.—(To the Editor.)—I would like to call attention to an article published in The Oregonian recently, in which it is stated George Kelly and several other Port-land men are hunting in the Cascade Mountains southeast of Eugene, and Mountains solited to Engele, and according to Mr. Kelly's story are in the habit of killing deer, grouse and pheasants whenever they want a change of diet. If they had deer meat for Washington's birthday they undoubtedly violated the law.

If, as Mr. Kelly says, he presented

Chief Deputy Craig with a fine mountain lion pelt killed on this same trip that they killed all the deer and birds they could use, and this being about February 22. I would like to say that if Deputy Craig is that easily influ-enced the hunters in this part of the state would like to contribute a few choice pelts. I want to say that I haven't seen an account in the papers of Chief Deputy Craig or Mr. Finley either making the slightest effort to prosecute them. Mr. Kelly has just started on another such trip. I would like to ask Mr. Finley if he has sent a deputy to look after them as he un-doubtedly would if he knew that Tom,

Wick or Harry were violating the la