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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1912.

#### WHITHER BOUND?

Theodore Roosevelt is a friend of the initiative and referendum. So he said in Oregon. "But you Oregon people are subjecting the initiative to great risks and abuses," he said in effect. "No man can vote intelligently on thirty-two distinct measares all at the same time."

Woodrow Wilson has been converted from an academic and philosophical opponent of the Oregon system to be admiring and eloquent advocate. "But," he says, "the correct use of the initiative and referendum is to be a club over the Legislature. It is a gun on the wall, to be taken down only in emergencies." So it should be.

These words of caution and admonition come from the foremost Amer-ican advocates of popular rights. Neither the integrity of their opinions nor the merit of their criticisms will be questioned. The unlimited and unregulated initiative, they think, should be modified

In 1984 two measures were proposed in Oregon under the initiative and ref-

In 1995 eleven measures were proposed under the initiative and refer-In 1908 sixteen measures were pro

posed under the initiative and referendum In 1910 thirty-two measures were proposed under the initiative and ref-

erendum. In 1912 forty or more measures are

to be proposed under the initiative and referendum. Who will dare say that the average voter can or will give intelligent and discriminative consideration of forty constitutional and legislative meas-

#### HAVE WE A CONSTITUTION?

ures, some of them most elaborate and

many of them highly important?

In connection with the good roads measures the question has been raised in Medford as to whether an act now unconstitutional can be passed simultaneously with the amendment which is needed to make such an act consti-The present constitutional limit on state indebtedness is below the amount of state bonds contemplated for permanent roads. One of the initiative road bills provides for state road bond issues annually for ten years in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 each year. The framers of the bill will submit an initiative amendment to be voted on in the same election which will, if adopted, remove this constitutional restriction

One of those who doubt the validity of a law passed simultaneously with an amendment correcting a section of the constitution with which the law won! conflict is Mr. A. F. Reames, attorney for Jackson County in the Jackson County road-bonding case. statement from Mr. Reames appears in a Medford newspaper. The question on which lawyers cannot agree. We happen to know, however, that it had previously been called to the attention of Portland lawyers with the result that an opinion opposite to that held by Mr. Reamer was given.

There is no exact precedent that the courts might be expected to follow There is, however, an observation in an opinion rendered by the Oregon S preme Court, which, if religiously followed and sustained in later rulings. would make even the submission of the proposed amendment unnecessary as a preliminary to the issuance \$10,000,000, or any other amount, in bends by vote of the people.

In what is known as the "Home Rule" decision, or more definitely entitled State of Oregon vs. E. T. Schluer, filed May \$, 1911, the Supreme Court has this to say:

Authority to amend the constitution is re-served to the people of Oregon and this right may be enforced by a vote upon an initiative petition. Under the system now prevaling a clause of the organic act appears to con-trol only the Legislative Assembly, since it requires no more effort nor any greater care to amend a clause of the constitution than it does to enact, after or repeal a statute, for a majority vote is sufficient to give sanction to a bill, and no greater vote is required to amend the fundamental law. This on the whole is outled a corn-

This, on the whole, is quite a common-sense view. We are not vinced, however, that it is a good thing to put the constitution on a par with statutes so far as ease of amendment or authority over hasty action are concerned. But in the light of latteriay legislation it is reasonable to hold that we have done so. In actual practice the constitution imposes no limitations on what the people may do, but, following Mr. Reames' theory, we must first vote on an amendment and a few weeks later vote at a special election on a law that inspired us to adopt the amendment. No greater vote is required to adopt the amendment than to enact the law, provided the total number of votes cast in each election is the same. This would seem like a wasted effort founded on foolish adherence to legal formalities and fetiches. Still, it is but a shade more tor to vote twice on the same question in the same election, once for an amendment and again for a bill. The common sense, practical way, so ong as our constitution is not a constitution except in name, is to ignore

it in submitting initiative measures. are not condemning the road bills, because a constitutional foundation is planned for the bonding meas-The court may have lapsed into obiter dicts in putting the constitution and initiative law on the same level. pete with the express companies, but We are not lawyer enough to say. But it would be interesting to obtain a fursubject if some less important issue

are on bills to be adopted at the same time the limitation is removed is to the new state government at the same time and that these officers held their positions without quesion.

DIFFERENT WHEN THE OX IS YOURS.

Mr. Taft is reported by an informed journalistic onlooker at Washington to e asking everybody who calls at the White House what is the matter with him? Nobody appears to be able to a convincing reply. Some say that he is no politician, some that he nas no elements of popular appeal in him, some that the public supposes the interests control him, and so on through a maze of confused and conflicting opinion.

No one can find a good reason. One thinks the fault is with Taft. Another that it is with the people. Nothing Taft does pleases them, nothing he can do will please them. They are determined to be dissatisfied. Perhaps the widespread discontent with Taft is the people's way of chastising the selves through Taft for making Taft President on another man's say so. They rebuke Taft, not Roosevelt, for Roosevelt's mistake. They would reward Roosevelt, not Taft, for Taft's

Taft himself hit the nall on the head n the Columbus speech: Now I want to ask you what do you think Mr. Roosevelt would say of me if I had not prosecuted the Steel Trust and the Harvester Trust, and it appeared subsequently that Mr. Perkins was a large contributor to a special fund expended for my use? Well, what does he do on the face of that? He charges me with being in control of the special interests, with these lacis staring him to the face.

Perkins is Roosevelt's friend, so it is all right. But if Perkins were Taft's

friend, it would be all wrong. It would almost appear that the ublic blames Taft for defining his policy as to the special interests and sticking to it, while it applauds Roosevelt for making a deal with the interests and repudiating it. Remember the Harriman episode

#### NOT ALL HARMONY IN DEMOCRACY.

One source of weakness in Clark's candidacy is the support of W. R. Hearst. That support may win votes for him among the independent element, but it may lose an equal num-ber among the element which looks with suspicion on Hearst and all with whom he affiliates. The World fights Clark as vigorously as Hearst champions him and declares that his nomination would be Democratic suicide. It points out that, with the entire ocratic and independent support in his race for Governor in 1906, Hearst failed and that Clark would need pearly 100,000 more votes than Hearst polled in order to carry New York. It cannot discover any such Democratic enthusiasm for Clark in Massachusetts, saying that only one Democrat in three went to the pri-maries and that only one in five or six voted for Clark. Of course, the World ignores the thousands of Democrats who took part in the Republican pri-

Republicans can find some comfort in turning attention away from their awn internal dissensions to those of their opponents. They discover that, as usual, the sanguine spirit of Democracy treats too lightly the obstacles which lie in the way to the Presidency. They see that capture of New York's 45 electoral votes is no easy task for the party which has been striving vainly to win them during the last 20 years. They remember that heated discussion within their party is a symptom of active interest in public affairs which will expel deadly apathy from the ranks and will insure a full vote on election day. There have been other occasions when Democratic victory in an off-year served to nerve-Republicans to redoubled exertions which brought victory in the Presidential year. Nothing tends more to restore harmony in the party than the spectacle of the opposition presaging victory from dissension and dividing the spoils before they are won. The election of 1912 may well be a repetition of such precedents.

# THE PARCELS POST BILL

A bill for the expansion of the preent farcical parcels post into a reality has been introduced by Senator Bourne. The general plan is highly commendable, but it is marred by the fixing of hard and fast rates by law and the denial of discretion to the executive officer for meeting unforeseen contingencies.

The bill provides for the zone sys tem of rates, which is in successful operation in Germany and Austria-Adopting eleven pounds as the maximum weight and 12 cents per pound as the maximum charge, it provides a rate of 5 cents for the first pound, I cent for each additional pound for local, city and rural delivery only. Thus a country storekeeper can send an eleven-pound package to a customer on the same rural route for 15 cents. He is protected from the dreaded competition mail order house by a rate which for a distance between 500 and 1000 miles would be 59 cents. The rates within 50-mile sone, 6 cents for first pound and 2 cents for each additional pound within 200-mile sone, 7 cents for first pound and 3 cents for each additional pound Within 500-mile sone, 8 cents for the first pound and 4 cents for sach additional pound. Within 1000-mile sone, 9 cents for the first pound and 5 cents for each additional pound. provided for the various zones are:

within 2000-mile sone, 12 cents for the first pound and 10 cents for each additional pound.

utside 2000-mile zone, 12 cents for the pound and 12 cents for each additional The bill consolidates the third class, which comprises printed matter other chandise, and establishes a special rate fetiches. Still, it is but a shade more of 1 cent an ounce up to four ounces cumbersome than to compel the elecgoods. The present third-class rate stred to drop the veil. The conserva-being 1 cent for each two ounces, this tives wished to retain it and they is an advance on such small packages, but in the main it is a reduction on third-class matter. Thus a five-pound package of circulars now carried 1000 miles for 40 cents would be carried by parcels post for 29 cents, but if

rate would be 60 cents. Bourne claims for his bill the merit of enabling the parcels post to comexperience alone can prove whether this will be so in all cases. The exther expression from the court on the press companies will be free to cut rates where they can do so at a profit The validity of the and to leave the mails to carry un-

imitation reaches back to the proced- its hands and prevent its doing so about unveiled thrust upon us against rely on that type of technical legal the same freedom of action in ad- dle to ignore the reactionaries, so they onstruction from which the courts of justing rates to meet competition as have been obliged to revoke the privi-Oregon have recently cut loose. It is is enjoyed by the freight agents of leges which they granted the proalso comforting to reflect that a num- transportation companies, or competi- grassive women a few months ago and ber of territories, when adopting state tion should be excluded by forbidding all Turkish females will return to the constitutions, elected officers for private individuals or corporations to harems. If they appear on the street legislative prerogative has prompted him to embody a serious defect in his

PROGRESS IN HEALTH. It is just as well to remind the public oecasionally how much better in almost every way the world is now than it was a century ago. There is so much grumbling over the ills we ve and so much fond looking back to the "good old times" that a review of the unvarnished facts is usually wholesome as a moral lesson. this thought in mind one of the New York papers prints a column of in-formation about conditions in that city at the close of the Civil War, which was but half a century ago. Still the changes have been remarkable.

At the close of the war some New York streets were paved with cobble stones, others had no pavement and all were frightfully filthy. Now New York is one of the cleanest cities in the world and its pavements are the admiration of travelers. There was effective care for the public health. Cellars were full of offal in many quarters. The sewers were only rarely connected with dwellings and all sorts of offensive trades were carried on without restriction. Since that time the Department of Public Health has been virtually created and care what class of people they bring; its great power has come into exer- all they care about is the passage cise with all the good which flows from it.

In spite of all we hear to the contrary, the average length of life has increased in the last 100 years and the ordinary individual enjoys better health than his grandfather. Americans are called a Nation of dyspeptics and neurasthenics, but the truth is that comparatively few of our stom achs are chronically out of order, while our nerves are improving rapidly since the vacation habit has come into vogue. The upbuilding of the great body of civic practice which comes under the name of public hygione has been in large part the work

of women. Reform in matters of public health began at about the same time that women began to take a pronounced part in the practice of medicine. The ideas of cleanliness and order which they brought fresh from their drawing-rooms were found to be admirably adapted to the larger uses of cities and they set to work to induce men to apply them. The work was neces-sarily slow because the women could only use their tongues. They had to accomplish results slowly and circuitously with enormous waste of energy, but they did accomplish them, The results remind us how much more they might do if they could attack their tasks directly instead of indirectly.

#### STRONG ON INPERENCES.

Mr. C. A. Moseley, whose letter is published today, has that keen and orceful reasoning power so often found among single taxers. Because Oregonian admitted that there existed in the case of Mrs. Madeleine Force Astor a condition that, it happens, the followers of Henry George propose to remedy by applying single tax, Mr. Moseley, forsooth, concludes that The Oregonian is "catching up with Henry George."

Likewise, we suppose, when The Oregonian comments on railway disis for Government criminations it ownership, in Mr. Moseley's sight, provided, of course, Mr. Moseley clings II he is a free trad he gains comfort from the fact that The Oregonian condemns high tariff When The Oregonian deplores domination by Big Business, Mr. Mose ley, who is so apt at drawing infer ences, can no doubt see a drift toward Bryanism, Rooseveltism, La Follettesm or any other politicalism that he happens to advocate for immediate dealing with the trust issue. It must be a state of mind delightful to pos sess. He who holds it can argue that

nearly the whole world is with, him Yes. Mrs. Astor is one of the larger drones in the busy hive of life. Those who work contribute to her luxuries and pleasures. She enjoys wealth that she has not lifted a lily-white finger to attain. But there are among these workers those who are thrifty and who have exerted themselves to attain what they possess. Mr. Moseley and his like, to reach the drones such as Mrs. Astor, would also rob the thrifty workers of their well-earned incre-That is what single tax pronoses to do.

We are inclined to agree with Mr. Moseley's statement that if single tax had been in vogue since the foundation of the republic there would be no Astor fortune. But we are not for early life will inevitably prevent the growth of corns. Likewise, we are not advocating amputation of the limbs as a remedy or preventive.

# VEILS AND BANDAGES.

The movement for the emancipation of Turkish women from some of the restrictions of the harem has not ended very encouragingly. Under the impulse toward liberty which the Young Turk party gave the country the women began to emerge from their seclusion and even walk about the streets unveiled. The orthodox oldtimers held up their hands in horror at the spectacle and began to quote the Koran against the innovation. The harem was woman's proper sphere, they argued. There Allah had decreed that she should pass her exist-To emerge from its sacred than periodical publications, with the shades at all was impious, but to fourth class, which comprises mer- emerge without a veil, heaven defend

us, what sacrilege! Among the women themselves there were two parties. The progressives dejoined the Koran worshipers agains their advanced sisters. The latter tried to argue the point with them. "What difference does it make to you whether we drop the vell or not? you want to stay in the harem and it were carried over 2000 miles the keep your faces hidden from the light We shall not try to prevent you can. But the conservatives could not

see it in that aspect. "If you come out of the harem." they replied, "and drop your veils, you will make it the fashion. We shall all have to do the same or lose our social standing. Now we do not want either to drop our veils or lose our social proposed bond election, however, does profitable business. If the Postoffice standing. Therefore we oppose your not rest wholly on the home rule decision. To hold that the constitutional without loss, Bourne's bill would tie having the offensive privilege of going cranks are to try again.

until the bill could be amended. The our own desire." The Young Turk Postmaster-General should be allowed party are not firm enough in the sadcarry for hire parcels of 11 pounds or it will be under yards and yards of less weight. Bourne's adherence to thick crape.

A similar struggle is going on in China over the unwrapping of girls' feet. The progressives contend that it would be more humane to leave the feet of growing girls free from bandages. The conservatives reply that the bandages are tied on by the decree of the Almighty and to omit them would be nothing short of sacrilege. In support of their position they quote from Confucius the passage in which he says that "the true woman has a foot so small that she cannot gad about the streets and gossip. Her divinely appointed sphere is the home, and therefore she ought to have a foot so weak and useless that she walk out of her husband's home. How this contest will end we cannot predict, but Confucius has a strong hold on the Chinese mind.

#### IMMIGRATION BY SELECTION.

If the Pacific Coast desires to avoid being swamped with the lowest and most undesirable type of immigrants when European liners begin bringing passengers directly to our ports by the Panama route, we must make a united effort to secure revision of the immigration laws. The steamship ompanies are even now canvassing Europe for immigrants to be carried after the canal is opened. They don't money. We on the Pacific Coast are vitally interested in having this country settled by only the best type of people-people who will work, who will become permanent, loyal citizens, who will assimilate with the present population and with whom the present

this type, we must do so by selection, as Canada does. That means that the viewpoint of the law must be entirely changed. The law now specifies only those immigrants who are to be excluded; it should specify only those who are to be admitted and should auomatically exclude all others. desirable immigrant should be defined in general terms, but clearly enough close loopholes for evasion of the spirit and purpose of the law. When doubt arises the benefit should given to the United States, not to the immigrant. We should assume the position of a man having prizes to give and should satisfy ourselves that only the best get the prizes.

opulation will be willing to assimilate.

we are to secure immigrants of

So radical a change in the spirit of the law will meet with violent opposition from the steamship and railroad companies. They will besiege the committees of Congress with attorneys and lobbylsts. Such influences can only be defeated by counter influences of greater power, more skilfully hanfled. The public bodies of the Pacific States, having a common interest in the subject, should combine to send a joint committee to Washington for the purpose of forcing through Congress a bill which will make the way easy for the desirable immigrant, but will set up insurmountable barriers against the undesirable. It will not suffice to elect Senators and Representatives pledged to support such laws as we They may go to Washington desire. fired with devotion to their constituents, but such devotion soon becomes chilled if exposed to the subtle intrigues of the lobbyist. A people's lobby should camp at Washington, keep the devotion of the Coast delegation fanned to a flame and constantly apply the antidote to the poison injected by the steamship lobbyist. An able pugnacious leader backed by a united Pacific Coast delegation is needed for such work.

The latest attempt to classify the Colonel is from the keen pen of Colonel Harvey in Harper's Weekly, as fol-

The Colonel is now referred to by his ad-mirers as "The Tribune of the People." We have looked over the Tribune and fall to see the analogy. To us he appears more like a combination of a specting extra and a Sunday comic supelement. If we were disposed to pursue the

comparison, we might suggest that he seems more like a combined merry-goround and \$1-down-\$1-a-month phonegraph.

man in Mexico. Now that he has shattered the social structure, she tries her hand at shattering the earth. contending factions fight about a dozen battles a day to the accompaniment of a dozen earthquake shocks. All this makes lively times, but it frightens capital, which is perhaps unduly timid and too little sympathetic with the

It would be interesting to learn exactly what objections Methodist conservatives have to offer to women single tax. Amputation of the legs in preachers. If a woman can make converts and save souls by pulpit oratory, We are perwhy not let her do it? suaded that a soul saved by a woman will enjoy heaven just as much as one saved by a man.

Miss Crocker's dogs, that have their eth brushed and nails manicured, miss a lot of the fun of burying bones and digging them up. It is likely, further, these aristocratic klyoodles have never enjoyed the hilarity of a spin ning chase for a flea. Wealth has its drawbacks even in dogdom

Interurban traffic by trolley car has not fairly started to grow in Port-land. The next few years will see tremendous strides in that line. Almost every city man desires to get next to the soil and electricity will put him there. Playing with a millionaire on the

ways of winning fortune, but the exsence of their success was that their minds were not on the fortune. Fir timbers, 70 feet long, to square Panama, and there is but one region

Adams must like the environment at McNeill's Island, to hire out after his term expired. Perhaps he con templates reforming the methods and

in the world where they can be pro-

The Orange lodges in Ulster are drilling. Orangemen seem to easily scared.

The renaming and renumbering

Writer Argues Against Relaxation as

to Certain Amusements. RAINIER, Or., May 9 .- (To the Edtor.)-Being a reader of The Oregonian noticed an editorial May 3 entitled Relaxing the Discipline," predicated on the actions of the quadrennial conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church which is in session at Minneapolis.

The Methodist Church as a whole stands on the same plane today as regards the social and religious conditions of mankind as it did when it was instituted in England to bring the country back to a higher line of Christian life, which had been lost through commercialism.

The Methodist Church has never tried to force its will on the people through any politic body or coerce by legisla-tion; that is not its purpose. But it tion; that is not its purpose. But it does recommend reform according to the change of time and the natural requirements of the people, which stands for the promotion of temporal life and edification of the spiritual.

The proposal in the committee room to relax the discipline in regard to

card playing and dancing is nothing new, as the same has been considered many times before and never went further than the committee, and it is so this time. The social doctrines of our Savior were always for the betterment of mankind and never did he condone or encourage sin of any form in the

Whenever a church or Christian organization caters to amusements of a Questionable character for personal aggrandizement or advancement it must cease its work as a soul winner, for God will not look with impunity upon such actions.

If the Christian church cannot be dis-tinguished from any other organization in regard to its personnel, then the mission of Christ was a failure and we are of all men most miserable; but his words, "I am with you even unto the end of the world," are as true today as they were 2000 years ago. Because some church members want to dance and attend all other social functions. whether they be questionable or other-wise, only goes to show they have no real Christian experience and are using be church as a cloak for social pre-

ferment.

I would like to know why the Methodist Church should turn its attention entirely from the dance hall to the white slave traffic? It has a very pregnant reason. I will admit it is possible to dance and do no harm, but it is not at all probable in a ballroom. What per cent of immates in houses of ill fame were started on their downward course through cards, the ballroom and their attendants.

ballroom and their attendants — wine and liquors? I think statistics will show about 75 per cent. In this condition of affairs is it possible, practicable or even common sense for any Christian church to say the dance hall is all right? I say "No," and I think I voice the sentiment of the major portion of the lay mind. ion of the lay mine.

If the Christian Church has no in-

fluence for good in the world, its mia-sion is a failure or its task has al-ready been accomplished; also if it has to come down to such a scale of life that the world will not have to rise above its present plane of living in order to enter its folds, then one of two things are true, either all men are already saved or the teachings of the scriptures are not true.

scriptures are not true.

The folly of the first is seen at a giance, and the last is impossible, hence the church must establish a standard of Christian life that will not palliate sin and from which social conditions, either good or had, can be reckoned. A person who belongs to the church and can go to a danes without any remorse of conscience, there is not much, and I doubt if any, of the spirit of God within him, for he cannot "shun the very appearance of evil" and go to such piaces. Any one having the spirit such places. Any one having the spirit of Jesus Christ will have no trouble in deciding on the right or wrong of gong to the dance or theater.

We cannot suppose that the word of God has become impracticable because of the revolution of material science,

Hence, as the Methodist Church wishes to promulgate and dissimulate the dectrine of Christ for the edification of man. It has a plausible and providential reason for not lowering its Christian curriculum to a degree where you could not distinguish between a Christian and non-Christian and non-Christ hristian and a non-Christian.

If the time ever comes when the sames of these, our modern times, do not find in the doctrines of Christ the Utopia for every human or national ex-tremity, it will be because we have gone after the trivial and superficial realities of life; and a sure way will be for the church to lower itself to the dance hall and the theater. N. R. ZIMMERMAN.

### Nature appears to sympathize with LANDLUBBERS SHOULD MAKE LAW Non-Senfaring Writer Suggests Plans

for Safer Ship Travel. PORTLAND, May 6 .- (To the Editor.) We landlubbers should make some maritime laws for our safety when we travel. No ship should exceed 400 feet turn at a right angle in a distance of values, or uncarned increment, into the public treasury instead of into the private nearly a mile. No vessel should be allowed on the high neas that does not have as much power to back up as it has to go forward.

In case of icebergs or other vessels ahead it is very necessary to stop. The steam turbines will not reverse, and I understand that the Titanic had three times the power to go forward that she had to stop with, whereas a train of cars has from two to thirty times the power to stop that it has to go for

ward with.
On the high seas, the lookout on the bow or in the "crowsnest" should a signal direct to the engineer, and that the engineer should take the signal to reverse from the crowsnest. Oftimes valuable time is lost while the lookout is shouting his message to the officer on the bridge, and the officer may wish it repeated before he makes up his mind

that there is danger ahead. artments should be tested time. There is no doubt that many com partment partitions are not made strong enough to stand the pressure the next compartment to it is filled with water, so that if any compariment filled it would break the partition to the one next to it, and so on until the last partition was broken down and the

ship sunk.

These regulations, added to those alanch and nursing a millionaire with ready in existence, would make life to the property of the Responsibility of Judges

PORTLAND, May 5.—(To the Editor,)
I have read with much pleasure the editorial in The Oregonian on responsible judges, and, while I do not presum three feet at the ends, are needed at that you are particularly interested in my opinion, I wish to express my thanks for that editorial. It expresses in a clean-cut way what to my mind is the sound and defensible view of the whole matter in relation to our courts and to the Judges thereof. It certainly indicates to my mind that the writer of the editorial in question believes thoroughly in a responsible judiciary and that that responsibility should be so fixed as that the Judges can be made effectively to feel the same. I am not sure that Oregon or any other state has yet discovered the surest way of attaining this result, but I am thor-oughly convinced that the ideas sug-gested in this editorial are in the right direction. E. S. J. M'ALLISTER.

direction.

METHODIST CHURCH DISCIPLINE FEATURE OF PLANS IN DISPUTE Writer Insists Bennett Drawings Lo-

ente Federal Bullding Uptown. PORTLAND, May 8 .- (To the Edi tor.)—The sense of justice is strong in every true Greater Portlander. In The Oregonian, April 28, page 15, Mr. Charies B. Merrick officially submits a letter that my attention was not called to earlier because of absence when published.

Mr. Merrick, among other things, speaking of my letter published in The Orescenting Mary.

Oregonian April 26, opposing many features of the Bennett plans for Greater Portland as exhibited to the public, because I believe them impractical and fil-considered, says;

tical and ili-considered, says;

Mr. Seaberg has made some mis-statements; whether based upon prejudice, ignorance or upon willful intention to tell an unruth. I do not know. But nevertheless his statements are not true. Knowing the gentleman, I prefer to believe they are based upon ignorance of the plan. For instance, he says.

They locate the Federal building near the Courthouse. Practical men located it meat the terminal grounds. As a matter of fact, the Federal building, was located near the Postoffice building, was located near the terminal grounds by Mr. Bennett.

Yes, Mr. Merrick, the name of the

the terminal grounds by Mr. Bennett.
Yes, Mr. Merrick, the name of the
Federal building is the accepted name
of the Postoffice building, and so generally considered. About the practicability of many of the Bennett plans
recommendations we may have honest differences of opinion. But these state-ments of Mr. Marrick's are not such, they are statement of fact as to what the Bennett plans exhibited for the ap-proval of the citizens of Portland, Hun-dreds of Portland's citizens have seen the plans. If not they can do so at room 420 Selling building, and these citizens know, which fact I recently affirmed, that the Bennett plans do lo cate the Federal building, and that the building is so marked on the plans, near the Courthouse, filling out Ben-nett's civic center idea, Mr. Merrick's

statements to the contrary notwith standing. It seems we are in fair way of form ing a needless Ananjas Club, with either Mr. Merrick or myself as presi-dent, which is much to be regretted. If the Bennett plans do not locate a If the Bennett plans do not locate a Federal building, the accepted name for Postoffice building, near the Courthouse, I am guilty of all Mr. Merrick says. But as those plans, to fill out the civic center idea of which we hear so much, do locate a building, and mark it in print, the "Federal building" near the Courthouse, on the Courthouse plaza, Mr. Merrick, as a gentleman, at the very least, owes me a public apology for the mistaken and

gentleman, at the very least, owes me a public apology for the mistaken and unkind words said in his letter. The general public is interested in arriving at a true appreciation and in a truthful discussion of the merits of the Bennett plans, and just what those A man should be honest and polite

plans exhibit J. WALTER SEABERG.

#### SINGLE TAXER MAKES DISCOVERY Writer Seems to Think Disease and

Remedy Are Synonymous. HOOD RIVER, Or., May 9 .- (To the Editor.)—It is interesting to note that The Oregonian has become a sudden convert to the single tax, for certainly no more able argument in its favor he been published in some time than the editorial May 8, under the caption "The Fortunate Mrs. Astor," which might with equal propriety have been entitled. "The Unfortunate Taxpayer

of New York"

You say: "The question what she has ever done to earn this rich rewarf from the producers of the world come obstinately into one's mind. That he early half million must be paid be he producers is, of course, undentable Has The Oregonian had a lucid m ment, or has some wolf in sheep dothing crept into the editorial rooms

The reply to your query is, of course, that Mrs Astor has done nothing to earn her haif million yearly, and it is further certain that, if the single tax had been in vogue since the founding of the Republic, the Astor family would today be earning an honest living It is pleasing to have The Oregonian join the advocates of the single tax in garding the Asior fortune as the m of the revolution of material science, hecause men most eminent in that profession refute the statement. Then the things that were wrong in the time of Christ are identically the same today, regardless of the change of our surroundings.

Astor family has not produced any wealth since the original John Jacob quit dealing in furs, yet it is enabled to levy tribute, directly or indirectly, on nearly every man, woman and child in New York City, because it is almost a support of the produced any wealth since the original John Jacob quit dealing in furs, yet it is enabled to levy tribute, directly or indirectly. Astor family has not produced any the wealth since the original John Javob tra quit dealing in furs, yet it is enabled to

several generations gathered to itself a great wealth produced by the com-munity, the taxes on personal property, or man-made wealth, supplemented by the dog taxes and peddiers' licenses, have so far fallen short of meeting the expenses of the city that New York's public debt is today as large as that of the United States Gov

ernment.
Why is The Gregorian so concerned that Mrs. Force-Astor is about to collect so large a tribute from the producers of New York City? She earned it quite as much as did her late hus-band or his father before him—that is to say, not at all. What great differ-ence does it make who collects it, since the producers must continue paying indefinitely, until the adoption of the

private packet of some one?

It is to be hoped that it will continue to come "obstinately into one's mind."

as The Oregonian so apily expresses it. until Portiand's great daily comes out openly in favor of the single tax. The Oregonian is to be congratulated that rapidly catching up wi

"Paw" as a Philosopher, Cincinnsti Enquirer.
Willie-Paw, what is a family circle?
Paw-A wedding ring, my son.

Two Short Stories, complete.

#### Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of May 10, 1862. The following are the nominations made by the Jackson County Union convention held May 3: For Senator, Jacob Wagner: Representatives, Lindsay Applegate, S. D. Vandyke and J. D. Haines.

The life of Reuben Davis, of the Kentucky Fifth, was saved at Fort Donel-son by a silver half dollar in his waist-coat pocket. A rifle ball struck the coin and destroyed the figure of Libsety. Another soldier had the case of his watch, which he wore in his vest booket immediately over his heart, forn away by a canister shot, and the watch till continued to keep time.

Messrs. Kingsley & Rees, saddlers, are making a number of mittens out of harness leather for the use of the unruly insaine in the asylum. The hands of the unfortunate are placed in these mittens and strapped to the waist, and consequently they are unable to use their hands for mischief. These mitens are considered an improvement on the straight-jacket.

Go where you will about the city and you will notice all sorts of im-provements going on. Old houses are getting repaired and new ones are be-ing built.

We learn that the trail to The Dalles

### As "Ed" Howe Sees Life

Men worship excitement next to

Nearly every worthless man fre-quently says, impressively: "I'll guar-antee it!"

Sometimes women are disgusted with

husbands, but you can always bet After a woman has studied family life from bride to grandmother, and been successful in all the roles, she has an amount of information and experi-ence that would do credit to an elderly

ofg task on hand that they can't orm, but which worries them half to

judge or bishop,

or the same reason that he keeps his hand out of the fire It nearly always makes a man mad

Men may not be willing to give wo-men the ballot, but they will promptly give them the lifeboats.

for every political job in the ountry,

#### When a woman finds a man she can boss, she nearly always overdoes it.

Three of four revolutionists are wait-

USE OF NEW BRIDGE UNNECESSARY Retain Steel Bridge Till Broadway Structure Is Done, Suggested. PORTLAND, May 9 .- (To the Editor.) If the Council will retain the old

Steel bridge until the Broadway bridge is completed the public will have little or no use for the new railroad bridge. The Broadway bridge and the Burnside bridge will for many years accommo date and directly serve the entire East Side north of Burnside. No one lives on the East Side in the vicinity of the new railroad bridge, and all living east of Union avenue will travel on the most direct line to the city. They will come to the city over the Burnside bridge or over the Broadway bridge. When one has crossed the river over the new railroad bridge be is about as far from Third and Washington as when he started. The railroad built this bridge to con-

vey its trains from Sullivan's Guich to the Union Depot. The public is not traveling in that direction, but wishes to come from the northwast to the southwest to reach the heart of the city. From Largabee to Third and Gisan street it is 1280 feet farther via

lowed to appropriate to itself the vast the new later community-made values arising from old bridge.

Its titles to New York realty, or what even the "orthodox" political economists are frank enough to call the reach the city than by way of the old bridge, and it is unfortunate that the bridge, and it is unfortunate that the bridge, and it is unfortunate that the railroad company was not compelled to huild on the old site. Let us hold the old Steel bridge until the Broadway bridge is finished, and it will then be seen that there is little need of the new railroad bridge for th

# Changes in English Landlords. Baitimore American. A large number of English country estates were bought on the market last year, and tenants enabled to acquire their farms upon fair and often

generous terms. World's Largest Loom Is German. Lendon Tit-Bits.

Germany has the world's largest loom, in which felt disks for paper

# mills up to 223 feet in circumference

A Class in Politics. Judge.
Wife-What is a referendum?
Husband-Search me! I don't know
whether it's a soft drink or a part of an

#### seroplane. Criticising a Man's Work,

Boston Dispatch.

"Don't kiss each other on the public highway: it's awful to see a woman doing a man's work." Is one of the "don'ts" of the Wellesley College girls.

# FEATURES OF THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN

John T. McCutcheon's Pirate Tales-In his second story the noted eartoonist and writer tells of the cruise of the Sun Dog. Illustrated by the best drawings McCutcheon has done in years.

How to Treat Your Husband-Laura Jean Libbey gives advice to wives on just how to conduct a campaign for permanent retention of a husband. The 37-Cent Suffrage Hat-Half a page is devoted to the remark-

able creation that costs but 37 cents and yet is approved by fashion. Justice in Persia-An unusual contribution from a Teheran correpondent about the unbelievable methods of dealing out retribution

in that domain. Illustrated by photographs. Our Ineffective Army-A study on America's military organization-or lack of organization, to be explicit. It is shown that we really haven't any army.

Young American Artists-They are forging ahead, says a Paris correspondent, who tells of the work and life of our painters abroad. Our Best Sellers-Foreigners write them, so an investigator finds.

The Jumpups-They invest in art treasures. Sambo stalks another giant, Hairbreadth Harry, Mrs. Timekiller, Slim Jim and Mr. Boss have fresh exploits. New puzzle in colors and cut-out clothes for the children.

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