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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, DEC. 13, 1912.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR DEMOC-RACY.

Next in importance to the tariff the Democrats place the money question. They are right. In this year of reprosperity, when crops are abundant, industry active and every other condition tends to legitimate expansion, our banking and currency system is so antiquated as to be an obtacle instead of an aid to business. Like a misfit suit of clothes, it cramps us where it should permit free move ment and it is loose and baggy where it should fit snug to the business frame. Our banking system was de-vised mainly to meet the exigencies of civil war. The war has been over for 50 years, yet the system devised to meet that emergency still controls banking and, through banking, all

We see the consequences in a rate of 20 per cent for call money in New York, in a reduction of about \$150,-000,000 in loans in that city at the very time when loans should have ex-panded to meet our needs. When we are suffering from this embarrassing condition Canada proves the superi ority of her system by coming of here, and borrowing \$31,000,000 our money on call loan, to expand the loans of her banks. When our Western and Southern banks are drawing their reserves from New York to provide money for crop movement, the sub-treasury draws over \$10,000,000 from New York banks and thus aggravates a situation which it should relieve by turning into the channels of business the \$90,000,000 which the Government holds as a working bal-ance. The \$50,000,000 which the Government keeps on deposit at the banks should be sufficient for its pur-

Meanwhile, Congress continues its hunt for the money trust, though Moody and Turner, two recognized authorities on the subject, have related in magazine articles its history and named the men who compose it. The bankers themselves make no secret of the fact that ten men in New York practically control the money supply of the country. George M. Reynolds, president of the Continental and Com-mercial Bank of Chicago, made that statement in a public speech, The noney trust exists, and is a creation of our banking laws, which force money to pour into the spec-ulative center of New York as which surely as water runs down hill. Creation of a rational banking and currency system by Congress would automatically dissolve the money trust. it would make the money supply every part of the country increase and decrease in response to the needs of quainess as surely as the tide rises and falls under the influence of the moon and sun. The bankers themselves are the most earnest advocates of such a suspicion by those who profess to desire a remedy. Because of its source, every proposition which would emancipate us from the grasp of the money trust is suspected of having the perpetuation of that trust as its purpose

The National reserve scheme of the National Monetary Commission has been so effectually damned by bearing the name of Aldrich, although it was the unanimous report of a body composed of members of both parties, that its adoption is hopeless. Its Democrats, cost them their political lives. But let them quietly borrow alternative Fowler scheme or from any other man's scheme, provided they give certain essentials. These es-Substitution of currency secured by the liquid assets of the banks for our present bond-se-cured currency; substitution for our who have been at work in shops for comment upon them. He told his present ironclad bank reserve, which forces the money of the country to New York, there to be used in stock speculation, of a reserve which may drawn upon in case of need, but replenishment of which will be forced by a graduated tax on currency in excess of a certain minimum; centraliza tion of the bank reserve under some plan of bank federation, which will place the reserve at the service those sections where weakness in the financial chain develops; a uniform rate of discount which would give us country; facilities for foreign exwhich would deliver our export trade from its dependence would aid expansion of our foreign

A law which provided all these r cessitles of business would cause the money trust to melt away. It would stimulate productive enterprise by turning the money supply of the coun try in that direction. It would dis-courage stock speculation, stock-watering and trust organization by stopping the flow of money to Wall street. It would restore the independence of the individual banks by giving them as a right from the National reserve agency, by whatever name it might that "our National appetite has outbe called, those discount accommoda- grown both our National larder and tions which they are now compelled to ask as a favor from the great central reserve banks. If the new Congress will give us such a law, it will to associate a Democratic administration in the public mind with prosperity instead of with hard times and to remove the stigma which fixed salaries. past financial heresies have placed

kan war and the great powers to select London as the scene of the peace neotlations. Sir Edward Grey has scored

the powers was that at Algeciras, Spain, which thought it settled the Moroccan controversy, but did not. Before that the most noteworthy European congress was that at Berlin in 1878, which revised the settlement of the Russo-Turkish war and averted war between Great Britain and Rus-The selection of Berlin was a tri amph for Germany and Bismarck, but Germany is less disinterested Britain in the present war and could not secure the selection of her capital as the meeting place of the negotiators.

THE LAW.

Hanging is solemn business; but four men who are to be executed at Salem today have upon their respec-tive brows the indelible brand of Calu They are not sacrifices to any vengeful or homicidal spirit on the part of solety, as some foolish persons say; but hey are terrible examples of the righteous workings of retributive justice. It is well to be sorry for them, and to sympathize with the tears of their mourning relatives. But it is better to have the law respected and protect society in the only way it can e protected, or can protect itself

Governor West accepts the decision of the people in November on capital punishment as an instruction to hang these murderers. It is more. deliberate expression of the judgment of the people on a grave question of ublic policy, and therefore a mandate to hang all persons who are guilty of

first-degree murder.

The Governor is doubtless mistaken in his assumption that the execution of the four murderers will revolt the public mind and conscience and lead o the abolition of capital punishment, The people are sternly resolved to do their duty, whether or not it pleases the state's executive or the excited and sentimental group who besieged him to overthrow the law.

LET ARIZONA HELP OREGON.

There is much merit in the move ment of the Arizona people to secure an extension from ten years, the present limit, to twenty-five years, of the time within which settlers on Government irrigation projects must complete payment for construction. Completion of many projects, among which is the Salt River project, has peen most aggravatingly delayed and in reliance on the announcement of the Government that water would be turned in within a certain period have suffered great hardship and have in ome cases been reduced almost to starvation by the delay. Since the Government was responsible, the settlers have a just claim to consideration Anticipating opposition on

ground that the extension of time would stint uncompleted projects of the necessary funds, the Arizonans propose to ask Congress for an adof \$25,000,000 to the reclamation fund, this sum to be distributed secording to the needs of various projects and to be refunded as money omes in from those projects after completion. The Oregonian would be nore disposed to support this movement if the Arizonans, whose caus has been taken up by the Arizona Republican, would join Oregon in securing re-enactment of section 9 of the original reclamation act. That section provided that the major part of the public land receipts from each state should be expended on reclamation within that state and that, whatever part might be diverted to other states should be made good within each ten-year period. This section was repealed near the end of the first ten-year period, when under it Oregon projects would have been entitled to a large sum that had been diverted the state. Arizona secured a large proportion of these diverted

funds. Let Arizona help Oregon to recover system, yet every recommendation em-anating from them is received with be more disposed to help Arizona in securing the additional appropriation. If Oregon is to be simply the milch cow for other arid-land states, it canot be expected to become enthusiastic over their irrigation projects.

THE COST OF LIVING AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

cation has been holding its sixth an-nual convention in Philadelphia. Nat-of them are silly and gushy. of its deas, or some from the there is room for debate upon almost them. It shows how little access new any pedagogic gift at all they can play ball on Sunday, the vice handle classes far better than persons

from actual tests in schoolstention to the pressing need of the fore his. United States for systematic vocation. tained in the same way from sale uniform interest rates throughout the to look forward to some definite voca-country; facilities for foreign ex-tion from very early years. It is not the sum which New York paid for the them and impose it without any pro-London for such facilities and which vision for change as the child develops, but the feeling that education Mayor Gaynor said that "a large part should not be allowed to lapse. feeling gives a meaning to the school usual to go to church on Sunday

It came out at the convention that to obey them. many believe there is a close connecand the prevalent neglect of voca-tional education, particularly educa-Sunday. I don't hesitate to say that tion in agriculture. One speaker said our National pocket-book. Popula-tion tends to press upon subsistence. The cost of the necessaries of life has ball with his boys and neighbors on risen faster than the earning power Sunday. Martin Luther did the same. of the consumer and has operated to reduce the actual income of the wage worker" and of people who live upon

This is only too true, but it is unwise to overlook the fact, when we a decent show of consistency. He be By inducing the parties to the Bal- that vast quantities of food actually stricted district, because if there is produced never reach the market because the farmer cannot afford to salves everywhere, scandalize the better classes, and so on through the facause the farmer cannot attord to selves everywhere, scandarize the better that the British metropolis as a bendquarters of European diplosity. The last great conference of nical education which contribute to tablish a house for these people to

make the cost of living high to city

optimism is a howling wilderness and heerfulness a barren waste. curred; and we placed feather beds safety nets, life preservers, fire esbeds. of the plunge the country was about

If there was to be a deluge, we had a life raft ready; a conflagration, am-ple extinguishing apparatus at hand; a life raft ready; a conflagration, ample extinguishing apparatus at hand; a panic, the comforting assurance that wall street had long ago lost its control; or dull times, the reassuring certific facility.

In his desire for a restricted district Mayor Gaynor is at odds with every trol; or dull times, the reassuring certainty of ample crops, thriving business and a ready market. Yet our friend thinks we are a little pessimistic when we have declared every day from the rising of the sun to the setting thereof that the worst never happens even under a Democratic Administration.

But we shall be charitable and answer Mr. Moran's queries, with more and deftness. of Roosevelt and we admit that Taft has, rightly or wrongly, dis-

appointed many people.

Now we hope that Mr. Moran and other sceptical inquisitors will feel better. We do.

NATIONAL DIRECT LEGISLATION.

Senator Bristow proposes to apply the initiative to Federal laws, but not as we have it in Oregon and other Here a certain percentage of states. the voters initiate bills by petition; homesteaders who settled on the land | Bristow would vest this power in the President alone by allowing him to invoke the initiative as to any recom mendation of his on which Congress had failed to act for six months, the people to vote on it at the next Congressional election.

It was inevitable that the adoption of direct legislation by some of states would lead to a movement for ance, laziness, cruelty and greed? its application to National affairs. If the Oregon system is good for the states, it may be argued that it is good for the Nation. But the Oregon sys-tem is by no means perfect. It needs amendment, in order to eliminate the petition-peddling abuse and otherwise make the system comply with the condition which Roosevelt laid down and Wilson approved, that the initiative and referendum shall not be made the easy and ordinary way of taking action.

The central idea of the system is sound. If it can be so guarded that it shall be used only to determine the public will on fundamental and elemental questions of government, why is it not as good for the Nation as for the state? It is amusing to note that some newspapers which have been urging adoption of unlimited direct legislative power in the states begin o feel the cold chill of alarm when the power in modified form is pro-posed for the Nation. It is openly apparent that initiating of National laws by petition would be an unwieldy proess and fraught with many dangers, but a form of referendum confined to National issues of simple and fundamental import ought not to be object tionable if there is any virtue what by the people of several states as to state issues.

MAYOR GAYNOR ON VICE.

Mayor Gaynor delivered himself down to the last atom of his opinions This month the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education has been holding its state. on the subjects of gambling, Sabbath nual convention in Philadelphia. Nat-urally the discussions took a wide range, for neither the methods nor the purposes of industrial education have yet been clearly defined and portunities of enlightenment holding every point. But some matters seem opinions and modern ideas have to to have been pretty well agreed upon some minds after they have once at the convention, even if others were closed up, at about the age of 40 left unsettled. For example, there was little dispute that the best teachers shall quote some of Mayor Gaynor's several years without a thought of doing anything else. They catch the spirit of the industry and if they have on Sunday, the vice of going out to ate. bling and the vice of the unfortunate who have been trained to teach with- woman." As to gambling, he said out experience as wage-earners. This that the effort to break it up "with onclusion comes not from theory, but strong arms and clubs" had cost the city "something like \$5,000,000 in The convention also paid much at- graft" during the administration This sum included graft obal education. The modern opinion is and "unfortunate women," as Mayor that young people should be caused Gaynor delicately designates them, but necessary to choose a lifework for luxury of attacking vice in the wrong

way for three or four years.
Turning to "Sabbath breaking," eads to something clearly useful of the population of New York comes This from European countries, where it is studies which is naturally deepened morning and play outdoor games in when tools are put into the pupil's the afternoon. These people natural-bands and he is set to work with ly find some difficulty in understanding our Sunday laws and often refuse There are men ontinued, "who work in boiler facbetween the rising cost of living tories and such places all the week even as a health measure we should let them play out of doors on that day. referred also to the fact, often forgotten, that John Calvin, the of all the Presbyterians, used to play

> When Mayor Gaynor comes to speak of the females whom he likes to 'unfortunate women" we do not find ourselves quite so harmonious with We cannot even credit him with

live in and lead immoral lives." I would be edifying to hear Mayor Gaywould be entring to hear and of the nor, or any of his disciples, explain how there is to be a restricted district unless somebody "establishes houses Ine Oregonian is quite at a loss to know how its questioning contributor, Mr. Moran, got the impression that it has been "pessimistic" as to the fate of the country in the hands of a Democratic Administration. Pessimistic? If we have been possibilities to the rule that a restricted district is by its very nature a flaunting definance of the law. So far as the limitation of the women's presence and the law to the law to the law to the limitation of the women to live in and lead immoral lives." There is no exception to the rule that a restricted district is by its very nature a flaunting definition of the women to live in and lead immoral lives." and nor had taken the trouble to study We the facts of the case he would have foresaw and socepted the inevitable known that his platitudes about it Democratic victory long before it oc- were the flimslest of moonshine. The scarlet woman may be shut up in a slum house and kept there, but it is capes, parachutes—every known human device to break or soften a fall—eases she communicates to her paat the disposal of every individual trons nor to ward off contamination of the plunge the consequences from their wives and children. is a case where walls do not a prison maire. We do our best sometimes to construct an earthly imitation of tophet and confine immoral women in

serious student of the social evil in the whole world. Not one of them whose books are worth reading believes in it. He took up a large part of his address abusing Dr. Parkhurst, the celebrated anti-vice crusader, for wishing to close up the slum resorts. this particular Dr. Parkhurst has all the facts and reason on his more side. There is not a solitary argu-we ment for a restricted district except think (1) that Mr. Bryan has had a the fact that it makes blackmall eas lot of press notices, and we think also ier for the police to collect. This may that he will get a lot more. It is a appeal to some minds, but to us it is that he will get a lot more. It is a way Mr. Bryan has. We think (2) that the Democrats realize the country is more or less distrustful, and that all know that there must be "harmony," and we suspect that some of them will fight to get it. We do not feel called upon (3) to blame any not affect the situation. We must seen here for anything that han, wait until God in his infinite time and Republican for anything that hap- walt until God in his infinite time and Republican for anything that hap wan that the pas-pened November 5. We have had (4) in his own wise way softens the pas-pened hot Roosevelt and we admit slons of men and makes them" cease to produce unfortunate women. No doubt Mayor Gaynor thought he was speaking reverently when he poured forth this disgusting mixture of sentimental ignorance and blasphemous We can, for our part. superstition. imagine no more shameful slander upon the Almighty than to say that the white slave business is "part of If that is really the way he rules the world why not turn to the Adversary for a change and probably an improvement? there can be no betterment of it except "in God's infinite time," we may as well cease all our efforts and let things slide, as the Welsh preacher said when he let the lady he was baptizing slip away under the ice. the time never come when we shall cease trying to shuffle off upon God sequences of our own ignor-

Superstition cannot help perform ing a few antics over the combina tion of 12's that happened yesterday It was the 12th day of the 12th month of 1912. Truly a portentous conjuncture when we remember that 12 is magic number which has played a weighty part in incantations for thousands of years. But all this is nothing to the occult tremors which and ended with the same figure. It was by the merest accident that the world did not end in that year.

There is a world-wide movement on foot to unify the Protestant Sometimes it looks to a hurches. federation, but for the most part it aims to stop short of that goal. Friends of progress see nothing but good in the movement. Its only opponents are those who are economi-cally interested in the present divi-

ver in the broader powers now held gelid isle has any number of firstcontains immense coal deposits. There seems to be a fair prospect that the arctic regions will turn out to be the richest in the world as far as natural By the way, where is resources go. By Spitzbergen Island?

The sixteen-hour law having inter fered with the running of a special train carrying Denver & Rio Grande officials, the general superintendent ent's car. Needless to say, the engl neer and fireman approve the sixteenhour law more heartily than ever,

Ambassador Herrick has called villages and cities "a fungus growth on the country." As well call the farmuse a fungus growth on the farm Cities are as necessary to the country as houses are to the farm. They can only be compared to a fungus when

On the twelfth day of the twelfth month of the twelfth year a child was born in a taxicab. Those who believe in signs and symbols should see ahead remarkable career for the newcomer. Tacoma's City Council engaged in

wild salary-raising carnival. Did any-one ever hear of the board of directors institution running muck in that fashion? Assistant Attorney-General De Long

holds that women are "incompetent" to serve on juries. He should be rec-ommended for one of those Carnegie A huge fossil has been unearthed

near Los Angeles. There are those who will contend that it is the Republican party's goat. A French aviator went up nearly

four miles. One of them will lose his way and land on the wrong planet one Churchill is dubbed the Roosevelt of England. Probably because he's always stirring up a fuss of some sort.

Sending the Twenty-fifth Infantry o Honolulu will harmonize the color scheme.

Only twelve days remain in which to decide what to give father—a momentous problem to settle. Prohibitionists want a new name

They need a new song, as well, This is bargain Friday for the Devil, but he gets the worst of it

Mexico continues beating on the cocks of anarchy.

It LIEN LAWS DECLARED ABSURD. Writer Believes They Work to Advan-

PORTLAND, Dec. 11 .- (To the Edl or.)-Supposing you had ordered a from your tailor, and after it had been received and paid for, it was attached for money owed a transportation comany for delivering the cloth from the nanufacturer to the wholesale dealer who sold the cloth to your tailor, and attachment was publicly recorded and printed in the daily papers for all to see and believe you have not paid for your new suit, no doubt you would consider laws which made such attach-ments possible were very absurd and

ments possible were very absurd and unjust. But similar attachments (or liens) are possible on buildings under the present lien laws.

To cite a parallel case of recent occurrence: A lien was filed, without previous notice to the owner, for \$13 owed to a trucking company who carted the gravel for a gravel and land company, who furnished the gravel to the firm doing the mason work for the general contractor to whom the owner had let the contract.

The lien laws have one merit only. owner had let the contract.

The lien laws have one merit only.

They enable the building mechanics to collect their wages when their employers are unable to pay them. But why should workmen on buildings be protected more than other workmen?

ply and frequently there are claims which are in dispute between the con-tractor and his sub-contractors, or workmen, of the justness or unjust-ness of which it is utterly impossible

for the owner to judge.

The lien laws also encourage dis-honest and financially unable men to take contracts, for they find no difficulty in having materials delivered to them and hardly less in engaging men to work. For in all cases the furn-ishers of material and labor feel they are protected by the lien laws and take no pains to find out the con-tractor's responsibility.

Is it not time something was done toward either repealing or radically

nodifying our lien laws? CHARLES W. HENN.

PROTEST FROM PROPERTY OWNER East Stark-Street Sewer Declared Un necessary and Extravagant,

PORTLAND, Dec. 12 .- (To the Edior.)-As a property owner in Belle Crest I hereby make a strong appeal to other property owners in Rose City the world in 1881, the year that began Park districts and additions to protest vigorously against being assessed for the East Stark-street sewer, so unrea sonably imposed upon us.

We ought further to protest against

we ought farther to process against being assessed for a sewer now, which will not be completed within ten years, and maybe never, as most likely sometime later on the city authorities will come to the more reasonable and the only correct conclusion, that this disto stop short of that goal, is of progress see nothing but in the movement. Its only opts are those who are economistic rested in the present divi
No doubt they are saintly men, elf wishes are not the most improved.

Only correct conclusion, that this district ought to be drained down the natural slope north to the Columbia would like to give a few facts that not only the cause but also the cure. The cause is the middleman, and the have gone to the expense of digging facts.

sive route.

The property owners ought to have a friend in California, a fig raiser, who wrote me that he received 24% and 3 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for them.

The property owners ought to have 24% and 3 cents a pound for them.

The property owners ought to have 25% and 3 cents a pound for them.

The property owners ought to have 25% and 3 cents a pound for his diserration.

The property owners ought to have 25% and 3 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried figs. What do we pay for them here in Portland? Ten to 15 cents a pound for his dried

Legislation Said Now to Be Adequate

for Building Local Roads. SALEM, Or., Dec. 12 .- (To the Editor.)-As a personal attendant upon legislative sessions for the past 20

legislative aessions for the past 20 years, let me warn those who want good roads legislation not to present too many bills. There were eight good roads bills before the people at the last election. We know their fate.

Oregon is long on legislators and short on road builders. To merely recommend a lot of good roads measures, to indorse them with this organization and that is a waste of time. Unless some organization has brains enough to get up a state highway bill that is get up a state highway bill that is constitutional and can be enacted, why waste away more words. We have County Courts to build state

highways. We have the Road Super-visors to build the little local dirt roads. We do not need any more road legislation for county or local roads. We do need a state highway law under which the state can build some state

I hope the Hotelman's Association will not be diverted from their reso-lution to fight for a system of state highways connecting our principal centers all over the state. Oregon is drop-ping so far behind on this matter that we will never get caught up with the procession. E. HOFER.

MR. MORAN ASKS SOME QUESTIONS Which Are Soberly Answered Else-where On This Page,

PORTLAND, Dec. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Don't you think you are a little pessismistic in regard to what will the pessismistic in regard to what will become of the country as soon as the new President-elect has taken his seat? Don't you think, also, that you are giving Mr. Bryan a lot of press notices, forecasting what he will do, and won't do, if he is, or is not selected for the Secretary of State?

Don't you think that the Democrats have had their lesson learned in the past, and have just seen another one in this recent election—and that the

past, and have just seen another one in this recent election—and that the kenynote of success, whether it be in politics, religion, business, etc., is "harmony," and that they will strive to obtain that? Do you honestly and candidly blame a Republican for voting the Democratic National ticket this nast election?

this past election?
Haven't we had enough of Roosevelt and was not Taft the most dissappointing President we have had in the Executive Chair since President Hayes? JAMES M. MORAN.

GET DOWN TO THE ROOT OF EVIL

Prevention of Discuse, Says Writer. PORTLAND, Dec. 11. - (To the ditor.) -The communication editorial page of The Morning Oreonian, signed "A Moderate Drinker, indeed struck a keynote when, under "Liquor Freely Sold to said: "Is there not some Minors" he said: way to check these people up before another murder is perpetrated by

When we go to the root of these wils, only then can we hope for fewer murders. Setting examples by capital punishment will never do it. Capital punishment, or, putting it harshly as it is, killing the offender, will never lessen deprayity caused by impure moral conditions. Men put to death by law are but an object lesson of the bitter end of crime and the people who work for such preventive as punishment would best spend the time, energy and money in killing the evil in the bud.

iessen depravity caused by impure moral conditions. Men put to death by law are but an object lesson of the bitter end of crime and the people who work for such preventive as punishment would best spend the time, energy and money in killing the evil in the bud.

For example, let us cite a few of the worst conditions and scourges of the human race, which are being and have been overcome in recent years, and which, when first put before the people, gained small recognition. Yellow fever, typhold, the deadly house-fly and tuberculosis, all as great a menace to society as murderers, took their colossal roll every year and even with the care and study and treatment of the victims of these diseases and pests, the danger to life was never diminished. But, when, after much study and scientific investigation, yellow fever was practically exterminated by destroying the mosquito and its breeding places; when typhold was prevented by observing cleanliness of surroundwhy should workmen on buildings be to protected more than other workmen? If it is right that they should be, then why not the carpenter who made your white the samstress who sewed your suit; the laborer who dug your potatoes? Why should they not all have the right to attach your property and compel you to pay wages owed by the people you bought from?

Aside from this one possible credit the law is utterly bad. It protects the material men who should be in no more excuse for asking it than dealers in other lines. It puts an unjust burden upon the owner who is obliged to see that all claims are paid even to the fourth remove from the original contractor, or risk havings to pay twice for the same material.

It frequently compels the owner to pay unjust bills, for, while those connected with the building business is know a lien is no evidence of a man's dishonesty, there is no doubt that with the majority of people a lien upon one's property is an injury to one's idishonesty, there is no doubt that with the majority of people a lien upon one's property is an injury to one's credit and owners will often pay bills they know to be unjust rather than have a lien filed.

In many cases it is impossible for the owner to know all sources of supply and frequently there are claims which are in dispute between the constrolors, or perhaps youtful faults. places; when typhoid was prevented by observing cleanliness of surround-

phases? The fact that the last murderer is waiting in the penitentiary, doomed to hang for his crime, will not deter the liquor-crazed boy or man who is about to commit the next murder. His brain is in such a condition that neither reasoning nor example will do him any good. Just the same with the man who premeditates his crime; his mind and life have at some time been steeped in wrong influence, ignorance, or perhaps youthful faults.

ment.
Young people under certain age off streets after certain hours.
Sympathetic investigation and help for working boys' and girls' conditions.
Teaching of principles of honor in public schools Liquor dispensed in proper manner

and amount.
Instilling into all minds respect and consideration of persons, LENNA STAHL

PROFIT TAKERS AND LIVING COST. Concrete Examples Shown of Injury to Producer and Consumer.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 11.—(To the Editor.)—So much has been said and written about the cause of high prices,

sions. No doubt they are saintly men, but their wishes are not the most important considerations in the world.

The world has been despising Spitzbergen Island for a long time, but this attitude is no longer warranted. The gelid isle has any number of first-class harbors and, as it now appears, contains immense coal deposits. There

and the Gregory Heights Improvement League.

A petition or a protest ought also to be circulated for signatures.

G. A. PATTERSON.

G. A. PATTERSON.

STATE HIGHWAY LAW THE NEED.

And \$15 to make it and he sold it whole to be active with his brass tag on it, offered for \$65. Why should a thing that costs only \$15 to make cost me \$65? Because on top of the manufacturer's profit, the jobber and the wholesaler and the retailer must all have their big profits, and the retailer must all have their big profits. and we fellows who are getting \$3 or \$4 a day must pay them their profits or do without. In the matter of luxu-ries, we can, of course, let them alone. ries, we can, of course, let them alone, but we must have food and clothing.

A woman's cloak is offered for \$75 in the early Fall. The same coat is sold about Christmas, when the season is nearly over, for \$30. I know this, for my wife bought such a one last year. A man well posted in the grocery business told me that 40 per cent was the usual profit made on sales in that business. Forty per cent for what? Simply for transferring the goods from the man before him to me.

Now what is the cure? A year or so ago, farmers in Wisconsin and Michigan were getting 68 cents a bushel for their potatoes, while in Indiana, a

their potatoes, while in Indiana, a couple of hundred miles away or less, they were seiling for \$2.65 a bushel. The freight was 10 cents a bushel. The balance of the profit went to the commission merchant and other parasites who were handling the potatoes before they got to the consumer. The Mayor of one of the towns bought a couple of carloads and offered them at cost in small quantities, and immediately the price of potatoes went down to \$1.25 a bushel, yielding a fair profit, even at that price.

that price.

Now, even at the risk of being accused of "paternalism," I do not see why the city could not establish public market places, charging a small rental for upkeep, where the producer and the consumer could get together. You are making a splendid fight on the loan sharks, why not carry it a little forther, and help the evercharged consumer get prices on things that bear some reasonable relation to the cost and first selling price. If the middlemen were to become producers, then there would be an abundance of everything for everybody at reasonable for everybody at reasonab L. C. AVERY.

School Teachers' Organizations.

PORTLAND, Dec. 12.—(To the Editor.)—The advocating of organization of the school teachers no doubt is prompted by the best of motives for assisting these valuable people in bettering their condition. If to get a state wide association means moral and social uplift, then all encouragement should be given the idea, but if, however, it is an effort for the sole purpose of increasing their pay.*in the face of the already large expense (\$3.099.200 according to a published statement) for Portland alone for school purposes, it would be well to use caution and very much "thought" in the matter.

A CITIZEN. School Teachers' Organizations.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of December 13, 1842. Mr. Cameron, minister to Russia. Mr. Cameron, minister to Russia, says that the rebels are building iron-ciad ships in England.

Thomas A. Hendricks, the Indiana-Thomas A. Hendricks, the Johnas polls State Journal declares, will probably be the Breckingidge candidate for United States Senator. He is a thoroughgoing hater of "Yankees" and has advocated the secession of the Northwestern states from the Union with a view of joining the rebel Confederace. federacy.

Our attention has been called to the fact that the dirt thrown out of the cieterus recently built is obstructing the crossings of several streets.

The general tenor of the news from

Writer Thinks Money Could Be Ex-pended More Wisely Elsewhere.

EUGENE, Or., Der. 7.—(To the Editor.) — Some articles have appeared tor.) — Some articles have appeared intely regarding the purchase or condemnation of the Jefferson home property by the Government for the purpose of retaining the same in perpetuity, or as a relic of historic note. One or more of the papers or magazines referring to the matter make statements landatory of Jefferson and even mention him as the greatest statesman ever produced in America, which leads us to meditate a little or peruse in passing some of the events and characters of the past.

One writer or author has said somewhere that "any fool can read history, but it takes a philosopher to interpret it." This may be a little strong in these days, at least we hope such is the case, but the magazine or statement referred to makes one think of the old saying. Also a famous act

with the man who premeditates his crime; his mind and life have at some time been steeped in wrong influence. Ignorance, or perhaps youthful faults, in themselves not crimes, but farilizers of bad character. The great common people all read newspapers now. It is possible to educate all to this higher standard. Why, we spend more time, care and thought with our rose bushes and berry vines and dogs and chickens than we do for humanity.

The following are conditions we might be educated upon—things which are seeds, as it were, and will grow and thrive if carefully cared for by the public and explained to all daily in different forms and views by the newspapers of the people: public and explained to all daily in different forms and views by the newspapers of the people:

Dance halls, in good surroundings under proper supervision, where the young may have clean, happy amuselie demand to acquire property. The policies he stood for are most of them outdated or positively detrimental to the country's welfare, and one of them came well night disrupting it—the secession doctrine, of which he was the father and chief sponsor. This one doctrine in its evil and the secession outdid or sponsor.

sponsor. This one doctrine in its evil influences vasily more than outdid or overbalanced all the good he ever ac-complished. The writing of the Declaration, while a brilliant accomplishment or exploit, was of no great fundamental service. Others would have performed it practically as well, and there is some question of the part he had in it as to the substance or thought of the document, there being five men, all prominent on the committee. But the phraseology was perhaps in the main bis. This gives his main claim or importance in history. He was little more than a good phrase maker. In executive matters he followed the tide of events or was sagacious enough to see what the The writing of the Declaration, while

was sagacious enough to see what the wanted. If the Government has the money to spend on such outworn relics of doubt-ful importance, there are ways in which it can be done to the advantage of the of which are becoming of presssome of which are securing in importance. For example, it could be expended toward a commission to look into the land monopoly or conservation question, or if not that then look into the land monopoly or conser-vation question, or if not that then spend it to enlarge or increase the efments, for example the Tariff Commis-sion could use this money very handly in carrying out its work of investiga-tion, as also that of the currency ques-tion which could be properly added to they were men who seemed to have the public respect and c

Great Potential Power at Cellie, CELILO, Or., Dec. 11.—(To the Edi-lor.)—In The Oregonian I notice men-tion of the immense water power that the Deschutes River can produce, which the Deschutes River can produce, which is doubtless the case, but no mention Is made of the Celilo Falls, which all United States engineers, who have seen them, pronounced to be the third greatest water power in the United States.

Colonel George H. Mendell told me some 25 years ago that millions of water power could be taken from the Celilo Falls with properly-constructed retaining walls.

I. H. TAFFE.

Three Big Special Features

Theodore Roosevelt-He will present in The Sunday Oregonian the first of a series of big game stories relating to the outdoor pastimes of an American hunter. He tells of a congar hunt in Colorado. It abounds in live action and is told in Roosevelt's forceful, graphic style.

Maxim Gorky - The famous Russian writer presents a characteristic story, "On Christmas Complete, with illustrations, Sunday.

Winning Oregon-The first installment of a brief history of Oregon. The important events in the state's past are summed up in attractive form. There will be two installments of a page each, illustrated profusely with photographs and drawings.

American Trade Spies-A keen analysis of foreign trade fields and the work of American agents who are developing new markets for our products and wares. An article of rare value.

Madonna and Child-An illustrated page on masterpieces of art that have been painted on that best-beloved of topics.

Santa's Toy Factory-An illustrated page on the making and marketing of toys for Christmas. Society's Sidewalk Gallery-A

striking poster page in full colors. Four pages of colored comies and Many Other Peatures.

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