The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class matter.
Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance:

(BY MAIL)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$8.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months	4.25
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	6.00
Daily, without Sunday, six months	3.25
Daily, without Sunday, three months	1.75
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.60
Weekly, one year	1.50
Sunday, one year	2.50
Sunday and weekly, one year	3.50

(BY CARRIER)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$9.00
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75

How to Remit—Send postoffice money order, express order or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at sender's risk. Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—12 to 16 pages, 1 cent; 18 to 32 pages, 2 cents; 34 to 48 pages, 3 cents; 50 to 60 pages, 4 cents; 62 to 76 pages, 5 cents; 78 to 92 pages, 6 cents. Foreign postage, double rates.

Eastern Business Offices—Verree & Conklin, New York, Brunswick building. Chicago, Steger building.

San Francisco Office—R. J. Bidwell Co., 742 Market street.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1914.

THE WEST SHOULD NOT WAIT.

That President Wilson may have freedom to become more deeply involved in Mexico, the interests of the West are to be sacrificed by repeal of toll exemption. That this measure may have right of way in Congress those measures in which the West is most vitally interested must wait. Lifting of the embargo on water-power development and on development of coal land and other resources of Alaska and the West must wait; reform of the homestead laws, which is necessary to stop the exodus to Canada, must wait; the reclamation loan of $100,000,000 must wait.

The West is content to await the passage of anti-trust laws and a rural credit law, for it will share the benefits of these laws with the rest of the country, but it is not content to await repeal of canal toll exemption, which will do it a direct injury, especially when the purpose is to promote a Mexican policy, which can bring naught but trouble to the West along with other sections.

The Administration is committed to the measures enumerated, which would advance the prosperity of the West, but it desires to push them aside. The Western Senators and Representatives should insist on land legislation being pushed forward and should unite their forces in order to compel attention to their demands. They need to settle their differences about the three homestead bills, to unite behind one bill and never to relax their efforts until it becomes law.

The West is prepared to support Secretary Lane's programme of land legislation, but it should not be content with the preparation of a programme; it should insist upon action at this session. The combination of Western men which Senator Chamberlain gathered behind river and harbor appropriations suggests the means. A like combination should be able to obtain as good results in land legislation and to overcome the obstruction of the Pinchot brigade.

In tariff legislation and in repeal of toll exemption the West is suffering some hard blows from this Administration. If it cannot win any favors by the voluntary act of Mr. Wilson and his Cabinet it should extort them.

ANOTHER PLANK REPUDIATED.

Representative Cullop, of Indiana, is in a fair way to get himself disliked by the Administration. A bill having been introduced to provide an additional district judge for Eastern Pennsylvania, Mr. Cullop moved this proviso:

> That the President shall make public all indorsements made in behalf of the person appointed as such district judge.

In so doing, he reminded the House of a plank in the Baltimore platform, which reads:

> We recommend the Democratic House of Representatives for extending the doctrine of publicity to recommendations, verbal and written, upon which Presidential appointments are made.

Remembering that plank and the ardour with which Secretary Bryan had advocated its principle, the House adopted the proviso, as it had similar motions of Mr. Cullop in the last and present Congresses. Perhaps Speaker Clark viewed the proceeding with the more satisfaction that it promised to pin down President Wilson to this plank and that it put Mr. Bryan in the position of having made trouble for the President.

But the Senate balked. It struck out the proviso and its conferees stood pat. Senator Norris took up Mr. Cullop's fight, quoted Mr. Bryan's utterances in favor of publicity, and forced a vote, on which he was defeated. Several conferences were held, but the Senate stood firm. Finally Representative Clayton, one of the President's spokesmen, moved that the House recede from its position and consent to strike out the proviso. Mr. Underwood and Mr. Palmer both told how badly Pennsylvania needed another judge and urged that the House be content with having indorsed the principle at stake and recede.

Then came Mr. Bryan, of Washington, to support the policy which the other Mr. Bryan had made his own before becoming Secretary of State. He began by saying:

> The Cullop amendment is Democratic medicine, put up in a Democratic capsule, and I think it is good enough for the Democratic party to take.

Then he commended the President's reply to the suffragists as an example of fidelity to platform pledges, though he omitted to speak of Mr. Wilson's repudiation of the canal plank or of Mr. Wilson's silence on the single-term plank.

Mr. Thompson, of Oklahoma, also a Democrat, tried to pin his party down to its principles and embarrassed his leaders by recalling the votes by which publicity of indorsements had been approved. In the Sixty-second Congress a similar motion by Mr. Cullop was adopted by 151 to 84, all except thirteen Democrats favoring it. At the recent special session another like motion was adopted by 170 to 84. On both occasions Mr. Underwood and Mr. Palmer had voted against it, though they now said the House should be content with having indorsed the principle. Mr. Thompson most inconsiderately quoted the following words of Secretary Bryan, thus risking unpleasantness between the President and his premier:

> A man who really believes that the President should be permitted to make his appointments on secret recommendations cannot be trusted to represent a Democratic constituency.

The House finally yielded to the Senate by a vote of 145 to 137, which shows that there is considerable independence among the Democracy and that many of them are disposed to hold the President to strict adherence to his platform. It can be inferred from the personality of the men who opposed the proviso in both Senate and House that the President does not desire to publish appointees' indorsements. The Democratic leaders will probably put the subject to sleep until it again becomes useful as a means of harrying a Republican President.

DON'T ABOLISH IT—NOT QUITE.

The Oregonian will not be so ungracious as to insist that Dr. C. J. Smith ought not to complain when the public and the newspapers take his remarks on the political forum to be an authoritative exposition of his position on public questions. The doctor made a speech the other night in which he was understood by all the reporters, and doubtless by all other auditors, to favor abolishment of the Legislature. His own faithful newspaper organ quoted him as declaring that if one or both houses of the Legislature "are not abolished we would be better off if they never met."

But the Residuar; Legatee now explains that he was misunderstood. "I have been tempted to make such an assertion many times," says he, "but I did not intend to be so understood in my remarks before the Jackson Club." He was so understood, indeed. But he didn't mean it quite that way. Let it go at that.

Nevertheless, Dr. Smith thinks he has discovered that the easiest path to popular favor is to slang-whang the Legislature and to intimate that it deserves to be abolished, though perhaps it cannot be. What then, if there is to be an end of representative government?

If legislatures are unfit it is because legislators are unfit. That is the whole story. Why are unfit men preferred to fit men in the popular selection of candidates—if they are? If the people are unable to select fit men—which The Oregonian denies—why are they incited in demagogic appeals to prejudice and ignorance to blame the Legislature and exculpate themselves?

IMPUGNING THE COURTS.

An advocate of promiscuous martial law asserts that the wicked Legislature pulled the teeth of the new statute giving the Governor power to suspend undutiful District Attorneys and Sheriffs. The Governor, he points out, is not given summary power but must present the matter of suspending the officer to the Judge of the Circuit Court, and the latter might be a member of the same crowd.

Alas! So he might. But suppose he were and the Governor had summary power to remove the Sheriff and District Attorney and replace them with men of his own choosing. The Governor's appointees would have to present their evidence in a court presided over by the same gangster. A Governor inclined to avoid the orderly method in favor of the spectacular would still have the same excuse for promoting his own notoriety if the fancied "teeth" remained in the law.

The objection to the existing act is purely theoretical. In practice it did not hold good in Baker County, where the Governor's apologist cites it as an excuse for the Copperfield incident. The Circuit Judge there was not a member of the "crowd," or if he was, he did not let that fact interfere with his sense of duty. He decided the injunction case in accordance with the law as he interpreted it and he refused to restrain the Governor in his peculiar course of action.

Oregon courts are as clean as the executive office. There is no complaint that the law is not followed in the courts, or the facts are there ignored, or that justice is not there obtained. To imply that the Governor will always honestly judge whether a county officer is performing his duty but that the courts cannot be trusted in that particular, casts an unjust and hurtful imputation upon the honor of the bench of Oregon.

THOMAS STARR KING'S WORK.

The fiftieth anniversary of Thomas Starr King's death deserves more than passing attention. This remarkable Unitarian minister, who did more than any other person to preserve California to the Union cause, was born in New York City, but the vicissitudes of fortune took him to Boston early in his life. He began his career as a teacher, but falling in with the celebrated Universalist clergyman, Hosea Ballou, King took up the study of theology under his extremely competent direction. Readers who have been fortunate enough to peruse Hosea Ballou's autobiography will remember how decided his character was and how humane his general views of life. Tolstoi calls him the most remarkable man, next to Ralph Waldo Emerson, whom America has produced. Without going quite so far in our appreciation of him we may well believe that many of Thomas Starr King's finer qualities were richly enhanced by his association with Ballou. Following the natural course of youthful evolution at that period, King passed on from Universalism to Unitarianism, but his principal influence on his contemporaries was exerted through his lectures.

He had one lecture in his earlier period on Goethe, another on Socrates and so on. These he delivered here and there throughout the country as the various lyceums demanded him and thus won extended renown. When, toward 1860, the agitation leading on to the Civil War became heated, King, as might have been expected from a man of his liberal training, took the side of Lincoln, liberty and the Union. At about that time he was called to the pastorate of a Unitarian Church in San Francisco and this event gave him the opportunity of his life. It was emphatically an opportunity for service. The upbuilding of his church to be at the very head of Christian work in San Francisco was a notable achievement, but it was not to be compared with the extraordinary work he did for the advancement of the Union cause in that doubtful state where sentiment was wavering and parties discouragingly complex at that time.

California was so far from the heart of the country that fidelity to the Nation had not yet taken a firm hold on the hearts of the people. One faction desired to erect the region into an independent territory. The same project had emerged in Oregon at an earlier period and had been promptly demolished by the establishment of the provisional government. There was also a dangerous secessionist movement in California, as there also was for a time in Oregon. The Knights of the Golden Circle were particularly active south of the Siskiyous with their intrigues and plots. Moreover, it was felt, and truly, that the National Government, under Buchanan, was at least as willing to destroy the Union as to preserve it. Add to these circumstances the indifference of the masses which pervaded the whole state and we have some notion of the conditions against which Thomas Starr King pitted his eloquent enthusiasm.

We may thank him for the success of the Republican party in September, 1861, and the subsequent loyalty of the state. He seems to have been singularly gifted as a platform speaker and he employed every faculty that he possessed for the cause he had chosen. Scarcely a village in the entire state escaped his presence during the critical Summer of 1861 and everywhere he went he heartened the unionists and discouraged the secessionist element. To the people of California, living then, as many of them did, in remote dwellings without communication with the outer world, King's oratory must have been like a miraculous revelation of human capacity. It charmed, persuaded and triumphed. In later years to water and foster the seeds he had planted King made other lecture tours up and down the Coast, penetrating as far as Puget Sound.

The hardships he endured were borne with all cheerfulness for the sake of the cause, but we may well believe they shortened his life. He tells how he once rode for two nights through chilly weather without even a blanket to protect him. For riding from Marysville to Shastatown in a rough conveyance he paid $80, while he estimated that the trip on through Oregon would foot up $60 a day. But nothing daunted his iron courage and before he took his leave of the world in March, 1864, he had the joy of knowing that the Union was safe and liberty victorious.

PROFESSOR O'GARA.

About six years ago a number of horticulturists of Jackson County persuaded Professor P. J. O'Gara to leave Government employ to become pathologist of that county. He put his mark on the fruit industry at once. He showed the growers it was blight, not frost, that affected their fruit. He showed them advanced methods of spraying and general cultivation. He showed them how to make the crop a certainty instead of a venture. He did not create markets, to be sure, but his counsel enabled the orchardist to send fruit to the markets that took the top price and made the "Rogue River" label mean something. In season and out of season he worked for betterment of the valley. He did not get rich; if he "broke even" he was fortunate. His reward was that of the enthusiast.

A recent grand jury of Jackson County, of which one member was interested in horticulture, advised the County Court that it was wasting money in hiring a County Pathologist.

Such is the reward of faithful endeavor.

P. J. O'Gara has resigned, to become chief of the agricultural investigation of the Smelter Trust into diseases of animals and plants ascribed to smelter and smoke injury and will be located at Salt Lake. Incidentally it may be stated his remuneration is three times what he received in Jackson County; yet, if the truth were known, he hated to leave.

The loss is on Southern Oregon.

F. T. MARTIN.

Those who think about Frederick Townsend Martin at all will always be divided in opinion over him. His death in London will probably revive the interest which everybody felt when he published his book on "The Passing of the Idle Rich" three or four years ago and we shall hear a renewal of the old discussion whether he was a snob himself or a simple-hearted gentleman who despised snobs so bitterly that he could not keep silent about them. The same question has been asked about Thackeray, who was almost as must disturbed over snobs as F. T. Martin himself.

Martin wrote another book or two while the tide of interest in his "Idle Rich" ran high, but none of them received the notice of his first effort. That seemed to be a genuine contribution to the sociological knowledge of the country. Mr. Martin was himself a social butterfly, at least in his lighter moments, and knew the life of his class from the inside. So when he began to publish his revelations nobody doubted that he spoke by the book.

He gave us the same sort of material that Upton Sinclair afterward furnished forth in his "Metropolis," but it must be said for Martin that his account of sybaritic sins was the more convincing of the two, as well as a great deal more suave. Even in his muckraking he had the grand manner. He exhibited social filth like a Duke exhibiting his ancestral palace and rebuked sin with a serene urbanity that must have made his strictures almost delightful to those whom he scourged.

But it will always be doubted whether Mr. Martin preached from a genuine love of reform or a more genuine love of money. It paid pretty well in those days to expose the shortcomings of the idle rich and it is unkindly said by some that Mr. Martin very judiciously set out his dish while the rain of porridge was at its height.

BUSINESS METHODS TO CHANGE.

Operation of the Federal reserve system of banks is likely to bring about an important change in the business methods of this country. The organization committee asked the clearing-houses to suggest definitions of "commercial paper," which is to form the basis of new currency, and to submit standard forms of notes, drafts and bills of exchange for use under the law.

In its reply the New York Clearing-House said that the currency law evidently contemplates the discounting of commercial paper which is either directly used in the purchase of commodities or the proceeds of which are intended to be so used, so that it will have the presumptive security of the commodities. But the custom is for sellers to grant discounts for cash payments and for buyers to borrow money at banks to make these payments.

The New York Clearing-House considers it of the utmost importance that the old custom be restored, whereby the buyer gave a note direct to the seller, or accepted a draft from the seller. Thus an open discount market would be established and such paper "would retire itself automatically and be an efficient aid in making an elastic circulation."

Three forms of paper are therefore proposed. One is a note for use where money is borrowed from a third party to obtain funds to pay for goods, another is a note given directly to the seller and a third is a draft made by the seller, to be accepted by the buyer, each specifying its purpose. A difference in rates of discount in favor of the note given by buyer direct to seller is suggested as a means of gradually changing the custom and creating a volume of the kind of paper contemplated by the law.

The effect of this plan would be to induce merchants to abandon the present practice of borrowing from banks in order to pay cash for goods. Instead, they would give notes, which the seller would discount at the bank. These would be rediscounted at the Federal reserve bank and become the basis for currency issues. In the case of large concerns, having credit in foreign countries, these notes would enter the world's discount market, probably through the medium of National banks to be established abroad.

Senator Owen has aimed a blow at Senatorial courtesy by proposing to abolish the rule whereby a vote cannot be taken on any measure without unanimous consent. He has introduced a resolution providing that the Senate may at any time fix a day and hour for final vote on any pending matter, with a proviso that one-fourth of the members may insist on not over 48 hours' debate. That would put a stop to talking against time by a little knot of Senators, but would permit twenty-four Senators to prevent a bill from being railroaded. The resolution went to the committee on rules and we shall be interested to see whether it ever comes out.

A woman notices things which escape men's attention. Miss Katherine Davis, Commissioner of Corrections of New York, found that women prisoners were compelled to wear heavy dresses of bed-ticking, which others made and washed, while the wearers sat idle. Miss Davis has the women make their own dresses of seersucker and wash them. This occupies and pleases the women, who now bear less resemblance to a mattress set on end and are not humiliated.

When the blizzard struck New York the Commercial referred to its files of 1888 and brought to light this gem:

This bliz
Knocks biz.

That is the closest approach a man can make to poetry under such circumstances.

Miss Mary Boyle O'Reilly, daughter of the famous John Boyle O'Reilly, went to Portugal to write on the revolution, but could not find it, so she has gone to Ulster. If she goes to Belfast, her name may start the revolution.

The organ of the I. W. W., Solidarity, gives this significant hint to soapbox orators:

> It is surprising how you can revive the dying enthusiasm of a crowd by a tirade against the police or the army.

Anything to hold the attention of their dupes.

When 10,000 people visit one Portland playhouse Sunday, despite the lure of a beautiful day and evening and attractions elsewhere, the only meaning is that Portland has become a large city.

Tom Mann is evening up things with South Africa for the deportation of nine labor leaders by going to that country himself. It takes nine ordinary labor leaders to equal one Tom Mann.

The Mayor of Dallas, under arrest for violating the dog ordinance that he signed a few months ago, proposes to contest. What's the sense of being Mayor if one cannot let his dog run?

Resolutions were adopted by Boston unemployed advising a carnival of stealing. That's a certain way of providing free board and room, with a watch and chain thrown in.

Naught remains for the convicted dynamiters but to put their affairs in order and go to jail. When they emerge they will find new leaders and the old occupations gone.

The men who forcibly returned Vegara's body from Mexican soil show how easy it is to do things when backed by a little aggressiveness and willingness to act.

A Missouri man made his own coffin in order to escape the coffin trust. We trust he will not now find himself in the clutches of an eternal fuel trust.

President Wilson will select a new counselor of the State Department without consulting Bryan. Trying to get someone with a little backbone!

London militants used clubs on the police. If, at the climax of their desperate fight, they should win, how many would take the trouble to vote?

It will be noted that Carranza, in advising Villa not to hold prisoners for ransom, did not speak above a whisper.

The face of Nature is putting on the proper color in anticipation of the great anniversary one week from today.

In case of trouble Oregon might dispatch a couple of regiments of candidates for Governor to the front.

Just when to hang out the "showers" sign must be a puzzling problem for the weather man these days.

The Administration appears to fear that Mexico may become annoyed by the Vergara incident.

The carp are due for a catsup jag if, all that confiscated product is spilled in the river.

With the advent of boating weather the river is making extra work for the grave diggers.

Another big cargo of Chinese eggs is coming. Real Eastern eggs for Easter.

Fall has taken a hard fall out of the Administration's Mexican policy.

West called on Chamberlain yesterday, but was it fixed?

The idle army is being kept busy in California.

Again—Sunny Oregon.

Sprig's sure cub.

SITE FOR SCHOOLHOUSE IS GOOD

Location Selected for Shattuck Building Defended by Writer.

PORTLAND, March 9.—(To the Editor.)—Remonstrances are being circulated against the proposed site of the new Shattuck School on the block bounded by Hall, College, Broadway and Park streets, the signers maintaining that the presence of the school would damage property in the vicinity. Those of us who favor the proposed site consider it an ideal one for the school. It is high and sightly; it is one block distant from the nearest carline; the park blocks would be safe and convenient recreation grounds for noon and the recess periods, and a large number of children would be near their homes in a thickly settled residence district.

The presence of the Ladd School at West Park and Jefferson has not caused a depreciation of values in that vicinity, and it is doubtful if a lot could be purchased there for less than $25,000. Of course, the grass in the park blocks is worn off by the children, but there are many who consider the loss of the grass more than compensated by the healthier condition of the children who are allowed the use of the blocks.

The present site of the Shattuck School is on the block bounded by Harrison, Hall, Fifth and Sixth streets. Car tracks menace the children in play periods on the east and west sides of the school, and the pupils have no place to romp except in the basement. If a new site is to be chosen it would be better to select one at least one block away from a carline.

Some years ago the Board of Education bought a block at Seventeenth and Davis for the new Lincoln High School. A remonstrance was placed before the board by the property owners adjacent, who thought the high school would damage them. The board yielded and bought the present site at Market, Mill, Broadway and Park streets, and property owners in this vicinity are now proud of their new million-dollar building, an ornament to the landscape and a monument to the cause of education. If there has been any objection to the presence of the 1200 young men and women who attend the school, the writer, who is a resident and property owner on West Park street, has never heard of it.

As to the price to be paid for the proposed site, $140,000, it is "pretty steep"; perhaps $40,000 too much; but there is always a tendency to "hold up" the public treasury when any property is wanted for public use. It is doubtful, however, if a desirable site can be bought for much less at this late day. JERRY NUNAN.

TOY BATTLESHIPS FOR PANAMA

Miniature Fleet to Sail Through Canal Without Manipulation.

New York Times.

While those whom he had invited to be present looked on in amazement, Samuel Orkin, a young Boston inventor, gave the first demonstration in New York of his miniature battleship at the Hotel Breslin. Tiny sailors moved around the boat's decks, a band was heard playing the "American Patrol" as the anchors were slowly raised by unseen machinery, and everything about the little boat was operated as though intelligent men on board were in charge. By an arrangement of electrical devices almost everything that is done on a regular battleship can be repeated on the model exhibited by Mr. Orkin. The boat itself is 9 feet long, 17 inches beam and draws 8½ inches of water. It is made entirely of steel and in appearance and equipment is an exact model of the super-dreadnaught type of battleship.

When he demonstrated the boat Mr. Orkin first set several screws and plugs and then stepped away to wait for the action that so amazed the onlookers. Everything worked automatically without manipulation by anyone. Mr. Orkin will build a fleet of 15 battleships and exhibit them at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco next year. He said that he would send them through the Panama Canal from one end to the other without touching any of them. They will stop and start, enter and leave locks, and make turns without adjustment after he has set them by calculation, he said.

Registering by Naturalized Citizen.

PORTLAND, March 5.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly advise me whether it is necessary for me to present, as credentials, to the County Clerk my naturalization papers each time I register, same having been presented when I first registered here more than six years ago. I have registered each succeeding year when registration was required, although no demand was made of me for my papers after the first registration. I have lived at the same address during the entire period of my residence in Portland. R. W.

Section 3453, Lord's Oregon Laws, provides that "the Clerk shall inquire of the elector (who may be applying to register) and enter the following information in the general county register, in the division set off in the precinct in which the elector resides, to-wit: . . . (8) if naturalized, the time, place and court of naturalization, or declaration, as evidenced by the legal proof thereof, exhibited by the elector." This statute has been interpreted to mean that the Clerk shall require legal proof of naturalization every time the elector may apply to register, notwithstanding previous practice by any particular official. The statute is mandatory.

As Socialist Sees It.

PORTLAND, March 8.—(To the Editor.)—We do not hesitate to differ from both the editorial and the letter from Mr. Rus in The Oregonian Saturday.

There is a "single remedy," and that remedy is stated by Mr. U'Ren, viz., to furnish employment, and compel those who will not work—if such there be—to live on the product of their labor, bread and water, until they will work. We declare that class A, as defined by Mr. Rus, is an effect and not a cause. It is clearly the environment thrown about certain temperaments that makes such cases possible. Given the opportunity to work and obtain the full social product of their efforts no man or woman, not invalid or abnormal, would refuse to care for their own being.

Mr. U'Ren, while not covering the cause in his preamble that leads to the consequences of unemployment, does provide for conditions that we have brought upon ourselves and his plan would temporarily relieve the unemployed problem.

C. W. BARZEE.

When Initiated Laws Go Into Effect.

RAINIER, Or., March 8.—(To the Editor.)—It is our recollection that there was a decision of the Attorney-General printed in The Oregonian in November, 1912, to the effect that an initiative measure took effect immediately after the election, before the Governor's proclamation. The woman suffrage measure had passed, and the decision of the Attorney-General allowed the women to vote before the Governor's proclamation. If there was such a decision will you kindly print it again and greatly oblige.

SEVERAL SUBSCRIBERS.

Judge Bean, of the United States District Court, has held that an adopted initiative law goes into effect upon the closing of the polls election day.

FACTS AND FIGURES ARE DESIRED.

Commissioner Should Issue Clear Statement On Water Meter Issue.

PORTLAND, March 9.—(To the Editor.)—I rise for information. Our practical, critical, theoretical and literary gents have written columns about the water meter matter and the people of this town have sloshed around in it for the last month. We have been told a lot of things by writers in our esteemed press who do not seem to have any figures based on actual facts, while the taxpayers of our beautiful and modest city stand about with their tongues hanging out awaiting information that is worth something. We are likely to monkey with this referendum thing and get stung no matter which way we vote, if we vote without having the intimate and detailed facts of this subject placed intelligently before us.

What do the meters really cost in wholesale lots of 5000 or 10,000? How long do they last and what is the cost of upkeep, based on experience elsewhere? Do they require a horde of meter readers? Do the public utility companies employ hordes of meter readers and make it pay? How many meters can a good reader average per day? If a reader, for example, can read 60 meters per day, then 20 readers would read 1200, and if they have 36,000 meters to read they could do it in 30 days and leave a bill at each house. What number of water meter readers are now employed in this city and how many readings do they average per day? What amount in clerical hire and postage would be saved by not sending out the monthly bills?

If the esteemed City Commissioner who is proposing this water meter plan expects the people to support it he should try to do something toward giving them all the facts both for and against the proposition. It may be a perfectly beautiful business project and he may have a good conception of it. But the people can't read his mind and should not be asked to try. It's too metaphysical. There ought to be some clear-headed official about the office who can write out a clear statement of the facts and figures covering all sides of the case, and the newspapers certainly will publish it.

M. HYSKELL.

Ready, but Not Expectant.

UNIVERSITY PARK, Or., March 9.—(To the Editor.)—The writer has been attracted to the recent expression of views respecting the end of the world. To think we are near the end of the world is no new thing, as the New Testament writers, at least in part, anticipated the speedy return of the Lord. This was so with so sane a thinker as Paul. Peter was very certain of the quick coming of the event. If Jesus himself did not know when the end was to be, it behooves people, whether teachers or taught, to be modest in prediction.

Jesus indicated a long period to elapse before the end, in the words "The bridegroom tarried." It is declared in holy writ that the millennium is to precede the event. Are we thinking we are very near the start of the millennium, as encouraged as we are by the trend of things toward betterment especially in the scientific spirit and the social sense of consciousness, so evident?

That the sun can endure a long while to burn and shine is not in the way of a speedy end of the world, as the sun could light up the new world to hold righteousness to take the place some time of the old earth passed away, and fall also upon other worlds. If the world comes to an end tomorrow—all right with me. I can go on without it. B. J. HOADLEY.

Copyright Regulations.

PORTLAND, March 8.—(To the Editor.)—1. In writing a play what is the advantage of having same copyrighted?

2. What are the rules, if any, to be followed in writing a play, to enable one to have it copyrighted?

3. Can a company produce a play sent to it for an opinion, without the author's consent, if it is not copyrighted? A READER.

1. It insures the author and producer that the play will not be pirated.

2. A complete manuscript or typewritten copy may be registered upon payment of $1. If it is to be sold in printed form it must be published with the copyright notice and two copies sent to the copyright office, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., with $1. Application blanks may be had upon request to copyright office.

3. It can be done, but a manuscript is safe in the hands of a reputable producer.

Truth and Fairness.

PORTLAND, March 9.—(To the Editor.)—Wish to congratulate you on your portrait of President Wilson which was published this week in one of your editorials. You have given him credit for what was to be praised in his deeds and character, and you have criticised what was deserving criticism. This is a departure of the old time custom of approving or blaming blindly a public man, according to "The Ticket."

Devotion to truth, irrespectively of personal or party preferences, in all issues, is what makes an editor a man of name, and a publication a high standard organ in public opinion in the long run.

ALGERNON ASHTON.

Married Women and Suffrage.

PORTLAND, March 8.—(To the Editor.)—Has the wife of a foreign subject the right to vote, if she is American-born and bred? I always thought "no," but a recent article in The Oregonian led me to hope otherwise. An early reply would be much appreciated, as I want to register if I may.

ONE WHO WANTS HER RIGHTS.

There is no Oregon court decision on the question, but competent legal authorities hold that the right to vote is not lost by an American woman upon marriage to a foreigner if she maintains here residence in this state.

Moon and Crops.

OAKLAND, Or., March 8.—(To the Editor.)—1. Please state why the moon's influence is supposed to have an effect on the growth of vegetables and many other things. How can anyone tell when to plant if they have no almanac?

2. Please translate the following line. Herzlichen Gluckwunsch zum namenstage. A READER.

1. There is no scientific explanation, as it is wholly a matter of superstition.

2. "Cordial good wishes for your christening day."

Statistics on Teaching.

PORTLAND, March 9.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me where a person could get a report regarding such matters as number of teachers, salaries, etc., of different states.

HAROLD D. WRIGHT.

Ask your Congressman to obtain printed statistics from the National Bureau of Education.

Yes.

PORTLAND, March 8.—(To the Editor.)—Does the law declare that a broker must have a written contract from the owner of property before he can legally claim any commission in case he should make a sale of the property? S. E. COVELL.

Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of March 10, 1889.

Walla Walla, March 9.—This afternoon Troop F, Second United States Cavalry, 42 strong, under command of Captain S. W. Swigert, left with 10 days' rations to report at Umatilla agency near Pendleton, and remain there until further orders. This movement is the outcome of the discovery that a vast body of the best lands of the reservation are held by whites, mostly French Canadians, under leases from the Indians. These leases are undoubtedly illegal and their holders have refused to move.

Tacoma, March 9.—The individual military rifle championship of the Northwest was won by R. B. Mullen, the present champion, in a match with W. E. Box today.

Seattle, March 9.—Judge Burke leaves tomorrow for Whatcom to convene District Court. His resignation was handed to President Harrison on Tuesday and today he sent a dispatch urging immediate action.

Walla Walla, March 9.—Ex-Governor Chadwick, of Oregon, is here en route to Colfax to visit relatives.

The plat of Sunnyside addition to East Portland was filed by Benjamin H. Bowman and wife yesterday.

W. M. Tovey, a waiter, fell overboard from the steamer Lurline near Kalama Thursday night and was drowned.

Secretary W. G. Steel, of the City Board of Charities, has the application of a boy 12 years of age for work with a family for his keep.

The half lot on the southeast corner of First and Stark streets belonging to John S. and A. E. Raleigh, was purchased by Mayor De Lashmutt and George B. Markle for the Northwest Loan & Trust Company. The price was $50,000, or $2000 per front foot, and is the highest price ever paid in Portland. There is a three-story brick building on the property.

The Chicago Company have located their smelting and reduction works adjoining the Peninsula addition to East Portland.

Leon Hirsch, for many years in the employ of Meier & Frank, leaves today for Europe.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of March 10, 1864.

Howard, Romain and Lower were legally hanged at Lewiston for the murder of Magruder and his party.

Washington, March 6.—General Meade appeared before the committee yesterday and denied emphatically that and orders were made or delivered to Sickles or Doubleday regarding the recall of the Army at Gettysburg.

Washington, March 5.—The result of Kilpatrick's cavalry expedition is: The main track over the principal railroads by which Lee's army gets supplies is destroyed and also commissary depots and ordnance stores. Six canal-boats were burned and several locks on the James River canal destroyed. Large numbers of prisoners were captured, several hundred horses pressed into the service and hundreds of negroes escaped.

Washington, March 7.—It is rumored that Grant, who is on his way to Washington, is to succeed Hallock.

New Orleans, Feb. 29.—Farragut continues his attacks on Fort Morgan.

The amount of assays made in the city of Portland during the year 1863 was $4,505,731, as follows: By Wells-Fargo & Co., $1,800,000; by Tracy & King, $1,542,000; by Goldsmith Bros., $1,163,731.

We were shown through the various departments of the state penitentiary yesterday by Mr. Gardner, keeper. The establishmen is in most excellent condition, clean and healthy. At present there are 32 convicts, most of whom in fair weather labor on the outside. Eight are engaged in the prison shops in the manufacture of saddles, arapapes, cinches, etc., and two in the culinary department.

A telegram of greeting was received yesterday by Mayor David Logan from Mayor Jacob McLellan, of Portland, Me., in response to one sent on the completion of the telegraph line.

The celebration of the completion of the telegraph came off Tuesday evening, March 8. The military and fire departments were out in torchlight procession. After marching down Front street and back, the procession halted in front of the telegraph office (the Pioneer Hotel) where a speakers' stand had been tastily arranged, decorated with the Stars and Stripes, etc., upon the verandah. Here Rev. T. H. Pearne addressed the crowd in his happiest manner, the band played a tune and Judge Williams made a fine speech and dispatches sent to other cities and replies were read.

The need of tugs with capacity sufficient to go beyond the Columbia bar for vessels is almost daily felt.

Alien Soldier and Citizenship.

PORTLAND, March 9.—(To the Editor.)—Having served in the United States Army as a soldier for 25 years, does that entitle me to be a citizen of the United States and a voter, or will it be necessary to take out citizenship papers? FOREIGN-BORN.

You are entitled to final citizenship papers on application. Taking out of first papers is not necessary.

Oysters in Kegs.

PORTLAND, March 9.—(To the Editor.)—A correspondent wishes to know if any one can verify her statement that oysters were sold in kegs. For four years prior to 1862, the year I came West, I bought oysters in kegs in Detroit, Mich.; Cleveland, O., and Springfield, Ill. R. H. T.

The Economy of Quality

It's a sad fact that, as a rule, poor people get less for their money than the more well-to-do. There's no real necessity for this condition.

The reason is that in trying to get the most for their money, they unwisely go after the most in quantity instead of in quality, and frequently end in finding that what they have bought is worthless.

There is no economy in dealing with unknown, unreliable merchants.

If you go into a dirty little shop with signs marking cheap prices stuck all around, you may make up your mind that the money you spend there will probably be money lost.

The merchants who carry reliable merchandise don't have to resort to any tricks to get trade.

They stake their reputations that the things they sell are absolutely as represented.

They announce publicly through the newspapers what they have and what their prices are—and are prepared to stand behind what they say.

You can't make a mistake if you deal with a man who comes out in print and tells you frankly all about what he is selling.—Adv.