The Oregonian

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San Francisco Office R. J. Bidwell Com-PORTLAND, THURSDAY, DEC. 10, 1914.

LEASING OF PUBLIC LAND.

Secretary Lane in his annual report takes credit to the Government for having, by the passage of bills for the leasing of public land, "given to the more remote states greater assurance its interest in their welfare than has been given for many years." Conceding that the Government has shown this interest, The Oregonian questions whether the water power and general leasing bills, as passed by the House, will promote the welfare of the West so much as Mr. Lane predicts. It dees that these bills are just to the Western states.

These measures, together with the forestry, Indian and National park aws, exempt from state taxation a large part of the area of the public land states. In Oregon this area is 60 per cent, in Idaho a much larger pro-portion, of the state's area. The leased land will be exempt from the state laws governing real property, but will be subject to the state's criminal laws. If a crime is committed on leased land or in a National forest or National park, the state must bear the responsibility and expense of capturing, trying, convicting and punishing the offender. As the land in question is almost invariably the most remote from the centers of population and is culties and expense of apprehending but what revenue is the state to derive to meet this expense?

From the National forests the states spent by the Government on roads and mineral land shall be used by the Government in reclaiming arid land, as it is. but no provision is made that it shall from coal land leases shall be used in food supply. reimbursing the Government for the cost of Alaska railroads. In other a great, wealthy Nation, we are con-

the amount, and Congress dictates to what use it shall be applied, namely, roads and schools. The experience of the state might never get any money aspect. of co-operation. The Government has and Governor West, more than once "kept the word of promise to the ear and broken it to fear that it would do so again,

ed with nothing less than payment treated in the apportionment of to them of an annual amount equal to lamation funds, and he would go far what the taxes on leased land would to repair the wrong.

The Oregonian is charitable enough ship, this payment to begin with the to think that the Secretary meant first year when the land begins to what he said in 1913, and that he did restrictions as to the use to which the operation, which he then approved. states may put this money should be It would appear now that he is reauthority to direct the use which tion officers, in refusing the carry out states shall make of their revenue, the Tumalo co-operative contract, Such dictation savors more of the treatment given by a centralized Gov-The revenue derived by the Govern- from the Interior Department, has tration, supported by its newspaper ment alone from leased land should be applied to reclamation of arid land If temporarily diverted to some other state. should ultimately be used in the state which yields it, and strict provishould be made to insure that this be done. The leasing laws should gress and the public land states, subchange only with the consent of the states and not at the will of Congress alone

If Congress should refuse to recognize fully the rights of the states in some such manner, the states would the act of the Legislature authorizbe justified in attacking by legal procedure the validity of the whole leasing system. They would have a good
case. The act admitting Oregon to
the Union provides that this state "be,
Governor proceeded in strict accord
the reception given by the President
tille reception given by the President
to the Gardner resolution. They imtille reception given by the President
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to the Gardner resolution. They imtille reception given by the President
to the Gardner resolution of the Desert Land Board,
again they are attacked by political
opponents, and therefore they oppose
the Union provides that this state "be, Governor proceeded in strict accord
to the Gardner resolution. They imtille reception given by the President Union on an equal footing with the contract between state and Govern-committees of Congress. At first they other states in all respects whatever." ment was signed subsequently—May opposed a public inquiry, but have and has thereby become subject to and announcing the approval of Sec-state law and state taxation. With 60 retary Lane, was dated June 7, 1913. readiness rests on both parties, and ation, Oregon is not on an equal foot-tral Oregon and other projects was in sponsible than the other. Primarily ing with those states. The act of ad-August, 1913. It is clear that the recmission forbids Oregon to tax land or lamation officers understood exactly property of the United States or to what the state was doing, and it is diffresponse to public opinion. The people "interfere with the primary disposal ficult to see why Secretary Lane did have not been on the alert and have of the soil within the same by the United States or with any regulations Congress may find necessary for securing the title in said soil to bona curing the title in said soil to bona congress. He says that, while the interests override National interests soil within the same by the not also understand.

reference to bona fide purchasers the estimate on the second unit is "no proves that the policy of the Government less than \$50 per acre."

ment then was to sell, not to lease,

John T. Whistler, Government engiland. Thus the state was led to expect that it would in a reasonable time become full sovereign over its entire area and on this understanding it accepted the terms and entered the Union. By changing the conditions under which the state entered into the compact, Congress would release the state from moral obligation to observe it. The state could maintain that, in all essentials, leasing of public land has the same effect as sale. land. Thus the state was led to expect therefore sale alone was mentioned; had lease then been contemplated, the state would surely have contended that lease should render public land taxable.

HIS NEXT STEP

The New York Sun shines through double leads in the following luminous prophecy as to the future course of the privatest of private citizens:

Theodore Roosevelt is not at this time in politics. . . Our own unsolicited opinion, a private opinion of the privatest sort, is that Colonel Roosevelt's next reappearance will be in the old familiar act of issuesnatching; the victim once more, as so many times before, being the unfortunate Mr. W. J. Bryan.

We venture the prediction that the next snatched issue by which Colonel Roosevelt is to profit politically at the expense of Mr. Bryan will be the enactment of prohibition in the fundamental law by means

of an amendment of the Federal Consti-

The date on which the Sun gave birth to this great thought was De-cember 2, 1914. It would be memor-able forever in the annals of journalistic soothsaying, except for the fact that five days previously-to be exact, November 27, 1914—the same momentous assessment of Colonel Roosewelt's intentions was made by The pretty well chosen. And yet a person might be able to answer them all with-Oregonian.

But no matter. We waive all claim to any monopoly of Ideas about Colonel Roosevelt. We do not wonder that the same thought occurred to our New York contemporary. As a student of Colonel Roosevelt's mental processes foresee his next spectacular step.

AS TO OUR MILITARY POLICY.

If the correspondent who writes from Walla Walla to give his views mountainous and forested, the diffipolicy were merely an individual, his criminals in these areas are abnormal, effusion, which appears in another from leased and forest land wherewith to the wastebasket with merely a passcolumn, might be cheerfully consigned ing flicker of interest. But unfortunately he is a type-and an altogether ceipts, to be spent on roads and the very cause of our present helpities rests with the victims of such in co-operation with the states. It is sophistry who fail to profit by the d that revenue from powersites broader facts of general history and who disregard or fail to see the world

Provincialism has never taken a be spent in the state from which it is derived. Oregon excels in water one, than that found in the argument motives was deeply uncharitable. derived. Oregon excels in water one, than that found in the argument that the United States is secure from the world around him he saw little but excels in the world around him he saw areas of phosphate land which would yield much revenue. Under the bills as some of the peace propagandists as passed by the House, this revenue might be used in reclaiming arid land might be used in reclaiming arid land while the arid land of Oregon and ignorance. So far as the ways of cauldaho remained barren. In this retion and diplomacy can serve us, we spect the states are worse treated will strive to avoid those entanglements which find their source in that the spect will strive to avoid those entanglements which find their source in that the spect will strive to avoid the source in that the spect will strive to avoid the source in that the spect will strive to avoid the source in that the spect will strive to avoid those entanglements. one great cause of all war-the world's

cost of Alaska ratio Alaska coal fronted by the necessity of defending deep meaning and partly because of his incurable disposition to interpret diately.

The states are to wait until rentals from leases have been returned by settlers on reclaimed land before they get that routes. That the present moment—thanks to just such insipid beliefs as that dispensed the returned by settlers on reclaimed land before they get that routes. That the present moment—thanks to just such insipid beliefs as that dispensed a theological hell. He is greatly adtenuated to interpret this incurable disposition to interpret the world were tration to explain that no drastic action is intended in sending troops to pictured it there would be no need of a theological hell. He is greatly adtenuated to the border. We have not yet forgotten to interpret this incurable disposition to interpret the world were the present moment—thanks to just such insipid beliefs as that dispensed a hundredth part as bad as Bierce pictured it there would be no need of a theological hell. He is greatly adtenuated the present moment—thanks to just such insipid beliefs as that dispensed a hundredth part as bad as Bierce pictured it there would be no need of a theological hell. He is greatly adtenuated the present moment—thanks to just such insipid beliefs as that dispensed a hundredth part as bad as Bierce pictured it there would be no need of a theological hell. He is greatly adtenuated the present moment—thanks to just such insipid beliefs as that dispensed the present moment—thanks to just a hundredth part as bad as Bierce pictured it there would be no need of a theological hell.

LAST YEAR: AND THIS YEAR.

Secretary of the Interior Lane's Oregon with the Government's prom- reasons for declining to support his pression gave him a certain power. es of co-operation with the state in own reclamation service in the Tumalo irrigation justifies apprehension lest flasco have a decidedly ex-post-facto They appear from this source. Congress has twice discovered and formulated long after changed the terms of the reclamation the specific agreement for co-operation law to the disadvantage of the state Interior Department has the state and the general co-operative souirmed out of keeping its promise understanding between Secretary Lane

The Secretary's present idea of co the ear and broken it to operation appears to be to have the There is every ground to state put up two dollars to the Government's one; his notion last year was The public land states should be sat- that the state had been sadly mis-

revenue to the Government. All not fully understand the plan of co The Government has no pudiating the acts of his own reclama-

But we can see no reason whatever why the Secretary should seek to erument to its provinces than of the "pass the buck" to Governor West. relation which a Federal Union bears An Oregonian dispatch from Washits sovereign, component states, ington, upon information doubtless our National defenses, the Administhese statements:

After Secretary Lane had agreed to allot \$450,000 and after the state had appropriated \$450,000. Governor West ordered the State Engineer to proceed with the construction of the first unit of the Tunale project. He did this without consulting the Washington authorities and without exhimiting to them the plan of the project. The project which the state has built will cost in round figures. \$40 an acre. Estimates show the second unit will cost in its state unit. Secretary Lane not only is unwilling to expend deverament money on the \$80 project at Tunalo, but is unwilling to expend deverament money on the send any of the Government's \$450,000 unless there is available, to be used with it, an equal amount of state funds.

The act of the Legislature authoriz-

and she is hereby, received into the with its provisions. The co-operative sion and offer instead an inquiry by The public land in states of the East, 5, 1913-and the letter of Director Middle West and South has been sold Newell, indorsing the Tumalo project, per cent of its area excluded from its The personal visit of Secretary Lane we are not now concerned with ascivil jurisdiction and exempt from tax- to Oregon with his inspection of Cen- certaining whether one is more re-

result. Improvement is possible only by bringing the pressure of public opinion to bear on Congress and by neer, who investigated the Tumalo project, says the cost per acre for the

money.

FASHIONABLE GEOGRAPHY.

The European War has made geog-raphy all the rage. It is quite the now to understand parallels of stitude and meridians of longitude. Self-respecting people long to know where the various straits cities and islands which they read so much about are located. Maps are assiduously perused and the globes are almost as are located. fashionable as they were in the Vicar of Wakefield's day.

Seven eminent citizens of Spring-field, Mass., as we learn from the esteemed Republican, lately conceived a test one another in the newly popular science. Each of the seven submitted five questions which, in his opinion, the other men ought to be able to answer. The total number of questions framed was thus thirty-five, but as some of them were merely local the public is not con-cerned with them. The other thirty seem interesting enough to be repub lished in The Oregonian. The reader may puzzle his brain over them by

out knowing anything about the real essence of geography. They appeal to the memory only. Reason is not called into action in the slightest degree. There is not a solitary "why" in the whole list. Nothing is said about productions and routes of trade. The names of various big cities are asked for, but there is no thought of the causes that make them big. The list is chiefly valuable, perhaps, for its demonstration of what geography study should not be.

Upon the whole the questions are

AMBROSE BIERCE

Ambrose Bierce's long and mordant career has ended, if the reports are true, in the whirlpool of the Mexican troubles. He went there, it seems, in search of adventures. He found the greatest adventure of all. At his age, exciting experience, but it was of a piece with his whole life. Ambrose Bierce never knew much

inner serenity himself nor permitted much to others when he could help it. His ambition was to rasp, to bite, to inflict pain. His outlook on life was worst fell far short of Poe's hideous power in that field, but they were bad enough. Why anybody should want to

After a fashion Bierce was a critic of current events, but his comments lacked value partly because he saw the trivial side of affairs rather than their to make a nation of sallors.

with the princes of literature. Though his thought was for the most part shallow, his facility in ex-While he was on the Pacific Coast he won an unenviable reputation as a lampooner. Reputations went down before his pen like grass before the

scythe.

But, it comforts one to re-

nember, they quickly revived. It is not in the power of a man like Bierce, who is known for his malignity, to do much permanent harm. In his column in the San Francisco Examiner, headed "A Record of Individual Opinion," he enjoyed wide liberty of expression and might have done much to influence public opinion had his outlook on life been a little less

Bierce wrote some good poetry and many fine critical essays. Perhaps he paid too much attention to technical Kipling's English did not exactly please his exacting taste and he found more or less fault with Howells. But both those authors will and read long after Bierce," with all his verbal niceties, is

NOT A PARTY QUESTION.

movement for a public inquiry into this, for the yeggmen. organs, is endeavoring to convict Representative Gardner and his associates party responsible for our unreadiness effective. for war, and the New York World, in that we

The act of the Legislature authoriz- tile reception given by the President opposed a public inquiry, but have yielded so far as to make the com-

mittee hearings public. fide purchasers thereof," but this very cost per acre in the state's unit is \$40, and much money is spent with little

lic land has the same effect as sale. Tax exemption was intended to continue only until the land came into use. The only process then considered of bringing it into use was sale, therefore sale alone was mentioned; therefore sale alone was mentioned; the land came into the continues to be a long way to Oregon's reclamation people should be informed whether these statements are true; they should had lease then been contemplated the know what they are getting for their

> The proposal to have an inquiry a special commission rather than by committees of Congress is in harmony with this view. Such a commission including representatives of the general public as well as of the Senate and House, would be apt to seek and find facts without regarding the effect on individuals or parties. Committees of Congress which have been charged with drawing up Army and Navy appropriation bills would be disposed to regard themselves as under investigation, to bring out favorable facts and to keep in the background unfavorable facts, as would any man or body of men that was put on the defensive. The committees would be disposed to defend the acts of them-selves and of their parties. It is not proposed to put any man or committee or party on trial, and the inquiry should take such form as to dispel any

> misapprehension on that point. A non-partisan commission having the single purpose of discovering our shortcomings and of finding a remedy would command public confidence and would gain public attention as could no committee of Congress. It could show us how we could greatly strengthen our defenses without greatincreasing our Army and Navy budget. It could focus attention or those abuses to which frequent reference has been made in official reports and in newspapers, but which have been passed over by a people occupied with other things. It could lift the whole subject of National defense above party, above militarism, pacificism and all other isms, and could lay before the Nation the necessity of being amply ready to defend ourselves as a broad question of public safety.

Ellen Terry, sprightly under gathering years, says she "fears slothfulness more than anything." When a woman grows fat and slothful she might as well be dead. "It is the end." greatest adventure of all. At his age, says Ellen Terry. Life means activity, 72 years, a plunge into the Mexican vortex indicates an unusual hunger for exciting experience, but it was of a contract the grave or buries us while we are still alive.

> The sooner both sides begin general ise of dum-dums and buckshot cartridges, the quicker the war will end. Success comes to the side that kills or of merciful means to attain the end?

Deacon Robert Bailey ought to feel in other states, as the proceeds of Oregon land sales have been diverted, by one whose vision is not shut off by dark goggles of provincialism and the arid land of Oregon and of Oregon and of Oregon and by dark goggles of provincialism and by dark goggles of provinciali ous for general use, we suspect.

> Nothing could be more gallant than her the German fight against heavy odds husb in the Pacific, but British seamanship It takes time

postpone giving the peace prize. Japan announces the necessity of

cutting expenses. But is careful to provide that the cut shall not be made on the Army or Navy. Anyway, the Germans can now claim three converted submarines in the Pacific as a little gift from the

British. Supposing Germany had had our

sort of military policy. It would have been a Slav province long ago. In these days of rigid inspection,

fire caused by defective wiring is joke on the insurance people. Switzerland, like the United State is at peace with the world and "en-

joys" its manifold blessings Another fearful disappointment for Bryan. The Nobel peace prize is to be awarded this year.

Wilson promises to give business a rest. A much-neded and hard-earned film game, rest, it might be added.

Steel can be made many times more In its eagerness to combat the durable by a new process. Hard news,

Ilwaco cranberries are not "made in Oregon," which does not interfere with being just as good.

Army officers say our artillery is Yes, the three or four gur that we have.

Now the Japanese officials say they re going to keep Kiau-Chau. thought so. When Petrograd hints at Russian everses they must be something

frightful. The Army officer who is satisfied vith our artillery force has missed his calling.

We are now feeding 70,000 war vic-ms. And can feed 'em all if necessarv.

More artillery sent to the Arizon oorder. Merely a change of station. Britannia is again ruling the waves the South Atlantic

The survivors of the German fleet are "going some."

Germany appears to have caught L'ENVOL her stride again. Poincare has resumed business at

the old stand. Sunny Oregon.

Stars and Starmakers BY LEONE CASS BAER.

In Denver Victor Morley, star Quaker Girl," playing in that city or Thanksgiving day, attached the box office, with the result that the management closed the show.

Richard Vivian, once a Baker player is playing with the James Post dra-matic stock in Sacramento, Cal., at the Grand Theater. Beth Taylor is leading woman.

Thurlow Bergen and his wife, Elsie Esmond, both of them former Baker-onians, are in New York for a rest, after a six months' engagement with a moving picture company. "Watch Your Step" opens tonight in

the blackface comedian; Fannie Brice and Charlie King-and Elizabeth Murray in the principal roles. T. P., who writes and does not sign name, asks for "addresses of producers of vaudeville sketches." Joseph Hart, in the New York Theater build-

Broadway, N. Y., are good producers. Al Joison wants a new chorus for Sister Susio's sewing shirts for soldlers, Such skill at sewing shirts our shy young

sister Sume shows. Some soldiers send spistles, say they'd rather sleep in thistles Than wear the saucy soft, short shirts for soldiers slater Susio sows. Mr. Jolson suggests a play on the word knit.

A rattling of the skeleton is heard in the revival production of Charles A. Taylor's play, "Yosemite," last week in New York at Daly's Theater. This is a melodrama of California's early civilization and many years ago its original version played up and down the Pacific Coast at ten-twent'-thirt' prices, with Laurette Taylor, then Mrs. Charles A. Taylor, as the heroine. Since those days Laurette has dazzled Broadway and is now trying to make the English have had no fleet maneuvers for two A rattling of the skeleton is heard in and is now trying to make the English stay away from war and attend her play of "Peg 'o My Heart," in London. She is married now to the play's author, Hartley Manners.

Frank Keenan is playing the leading masculine role in "Yosemite." Ethel Clifton, who was leading woman in Seattle with one of the Baker companies, has a role in "Yosemite."

Henry Miller will shortly begin a starring tour which brings him to this disables permanently the other. As Coast in "Daddy Long Legs." He will the object in war is to kill, why prate play the title role.

According to the Dramatic Mirror, only quick action on the part of stage atisfied with his labors for Nannie hands saved the life of an itinerant tat-Strickland's soul. The little girl will tooer at the Alhambra Theater, in New ommit no more sins, thanks to the York, last week. Some wag at the booking offices sent him up to see Kitty Gordon and propose embellishing her beauteous and ever-blessed back with the arms of the house of Beresford in Britannia still rules the waves. India ink. Now Kitty cares much for her gallant captain, who, as a soldierand, is distinctly a credit to her and his family, but she balks at tattooing his armorial bearings indelibly upon her fair person and considered the proposition as an impertinence warranting violence.

Four members of George Arliss' comthere on reclaimed land before they get any revenue from that source. That implies long years of waiting. When the money is returned it will return conly in driblets, as repaid by settlers only in driblets, as repaid by settlers of twenty years.

Hellig Theater, have at different times mired by many for his English style, which was wonderfully clear, simple and effective. If what he said had been as valuable as his way of saying the revenue from that source. That implies long years of waiting. When the money is returned it will return people are slowly but surely out only in driblets, as repaid by settlers of twenty years.

Hellig Theater, have at different times which was wonderfully clear, simple and effective. If what he said had been as valuable as his way of saying belief to the what was done at vera cruz.

With the war in Europe and Roose of twenty years of the wonderfully clear, simple and effective. If what he said had been as valuable as his way of saying beliefs as that dispensed from Walla Walla. Yet there is a mired by many for his English style, which was wonderfully clear, simple and effective. If what he said had been as valuable as his way of saying beliefs as that dispensed from Walla Walla. Yet there is a mired by many for his English style, which was wonderfully clear, simple and effective. If what he said had been as valuable as his way of saying beliefs as the object. thur Eldred and Vincent Sternroyd.

Charles Harbury, who plays the pres ident of the Bank of England with Mr. Arliss, was for 10 years a leading member of Sir Henry Irving's company.

Adele Blood is going into vaudeville for a while, before her new play is ready for her in February. Her manager's name is Hope, I. W. Hope. The I. W. probably stands for I will.

Florence Roberts, the Zaza Florence, and not the present character actress at the Baker, is rehearing a new vaudeville sketch.

Mrs. Leslie Carter contributed a quiet urprise in her work for the screen in Los Angeles. It is declared that the actress not only adapted herself to the situation called for in this partially new work, but "registered" beautifully country to Washington City and comin all the action given her in "The not Heart of Maryland," which is being produced by Herbert Brenon. Other prominent stage geniuses have not arrived so easily, when plunging into the

The End of the Spug By Dean Collins.

With Christmas spirit in the air, And streets aswarm throng. A-shopping here and shopping there
For foolish gifts the whole day long,
It seems there's surely something

wrong.
One ancient pest doth not appear,
And so I ask in lilting song:
"Where are the Spugs of yesteryear?"

The Spug put on a righteous air, And talked of thrift unto the throng: The reckless giving here and there He yiewed with features stern and

long:
"Such foolishness," he said, "is wrong
When useful gifts, it doth appear,
A man can purchase for a song—"
Where are the Spugs of yesteryear? The Yuletide fairly fills the air

The Yuletide fairly fills the air,
With foolish whims that whirl and
throng.
Why, Christmas time was just put there
To give fool gifts the whole day long.
The gloomy Spug is quite in wrong,
Who'd make such giving bad appear.
He has no place 'mid mirth and song—
Where are the Spugs of yesteryear?

He doth no more his gospel air 'Gainst the glad follow of the throng Gainst the glad follow of the throng,
That still goes gally here and there
And mocks his counsel wise and long.
On Christmas one can do no wrong.
So let the foolish streak appear.
Stopped are their mouths and hushed
their song—
Where are the Spugs of yesteryear?

Spug, thou hast done my soul much wrong!
Exceed, erump, no more appear!
Loud swells the triumph of my song—
Where are the Spugs of yesteryear?

LET THE PEOPLE KNOW THE FACTS Lodge Favors Inquiry Into National Defenses.

Senator Ledge has come to the sup-ort of Representative Gardner's movement for an inquiry into our National defenses, and announces his reasons in the following statement:

"Yes, I intend to introduce in the

New York at the Amsterdam Theater, with the Vernon Castles, Frank Tinney, and we are living in the midst of an armed and fighting world. Under these circumstances it is well to know what the state of our, own defenses is.

"We hear it said that from our regu-

lar Army and militia combined we could not at this moment get together 120,000 men for our defenses. It has been publicly stated that we have not sufficient ammunition even for such troops as we have; that the fortifications for our great vities are very time. ing, N. Y., and Arthur Hopkins, 1493 Al Jolson wants a new chorus for "Sister Susie's Sewing Shirts for Soldiers." and "wants it bad," his press agent says. "Bad" is the way amateurs usually write choruses. But it wouldn't do many of the Pacific Coast chorus writers to compete because the prize Al offers is a box for his show. "Dancing Around," at the Winter Garden. Al's present chorus runs thusiy: Sister Susie's sewing shirts for soldlers,

ments.
"If we turn to the Navy we can read in the newspapers almost every day statements of a similar character. I know that we are short of scout cruisers, having only three. A proper num-ber of scout crulsers is essential to the efficiency of the fleet. We are insuf-

have had no ficet maneuvers for two years and no divisional drills for one year. We certainly ought to know whether this is true or false. There is a widesprend belief that our Navy has lately been declining in efficiency and on this we ought to be informed and the department cleared from such charges if, as I hope and believe, they are unjust.

"Il merely mention these few points which have been widely circulated through the press to show why I think that we ought to have the inquiry which will be asked for in my resolution. I cannot believe that the state-ments in the press that the Adminis-tration is opposed to this inquiry can possibly be well founded, for there is nobody who has so earnestly advocated publicity as the President in his interesting book. The New Fredom. We ought to have the truth about these things, and then it is for the American people and nobody else to decide what they intend shall be dong. But let the people of the country know the facts.

"It is not a nerty question in any."

"It is not a party question in any sense, and the National defense ought never to be a party question. We are spending some \$250,000,000 a year on our Army and Navy, and we ought to know what we are getting for our money and whether for that money we money and whether for that money we are securing the highest possible effi-ciency of result. It is never well in this country and under our system of Government to have secrets from the people. Let us know the truth."

HE WOULD NOT PREPARE FOR WAR Walla Walla Man Thinks That We Are Quite Scenre.

times

per(To the Editor)—I have just read
your editorial comments on what you
d are
arAr
WALLA WALLA, Wash., Dec. 8.—
(To the Editor)—I have just read
your editorial comments on what you
call President Wilson's "filmsy attempt
to avoid a great public duty" in connection with the Gardner resolutions about war equipment. I feel moved to ask you if there was ever less need of preparing for war than right now? Had you not observed that the na-tions of the world were already occupied?

Has The Oregonian the impression that the German fleet is about to run the blockade of the English fleet and land a half million of their army in New York harbor? Perhaps you-thought that the Russians might quit fighting at Warsaw in order to let the Germans detach the East Prussian army for passing through the Panama Canal and coming around and taking Portland.

How many chances do you think there are in a billion or trillion for France or England or Russia to de-clare war on us? Or are you afraid that the Belgians might swoop down on us and wipe us

off the map? Possibly the fear may be that Canada

More likely your expectation is that as soon as the European war is over the participants will turn their arms on us. How much do you think the wretched victims of this war will be in the notion of another right away. be in the notion of another right away, and especially with the one country on which they must depend for food and all the chief necessities to repair their waste places? Also if, as this same number of The Oregonian notes or quotes, the nations of Europe have already lost about two million and a half men, will they be in any condition to wage war for some time to come?

In short, is not this whole outery of Gardner and other jingoes a little slopping over of the sheer madness, the black mania of militarism which is turning Europe into a charnel house? Does The Oregonian desire our own people and government to become distorted with the same lunacy?

Assuredly if there ever was a time when we absolutely have no need of war equipment, right now is the time. To my mind it is nothing short of criminal for public men to obstruct the noble and far-reaching plans of our Administration to save some hope and

Administration to save some hope and some civilization and some Christianity in this suffering world.
W. D. LYMAN,

Whitman College

Why He Avolded Him. Kansas City Star,
"Look at that foolish Mr. Booker,"
said one man to another, "out on a
rainy day like this without an umbrei-

la! Is he craxy?"
"I guess so," said his friend, hurried.
ly. "Let's hurry on. I don't want to
meet him." "Why not?" "He may recognize this umbrella. It's his."

Who Was First Dentist?

Louisville Times.

Doctor, you told me that it wouldn't hurt to pull that tooth," he said.
"I did," triumphantly acciaimed the doctor. "What have you to say about the matter?"
"Well, all I have got to say is," moaned the patient, "that Ananias must have been the first dentist."

Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian December 0, 1889. Paris-Miss Caldwell, the American beiress, whose engagement to Prince Murat has been the subject of much discussion recently, has issued a state-ment, in which she denies that the Senate a resolution similar to that of-fered by Mr. Gardner in the House, call-ing for a commission to investigate and report upon the condition of our Nation-al defenses.

"This does not commit us to added to agree on the amount, of Miss Caldwell's income over the sum of al defenses.

"This does not commit us to any expenditures of any kind or to any policy. It is merely a resolution of inquiry, which, I think, ought to be adopted by both Houses and approved by the President. It seems to me that the country ought to know just what the condition of the National defense is. We are at peace with all the nations of the world, and I fully believe we shall remain at peace with them all. Our policy is simply of maintaining a strict and honest neutrality. But the great nations of the earth are at war and we are living in the midst of an The Prince's debts are about \$500.000

The Prince's debts are about \$500,000 and he candidly announces that half a million from his prospective wife would put him on "easy street."

Zanzibar-Confirmation of the massacre of Dr. Peters is at hand. The camp was surrounded by 1200 Somalis, and no one escaped.

The funeral of Samue! B. Ward, a prominent Oddfellow, was held yesterday from the undertaking rooms of Horatic Cook.

Vancouver, Wash.—On Wednesday next, under the auspices of the Ladies' Guild of St. Luke's Church, a church concert, which promises to be of unusual excellence, will be given. Those who will assist are Major and Mrs. Lydecker, Miss Lydecker, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Kilbourne, Mrs. Anderson, Miss O'Nell Mrs. Crawford Mrs. Ellight and O'Nell Mrs. Crawford Mrs. Ellight and rangements have been hade to providing mines to protect our harbors. I Mrs. Kilbourne, Mrs. Anderson, Miss should like to know, and I think the American people would like to know, and I think the American people would like to know, whether there is truth in these states whether there is truth in these states.

F. Clarno, attorney-at-law, has moved his offices to 23 and 29 Washington building.

Officer Joe Day yesterday arrested a disship dressed young man, who gave the name of A. L. Waterhouse, on a charge of passing fraudulent checks. The man, suspected of being H. A. Royce, represented himself to be a traveling agent of the Chicago Inter-

Among the arrivals at the Hotel St. Charles are United States Commis-sioner Fred Page Tustin, of Pendleton; Sheriff A. W. Hamilton, of Union, one of the leading aspirants to the office of United States Marshal; T. A. Mc-Bride, of Oregon City; Ed. C. Giltner. and George Gray, of the Cascade Locks.

Rev. H. V. Rominger leaves on his tour around the world today.

The commissioners of the Oregon Immigration Board have issued an ap-peal to capitalists, property owners and b. liders to erect at least 1000 more houses in Portland to house the new-comers, who are unable to get suit-able places to live.

Olympia.-Senator Landes wants to get married. He wants Justice Holt to perform the ceremony Justice Holt, being a Supreme Court jurist, has not any authority to tie the knot. Sena-tor Landes wants Justice Holt to tie at marriages.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of December 9, 1864. In reply to stories that President Lincoln had drawn his salary in gold and invested it in foreign securities, General Spinner, United States Treasurer, has issued a statement in which he says that the President not only has neglected to draw his salary for 11 months at a time, but that when his attention was called to the interest according the President turned the interest. at one time the Treasurer was forced to request President Lincoln to draw his balary so the Federal accounts could be brought up to date. Treasure: Spinner further says that President Lincoln, when he had more than enoug money from his salary than he needed for his living, would invest it for his friends in United States) gold stocks, and that he turned the interest over to the Government. This interest which he has turned back to the Government has in one instance amounted to \$800. Mr. Spinner also calls attention to the fact that the President has allowed himself to lose, personally, to the Government's gain, no less than \$4000 by not collecting interest on Government

stocks or bonds. City Assessor Going has submitted the assessment roll for 1864. The City Council last night accepted it with the supplementary assessments filed there-

City Attorney Dolph has submitted a statement in the cases recently brought against the city by M. B. Morris and John B. Garrison. Judgment was found in both in favor of the city. The Garrion action was for \$4800, and it is prob able an appeal to the Supreme Court will be taken.

There is a move on foot to give a cenefit for Frank Hussey, of the variety

Mr. Hurgen, City Councilman of the Third Ward, has resigned his position in that body, and W. S. Ladd has been selected to fill the vacancy.

The auction rooms of A. B. Richard-son are undergoing alterations to pro-vide for a greater space for stocks.

Corn-Fed Pigs.

PORTLAND, Dec. 9 .- (To the Edior.)-The prizes won by the "College Method." In our excellent fat stock how, this week, remind me of the armer in Illinois, my native state, who wanted a better breed of hogs raised by a neighbor; so, he sent his oldest son with a sack and \$5 for a pair of the desired pigs. The neighbor oldest son with a sack and \$5 for a pair of the desired pigs. The neighbor accordingly put the two little grunters in one end of the sack, tying a string around the middle, filling the other end of the sack with corn.

Taking the money, he said, "Now when you get home, tell your father the pigs are in one end and the breed in the other." C. E. CLINE.

Shopping Minutes Count These Days

We will say it again for em phasis-"Don't put off your Christmas shopping another minute." Make out your Christmas lists in advance, noting just about what you want to buy and where you can find it.

Shop in the early morning hours f possible - the stores are less rowded, the sales people fresh and Think of the overcrowded deliv-

eries and carry small parcels when possible. In making out the Christmas lists you will find the advertising in this newspaper a most valuable help.