

The Oregonian

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Portland, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 1915.

THE LESSON.

Justification for the adoption of the anti-capital punishment amendment must rest on some other evidence than the revelations in the Wehrman case.

Pender was convicted on the film-strip evidence. The case against him was evidence, the whole case against him was evidence.

Our criminal trials are not conducted by the prosecution and defense solely with intent to see that exact justice is done.

The Salem Capital Journal is much offended because—as it says—"Portland ring" is laying plans to organize the next session of the Legislature.

There are certain phases of the Sierks confession that can be checked as to truth. No effort should be spared to check them.

Two Courts in Conflict. There is an apparent conflict between the United States courts at Philadelphia and St. Louis in their interpretation of the anti-trust law.

NEGRO BLOOD. The question whether Mrs. Arthur Little, of Detroit, has negro blood in her veins does not seem to us to be of the first importance.

Wetumpka, Ala., had the usual diversion yesterday. Number of victims, two; color, black.

between the two lower courts, and it may result from the appeal just taken by the Harvester Company.

SIERKS' CONFESSION. It will have been observed by those who read Mr. Thacher's study of John Sierks in The Oregonian Monday morning that the criminologist anticipated much of the attempt to pick to pieces the half-witted confession.

Mr. Thacher distinctly said that he did not believe that certain of the details of the confession were accurate. The same details are now subjected to dispute. It must be remembered that several years have elapsed since the commission of the crime.

He was familiar with some of the details of the evidence adduced at the trial. John Arthur Pender, who is the serving sentence for the murder. It is the most natural thing in the world for a feeble-minded person to confuse with what he has heard or read events that actually occurred at a time when his brain was sodden with liquor.

There are certain phases of the Sierks confession that can be checked as to truth. No effort should be spared to check them. If the bullet he says is in the Wehrman cabin wall, or the revolver he says he buried in the garden is found, the confession will have been substantiated in the minds of all intelligent persons.

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in school wagons which are as pedagogical in that community as maps and dictionaries.

JOHN MINTO'S RHYMES OF OREGON. Like many others of the early Oregon pioneers, John Minto has a fine literary gift. His prose is entertaining and his poetry is full of true feeling.

Slieghing is excellent today following last night's big fall of snow, and we'll have skating soon, from the appearance of the streets.

New York, Jan. 2.—The epidemic of gripe is making progress throughout the country. The epidemic is making progress throughout the country.

Mr. E. J. Jeffery, president of the brick "trust," announces that bricks will cost \$8 per thousand next season.

THE FIRST PRINTING OFFICE IN AMERICA was not in Boston, but in Mexico City. It was established in 1539, some eighty years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

THE MONMOUTH NORMAL SCHOOL has published a bulletin for rural schools which discusses the needs of country life and its plans for meeting them.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS EXERCISING ITSELF to prevent anti-Jap legislation at the California Legislature. Yes, but it means spare W. Jennings from an attack of nervous prostration.

ONLY THE FORTUNE OF WAR. The German-Americans and professed advocates of absolute neutrality who propose that the United States declare an embargo on exports of war material do not look far enough ahead.

AT LAST THE BRAVE ENGLISH FOOTBALL players may go to the front. Under draft.

Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From The Morning Oregonian Jan. 2, 1890. Columbus, Jan. 2.—John McLean, Brice and Thomas, three ambitious millionaires, are furiously fighting each other in a closely-contested race for the Ohio Senatorship.

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LITERATURE MINUS ADJECTIVES

It Would Be Dull and Dry in Absence of Their Adornment. VALE, Or., Jan. 3.—(To the Editor.)—It is with great pleasure we read the letters and editorials on education in the Oregonian.

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Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 5, 1865. News comes from the front that the Union is holding a large Federal force in the Oregonian. It is pleasant for us of the "groundlings" to be informed that men should not write unless they have something to say.

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SEASONAL NUMBERS ARE ISSUED

Numerous Northwest Newspapers Are Out in Annual Dress. The "Eleventh Anniversary Number" of the Jewish Tribune, of Portland, is up to the standards of excellence established by the "City of Beautiful Homes" and the "City of the Future."

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A Wise Woman's Way

It was a wise and experienced woman who declared that she always sought the advertising columns of the Oregonian before she set out on a business tour.