

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, Dec. 24, 1915.

caused in peace, and on Democratic extravagance, which in the Sixty-third Congress spent \$210,000,000 more than was spent by the last Republican Congress. When the Democrats proposed to continue in emergency emergency, the Republicans did right in showing that the needed revenue could be raised by levying duties on the commodities which now pour in duty free. Such duties would also stimulate activity in our industries by assisting them to compete with foreign products. Only objection of Democrats to that policy makes continuance of the emergency taxes necessary. Then, the Democrats should not ask the Republicans to share responsibility for those taxes; they should bear it alone. That is the meaning of the adverse Republican vote in Congress.

NO HALF-WAY STATION.
Grover Cleveland was a President of the United States who saw clearly and spoke plainly. During his two Administrations there was no war, though there was a violent diplomatic collision with Great Britain; but the President understood perfectly that the United States could not hope to play a great part in the world's affairs without the spirit and ability to enforce the National will. Collier's Weekly calls attention to a single expression used by Grover Cleveland, which puts the whole case in a nutshell, to wit: "There is no half-way ground between complete disarmament and adequate preparedness. If the country is to be safe, it must be prepared to meet itself against any foe, with all that all the best of the argument."

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.
Scrooge, to be sure, was a caricature. Yet he was drawn with fidelity. Dickens took all the mean, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinners he had ever known and concentrated them into one dour, acrid character. Then he turned the melting rays of the true Christmas spirit upon his, steady nature and softened old Scrooge, bitter, wizened, old Scrooge, into a real human being capable of sharing human joys and sorrows.

HIS MIGHTY PEN.
While the President is blissfully playing golf with his beautiful bride and enjoying to full all the delights of a full-orbed honeymoon—a felicity which none of course begrudge him, he continues to be made at Washington. There was a note to Austria-Hungary on December 6, widely advertised as an ultimatum to that frightened power, and said to be the last word as well as the first word of America on the deplorable Austro-Hungarian. There was severe talk of the "inhumane" and "barbarous" aspects of the affair, and a vigorous denunciation of the "wanton slaughter of men, women and children." It was a firm and bold definition of the American attitude.

THE RIGHT KIND OF HELP.
A good example of the right kind of Government help to business is furnished by the United States Bureau of Mines. That bureau aims to discover improved processes and show them to the individuals engaged in the industry concerned. It does not attempt to apply its discoveries to any particular business in competition with the private investor. It does the same class of work for the mining industry as the Agricultural Department does for the farmer.

PROMOTION BY SELECTION.
If any fresh evidence is needed that Daniels has no more business at the head of the Navy Department than William Jennings Bryan had at the head of the State Department it will be found in the latest Daniels plan of promotion by selection in the Navy. Special ability should be recognized, according to the patriotic Daniels, although he admits that promotion by selection must be surrounded by safeguards to insure advancement of those who are specially qualified for higher commissions. A carefully-selected board of high-ranking officers, for example, should be set up to determine the relative merits of candidates, with mathematical precision just who should be advanced and who should not.

As a theory the Daniels plan would

very well. But Navy officers are human, even after attaining high rank—in some instances. They are subject to prejudices and opinions concerning individual junior officers. Some of them are even susceptible to influence, even though the process be subconscious. Suppose some officer had won the confidence and admiration of several members of a board of "selection." Suppose, too, the Secretary of the Navy should be predisposed in the same direction. Perilous Navy politics would thus gain its foothold. Another point: Highly efficient officers are not always men of pleasing personality. It has been said, in fact, that popularity and efficiency rarely go together in the service. Suppose the efficient man had a frog in the toes of a member of the Board?

It must also be borne in mind that some officers are able to carry a dazzling brilliance on their coat sleeves. They are superficial. They get opportunity to show themselves off to good advantage in the public eye. However, the Scores of Naval officers would not resort to such methods. They knew to the line and let the matter of promotion take care of itself in the course of seniority. That is the only sane system. High entrance examinations and high promotion examinations serve to maintain the standards. Perhaps the best men do not always get the high posts, but at least all have the same opportunity. Christianity does not win over merit.

New York health authorities have

Austria, like Germany, is now trying

Illinois' Attorney-General favors

The resignation of Henry A. Wise

London reports that 2,524,460 Germans

The Greek Premier displays a fine scorn

What has become of the old-fashioned

There are poor folk and poor folk aplenty;

How to Keep Well
By Dr. W. A. Evans.
Questions pertinent to hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, if matters of general interest, will be answered in this column. Answers will not appear as the subject is not suitable, letters will be personally answered, subject to proper limitations and where a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases, but will be glad to give advice on general health. 1915, by Dr. W. A. Evans. Published by arrangement with Chicago Tribune.

Defective Child Studies.
District Superintendent Allison, of the Chicago schools, thinks we have the wrong idea of the classification of below-normal children. In consequence we do injustice to many children. For one thing, we brand them with a stigma which they do not deserve. It is not the child who is defective, but the environment which is defective. It is the child who is defective, but the environment which is defective. It is the child who is defective, but the environment which is defective.

Unless the reason for the retardation

An 11-year moron must not stop

Professor Allison makes the following

An engineer narrates the following

"Hives and itching of the skin may

What has become of the old-fashioned

There are poor folk and poor folk aplenty;

How some men find their homes

Is some child liable to be forgotten?

STANDARDS OF PIETY CHANGED
Denominational Affiliations No Longer Measurement of Christianity.
NEWBERG, Or., Dec. 22.—(To the Editor)—Are statistics furnished by the Watchman of nearly a century ago and editorially compiled upon by the Oregonian, as to colleges and piety, a safe barometer to follow as an indication of piety among the students of our schools today? Mildly speaking, I think not. Any attempt to base a comparison upon conditions that obtained in the religious world in that generation would be misleading and the tests that met the applicant for consideration at the hands of the denominational leaders of the Christian religion in that generation to the recognized membership of the church today and how many would pass muster?

In the second place the treatment

To it the evidence of teachers and

A certain percentage will fall into

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In Other Days
Twenty-five Years Ago.
From The Oregonian December 24, 1890. Washington, Dec. 23.—The commission chosen to locate the drydock on the Pacific Coast has selected Port Orchard on Puget Sound.

Kilkenny, Dec. 21.—The official

Mrs. Louise Humphrey-Smith, of San

SEVERE BLOW TO EVOLUTIONISTS

Writer Grows Sarcastic Over Lesson

ALL WILLING TO FIGHT GOVERNMENT,

HEPPNER, Or., Dec. 21.—(To the

Empty Stockings.

George's Dry Staff.

Makers of Sile Brick.

Last-Minute Gifts