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	3.00
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 14 pages, 1 cent; 16 to 32 pages, 2 cents; 34 to 48 pages, 3 cents; 50 to 60 pages, 4 cents; 62 to 70 pages, 5 cents; 72 to 92 pages, 6 cents. Foreign postage, double rates.

Eastern Business Office—Verree & Conklin, Brunswick building, New York; Verree & Conklin, Steger building, Chicago; San Francisco representative, R. J. Bidwell, 742 Market street.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29, 1915.

LOCAL INITIATIVE, FEDERAL CREDIT.

The Oregon Irrigation Congress, now in session, is dealing with the irrigation problem at a new stage in its development. A beginning was made with small private and district enterprises, cheap and easy of construction. We next tried corporate enterprise under state contract to irrigate tracts granted by the Government under the Carey act, but that has failed in most cases. Private corporations have also failed, usually, when acting in their own behalf. States have been reluctant to undertake construction directly on their own account under the Carey act, Oregon furnishing a notable exception to the rule. The Government, under the reclamation act, has constructed and is constructing great and costly projects such as private enterprise could not or would not undertake. All the funds already received and to be received for some years to come under that act have been absorbed. Under the recent amendment to the law those funds will be recouped more slowly than was first contemplated.

National, state and private enterprise, all are now at the end of their cash resources and private irrigation bonds are no longer salable. But credit resources are still unimpaired, so far as the Nation and states are concerned. Investors no longer will accept the irrigation plant and the irrigated tract themselves as security for capital. If progress is to be made, the credit of the Nation or the state at large, or of both, must be placed behind that security in order that capital may be obtained on possible terms. The interest of nation and state in thus using their credit is obvious, for it is bound up in the development of their waste land, without which progress would be stayed.

The time is propitious for this use of the public credit. When irrigation was a new science in the country it abounded in unsolved problems of engineering and finance. The project was unknown that was constructed at a cost anywhere near the estimate, and expensive failures were not few. If sales of land were slow, receipts fell short of the amount necessary to meet charges. Only the credit of the Government could have borne the enormous burdens thus put upon irrigation by the great structures, slow and costly to build, which were necessary to National reclamation; also the burdens to be carried until settlement on large tracts yielded adequate returns to pay for operation and maintenance, let alone interest on investment.

Many of the elements of doubt have now been removed. Engineers can figure more closely on cost of construction than they could ten or twenty years ago. Elimination of private speculation has cut the padding out of the investment on which interest must be earned. Men in charge of the finances can calculate more closely what total investment will be needed, how fast land will be occupied, how rapidly returns will come in and at what pace they will grow. The Government has taken out of the field the largest and most costly projects and has left those which are handled more easily in all respects. Many farmers have become familiar with the science of irrigation and are more ready to undertake its application. The ground has been cleared by much costly work, which was in the nature of experiment, and the knowledge thus gained can be applied.

With a view of lending National credit to the financing of future projects for application of this knowledge Senator Jones, of Washington, introduced his bill. It provides in substance that the Secretary of the Interior, on behalf of the Government, may guarantee bonds issued by an irrigation district for a reclamation project which he approves after examination by Government engineers. The bonds are to run for not more than forty years nor to bear more than 4 per cent interest. In case of default by the district the Government may foreclose. The district being a co-operative body of land owners, there is no room for speculation, as in the case of a company operating for profit, and there is every inducement to economy. The Government is protected against liability for projects which are not feasible, for on finding that to be the case it can refuse to guarantee bonds on them. The district has no inducement to promote an unworthy project, for debt and foreclosure would result.

If Congress cannot be induced to pass the Jones bill, each Western state can safely and wisely guarantee district irrigation bonds, if proper limitations on total expenditures are established. They are more vitally interested than is the Government, for lack of irrigation cramps their development in far greater proportion than that of the Nation as a whole. If it be desired to increase the security, the states can add their guaranty to that of the Nation. Whether state or Nation, or both, stand behind the bonds, construction and operation should be in the hands of the district, of course, under the eye of the guarantor, who would desire assurance that the work was done according to the design approved. We should then have a combination of local initiative, local construction and local primary liability, with state or National credit and general supervision. That combination should effect economy and expedition in doing the work.

This subject is especially important to Oregon. Development of its central and eastern areas is halted by lack of railroads. Construction of railroads awaits assurance that the land will be developed by irrigation. When that assurance is obtained as to Central Oregon, the Strahorn railroad will be built and the settlers on irrigated land will be assured of access to market. Until that road is built, Oregon will remain commercially severed into fragments, some of which are tributary to other states. When it is built these fragments will be coupled together and the state will be a commercial as well as a political unit.

The West is devoted to the principle of self-help. It is ready to apply that principle by developing the remainder of its arid land by its own efforts and by giving its notes for the cost. It asks the Nation to endorse those notes in order that the interest rate may be lower and that they may sell more readily. If the Nation should be called upon to pay, it may take over the security behind the notes. That is the Jones plan in a nutshell.

THE COLONEL WILL EXPLAIN.

Colonel House, friend of the President, who has been constituted a sort of perambulating kitchen cabinet, has sailed for Europe to straighten out the interminable tangles in which American diplomacy has become involved. There is a certain mystery about the precise functions and powers of the Colonel; but the New York Times says that it is to "convey to American Ambassadors and Ministers the 'atmosphere' of the Washington Administration with reference to various international questions," and we have the high authority of the New York World for the surprising statement that the astute Colonel is to interview the Kaiser himself.

"The Administration," declares the World, "has received information tending to establish the fact that from some unknown, but apparently credited source, the Kaiser has received the impression that the United States was bluffing for political purposes when it dispatched its last formal demands to Germany in August."

After all those impeccable notes, the Kaiser fails to understand! How unfortunate!

What would the Administration do without a high-class messenger boy to explain to the crowned heads of Europe when it desires to be taken seriously?

ELEMENTS OF PREPAREDNESS.

The Nation is unanimous, except for a small and very militant contingent of pacificists, for military preparedness; but there is a wide divergence of opinion as to the method and measure. The New York Evening Post, consulting the preparedness lexicographers, gets the following results:

The general board of the Navy: "Adequate—The Navy of the United States should ultimately be equal to the most powerful maintained by any other nation of the world."

The Navy League: "Adequate—A Navy for the United States equal to the combined navies of any three powers."

Secretary Garrison: "Adequate—400,000 men."

Senator Works: "Adequate—1,000,000 men."

War College: "Adequate—1,500,000 men."

Colonel Roosevelt: "Adequate—Universal military service."

Senator Chamberlain: "Adequate—Conscription."

The United States has no need either of an Army or a Navy on a European basis, as they will be for defensive purposes. But it must have a Navy which will be able to meet on the seas any attempted invasion and an Army which will be sufficient to cope with any possible force that may land on our shores. Obviously no power will ever be able to send millions of men here, at least until our Navy shall have been swept from the seas, and even then it will be a task of the greatest difficulty and hazard.

It ought to be plain to any intelligence that the first requirement is a strong Navy, and the second is an Army, not great in numbers, with reserves trained to arms and to the habit and discipline of the camp. Fighting any war with raw recruits is calamitous. But a definite military policy and a thoroughly organized military system, based on our geographical situation, our National policies, and our international relations and problems, are vital.

When it is made clear to the world that the United States can utilize its resources, and is not helpless in a military sense, we shall not be attacked.

A COMMON-SENSE DECISION.

While regulation of the jitneys is essential to the public welfare, the larger importance of the decision handed down by the Supreme Court yesterday concerns another matter. The jitney ordinance had been stayed in operation by Circuit Judge Bagley on the ground that under the terms of the constitutional amendment extending the initiative and referendum powers to local legislation cities were deprived of authority to put ordinances into effect immediately. All ordinances, he held, must await the possible filing of a referendum.

As The Oregonian said at the time the decision was rendered by the lower court, "Even in the face of a terrible disaster, no city in Oregon could under the decision vote a dollar for immediate relief or protection. The solemn process of waiting thirty days to ascertain whether the people desired to vote on the appropriation would have to be observed."

It is not conceivable that the people would knowingly divest themselves of a power so thoroughly grounded in wise public policy. Indeed, as the Supreme Court remarks, that reading of the constitutional amendment is a strained construction.

The amendment is one that was adopted four years after the original initiative and referendum amendment was approved by the people. The earlier amendment applied only to laws enacted by the Legislature and it specifically exempted therefrom emergency measures. The later amendment in respect to the issue involved reads as follows:

> The initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people by this constitution are hereby further reserved to the legal voters of every municipality and district as to all local, special and municipal legislation, of every character, in and for their respective municipalities and districts.

Judge Bagley's decision was founded on the words printed in heavy type, and he ignored the fact that the later amendment merely extended to local legislation powers already reserved to the voters and that those powers so reserved did not extend to emergency laws.

The Supreme Court's opinion on this point is interesting not only because of its effect, but by reason of its sensible consideration of the general understanding of a measure maintained throughout a period of years, as opposed to a belated technical analysis that reaches some spectacular result. The court says:

> The power has never been questioned in this court and in our opinion it requires a strained construction to justify any other interpretation. But if there were any doubt as to the true meaning of the constitutional provision, it is a well-settled rule that contemporaneous construction of constitutional or legislative provisions and long acquiescence in a particular interpretation are very persuasive in leading courts to adopt the same construction.

What the Supreme Court's decision would have been had the issue been raised eight years ago we are not fully advised, but we can guess it. In this, as in many other cases, it is not particularly hard to distinguish between the limit to which intelligent lawmakers intended to go, and the mere chance of phraseology which leads unintentionally, upon strict construction, to outrageous ends. In the past courts have sometimes given more heed to the exact termination of phrases and sentences than to common sense. Thus was made possible the insidious joker with its power to turn good laws against the public weal. But quite often of late some sensible opinion like that of the Supreme Court in the jitney case convinces us that we are gradually escaping the grosser evils of legal technicality.

WHEN THE BARD SEES RED.

As one reads the recent-day musing of Ivan Arkudoff, poet and favorite at the Bulgarian Court, the thought occurs that war is playing some queer pranks upon the natures of combating races. The brutalizing effect of war has been felt the world over. Admittedly this is not the same serene old sphere we used to know, and, as some philosopher has observed, it will never be the same again within our lifetime. But brutalizing is too mild a term if the poetic effervescences of Arkudoff indicate anything.

This gentle bard was inspired lately by the possibility of an invasion of Greece by Bulgarian troops. Shots were actually exchanged in Albanian Epirus and there was likelihood of an invasion of Hellas soil in order that the Bulgarian allies of Kultur might get at the remote Franco-British hosts entrenched beyond the Greek lines. It was a situation that inspired the temperamental Arkudoff to song, and since he is a National poet and since National poets are accredited with the power to interpret the National mind, one wonders, in reading this songster's outpouring, what manner of people the Bulgarians have become under the stress of war madness. Here is the translation of the Bulgarian song:

> Before the dog star marks the seventh degree above the horizon, shall the sea of blood, which thy sword unsheals, flow seven fathoms higher. Behold the aged cripple, who drags along his wretched senile life to escape death and thy fury. Trample him under foot with iron feet, gouge out his dimming eyes, unworthy ever to mirror Bulgaria's grandeur.
>
> Why linger, young Bulgaria? Forward, ever forward! Softer than flowery meads of Spring is the carpet woven from the corpses of murdered women and boys. Refresh thy soul in the perfume of their youth, and then, tipsy with passion and heroism, strew flowers upon the earth, and march forth as if you were treading the velvet rugs of a palace.

An American or an Englishman might express such sentiments and yet retain full standing as a peace propagandist. For we are gifted with satirical expression and such a song of hate would be set down as but derision of bloodthirsty wretches. But the Bulgarian songster writes what he feels and feels what he writes.

He does not hold up a black picture in order to shame his countrymen by its blackness. No doubt the writing loses much of its original purport through translation. Possibly it appears less harsh in the native tongue than in English. Yet the blood lust is there, and Greeks, reading the Bulgarian song of hate, must feel that a more merciful and tender-hearted foeman would be found in the red-handed Turk whose incursions into the Balkan States have stained many pages of history with crimson.

THE GREAT AMERICAN DRAMATIST.

The great American dramatist has been discovered. He is one who has been in our midst these many years, working day and night for our edification and instruction. While we have been conscious of his presence, while he has affected us more deeply than any other writer, the belated discovery of his true role has remained for the Brooklyn Eagle in this late hour. No individual claims this signal honor. Who ever saw his name signed to anything characteristic or worth while? He works not for fame, but for sheer love of performance—and something like $25 a week.

One need but look over his copy of The Oregonian in order to be impressed with the force of the Brooklyn Eagle's discovery. Truly, all the world's a stage and all the people merely actors. It is real life that the reportorial dramatist interprets. And unless he possesses a certain insight into human nature, a certain ability to see and emphasize the dramatic qualities of an incident, he does not get very far as a reporter or last very long in that calling.

Tragedies, dramas, melodramas, comedies, sketches, burlesques, problem plays, every manner of production is heralded from the pages of the morning paper. Conspicuously displayed on the front page is the record of a fresh incident in the world's greatest of tragedies. A nation has been over-run. Its people are starving and homeless. The proud monarch has been driven into exile. What Elizabethan drama was ever molded of stouter materials? Real life provides all the stage settings, all the grim accessories. Those hundreds of thousands of people in the background are actually homeless, actually starving. The king is a real king, King Peter of Serbia. It is all real, fearfully real. But in the telling of the tale the dramatic qualities are emphasized with that deftness known only in the great American dramatist.

From that heavy tragedy one may turn to a little local drama. A man has deserted his wife and two little children. He has gone to California, leaving them without food or money. The authorities have overtaken the wretch and are bringing him back to take up the burden where he left off in a fit of despicable cowardice and selfishness. There are still other little tragedies. A man kills himself because the girl he loved would not marry him. What dramatist would dare to suggest anything so irrational? Has not the greatest of dramatists remarked that many men have died, but none of love? Yet here is a man ending his life because he cannot bear the pangs of unrequited passion.

Tiring of tragedy, one has not far to search for comedy. Here it is. A rich manufacturer, having gotten all the money he wants, has set out to do great things. Loading a ship with dreamers, preachers and idealists, he sails on the self-assigned mission of ending a great war that rages in a distant land. On the way over his peace propagandists get into a rumpus among themselves and have such a discordant trip that the rich manufacturer abandons them as soon as they reach their destination. The peace dreamers begin deserting one at a time and the whole affair turns out a huge joke, just as every sensible person anticipated.

Why, half the great comedies haven't that much plot. It is really a great thing. The surprising thing is that the American reporter is the only one who has seen the dramatic possibilities of the expedition thus far. But anon, no doubt, we shall be regaled with the same spectable from behind the footlights. The expedition provides simply irresistible material for a burlesque or a musical extravaganza. There is, in fact, no end to its dramatic possibilities.

Another item. Huerta, the grim old autocrat of Mexico, released from an American prison. The man who once held the power of life and death over millions now at the mercy of a humble American magistrate. Broken and disconsolate, a mere scowling human shell, he stands out in highly dramatic contrast with the proud dictator whose every word was law a few months gone by.

Another and sinister plot. A great people are being told that they are helpless in the event that a foreign foe should come to despoil them of their untold riches. They talk much, but do nothing. Every one is for doing something, but everyone wants someone else to do it. Dozens of leaders press forward with full solutions, but no two can agree on what should be done. At the same time this same republic exchanges aggressive notes with a powerful nation—a nation whose armies might march from one end of this land to the other practically unmolested. This drama is incomplete. The first act offers possibilities of another tragedy to equal that tragic masterpiece, the Downfall of Belgium. But the final acts have not been unfolded and we can never know what turn the story will take or what climax is in store.

So the record runs—tragedy, comedy, drama. The great American dramatist makes the fullest use of all his material. He is vivid, realistic and concerned with the truth. His characters are not puppets of his imagination, but creatures of substance. Their capers depict real life because they are life itself.

The Lansing plan of cementing all Pan-America into a defensive unit is founded on a pleasing ideal. It would seem fit that all America should stand together against possible oversea aggression. Yet we suspect that South American suspicion of us is stronger than any fear of a European power. In fact it is American greed that Latin-America fears, and despite our assurances, time would be required—time and effort—in order to reassure our Southern neighbors. There are those who will expect no more from the Administration's latest scheme than from the Ford peace mission.

Poor little Serbia. What will her ultimate fate be? Her countryside despoiled, her ruler in exile, her armies dispersed, Serbia is a pawn of fate to an even greater extent than Belgium. Even if the allies win in the end, Serbia's freedom is not assured. If the allies do not win, or if the final conclusion is indecisive, then Serbia can expect nothing better than being left to the tender mercies of Bulgaria. There is no greater tragedy in all history than that of plucky little Serbia. Her fate is even more pathetic than that of Belgium.

Bryan, at the last moment, has changed his mind about sailing for Europe on a peace mission. The erstwhile Secretary of State had planned to join Ford. Invited to accompany the original expedition, he resorted to watchful waiting. No doubt if the peace expedition had given the slightest evidence of success the sagacious William would have hastened to the scene. As it is, he can remain discreetly away and avoid making an ass of himself once more.

The dying year has been distinguished by fires which destroyed Oregon industries. Let us hope the new year will be distinguished by building of new ones.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce called to meet at "8 P. M. Wednesday evening" are doubly assured the meeting will be held after dark.

The Governor of North Dakota knows when he has enough of the Ford peace expedition, and that's what's the matter with Hanna.

Ford acts wisely in choosing Copenhagen as the site of his peace palace. If he built it in a belligerent country it might be bombarded.

Think of the joy of the men who can lie abed in the morning because they do not have to come downtown to open at 5 o'clock.

The job of Premier in Greece has become so undesirable that all the statesmen play Alphonse and Gaston with it.

Berlin and Vienna will chuckle when hearing that Japanese steamships are scared off the Suez route.

Since a man cannot drink next year he must eat the more, occasionally becoming intoxicated with slumber.

Redempton of Oregon from drought is a fit work for the year 1916. Therefore hail to the Irrigation Congress.

Many men will be wearing crowns by midsummer because they cannot help themselves.

If a dream is good cause for arrest of a delinquent debtor, why is not a "hunch" also?

From giant submarines we may soon progress to submarine dreadnoughts.

Only a specified number of lodges meet Friday night, and that excuse is too bold.

These are the days of lost opportunities and soon they will be spelled "lost."

King Peter of Serbia has atoned for accepting a blood-stained throne.

The snow yesterday was a false alarm. The ground is too soft.

Peter of Serbia would be a drawing card on any American circuit.

Wow! Washington stays "wet" a day longer than Oregon.

Ezra Meeker's trail will be paved with good intentions.

But Austria is not "lickable."

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. Where space will not permit or the subject is not suitable, letters will be personally answered, subject to proper limitations and where a stamped, addressed envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Requests for such service cannot be answered.

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A Bilious Attack.

When a Northern man says he is bilious he means that he feels heavy mentally and lazy physically. Probably he has a headache. He takes a purgative and gets relief. Twenty years ago he took calomel, but he has found out that one purge answers as well as another.

When a Southern man says that he is bilious it may mean that he has been overeating and underexercising and needs a purge. If he says that he has had a bilious attack he may mean something entirely different.

A man with a bilious attack starts in with some nausea. He probably is having some fever. Somebody tells him that he is sallow and he concludes he is bilious. He takes a course of calomel. A course of calomel may consist of divided doses, a half grain or more every hour for five of 10 doses, or he may take a single large dose. Calomel acts on the small intestine as well as the large.

Presently he is profoundly nauseated as a result largely of the calomel. He begins to vomit. He empties his stomach. His nausea continues and bile is drawn into his stomach. He vomits bile. Was he not bilious? Sure, here is the bile to prove it. He needs more calomel. He takes a second course—more pain, nausea and vomiting bile. When this has subsided he feels better. Any feeling is an improvement over the nausea from calomel augmented by the nausea of bile. He is going to be all right now. He was bilious and the calomel has acted. Days of needless and useless suffering.

A bad picture? Yes, but that is not what makes the story worth while. Here's where the harm comes in: Many of the cases of consumption are called bilious attacks until the disease is well advanced. A lot of typhoid fever goes by the name of bilious attacks for a week or two of the disease. Locomotor ataxics are said to have bilious attacks for months, during which their disease is progressing.

The blanket diagnosis of malaria is bad enough. Why give it a twin? Between a "touch of malaria" and a "bilious attack" almost any disease almost anywhere in the body can be covered. The harm of the sloppy diagnosis—a bilious attack—consists not so much in the days of needless suffering induced by the calomel as in the fact that it prevents the proper diagnosis from being made.

I have in mind now a man who has consumption. He is far from living as he should. In consequence he has spells of fever from time to time. He is not closely under a physician's observation. When he has fever he concludes that he has a bilious attack and he takes a course of calomel. After several days of vomiting he feels better. The calomel has acted. What is the harm? It is twofold. First, these courses of vomiting and purging exhaust his vitality. Second, he fails to recognize that the attacks of fever mean that he is not right and in consequence his disease is progressing.

Baby's Head Flat in Back.

Anxious writes: "My baby's head is very flat at the back from continually lying on his back while sleeping. He will not sleep in any other position. He is now 16 months old, and I would like to know whether he is too old to have his head round out in the back. At what age are the bones of the head permanently shaped?"

REPLY.

The large fontanelle closes at about 14 months. After that closes the shape of the head cannot be changed by any simple means.

Not Harmful.

S. W. writes: "Will you kindly advise me whether grape juice is harmful to one who has acidity of the stomach?"

REPLY.

No.

Should Change Diet.

"Our baby, apparently healthy, 23 months old, weighs 19¼ pounds, has not gained anything in the last six months. Her feeding schedule is as follows: Seven o'clock, two to three dishes of oatmeal with milk; 10 o'clock, juice of orange; 11 o'clock, a scrambled egg, mashed potatoes and a cup of noodle soup with rice in it; 4 o'clock, cup of crackers and milk; 7 o'clock, dish of oatmeal. During the day she eats graham crackers. Refuses to drink milk. Have we cause for worry on account of her weight and not gaining anything?"

REPLY.

She is not thriving and you must change her food. If she will not drink milk try her with any one of the patent baby foods, or buttermilk, or clabber. Give her meat, bread, and vegetables. She can take spinach, turnips, beets, carrots, as well as potatoes. She needs meat. In order to get her to take meat, bread, milk and vegetables you should lessen her cereals.

Not True.

Mrs. D. H. C. writes: "Last Winter I had an operation for appendicitis, also had right ovary removed. Nine months later I gave birth to a baby, a boy. I have been told that I could never have a girl. (1) Is this true? (2) Are the children of a person with one ovary all of the same sex?"

REPLY.

1 and 2. No.

Running Water Calming.

A. O. C. writes: "They have a method now in insane asylums of confining patients in a bathtub, with running water, for 12, 24 and 48 hours and longer periods. (1) Is this permitted by the law? (2) Is it approved by the medical profession in general?"

REPLY.

1. Yes. 2. Yes, nothing else calms a person suffering from a violent mental excitement so well. It is better than medicine and is without after effects.

River and Sea Level.

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me as to the height of the Willamette River above sea level at Portland.

In order to settle a discussion on this point, I have called up a number of offices, such as the United States Engineers', United States Hydrographic, Weather Bureau, Port of Portland, and have also looked through books issued by the Chamber of Commerce, but as yet the question is still unanswered, though elevations in various parts of the city have been given. C. H. P. M.

Willamette River at Portland at low water: Above mean sea level at Astoria, .75 foot; above mean lower low water at Astoria, 5.35 feet.

Not to Close.

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor)—I have been informed by several persons that the Margulis Nickel Eating-House on Burnside street is to discontinue business the first of the year. Will you kindly tell me if such is true or not, and if so, just when?

A CONSTANT READER.

The Margulis Nickel Eating-House will not close after the first of the year. Instead Mr. Margulis has announced he is making plans to enlarge his operations. He is now handling 1500 to 2000 daily.

EVOLUTION OUTSIDE OF BIOLOGY

It Governs Civilization, Literature and Other Forms of Thought Training.

UNIVERSITY PARK, Or., Dec. 23.—To the Editor.)—A recent contribution to The Oregonian regarding evolution interested the writer and inspires him to add a few words. The writer of the contribution tells us he accepted evolution at first, but time has shaken his first notions. With the writer of these words it was distrust and opposition to evolution at first, but at present it is friendliness.

The theory of evolution is given us as a working theory of not how the universe started, but how it has come into its present form. The evidence in its behalf is incomplete and will always remain so. But a theory comes to us to apply to the marvelous works of nature and we are more concerned as to how it works than to prove it true. The theory of gravitation works well as to the upholding of star and flower.

The adherents to the evolution theory do not claim that man is descended from an ape, but that they both have come up from a primordial form, but that the ape, becoming weary of the long journey, stopped where he is, but another development went on and up to man. Man cannot go back to the ape, for he never was such, nor the ape cannot go forward to the man, as he is the top of that development of its own kind. Besides there is enough of the monkey in man. The ape is a side branch of the tree, while there are branches higher up.

We know the name of no living scientist of authority who is not on the side of evolution. Evolution is not only used in the field of biology, but elsewhere with striking force and beauty. Take literature and we find it an orderly development, instead of books constructed loosely. It is so with civilization. There it starts in Greece to be shaped by Alexander and touched for the better in Rome, an underground stream during the Dark Ages, brought to the sunlight by the Renaissance and broadening and deepening in our own splendid days. The evolution of ourselves is one interesting fact to contemplate.

That there is anything better than our physical forms to hold our souls in the present state of existence seems doubtful to anticipate. Man stands erect, looks through flashing eyes and is satisfied with his deftly constructed hands. His feet, with which he goes out upon joyful pilgrimages, are just right for their rapid steps. The present ascent of men must be within themselves and in strength, faith, hope and love they can improve upon themselves. The inner nobilities may be strengthened constantly and instead of being at the top in unfolding them we are not far from the start.

B. J. HOADLEY.

HIS PRAYER, ALSO, IS FOR SALE

Mr. Rigby, for Defense, Refuses to Let Pacificists Have Best of It.

VALE, Or., Dec. 26.—(To the Editor.)—I have received the inclosed poem, by Julian P. Scott, from one of our peace loving and peace-at-any-price fanatics, which is denominated a "Christmas Prayer," of which any number may be secured at the low price of 5 cents per one or $2 per hundred.

Oh God, as thou art,
Let me not listen to the voice of kings;
Oh God, speak to my heart,
Let me but listen to the voice within.
Oh God, prepare me, not with guns,
But with fearless love for all my fellowmen.
Let me not see the color or the creed,
Let me not see the race or tribe,
Oh God let me but see the souls of men.

Prepare me, God,
Prepare me for the greatness of all trials,
Prepare me not with guns—Oh God!
Prepare me with a fearless voice,
A voice to reach the souls of men.
And if I must die—
Let me but die with love for all within my heart.
I know no greater cause;
Oh God make me too strong a lesser cause to serve.
This is my Christmas prayer—
Oh Christ.

I am unwilling that any man shall do more than I along these lines provided we are equal in ability to perform. Peace is the one great desire of this entire country. I therefore offer what I am pleased to denominate a "New Year's Invocation," any number of which I will be pleased to furnish at the moderate price of 5 cents per one or $2 per 100, admitting at the same time that each individual may, at the cost of a few moments' reflection, either pray with equal possibility of success as though he paid 5 cents for the prayer of another, or offer an invocation fully as likely to bring results as sending me 5 cents for my equally bad literary production.

A NEW YEAR'S INVOCATION.

(Some five million years after creation.)

(Prelude.)

That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requieth that which is past.—Eccl. iii:15.

INVOCATION.

Universal Master; Eternal Mind;
Thou, who in thy all pervading wisdom
Created man, endowing him with power
To perceive thy purpose, divine thy will,
Plainly written in thy sacred records,
Told by the history of the nations
Swept into dark oblivion by thy will;
Thou, who hath placed within the elements
Power for destruction or salvation;
Endow us with understanding.
Grant us that we use thy wise creations
To defend our homes, our wives, our children;
Grant us we do not supinely suffer,
Becoming as a prairie swept by fire;
Grant us to use the knowledge of today,
And list to the warning cry of ages;
Grant we conquer not, though be not conquered,
But live in joy as thou wouldst have us live;
Grant us, if we pass, we pass with honor
To our country and to thee.

JOHN RIGBY.

Mrs. Contradiction

By Mary H. Force.

She didn't raise her boy to be a soldier,
But her girl was raised to gossip and to pose;
She didn't raise her son to feed the cannon,
But he couldn't feed himself or buy his clothes.

She says her daughter'll never be a mother
Until war is firmly banished from our land,
Caring not that she is quarrelsome and fretful,
That from morn till night she never lifts her hand.

For the cause of peace she says she's ever striving.
Thinks her sex must set this universe aright;
But her work at home I note she's always shirking,
And her husband seeks his quiet club at night.

"Peace on earth" should ever be our motto!
She affirms it with a vehemence quite bold;
But she never fails to stir up a commotion
When she hears a bit of scandal, I am told.

She was asked to join the party on the peace ship,
And accepted with a fervor quite unique;
But presented her amazing propaganda
In a manner that was anything but meek.

And we wonder if, like Mrs. Contradiction,
There are not others in the selfsame state of mind;
Who, looking for the wondrous second coming,
Are leaving Christ and duty far behind.

In Other Days

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of December 29, 1865.

The quartermaster's department has thus far realized between $6,000,000 and $8,000,000 from the sale of useless Army appurtenances.

"French Louie" arrived here Wednesday night with a train of pack animals from The Dalles for a cargo of freight. It is reported that the citizens of The Dalles are literally "in the dark." They have neither kerosene nor candles and the gas works are not in operation.

Fortress Monroe, December 17—A riot took place in Norfolk, Va., yesterday between the Twentieth New York Regiment and the Thirtieth United States, colored. A volley of from 10 to 12 muskets was fired by the Twentieth on the colored soldiers, which was about to be returned, when the officers arrived and put an end to the disturbance.

The late inclement season was yesterday handsomely rounded off by the appearance of a clear sky and balmy air, which so often forms the period to a tedious story of columns of icicles written in sheets of snow on the pages of Winter.

The last term of the Circuit Court, which has been in session so long, adjourned Wednesday evening sine die. It must have been a relief to Judge Shattuck.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of December 29, 1890.

The Dallas people intend having a railroad out four miles from Dallas towards Falls City to bring rock to Dallas for use in certain contemplated improvements.

George Pfunder, the irrepressible, returned to camp last week after an absence of two months, during which time he visited Spokane, Portland and San Francisco, says the Okanogan Outlook. While in Portland he sold to Jonathan Bourne a third interest in the Second Thought and a quarter interest in the Alice mine, adjoining the First Thought.

The Extension of the Multnomah Street Railway from Caruthers to Whitaker is now being operated to a limited extent. One car, to which a pair of horses is attached, makes regular trips over the new line connecting with the regular cars at Third and Sheridan streets.

Chauncey M. Depew had the honor of having a steam tug with the loudest whistle in New York harbor named after him.

A reporter was yesterday shown through the new Hotel Perkins, at Fifth and Washington streets. It is a very valuable addition to the public improvements of the city and a monument to the enterprise of a single individual seldom excelled.

THREE INSTITUTIONS ASSAILED

Mr. Lombard Criticises Commission, Traction Co. and Chamber Commerce.

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—The seats of the mighty are surely tottering when, through lack of anything else to do, the Chamber of Commerce, our local bureau of inefficiency, through the medium of its imported manager at $7500 per annum, sees fit to attack the humble and useful jitney. The scope and function of this bureau could surely find some more useful field for its labors, and coercion of its employes is plainly beneath its dignity.

The conditions which brought the jitney into existence were normal and natural. It was created as a protest against a poor streetcar system; it exists as a substitute therefor and as a convenience to the public, who prefer fresh air to dirty, unsanitary streetcars. That the jitney should be regulated goes without saying, but if the City Commission fails to regulate, why try to crush the inoffensive jitney because of the dereliction of our city officials.

Admittedly and confessedly it is the rankest kind of heresy to assail and criticise in one article such old-established fetiches as the Chamber of Commerce, the street railway system and the City Commission; but free speech allows a rejoinder, and while the writer may be impaled on the crucifix of public opinion for daring to comment or criticise, he feels that the effrontery of Mr. Hardy's pronunciamento should not pass by unnoticed.

GAY LOMBARD.

The Oregonian is quite unable to determine—perhaps it is not pertinent to determine—whether Mr. Lombard voices his protest as one who has suffered great personal inconvenience from any insufficiency in the streetcar service, or as a patron of the unlicensed, unregulated and irresponsible jitney; but as he appeals for the right to be heard in the sovereign name of free speech, his communication is cheerfully printed.

Prizes for Letters.

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor)—Will you kindly publish particulars concerning the letter-writing contest the Chamber of Commerce has planned in order to interest the Eastern tourist in this section of the country?

SUBSCRIBER.

Five prizes of $10 each are offered by the Chamber of Commerce bureau of publicity and conventions for letters best adapted to give people in the East an impression of the scenic advantage of Oregon and their attractiveness for tourists.

The contest closes January 3. Send letters in care of the bureau of publicity and conventions, Chamber of Commerce.

Letter-writing week will be January 17-22, and the winning letters in the contest will be published widely as guides and suggestions to people throughout the state who are to participate in letter-writing week.

It is planned to have hundreds of thousands of letters sent to the East from Oregon at that time.

Possible Cribbage Hand.

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Will you kindly state in your columns whether, in cribbage, any hands over 24 can be held and, if so, what are they and what are the cards that make them, and oblige? T. B.

Four fives, with a jack turned up, would give the dealer 30—15-16 and 12 fives, with "his nobs," making 30. Should his opponent hold the hand he would have two less, or 28.