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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, DEC. 25, 1904.

MAN AND NATURE.

A new book on the geography, geolagy, orography and topography of North America, by Israel C. Russell, professor of geology in the University of Michigan (D. Appleton & Co., New York), presents a classification and deecription of the physical features of this continent, on a plan worked out with originality and care. In the fullness of the matter, and yet in conciseness of the treatment, it is almost a marvel of bookmaking; for the subject is one that in most hands would lead to discursive disquisition, overloaded with detail. Here, on the contrary, we have a plan under which leading features are grouped in such way that nothing is in excess on the one hand nor sacrificed

to bravity on the other. The Oregonian's main object in writing of this book is to call attention to two leading topics in it, of especial interest to our people of Western North America. One of them is the treatment of the Great Basin, which includes much of Middle Oregon, nearly the whole of Nevada, large part of Callfornia, one-half of Utah, and considerable parts of Idaho and Wyoming. This region, whose area is about 210,600 square miles, sends no stream to the ocean. The annual precipitation is small and evaporation active. All the water reaching the land is returned to the air by evaporation, either directly or from the streams and lakes. The fresh-water lakes are few and small, and all of them are discharged into lakes more or less alkaline and saline, which have no out-

The principal pool. Great Salt Jait is dense with mineral matter in solution. Much of this basin undoubtedly was once below the sen-level-as a small portion of it lying towards the Gulf of California still is today. By upheaval the primordial conditions were changed, the great mountain range on the west side of it cut the basin off from the ocean winds, producing aridity, which gives the country the character into which it has developed. It is still drying up-though the progress of aridity in many parts of it may be checked by the agency of man, as human settlements are extended, trees planted and nourished and the soil stirred by the The Great Basin is not a single level-floored depression, but is trayereed in various directions by lofty mountain ranges, with high isolated mountains here and there. The upheaval jeft to the whole region a most irregular topography. At one time Great Salt Lake may have been a separate fresh-water basin, discharging into Snake River; for the elevation be tween Bear River and Snake River Valley today is but slight. But evaporation so reduced the lake as to cut off the outlet, and the mineral matter in solution, carried down by the streams, rapidly converted the waters of all the basing that had no outlet into saline Yet the streams discharging poois. into them have the usual purity of river waters, and carry but a small fraction of one per cent of saline matter in solution. It has taken, therefore, immse ages to convert the great lake of the basin into the saltest of seas. We should have another sait lake where the Klamath Lakes are, but extending over a much larger area than they cover, had not precipitation in that region remained considerable enough to maintain an outlet to the ocean. Similar to this great closed basin, but incomparably greater, is that in Asia, in the hollow of which stands the Casian Sea and near to it the Sea of Aral. These are almost certainly the remains of a great water highway which extended from the Atlantic through the Mediterranean, Euxine and Casplan Seas eastward to the Gobi Desert and north to the Frogen Ocean. Evaporation has reduced the Caspian to a level of nearly 100 feet below the general ocean level, while the Aral Sea is but a little above it. A great sea once existed there, which was cut off by upheavals from the main ocean, and evaporation, in excess of precipitation, has done the rest; and this though some of the great rivers of the world pour into the basin. The Caspian and Aral Seas, however, are not very salt, since the main streams that pour into them flow from districts in which saline matter does not so greatly abound as in the basin of America The other interesting feature we have wished to notice in this book is an account of the Columbia River lava region. which covers perhaps 200,000 square miles in Oregon. Washington and neighboring states. In this region eruptions of highly liquid rock came m fissures and spread widely over surface as veritable inundations, which on cooling became black basaltic rock. It spread over nearly the whole of the Columbia Basin, but without

depth varies greatly; but where Snake River has excavated its channel in these outpourings of basalt, a thickness of 4000 feet is revealed-although the stream has not yet cut through the foundation. In the Stein Mountain country, in Southeastern Oregon, a similar series of lava sheets 5000 fest thick has been measured. The Columbia River lava was spread over the surface of a deeply eroded land in a series of vast overflows of molten material. "The liquid rock," says our author, covered the broad plains and extended into the valleys in the adjacent mountains, giving them floors of basalt.

Mountain spurs became capes and headlands, and outstanding buttes were transformed into islands in the molten' sea. The lava, since cooled and crystallized, has in places been folded and tilted; streams like the Columbia, Snake, Spokane-and Kootenai Rivers have carved great canyons in it, and the surface, especially where it is still nearly horizontal, has decayed and vielded a wonderfully rich soll. It is the fine, rich, residual material of these lava plains, redistributed in part by the wind, which furnishes the basis for the immense wheat industry of the

Northwestern portion of the United States. Yet the process is but begun. It will go on through the ages, but faster; for it will be accelerated more and more by the energy of man. To future history new instances and proofs will by shown here of the modification of physical conditions by human agency. We live only our own little day, yet we periority over their men than they are may forecast what will be after we have been long ages prey to dumb forgetfulness. Possibly herein lies the strongest, the most convincing, of all

arguments for man's immortality. THE CHRISTMAS LEGEND.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night. All seated on the ground. angel of the Lord came down

And glory shone around. Thus voiced, the sweet Christmas legend comes floating down the ages, its listeners all unmindful for the time being of the disproved miracle that is the essence of the story. It is easy at this time of giving and receiving, of

House. Here is a part of his testimony: expectation and cunningly devised surprise, of eager auticipation and unbounded pleasure, to accept the Christlars, between which there were regular banks of holly with the red berries shining mas legend as a fact and respond to its demands unquestioningly. It is no time when the merry Christ-And from behind one of them there came

mas bells are ringing and hearts are Do you think, now, it was that letter in my beating high with the realization of pocket that gave that guilty little throb against my heart when I read it, or what could it have been? I hadn't even time to long-anticipated pleasure, to set the facts of history, of science and of human experience against the tender beauty of the Christmas legend. This is not the time for discussion of the subject, since to prove the story to be but a dream of the ages that had birth in the imagination of a simple, pashave to tell it to you, or you might easily fall into the same error I came near falling toral people, would be to drain the season of peace and good-will-of the subtle essence which keeps it a living, President was not Santa Claus himself.

vital thing to thousands of men and women and tens of thousands of children. The story of Christmas is a familiar one. It has lost nothing in the telling through the centuries that have passed

since its first simple recital. And Mary brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and faid him in a manger. And there were in the same country shep-

While Mr. Riis admits to the youthful inquirer that the President is not herds abiding in the fields keeping watch of their flocks by night. And io, the angel of the Lord came upon the real Santa Claus, he represents Santa Claus better than anybody else Mr. Rlis can think of, not only on ac-

them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were sore afraid. And the angel said, fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings and great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ, the

man an Ambassadorship, or a post-Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling office, or makes him a Judge for life, or Collector of Customs, or Lleutenant-And suddenly there was with the angel multitude of the heavenly host praising General

cial, financial and social interests of the on carfare, and in so doing perhaps in quarters the chief virtue of state were more closely blended than live they will ever be again. When this which-beyond the mere fact of shelter -is that they are near the school buildpalatial steamer and her companion. the elegant Wide West, began churning ing in which she works; who must the waters of the Columbia, their ownshamefacedly excuse herself when ers were pilling up fortunes at a rate asked to contribute her mite to some that made their operations the wonder of the financial world. Even then th when a sudden toothache admonishes old Oregon policy remained in force and her that a visit to the dentist is necesno man was ever refused parsage or sary. How can any one so beset with the annoying and futile effort to make meals because he lacked the price. But the Thompson was the last of her her income meet her outgo give cheerful service in a high-grade vocation when she feels that she earns more race. Her individuality, and in a measure that of the men who handled her, practically disappeared when the O. S. than she receives? These and similar N. Co. became part of a railroad syspetty economies so Incompatible with her position narrow and chafe a worker tem. Oregonians were unfamiliar with in a profession that requires for the railroads and their red-tupe methods. successful performance of its duties and It mattered not that the change was a obligations serenity of spirt and opporsignal for lower rates and in some retunity and purpose to grow with its spects better service. The old friendly, neighborly feeling was missing, and it growth. will never again appear. Modern civ-

ilization and its attendant comforts and

luxuries, which came with the railroad,

are fully appreciated, and none of us

perhaps wish to return to the old days.

At the same time, whenever we feel the

shock of the passing of those friends of

former days, there come trooping back

tinged with regret memories of that

golden age when Dan O'Nell, John

Gates, Captains John Wolf, Richard

Hoyt and a host of others who have

passed on to the unknown stood equally

high in public esteem and confidence

with Ainsworth, Ladd, Reed, Thompson

and other of their wealthy employers,

who in life made no more claim to su-

FALSE VIEW OF SANTA CLAUS.

Jacob A. Riis, distinguished private

citizen, rational reformer, lover of his

fellow-man, good fellow and intimate

friend of the President, has published

in book form his answer to "a little

chap on the Western frontier" who

asked this question: "Will you please

tell me if there is a Santa Claus? Papa

Mr. Rils insists that there is a real

Santa Claus-a very real Santa Claus-

thing like Santa Claus in the White

As I was saying, I went through the door into a beautiful white hall with lofty pil-

he merriest laugh you could ever think of.

ask myself the question, for there stood my

nost, all framed in holly, and with the

For, you see, the house with the holly in

the hall wan the White House, and my hest was the Prezident of the United States, I

into. I had to pinch myself to make sure the

After the coffee we sat together in the President's office for a little while. He

signed commissions, each and every one of which was just Santa Claus' gift to a grown-up bay who had been good in the year that

was going; and before we parted the Presi dent had lifted with so many strokes of hi

pen clouds of sorrow and want that weighed

heavily on homes I know of to which Santa Claus had had hard work finding his way

count of his genial way, but also be-

cause he can and does give so many

enjoyable things to grown-up boys.

With a stroke of his pen he gives a

and that in the course of a personal in-

quiry into the matter he found :

through, just as if it were out in the

heartlest handclusp.

that Christmas.

now allotted in death.

says not.'

Meeting a tired schoolteacher on recent Saturday, the writer remarked: "You are suffering from brain fag." "Not at all," was the response. plowman's fag from which I am suffering," adding: "I am tired almost to the point of exhaustion from doing work in addition to the exacting duties of my grade-work that my salary will not permit me to hire a washerwoman. a charwoman or a seamstress to do. And this is one of our conscientious, energetic teachers, who would be glad to reserve her forces and apply them to her school work. If this "story is simple, the moral is plain."

As The Oregonian understands the matter, the teachers of the grammar and primary schools of this city ask an increase in wages that would be equal to twelve months' pay at the present rate that they receive for ten months. That is to say, they ask practically that their wages go on during vacation, or that their monthly pay be increased to cover the amount that they would receive were they in school during the entire year, instead of, as now, being left without pay for two months, during which they are expected to gather strength and otherwise improve the time to recuperate their energies for the active duties of the schoolroom

It will be remembered that the wages of the teachers were reduced-not once, but twice or three times-during the financial depression of the early '90s. The cost of living fell to the minimum and they were able to stand the reduction without more hardship than wageearners generally suffered at that time. But with the coming of prosperity and the advance all along the line in the cost of ilving they have found it impossible to live within their income without the most harassing economies. This, they contend, and with good reason, is unjust and unnecessary, and they ask relief to the amount above stated. It may be said that their plea is worthy of favorable consideration. It is neither just nor wise to require any one to toll in a responsible vocation for a pittance that barely, covers the worker's daily needs. For schoolteachers, like every one else, a period of life is coming in which no one can work.

THE HONEST WATCHDOG.

A few years ago a reformer came out of Lane County to preach to a surprised and disconcerted Legislature the timeworn doctrine of retrenchment. The pecultar ability of this reformer did not, however, lie in the pronouncement of respectable platitudes, but he meant business. He was jeered at and sneered at and variously derided, bud it made no difference. He pursued the rocky tenor of his way, clipping a dollar or two from this appropriation and knocking that petty graft in the head until to the figures, a gain and not a loss It came to be understood that he could has resulted from this competition. not be dissuaded from his great purpose by jeers, jokes, jests or jollity of any sort; and the Legislature finally accepted his project for correction of the great clerkship abuse. It was sim-Mrs. Fritz says that though she preply to make it unlawful for any Legislature to employ more than a specified number of clerks at specified salaries. All went well until it occurred to somebody that one Legislature has no right to tie the hands of another in the conduct of its business, and a hole was promptly kicked through the wellmeant Kuykendall law large enough to drive a coach and four into. It is estimated that if the last Legislature had seen fit to observe the provisions of the law, several thousand dollars would

expense and inhumanity of the present intolerable system of conveying insanto the asylum? What houest watchdog thinks the Fish Warden is of any public use whatever? What honest watchdog can shut his eyes and muzzle his eloquence to the Secretary of State's worthy charity and is panic-stricken | graft and decline to support a bill-to make him pay his own clerks, or abolish the present fee system? What honest watchdog will turn tall when the state printing graft is attacked? What houest watchdog-but never mind. We guess the honest watchdog will be on deck at Salem this Winter, and he will be heard from. The wise honest watchdog always knows when to howl without baiting, while some wise honest watchdogs will lie still without chaining.

Admiral Walker, who knows as much about isthmian canal problems as any other man, if not as much as others put together, does not encourage the idea of a sea-level canal at Panama. Asked if the idea were not growing in popular favor, he replied: "It seems to be growing in the minds of a few Congressmen." Then he went on to point out that such a canal would not only cost more, bult would take more than double the time to build. Even the second objection, however, might not be insuperable were it not for the fact that after a sea-level canal was built the Chagres River would still have to be dealt with: for in times of freshet it

would work great destruction unless a second canal for diverting its waters were provided. Such considerations seem to make the carrying out of the original plans desirable. These were adopted after long consideration by experts; and the advantages of doing away with all but tide locks do not appear to be sufficient to justify any radical change. Undoubtedly a canal cut to the sea level would be better; but the first necessary condition would be a great tunnel for the Chagres River. This will require many years, and can be undertaken later. Then the canal may be cut by sections down to the sea level.

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Carnegie refuses to give anything more to Spokane for its library; but he shows judgment in one of his recent gifts, since thereby he is able to associate his name with that of Benjamin Franklin. The sum of five thousand dollars was left by Franklin to the City of Boston, to be used, with its accretions, at the end of one hundred years, for the benefit of persons learning mechanical trades. It amounted when the trust terminated to \$270,000, but Boston has been at a loss to know what to do with it. Now comes Andrew Carnegle with an offer of \$570,000 more, which would make a sum sufficient to found and maintain an institute modeled after the Cooper Institute of New York. Thus Carnegie will link his name with that of a person of vast historical fame. It is very well; but who wouldn't rather possess the fame of Franklin than the whole of Carnegie's millions?

Portland bank clearings last week were well in excess of \$4,000,000, an increase of something more than 20 per cent over the corresponding week last year. These figures would indicate that the holiday trade in the aggregate reached greater proportions than ever. Some complaint has been made in certain lines, but the trouble, if it actually existed, was apparently in Individual cases, due perhaps to new competition, It is a well-known fact that there are more people engaged in business in Portland this year than were here a year ago. This, of course, calls for a redistribution of trade, and according

NOTE AND COMMENT. The Christmas Toast.

Now that Christmas day is i And has brought us all good cheer. Underneath the shining holly. Banish care and welcome folly: Fill the glass and drain the wine To riskly lips and eyes that shine-Yet before the frollo ends Let us drink to Absent Friends.

What do we on Christmas day Care if skies be blue or gray. Here where every eys is bright. Here where every heart is light. All the joyance of the year Centers In our meeting here. Take the joy that heaven semin Yet drink a health to Absent Friends.

Here are friends around the board, Hearts with true affection stored; Here are trusty hands we've gripped; Hances that Dan Cupid's tipped; Here is love to crown the cheer-Oh, but Christmas day is dear -Yet this love a meaning let To our toast to Absent Friends,

Here beneath the Christmas holiy Cannot enter melancholy: Happy, and as children gay. Are we all this Christmas day-But the friends we used to know. Boys and girls of long ago-What wonder if a teardrop blend, With our toust to Absent Friends. on blends

Unmentioned in Dispatches.

try to recall the General's name swept Corea as if with flame; Could I remember my mind were calmer. For I'm sure there was one with Frederick Palmer.

And whom should in noble ve When we hymn the battles of Lizo-tung! As the Russ retreated slow and surly, Was no General there with Bennett Burleigh?

Of course, there was none to run the show, To he brains for the army in Tokio, For I'd like to know where the sauce saucy knave i Would proffer aid to Harding Davis,

Yet there must be Generals out in the field. Now, who are these men with their name

concealed ? Won't somebody give us a word of the fighters Who execute orders received from the writers

The Arlington Appeal remarks that separating and becoming reconciled isn't a patch on the problem of not separating and becoming reconciled.

An advertisement is run by the Woodburn Independent asking for "the names and addresses of a lot of baseball players, also salary expected, for 1965. No scrubs need apply, nor any professionals, but good baseball players." Presumably a professional draws wages and an amatour salary.

As the vaudeville joke has it, married men don't live any longer than bachelorsit only seems longer. Leap year is only 34 hours longer than the ordinary year. but it seems much longer to the nervous bachelor.

In the Silvertonian appears the press notice of a theatrical company which "carries six people and the only real billy goat actor now on the American stage. which will appear in every performance. And we wouldn't mind betting that His Only Real Whiskers is butting his way to the front of the profession.

Croscut Saws. Once bitten, twice shy, Once klased, twice fly.

John Barrett, Minister to Panama, sent an impassioned wall to Congress when he was adnister to Argentina, saying that shirts cost him \$13 aplece down there, and using that fact as an argument for an increase in salary. Barrett is a medium-sized man. When the story of the far cry about the shirts came to the President he looked at the huge buik of much do you suppose a shirt for you would cost on the Barrett basis?"

Thus the New York World. Luckily the has worked out up to this time. Arcentine climate is such that a max Aside, however, from all differences of Argentine climate is such that a man doesn't have to wear a shirt all the

THE WORK OF WOMAN.

A Great Deal of Sense in This Answer

to President Roosevelt. President Roosevelt grapples with all sorta of questions. But "Just why he should -ave confided to Congress his personal opinion that married women should not be permitted to work in factories it is impossible to say," says the Charleston News and Courier. There are some who are unable to see or believe that it is any of President Roosevelt's business. The News and Courier is one of these. A man with a fortune and a salary of \$50,000 a year is hardly a fit judge to declare that an industrious woman, without anything but her health and willingness to earn her living, shall be barred out of any respectable line of employment. She has as much right to work in a factory as Mr. Roosevelt has to be President of the United States. It would be much better, perhaps, to provide a husband of the right sort and a better place for her; but until these "academics," of whom Mr. Roosevelt himself has so often complained, can provide, or at least point to something better than factory work, they should certainly be denied the right to regulate unfortunate tollers, male or female, who must toil, out of their only opportunity to make their way in a very selfish world. As the News and Courier adds, the President doubtless had in mind his wellknown opposition to race suicide. It would, too, be a glorious thing if every mother, or possible mother, in the land could be relieved of the necessity of making a living for herself or for anybody else. But the obstacles in the way of bringing this millennial condition of affairs to pass are numerous and obvious. In the first place, the married women themselves might object. Their sex is just now making a gallant struggle for emancipation from the industrial tyranny to which it has long been subjected. Freedom of endeavor it alleges to be requisite to success in the pursuit of

happiness "If matrimony is to be made a bar to a woman's employment in a factory, why should it not still further curtail the opportunities open to her energy and enterprise? Who may wisely draw the line between the labor that a married woman may and may not do without hindrance or detriment? The present Congress assembled at Washington gives evidence of numbering among its members many willing workers. Some of these gentlemen have shown a disposition to couch a verbal lance in behalf of decidedly queer legislative vagaries, but it is questionable whether the President has not at last discovered one that will daunt even them. In any event, we shall wait with impatience to see what the married women of the country will have to say about it should serious effort be made to limit by statute the avocations that are open to them.

Woman was for many dark ages man's slave. As far as the masculine tyrant was able to go he went, woman's charms leading at last to a rivalry among the men, of which she was not slow to take advantage. In some countries the longbearded and polygamous tyrant was actually worshiped by his scores of concubines. The native American enjoyed himself hunting and fighting, while his squaw tilled the corn, ground it into meal and made it into cakes for her brave, who lorded it over her. The enlargement of woman's sphere has been gradual until recent years, during which ahe has proved herself man's formidable rival in many new lines. The News is inclined to suspect that women have invaded certain lines which it might have been better to leave alone, but, speaking generally, liberty Is woman's means of avoiding slav-ery just as it is man's means of avoiding Secretary Taft and said: "Taft, how It, and the change by which woman's sphere has been greatly enlarged is one of the most important and satisfactory results that the civilization of the race

> minion as to whether we just as many rights and chances er former lord and master enjoys, as to whether she is not really entitled to more rights rather than fewer rights on account of her sex, we are confronted by a condition rather than by a mere theory. The condition is known of all men to exist. There are thousands of good women in Washington and in every other city, some of them with worthless hus-bands, who must toil in exacting and disagreeable lines of labor in order secure for themselves and those deper ent upon them the necessaries of life. "Academics" may spin fine theories, re-formers may wall over statistics and proud daddles in their prime, with plenty of money and power, may propose airy schemes, but these do not meet the couditions or change the facts. Seeing that the women are on earth, that they must work and even drudge, the obvious duty of those who would help rather than him der them is to provide easier and be opportunities for them before taking away the poor opportunities these unfor-tunates are now barely able to find. If it is impossible to provide better opportuni ties, then it is both foolish and cruel to talk about turning women out of factories and mills. If there are those who would do this they should at least be required to produce a good husband or some better employment for every voteless unfortunate whom it is proposed to rob of even the one poor opportunity she now THE ALL BALL A

od and saying. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth sence, good will toward men.

Thus runs the story that has touched with simple magic the heart of Christendom throughout the centuries. Thus It stands today, the foundation which underlies all of the bustle and excitement, the pleasure and the anticipation, the revelyy and exchange of gifts and compliments and good wishes that find nate. expression upon the day which has been accepted as the anniversary of the event recorded in this story. ----

LEAVES FROM THE PAST.

Two news items that appeared in the daily papers last week were of more than orlnary interest to the elder generation of Portlanders. One announced the death at Oregon City of Dan O'Nell, the veteran purser, and the other told of the retirement and dismantling of the steamer R. R. Thompson, a craft on which the dead purser had spent many years of service. There is not much that savors of romance in the rapid life we now lead. All except the practical side of life has been eliminated as the ferocity of the struggle for the almighty dollar has intensified with the passing years. There was a "golden age" in Oregon's history, however, when the rapid accumulation of fortunes did not dispel all of the glamor of romance and brotherly love that nore." hung over the new regime, whose wealth of undeveloped resources made

it a veritable land of mystery. To that golden age belonged Dar O'Nell and the R. R. Thompson, Railroads, telegraph and telephone had not yet found a place among our industrial equipment when Dan O'Nell began work as purser on the steamer Colum bia, running between Oregon City and Astoria, and the steamboat men were thus depended on to carry news as well as freight and passengers between the scantily populated settlements. Every resident, of Oregon City, Portland and Astoria was personally acquainted with the purser, and it was through him that the latest financial, political and, of course, social news was spread through the country. Rogues were scarce in Oregon in those days, and each man had implicit confidence in his neighbor. The traveler was not forced to show his ticket at the gangplank, and if he had neither ticket nor money, he traveled just the same. Life in Oregon in that era was more on the co-operative plan, and the universal inclination to help each other was so pronounced that the who social side presented was not unlike that of one large family, each eager to learn of the welfare of the other and all willing to ald where ald was required. The development of our wonderful re-

sources brought fame and fortune for the steamboatmen, and with this development the "simple life" of our early days fled and all of the fine veneering of modern civilization has failed to restore the wild beauty of the original social structure of the state. The steamer R. R. Thompson, the finest craft of her type that ever floated, marked the climax of that period of

Mr. Rlis is wrong. He talks like a lawyer for the defense. And he must have the consciousness that he will not be believed, for every grown boy knows that the real Santa Claus plays no favorites. The President does. Only the other day The Oregonian published statistics showing that 5,880,854 grown-up

boys in this land of liberty expect nothing from the White House Santa Claus this Christmas and will get nothing. The real Santa Claus doesn't discrimi-Nor does this great saint whom all

Christendom worships this day take away a present from one boy to give to another. Mr. Rils' Santa Claus does. For every jubilant Jack Matthews in the country there is a disappointed Zoeth Hauser; for every Minto in clover, a Bancroft pasturing on sagebrush. All boys have like good opinion of the real Santa Claus. Nelson A. Miles and Leonard Wood differ in their estimates of the White House St. Nich-

Perhaps this "little chap on the Western frontier" lives in Oregon. Maybe he will accept Mr. Rils' view of the allnowerful, gracious deity. It is just possible that he and his associates have been figuring in the grand jury-room and the courtroom at the Feedral building the past month. If so, their dearest wish to Mr. Rils' Santa Claus will be his signature at the bottom of a paper concluding: "Go, and steal no

TEACHERS' SALARIES AGAIN.

The demand for an increase in the wages of teachers, though more perdistent in the city than in the country districts, is general throughout the state. That it is founded in justice to a conscientious class of workers is apparent; that it is in the interest of effective educational effort and therefore in the interest of true economy, is more than probable.

Personal claims aside, there is every eason to believe that an educational system, or, more specifically, our public school system, would be the gainer by neeting the demand for an increase in teachers' salaries. Arguments in support of this bellef or assumption are familiar. Not only in the teacher's vocation, but in all others, the insufficient wage produces halfhearted service. We have need to go no deeper into the relation of cause and effect than the common impulses of human nature disclose to find the reason for this. The underpaid worker is the one gives grudgingly of his or her time and effort; the laborer who is fully paid is exempt from the petty economies that absorb the energies and make the rest period-so necessary to keep the human machine in smooth running order-a thing dreamed of but never re-

Take the teacher, for example, who must eke out her insufficient salary by rising early Saturday morning to wash her flannels and handkerchiefs; who spends any hour that she might otherwise have for self-improvement at the aler mountains or oraters. Its good-fellowship in which the commer- of apparel made; who must economize voice, can fail to protest against the

have been saved to the taxpayers. .But, as we have intimated, the Senate, to the great consternation of the worthy member from Lane, broke into a wild excess of extravagance and employed for each Senator-or for as many as desized-one clerk at \$3 each per day, with no limit on age, sex or previous condiion of servitude.

Senator Kuykendall in an Oregonian nterview yesterday stood by his guns and insisted that the Kuykendall act is all right, but ains! to err is human, and, much as we regret to admit it, it seems unlikely that the approaching Legisla-

ture will be able to pursue the puritan course set out for it by the ascelic gentleman from Eugene. The way the average legislator resigns himself to fate and the forgiving consideration of an indulgent constituency when he has application for a clerkship from the gentleman who carries Soap Creek Precinct in the hollow of his unsoaped hand, or from the young lady who has a father or a brother or a friend with a pull, is one of the familiar phenomena of our legislative history. He may have

ligh regard for the law, even an invalid law, and may give thoughtful and respectful consideration to the resolutions favoring retrenchment in clerks adopted by the First Methodist Sunday school of Eugene, but in the end he succumbs. He succumbs because he

But there are methods by which a Legislature may, if it tries, balance accounts with a sensitive conscience. For example, here are a few appropriations that the Legislature of 1905 will be asked to make and that are needless in whole or in part:

12,000.00 16,000.00 18,638.00 32,500 11,400.0 17,000.0 45,000.00 21,000,0 8.400.0

Total\$278,817.31 We do not expect to hear the treasury watchdog's honest bark raised against all these items; but a long and prolonged howl might with effect be hade to cut out entirely some of them and to scale down others. What honest watchdog, unless he happens to have his abode in one of the counties concerned, will keep silent on a project to consolidate the normal schools and reduce the expense? What honest watchsewing machine to save the cost of dog, unless he happens to flave a cowhaving a waist or other simple article ering fear of his master's (the Sheriff's)

Mr. Fritz is undoubtedly glad to be rid of an exacting and officious wife.

pared a bath for him twice in nineteen months. Mr. Fritz found time just once to enjoy that luxury. Mrs. Fritz complained, too, that it was difficult to sit in the same room with Mr. Fritz, though she admits that he tried to lighten the domestic gloom by turning on the phonograph and reciting to her the story of his various conquests with other women. It would seem that Mrs. Fritz was unreasonable. A dutiful wife would have been able to hold her nose and live with a man of so varied ac-



The Chadwick affair, says Harper's Weekly, has proved two things-first, that hardheaded bankers are soft in spots, and that Mr. Andrew Carnegie's is a name to conjure with financially as well as industrially. Since both of these points were undisputed before, it would seem that the fuss and flurry and sensation caused by the Chadwick exposure-not to mention the financial sost of the trial, represent wasted

force. Dean Hutton, of the Columbia College

of Mines, having made proper conces sions to the sophomores, the latter will consent to remain, haze freshmen when so inclined, and graduate with the honors of the institution. The injunction to freshmen is "Obey your masters," and thus avoid trouble that calls for pistol play in the future.

The Minnesota is a very large vessel an honor to Seattle, and a credit to her makers, and not, we hope, an elephant to her owners. But what Seattle wants to know is why they named her the Minnesota? There are other names nearer home, etc.

Steel girders come high when financed by a construction company looking out for enormous profits on one hand and a City Engineer that does not know or take the trouble to inform himself concerning the market price of steel on the other. -

Councilman Sigler's new way to collect old debts may have been efficaclous, but somehow it did not make a hit with the grand jury. Nothing could

be more unpopular than methods of any sort to enforce payment of debts. -

After all, the steel girders in the steel bridge cost only about twice what they were worth. From some recent revelations as to municipal jobs, we should say that is doing very well for Porthand. -

Admiral Togo again announces the sinking of the Russian Port Arthur We believe it. We believe it fleet. every time he tells us about it.

The Federal grand jury has adjourned till Tuesday, and we can all forget the past and enjoy our Christmas in peace

-Merry Christmas:

and security.

round.

Because she was discharged on the round that she was not pretty enough, a New York chorus girl has sued a theatrical manager. This is the first indication noted by the public that managers esteem tueir chorus giri pretty, and throws a lurid light upon their taste in such matters.

It is pleasant to note that the sophomores of Columbia University did not punish the faculty too severely for its impertinent intrusion into college affairs.

Some say that ever 'gainst that season Wherein our Savior's birth is celebrated, The bird of dawning singeth all night long; And then, they say, no spirit dares stir abr Christmas is the very time of ghosts such as no cockcrow can drive awayghosts of the dead and of the living.

Tacoma's Y. M. C. A. basket-ball team beat Everett's by a score of 108 to 10. The Tacoma lads must have thought they were playing cricket.

An Oregon City man became seriously ill from esting glass that had been packed up in cartons of mush. Land sakes! Aren't they used to breakfast food up enjoys,

The Waits.

"Come and be merry," Sing Tom and Jerry. "He hadn't money enough," said an old

Irishman the other day, "to buy a jockey- the United States. Yet it ought. The coat for the ace of diamonds."

To condemn a Christmas story in the strongest possible manner a Boston paper a few days ago declared that it was full of the crude sentimentality of "Little Tim." Dickens is dead and the living dogs can bark at him undisturbed. His sentiment is crude, undoubtedly, but it seems to go with the Christman feeling, which is, after all, the possession of crude minds. Why should one regard Christmas as different from any other day? There's no reason in the world for it, yet most of us do, and Tiny Tim's "God bless us all" seems a very satisfactory motto

for the season.

The 2-year-old boy who kissed his teacher seems to be ahead of his class.

V. F. Grazuesky, a Russlan spy, made a trip[®]through Japan as Percy Palmer, an American newspaper man. He will be a true patriot if he gives up his new name for the old.

No war or battle's sound Was heard the world around:
The idle spear and shield were high uphung: The hooked charlot stool
Unstained with hostile blood:
The trumpet spake not to the armed throng: And kings sat still with awful eye. As if they surely knew their sovereign Lord
whe by.
Mankind is doing its best this Christmas

the world at the first, WEX. J.

And Four-Fourths of Best Show Ever. Chicago Tribune. If you didn't have time to see it at St. Louis, you can see nearly three-fourths of it at Portland next year. JAMESTOWN.

It may be feared that the Jamestown Exposition-1907-will not obtain the recognition and support of the Congress of Washington Post puts its nature and significance well, to wit:

The English colonists who landed at James-own in 1607 may be said to have laid the cornerstone of the splendid political edifice we now call the United States of America. Those men were the ploneers of human liberty and free institutions of government. Their courage, devotion and energy made it possible for the Puritans to rescue New England from the wilderness. Their example attracted to these shores the Huguenots, the Catholic cavallers of Lord Baltimore's following, the Scotch. Irish and English emigrants sent out by Ogle-thorpe and Raleigh. Jamestown was the Mrth-place of the Republic. It is to Americans what Bethlehem is to the Christian peoples of the world. The landing there is the most im-portant event in the history of the Western Hemisphere. It means more than the Declaretion of Independence, or the French purchase of 1903, or any other chapter in our ac-tourning history. And if we have celebrated the events that grew out of it-mere fruits and consequences with how much more propriety can we celebrate the first cause, the initial seed, which has produced this immeasurable, this stupendous harvest?

New Orleans and Panama.

New Orleans Times-Democrat Ope of our great hopes and expectations is that the Panama Canal will raise New Orleans to its proper commercial status and importance. Nor, is the expectation limited to the people of this city. The world believes that New Orleans will be the greatest beneficiary from the construction of the canal. It is two days nearer the Isthmus than New York and the Atlantic ports; and, standing at the mouth of the great river, it is the natural port and entrepot for the entire Mississippi Valley. the producing section of the country. All interchange of goods should be through this port. In this one item we have an opportunity of more than doubling our trade