The Oregonian

cred at the Postodice at Pertland, as second-class matter. REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES. mail (postage prepaid in advance y, with Sunday, per month y, with Sunday, per month y, with Sunday serepted, per year y, with Sunday, per year weekly, per year Weekly, 5 months y per week delivered Sunday ex-ted ly, per week, delivered, Sunday in-POSTAGE RATES.

United States, Canada and Mexico-14-page paper. 50-page paper. gn rates, double BASTERN BUSINESS OFFICE.

The 5. C. Beckwith Special Agency—New York: rooms 43-50, Tribune building, Chi-cago; rooms 510-512 Tribune building. The Gregorian does not buy poems or sto-ries from individuals and cannot undertake to return any manuscript sent to it without solicitation. No stamps should be inclosed for this purpose. KEPT ON SALE.

Chicago — Anditorium Annex: Postoffice News Co., 178 Dearborn street. Denver—Julius Black. Hamilton & Kend-rick, 506-512 Seventeenth st., and Frueauff Bross. 505-1520. iros., 605 18th at Empas City, Mo.—Ricksecker Cigar Co., linth and Walnut,

Los Angeles—Harry Drapkin.
Oakland, Cal.—W. H. Johnston, Four-teenth and Franklin st.
Minneapolis—M. J. Kavanaugh, 50 South Third: L. Regelaburger, 217 First avenue. New York City-L. Jones & Co., Astor -F. R. Godard and Myers and Har

Omaha-Barkalow Bros. 1812 Farmam; Magnath Stationery Co. 1808 Farmam; Magnath Stationery Co. 1808 Farmam. Sall Lake-Salt Lake News Co. IT West Second South street. San Francisco-J, K. Cooper Co. 186 Mar-het street: Foster & Orear, Farry News Stand; Goldamith Bros. 226 Sutter; L. E. Lee, Palace Hotel News Stand; F. W. Fitta. 1005 Market: Want Sect. 80 Ellis, N. 1008 Market; Frank Scott, 80 Eille; N. Wheatley, 85 Stevenson; Hotel St. Francis News Stand. on, D. C .- Ebbitt House News

PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JAN. 1, 1905.

"NIHIL FIT-,"

peace meeting was called, in the midst of our Civil War. "Fellow-citizens," said the leading speaker, "war scourge of God. War is both a curse and a disgrace to humanity. Why should war ever be?" Then the orator paused, for at this place he was to inroduce a select classical quotation. In impressive tone he resumed, "Nihil fit..." Here a roar arose in the audience. One jumped up on his seat and, swinging his hat, shouted: "Bully for Nihil! Three cheers for the man who it is the most interesting drama in the fit!" It was a fighting time.

And the fighting time comes to every nation, the time when it must fight or cease to live. So Japan is fighting now. and must be in position to have it on terms not degrading or ruinous. nor even injurious to ourselves; and to have peace on these terms we must be in some state of preparation to fight for it.

The matter of war between nations lies in their inevitable competitions and rivairies; of civil war in the conflict of great opposing forces that arise in the course of national growth and change. wars are of very long preparation; and in such situations it is as useless to try to prevent war as to propose to arrest the tides or to stop the roll of the planet.

President Roosevelt mentioned the "big stick." A bunch of critics assailed him, and he thought to disarm them or escape them by proposing a new ecumenical eirenteon, or universal peace conference for removal through arbitration of all causes of war. For the first time in his life the man gave way

None of us all, among the nations of the earth, want war; but, we are all we are the judges of the necessity, for

Such questions as that of American independence, or of the preservation of the American Union, are not settled by ditration. No more can the pressure of Russia upon Japan. No more could the contest between Austria and Prussia for the hegemony of Germany. No more could the duel of revolutionary France with monarchical Europe. The proposal to abolish war is the "Iridescent dream." The proposal, however, does honor to human nature-and yet it doesn't, because it goes against human judgment, formed on universal human experience.

The superiority of moral force over physical is acknowledged. But the arent framed upon it begs the question. Of the political morality involved in contests between nations there is no common judge, nor can there be. Even if there were, the attempt to enforce the decrees of such a judge would extend the area of war. Great Britain would have fought the half of Europe Russia would risk war with other powers rather than abandon her pressur-upon Manchuria, Corea and Japan.

War now indeed, much less than for merly, depends less on accidents of personal temperament in rulers, wounded naibilities of pride between women of the court, religious or theological disputes and triffing things of all sorts; but it has causes that are unavoidable and ineradicable, too. No concert of nations could have prevented the one great war now in progress; for what court could have undertaken to say to Russia that she must abandon her designs upon Manchuris and Cores, or to Japan that she should not resist

Among the oldest topics of literature are the miseries of war. Herodotus makes an old moralist who was endeavoring to dissuade his King from war "Know that in peace children bury their parents; but in war parents bury their children." No speech more pathetic was ever uttered. "War, hateful to mothers," was a similar expression by the greatest of Roman poets. In English literature the powerful es-says of Robert Hall and of William Ellery Channing on the horrors of war and of the effect of war upon morals will always have place. Yet for all that and all that, war never will be exterminated, for the causes lie too deep. They spring from the nature of things in the nt and progress of nations.

The Japanese, though until now the most undemonstrative people in the world, except, perhaps, the North undemonstrative people in the except, perhaps, the North an Indians, gave their victorious rain Togo and Kamimura, a most arrival in Tokio. The demonstration was signalized by wild and joyous shouts of welcome and by gully dec-shouts of welcome and by gully dec-orated streets, while thousands of school buildings tells a story that has in it no suggestion of race suicide.

If any one is so stupid as to suppose that Japan is not advancing in the way of civilization, let him read the details of this reception to her naval heroes at the capital of the empire and revise his judgment. Not even Admiral Dewey was more joyously welcomed when he returned from the Philippines than were these quiet, gray-bearded brown that is as firmly established in the men of the Mikado's navy upon their American thought as is the free school arrival in Tokio Thursday. Truly the itself. This being true, provision must Japs are awakening all along the line. A year of struggle has changed them from a quiet, undemonstrative, smiling people to an eager, shouting, enthusiastic host, still willing and ready to die for their country, but quite willing also to make a noise in their country's and commanders' honor.

PROGRESS OF THE DRAWA.

Seeking information in regard to the removal of District Attorney Hall and the causes of it, The Oregonian is told on good authority that he is not sccused of participation in the transactions of the parties under prosecution or accusation in Oregon, but that his political and personal resome of the lations with persons under the inquiry render it improper, in the President's judgment, that he should be continued in the office. In the circumstances, Mr. Hall could scarcely be expected to be an active prosecutor of political and personal friends to whom he owes so much. The President therefore seems to have acted on the suggestion that he was a hindrance to the prosecution, or at least or best no help to it. In the circum stances Mr. Hall may be glad to be relieved from an embarraseing position.

This proceeding means, further, that the President is standing behind this investigation and intends that it shall be pushed to the uttermost. No one can say that it is malevolence on his part, There have been frauds here, and it is his purpose that they shall be probed to the bottom, without favor to any or wrong to any. If it shall be proved that the relations of Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Hermann to the persons who have been convicted were such merely as The Oregonian has heretofore conjectured-namely, that they put the claims through, not knowing them to be fraudulent, because they were asked by Oreis the most terrible of the calminities ginians to do so—the people of Oregon that fall upon our race. War is the will be lentent in their judgment; for gonians to do so-the people of Oregon

representatives of the state at "-shington have much work to do constituents, into the details of which they cannot particularly inquire. But, what will the testimony be? Since Mitchell and Hermann have also been indicted, there will be extreme eugerness to hear the evidence. Till the

trial comes on it cannot be known. But

It is not the province of The Oregonian at this time to excuse or to acwe all want peace, but we all wish and of all the past, it simply awaits results. The right will win, and The Oregonian quietly walts for the salva-

LOCKS OR SEA-LEVEL?

tion of the Lord.

Not yet has it been settled, definitely, whether there is to be a canal with locks at Panama, or a sea-level canal, Construction of a sea-level canal will require not less than fifteen, perhaps twenty, years. A canal with locks may

perhaps be completed in half the time. But the chief engineer of the Canal Commission, John F. Wallace, thinks we ought to build a sea-level canal. He urges that a sea-level canat would be less expensive to maintain and to operate; that time and expense would be saved in transit or passage through it; and that these advantages would on the whole, compensate for delay in construction and for additional cost. Thus struction and for additional cost. Thus for the work that has been done could be the work that has been done to the work that has been done the work that has been done to the wo far the work that has been done could be utilized for a sea-level canal. But if the plan is to be changed to a canal at the sea-level, the time required for going to fight when it is necessary; and its completion will be extended perhaps to twenty years, and the cost will run

> A great majority of the American people were for a canal at Nicaragua. In the first report of the Canal Commission to the President, in November, 1961, in which the two routes (Nica ragus and Panama) were examined together and put in contrast and comparison, the cost of construction was thus estimated:

But the French company at Panama was then demanding \$199,141,500 for their rights and property; which would carried the cost at Panama up to \$253,374,858; whereupon the Commission decided in favor of Nicaragua, Then the Frenchmen reduced their demand to \$40,000,000, and the Commission quickly reported in favor of Panama.

It will devolve on Congress to decide whether a canal with locks or a sealevel canal shall be built. Perhaps the decision will not be made for some time yet; for the work thus far undercan be utilized for either plan. It is a matter, largely, for engineering

judgment. THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL.

The new High School building, perission to construct which was granted at the annual meeting of the taxpayers of School District No. 1, was urged as a necessity. The proof of this estimate is conclusive. If we are to maintain the High School idea, we must furnish the necessary equipment, which includes, first of all, suitable and adequate buildings for the accommodation of the pupils who apply for High School privileges. It has been evident for several years that our present High School building is not up to the requirements of our growing population. It was con-structed a number of years ago, and even then was not an entirely satisfactory building. Intelligent effort has been made by the Board of Directors from time to time to correct the defects in sanitary lines, which were glaring from the first. This effort has been in a gratifying degree successful, but with tectural defects which will not be repeated in a new building. This, howver, is not the base upon which the demand for a new High School building rests. Simply stated, the educational interests of the district as represented by the public school system demand it. Briefly, we need more room. The city is growing, and will continue to grow. Our school facilities must keep pace with growth in other lines. First of all, they must keep up that the presiding officer keeps together with the demand. A city without a quorum with which to transact busihomes is impossible; homes without children are not to be desired, and, even if they were, the daily outpouring of juvenile humanity from the public

idea. Perhaps some of us may not indorse it; but that is no matter. As the climax of a system of free education, it is regarded by thousands, who have no thought of seeking its benefits for their children, as something within their reach if they cared to possess themselves of it. It is an institution itself. This being true, provision must and will be made for its expansion in secordance with the demand that follows the city's growth, and in keeping with that feature of civic pride that requires an intelligent community to do acceptably what it undertakes to do.

THE THEATER Why are there no American drama tists? Who reads an American book! was asked a great many years ago by Sidney Smith. Who goes to see an American play? has been a common question in England and on the Continent until within the recent few years No one today in France, in Germany, in Austria, in Italy, or anywhere in Europe, indeed, cares to see the product of an American dramatist or playwright, and few in any of these countries care anything about an American book or an American painting or an American piece of statuary. It is true that some Americans, like Whistler, Abbey, Sargent, St. Gaudens, MacMonnies and Story, have made an impression upon the European world of art;

but these are merely the exception Most notable progress by any branch of art in Europe has been made by the American playwright. It is perhaps true that the products of their literary skill, constructive fancy and of their practical stage experience do not rise to the realm of genius; but nevertheless the works of William Gillette, Augustus Thomas, Clyde Fitch, George Ade, Paul Potter and others are practically as well known in London as they are in New York. The names of these playwrights are at least as familiar in England as the names of Marshall, Jerome, Pinero and others are known here. It is not easy to understand the reason of the decided progress of the modern American drama in England, unless it is to accept the statement of Charles Frohman that it all comes about through his control of both London and New York theaters. Mr. Frohman is the most important theater manager in the world. He contributes to the curissue of Harper's Weekly an article of decided interest on Phases of Theater Management." Its purpose appears to be mainly to record a defense for the theatrical syndicate, otherwise known as the "trust." sufficient, however, to notice this phase of his discussion only in so far as he declares that the purpose of combination is solely to facilitate the troublesome problem of booking attractions in all parts of the United States. In all features of theater management-in the production of plays, in engagement of actors and the running of theatersmembers of the combination work separately and are competitors in the strictest and severest sense. Discussing the question of plays, Mr. Frohman

says: Foreign plays, if successful, are valuable in America. A successful play, though, is not a question of geography. If a foreign play erious in its intention and of genuine ap he serious in its intention and e genuine ap-peal it does not matter whether the scene is laid in Mayfair in the Champs Elysees so far as an American audience is con-cerned. The successful English play is one that makes for construction and sit-uation. The Prench play is passing as of far as the American stage is con-cerned. The French play begins where our plays stop. With the French play the inter-ent begins with married life and the difficul-

The surprising rise of musical comedy is the most interesting feature of the odern American stage. We have often drama that the musical comedy would soon have its day and would disappear. realized, has been entirely confounded by the growing necessity for larger exenditure and greater elaborateness of this pleasing variety of stage productheater today is that its mission is to come to pass that the society drama no longer appeals successfully to the pub- brain-sick people. ic unless it is presented by a star of established reputation—or perhaps by a permanent stock company. On the to weary of the musical comedy. Because it contains color, beauty, singing, light, grouping, dancing, a changing variety of attractive and tasteful stage pictures that enchain throughout the interest of the average auditor. We may quarrel with the public taste; we may reprobate the avarice of managers; we may groan aloud about the decline of the stage; but we must face the fact that the public wants what it wants, and that it will get it, It pays 10 cents at a vaudeville house or \$2 at the leading theaters

RUSH WORK BY LEGISLATURES.

Attention has several times been called in these columns to the need of a change in the joint rules of the two houses of the Legislature with a view to preventing the rush of work that makes intelligent action impossible during the last two or three days of a session. As everybody knows, a very large number of bills are introduced and it takes time to have them printed and put through the several readings. Comparatively few are passed during the first twenty days of the session, and the greater part remain for final action during the last ten days. Under the present rules, no bill which has been passed by one house will be received by the other during the last two days, except by unanimous joint con-sent of both houses. Under this prosedure each house sends to the other just before the time limit elapses a large number of measures which have been passed by the house in which they originated. As a consequence the last few days of the session are given entirely to passing bills, and even with the greatest haste there are always some left that could not be considered for want of time.

A scene in the State Legislature on the fast day of the session inspires the spectator with anything but confidence in the result of the day's work. Half of the members are preparing to leave for their homes, and it is with difficulty a quorum with which to transact busi-ness. Members rush around in confusion trying to ascertain whether their bills have been reported, passed or en-We are pledged to the High School and hums through them so fast that no

one can understand him. The vote is taken and the members-answer "Aye," while most of them do not even know the subject upon which they are voting. The bills go to the enrolling commit-tee, where they are copied nearly as fast as they were read, and are then signed by the presiding officers. And this is lawmaking. No wonder that clerical errors are found, and me afterward admit that they passed bills

inadvertently. The fault is not with the members but with the system. The time limit during which no hill passed by one house will be received by the other should be extended to at least five days, and a time should be specified within which committees shall report hills unless they have consent under suspension of the rules to retain them longer In this way work would be hastened in the earlier part of the session and there would be time to act with deliberation during the last few days, when the most important measures receive final action. For the sake of their own reputation the members of the Legislature should change a system which is so conducive to errors as that now in use. Men who have had experience in past Legislatures should be able to devise some plan that would make mistakes less probable and obviate the necessity for special sessions.

CURATIVE MEASURES FOR INSANITY.

Dr. Burton Chance has an article in a recent number of the Outlook upon "Needed Reforms in the Care of the Insane," which appeals not only to medical science, but to all thoughtful men, for indorsement. Both from an economic standpoint and from that of humanity, the presentment of Dr. Chance is a strong one. He cites as the groundwork for his statements that insanity has been steadily increasing in the United States and Great Britain for many years. According to the latest estimates, there are in England and Wales 113.964 certified insane persons under restraint. In the public institutions provided for their care in this country there are at a conservative estimate 150,000 of this hapless class. The National statistical tables show that the proportion of recoveries, calculated on the admissions to the asylums, is about 40 per cent. Of these, about onehalf relapse, and 10 per cent of the resident patients die. "What," asks Dr. ident patients die. "What," asks Dr. Chance, "would be thought of a general hospital in which only 40 per cent of the patients recovered and one-half of these had to come back?" that he wishes to make is that an insane asylum should be pre-eminently a hospital in which the conditions that bring the patient there should be recognized and treated as a disease

True, the allment is a most subtle and its manifestations include every form of expression. The brain is a physical organ through which mental phenomena are manifested, and, in common with other organs of the body, it is subject to disease. "Insanity in all its forms," says Professor Carter, "is as purely physical as lameness or measles. A man walks jamely because he has a weak, injured or diseased leg, and he thinks lamely be cause he has a weak, injured or diseased brain." Little of the pathology of insanity is

known, and this. Dr. Chance contends, is due to the fact that proper attention has not been paid to insanity as a dis-ease, the cause and cure of which is not beyond the power of scientific knowledge and research. The truth is that the attitude of the public toward the insane has never been entirely freed from the influence of medieval sug tion, and the progress of science in this matter has not kept pace with its accomplishments in other diseases. Society has to be protected, so the insane are placed under restraint. The curative function of the insane asylum has been and still is subordinate to that of heard predictions from critics of the restraint. The medical portion of the try. It will be strange if something superintendent's duties is very much with more claim to fame than appearsubordinated to his executive duties, ance in the list of "best sellers" to \$300,000,000. Is it worth the time and But this expectation, so far from being In the first place, he owes his appoint not come from all this activity and inment to political influences rather than to special adaptation for the work of ministering to the mind diseased. His assistants are chosen on the same basis tion. The reason is not hard to find. It Discipline is often enforced by the most is solely that the accepted view of the brutal men through the most brutal means, and the curative function is entertain, and not to instruct. It has often lost sight of in the details of the management of a large community of

In illustrating the fact that a great deal is being done for the comfort of the insane, gathered together in large other hand, the public taste appears not families, Dr. Chance describes in detail a model asylum for the insune which he lately inspected. The arrangements of the institution were elaborate. There was a well-equipped laundry, a soap factory and flower gardens; a great dairy with sheds filled with cows of approved breeds, each one stalled with nicest distinction in regard to her physical condition, with a veterinarian in charge to look after the herd. There were perfectly equipped piggeries, huge reservoirs of pure water, a cold-storage and ice plant, a central power-house which supplied heat, light and ventilation: storehouses and granaries, and a perfect system of bookkeeping by which every penny of the cost of this vast establishment was accounted for. Nothing in this vast equipment was omitted that would serve to maintain for the institution a high character as a model lodging-house for the insane.

But beyond this, what? Nowhere says this critic, was there a suggestion of treating the disease that brought these hapless lodgers there. All other needs were supplied save adds: "One could not refrain from asking. What are you doing for the man's nity? He is not a prisoner; he is a patient; you amply clothe his body, suitably feed him and comfortably pro tect him. What have you done for the treatment of his diseased brain?"

One cannot avoid the conclusion, after reading this strong presentment, that in the treatment of the diseased brain medical science has fallen short of the success that it has achieved in other of the more occult sciences. The insane have been relegated to asylums, the primary object of which is to dis pose of them in such a manner that they may neither injure themselves not others. For the rest, they are permitted to get well if they can.

The steady increase of insanity mands something more than this. No other countries bestow such enormous sums on the public care of the Insane as do England and the United States. But this expenditure is not directed toward the prevention and cure of insanity. It is applied mainly to custodial effort, with such provision for the comfort of the brain-sick as humanity and civilization demand. Concluding,

asytums are obviously necessary. An enormous properties of those who are insane are probably incurable, and therefore beyond the stage at which physicians may

study them profitably. For such we need to provide shelter and protection. When we have fulfilled this duty we must not sold our hands and forget that this very duty was largely brought upon us by our failure to deal with this great and growing avil by curative measures in its sartier stages. We must strike at the roots if the growth is to be arrested.

HOME-GROWN FICTION,

Human nature, said some cynical Englishman, is the same the world over except in Ireland. The phrase might be twisted into more truthful form by saying that human nature is the same in all professions-except authorship. Your author is a pernickety person He must hate the publishers or the critics, or the public, or possibly all three. He—or she, as is increasingly the case is perpetually wrangling. Here we have such dissimilar writers as Andrew Lang and Hall Caine tilting in the newspaper lists at the quintain of copyright, for no particular reason, it would appear, beyond a desire to stick their lances into something. Lang's grievance regarding American copyright is that the question is one he doesn't understand. Caine's grievance is that he is satisfied with it Conan Doyle, true-blue Conservative and Protectionist, calls for protection for the British author, although it is not quite clear from what he must be protected. All that the chattering nest of writers can agree upon is that British authors should, like authors using another language than English, have the privilege of American copyright within a year after publication. As the law now stands, a British writer to obtain copyright here must have his book pub lished in America not later than in his some country. This provision acts against the little-known writer, who finds it difficult to arrange for publication here. The matter, however, is not one of importance; it merely serves to call attention to the change in the American "market." an appropriate term in dealing with "best sellers."

Without reference to the fiction of James or Howells, but considering only the more ephemeral novels of the day, the vast increase in the number of popular American writers is very noticeable of late. Nor should these less pretentious writers be deemed unworthy of notice, for there is a visible advance in style in their stories. A writer in the Atlantic Monthly thinks that because we have not a "highly organized and finished society" we cannot have good American novelists. It is among the plain people that the American writer is to find his true field, and the popularity of those that have made the ssay is a cheering sign of the tim Wister, Mrs. Rice, Allen, Churchill and others present American characters, and are likely to last longer than the authors of less racy novels, such as "To Have and to Hold." or the once-popular but now forgotten "When Knighthood Was in Flower."

In the Christmas number of the Book man the lists of best-selling books in New York and Chicago, respectively, are as follows:

"A Pillar of Light" (Tracy).
"The Simple Life" (Wagner).
"Beverly of Graustark" (McCutcheon).
"The Masqueraders" (Thurston).
"Whoseeyer Shall Offend" (Crawford).
"God's Good Man" (Corell).

"The Masqueraders" (Thurston),
"Whosoever Shall Offen" (Crawford).
"A Chicago Princes" (Bars).
"The Son of Royal Langbrith" (Howells). "Bethany" (Watson).
"Prisoner of Madamoiselle" (Roberts). In Portland the novels most in re

quest at the public library during the past week were: "The Masqueraders" (Thurston),
"The Crossing" (Churchill),
"The Prospector" (Connor),
"The Silent Places" (White),

Out of the New York, Chicago and Portland lists but three novels are by British authors, so that the increasing popularity of American writers dealing with American subjects is not confined to any particular section of the comp-

FOOL FRIENDS OF GOOD ROADS

A new movement, however good, is likely to be injured by its friends, unless they are careful not to force the project faster than the people at large are willing to support it. It is thus with the good roads movement, which is one of the most meritorious enterprises that has ever occupied the attention of any country. The people are a unit upon the proposition that better roads are needed, but they are not a unit upon the methods of securing them. It is in the introduction of new methods that care should be taken, and nothing should be forced upon the people until they are brought to see its At the Stafe Good Roads Convention

was asserted without contradiction that it will pay a county to employ a \$150-a-month engineer to lay out roads, establish grades and supervise the work. This is probably true, for thousands of dollars now thrown away in the "working" of roads, according to no definite plan, would be saved if the roads were "built" with a view to securing permanent results. But it doe not follow that every county should hire an engineer at \$150 a month, or that it has use for an engineer for more than a short time each year Clackamas County was acknowledged to be the leader in the building of first class roads, and County Judge Ryan told the members of the convention that no permanent work or important changes in grades are undertaken with out employing an engineer. Neverthe-less, the expenditures for engineering services were only \$300 per year, a sum sufficient, and yet not large enough to have a semblance of extravagance. There are thousands of farmers who

building as any pollshed young gentleman who was ever graduated from the engineering department of a college. They are honest in their bellef, and perhaps some of them are right. There are a great many of them who would be ertain they are right if County Courts should employ high-salaried young men in white shirts and stiff collars to ride around over the country and tell the farmer boys how to do the work. The horny-handed sons of toll won't stand for that sort of thing in this or any other state, and the adoption of that plan would create sentiment against nodern methods in roadbuilding

Funds for permanent roadbuilding are limited, and the amount of work that can be done in any one year is mparatively small. If employed only when there is something for him to do an engineer's services would be needed not more than four or five weeks in a year, and probably not that much, When farmers have learned by observation the value of rock-surfaced roads | ting drowned.

with light grades, they will be ready to levy special road taxes to raise funds for more extensive work, and then there will be more for an engineer to do. roadbuilding see the advantages of employing competent engineers, they will not object to paying whatever salary is

If, as stated at the meeting of the taxpayers, there are a thousand applications on file for positions as teachers, it seems strange that it is not possible to select a full force of good teachers. Objection was raised to a horizontal advance in salaries on the grounds that some of the teachers were not worth more money than they were now receiving. From this it follows that these poor teachers are overpaid or the good ones are underpaid; but it is not at all clear, with such a number to select from, why we should have any but the best teachers. The good teachers are entitled to more money than they are now receiving, but the poor ones are overpaid, no matter how small their wages may be.

The Northern Cheyenne Indians are said to be starving to death because of failure of the Indian agent to supply them with provisions. The Indian agent, to demonstrate a theory that the Indians could be made self-supporting, advised the Commissioner to Issue food only to the aged and infirm and very young. In his request he neglected to ask that employment be pro vided for the Indians who were able to work. This oversight is responsible for the unsuccessful demonstration of the theory. The "root-hog-or-die" pol-icy is all right, provided there is a place to root, and something to root for. If the story from Rosebud agency is true, a new Indian agent is sadly needed at that point.

The Crook County Stockman's Association met at Prineville last week and discussed the range difficulties, but, unfortunately, was unable to advance a satisfactory method of procedure by which the brutal killing of sheep could be prevented. There is a world of truth in the clumsy statement that "two wrongs never made one right," but it is within the range of possibilities that if the sheepmen displayed the same readiness to drive bullets into the herds of the cattlemen that the latter have shown regarding the sheep, the opposing forces would be much nearer on even terms, and accordingly better qualified for settling the question on its merits.

Unless the Sultan of Morocco can keep his subjects in a little better control than he has been exhibiting recently, some aggrieved power will send out something beside a ransom and an example for him. The vicinity of Tangler has been in an uproar since the selzure and release under ransom of Perdicaris, and yesterday's advices state that the home of an Englishman within a mile of Tangier had been robbed and a Spanish employe murdered. Morocco is not such a large country as to warrant such high-handed proceedings being carried on without hastening a day of reckoning.

John & McMillan, the millionaire lime manufacturer of Roche Harbor, Wash., is the latest candidate for the United States Senate in our neighboring state As a candidate for the office sought, Mr. McMillan is not playing a new role, for in the Turner-Allen deadlock twelve years ago he received quite a number of votes and was at one time regarded as in a fair way to break the deadlock The early indications point to a very strenuous contest before the success of Senator Foster is elected, and the field of entries for the race includes a per of men who are well equipped for the position they seek.

A doctors' union is one of the innovations which British Columbia has to offer. According to the testimony of one of the couver, B. C., the profession or busi-ness of curing the ills of mankind has fallen into the hands of a close corporation, which is stifling compet whenever the opportunity offers. It is to be hoped that the principles of mionism will not be carried as far in this line as in some others, for it would be embarrassing for one of the union medicos to be called on an urgent case in which the victim was without the union label.

The Japanese accuse the Russians of placing Chinese women in the front ranks of their forces to ward off the assaults of the enemy. The Muscovites are also charged with adopting the old Jeff Davis disguise by appearing in women's clothes, thinking that the attire would prevent the Japs firing on them. Whether these charges be true or not, it is a certainty that much of the fighting that has been done by the Russians was fully as effective as might be expected from a lot of old women armed with broomsticks.

Expansion is the watchword at the Lewis and Clark Fair grounds. Now it appears that extensions to the Machinery or Transportation building, or both, will be necessary in order to accommodate the exhibits that are offered in mechanical lines. It looks now as if the cry for space will be heard time when there is no space to be had. In the meantime, however, Exposition officials are busy devising ways and means whereby it is hoped all appli-

Two attendants of the Insane Asylun at Napa, Cal., have just killed a patient by beating him to death with straps and brass knuckles. Of all brutal forms of murder, nothing approaches in fiendishness the attack of attendants of the insane on the helpless victims in their power. If the facts in this latest outrage are as reported, the murderers should spend the remainder of their lives behind the bars.

Admiral Kazankoff's return from the North Sea inquiry to Russia excites no vonder at the St. Petersburg Admiralty, because it was feared when he was appointed that he could not sup-port the strain. As a sidelight on the rays of the Russian Admiralty this incident is instructive.

Armor-plate for American battleships is lower; but not so low as it is at Port

Arthur.

The mother of a girl child hasn't any advantage; the mother of a boy child may have great cause for worry when he is young, but when the girt is grown up erse things can happen to her than get-

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Has the grand jury overlooked any one? This is to be a great year for the shades of Lewis and Clark.

The Seattle Star, which has less than most other papers to occupy its time in getting the news, is executing a wealthy Klondiker's commission to procure him a wife. Some papers spend all their energy

More and more frequently of late do we find instances of woman's strength and man's weakness. The latest is that of the Chadwicks, Dr. Chadwick returned from Europe yesterday. What did he do when he heard the story of his wife's frenzied financial operations? Smile? Say "Well, wot of it"? No; Dr. Chadwick wept. How different from Mrs. Chadwick's action. She did not weep, but said that everything everywhere was all right. We would sympathize with Dr. Chadwick in the appealing weakness of his sex were it not for his mean intention to write a book. Such a course will dry all the springs of sympathy, and we warn this weeping author that his miser-able scheme for revenge is likely to result in the organization of a Clean Slate Club to put him out of existence, at any rate, as a writer.

Porto Ricans are suffering from a parasitic disease. We knew these island folk were unfitted for republican institutions.

What a pleasant picture the Russian correspondent with the very odd name draws of life in a Mukden dugout! Smoking and teadrinking, no rent or taxes, no pipes to burst, no furnaces to chop up then the modern flat shrinks perceptibly after an extra coat of paint. And how perfectly lovely to be able to play progressive euchre all day long.

A nip of brandy, taken to avert a fainting fit, is said to have made a lovely actress so weezy that a Chicago audience, which likes its money's worth, stamped out of the house. Definitions are great barriers to the gentle flow of convetion, but they help mightily in under standing telegraphic dispatches. Without a generally understood definition of "nip" or knowledge of what the lovely actress means by is, it is impossible to say much about the matter. There is a couplet which says (in effect) that what's virtuous in Kew is a crime in Khatmandu. Similarly a nip in Chicago may be a long drink in Boston. In any event, the incident was distressing to the audience which lost part of the show, and to the star, whose radiance was temporarily obfuscated. Let all this distress teach a lesson. When feeling faint, avoid the insidious nip; take a good stiff jois and be killed or cured.

A musical critic wrote of a pianist that his tones, "smooth, polished, luxurious tones, lit from within by a strange white glow-these are veritable masses the soul, manipulating its every nerve with the skilled tenderness of the sympathetic psychologist, refining on exquisite shades of emotion, waking the whole keyboard of feeling with sure, sensitive touches." There is something indescribably humorous in that "masseuses of the soul"-tones being of the gentler sex, apparently since they are smooth (reme ber Mrs. Chadwick), polished and luxurtous. Have a soul massage at the sign of the Strange White Glow.

Three years' close season for bachelors

Admiral Togo, in his speech at Tokio addressed his sallors' departed spirifa That's another point of difference between the Japanese sailors and the Russian; the latter address themselves to strong spirits.

At Battle Creek an actress was robbed of diamonds that she valued at \$15. The only comment possible is !

"Kicked to Death in a Fist Fight." says a New York World headline. nent evidently gave the man a kick with his fist.

Articles in the Pittsburg papers on London's recent hideous fog betray a distinct tone of jealousy.

"The Decay of Politeness in America" is a favorite topic with certain lugubrious essayists. As a matter of fact, there is no decay of politeness in America; or the contrary, it was never more flourishing. Instances of genuine politeness are found every day in the most unexpected places. From a day's exchanges we learn that a highwayman-and a Chicago man at that-apologized to a victim for having to commit robbery on Christmas day. It New York a tender-hearted burglar broke into one of the public schools and, finding a jar of strawberry jam in a teachers desk, he ate it. Most burgiars would have left the building without a word of explanation, but this soft-hearted fellow left a note saying: "Dear Teacher, please pardon me for eating your jam." De that beat Raffles? And the sad thing about it is that the soulless police are using the handwriting as a clue. Polite ness a passport to the penitentiary! Small wonder if it should decay after that.

The bride looked very charming in a dress of white cashmers. The groom was dressed as usual in a black sult.—Box Elder (Ulah News.

It is seldom that the groom butts his way into the "wedding bells" notice at all; to do so and actually to have his clothes mentioned is an unparalleled viotory. It must be admitted, however, that the groom, even in this instance, is slightingly disposed of. Not a about his looking charming, and then that "dressed as usual"-there is something sneering about it, as if the editor were hinting that the groom had only one suit in the world,

President Harper, of Chicago University, gives six reasons for the decline in the number of candidates for the Ministry. If he had said that the Ministry is an archaic survival he would have taken up less space and conveyed about the same meaning.

PORTLAND, Dec. 31 .- (To Note and Comment.)-J. F. Boothe reports that this morning when he went out to get his paper he was surprised to find a coyote sitting in front of the house deouring it. He immediately returned for his gun, but through long disuse it failed to explode, and the coyote skulked of up Marquam Hill, from whence it presumably came.

At the head of Tenth street lives Boothe, Lately known for verscity and truth. But the political siste must have added his

And made him "forget it" forsooth His hallucination has taken the form Of a coyote, driven in by the atorm. Which airs on his porch, The Oregonian to

search, For articles on Municipal Reform. The Oregonian does stick in the throats of coyotes and sichlike.

WEXFORD JONES.