## The Oregonian

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PROPERLY DISMISSED.

It was the right thing that District Attorney Manning did when he moved to dismiss the indictments against Mayor Williams and Chief Hunt; and the promptness of Judge George in granting the motion shows an accordance of the judicial mind with the general mind of the community.

It was especially felt-and the ser fiment was universal-that the indictment of Mayor Williams was an outrage. It was brought about by men not one of whom is worthy to unloose the latchet of his shoes. Since it was proper to dismiss the charge against the Mayor, so it was also to dismiss against his subordinate officer, the Chief of Police. The District Attorney will have the commendation of all citizens, with the exception of a few can tankerous persons who are devoted to a bigoted, carping spirit and to a hate

What chance could have brought such a grand jury together it boots not to inquire. Rossibly in some ways its censorship may prove to have been useful; but the indictment on such a charge of Mayor Williams-the one man more than any other who has shed luster on the name of Oregon these years, and whose life has been as noted for morality and uprightness as character has been eminent for ability on wider fields than those of any other citizen of Oregon, was a pecultar outrage. It was narrow, spiteful, mallelous, and was dictated by a mock-sentimental insincerity and hypocrisy that breaks out at intervals in America as in England. It was Macaulay who said-in his essay on Byron, who just then was an object of attack-that nothing is more ridiculous than these periodical fits of spurious virtue and morality.

INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS.

Eastern trade journals publish elaborate tables of comparative prices in the principal Eastern markets, at the end of the year 1904, and of the year 1963. Iron, copper, lead, wheat, corn, sugar, coffee, are all selling at higher prices than a year ago. The following tuble will show, at a glance, comparative prices of certain leading commod-

Lead, per 100 lbs. 4.70
12g th, per lb. 20 lg
12g th, per lb. 20 l .28 % .12 % .04 % .00 % .07 %

The heavy fall is in cotton, which is worth only one-half the price of on year ago. Southern newspapers ridlcule and denounce the idea of burning a portion of the huge cotton crop as a cans of increasing the demand for the remainder. They say it was attempted only in one place, and that on a very small scale. If these persons, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat, "Imagined that the farmers in the rest of South were prepared to follow their frenzied example, then they must inwholly simple. It is the most difficult thing in the world to get cooperation in any quasi-plausible plan the part of the farmers; but a scheme to raise the price by destroying property is as far from having any chance of gaining headway as a plan to devastate the foreign competing fields with fire and sword." The low value of cotion disappoints the growers, indeed; but many of them made great deal of money through the high prices of last year, and they are re-ported to be able to hold their cotton till it reaches average prices again.

The chief rise of prices is in iron and wheat. Good prices for these staples have always been favorable to eral business. New capital has not seen invested in railways and other industrial undertakings during the past year nearly to the extent of next preing ones. The Railway Age reports that new steam railroad was constructed only to the amount of 4168 miles in 1904, compared with 5786 miles in 1903. and we have it from the New York Journal of Commerce that the aggregate capitalization of industrial undertakings and combinations for the year 1904 was only \$185,000,000, against \$430,000,000 in 1905, \$1,122,000,000 in 1902, and the pro digious total of \$2,500,000,000 in 1981. It plain that the rage for combination for the present at least, nearly

Business presents no sign of any serious reverse. Our production is

more serious. Railway earnings con-tinue, at a satisfactory rate, though in some cases not so high as a year or two agd. On the whole there is no reason for apprehension as to conditions of business and of production. They who have been predicting that another period of depression and hard times was about due now find nothing to support their pensimistic forecast.

THE PROBLEM OF THE RAILWAYS. Mr. Bryan, in his speech at Me on Friday night, said that "failure properly to regulate the railroads will compel public ownership of the rail-roads." That thought has been in the minds of many persons these many years. But it presents a most difficult problem. The reason is that regulation of rates and of terms of competition will be almost the same as public ownership. It will cut autonomy out of railroad management. When Government undertakes to say how much the rallroads shall earn, it virtually takes

them under its control.

President Roosevelt knows this and therefore is extremely cautious. Yet he sees the old conditions cannot continue. ce, in his recent message to Congress he said: "The Government must increasing degree supervise and regulate the workings of the rallways en gaged in interstate commerce, and such increased supervision is the only alternative to an increase of the present evils on the one hand or a still more radical policy on the other." Mr. Bryan's statement at Memphis is only repetition of this, in another form,

Yet the President is cautious, and would proceed slowly. He holds that while at present "it would be undestrable, if it were not impracticable, finally to clothe the commission with general authority to fix railroad rates," it would be a fair security to the shipper if Congress were to vest the Interstate Commerce Commission with the power "where a given rate has been chal-lenged and after full hearing found to be unreasonable, to decide, subject to judicial review, what shall be a rea-sonable rate to take its place; the ruling of the commission to take effect immediately and to obtain unless and until it is reversed by the court of re-

This would reverse the conditions that exist now. It would compel the railroads to go to court on appeal; whereas now and always heretofore the shipper, who objected to the rate, has been compelled to do so. The President's view is that the decision of the commission against a rate, as unfair. ould give the shipper immediate relief. Then the railroad may challenge that decision, if it sees fit to do so.

In other words, the position of the parties before the law would be shifted. It is reasonable, and "a square deal." The people are by no means disposed to deal unfairly with the railroads; but the people do want this "square deal," Heretofore and down to this time the railroads have had every advantage. No single individual could fight us reasonable rates or rebates. The railroad would always wear him out.

Something like this which President Roosevelt has suggested will be absointely necessary to establishment of a check upon the railroads that will satisfy the people; otherwise the demand for government ownership, or absolute control—that would be substantially the same thing—which both the President and Mr. Bryan have spoken and which is flying wildly through the mouths of men, will gain irresistible force. This is the present phase of the general railroad question.

As Christmas stories are best written

be best written in scenes most unlike those depicted in the stories themselves. It used to be a tradition of the local colonists-to use an appropriately fall to make legislation of that dehideous expression-that novels should be written in the heart of the scenes they described. Publishers once permitted us to peep into a room over a Bowery saloon where Charles Dickens Smith was writing "Bessle, the Outoast." We had descriptions of Miss Fanny Burney Smythe's boudoir, wherein, attired in rose silk, that gifted woman wrote "The Suffering Duchess." Fashion in these important matters have changed. Today the modish author must get as far away as possible from the scenes he depicts. We cannot forget Irving Bacheller deep in the description of a pyramid of naked slaves that an ancient Roman had designed. while under the writer's feet the Atlantic billows roared and rumbled. A rough stone dwelling built out over the S. Isham, who wrote a novel called "Black Friday," a story of Wall street. Was this story written in New York? Far from it. Like Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, Mr. Isham "can't abear New York. "The actual writing of 'Black Friday,' " the publishers tell us, "was done in a villa overlooking the sea on the north coast of France. Trailing shadows, waving curtains, strange silences (what does a strange silence sound like?), or stranger noises, combined to create that ideal atmosphere the artist craves for his work." Perhaps some young Oregon authors have been trying to write in a quiet, well-lighted room. No wonder they have not been more successful, lacking the ideal atmosphere created by trailing shadows, waving curtains, strange sliences and stranger noises! Nor is the ideal atmosphere the only requisite. A pet of some kind is a necessity. One of the best-selling writers works standing up at a desk with a tame duckling asleep between his feet. Will Irwin had a black cat which afforded much inspiration. During his writing It always sat by the typewriter and played with the rubber eraser that hung therefrom by a string-presumably the typewriter was a machine.

If the ambitious writer cannot tame a duckling, a cat, a giraffe or any other useful pet, there remain other ways of attaining success. Stewart Edward White spent his honeymoon in climbing over the Slerras and naming passes after his wife. Anthony Hope married a woman with "deep blue eyes, long, swan-like throat, and silken masses of red-bronze hair." A. E. W. Mason went to work on board a fishing smack. Mrs. Katherine Cecil Thurston, wrote "The Masqueraders," had her uccess foretold by a palmist. Henry Harland writes such a fine hand that his stenographer has to use a magnify-

crop but one (cutton) bears good prices.

Doubtless local depression will be noted here and there, during the present abouts. Anne Warner, for instance, year; but there is likely to be nothing the author of "Susan Clegg and Her-Friend Mrs. Lathrop," at the age of nine wrote this story under the title of "Always Divide":

A little chicken found a hig. fat, nice worm.

He ran as trast as he could to the chicken-house for fear his brother would see him. His brother cid see him. You are real mean.

Mamma raid always divide. Now divide and I won't tell her." Just then the Mamma contribut rains up and said: "Olve me the worm. Heach Thirre," she said, as she ats the worm, "don't said, as she ats the worm. et me hear any more of this."

THE STATE'S GREATEST NEED, If the river and harbor bill shall fail to pass the present Congress, a most serious emergency will confront the commercial and industrial interests of the Pacific Northwest. The progress in Columbia River improvements has been greatly retarded for several years by want of adequate funds. At the Columbia River Bar the engineers have been barely able to hold their own against the adverse elements that conspire to choke up the channel. In the mbia River the Government and the Port of Portland Commission have atruggled successfully against many difficulties to maintain a clear channel to the sea. In the Lower Willamette the necessity of dredging has been al-most constant. On the Upper Columbia much preliminary work has been done, and there is definite expectation ing the obstructions at the Cellio Rapids without regard to action the present Congress. In other words, the state has undertaken to build a portage railroad, and the Government work at Three-Mile Rapids has sides the benefit of an unexpended balance from former appropriations-that are perhaps sufficient for present

tinct and alarming difference. When there was fallure to enact a river and harbor bill at the last Congress, an emergency appropriation of \$3,000,000 was attached to the civil sundry bill for expenditure by the United States Engineers in all parts of the country. In the distribution of this meager fund the Columbia and Willamette Rivers received perhaps one-tenth of what they would have had if Congress had given them prompt proper attention. By the combination of this small appropriation and the unexpended balances in the several river and harbor funds belonging to the Pacific Northwest, the United States Engineers, by husbanding their rese have been able to go ahead with their work. It may be supposed that if the proposed river and harbor bill at the present short session is abandoned, an emergency fund will again be attached to the sundry civil bill. But there is no hope that greater benefit will accrue to the State of Oregon under this appropriation than to keep the Govern ment apparatus in repair and possibly to maintain all present improvements in their present condition, without serious loss or detriment; though the latter can be by no means assured, in of recent serious damage to the har jetty. But nothing can be done at the bar; little or nothing can be done in the river, except as it is done by the Port of Portland. The labor and expense are entirely too great for the City of Portland alone to meet; but it must be met somehow, if a deep-water channel is to be maintained from Port-

land to the sea.

These are the facts presented plainly and without exaggeration. If the State of Oregon at any time in its history needed to have in Congress a powerful presentment of its needs and deserts. t is at this time. Through circumstances peculiarly unfortunate our delegation is much hampered, though in the present temper of Congress it is difficult to say what might be accom-

pilshed by Senators and Representa-tives of the greatest influence. In any in June and Spring poems in the depth event, the delegation is alive to the of Winter, so novels of today appear to paramount importance to all the interests of the state of favorable Govern ment consideration for appropriations for the Columbia River, and it must not scription its first consideration.

## PROTECT THE WILD GAME.

The annual meeting of the Oregon Fish and Game Association brings up the question whether the whole community, represented by the Legislature can be properly asked to pass laws regulating and repressing the natural "right" of man to go where he pleases, kill out the wild creatures of land and water, and use and dispose of his spoils as he finds most profitable.

The average townsman is ant to say: "This concerns not me. I am tied, by need and habit, to the store and the desk and the library. Fishing and ear to the story that the China pheasants are being exterminated; that the deer are disappearing from the hills, or the trout from the streams. And vet. even in such a man the hunting instinct is sometimes there, though hidden.

of efficient game laws, if he stops to weigh for a moment the reasons for his vote. In the first place, wild game and fish are part of Nature's furnishing of the woods and streams for the benefit of all present and future generations, We here now have no right to monopolize all for our present and personal amusement or profit by killing off the breeding stock. Then, if we persist in destruction, one of the great attractions of Oregon to the new settler vanishes. Our deer and pheasants, trout and salmon, if the truth were known, make the boys of the family our strong advocates in gatherings round the fire when the move to the Northwest is being debated. And for us, the average Oregonians of today, who that has once listened to the call of the wild, has wandered, fishpole in hand, by the river bank, or climbed from rock to rock amid the swirling waters of the mountain creek-who that has stood, riffe in hand, on the deer stand, with ear attentive to the woodland whisperings, or followed the ranging dog over the wide wheat stubbles-who that has watched the evening glow fade out over the swamp when the wild ducks circle round in the darkening sky-who the picturesque speech of welcome of us is not the richer in both health made by Senator Link Davis, who is and memory for such outings? If so, the least we can do is to help by influence or vote enact laws to restrain a glowing tribute to our Western scenthe selfish hunter or fisherman, so as to give a fair show to the wild creatures

Experts advise us, as represented by ing glass in deciphering it. These are the Oregon Pish and Game Associa-a few of the ways taken by authors of tion, that certain changes in the game the day in gaining public attention, and laws are necessary. They involve no already swallowed Mount Rainier; but

we call game.

vast a scale that general activity and prosperity cannot be interrupted. Every crop but one (cotton) bears good prices. Doubtless local depression will be noted here and there, during the pression but there is likely to be nothing. if the present progress of destruction is to be stopped. To some this may be a deprivation; still it should be submitted to in view of the end to be gained.

A more far-reaching enforcement of the laws is essential. For this funds must be provided, and it is felt to be right that those who enjoy the pleas-ure of sport may fairly be required to contribute by paying a license fee

A NEW PURITANISM.

President Henry Churchill King, of Oberlin College, in a recent address before the Congregational Club of Bos-ton spoke of New Puritanism as America's greatest need, declaring that the Puritan's sense of responsibility and of the significance and value life were essential to the perpetuity of our institutions. "Faith in God, love of freedom, love of country, love of home, devotion to liberty," are included in this estimate of the heritage which we received from our Puritan forefathers.

This estimate must be qualified in the light of history, as love of freedom of the type prescribed by the Puritan spirit-since beyond this line no people that ever lived were more intolerant than the Puritan forefathers—and as love of liberty within the interpretation of the iron-bound creeds of the

Puritan belief. Continuing, President King said: The need of a new Puritanism is seen in the general sense of National danger that is felt by many of the most thoughtful of the Nation. Just so far at the "passion for material comfort," "the fear of poverty" and the spirit of lawlessness prevail, just so far as there is lack of grip in the moral and religious life and the same religious spirit. and religious life, and the casy-going spirit that feels that there is nothing which is absolutely imperative or declaive; just so long as even in an age of science, there is a peradoxical lack of the sense of law in the moral and spiritual word; just so far as this is a merely amitable age—just so far is there great National danger, and crying But elsewhere there is a disthere great National danger, and crying need of a new Puritanism.

This is specific, and contains little that thoughtful men call in question. Pursuing this line of thought, it is well to ask, How far was Puritanism mistaken? And again, How far was the reaction from Puritanism Can we see both now more taken? clearly, and, correcting and supple menting both, add to the great positives of Puritanism the great tives of the modern spirit, and so face a real reconstruction in our living as well as in our thinking?

The great positiveness of the Puritans lay in their convictions and con-science. Faith of the unquestioning type underlay all work worth doing, all true life of any kind. A simple reflection of their spirit is expressed in the stanza of the old-fashioned hymn;

To serve the present age My calling to fulfil; Oh may it all my powers engage To do my Master's will.

The reaction from Puritanism very naturally resulted in a false tolerance that is not indifference nor sophisticabut lack of discrimination, as marked as the narrowness from which revolted. This reaction has shown itself further in a false realism which was provoked by Puritan asceticism which ignored the physical man and his needs, and its close connection with the higher man. A grave charge against Puritanism is that it made too little of man, especially the non-elect, in the face of the invincible decrees of God-a charge that is not without basis in fact.

"is this littleness which a false realism shows? For here is no real belief at all in man's heroic mold and immeasurable possibilities." In the face of this realism he adds: "One may well share the fear of Jean Ingelow's old fisher. man's humility than of man's pride Summing up his wide presentment of the subject, Dr. King concludes as fol-

ought to be, must keep the great positives of Puritanium—their sense of God and the spiritual world, their consequent sense of commission, as of divine calling, their sense of responsibility and accountability, and their tremendous sense of the significance and value of life. To this true Puritan spirit t must add the great positives of the modand the great positives of the mod-ern spirit—the convictions equally deep and sirong that man is made for personal rela-tions, for a senuine, reverent love that he must recognize everywhere the breadth and complexity of life, and that he may never forget the unity of his nature, and the cen-tral importance of the will, that give the pos-tive basis for a true and indispensable safe. itive basis for a true and indispensable self-Genial.

If Russia could get all her available naval forces together in Japanese or Chinese waters, she would have some numerical strength over the naval arm ament of Japan, but not much. Rushunting do not interest me. They are sia would have more battleships, but merely amusements for boys, and the Japan more cruisers. The number of ocean is just the place in which to Legislature has more serious things to smaller craft on each side is uncertain, write of Rome. Then we have Frederic attend to." Such an one turns a deaf but perhaps nearly equal. But for the loss of her Port Arthur fleet Russia's preponderance-all her naval vessels assembled together-would be considerable. But there is no confidence that the efficiency of the Russian fleet in action, as compared with the Japanese, would be equal to the Japan-One need not go far to convert the ese. But, if the Russian fleet do not average legislator into a supporter turn back, it will be part of the strategy of the Japanese to prevent its concentration and try to attack it in detail. On such errand many Japanese vessels are now engaged, some of them at considerable distances from home.

The varied resources of Marion County, the beauty of her towns and ably presented in the New Year's edition of the Salem Statesman, the principal feature of which is a well-ch collection of pictures, splendidly printed. Wherever a copy of that paper may be read it will leave a very favorable impression of the Willam ette Valley and particularly of that porton of it to which the Statesman devotes the most of its advertising efforts. Well-written descriptive articles and pictures that tell their own story go to make up a very creditable annual edition,

We have been much moved by the eloquent accounts in the Tacoma newspapers of the magnificent reception to Senator Foster on his return from his difficult labors at Washington City; and we have been especially stirred by as witty, learned and graceful as F. W. Cushman is handsome. In paying ery, Senator Davis beautifully described the wonders of Mount Tacoma by saying that "it is big enough to swallow Mount Hood, Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens all combined." He might well have added that it has

deserves all the fine things said about him, and only the envious will be-gradge the bestowal of all the praise that is his due. But what we are reall; concerned about is to know how, when and where the apple bar'l is to be tapped.

The Legislature cannot be too careful in choosing the desk cierks who will serve during the session beginning Monday. Only men of ability and known integrity should be elected to fill these positions, for the successful management of legislative business de pends largely upon the qualification of the chief clerk, journal clerk, read ing clerk and calendar clerk. If sonal friendship and political obligations must be considered, let it be in filling some other positions, but not these. The Legislature is no place for a chief clerk who is unreliable, for a journai clerk or calendar clerk who gets ex-cited or for a reading clerk who has no voice. The members will make work easier for themselves and avoid the discredit that goes with mistakes if they take special care in voting for candi dates for these important positions.

This is General Jackson's day. That is to say, the day of the battle of New Orleans. Jackson's success lay in British folly. The British had run over the American lines at Plattsburg, N. Y., not long before, and thought they could do it again. A little patience and strategy would have beaten Jackson. strategy would have beaten Jackson. But the British deceived themselves. Curiously enough, the battle fought after the treaty of peace-the peace of Ghent-had been signed. This, 8th of January, is St. Jackson's day. That affair at New Orleans, trifling as it was, made Jackson, and gave his political party control of the country down to the year 1860. This day (January 8) is St. Jackson's day. Is there anything in this world but farce and humbug?

The four Presidential Electors from the State of Oregon will meet at Salem Monday to cast their ballots for President and Vice-President. They are Grant Dimmick, of Oregon City; James A. Fee, of Pendleton; J. N. Hart, of Baker City, and A. C. Hough, of Grant's Pass. One of their number will selected to carry the returns back to Washington, and since this is not only an honor, but entitles the elector to 25 cents per mile as compensation, the duty is one eagerly sought for. It was formerly thought that the bearer of the electoral vote secured some political influence with the President, but this idea has been abandoned.

The "Sabbath" people want their way with the Fair. Now let this matter be understood. The persons who, more than any others, are interested in having an open Fair on Sundays are the street-railway people. And the street railways of Portland are under control of men who profess to have "respect for the Sabbath," yet who want to run the roads on Sundays, because Sunday will be their best day. The Oregonian could write an essay on this subject and name a lot of names. Perhaps it will, some day. But only for the rea-son that it detests hypocrisy.

It is of importance to the State of Washington to be well represented at the Lewis and Clark Fair; it is of no great importance to the Fair itself, The success of the enterprise is so fully assured that the fallure of any one state even a Western state-to make an exhibit will not be noticeable. Washington, which has much to show to the world and depends much on the world's favor, cannot afford to be ab-sent from Portland in 1905. The sum of \$75,000 is little enough for a great state; but perhaps it will do.

M. Bunau-Varilla, who was the engineer of the Panama Canal for its French owners during a number of years past, holds that it would be better to build the canal in the manner now planned, with locks, and later on. as the result of experiment, construct the sea-level waterway when it was found that the demands of commerce made such a method of transit desirable, if not necessary. This may be sound judgment. The "middle way" usually is best-that is, safest. This may be

There was a learned essay in the local columns of The Oregonian yester-day on "The Epiphany." Readers of The Oregonian were told by the learned theologian that "Epiphany is literally the birthday of the church," that the term is "made up of two Latin words meaning 'to shine,' and more to the same effect. All this laborious learning, when any dictionary would have told the real meaning and given the history of the word.

Russia, never in the march of progress, celebrated yesterday the great holiday of Christendom. Christmas eve, so the press dispatches tell us, witnessed the customary toyous crowds, shopping and merry-making, as if there were no Port Arthur and no war. This is well. The plain people of that empire are entitled to one day,

Bishop John L. Spalding, who was stricken with paralysis Friday, is one of the very able men, not only in the Roman Catholic Church, but in the commonwealth of Illinois. He has stood for higher education, civic reform, social betterment and public and the enterprise of her people are admir- | private righteousness. Men as useful as Bishop Spalding can ill be spared from the country's ethical activities.

> We are deploring the fact that we cannot get a river and harbor bill, be-cause the Government's finances will not permit it. But the Government would have had money if it had not indertaken to build the Panama Canal. Everybody wanted the canal, but there are things many think we need more. It was magnanimous in Mr. Bryan to

> call on Democrats to support the President in his proposed reforms. No harm can come to any Democrat who shouts the praises of a President serving his last term The belief that Mrs. Chadwick, after the manner of women, carried her val-

> uables in her bag has been dispelle The bag, upon careful investigation, was found to contain nothing. Bryan has been speaking on "Watch-

nan, What of the Night?" He should wake up; the day has long since Perhaps Mr. Kay and Mr. Mills can fix it up in the good old Colorado style

-two speakers on one platform.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A brand of whisky is advertised as "a sweet breath from sun-kissed fields of golden grain." but it's safe to bet that the man drinking it gives his wife a totally different idea when he gets home

The Seattle Argus remarks that the ditor of the Tacoma News says that thousands of people think themselves to death, and adds that the editor of the News will not be among the number.

A writer in the Independent has been roasting bachelors, saying that every man owes it to the Nation to marry. As the census shows that there are more women than men in the country, it is evide that foreign assistance will be required some instances, unless the tariff can be called in to aid this particular infant

Lloyd's has raised the insurance rates on the Czar's life from 5 to 15 guineas per cent within the past week. ald hardly prove comforting to the head that wears the Russian crown.

"Finnish Society Holds New Year's Wake," says the flwaco Journal. That

A New Jersey man went to a show Trenton recently, and when he beard a joke on the stage he began to laugh so loudly that he was thrown out of the theater and clubbed into insensibility by a special pocileman, who took the man's hysterical laughter as an indication of intoxication. What a pity the papers don't tell us what the joke was.

Laborers employed on a subway station n New York were observed to rush off for beer when the dinner hour came round, so some kind persons now bring them coffee, despite the well-known fact that beer and coffee do not mix well.

From Astoria comes the report that frozen eggnog was sent to a church social in mistake for ice cream, and that the choir boys felt unusually frisky as the result. What the feeling was at the house where the eggnog should have arrived, but didn't, who can tell?

Wireless Jocularity. Mikado, Japan: I hope Your Majesty s satisfied with my work.-Nogi. General Nogi, Port Arthur: I am satis fied that no guy could have done better.-

The Colorado Legislature is a sort of double-jointed affair.

Dr. Heber Newton says that he knows voman who can tell all about the writer of a letter by merely touching the envelope. If she ever got a job as mailcarrier there would be some anxious persons along her route.

Spot-light on Salem, please.

The Russian government is not making the best use of its opportunities. The na-tion was successfully kept in the dark about the condition of Port Arthur, and of grass grow where one grew before, did not learn of its fall until some time how colossal a philanthropist must be after the rest of the world had been discussing it. In view of their ability to by the exercise of his scientific gentus, control all avenues of publicity, why don't the aristocrats come to terms with Japan. and then conduct in the newspapers a glorious campaign in Manchuria? They ould cheer up the people with wholesale victories and finally reach an honorable peace. It would be much safer and far less expensive to string the people in this manner than to keep on fighting in the East and then letting the nation hear of reverses days after they have befallen the "Was He Crazy, or Only a D.\_\_d

It is to be hoped that Oregon will not secome known as "the state where the land frauds are."

A Tacoma paper has called Senator Fos ter a statesman, but no libel action has yet been begun, The Argus notes that the Scattle Times

per trust in Seattle. So far as we have observed, not a single paper said "Port Arthur has fell,"

and the Post-Intelligencer agree that P.

A, has fallen. There must be a newspa-

The Water Wagon.

A week it joited its way along, Loaded down with a glum-faced throng, But now the wagon jumps into a run, Having shaken its passengers one by one.

A publication called Science asks, "Hor large is an atom?" About the size of Russell Sage's heart, we should judge.

It is better to be born Republican than rich, says the St. Joe Gazette. It might have added that it is better to be born poor than Democratic.

The United States paid \$378.66 last year to collect 70 cents at Galena, Ill. Money comes high, but the Government must have it.

One of those statistical nightmares so cash. dear to some people was recently worked off by a scientist addressing a natural history society in Belfast. He told the society that there are 2,000,000 guils in the United Kingdom, and that during the herring season each consumes 209 daily. If all the fry reached maturity they would be worth more than \$100,000,-000. The scientific gent should have gone on to show that if the sum were expended in common with the civilized world, in buying blankers, in ten years every when care is thrown to the winds.

person on earth would have a pile of them 900 feet in height.

An exchange says that a gamblinghouse in Knoxville, Tenn., was recently raided by the police and a number of well-known young men were arrested. The girls of the city are demanding that the police make public the names of the men, threatening to cut the offenders' acquaintance. The men treat the matter as a joke and have asked the hairdressers of the city to publish the names of all the giris who wear "switches."

height of fashion with evening ball dresses." It would be inhuman to expect a girl with a new dress to leave it at home and appear in an old one. How could she enjoy herself when thinking all

Chinese Gambling.

Chinese Gambling.

New York Sun.

"Chinese will gamble." said a detective of the Elizabeth-Street Station. "They've got to wave their game; if not one way, then another. Since the clamps were put on the gambling-houses—I've caught Chinks at various times cutting up oranges as though they were doing something to be ashamed of. Whenever I would get near them they'd be doing something else in an outentatious way.

"A Chinatown bum put me wise. They were betting odd or even on the number of seeds in the orange."

AN ALADDIN OF AGRICULTURE.

A remarkable discovery in accentific agriculture has been recently heralded to the world, first from Germany and later by report from the Deton, to the effect that nitrogen fixing bacteria, artificially produced, may be used to render even the poorest soils prolific yielders of all leguminous plants. The story of this discovery by Prof. Nobbe, of Germany, and its practical spplication in American agriculture by the inventive genius of Dr. George T. Moore, in charge of the laboratory of plant physiology in the Department of Agriculture at Washington, is told in interesting de-tail, by Gilbert H. Grosvenor, son of Professor Grosvenor, of Amherst, in a recent number of the Century magazine,

The nitrogen-fixing power of the bac-

teria developed by Dr. Moore is so extra-

ordinary, writes Mr. Grosvenor, that seeds soaked in the solution will sprout and produce luxurious plants in sterilized quartz sand. The next step was to obtain a simple means of distributing the bacteria to persons who desired to inoculate their land. Experiments showed that bacteria when grown upon nitrogenfree media will retain their high activity for a long time if carefully dried and also discovered that by using some absorbent, like cotton, a small piece of which will soak up millions of the organisms, and then by allowing these cultures to become dry, the bacteria can be eent anywhere and yet arrive in perfect condition. A simple method of distributing the germs that bring fertility having thus been found, the announcement was made that the Department of Agriculture was prepared to send applicants, free of charge, enough inoculating material for several acres. The package can be carried in your pecket, we are told, and yet does more work than several cartloads of fertilizers. It costs the Government less than 4 cents a cake, or less than a cent an acre, and saves the farmer 200 or \$40, which he would have to expend for an equal amount of fertilizer. Different cultures are sent for different crops. As it is only plants of a leguminous nature, like peas, beans, clover and alfalfa, that are capable of absorbing nitrogen from the air and storing it in the nodules that form on their roots, so it is only by a system of protation that the land is enriched for rops of a more varied character. cotton, planted after an inoculated crop of red clover, says Mr. Grosvenor, gave an increased yield of 40 per cent; potapes yielded an increase of 30 per cent; wheat increased by 46 per cent; oats 300 per cent and rye 400 per cent.

Of course there are solls that contain all the nitrogen requisite for fertility, and Dr. Moore's bacterial fertilization will prove of most value to the thin soils and wornout farm lands so prevalent in New England and all along the Atlantic seaboard, southward. The possibilities are incalculable, and if that man is a public benefactor who makes two blades one who insures a hundred-fold increase That Dr. Moore is a philanthropist of the first water is proved by the fact that, instead of enriching himself by the sale of his discovery, he has deeded his patent on it to the Department of Agriculture, in trust for the American people. Now let Congress drop the annual seed distribution, and substitute packages of condensed soil fertility instead.

Fool?"

"And row," continued the attorney for the prosecution, "what reason have you for stating that the prisoner was suffering from acute mental abberation?

The witness used her handkerchief. "He ook me to the theater twice in one took me to the theater twice in one week, insisting each time that we ride in a cab instead of the cars. Each time he bought me flowers, and once a box of candy. He even sat with me between

"But surely," observed the attorney in bewilderment, "these actions do not prove "You forget," interrupted the counsel for defense, "you forget that the prisoner is this lady's husband."

Pays Her Jilted Lover 3400.

Goshen (Ind.) Dispatch. For the first time in the history of the state a woman today was forced to pay for having jitted a wooer. Mrs Susannah Aitland compromised by the payment of \$490 the suit for breach of promise brought against her by Ephraim Bickel. Bickel, a native of Arkansas, won the promise of Mrs. Altiand's hand in mar-clage, but a New York traveling man kon Mrs. Altiand, hand and all. Then Bickel's ardent love turned to hate that sizzled, and he filed the suit. Mrs. Altland lives in Elkhart County, this state. She evidently feared the man or the out-come of the sult, for she preferred that it should not come to trial and paid the

## OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

Chally-Let's clope in your father's big tour-ing car, dearest! Dolly-Perish the thought, darling: he might make us support it ever afterward!-Town Topics.

Mrs. Pneubride spoke sharply to the cock. "Kathleen," site said, "my husband can't sat that hominy. The next time you buy any I want you to get the seedless kind."—Chicago

"So you were sent to bed without your sup-per?" "Yes," answered the boy with a tenaclous disposition. "But I don't like what they had for supper, and I was sleepy anyhow Washington Star.

"Good-night," said Mr. Staylate, finally breaking away. "Twe enjoyed myself im-mensely. Now, next Sunday night, I-ar-ax-pect to pass your house, and..." "That will be nice. Goodnight!" said she, and shut the door. "Philadelphia Ledger.

Amicus-Why are you so jrate at having your poem reproduced in that paper? Great Poet-Because the editor has appended a note to it saying that he reproduces it not on account of its merit, but to show the kind of rot a man with an established reputation can get accepted—Loudon Tit-Bits.

The Lincoln County Leader says that a recent dance at Waldport "was to have been a ragged one, but several of our young ladies appeared dressed in the very goods of de odder fellers, an' wicy wersy." -Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Say, Winston, how would you like to wit-ness a conflict between the powers?" "Wit-nessed one the other day." "Between the powers?" "Sure! My wife, the cook and the iceman began a three-cornered equabble in

the time of the way in which she would have outshone all others had she but worn the creation she neglected for a ragged costume?

WEX. J.

Chinese Gambling.

Chinese Gambling.

conspiracy.—Chicago Tribute.

Tomony—I thought your big brother was going to play on the "rarsity football team.

Willie—No, he couldn't. The faculty wouldn't list him on account of his condition. Tennny—Why, I didn't know he got that way. Ma wouldn't let my pa in the house 'lection night on account of his condition.—Philadelphia Press.

Press.
Miss Screech-He said something to you Miss Screech-He said something to you ahout my duging last night, didn't he? Miss Pepprey-Well, he did remark how tunny the cerners of your mouth looked when you sang. Miss Screech-The idea! How could he have seen them? Miss Pepprey-Why not? He was sitting directly behind you while you sang.—Catholic Standard and Times.