The Oregonian

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Or., as second-class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.
(By Mail or Express.)

Daily and Sunday, per year	$8.00
Daily and Sunday, six months	4.00
Daily and Sunday, three months	2.00
Daily and Sunday, per month	.85
Daily without Sunday, per year	7.50
Daily without Sunday, six months	3.90
Daily without Sunday, three months	1.95
Daily without Sunday, per month	.85
Sunday, per year	2.00
Sunday, six months	1.00
Sunday, three months	.50

BY CARRIER.

Daily without Sunday, per week	.15
Daily per week, Sunday included	.20

THE WEEKLY OREGONIAN.
(Issued Every Thursday.)

Weekly, per year	1.50
Weekly, six months	.75
Weekly, three months	.50

HOW TO REMIT—Send postoffice money order, express order or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at the sender's risk.

EASTERN BUSINESS OFFICE.

The S. C. Beckwith Special Agency—New York: Rooms 48-50 Tribune building. Chicago: Rooms 510-512 Tribune building.

The Oregonian does not buy poems or stories 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—Auditorium Annex; Postoffice News Co., 178 Dearborn street.

Dallas, Tex.—Globe News Depot, 260 Main street.

Denver—Julius Black, Hamilton & Kendrick, 906-912 Seventeenth street, and Fruenauff Bros., 805 Sixteenth street.

Des Moines, Ia.—Moses Jacobs, 809 Fifth street.

Kansas City, Mo.—Ricksecker Cigar Co., Ninth and Walnut.

Los Angeles—Harry Drapkin; B. E. Amos, 514 West Seventh street; Oliver & Haines.

Minneapolis—M. J. Kavanaugh, 50 South Third; L. Regelsburger, 217 First avenue South.

New York City—L. Jones & Co., Astor House.

Oakland, Cal.—W. H. Johnston, Fourteenth and Franklin streets.

Ogden—F. H. Godard and Meyers & Harrop; D. L. Boyle.

Omaha—Barkalow Bros., 1612 Farnham; Mageath Stationery Co., 1308 Farnham.

Phoenix, Ariz.—The Berryhill News Co.

Sacramento, Cal.—Sacramento News Co., 429 K street.

Salt Lake—Salt Lake News Co., 77 West Second street South.

Santa Barbara, Cal.—S. Smith.

San Diego, Cal.—J. Dillard.

San Francisco—J. K. Cooper & Co., 746 Market street; Foster & Crear, Ferry News Stand; Goldsmith Bros., 236 Sutter; L. E. Lee, Palace Hotel News Stand; F. W. Pitts, 1008 Market; Frank Scott, 80 Ellis; N. Wheatley, 83 Stevenson; Hotel St. Francis News Stand.

St. Louis, Mo.—E. T. Jett Book & News Company, 806 Olive street.

Washington, D. C.—Ebbitt House News Stand.

PORTLAND, SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 1905.

A PECULIAR MILITARY SITUATION.

It is general knowledge or belief, derived from reports from the seat of war in Manchuria, that the strength of the Russian and of the Japanese armies, at the beginning of the series of recent battles, was nearly equal. The strength of each or either army was supposed to be from 300,000 to 400,000 men. Forces in the aggregate numerically greater operated against each other during the Franco-German War; but the preponderance of numbers on the side of the Germans was very great. Hence Sedan.

But it is understood that the Russian and Japanese forces, facing each other on the Hun River, were nearly equal. Yet the Japanese have pushed forward their wings on either side of the Russian positions, and have attacked and driven in the Russian center. The fighting in the center has been terrible; on the wings or flanks hitherto of no great consequence. But the Japanese have forced the Russian center, and their flanking columns are said to be in position to cut off the Russian retreat. That is, the Russian army has been enveloped, considerable part of it has been cut off, and it is questionable whether any considerable portion of it will be able to effect its escape.

This is all very singular and startling. It indicates that the Russian army has little mobility, or power of action, beyond that of dogged resistance. In strategy Russian generalship has always been weak and deficient—conforming in this respect to the nature of the Russian soldiery, which has enormous power of resistance, but no quickness or initiative. A Russian army has always represented the simple obstinacy of force and fortitude; never the quick inspiration of strategic action.

Hence it is that the Russian army in Manchuria allows its center to be driven in and rolled back, while it makes no effort to find a vulnerable point for counter attack on the long and necessarily attenuated line of its assailant. The commander knows nothing of the art of concentration of a superior force on a vital point, to overwhelm his adversary, and of the quick and sustained movement necessary for it. He takes no advantage of the opportunity offered for sudden movement in force on interior lines, against the positions of his enemy. Hence, with forces on either side, amounting to 300,000 to 400,000 men, the Japanese are able to "surround" the Russians. That is, one Japanese soldier has surrounded one Russian soldier on three sides of him, and now is hopefully striving to surround him on the fourth. And this, though the Russian army occupies interior lines, and might be launched as a thunderbolt upon any part of the long and thin line of its adversary. The generalship of the Russian army is suited to the immobility of the Russian soldier, who can fight bravely and die devotedly; yet who has not the quickness to meet an enthusiastic, enterprising and resourceful enemy. So the General of the Russian army of 400,000 men allows his army to be "surrounded" by a force no more numerous than his own. The French were surrounded at Sedan, but by enemies outnumbering them three to one.

TWO STRIKES.

The New York subway strike has failed, and the men are advised by their leaders to apply for their old positions. Some will get them, others will not, for it is the purpose of the Interborough Company to protect the old men who have been loyal and to retain in their service others who have taken the places of the men who left. It is interesting to note in the news dispatches this paragraph:

> Mr. Jencks (a strike leader) held the press responsible for the result, contending that the papers had aroused a hostile sentiment. The strikers bitterly denounce their leaders, saying the men were deceived by them.

The New York press represents a great variety of sentiment, political, social and commercial, but it seems not to have supported the strikers in their effort to discommode the traveling public; hence the bitter complaint of the unsuccessful strike leader. If the newspapers had united to indorse the strike, without reference to its merits, they might have secured the invaluable commendation of Mr. Jencks.

What they did was doubtless just what The Oregonian has done in Portland in setting forth the situation at the Lewis and Clark Fair grounds. A strike was declared. It has not been successful. On the contrary, it appears now that it is soon to collapse. The work on the Government building, the main point of attack, is progressing satisfactorily, and practically a full complement of workmen is employed. Indeed, there has been no real delay, except for one or two days. The facts have been printed conspicuously and without bias in The Oregonian. It has, besides, printed what the strikers had to say. Yet The Oregonian is made the target of a most vicious assault by the Portland Labor Press and is accused of continuous and persistent misrepresentation. Truth is that the strikers have been deceived by their leaders, or by some of them, and they are learning now that what these leaders have said, and what the Labor Press says for them, is not true. The strike-leaders and agitators, being about to fail, must lay the blame somewhere, and they blame The Oregonian. The workmen, likely enough, will blame their leaders, as they should.

MUNICIPAL HOUSECLEANING.

The vigor with which the Civic Improvement League is pushing the ordinance that forbids the obstruction of streets and sidewalks is commendable. The same may be said of the impartiality shown in notifying offenders that long-tolerated abuses in this direction must stop. Of course the wholesale district is not subject to the rigid interpretation of the ordinance that may be justly applied to the retail and residence portion of the city. But even on Front and First streets much improvement may be made in the matter of keeping sidewalks and streets unobstructed, without hampering business transactions. While builders will be confined to the privilege of the street as defined by ordinance, it is the purpose of those who are leading the "clean-up movement" to restrict them to the limit prescribed and to insist that the litter incident to building be promptly removed.

Our people have become so accustomed to the slipshod, go-as-you-please manner in which sidewalks and streets are used and abused for business purposes that many of them have come to view as an abstract right the privilege of storing surplus wares on the one and using the other as construction yards. To disabuse them of this idea is a part of the work of the league, and it may be added that it is not the least difficult part.

There is likely to be overofficiousness on the part of persons charged with this duty. Not every official, perhaps, will be able to discriminate properly between a public nuisance and a necessity of business. Zeal is as apt to make mistakes in one direction as indifference is in another. Great care should be, and doubtless will be, exercised in order that the legitimate rights of business be not invaded. But for the merchant who piles his wares, placarded with prices, on the sidewalk in front of his storerooms; the green grocer who ornaments the sidewalk in front of his place of business with bags of potatoes and turnips, crates of cabbages and cauliflower, open kits of mackerel, pickerel, salmon and pigs' feet, and garnishes the whole with overripe fruits in their season; the butcher who pushes his display stand of choice meats out over the sidewalk; the second-hand man who makes the sidewalk a place for the display of his motley stock in trade—all of these and perhaps many others will be given fair warning, not once, but twice, that they must do business on their own premises, not on the streets. Failing to heed these repeated warnings, they will be haled before the Police Court to show cause why they should not be fined for flagrant disregard of a wholesome city ordinance. This is a move in the right direction. It is in the interest of cleanliness, good health and the good name of Portland. Loyal citizens will look upon it with favor, and assist it to the extent of their ability, beginning, when necessary, upon their own premises and extending their individual efforts to such vacant spaces about the city as they own, that are now and long have been used as dumping grounds for unsightly refuse.

CLOTHES AND THE MAN.

College presidents have a power of calling up a tempest of discussion with the wand of an apparently innocent remark. The latest instance is afforded by President Harris, of Amherst, "the little Yankee college." President Harris issued an appeal to former students for cast-off evening clothes to be given poor young men working their way through college. These students, he said, were debarred by their lack of evening dress from joining in many of the social events of the college. Quite naturally an appeal of this character has brought forth much comment, a little favorable and a great deal exceedingly unfavorable! The "dress suit" is also the central figure in a discussion carried on in the New York papers as to whether or not a young man earning $15 a week should expend $35 upon glad rags, to use a term as elegant as "dress suit," and considerably more expressive. Both questions appear to hinge upon the same points.

If the poor student could bring himself to accept a dress suit presented by some alumnus of larger wardrobe, he would surely have an uncomfortable "second-hand" feeling in his new togs. The homespun trousers that passed from father to eldest son and down the line to the youngest, shrinking as they went, were not received with the same joy by the second and subsequent wearers as would have been a new and particular store product. The second-hand dress suit would be better adapted for use by a waiter, who is not worrying so much over his appearance as is a student going to a dance, and it may be that President Harris had in mind some students who are working their way through college by waiting. It is more than likely that the student who was debarred from attending an entertainment by lack of a dress suit of his own would scorn to gain admission in borrowed plumes. The jackdaw who peacocked it for a time did not find his experiment worth repeating.

If a man cannot afford evening clothes, his reasonable course appears to be joining in a society where such clothes are unnecessary. "The rank is but the guinea-stamp," and a dress suit is not even that, to any great extent. A man can get the benefit of social life, if he does wear the same suit from the time his alarm clock goes off until he winds it up again. If, however, Amherst expects that every man at night will wear a dress suit, and solicits offerings of such things, why stop there? Clothes are as important in the daytime as in the evening. If the poor student gains no social polish sans evening clothes, who shall measure his loss by playing golf in some unseemly costume? He should have riding breeches and motor-car coats, morning coats, frock coats, and so forth, and to keep up the polishing process he should sleep in silk pyjamas. If he cannot buy these clothes for himself, the Amherst Alumni should be called upon to do their best.

President Harris should pause. Clothes may make the man, but second-hand clothes make the dub.

"KID FRATS."

Under the above head, the New York Tribune, after apologizing for the phrase, but pleading in extenuation the fact that no other fitly describes the subject treated, joins the protest against "Greek-letter societies" in conjunction with our public schools. If any one objects to the phrase—all people of taste and discretion will—all the writer has to say is that "it is no worse than the things it stands for," to which things it is to be hoped all people of taste and discretion, and especially of influence, will also strenuously and effectively object."

As stated by the Tribune, the things in question are not college fraternities, nor yet college "frats"—two very different things, by the way—as different as are gentlemen and "gents" or sportsmen and "sports." While concerning the merits of college fraternities there is a diversity of opinion the preponderance of which seems to be favorable to them, there can scarcely be two opinions among thoughtful, observant people in regard to the "frat" of the high school, the grammar school, perchance of the kindergarten. Any school day now the Tribune sees little boys in roundabouts trotting along to school with detachments of the Greek alphabet embroidered on their caps, or engraved in pretty little gilt badges upon their jackets. By these tokens it is made known that the "kids," as they call each other, are members of some "kid frat" which has its mystic motto, its finger-tangling grip, its password and countersign, and all the secret solemnities of the Vehmgerichte. That is the sort of thing against which wise and thoughtful principals and teachers of schools are protesting in various cities as a serious evil.

It should not take a labored argument to show the absurdity of boys who have not yet learned the Greek alphabet forming themselves into Greek-letter societies. Still less should it require argument to show that the secret, oathbound fraternity is emphatically something for older years and maturer minds than are found in our public schools. If little boys enter into such a compact, the result is more than likely to be mischievous, since of necessity it lacks the judgment that should wait upon the selection of lasting friendships of the seriously "pledged" order.

The matter has assumed grave proportions in several Eastern cities. In our own city it is coming on apace, though Principal Davis, of the High School, has placed himself on record as having seen nothing objectionable in the movement, the workings of which, in his school, were so succinctly set forth by a High School student in these columns a few weeks ago. In Seattle, it will be remembered, the school authorities were compelled to deal strenuously with the matter a year ago, or capitulate to the "frats."

Children are children the world over, and in familiar phrase "boys are boys" wherever found. It is idle, therefore, to suppose that the Portland schools will escape the injury that has overtaken the schools of New York, Chicago and other cities through the medium of "kid frats." Hence it is most unwise to allow these things to become a barnacle upon our public school system. "When," says the Tribune, "a youth is trusted to go away from home, live independent of his parents' or teachers' control and manage his own affairs, he is presumably competent to select lasting friendships and to fulfill the obligations of fraternity. Until he reaches that estate he should be content with the conditions that are appropriate to childhood."

This sentiment commends itself to experience and prudence, and parents and teachers cannot get very far away from it in practice without finding trouble.

THE WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE.

To a greater extent than ever it will require the test of time to permit anything like an accurate estimate of the work done by the Washington Legislature, which closed the session at Olympia last Thursday. In the creation of much new patronage, the session from a political standpoint was undoubtedly a success. A Railroad Commission with practically unlimited power and $80,000 to spend in the next two years; a Tax Commission providing three fat jobs, and a State Printer are among the more important additions made to the patronage list during the session. The Railroad Commission bill has been pretty freely discussed in these columns, and the full effect of its pernicious nature cannot be appreciated until the machine which will grow around it is in full working order. No legislation enacted by a rabid Populist Legislature ever approached it as a trouble-maker, and if it should prove to be constitutional, a wail for its repeal will, sooner or later, go up from all over the state.

The Tax Commission bill bears more of the imprints of sincerity, and possesses features of merit which, if properly enforced, may result in good commensurate with the salaries paid the Commissioners. The fact that this bill was passed without the necessity for the disgraceful trades which resulted in the passage of the Railroad Commission bill is a strong point in its favor. There was the usual number of "cinch" bills and the usual attempts to legalize the stealing of the state's oyster beds and timber lands, but fortunately in both cases the schemes were blocked before the promoters succeeded in blowing the lock off the treasury safe. Perhaps the most harmless, but at the same time the most disturbing, measure before the Legislature was the capital-removal bill. The majorities by which it passed both the House and the Senate show the extent of the dissatisfaction over the present Capitol building and lack of accommodations, although the peculiar position in which Governor Mead was placed made it a certainty that the bill would never become a law.

But there was one act of the Washington Legislature which shines out clear and bright above all others, and that was the election of a United States Senator without the aid of money, and, most peculiar as it may seem, it was a millionaire candidate for the Senate that caused the strange climax to the Senatorial fight. The rebuke to the bribe-seekers was startling, and its effect will not soon wear off. It has certainly placed Senatorial elections in Washington on a higher plane, and has brought into power in the Evergreen State a new faction which may change the political map of the state. The Legislature was fully alive to the importance of the Lewis and Clark Fair, and, fortunately for the state, the Chief Executive, unlike his predecessor, was in accord with the Legislature, and, despite the short time remaining, the appropriation is sufficient for a good exhibit to be made.

There was little savoring of economy in the Legislature, but the absence of a swarm of female relatives and friends drawing several dollars per day from the state treasury gave it a decidedly saving appearance in contrast with the alms-distributing Oregon Legislature. With the exception of the Railroad Commission bill, the work of the Legislature on the whole will not suffer by comparison with that of its predecessors, and even the commission bill may prove to be worth all it costs in the way of experience. It will at least supply a living for a few politicians who always have to be taken care of.

PREPARED VICTORY.

When the world rings with results it is time to study methods, but not less causes. A nation has risen in arms before, but by no means with certainty of success, against powerful foes and disciplined armies. A year of war waged by Japan has proved far more than the valor of her soldiers and the patriotism of her people. Her succession of victories has come as the natural issue and consequence of years long of preparation. This again is not all. Casting aside the broken fetters of habit, Japan not only has adopted Western methods, but, having tested to her satisfaction the arms she was to take, she has developed the use of them with the highest intelligence. No blind follower, but a reasoner, she has foreseen victory, organized for it, and has shown herself willing to pay the price.

It is an old tale that when Japan after 1868 commenced her new life the first thought was the need of national power in war. For models of ships she went to America and to England. So she laid the foundation of her navy. For the plan of her national army she went to Germany and became a most apt pupil. Soldiers everywhere have studied the events of the past year as object-lessons on the grandest scale formed on the German plan for waging successful war.

A short account, from responsible sources, should be of general interest. Granted that the nation is a unit in the effort to bring its army to perfection, of what avail would be the training, the devotion, the valor of the troops, if the leaders are insufficiently prepared? The officering of the army through all its ranks must be efficient, so that unity of design, co-ordination of means to end, shall inspire every movement of the great machine. What, then, is the German model on which Japan has worked? The curriculum of the War Academy, the training home of officers of the General Staff, was arranged by General von Moltke in 1888 and revised in 1899, but the principles he laid down are unchanged. Entrance is reserved for lieutenants. They must have mastered practically company drill and service, and be certified to possess high military character, to be fit, in brief, from both personal and military characteristics for the higher grades. Out of about 500 candidates offering themselves each year, from 120 to 140 are chosen. Examinations are written, and include military history, geography, mathematics and one language beside their own. The course is of three years. Each year ends with a written examination, answers to the questions depending more on sense and judgment than on memory. At the end of the three years' course, after a final examination, at which the details of the General Staff of the army are special subjects, the young officers return to their regiments with their certificates, and their examination papers are submitted to the chief of the General Staff. This officer selects the choice officers, who are then designated to the General Staff.

This next stage lasts also for three years. At the end of each year, after close scrutiny of their work, a certain number are dropped, and return to duty in the regiments. The best of these are taken for Adjutants. The residue, attached permanently to the General Staff, are the very pick of the brains, character, physical and mental ability of the nation. In this system there is no room for favoritism or influence. Solid merit tells for advancement. The number of higher officers on the General Staff at any time will probably not exceed 200. They are known as comrades to each other, and the highest spirit of loyalty and enthusiasm pervades the whole body. The chief of the General Staff becomes naturally, in war time, Commander-in-Chief of the army, subject only to the Emperor. His officers next in rank become commanders of armies, and the next corps commanders.

Trained in the same school, impressed with the influence of the chief, accustomed to receive instructions and orders from him, a grand idea of unity pervades the whole organization. When emergencies arise, and unforeseen difficulties are interposed, the spirit and method for meeting them has been impressed on every commander in advance. The officers of the General Staff devote themselves entirely to preparation for war, and serve in the campaign as aids to the higher commanders. They are entirely relieved from regimental duty. The prophetic words of Count von Moltke, addressed to the German General Staff, have seen absolute verification in the gigantic war now before us:

> The Prussian General Staff represents the intellectual side of the army in its highest development. If the Ministry of War forges and sharpens the weapons, the General Staff directs and drives them home. The next war will be one in which strategic science, the art of command, will play the highest part.

Marshal Oyama filled before the war the functions of Chief of the General Staff. Generals Kuroki, Nodzu and Oku were also high officers of the same body. The harmonious action of the various armies of Japan as parts of one splendid force, under one unchallenged head, have shown the world an example on the largest scale of the working out in the hard school of war of the organization of its General Staff.

How the Japanese nation has been filled and animated with the duty and the delight of sharing in this supreme effort is indicated well in the closing sentences of a charming sketch by Pierre Loti, the French sailor-poet, of his second trip to Japan in January, 1904, up the mountain behind Nagasaki four or five miles from the city:

> Oh, the wonderful little people that I met on the road today! I saw them trudging along ahead of me, fifty of them, ranked like soldiers, all alike and all in white. Wrappers of white calico, belted to the waist, no corsets, elegant figures. White caps, plain and ugly, but with a certain picturesqueness. Who were all these people? Japanese women, bundled up this fashion, without beauty? Impossible! I hurried forwards to be sure. There under these conical high caps I saw the faces of Japanese girls—set in serious purpose—no joking or jesting as they passed. Then I learned that it was one of the nurses' schools for the ambulances for the army taken for their training tramp up that mountain road.
>
> They tell me that in the ranks of these little people were descendants of the oldest families of Japan—families too proud as yet for any foreign intercourse. Comrades of mine who have been already nursed and cared for by their like carry tender recollections of their handling, so gentle, so adroit, so skillful, their patience without limit.

The launch recently of the new Cunard liner Carmania gave to the ocean a ship of most impressive dimensions. The registered tonnage of this biggest of turbine vessels is 21,000; her length is 678 feet, and, including crew and passengers, she will be able to carry 3000 people. Her estimated speed is twenty-one knots an hour. This is considerably less than that of some other liners now plying between New York and European ports, and in several respects she is smaller than some of the vessels that fly the flags of rival companies. But she will be the first great carrier of ocean commerce to use the principle of turbine propulsion. Her speed, though less than that of other liners now in commission, will be great enough to determine the extent to which this principle may be developed as an economic measure compared with the usual method of propulsion.

Those who, remembering the great freshet of 1894, felt a shiver of apprehension when the site of the Lewis and Clark Fair was selected, may be reassured by the probability that there will not be even an ordinary freshet this year, for the very good and sufficient reason that there is very little snow in the mountains of Idaho and Eastern Oregon and Washington with which to supply it. A combination of conditions that produced the flood of 1894 is not likely to occur again in the lifetime of any one who witnessed the tremendous expansion of the waters of the Columbia at that time. In any event, from the present outlook Portland is safe from a June flood this year.

"I wish to thank you for the tales from Dickens which you are publishing in your Sunday edition," writes a subscriber at Albany who has not missed reading The Oregonian for thirty-seven years. "I am too old to read Dickens' works again, but the little stories so admirably told by Miss Rives revive fading memories and I take a positive delight in reading them aloud to my grand-daughter, who is beautifully entertained by them." No doubt this subscriber with thousands of others will find no little pleasure in recalling "David Copperfield," whom Miss Rives takes as the subject of a story on page 39 of this issue.

After all, the river was here first, and the boats next. Then came the bridges. A great outcry has been raised to close the draws and keep them closed an hour in the early morning and another hour in the evening. Statistics have been prepared to show that there is little river traffic at that time, and therefore it will not be a great inconvenience for the boats if the draws are not at all opened during the specified times. It would appear, however, that if there is then little or no traffic, then there is little or nothing for the bridge-traveling public to get indignant about.

Frank G. Carpenter, the well-known newspaper correspondent, is now in Panama and will write to The Sunday Oregonian concerning the colossal work undertaken by the United States Government, accompanying his letters with entirely new photographic views. Unless there be a miss in the mails, the first letter will be published a week from today. Preliminary to these contributions Mr. Carpenter, on page 37 of this issue, describes such of the world's great artificial waterways as he has visited. They serve as comparisons with the interoceanic canal now building.

When the Russians retired from the Yalu River before the Japanese, they explained it all by saying they were "luring them on." When they were badly whipped at Liao Yang, and fled towards Mukden, they said they were "advancing northward." When the Japanese enveloped their flanks at Mukden and attacked them from the rear, Kuropatkin told St. Petersburg that he had been assaulted on his "north front." The phraseology of defeat is something wonderful.

Grand Duke Vladimir wants to "send another army." The Russian armies are recruited from the masses. The theory of the Russian autocracy seems to be, the fewer the common people the better for the autocracy. The Grand Dukes continue to remain off the firing line—that is to say, the Japanese firing line.

Mr. Wood appears to think that the true course for the Prohibitionists is to remove the first great cause, viz., the appetite. Mr. Wood is too much of an iconoclast. He would knock out at one blow all the Prohibition "principles" in the world.

It is uncertain whether Mrs. Stanford was poisoned, and whether she was murdered even if she was poisoned. Naturally the police find it difficult to apprehend the murderer.

The Police Department appears to be proceeding on the theory that no reputable citizen knows or cares what is going on between 1 A. M. and 5 A. M.

It is somewhat too late for the Russian terrorist blown up by his own bomb to explain that he didn't know it was loaded.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Wherever he may be, Tolstoi is always "agin" the government.

The battleship Minnesota, when she's launched, will get the "ha-ha!" At least she's to be christened with Minnehaha water.

"In the streets of St. Petersburg every third woman wears crepe," says the Associated Press correspondent. And all because of their ruler's desire for more of a frozen land on the other side of the world.

St. Petersburg says that peace depends upon Japan. If Tokio offers nice, acceptable terms, peace will be made at once, but if the Japanese insist upon getting what they have been fighting for, then on with the war.

In Berlin some young men have formed the Association of the Active Friends of Animals. If one of the Active Friends meets a lady wearing a stuffed bird in her hat, he will politely request her to remove it. If the lady refuses—as seems entirely probable—the Active Friend will proceed to remove the suffering animal by force. It will be seen that the aims of the association demand activity of no mean order. Few Friends of Animals will be able to cope with an indignant woman thrice-armed with a long hatpin, to say nothing of any male companion who may object to have the lady thus attacked in the street. We fear the Active Friends have, in homely metaphor, bitten off more than they can chew. Nothing could prevent woman from wearing stuffed birds or dead squirrels on her hat except a ukase from Madam Fashion.

Already in Portland may be seen ads of "Shirts—men's style—for women." Will they leave us even our trousers?

A Russian army is a body of troops almost entirely surrounded by Japanese.

Mrs. Perkins Gilman has been painting an idyllic picture of the home of the future. The grub will be sent in from a municipal kitchen and the kids will be sent out to a municipal nursery. Municipal compressed air machines will do all the dusting, and the fire department will probably do all the washing. Home will be the real thing then. Nothing to do but sit and curse the city officials. Mrs. Perkins Gilman omitted to say how the ingredient of love would be supplied to the home, but we suppose city employes could be detailed to do the loving as well.

Great victory for law and order! Beat the cymbals and bang the drum! An Italian, just arrived from Spokane, never in the city before, has been arrested for spitting on the sidewalk. The laws must and shall be enforced. Arrest and fine all the strangers; they have no friends. Home industry can carpet the pavements with half-chewed tobacco, so off to the dungeon with the interloping heathen.

As a saloon is not closed when it's open, Chief Hunt wrongly argues that it's not open when it's closed.

"I am surrounded."—Kuropatkin.
"So am I."—Nicholas.

Portland's hungerers after spiritual food will rejoice over the formation in our city of the Ministers' and Mediums' Protective Spiritual Association. Spiritual food is so subject to adulteration that the hungry must welcome an association whose brand will be a guarantee of purity. Besides the ministers and mediums will now be more able to protect themselves from false and vicious attacks, a duty that seems to be ungratefully neglected by the spirits who are enabled to break the monotony of eternity by answering fool questions through the mediums.

"A news item is to the effect that a Seattle policeman was held up by a somnambulist," says the Argus, adding that doubtless "by" should have read "for." A somnambulist necessarily walks; how about a Seattle cop?

Rider Haggard took off his hat to the Statue of Liberty as he entered New York harbor. Bidding Liberty adieu, perhaps.

The New York Evening Post is to have a new building in the best part of the city. The Post knows it's the best part of the city, because that's where its office is to be.

Booker T. Washington said in a recent speech: "Don't wear a $5 hat on a 5-cent head." That seems bum advice. If a man has a 5-cent head, why shouldn't he draw attention from it by wearing a $5 hat? A 5-cent hat on a 5-cent head benefits nobody; the other arrangement, at least, helps the hatters.

In the Critic a number of persons give their views on "The Slump in Poetry." As most of them are poets, they agree that it's time the bulls got hold of the market.

There are two ways of obtaining collegiate honors. One is to earn them, and the other is to be a successful politician or a nobleman.—Seattle Argus.

Tip to aspirants: The first way is the easier.

Japanese soldiers believe they are watched by the ghosts of their dead. The Russians are not inspired by even the ghost of a chance.

It might be arranged to have the gum-chewing championship go with the basket-ball championship.

The Washington Post is worried over the space taken up by civic organizations in the inaugural parade. People don't travel to Washington to see a lot of awkward men in store clothes hoofing it down the street; they want dash, bright uniforms, something impressive or something funny. Therefore, the Post suggests that in future each plain clothes organization be required to present some special feature before being allowed to join in the parade. The Fat Men's Marching Club would make a hit. A political club, composed of the ugliest men in America, would attract some attention. There are unlimited opportunities in this direction, and the Post's suggestion may be the cause of making the inaugural parade of 1909 look like the Lord Mayor's show, a circus and the Trail combined.

Having given a woman customer the wrong order, a Chicago restaurant-keeper slapped her face in an endeavor to make her eat the food. Chicago people are hospitable to the verge of embarrassment.

The Seattle Times is about to pay $10,000 for two short stories, which will appear shortly—the Argus explains—on top of the Times building.

WEXFORD JONES.

AN ANSWER TO MR. WITTENBERG

With all due deference to our worthy school director and the School Board he so ardently, not to say belligerently represents, we wish to call the attention of the much-abused public ear to the interesting line of fiction the gentleman has recently put forth.

Word for word, he says: "The plan that we have adopted has given to 264 teachers $50 per year, consuming, as you will notice, $13,200 of the $30,000, leaving $11,800 balance on hand."

The fact is that up to the expiration of the present school year, teachers will have received not $50, but $25 apiece, this being $5 for each of the five months from February till June, consuming, as you will please take pains to notice, only $9100 of the $30,000, leaving $20,900 balance on hand, not $11,800 as per Mr. Wittenberg, in his strange misstatement of an incontrovertible and proven fact.

Furthermore, he avows his positive conviction that in September there will be 250 teachers who will have survived the ordeal of application to and diagnosis by the mystical four, who will receive an extra $50 per year for merit, "which will more than use up the balance we have on hand."

This, in the face of the fact that it has been expressly and repeatedly stated that only a select few would survive to answer rollcall on the merit list. This, in the face of the advice of principals to their teachers to look well before they leaped. This, in the face of the Burnham statement regarding the favored two, and two only, the heavenly twins of his establishment.

Either Mr. Wittenberg is creating fictitious avenues of disbursement to account for the public moneys or else the projectors have silently abandoned their original ground and concluded to give to all who apply. And, if so, wherein lies the supposed merit? The facts show that the number of teachers qualified by experience and diplomas falls far below 250. How then can 250 be adjudged meritorious? Mr. Wittenberg's mathematical evasions regarding present expenditures leave $9100 flatly unaccounted for—sufficient to pay the Superintendent, who is not "figured in the $30,000," a nice little additional wage of $1000 per month for nine calendar months. How much more will remain unaccounted for, on Mr. Wittenberg's basis, cannot be known till the merit list is completed.

The statement has gone forth that all teachers of over three years' experience received $5 "raise." Under the old schedule three years' experience brought $5 extra, and under the new this has remained unchanged. Only teachers of four years' experience and over have been benefited by the taxpayers' recent action.

Mr. Wittenberg would regulate the employment of teachers according to the law of supply and demand. Let us say that the poor, inferior, sweatshop product is always with us, and that in abundance. If he wishes cheap labor, competition, underbidding and consequent lowering of standards, it is within his reach, but he must buy it with a price, and that price his children and our children must pay, and at fearful cost. Subject crackers to the law of supply and demand, but not the educators and leaders of our little children. Commercialism may invest the operations of the trades or govern the wage of clerks, or determine the price of coal, but its spirit should be kept far away from the guarded walls of the schoolroom.

Mr. Wittenberg ventures to state that the faultfinders are not paying their people as high a salary as teachers receive. Is he so imbued with the spirit of trade and traffic that he sees a parallelism in the untrained, untaught clerk at the counter, dealing out drygoods and groceries, and the teacher of long training and ripe experience, the second mother, as it were, of his children, whose thought, whose loves, whose aims, whose ambitions are engrafted upon those children during many hours of many years of their lives? Would he trust his child to the average clerk or factory girl, to receive its moral and mental bias therefrom?

The gentleman in question assures us that the merit system will result in giving our city schools the most efficient corps of teachers they have ever had. In other words, this body of teachers will be so stimulated by the offer of a will-o'-the-wisp phantom of five paltry dollars per month, that they will render service of an altogether higher, more professional grade than before. To the truly professional teacher—and we believe there are many such—the very thought is an insult. The teacher who is lured on to higher ideals and effort by such reward belongs not to the profession, but to the trades. The teacher who is by nature unfit—and confessedly we have some such among us—will not greatly improve either for money or love. As well put a cow on a racecourse and attempt to develop her into a trotter as place the golden bait before such teachers with expectation of results.

We are assured, furthermore, that teachers' work but nine calendar months—that their remuneration is, therefore, first-class for services rendered. Does the gentleman forget that teachers are narrowed by specialization to one single thing—teaching? That during the Summer they are in enforced idleness? That they must sustain the honor of their profession, and cannot therefore work in kitchens or canneries or factories? Does he forget that, unfortunately, they must eat? Anaconda-like, they cannot swallow an ox and let it suffice for a Summer. Does he not recognize another law of supply and demand, based upon our physical needs and evidenced by the clamor of the stomach? Does he not even faintly perceive the working of still another law, grounded in mind and heart and spirit, and demanding with an infinite yearning intellectual and spiritual food? We do not send our children to a clod to be educated. Rather we send them to a man or woman inspiring, live, impelling, fitted alike by Nature and training for a sacred trust. And here we demand much. Shall it be said of us that we supply little? A TEACHER.

Change of Heart.

Milton (Umatilla County) Eagle.

The Eagle wishes to retract whatever unkind things it has said about the Weston Normal School. The state can well afford to pay the trifling sum of $12,500 a year for maintenance in order that Weston's title to the Inland Empire basket-ball championship shall be maintained, to say nothing of the dozen or so graduates that are incidentally turned off every year.

Song of the Plains.

The Spectator.

No harp have I for the singing, nor fingers
fashioned for skill,
Nor ever shall words express it, the song
that is in my heart.
A saga, swept from the distance, horizons
beyond the hill,
Singing of life and endurance and bidding
me bear my part.

For this is Song, as I sing it, the song that
I love the best,
The steady tramp in the furrow, the grind
of the gleaming steel,
An anthem sung to the noonday, a chant of
the open West,
Echoing deep, in my spirit, to gladden
and help and heal.

And this is Life, as I read it, and Life in
its fairest form,
To breathe the wind on the ranges, the
scent of the unturned sod;
To strive and strive and be thankful, to
weather the shine and storm,
Penciling over the prairies the destiny
planned by God.

And no reward do I ask for, save only to
work and wait,
To praise the God of my fathers, to labor
beneath his sky,
To dwell alone in his greatness, to strike
and to follow straight,
Silent and strong and contented—the limitless
plain