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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 1907.

### THE SCHOOL BOOKS.

A few persons have criticised the work of the State Textbook Commission, alleging that in making changes and selections it was indifferent to the public interests and was controlled largely by publishers, some forty of whom offered books and urged their The following is from the Dallas Itemizer

Dallas Remizer:

The people of the United States are supposed to have laws on the statute books of the Federal Government and the several states for the benefit of the masses and not for a favored few, who have been able by combination of vast money powers to control and regulate the prices of any given article. That they do so to a fact becoming more apparent to every business man. These trugts will tell you what they will sell you an article for and what you must sell it at We have a number of trusts now doing business in this way, among which might be mentioned the small matter of textbooks for our public schools. They set the price both ways, and by influents brought to hear upon a fool state textbook commission change the broks whenever desired, bringing in an entirely new lot of books—all handled by the same parties and who derive the profits—and the people simply have to pay for no better books, but give an added per cent on old books exchanged for the new.

A similar article is noted in the Salem

A similar article is noted in the Salen Journal. It is surprising how much those persons who have given a subject no examination may assume to know textbook rommission" credit for aver- serving the trust instead of his country age intelligence, a common degree of patriotic desire to serve the public and the public schools. Their work was for favorable action in the Senate upo task; it took the time of the means of during many weeks; it was virtually a gratuitous service—which was well has little of that attractiveness which has little of that attractiveness which comes from pomp and splendor, but it comes from pomp and splendor, but it money could not hire. Persons who are is difficult to think of an institution competent to judge and have a right which would do more to advance the competent to Judge and have a right which would do more to advance the to an opinion, believe that the work substantial welfare of the people. It is was well done; and, moreover, they tious endeavor to get best possible re-

There were many publishers, between all of whom there was exceedingly sharp competition—the furthest thing possible from any combination. Prices all round were lower than formerly. though better books, and books better made, were offered, and cost of materials and workmanship had much in-creased. The members of the commission soon became convinced that if school books were to be kept up with the progress of the times, certain changes would be necessary; and this fact grew upon their minds daily, as they made further examination. If the old books were to be kept, new editions were necessary; most of the texts in use had undergone revision, and to adopt the revised old books would have been no economy, since exchange of the old for the new, with payment of the exchange price would have followed; hence it was just as cheap to take other books. This threw open to selection the whole mass of books offered for examination. The schools were enthe commission could give; and the schools will get the best. The wide distribution of the books among different publishers should show how thorough the examination was, and the members cided on their own judgment, without regard to the representations of pub-lishers or their agents. What degree of credit to their own intelligence and trations; to supplement the work of the fairness is due to those who say that physician in battling disease; to renthe selections were made "through influence brought to bear upon a fool textbook commission," may be left to the judgment of those who know the quality of school books, and to the approval of the people of Oregon, as the results shall appear in the progress made by their children in the schools. Ignorance, like that quoted above, pital in this city, the term "com-straining its efforts at criticism mencement," as applied to the exercises ing its efforts at criticism gh hard-bound brains, may be led to continue its work; but it matters little. The people of the state and their schools have been served dis-

approval of incompetent criticism fed

HARRIMAN WONDERS.

The Union Pacific has caused to be sent out through its publicity bureau a statement as to the remarkable development of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific properties in the seven years of Harriman management. In that time, according to this veracious circular, the sum of \$110,000,000 has been spent by the Union Pacific on improve ments in roadway new equipment nev lines, terminal properties and other betterments. In 1899 the Union Pacific moved 7,726,599 tons of freight; in 1906, 13,048,345; in 1899 the Union Pacific carried 2,547,892 passengers; in 1906, 4,802,-094. The statement shows an increase in freight business of more than 66 per cent, and in passenger business of more than 88 per cent. The circular con

Taking a period of four years for compose, the two systems (the Union Pacific the Southern Pacific) have increased the Southern Pacific their double main track oars 10 per cent; their double main track 214 per cent, and have added 1100 miles of yard track and siding. In these four years the car mileage has increased 16 per cent and the train mileage 12 per cent.

These statistics, designed to show the accomplish that purpose fairly well. But the wonders he has not performed make vastly more interesting reading to the Pacific Northwest. How many man built in these seven years? How much new territory has he opened up? petty game of retaliation against James J. Hill, and neglects the great interior of Oregon, where a railroad is needed, and where his first obligation Oregon, and does nothing, or next to nothing, to occupy the field with new lines of his own. Some day it may be hoped there will be a reckoning be tween Mr. Harriman and the State of Oregon, and we shall find out then just how far he is justified in taking millions from the pockets of Oregon shippers and using them in his great game of buccaneer finance on Wall street.

### PERHAPS.

There are indications that a parcels post is almost in sight. The most enouraging sign of its early arrival is the order which the express companies have sent out to their servants, agents and lawyers to oppose it. The people who pay the taxes of the country and who therefore meet the bills of the Postal Department have long desired a parcels post. The farmers are partic ularly eager for it, since they well know that it would do as much as the rural delivery system to ameliorate the conditions of country life.

The opposition to the parcels post has come from two sources. The first is the narrow-minded enmity of postal officials, who wish to save themselves trouble and to make a showing of economy. The United States has seldom enjoyed the services of a Postmaster-General who appreciated the opportunities of his office and understo vast benefits which it might render to the country; while a most inveterate and malignant opponent of postal progress was the unlamented Mr. Madde who has now happily vacated the office of Third Assistant Postmaster-General, where he did so much harm and so little good.

But the really effective opposition to from the express trust, represented in the Senate by Mr. Platt of New York. the profits pay for no Compare the standard of public duty pay for no which has guided this individual with late Mr. Morgan's. felt obliged when he entered the Sen-ate to renounce all private sources of profit, even dropping his law practice. Mr. Platt has found no difficulty whatabout it. Yet, perhaps, the people of ever in remaining president of the Oregon may incline to give this "fool United States Express Company and

at every turn. The waning power of the decrepit New York boss seems to open the way laborious, and to them a profitless, a bill for a parcels post, and it is posestablished in every civilized country except the United States; here it exists for the benefit of foreigners Goods can be sent abroad by the parceis post, but not within the limits of the United States. We use the facilities of the postoffice, as we do the Dingley tariff, to make the cost of living cheap for foreigners and dear to our own citizens who pay the taxes which

Of the June "sweet girl graduates," as we are wont to call them-gradu ates in a modest gown of blue and white gingham and an ample apron. and a dainty cap of white lawn are among the most attractive, whether gathered upon a platform to receive diplomas earned by months of patient study and service or represented by a smiling group upon a printed page. Other graduates who appear in the regulation scholars' gown and cap of dignified black, and, steepping forward, receive from the hand of the president of a university or college the diplomas endeavor and varied opportunity; those school for nurses turn to a vocation for grand work it is. Pursued in darkened sway, it is the province of these workers to alleviate pain by gentle minisder service in the birth chamber and too late the surgery; to encourage and assist struggle.

which attend the giving of the nurse's civilization began the whole race has diploma, is one of form merely. The been working to do for itself something tyros in their profession. For them commencement day was the day they entered the hospital to prepare for the nurses' vocation. To the practical side, need no longer struggle for existence such ability as the commission pos-

ed at once, and throughout the enire period of their apprenticeship they lved in close touch with these things. The nurse at graduation is not only dy for work; she has been at throughout the entire course, and has wasted no time in non-essentials.

It is a matter of congratulation that year adds a large number of young women, trained for the duties of the sickroom, to the intelligent work ing force of the community.

THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE. The moment a living being appears in the world a murderous army sets to work to kill it. Consider the bugs that does the apple tree put forth its fragrant bloom than the insidious codlin moth lays her destructive egg where it will blight and blast. The maternal salmon has scarcely committed her roe to the mercies of the universe when a predatory horde of carp and snakes begin to devour it. As for the human infant, it is a wonder of wonders Mr. Harriman has performed, lethal germs pours down into his stomach with the milk. The air swarms with germs of tuberculosis lying in wait to lodge in his lungs. If he goes and cold slays him. If he stays in the house the even temperature weakens miles of new railroad has Mr. Harri- him. There is death for the unwary child in the luscious green apple, and the enticing carbolic acid bottle. The How many promises that he would whole world is bent upon his destruc-build branch lines into tributary country has he kept? The record would not be creditable to Mr. Harriman. He is ward over his ways, or, more likely. building a line from Portland to Puget | because he is made so tough to start und, where it is not needed, in his with that he is indestructible, like an old hoopskirt or an India rubber shoe. Such is the Struggie for-Existence which in our fatulty we set upon a pedestal and worship as if it were an lies. He wastes millions of dollars in idol made entirely of gold instead of a vain effort to keep Mr. Hill out of being for the most part clay. It is a warfare of the whole universe against each individual, unfair, cruel and cruel and wasteful. We say of it that it develops in men many high and noble qualities, but when we say so we speak unthink-ingly; because the struggle for existence develops those qualities only which are useful in the struggle. All others it eliminates. What would hap-

pen to a lion which should show pity to the bleating kid? He would starve. The beneficent struggle for existence would swiftly make an end of him, while his wiser rival would devour the kid just the same. What would beconduct his affairs according to the Golden Rule? The bankruptcy court.

yawns for such as he.

The salmon and the shad lay a million eggs for every one that comes naturity when they are left to take their chances in the struggle for existence. Nor is it the fish of sweetest meat and the fattest which escapes its foes, but the swiftest, the most wary and the toughest. The struggle for ex-istence is as unintelligent as it is cruel and wasteful. It knows nothing of exellence or of good and bad. It preserves the typhold germ with the same care as the apple seed, but with no more; it treats Shakespeare and the rattlesnake precisely alike. It reaches its ends by slaughter. It never invent-ed an intelligent device or an economical method. The instant any living being comes into possession of a gilmmer of intelligence he uses the gilmmer to light the way out of the struggle for existence. The fundamental use intelligence is to devise protection for its possessor so that he may cease to struggle and begin to live for something the parcels post has come, of course, thing as progress is possible; Nothing

posite of adaptation; it is a triumph What happens to the apple when mar ases to protect it from the struggle for existence? It becomes a rough-skinned berry, sour and bitter, so nauseous that it has no allurement for the worms and bugs. The apple of commerce is a fruit that has been made exempt from struggle with its foes. The horticulturist has cut off the rival fruit on the same stem that would have competed for nourishment He ins sprayed it to kill its insect foes. He has cut away the boughs that ould have shaded it from the sun and tilled the ground that it might have air and moisture at the roots. The wild horse has strength and fleetness; the protected horse has both of these and also affection for his master, loyalty and docility. The struggle for existence could never have made him doelle fierce and wary must perish. The wild hog is an uncanny beast made up of bones, bristles and tusks. The protected swine is mostly fat with alternating layers of sapid lean, a tender creature almost pathetic in his facile compil-

The struggle for existence is a lovely thing in theory, but what man is there who does not try his best to protect his children from its horrors? Why do we lay up money for our sons and in this matter is admirable. All the time that we are singing hymns to the struggle for existence we are using to gence to rescue ourselves and our chilattesting their preparation for the work of life, turn to face a world of wide hood with means for education, books, sports, home training, or to grow up who take diplomas from the training under the struggle for existence in th streets? Let it be admitted once for all this point and told that she has enough which they are specially prepared and that good and great men have come out find therein their life work. And a of the struggle with enough of their of the struggle with enough of their inherited nobility of nature left to where pain and disease hold make them eminently useful; but they are exceptions to the rule. And if they had had to struggle all their lives they would not have been exceptions. Opportunity came to them before it was too late and lifted them out of the

the Nation and freed his energies to struggle for nobler ends. Ever since civilization began the whole race has recipients of these diplomas are not of the same sort that the American

of their profession, they were intro- fort, but not before. If it has been a good thing for the British aristocracy to be free from the struggle for existence, why would it not be a good thing for all the English people? If it is a good thing for Mr. Carnegle, why would it not also be a good thing for his workman?

HAS A WITNESS ANY RIGHTS? The manner and language of the average lawyer in cross-examining a wit ness in the trial of a case are amazing when one reflects upon them outside the unnatural atmosphere of a courtroon That principle of government declares that all men are created equal means that they are created beset the infant cucumber vine and the caul before the law, and yet when two crawling, creeping, slimy tribes that men confront each other in court, one prey upon the nascent rose bush. No as a witness and the other as a crossexamining lawyer, neither guilty even accused of crime, it becomes at once apparent that the throw around each the same protec tion and extend to each the rights. The lawyer may glare and scowl and frown and sneer. The wit-ness must preserve a respectful demeanor. The lawyer may intentionally wonders that he ever lives to years of make a misstatement of fact without discretion under the assaults of his probability of reproof from the bench foes. If he sucks his bottle a flood of If the witness makes a misstatement wilfully he is in danger of imprison ment in the penitentiary. The lawyer may stand up, shake his finger at the and should have performed, if described wait to lodge in his lungs. If he goes witness in a menacing manner and by his paid publicity agent, would out of doors, the alternation of heat fairly shout his question. Should the witness exercise the same privilege and reply in kind the judge would send him to fail for contempt of court or commit him to the asylum. Sitting in the protecting presence of the court, a lawyer may safely call a witness liar when he would not dare apply the same epithet out on the street

There is no reason in law or commo

sense why this difference should exist

A freeborn American citizen does not forfeit all his rights by answering subpens to testify in court. Neither does he on such an occasion surrende his right as a man, regardless of citizenship, to be treated respectfully long as his conduct has not merited punishment. There is no reason or av cuse for permitting a lawyer to address a witness in any tone or manner different from that in which the wit-ness is expected to reply. If a witness should be guilty of misconduct the pre-siding judge, and not the opposing at-torney, would be the proper person to reprimand or inflict punishment. Quite likely lawyers imagine that loud talking, menacing and scowling will aid in bringing out the truth, but more often they bring on confusion and misunderstanding which cause a witness to forget or to make erroneous state Excitement produced in this ments way sometimes causes witnesses to contradict themselves though would have told straightforward truthful stories if permitted to do so without interruption or torment. Rapid questioning, repetition of questions and even frivolous questioning may be of great value in testing the credibility of witnesses but conduct on the part of an attorney calculated to excite a witness distorts the truth as often as makes the truth more clear. In the presence of a court, as in every place, both witness and lawyer should conduct themselves with becoming dig nity. In any event, no higher standard of conduct should be expected of the witness than of the lawyer. When the lawyer shouts a question the witness should shout his reply. A few such experiences as that would convince lawyers and judges that witnesses have some rights which they are bound to respect

## INSURANCE AFFAIRS.

The Life Insurance Press reports that the level-premium life insurance com-Without protection no such panies, together with the assessmen orders, pald out in 1906 for death can happen except adaptation to cir-cumstances and the elimination of sum of \$327,576,199. To this very pleaseverything that is not suited to war- ing amount we must add \$120,000,000 five students, of whom sixteen ore which went for annuities, dividends and surrender values.

The Press exhibits some natural complacency over the flourishing state of the life insurance business, considering panies "went right along maintaining stability and paying claims." They paid some other things also. For example, certain companies paid the expenses of agents hired to canvass for votes to keep the present management in power.

During 1906 more than \$500,000,000 of ordinary insurance lapsed. This was most deplorable, since, as the Press well says, the companies have always been able to meet their contracts. In fact, people threw over their policies not so much because they doubted the ability of the companies as because they distrusted their honesty. Many Many believe, also, on good grounds, that life insurance is much more expensive than It need be.

## WHERE THE BLAME LIES.

The President is constrained to be leve that the factory is a poor place for married women, and he is right. Any married woman in the working ranks of life has plenty to do in he own home. But unfortunately this fact daughters? If it is so noble to strug-gle for existence, why do we build no doubt whatever that married women houses to shelter ourselves from it? as a class would prefer to live in Why not expose our bodies to its elewhy not expose our bodies to its ele-vating rigors and grow hippopotamus of their husbands. But what, when hides and gorilla hair? Our hypocrisy this labor falls them? When sickness comes and the man cannot work? Or when the man is unwilling to work, or incapable of making a living for the

The question of the married woman's labor in the gainful industries is not one of ethics, but, nine times out of ten, of stern necessity. It is not a theory that confronts us here; not the woman who should be lectured upon to do to take care of her house and look after home interests. The man should be told these things and censured for allowing conditions to pre vall that drive his wife to the factory or the shop in order to earn needemoney to keep an abiding-pla herself and her family, himself too often included. A large and constantly ncreasing number of American mar the fressul convalescent on the road it was so with Lincoln. The Amerito health; and to soothe and comfort can people, perceiving that he was tics, work in gainful vocations. He dying, when all efforts to prolong made for something better than the who supposes that these women, genthe dying, when all efforts to prolong made for something better than the light that the light t from which these workers go out to their daily toil. From the washer-woman, who ties her 2-year-old child to the table leg in order to confine his novements to a limited area, leaves her baby in the cradle, and, locking the door, hurries to her tube, to the milliner who arises early, makes the coffee and tonat for berself and husband, hudperhaps, make a shift to do without the the useful side, the inevitable duties, there is energy available for higher of- dies the dishes in the sink and starts.

for her day's work, drawing on her gloves, the married woman who works in gainful vocations is apurred thereto

first or last by necessity.

Any one even moderately familiar with the circumstances that govern the lives of the great army of married working women knows this to be true. Hence, to speak of the situation as though these women preferred it thome life, with at least implied cer sure. betrays misconception of the

Sunday closing of saloons is not to be enforced on the ground that Sunday is a holy day, or for other religious reasons. Some may think of it, some doubtless do think of it, on that ground, But the state does not. The greater part of the sentiment behind Sunday closing, elsewhere as here, is based on the belief, derived from long observation and experience, that it is best to close up the drinking resorts on this day, which by most persons is devoted to recreation and rest from the ordinary labors of the week. The Oregonian has no doubt whatever that the saloons of Portland will be closed on Sunday; that the effort to close them, if not immediately successful, will suc ceed ultimately; and that at no distant day. It is an ordinance that prevails in most cities and towns of the United States, and is advancing fast towards the conquest of the rest of them. Re-sistance to the movement cannot be maintained in Portland. The newcomers into the city and state-coming from places where Sunday closing has been enforced, and approving the pol-icy-will powerfully augment the forces already here and at work towards the same end. It is one of the many signs of the transformation of Oregon. wise Oregonian easily sees it; the oths will be "shown." Customs even ore venerable than those of fortyers will be "shown." more venerable than those "gone, three years" standing have "gone, 'go." For Oregon is getting out of old ruts or grooves mighty fast.

these times. Dwellers in this city on hospitable thoughts intent are astir in the interests of the annual reunion of the Oregon Pioneer Association next Wednes day. The prospect is good for a large attendance at the reunion and banquet the latter feature of the gala occasion being especially enjoyable to the sturdy ploneers. The rose flesta, occurring at the time of the reunion, will lend additional attractions to the meeting. The long set speeches which formerly fell upon the ears of the aged men and women in seemingly endless monoton have been practically eliminated from the programme of Pioneer day. Social intercourse has taken the place of these addresses, and is very much enjoyed by the gray-haired men and women, many of whom do not leave home more than once during the year. As usual, every facility for rest will be provided for the guests, and if the day is fine the attendance will no doubt be in excess of that of any former year.

With women as plenty as they are in this world-good women, too, industri-ous and self-respecting-it is strange indeed that any same man will pursu and endeavor to bring back to his home an errant wife who is proving her lack womanly character and wifely honor by running away with another man. Still less is it conceivable that any man if his right mind will put his neck in a noose by killing the worthless felwho is his wife's companion in flight. Yet two instances of this kind are recorded as having taken place in this state on a single day recently—one in Lane and the other in Clatsop County. The only explanation possible is that the husbands in these cases ware men from whom wives were jus-tified upon general principles in trying

The State Agricultural College graduated last Wednesday a class of sixtywer from the agricultural department and eight from the department of household science. Down-at-the-heel farming and slipshod housekeeping are no longer characteristic of life on Oregon farms— a fact that is due in no small degree all that has happened to blight its a fact that is due in no small degree prosperity. New business has indeed to the work of the Agricultural College fallen off over \$300,000,000 compared and the instruction given under its with 1904, but the Press says the comauspices through farmers' institutes. The influence of such work is far-reaching and cannot be too highly appreci-ated. Any effort that shows how farming may be made to pay and life in country homes be made attractive is well worth the investment in time, la-

> The District Attorney at Cathlamet, Wash., has served notice on the sa-loons of that town that they must close on Sundays. He also issues through the local newspaper an address to the public, in which he says:

> The Sunday closing law has been upon the statute books for many years, but has not been enforced simply from the fact that the been enforced simply from the fact that the public at large has been indifferent in regard to such matters, but at the present time there is a movement over this entire country to regulate and control both saloons and business houses.
>
> This is only part of the great moral upheaval that is going on everywhere in the country today, without doubt having its inspiration from the moral teachings and policies of the President.

Of course there will be roses for the oming carnival-plenty of them; not roses as plentiful, as large or as fine in every way as were the first roses of June, but abundant enough and beau tiful enough to make a grand display. Let all the faded and falling roses be clipped from the bushes and the promtsing buds spared, and there will be roses in abundance on the days of the carnival-providing, of course, that rain ceases to fall and the sun shines in the meantime.

The Crar has sent the Douma home again because it didn't please him. The Caar has to do something occasionally to show that he is still the whole thing

As evidence that six days' rain doesn't affect business, note the 52 per cent increase in bank clearances last

We understand it now. Rammaker Hatfield, up in Sherman County, is doing it all. Somebody call him off, Mr. Harriman very kindly gave the Alton people back their stock, but thoughtfully kept their money.

Mayor Schmitz would have been quite as well off if he had prolonged

his European tour a year. Hency is almost a synonym for Neme-

### COMMENT ON CURRENT STATE TOPICS

Why Cannot Government Brenk Up Transportation Monopoly on Willamette River!—Oiled Streets as a Fire Risk—Medford and his Electric Light Plant—Disorderly Crowds on Sunday Excursion Trains—Poor Pay for County School Superintendents-Punishing Charlyari Risters.

gation and prescribe the conditions upon punish those who form combinations or make agreements in restraint of trade, not be done to restore competition in transportation on the Willamette River and secure a return to something near the freight charges that prevailed a few years ago. A dozen or fifteen years ago freight was carried from Portland up the river for about one-third the present rates. That was in the days when com-petition between rival boats was keen. The rate on merchandise from Portland to Salem, for example, was from 5 to 7% cents a hundred. After the rival line ceased their most strenuous fighting and confined their competition to superiority of service rather than lowness of rates the freight charges were advanced by a sort of mutual understanding to about 16 from 16 to 22 cents a hundred and still advancing. For a number of years two steamboat companies, originally keen rivals, handled their business at river points through the same agent and on the same dock. For the last three years one company has handled all the business. Merchants cannot under stand why there should be such an advance in rates, for the business that was formerly divided between rival boats maintaining separate docks and agencies and employing separate crews, now goes one company. While wages boat officials and laborers have increased, this increase, it would seem is offset by the saving through discon tinuance of competition. That advancing rates are justified by advancing cost of operation, the Valley merchants are un willing to admit. And some of them are considering a remedy. That free locks at Oregon City would solve the problem they have some doubt, for the locks are avail able to all upon the same terms, and, if competition can be suppressed now it could be when the lockage charges have een removed. Free locks would mean lower rates, if there should be competition as a result-otherwise the boat companie rather than shippers, would profit by the removel of the lockage charges. The Oregon Railroad Commission law does not apply to steamboat companies, so there s no hope for a remedy by appeal to that arm of the state government. To the Federal Government, which has con trol of the river for many purposes, and which has lately succeeded in breaking up a furniture combination, they are more likely to appeal, if they can see any hope of relief from that source.

THAT oiled streets constitute an addi-tional fire hazars, is the opinion of the Insurance Field, which bases its opin ion upon some tests of olled streets in Kentucky. This subject will be of interest in Oregon for the reason that severa Oregon towns have been using oil lately as a dust preventive. Thus far the use o oll has been entirely successful and much superior to water, for an olled street is dustless all the time, while a water sprinkled street will be dusty in two or three hours after the water has been pu on. But if the use of oil creates a means of spreading a fire, there will be some hesitation in using it very extensively That such should be the case seems hard ly probable, for streets in California towns are liberally sprinkled with oil and there have been no reports of serious fires as a consequence. The Insurance Field cites the experiments in Winches-

ter, Ky., describes as follows:

The street in front or the Bean carriage factory has just been oiled. Waste paper from the shop is usually burned in the street. Before burning the paper it was suggested that they might set the street on fire. To test it, they applied several matches to the oil without effect. Then they tried a lighted piece of paper. That settled the question. In a moment the street was on fire, the flames running fifty feet high. The small howe of the fire department was turned on, but this increased the conflagration. The large hose was then brought into use and the fire flooded out. No serious damage was done. Some trees were scorched and a telephone pole was slightly damaged.

It is quite likely, however, that much ter Ky. descril

It is quite likely, however, that much more oil was used on the street men-tioned than is used on the streets oiled in cities in Oregon, for it seems scarcely probable that the thin sprinkling put on here would be sufficient to furnish fuel

THOUGH Medford has decided, by popular vote, to lease its electric light plant to a private corporation for a term of 25 years, the city has not thereby turned over to the corporation the power to establish rates to be charged consumers. The city fixes, in its lease, the maximum charges that shall be made, and reserves the right further to regulate the rates, with the proviso that the charges shall not be made lower than the average in other cities of similar size. The lease requires the leases to pay to the city 5 per cent of its gross earnings and provide the city with ten 2000-candle power are lights and 30 32-candle power incandescent lights, and additional lights in proportion to the increase in population. A graded schedule of rates to be charged private consumers is prescribed. The company has the right to purchase the plant from the city at the end of five years for \$20,000, and the city reserves the right to buy it back at the end of 25 years at a price to be agreed upon by arbitration The lease is rather novel in its terms but it seems that the people were satis-fied that they would get reasonable electric light service at fair rates under its terms, for they authorized the execution of the contract thus summarized.

T the opening of the season for Sun-A day excursions to Summer sorts the St. Helens Mist has voiced a timely appeal for better control of the crowds on excursion frains. That paper describes a riotous seene on a recent ex-cursion—a scene such as many respectable and orderly people have witnessed to their extreme disgust-and it calls upon the railroad company to compel drunks and hoodlums to have respect Wonder what would happen if Heney and Burns were to get busy around transportation. "Last Sunday's down train seemed to be in possession of the mob. They filled the aisies and plat-forms and amused themselves with loud singing and conversation that is seldon the cars repeatedly from end to end and made nulsances of themselves generally without any interference from the conductor, . . In the name of decener

W HEN the Federal Government has and public safety, the A. & C. managesuch jurisdiction over a navigable stream that it can regulate naviment should see that its trains are run in better shape." The Mist's protest is one that thousands of excursionists have which bridges may be built, and when voiced before, not only on that road, but the Government has also the power to on others, and on the river boats. Yet for the whole train crew, to handle a merchants up and down the Willamette crowd of half-intoxicated rewdies. Clat-valley are wondering why something cana practice of going to Seaside on excur sion days and on the return he arrested and took from the train at Astoria all men who were so bolsterous as to be dangerous to the passengers. The St. Helens paper could quite likely prevail upon the Columbia County Sheriff to send a deputy to the county line to accompany the sengers violating the peace within his jurisdiction. Because a man is on a train does not make him any the less infractions of the law. a rallroad train any less within the h risdiction of a Sheriff than a railroad station.

> YAMHILL County is lamenting besigned his office, paying a salary of \$900 s year, to accept a position at the head of the city schools in Eugene at a salary of \$1400. The people and press are not censuring the Superintendent for stepping into the more profitable position, but are condemning themselves for paying a salary so low that they could not keep him. 'Mr. Alderman is an able man." says one paper. "Yamhill County needs such man as Superintendent of Schools, but just so long as the salary is \$900 per year will we be subjected to the loss of men of ability because some other commun ity is willing to pay for value received The same is true of teachers' salaries. With very few exceptions a teacher who annot command more than \$50 to \$35 per month is not worth 25 cents per year the exceptions being the few who live at home or are forced to take small wages because they have no idea of the real value of their services." that the people put a wrong estimate upon the relative importance of the several county offices. It takes more talent and more preparation to make a good School Superintendent than to make a good County Clerk or Recorder. Yet the Clerks and Recorders are paid the higher sataries. On an average County Judges in Oregon are men of poorer qualification than the School Su perintendents, and some of them give nuch less attention to the duties of their offices. Yet the Judges get higher sal-aries than the Superintendents. An evening-up by judicious lowering places and raising in others might solve the difficulty.

> THERE will be very wide and praction of the police in Albany in determining to prosecute those who participate in charivari proceedings. In other towns there is frequently opportunity to preserve the peace and dignity of the city adoption of a similar policy. In the last few months there have been reports of several charivari parties which resorted to violence, not only demolishing property but injuring persons for whose annoyance the parties were formed. Oc casionally members of the riotons crowd are injured by the exasperated groom, but even the danger of this punishment has not been sufficient to deter those who feel that such occasions as weddings and Halloweens operate to suspend the laws which guarantee protection to life and properly. Rigid adherence to the course announced at Albany should be effective not only in promoting the peace also in suppressing a spirit of lawles ness which will grow if tolerated and re-

COMPANY L, of the Oregon National Guard, located at Pendleton, has hit panies might find worth imitation. The company goes into camp on Saturday night at some convenient point along the Umatilia River, and remains in camp til Sunday evening. The boys leave in heavy marching order, carrying their blankets, overcoats, shelter tents, provisions and cooking utenslis. They sleep practically in the open air, get the benefit of the long tramp, and, what is chiefly desired, receive practical instruction in guard duty and extended order, which it is impossible to receive in the limits of the armory. And under ordinary conditions of weather they have a very enjoyable time.

A LL along its line in Western Ore-gon the Southern Pacific has used decomposed granite as a material for the construction of walks and station much more lasting than lumber, and makes a better walk. It packs closely, permits the water to drain off rapidly and is never dusty. Because of the many merits of this material the people Grant's Pass are considering its use in street improvements. Unless the horses hoofs would tear it up and keep it loose it would apparently make a good surface for streets and highways. The fact that it is not dusty is a strong feature in its favor. As this kind of material is close at hand, Grant's Pass can use it at much less cost than most other towns, and the results of experiments will be watched with interest.

Rubinyat of "Old Probs."

Munsey's Magazine.

The Weather Prophet writes, and having Benignly back amongst His Clouds doth sit. Nor all the Cold Sarcasm of the Press Can hinder Him from thinking He is It.

And that Inverted Bowl we call the Sky He rules from Day to Day with varied Lie! Lift not your hands to Him for Help-for He As dittle really knows as You or I!

Myself when Young did eagerly Peruse The "Weather Indications" in the news For Picnics and for Balls; but everm What they did promise, I did surely lose.

I sometimes think that never glows so Red The Dawn as when the Weather Clerk has said: "Temorrow—Cloudy; Heavy Winds and Showers"— And Sol comes out Right dazzlingly, instead.

Ah, Love! could'st Thou and I somehow conspire
To grasp this Weather Bureau Scheme entire;
Would we not quickly get onto the Joe
And then remold it to our Heart's Desire?

For He no Question makes of Ayes and Noes. But anything that strikes His Fancy goes; What Others think is neither Here nor there— He knows about it all—He knows—He knows!