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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1908

IT IS CONTEMPTIBLE SNIVEL.

Everybody knows that Secretary Taft, in his remark about General Grant's early habits, told the simple It is the hypocrisy of the de nial from some quarters that disgusts. The truth was told for a good purpose, too, and the effect cannot be other than good. Grant, after a hard struggle, such as few men can make completely redeemed himself. The fact conduces immensely to his honor, and all succeeding generations of his young countrymen should know

All biographies of Grant mention, of course, his resignation from the Army in 1854, and several give it as a reason that his habit of drink had made it necessary. He himself says in his memoirs, that he resigned because he could not support his famduty at distant posts, on the pay of a captain. He could not be expected speak in his memoirs about the unfortunate habit of his early life. In his great historical work James ford Rhodes says that after the Mex ican War "Grant passed four years at Detroit and Sackett's Harbor, when his regiment was ordered to the Pacific Coast. This occasioned a separation from his family, and a cloud came over his life. He fell into habits of intemperance. In 1854 he resigned from the Army and rejoined his family.

All who remember the current news, written at the time of the Civil War, will easily recall the statements which then frequently appeared, that Grant sometimes took liquor, observing which General John A. Rawlins, his chief of staff, told him that total abstinence in his case was an imperious necessity, and that he (Rawlins) would quit him if he did not make it an inflexible rule. That Grant ever was intoxicated after he came to high command there is no certain proof available-though torians do not shrink for consideration of the stories told about the time of the Vicksburg campaign, and later, Colonel George E. Church, who had the most friendly personal relations with Grant, and wrote a biography of him, says in his book that "Grant had one physical weakness, and that was an incapacity to take the smallbeing overcome by it, and at rare intervals, when a young officer, him an overindulgence. This," continues Colonel Church, "led to a difficulty with his post commander (at Humboldt), Major Robert C. Buchanan; and he concludhim to do so against his will." This statement seems to support that of at the orator's side on the others, that Grant was threatened

with court-martial for intemperance. edge of his life and character. A most hypocritical uproar has followed Taft's allusion to them, as if he had uttered a slander, as mallclous as false. The truth about eminent men is due to history. Washington, at times, fell, or rose, to stormy passion, and uttered vehement words." Hamilton had wellknown folbles that brought him into difficulties and subjected him to bitter, yet not unjust censure; Webster down to his last years, was addicted over-indulgence in These men dld things, and knowledge of the weaknesses as well as of the virtues of our great his torical personages is necessary to right estimate of their character and with the band. Next comes the man

achievements. To say that greatest men have had faults is only to say that they were men. The man wholly made up of ideal virtues would most likely be a milksop.

Should Taft be nominated for the Presidency, the snivel about his "at-tack on Grant" will probably continue. Should he fall to get the nomination, no more will be said about "the infamous slander."

IS IT A MYSTERY?

An esteemed contemporary offers the remark that "The Oregonian comes nearer making its circulation pay than any other paper in the Northwest." That is because every-Northwest." body in the Northwest who has any thought or concern about anything in human life or affairs must read The Oregonian. And they who read it willingly pay for it. Herein is the reason why The Oregonian has a universal circulation. Every person interested in affairs, every thinker on any subject, must have it. There is no mystery about its circulation, about the eagerness with which all persons to whom nothing of human interest is alien, read it and pay for

If, as asserted, "The Oregonian's subscription business is the envy of every other paper in the Northwest," it may be supposed there is good reason for it. For we are told that multitudes who buy and read The Oregonian with deepest interest "cuss" it. That is because it offers something unusual to their thought, and forces them to challenge the correctness of their own opinions. It makes them "scratch." King James, after he had come from Scotland to the English throne, said nobody but a King should be permitted to have the itch, because it was such a luxury to scratch. It may be that the luxury of scratching is what makes all those who are said to "cuss" The Oregonian read it.

But the mass, who haven't any "itch of poor opinion,"-the phrase is Shakespeare's-but want the news and straight common sense, have still better reason for reading it. On the whole, however, a newspaper's enemies are even surer readers of it than its friends. Even their enmity to it is a tribute to its activity and force, and to its power to stir them. On the stage of human history there never yet was a man of force or a thing of force that didn't stir opposi tion and enmity. Persons of active minds don't want altogether the ideas they agree with, but are interested in ideas and purposes opposite to their own, especially when presented with an incisiveness and force that compel attention.

This sceptre has been snatched with a vigorous hand, and it must vigorously maintained gained. This phrase also is Shakespeare's; -without whom every person who speaks English would be tongue-tied. But though The Oregonian's circulation may be the envy of others, there is nothing miraculous The Oregonian, this many about 1t. a year, has simply striven to be a pub lic journal that people would feel they must read. .

A SANE FOURTH.

As the glorious Fourth makes its dire approach, that fraction of the press which aims at edification rather than diversion begins to exhort for a reasonable celebration. "Alas," wails the Outlook, of New York, "what a vast deal of useless noise we make upon the natal morn, to say nothing of the night before and the day after. What a wretched host of us get drunk and act like maniacs in How many people we kill; how many others we maim and blind. Behold that devilish instrument of death, the toy pistol, and consider the hideous use the abandoned urchin makes of ing with the bacilli of lockiaw. Meditate upon the bursting cannon, the accident-breeding gun, the spreading conflagration far and wide, and admire if you can the wisdom of a great Nation which can devise no better way to commemorate the day of its nativity."

The Outlook contrives an excruciatingly bitter fling at the noise-makers by reminding them that they imitate the Chinese. That people, whom we despise, always celebrate great occasions with an infernal uproar, and from them we have caught the same bad habit. Thus do evil communications corrupt good manners.

For there was a time, ere America's griefs began, when we used to celebrate the Fourth with less tumult and more sense. In those good old days, forever gone perhaps, the preliminary bills set forth with pomp and parade the name of the orator as the principal attraction; now it is the name of the baseball club and the hall where the dance will be held. And great has been the change in the day's pro-Formerly the eager crowd gathered early in the morning at the door of the principal hotel waiting to see the procession set forth in solemn array. After a delay befitting the greatness of the individuals who were to participate, it finally started. First came a glittering vehicle wherein rode the president of the day, and at his side that still more exalted personage, est drink of spirituous liquor without the orator. Immediately behind them the brass band rode in an omnibus decorated with flags. Then followed would be betrayed into what was for all the dignitaries of the town in seemly array, with plain citizens and little boys bringing up the rear.

cle, well devised to fire the heart of youth with patriotic emotion. ed to resign, though it was not in the time ever come," the barethe power of his superior to compel foot boy asked himself, "when I shall ride exalted in a carriage ous morn. Nay, why should not I be the orator himself, in some far These things belong to history; and and fortunate future?" And when Grant's place in our history is so they had all sat down in the grove great that they cannot be ignored, and the orator stood up and let the but even are necessary to full knowl- grand sentences roll from his lips, sentences which burned with the unquenched fires of the Revolution, great watchwords of liberty, mighty calls to high ambition, did not the boy's heart kindle and his soul ride heavenward like a young Elijah m a charlot of flame? Perhaps much of what the orator said was mere noise, after all, but it was better than the noise of firecrackers and toy pistols, and it had the exceeding merit of being harmless.

The procession was a noble specta-

Nowadays the procession is some what different. At the head rides in glory a steam calliope, whose squawks drown the noise of the various Chinese deviltries which we have adopted with which to celebrate the Day of Independence. The baseball club follows

rear or inconspicuously walks.

to deliver his speech. Behind him the calliope continues to play for the refiddler allures the crowd with fiendish | patience and ingenuity more. melody to the dance pavilion; on his left the barker for the fat woman lifts up his profane voice in ceaseleses exhortation, while all around firecrackers explode continuously. Unhappy orator. A few old men who are partially deaf seat themselves on the edge of the platform in a vain effort to hear what he says. Everybody else is busy making as much possible. Why such change? Why has the celebration of the Fourth of July so degenerated? The cynic will reply that it is part of the general slump in our National morals and manners which has taken place since the Civil War, one more proof that as a people we have forsaken intellectual and spiritual things in a mad pursuit of material enjoyment

But the cynic will be wrong, as he usually is. There has been no such for one thing. The American people have tolerated a mad race for material enjoyments and possessions on the part of a few, but as a-whole they have not taken part in it and now they are ceasing even to tolerate it The orators are not listened to because as a rule they have nothing to say worth hearing. Let them discuss sanely and bravely the questions which we are all thinking about and we will gladly lay aside our firecrackers and hang upon their lips even as our fathers did of yore. The usual Fourth of July oration in these baser times contains scarcely more thought than a Roman candle. Like the ordinary sermon, it deals with the dry bones of dead issues and tries to make up for its lack of sense by empty and mendacious boasting. The people can find better mental food in the newspapers and magazines, and very wisely they choose it. They drown the orator's eloquence with firecrackers because the firecrackers are more intellectual than he is, and usually more Make the celebration of the sincere. Fourth significant of living issues instead of dead humbugs and it will become sane and safe without further trouble.

VICE OF IRRESPONSIBLE PARENTAGE The story that comes from New York through the Washington, D. C. Herald, of many children of the East Side tenement districts crying with hunger as they start to school in the mornings, there being absolutely not even bread in the house and no way by which the parents can procure it, is one of the sharpest arraignments of parental responsibility-or irre sponsibility-that has ever been brought before the open court of public opinion in this country. Talk of, and seek to discourage, race suicide, so-called! What is this too selfish irresponsible race propagation? If it is not criminal to encourage the class of people who cannot, or will not, or do not take care of children in their helpless childhood (the only class by the way, and alas, a large one, that is encouraged by any exhortation from any source upon this subject) to bring large families into the world, such encouragement is certainly treational Far better were it for humanity, better, indeed, for a man's own good, to use such stringent measures as alone "I must shake hands with

are adequate to prevent race propagation in the wretched abiding places of squalor, unthrift and dissipation than to commend and encourage it. patriot." President Roosevelt was reported to have said, when told in Butte, Montana, several years ago that there was a man in his audience who was the father of eleven chil thirteen. Pushing his way through the crowd with eager self-conceit, so the story ran, came a short, lowbrowed, malodorous fellow with a cob pipe between his teeth and proudly proclaimed himself the "patriot" sought. And when later his toothless slatternly wife and their dirty, unkempt, unmannerly brood was lined up for inspection the President's good sense and sense of parental respons-

ibility must have been shocked. Inquiry afterwards disclosed the fact that the home of this "patriotic" pair and their numerous progeny was little larger than a pig sty and much reminded one in other respects; that the man's wages were mainly squandered in drink; that the children from the time they were able to find their way about the streets sold papers and picked up their living, ch as it was, in any little odd jobs that presented, including emptying cuspidors in saloons; that they early became known as pilferers, and that the mother, taking with her the baby and the other baby, went out to wash. Patriot, forsooth! Breeder of suffering and destitution and crime rather! Promoters of vice and anarchy, such parents-especially such fathers as this-are the shame of civilization, as later their misbegotten offspring, in the role of bomb-throwers, hired assassins, train wreckers, and in their turn irresponsible and prolific par-

ents, are its bane. Pity is due to little children, deprived of all the joys of childhood, poorly nourished, miserably clad, starting in the race of life with their double handicap of untoward heredity and wretched environment; but for the fathers there is nothing but censure.

THE ERA OF THE CHAFING DISH. "From cooking by the open fire-place, with its crane and trammels and pots and skillets, to cooking on the chafing dish, is a far cry," said a white-haired woman after reading in popular magazine an article Christine Terhune Herrick, a woman beloved of women, on "The Era of the Chafing Dish." "Between these two extremes," she continued, "lies the era of true domestic comfort in modern civilization." A little reflection will establish the truth of the estimate. "Only the rich can afford to lead the simple life," says the author quoted. When she adds, "People possessed of less than wealth must rack their brains to devise means for keeping any sort of homes, if fate casts their lines in big cities," she makes a statement that can readily be verified by the experience of thousands of energetic, resourceful women in large cities whom home without home-cooked

food is but an empty name. To meet this condition the chafing dish has come into use, and its era is

who is to go up in the balloon with a busy one. The art of cookery before the hired vaudeville troupe, while the wide-mouthed fireplaces, with their orator of the day rides humbly in the rude but substantial and sufficient utensils taxed the strength, the in-And woe unto him when he gets up genuity and the endurance of American women of a century ago; the art of cookery on the chafing dish taxes volving hobby-horses; on his right a the strength of women less, but their

The "kitchenette," a name applied to the little box in a modest suite of "light housekeeping" rooms, bears no resemblance to the kitchen in homes of old New England, or of those in the cabins of the early settlers of the Middle West; yet, thanks to the chafing dish and the determination, as strong now as then, of womanly women to make the best of the conditions that surround them, odors arise from the former, as savory as have floated down on the breath of tradition and folk-lore from the latter.

Between these extremes, however, the true comfort of the American home is secured. The well in the dooryard of the old home, with its old oaken bucket "dripping with coolness," holds its place in song and story, but no one would wish to see it supplant the running water in the kitchen; the potatoes roasted in the ashes were sweet and fluffy and toothsome; the bread and ples baked in the old 'Dutch oven" were perfection, in their kind; but the more modern housewife has demonstrated the possibility of the duplication of these wholesome viands upon the cook stove. And now, Mrs. Herrick tells us, the miracle of good cooking can be performed by means of a chafing dish, a pan or two, a coffee pot and a pint of denatured alcohol. Since the kitchen, with all its convenience and comfort that the name implies, is an impossible achievement in the home of the person of moderate means in the great city, let us be thankful for the "kitchenette." the chafing dish, denatured alcohol and such other shifts and makeshifts as have been evolved from the love of home and the ingenuity and patience of women as make a home possible under difficulties.

EDWARD AND NICHOLAS.

Germany has naturally viewed the meeting between King Edward and the Czar with disquiet. The real purpose of such a conference is never disclosed. The nations left out are obliged to guess at what is going on and the self-protective instinct leads them to surmise the worst. Thus they are pretty sure to be agreeably disappointed when the genuine facts come out because of the visit of one monarch to another, though it often cements friendship, seldom implies much hostility to anybody else. Kings are not unlike schoolboys in their mutual suspicions and jealousies. Anyone who happens to be left out of a particular arrangement thinks the rest of them are conspiring against him, when as a matter of fact they are only planning for a little lark together. ever, it is altogether likely that Edward and Nicholas are planning some thing more serious than a lark, and William does wondrous wisely to be on the lookout. His empire is squeezed uncomfortably between France and Russia, which have been close friends for a long time, while the former only bides an opportunity to have Germany on the hip and get even for

the wrongs of forty years ago. If England is now to be added to this alliance, William may well look upon it as a Kriegesdrelbund, which being interpreted means a conspirace of three nations to fight the fatherland. Edward and Nicholas deny that they wish to change the present relations of the powers, but monarchs take such a pragmatical view of truth that we are not always compelled to believe what they say. When Edward VII came to the throne England was diplomatically isolated. She had not an ally and scarcely a friend on the Continent of Europe, nor was it supmatters much. But in this respect he proved a wonderful surprise to the civilized world. He turned out to be the most adept diplomatist among modern monarchs. As international statesmen, perhaps such men as Bismarck and Cavour were greater than he in their day, but not much greater. While Russia was at war with Japan

Edward contrived to keep up intimate relations with France, though she was Russia's main dependence for sympathy and money, and at the same time with Japan. More amazing still, although hostilities with Russia were on the verge of breaking out two or three times, he avoided them and almost as soon as the war was over not only strengthened his alliance with Japan, but also concluded a friendly agree ment with Russia which made the Indian frontier secure. Thus very soon after the peace of Portsmouth England found herself in close diplomatic relations with Russia, Japan and France, while it was Germany's turn to be isolated. The reality of this condition was beautifully illustrated when the trouble in Morocco arose, for William then stood alone in his hostility to French intervention, while all the rest of the world favored it.

There is, and has been for years, rooted dislike between the English and German peoples. It arises, of course, from commercial rivalry. While the Germans have little genius for planting colonies, they are, nevertheless, enterprising traders, and their mastery of scientific technique has gone far toward giving them the supremacy in world markets which England once enjoyed. William has advanced German manufactures and commerce in every way he could think of, by planting colonies, by building a great navy by imposing a protective tariff, by im proving internal waterways, by taking possession of the railroads and by fostering technical education. Meanwhile England has done little except to

grumble over her losses and nurse a grudge against her competitor. Of late years the Kaiser has maintained a close alliance with Turkey, exacting in exchange concessions Western Asia which are disagreeable both to England and Russia. On the one hand he has made steady progress toward Persia and the Russian frontier in Asia; on the other he has moved toward the Perslan Gulf and the Indian possessions of England. It bring our criminal laws to a high seems likely enough that he will soon have a railroad with its remote terminus at the head of the gulf. He is thus in a position to threaten Russia England at pleasure, while his own territory is guarded by the troops of the Sultan, whose army is officered by Germans.

William has pushed himself like a to Russia and England. The delicacy need improvement. of the situation is increased by two

Nicholas. a terrible struggle, and she is waiting an opportunity to gain more. Asia, waiting like a tiger to spring upon either England or Russia, as o almost certain to be overpowered if they form an alliance with France to help. Almost certain, but not quite, Germany has fought Russia, come out safely. Thus the key to the present European situation must probanything in the rumor that the English-Japanese alliance is weakening, we may before long see the Mikado and the Kaiser pressing toward Central Asia from the east and the west, respectively, in a common cause, with Russian and English troops fighting them, while France seizes the oppor tunity to strike Germany along the Rhine and India reses in revolution against her hated white-faced rulers. Who shall say that the peace of the world is secure with all these possibil Ities impending?

LINE OF LEAST RESISTANCE. The Tacoma News continues to take

a very gloomy view of Portland's future. Using for a text a slight reference made by The Oregonian regarding the necessity of getting commercial out of the grasp of the pilotage mo nopoly at the mouth of the Columbia River, the News proceeds to sermonize on the impossibility of this city making any gains in the shipping business. There are no such handicaps clinging to shipping from Tacoma," asserts our Tacoma friend and well-wisher. exactly, but the handicaps which will never again permit Tacoma to reach the prominence as a wheat port that it has enjoyed in the past are different from the pilotage handicap which is temporarily costing Portland some When Portland business men wake up to the fact that compulsory pilotage is out of date, and too expenive for modern times, they will simply ask the Legislature to pass a law making it optional and providing rates no higher than those in force at ports with which this port competes.

This, at the worst, is an artificial handicap, and in the long run all artificial devices, whether they retard or facilitate commerce, will be supplanted by natural methods. Commerce the world over follows the lines of east resistance. Poor judgment and unnatural haste may result in a railroad for heavy traffic being built over a lofty mountain, but as the newness of the country wears off and the impossibility of such a road successfully competing with a water-level route is realized, the error is corrected. The over-the-mountain railroad to Tacoma is the handlcap which caused the building of the North Bank Railroad and the construction at Portland of the largest wheat warehouse in the world.

During the season just closing Portland handled more wheat than ever before in a single season, and without being crowded for dock or warehous facilities. If, as asserted by the News, "Portland's case is as hopeless as ever, in spite of the North Bank road" Mr Hill has made a serious mistake in providing facilities for handling any more wheat than was handled last season. And yet there are people all over the country who firmly will make more money by pulling trains of seventy-five loaded cars down the Columbia to Portland with one en gine than he could make by "bucking" trains of ten or twelve cars over the Cascade Mountains with two engines The News is of the opinion that the completion of the Milwaukee Railroad will make tributary to the Puget Sound city some new territory and "will have the effect of giving better rates." Portland sincerely hopes that the News will not be disappointed, especially regarding the rate matter. If there is any one influence that can hasten the day when all of the wheat that is to be shipped from that vast territory east of the Cascade Mountains will come out over the line of least resistance, it is a readjustment of rates.

There will always be a train service over the lofty Cascade Mountains to Tacoma. The scenic beauties of Snoqualmie and Stampede make the ride through the mountains a delight for tourists, and the road is a necessity for passenger travel between Eastern Washington and the state capital, but the completion of the North Bank Railroad marks the beginning of the end of that costly rallroad operation which commenced when the Northwest country was a virgin field for exploitation. All that is needed to complete the economic change that is now taking place is a readjustment of freight rates on the basis of cost of service. When that readjustment takes place there will be a sudden doubling of the volume of traffic which now follows Nature's highway down the Columbia and through the Cascade Gorge to Portland.

DEFECTS IN CRIMINAL LAW,

Two years ago Attorney-General Crawford requested all District Attorneys to report to him all defects they have found in the criminal statutes of the state and to recommend such changes in the laws as they deemed necessary in order to prevent guilty men from escaping punishment upon technical defenses. A number of suggestions were made and were acted upon by the Legislature, with the assistance of the Attorney-General This was a good move, and while perhaps not productive of as much good as might be desired, if followed up every two years, it will eventually standard of efficiency. The District Attorneys, more than any other officials, are in a position to observe defects in criminal laws. Quite likely many of them forget the particular flaws by means of which guilty men have escaped during their administration, but if they would check over their cases lost upon technicalities in wedge into Western Asia, where he the past four years they could make holds a position incalculably harassing a fairly complete list of statutes that

It is to be hoped that Attorney-

facts which probably have much to do General Crawford will renew his effort with the present visit of Edward to in this direction and that the several Though the truth about it District Attorneys will aid him in is concealed as carefully as may be, every way. Other officials or private nevertheless students of current his- individuals who know of loop-holes tory know that India is on the ragged which afford a means of escape for of revolution. The power of the guilty could render a public serv England is threatened there as it has ice by calling the Attorney-General's not been for the last fifty years. Again, attention to the circumstances within Russia is irritated on one side by Tur- their knowledge. By placing before key and on the other by Japan. Tur-key is not a power to be despised and lature the information he can gather never has been. Japan will not yield upon this subject the Attorney-General an inch that she has gained without will not only lessen the work of that branch of the state government but will greatly increase the value of the

many lies securely fortified in Western | work it may do with regard to criminal statutes. The recent trial and second convic casion may direct, hating both of tion of Ab Hembree suggests one needthem, fearing neither one alone, but ed change in the parole law. It will be remembered that Hembree was convicted of murdering his wife and was given an indeterminate sentence. At the end of one year he was let out of France and Austria all together and the penitentiary on parole, the Governor taking the view that the law left him no alternative, provided the ably be sought in Asia. If there is prisoner's conduct had been good while in the penitentiary. There are a great many who believe that the executive under the law as it now stands, has the right to exercise discretion in granting paroles. But since the Gov ernor's opinion prevails, it is desirable that the law be amended so that there can be no question and so that responsibility for the parole shall rest upon the man who grants it. Hembree's second conviction, this time upon the charge of killing his daugher, leaves little room for doubt that here was adequate proof of his guilt. This being true, there should be no shifting of responsibility if he escapes nunishment.

The Newport Mail upbraids the people of Yaquina Bay for sending orders to Portland for goods. It is a pretty old story, not confined to Yaquina Bay. But we can't all "keep our money at home." Many of our people go over to Yaquina Bay every Summer and spend much money there. It may be suspected the Newport Mail would not have them "keep it at home." There is much humbus in this phrase. People spend their money on their own judgment and for their own gratification; not as others may wish or advise. And, by the way, it is the production of country or a community that adds to its wealth; not the money it "keeps at home," except in very small de-

A screechy paper at Salem exclaims: "After the people reaffirm Statement No. 1 by 45,000 majority and carry every county in the state for it, then they are to be defeated in their choice of a Senator by the machine managers." No; they are not to be defeated by any managers They have simply made a contrivance election of Democratic Senators and conversion of Oregon into a settled and permanent Democratic state Let it go so; but don't be fooled by

It is charged that a boodle fund of \$50,000 has been raised in Louisiana for the purpose of preventing the enactment of legislation adverse to racetrack gambling. That isn't enough to be worth mentioning, compared with the amount spent in the effort to save the Louislana state lottery some twenty years ago. Evidently the antigambling movement in that state is still making progress, though against strong influences.

The London Iron and Steel Trades Journal reports the formation of a British steel trust with a capitalization of \$375,000,000. Of course this is a kind of pigmy alongside of our own and only billion-dollar steel fer privileges previously enjoyed trust, but there are great possibilities ahead of it. The introduction of a shead of it. The introduction of a large portion of the transfer trust, but there are great possibilities by travelers has been cut off by order of the courts—the receivers have lost installments of water would douew installments of water would double and treble the dimensions and incidentally increase the profits of the promoters.

Notwithstanding Chamberlain's en thusiastic indorsement of Roosevelt's policies it is significant that it was Bryan and not Roosevelt who has tened to congratulate Oregon's Governor on his having secured the highest vote for United States Senator. Bryan considers it a great Democratic victory. We shall hear him say so before the Presidential campaign has progressed very far.

Mr. Taft, of course, is merely listen ing for the call of the people and is not concerning himself about the National convention; but he has a wicked partner named Hitchcock who appears to be attending to a few details that might otherwise be overlooked. See of proceedings of National committee.

The Portland Journal's "contempt for the intelligence of the common people who gave Ellis that stupendous majority," is an object of re-mark. You see, the common people are very intelligent when they vote your way; awfully stupid when they

Marion County gave a large majority against the constitutional amendment increasing the pay of legislators from \$3 to \$10 a day. Did the people up there forget that legislators spend all they can afford on rooms and board and other things while at the capital?

This and that Republican Legislator will not be rewarded with Federal office, after electing Chamberlain, but this and that Democratic Legis lator will be "cared for," sure enough. That may be an improvement, but

A correspondent at Yoncalla asks Oregonian whether it knows when work on the railroad from Drain to Coos Bay will be resumed. The Oregonian does not know that it ever will be resumed.

Oregon Democrats, in their state platform, falled to condemn erring brethren who register as Republicans But perhaps that was an intended

California liquor men may boycott Oregon products but will probably not put the ban on Oregon money.

"Oregon," says the Clatskanie Chief "is neither a Republican nor a Democratic state. What is it?" Both

The world will be much improved by the graduating essays and ora tions, or ought to be.

TOM JOHNSON'S GREAT FAILURE How His Three-Cent Fare Scheme Is Working at Cleveland. New York Commercial and Financial

Chronicle.

The difference between promise and performance in the political world is well shown by what is transpiring at the present time in the City of Cleve-For years Mayor To Johnson of that city had been a great power in political affairs. He was elected over and over again, and seemed to be daily increasing in popularity. His sole cap-Hal was his antagonism to local trac-tion interests. He was working to get for the local residents lower fares and kept incessantly telling them how much better off they would be if only the municipality could take over these trolley lines and operate them in the kept interests of the whole community, instead of their being operated for the benefit of the stockholders, as represented by private capital. He made strenuous efforts to get possession of these local lines with that end in view. owners fought determinedly against having their property virtually confiscated, but finally, when Mr. Johnson last Autumn again triumphed at the polls, and it seemed as if he might remain enthroned indefinitely in the Mayor's chair, they in effect threw up the sponge. After much further par-leying with the owners, Mr. Johnson at length accomplished his purpose and acquired the lines on terms deemed ex-ceedingly favorable to the city, and the everse to the owners. Mr. Johnson had attained his goal. The lines were now "the people's," and 3-cent fares were established. If, at this juncture, a merciful Provi-

lence had removed Mr. Johnson from the scene, he might have remained a popular here. But no such good luck was in store for him. With the city in possession of the trolley properties, Mr. Johnson was called upon "to make good." Troubles for him begun almost the moment the city took possession. The public had been educated to expect much. They were getting little. Inmuch. They were getting intro. In-stead of the service being improved, it became worse. The traveling public began to grumble, and intimations came that they would prefer to pay the old rate of fare and get decent service They were told to be patient; that the people themselves now owned the troiley lines, and soon the benefits would be apparent to everyone. Confronted with the necessity of making both ends meet, the new management also found itself obliged to discontinue operating non-paying lines. That made more trouble. Then came difficulties with the employes, who wanted more money, and who want to a write more money, and who went on a strike when the re-quest for increased pay was refused, thus paralyzing street-railway opera-tion. The Cleveland Finance says that Mr. Johnson has not lived up to his promises in any respect. Instead of giving 3-cent fares, he is giving 3, 6, 9 and 11-cent fares. Instead of universal transfers, he has eliminated over 25 transfer points. Instead of more frequent service, the interval between the ears has been lengthened, and instead cars has been lengthened, and instead of carrying out the contract made by the Cleveland Electric Street Rallway with its employes, he is discharging the three-year men and hirling men at much lower wages. Moreover, Finance says that were he now a candidate for Mayor, he would be defeated by 29,000 votes—which seems quite likely.

votes—which seems quite likely.

There is a useful lesson in all this.

For years blatant demagogues all over
the United States have been crificialing street-railway management, and have been telling the public how much bet-ter things would be when the public came "into possession of its own." In Cleveland, the experiment has been made, and we see the result. It is one thing to criticise the acts of others, and quite another to be called upon to do the same work better ourselves. The experience of our Public Service Com-mission has been much the same. Great things had been expected of this new body. They devoted themselves first of all to the Brooklyn bridge "crush," but the crush still remains unrelieved, except so far as the opening of the tunnel to Brooklyn, as the outgrowth of private endeavor has reduced the pres-sure. Then they devoted themselves to the trolley lines, with the result that practically all the surface lines in Manhattan Borough and the Bronx are in receivers' hands, and that a large portion of the free transnot pay wages and buy supplies with transfer checks. If these experiences shall lead to the development of a more tolerant spirit toward public-service corporations managed by private enterprises, the harm and suffering entailed through the assaults of recent years will not have been without compensating advantage.

No Fault With Taft's Grant Speech. New York World. In Secretary Taft's Memorial day ad-

dress on General Grant, regarded as a whole and with an eye to its intent, there is little ground for the criticism voiced by some of its veteran hearers. The speaker referred plainly to certain weaknesses of Grant in his early man-hood, to his drinking, to his resignation from the Army under a cloud in 1854, and to his subsequent ill-success at farming and in business. No honest estimate of Grant's career can be made without taking these things into consideration. In Secretary Taft's speech they were used simply to emphasize ar eloquent tribute to Grant of later years to accent the wonders of self-rehabilitation displayed when emergency and duty had called the great soldier front and had brought out his hitherto latent powers.

Irrigon Irrigator.
The East Oregonian, published by a Democratic non-partisan Socialist, registered as a Republican, says "the next great reform, after nation-wide prohibition, will be the removal of the tax exemption from church property."
Why, certainly. Give us that "reform" by all means. And the echoolhouses and other school property should be taxed. And why exempt the graveyards and tombstones? Sure, they should be taxed. And our parks should bear their share of the burden. nospitals; they must not be exempt under this "reform" wave,

As Samantha says, "when you're gittin', git all you kin." So while the "reform" spell is on the Oregon voter should go the whole hog.

The Coming Topic. St. Louis Post-Dispatch.
We might as well begin right now
And memorize again
The list of Presidential votes
In Arkansas and Maine.
And learn to trip them gibly in
Our everyday debates,
For that's the coming topic For that's the coming topic In our United States.

We might as well get at it,
As we've often done before,
And learn if Indiana has Eighteen or twenty-four,
For that's the great essential
That immediately awaits
The art of conversation
In our United States.

If Bryan lost New England, New York, and Idaho. What others would he have to get? Is what we've got to know, For that's the sort of thing to which All talking gravitates

With proper provocation In our own United States. The fellows who are posted Are the men that win cigars
And drink their booze for nothing
At the few remaining bars.
For they've memorized the figures,
And they're loaded for debates
In a Persidential season
In our own United States.