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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 1911.

DREGON'S PROGRESS IN TEN YEARS.

A most noteworthy feature of the detailed census report on the populagrowth by Portland and the urban population in general in comparison with the rural population. In the secade ending in 1910 the population of the state as a whole increased 62-7 per cent, but that of Portland increased 129.7 per cent, and the entire urban population—that of cities of 2500 or more—increased at the rate of 115 per cent, while the entire re-mainder of the state increased only 25.1 per cent. In 1919 the urban population was 45.6 per cent of the whole, compared with 32.2 per cent in The comparative growth of urban population is more rapid than in the whole United States, where the percentage increased from 40.5 to 46.3 per cent, and, unless the scale should be turned the other way by me new influence. Oregon will have a larger proportion of its people living in cities at the end of the next decade

Though the drift of population to the cities is a just cause of concern, there are some circumstances connected with the situation of Portland which should not be overlooked. city is the commercial metropolis, not enly of Oregon, but of a large part of Washington, both cast and west of the Cascades, and of Idaho. A fair comparison of the population of this city with its tributary rural population should include the whole tributary country, not Oregon alone. Extension of railroads and trolley lines and use automobiles has also facilitated transaction of business in the country by men residing in cities who would formerly have found it neces-

than the general average of the whole

sary to live in the country.

A study of the maps showing in crease and decrease of population by counties brings into strong relief the fact that the largest increase of population has come to the Willamette Valley and the counties around Portland and to those counties which have been newly penetrated by railroads, and to the counties of Central and Southeastern Oregon, where agriculture is sup-planting grazing. Curry, which has no railroad, gained between 5 and 15 per cent; Wheeler and Union have pained less than 5 per cent, and Grant done has lost population, showing a decrease of 5.7 per cent.

The gain in rural population follows the general gain with some exceptions. might be expected, one of these Multnomah, where rural population increases only between 5 and 15 per cent, while the urban population has more than doubled. Bepton, Jackson and Josephine show a less rapid, Umatilla and Baker a more rapid, rural than general growth, and Union shows loss of 13.2 per cent in rural population as compared with a general gain of less than 5 per cent-

What abundant room Oregon has ord of density of population. In this respect the density is greatest in Mult. nomah, the smallest county-501.7 persons per square mile-and in other counties has followed the general course of increases in numbers. All of Central and Southeastern Oregon and Curry have less than two persons per square mile, and Harney has less than one. Even the most densely peopled counties around Mulinomah range only from 18 to 45, and other countles range only from two to 18

A survey of these figures impresses one with the fact that, though Oregon has made great strides in the last becade, settlement and development have only just begun. The census of 1910 reflects only the settlement which came in anticipation of the new railroads into Central Oregon and the coast region of the Natron cut-off, and of the trrigation of Crook, Harney, Klamath and Umatilia counties. That of 1910 will reflect the settlement following upon the completion of these eads and freigation works, also upor the construction of prospective railsuch as the Hill and Harriman lines through to the southern boundacross the state from east to west and to Cous Bay, the extension of Oregon Electric lines throughout the Williametts Valley and trolley lines. through the Rogue and Umpqua Valleys. It will reflect the vast immigration from Europe which to sure to follow the opening of the Panama Canal. There can be no reasonable doubt that the influx of new settlers will increase the population of Oregon to an extent which is now impossible to estimate, and will go far to restore the equilibrium between urban and rural popu-

THE MACHINE HAS BROKEN DOWN. The prevalence of lawlessness and the inefficiency of our machinery for detecting, trying and punishing criminals is now so generally recognized that the time has come for the next overy and adoption of the dy. Let us pass on from the step-discove heat remedy.

general to the particular. We are told that perpetrators of 95 per cent of crimes are not detected. What is the matter with our detectives? We know that many of those who are detected escape punishment through inefficiency or worse short-comings of presecutors. Why can't re get better prosecuting officers and

how can we get them? We know that many more criminals escape punishment because our jury evstern is radically defective in allow ing the most competent men to escape jury service or forbidding them to serve and encouraging the placing of incompetent men on juries. result through the unwritten law, class a single subject contains 15,000 pages. the building of railway lines, whether

prejudice or bogus pleas of insanity. Even when a criminal is brought be-fore the court there are endiess delays empaneling a jury and completing the trial. When he is convicted, sentences are annulled on appeal on all manner of technical and absurd pre-What is the matter with our judges 7

When a criminal is finally landed in the penitentiary a Governor sets him free on parole or on honor after he has served but a fraction of his sen-What is the matter with our Governors? Finally, what is the matter with our people, that they elect such officials and allow them to continue in office after their unfitness is proved?

We all recognize that the machine for the detection and punishment of crime has broken down. It is time to ease bewailing the fact. ither repair the old or build a new one.

SCHOOL BOARD HELPS ITSELF. The purpose of an annual school secting under the law is to give form and expression to the will of the tax-payers. The function of the annual chool meeting under present custom is to fix things in the way the School Board wants them fixed. The school meeting is of course a farce, and worse. It does not reflect the desires or designs of the voters. It merely registers the prearranged schemes of the

school directors. The Portland School Board fixed the annual school levy for 1912 at 6 mills. The annual meeting Friday night rat-ified the 6-mill flat in due form. That is what it was expected to do and that

what it did. Now-we hear renewed talk of abolshing the annual school meeting and, perhaps, recalling the several czars on the School Board, or doing something else heroic and drastic. But school boards fire much alike, as annual meetings are alike. The tax levy would have been 4 mills if the school meeting of one hundred and fifty or sixty taxpayers out of 28,000 had not been held.

The mischief ites in the arbitrary power of the School Board to levy any It has to all intents the same ultimate privilege as to taxation as any other taxmaking body. The City Counthe County Commissioners, Port of Portland, and the School Directors all decide how much me they want or need, and then help thomselves.

There should be a central tax-remight be placed on a safe and sane basis.

WHO KNOWS THE LAW? Carl Snyder, an interesting and ac

grate writer, contributes to a current seriodical an article on "The Scandals of the Law." Former articles by the same writer treated successively of The Encouragement to Kill' and The Breakdown of the Criminal Law and the indictment which they pre-sented against our boobylah methods of handling crime and criminals was terribly severe. In the current article Mr. Snyder presents an array of facts which in his opinion prove two ominous conclusions. The first is that a man cannot go to lawyer in an ordinary case and obtain an honest and reliable opinion as to what the law is. Secondly, a man cannot go into court and obtain justice without undue delay and ruinous cost. The common judgment of the country will be that Mr. Snyder is right upon both these points. It is difficult to find a plain man anywhere who believes that the ordinary lawyer knows what the law is or will always impart his knowledge without reservations and subtle evasions. It is still more difficult to find a man who regards it as anything less than a ca-lamity to go into court either as plaintiff or defendant no matter how just ris cause may be. Mr. Snyder adopts an effective form or method of presenting his case

fers the counts of his indictment in the stions which he proceeds to answer by heaping up evidence. His first question is. "Do the lawyers know the law?" To prove that they do not he presents the instance of twenty-five lawyers of mammoth reputation who ablaed to offer a certain opinion to the United States Supreme Court. The Court decided against the vallant twenty-five and slew them intellectuilly in an opinion of ten lines. At least a dozen of these lawyers were themselves of Supreme Court magni-tude. Everett P. Wheeler was one of Frederic R. Coudert was an-When such men as these in other. most solemn manner say what they think the law is and turn out to be utterly mistaken, shall we say that the lawyers know the law or not?

is a common remark at lawyers' ban-quets where no foreign devils are supposed to be listening that "nobody knows what the law is on any given ubject." In fact, the law is the most clusive thing in the world. It exists only in the decrees of some 150 different appellate courts, each of which may differ from all the others and from itself day by day. It is the most common thing under the sun for a court to reverse itself. A brilliant xample of it was the late trust decision of the Supreme Court, which ot only flew squarely in the face of Mr. Taft's published opinion, but unhesitatingly turned down previous decisions. This is hereic, if it promotes right and justice, but think of the mess it makes of the law. The search for the Jinn who became successively s soldier, a cock, a fish and a pome granate seed was an easy task compared with it. No wonder the lawyers do not know the law. There is no

Mr. Snyder asks in the shound place shether the lawyers can know the law, and of course in view of the facis we have cited already he is obliged to answer that they cannot. Nobody short of an emniscient being with allembracing powers of prophecy could possibly know the law as it ebbs and flows in the United Staes. That part of it which has a delusive semblance of stability is comprised in a surging flood of reports, statutes and codes so immense in volume that it surpasses human power even to peruse them, to say nothing of remembering their contents. To bring this within the range of possibility it is necessary to compress the swollen monstrosity into digests which by their comparative brevity diminish the difficulty. But if anybody thinks the difficulty is abated by the abridgment he has only to be told that the Encyclopedia Pleading and Practice, a little pocket manual for the busy lawyer, is a work in twenty-three volumes, each volume having 1100 immense pages, so that this pigmy condensation of the law on

have to go with his "Pleading and Practice" there are altogether \$1,000 Practice" pages in this handy little pocket guide to the labyrinths of the law. When Gibbon came to write his famous chapter on the codification of the Roman law by Justinian, he reveled in witticisms about the absurd multitude of the volumes which the committee had to wade through. But the task was child's play compared with that of any man who seeks to delve into the fathomless abysses of Amer-The Chaos and Old Night ican law. through which Satan pursued his fatal voyage to Eden was a well-ordered realm beside it.

Mr. Snyder makes his climax by "Do the Judges know asking. He replies that they do not, and gives a convincing reason for his The judges do not know the law because "The law is what any judge happens to think at the moment when he makes his decision," and no two judges are apt to think alike. How can any single judge know what two or three hundred others are going to say about three or four thousand different subjects between new and tomorrow night? Like other blessings, the law is something which we are always going to get but never actually getting. It is an ever-flowing tide which must take the judges as well as the rest of the world by surprise the greater part of the time. Finally Mr. Snyder tells us that the courts make the law for us, and inasmuch as each one of them goes its own wild way, and is completely irresponsible. It naturally follows that our law is a chaos as well as a chimera. The law is anything which any judge at any ment says it is. It is not difficult deduce from Mr. Snyder's facts that this Nation is about as completely ruled by the arbitrary whims of irresponsible individuals as any that

### A WONDERFUL GROWTH.

In another part of The Oregonian today will be found Mr. Bennett's second article on the stockyards and packing industries of this city. The atatistics given of the North Portland postoffice, situated in the office building of the stockyards, will show better than almost anything else the remarkable advancement made at that place An independent city is being built up there, a little city with all of the im-provements and advantages of a meropolis, with its hotel, its bank, its water and electric light systems, its very conventance

Three years ago the place was a bar-en waste of sand and water. Only two years ago on September 15 the yards were opened for business. The Swift plant was not in operation until many months later. Recall these facts and then look ahead a few years until there are several packing plants there, until many industries to consume the by-products are there in operationto the time when the receipts of live-stock will be doubted and trebled, as they will be almost before we are aware of it.

What these industries mean to Portand is no guess work. to look to other cities with not a tithe of our advantages where such industries have been established to see that North Portland will in the near future be a part and portion of Portland -one of our most populous and proerous suburbs.

# BY CONTRAST.

Rural development due to, or cor tingent upon, the building of electric rallroads in the Willamette Valley, with Portland as the terminal point will be extensive and intensive during the next few years. Already substantial improvements on the line between Portland and Salem and thence Eugene are in progress; Forest Grove and its promising environments are already on the line of quick transit and substantial service; McMinnville the ringing of joy bells next Monday morning, while the ultimate construction of the railway to Tillamook harbor is among the certainties of the not distant future.

There is in all of this a promise for the early occupation and development of rich sections of the Valley that are big with unguessed results. The very ssence of growth is in it, as the essence of stagnation was in the old era of slow and tedious journeyings from place to place with heavily-laden wagons during the Summer and Fall of a past era of isolation, and a complete cessation of travel during the Winter and early Spring months of

the same period. Wide areas and prosperous and rapidly-growing communities are already served by the rural electric lines in the Willamette Valley that relatively a few years ago were without "human touch" or the touch of co-ordinate business and trade interests beyond the narrow horizon of their own boundary lines. Less than forty years ago, for example, it re-quired ten hours of laborious travel to convey the weekly mail from Portland to Forest Grove in a lurching vehicle drawn by a pair of straining, mud-bespattered horses, and an entire day while yet the roads were good in the Fall to draw a load of wheat to market over the same road. The ease and swiftness with which this journey is accomplished now is striking by con-trast. It is recalled further that the news of Oregon's admission into the federation of states in February, 1859, reached Salem-then as now the cap-ital-on horseback, the second day after the lumbering old steamer Ajax brought papers and letters containing announcement to Portland from

San Francisco. The early settlers of Oregon irked for many years over their isolation and the slow growth that was due to the stinted facilities for travel throughout their own domain. Many of them, however, became reconciled to these nditions and settled down into an apathetic contentment that won for them the title of "mossbacks"-an attainder that clings to them to this day. Others, however, and the ma-jority, including the meager yearly, accessions to our population, encouraged the get-together spirit upon substantial development depends, but the processes of time were tedious in this direction and growth was correspondingly slow. But the emburge of isolation has at last been broken and year after year we are able, partly by contrast, partly by the satisfaction that it engenders, to note advancement in industry, in trade and in social development that is due to the human touch in the relations and activities of life. Of all these agencies

Taking the two other parts of the suburban, rural, interstate or conti-great "abridgment" which a man must have to go with his "Pleading and main arteries of travel completed, it now behooves us as a progressive and growing state to encourage, by every means possible, the building of rural railway lines. In the construction and completion of these lies the open road to continued progress and prosperity. This statement does not in the least dispurage the greater enterprises of transcontinental or coastwise railroad building, or of waterway transit. It is auxiliary and supplemental to these greater feats of engineering skill and corporate energy and investment. Without such supplemental energies these great enterprises would not be able to realize to the full the benefits that can only accrue from the devel-opment of natural resources. Correspondingly this development comes only with cheap and easy transportation facilities that feed and support local "get-together" system that is able to accomplish that of which isolation dreams but is unable to realize.

THE FARMER'S PROBLEM. "Those who sit in high places, far removed from the sweat and toll of the fields," says the Philadelphia Farm Journal, have suddenly had a forewarning of what may happen "should the hand of the husbandman be stayed." Men who speak with the voice of authority; men who in their boyhood worked upon farms; men who like James J. Hill, came up from the furrow to the management great business interests sound the voice of warning saying: "Unless we produce more we shall not long be able to eat." Because of this we are told the population of the cities is facing not alone the reality of the high cost of living but many, at least face the ar of not being able to live at all. Federal and state governments and rallway and steamship lines have

harkened to this cry of apprehension and have set about to answer it. The farmers' mail is heavy with bulletins and circulars of advice and prognosis. Demonstration trains flit hither and thither carrying lessons in successful farming, dairying, poultry raising and horticulture. Free and exhaustive lectures are given wherever these trains halt and farmers in throngs hie themselves thither and engerly

listen to the presentments made. All of these aids, however, as cited by the journal quoted, have to do en-tirely with the problem of production; the burden of this advice pertains to how to grow more to the acre "in order that those who live in the cities may not starve." The farmer is con-fronted by a far different problem. What he wants to know most of all is how to get a living and in time secure rpetence from the proceeds of his To be sure greater yields per toil. acre cheapen the cost of production; but it so happens that the big crop lowers the price of the commodity and only the consumer is benefited, "Therefore," says this exponent of agricul-tural interests, "while the farmer welcomes all outside suggestions intend-ed to increase his crops and lighten his labors, he is more vitally concerned with getting his share of the dollars.

### MONOPOLY AND PRICES

It is probably worth while to make A. B. R. Smith, which is printed in The Oregonian today. Mr. Smith thinks ne will be sustained by the average consumer's opinion when he expresse his belief that "were all the trusts and combinations of today dissolved and the factors thereof put upon a com-petitive basis the price to the conof articles in common would be affected but very little. in these days can the price of any article in common use be kept up artificially for very long." We have cut down the language of the letter a little, but the meaning is not altered.

Mr. Smith knows very little about

the opinions of the average consumer against the courts and lawyers. He of-fers the counts of his indictment in the sauries of life purchaser of the nee understands very well that most of the food prices he has to pay are held up by the trusts. The price of steel products is higher here than in Canada or England because our trust has a practical monopoly. It has been selling to the Canadians for \$22 a ton the same rails which it sells at home for \$28. The price of coal is steadily advanced by the coal trust as Winter In Portland there is a progresses. combination of plumbers which fixes prices to suit its own sweet will, and there is another combination which keeps the price of wood "at an artificial figure." In the face of facts like these it is nonsense to quote the outworn maxims of a dead and gone

But no sane person wants to analyze the trusts into their elements and put business back "upon a competitive nasis." That is, nobody wants to go from the waste and extortion of the trusts to the worse waste of petty com-petition in great industry. What sendble people want is, not the destruction of the trusts, but the destruction of private monopoly, which, according to every just thinker in the world, is intolerabl

# MUDDLED.

The Pendleton East Oregonian is singularly stupid newspaper. It is in a queer muddle over the lively ques-tion of Governor West's parole and A few days ago the Pendleton paper had this:

The Oregonian has had much to say about to Mexicans whom it classed as "hopo-sen" and who were rearrested at San Diego non" and who were rearrested at San Diego, Dal., not long ago. But it comes to light hat the Mexicans were not honor men at all. They were sarving indeterminate senten-ces and were released under the regular operations of the law.

The Oregonian has not said anythere or at any time that the Mexicans were honor men. It is characteristic of the Pendleton paper not only to misquote and misrepresent The Oreits own statements, so as to suit any occasion or emergency. For illustra-tion, look at this now from the East Oregonian:

Oregonian:

As to the prisoners over whom The Oragonian is so sanctimoniously stirred it is immaterial whether they were "paroled" prisoners or "hour mon." A more important point in the story is the fast that the two Mexicans had been liberated by a former Governor and not by Governor West at all. The East Oregonian objected because the Portland Oregonian was trying to discredit Governor West when it should have taken after his predecessor if after snyone. We quoted liaph Watson in a statement that the Mexicans had been paroled several years ago by Governor Chamberiain.

Nevertheless The Oregonian is frank.

Nevertheless The Oregonian is frank to say that it regards the distinction between honor men and parole men as and tweedledee. Papers like the East into a great fever of pretended excite- from above without spending the time night.

newspapers have not realized how ex-emplary the honor men are and how wicked the paroled convicts, or some

of them, are Private Secretary Watson will be mazed to learn that any newspaper has quoted him as saying that those convicts who levanted to Mexico had been "paroled several years ago by Governor Chamberlain. Mr. Watson said nothing of the kind nor was The Oregonian mistaken when it reported that they had been paroled by Governor West, or promised by West a subsequent full pardon if they went to Mexico-

officers of the The Round-Up ought to provide a special exhibit for prize asses at their next The East Oregonian has a world-winning entry that will distance

### THE UNEMPLOYED.

The problem of the unemployed as, in the main, so far as this city is concerned been a question of hearsay -one that our people have only been called upon to solve theoretically or to marvel at, as having a real or serious aspect, only through more or less imaginary recital, "The poor ye have always with you" has, it is true, been recognized statement of fact, but the erm "poor" was an expression of poverty limited to those who had been overtaken by sickness or had wasted their time and what substance had come through spasmodic and grudged endeavor in the world of work, in drink or in the various small ways of unthrift. For the relief of need thus induced enough has come through the ordinary channels of benevolence and charity to insure temporary help, and opportunity for self-help later on, Singularly favored in this respect, we have heard as from afar tales of individual and family destitution and permaps given little thought to them

This season, however, and to a les extent for several beasons past. the problem of -the unemployed has pressed upon us as a reality, demanding immediate solution. And lately, so insistent has it become, some sort of temporary solution became necessary Hence the spectacle presented for the first time in the history of Portland of a line of willing, competent, sober men standing in line in the gray dawn of December mornings in the corri-dors of the City Hall asking—not aims but work whereby to keep themselves and those dependent upon them from starving. The city and county au-thorities have responded to this plea with, so far as possible, due regard to the rights of the taxpaying public and the more pressing needs of the suppli-cants. The story is before us. These custodians of the public weal could do no less than they have done to relieve the distress that has been pressed upon their attention. Thus far it is difficult to see how they could have done more and still have remained faithful stewards of the public funds.

The problem of the unemployed thus brought close to our doors is not one that it is pleasant to contemplate. It it not, however, one that a responsible community can shirk. Its chief difficulty arises in the segregation of the worthy from the unworthy and devising means whereby to relieve the former without encouraging the latter in the pernicious idea of the hobo that "the world owes him a living." In point of fact the world owes nothing to any intelligent, at le-hodied man that he cannot wrest from it by his endeavor. It is true that many worthy men have found themselves at times in straits induced by circumstances. Iliness, mistaken judgment, unfortunute investment, the failure of ever carefully considered plans may and no infrequently do contribute to con-ditions that bring distress upon worthy men and women, and most pitiful of all, upon little children. As a pros perous, opulent, humane community we cannot afford to ignore the claims that these people have upon us, to the extent at least of giving them whereby to live. Nor is it wise or kind to inquire more closely into the cause of which this temporary destitution is that the distress for the relief of which application for work is made to the city and county authorities is genuine and that the work supplied honestly performed. This much the public has a right to demand. rest consists in giving the work where the need is the more urgen

A RESOLUTION FOR THE NEW YEAR. When Benjamin Franklin was a boy he went down cellar with his father one day to fish a piece of salt pork out of the barrel for supper. While watching the emergence of the viand from the brine a happy thought occurred to the boy. His father was in the habit of asking a blessing over the slices of fried pork which appeared on the table at each separate meal. Why not abridge the process and ask a blessing once for all over the barrel in the cellar? The elder Franklin did not adopt his son's suggestion and we rather incline to think that it was not altogether wise. If we carried out his idea to its logical conclusion, we should ask in childhood for all the blessings we expect to need in ourse of our lives and then drop the subject forever. Perhaps a tribe blessing-mongers would grow up who for a consideration, would provide each human infant with a complete the Almighty. This list the child could read aloud on his knees the proper formalities and make this exercise his first and last communica tion with the powers above.

But even if all the blessings thus petitioned for should be vouchsafed, we do not believe that anything would be gained. The rigorous disci ple of efficiency will reply at once that the petitioner by wholesale would "Think of the hours consave time. sumed by the ordinary individual," will argue, "in saying his prayers Ten mintues a day is a moderate estimate, and in a year this comes sixty-one golden hours, or more than five complete days of twelve hours each. An employe of the steel trust, for example, would accordingly sacrifice \$7.50 every year by saying his prayers in tidbits. How much better off he would be if he had the whole business over and done with on New Year's day. He could rise a little earlier on that morning and get wholesale devotions finished breakfast. Thus his relations with the Almighty would be kept in proper order without a moment's actual loss either to the workman himself or to

Lucidly fascinating as this reason the difference between tweedledum ing may appear, still it does not consult tweedledee. Papers like the East Oregonian have worked themselves to get one's full quota of blessings

secessary to ask for them in due and WHERE AMERICAN TYPE IS FOUND. proper form savors of fraud oo much like a get-rich-quick scheme We concede that a man who should devote only ten minutes once a year petitioning the Almighty stand in a better light than he who never remembers the giver at all, but for all that his sacrifice looks poor There is something in the old-fashioned practice of daily family orship which strikes one as sincerely onest. The head of the family beonest. lieves that all the good he enjoys comes day by day from a benevolent being who watches over his steps, feels for his sorrow and smiles to see him happy. To the man of intelligent faith God is not a distant monarch ruling the universe from an unapproachable elevation, but a comrade who is closer than a brother and always ready to help in time of trouble.

He looks upon prayer not as a disagreeable exaction wrung from him by a hard taskmaster, but as interchange of mind with his best friend. The song which speaks of the Lord as one always near and dear, helping to bear "all our griefs and woes," is not to him a mere ecclesiastical formula, but a rich mine of truth. "To carry every-thing to God in prayer" is the sweetest privilege life offers him, and he would find his days desolate without it. Nor is his prayer a mere petition for what are crudely called "blessings"; that is, for money, firewood, rain and Christmas turkey. What he cares for more than these things is the "companionship of the Holy Spirit," as some deby this phrase to signify that feeling of comfort and security which comes to those who confide in the ever-present love of God. Without his love we are helpless children astray in a wilwhose paths lead nowhere. With it we are "traveling home, though passing through a vale of tears.

New Year's day is the accepted time for resolutions, and it is natural to want to make the very best ones we can. It is desirable to make those which, if we keep them, will bring the utmost happiness into our lives and promote most richly the well-being of those around us. But to make a great many miscellaneous resolutions is fu-tile. Some of them will be forgotten in a few days. Others will be broken at the first onset of temptation. In fact. New Year's resolutions have be-There are men who come a joke. make them in order to boast that they have broken them, which is a pity, for the best time to make a new start in life is at the beginning of the year, when the whole world is getting ready to spring into new birth. Why not fix on one supreme resolution which will include all lesser ones and fill the whole coming year with good if it is carried out?

There is one such, supremely good, supremely beautiful, supremely potent over evil. It is the resolve to spend a little time every day in communion with the power that rules the universe. He does not care by what name he is addressed, nor for the ceremonials by which he is approached. All he asks for is the contrite heart and the open mind which will permit his power to flow in and take possession. With his power comes peace, the peace that passeth understanding, because it is infinite, and with his peace he gives all the other blessings of life. God has money, power, learning, happiness in store for every human being. Each can get his share by opening his heart to the inflowing rivers of Almighty love.

"The plaint of the dying year," that was voiced in a lesson in a school reader of the long ago contained (we quote from memory) this passage from the address of the Old Year to his "twelve fair children": "You my poor December, dark in your complexion and cold in your temper, greatly resemble my first born, January, with this differ-ence that he was more given to antic-ipation—yous to reflection." As the shadows of December darken and go

A big city seems inevitably to outgrow its water supply and its fire alarm estem. Portland has met and tempo early, at least, surmounted the first difficulty. With the second it has not yet been called upon to grapple. Let us hope that it may be wise enough to forestall the seemingly inevitable in this case and thus escape the peril that is now menacing Brooklyn—that of a fire of which the department will not be notified until it becomes a conflagration that practically defies control.

The Progress Edition of the Corval lis Gazette-Times is a book of twentysix pages, printed on heavy paper that serves to bring out the fine lines of its many illustrations, which, with the letter press, tells of the year's prosperity of that city and Benton County There is no particular boosting-just facts about 'The Heart of the Willamette Valley." The work, literary and typographically, is what was to b

Efforts of the Municipal Association to abate the smoke nuisance are to be commended. Let these enthusiasts Let these enthusiasts bolish anything less than a ten-center.

Colonel Hofer, stormy petrel of Oregon politics, is seeking enough birds of a feather to place the Big Colonel on the primary ballot.

Statistics show Massachusetts haz the greatest percentage of lunatics, perhaps she has the best means of caring for them.

Oregon hop, which is a world product.

Why not let the attorneys in interest settle it in a six-foot ring?

After twelve years' trial Succe Magazine finds it is misnamed. Grand juries everywhere are muc

given to pernicious activity.

Blizzards in the East, while de-

Many are indicted, but few don stripes. There was a sound of revelry

### Writer Believes Gravitating Point Is West of Alleghanies.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 30,-(To the Eding the part of the country which rep resents more nearly the American type, it may be pertiment to inquire what are the elements which constitute the said American type. One opinion was the mid-West was the type; another the South; some think the West,

As to the South, there are elements which formerly at least were regarded as Anti-American, via, the spirit of feudalism or aristocracy fostered by the slavery system. This spirit lingers there largely yet. Also the caste or class influence (first family ideas), bound up with it, which on fuller view surely would render doubtful the typical aspect of the South.

As to the West, we are too new yet, laying aside many important elements and characteristics, to have really founded a type, though there are good reasons for believing we are more nearly typical than some other sections.

The East is becoming more a type by itself in one way largely also adopting elements from a post or ultra cul-As to the South, there are element

by itself in one way largely also adopting elements from a post or ultra cultural basis, though it has many good phases on the mental and educational side. Yet it can hardly now approach the typical. It is too cosmopolitan.

As to Mid-Wost, that region between As to Mid-West, that region between the Mississippi and the Allegianies, is getting largely "Atlantic," to coin the phrase, in sentiment or trend, though retaining much good Americanism of the bold utilitarian type. The real flowing volatile Americanism would seem to be largely west of the Alleghanies, with perhaps the valley of the Missouri as its center or gravitating point. Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, I think few would question on full consideration as more typically American than any other part of the country. Then they are sturdy, of an inquiring disposition, yet not too much given to dilectanteism, nor yet given to the reckless innovation of new como the reckless innovation of new com

The question is, of course, largely a matter of individual opinion, yet is it not natural that the type would be found somewhere near the geographic center of the country.
R. J. LONGWORTH.

BILL HANLEYS FAME GROWING.

### Big Oregon Ranchman Aftracts Aftention on Recent Tour.

Washington (D. C.) Post Washington (D. C.) Fost.

"Those who did not see 'Plain Bill'
Hanley when he was hore with this
Western Governors," remarked L. W.
Williams, a lawyer and former Legisjator, of Williams, Ariz, at the New
Ebbitt, "missed meeting one of the
wonderful characters of the West.

"Here's consists one of the West.

"Hanley operates one of the biggest ranches in that country. He ewish hun-direds of thousands of cattle, and has the distinction of being able to drive the distinction of being able to drive for 80 miles over his own ranch. Han-ley is the counterpart of William J. Bryan and seen separately, it is al-most impossible to tell one from the other. Besides owning and operating a ranch greater in extent and impor-tance than the famous King ranch in Texas, Mr. Hanley is much interested in the development of the West in gen-eral. He is famous for his rade cal-He is famous for his rude epi-

grams.
"When the conservation movement started in the East, he uttered one that started in the East, he uttered one that went everywhere. He said: "They have used up their'n and now they want our'n." Perhaps his most famous epigram he sent West when on a visit to New York City. Some of his friends wanted him to return West at once to close a business deal. He sent back word: The just struck the Great White Way. The staked out on Broadway. Now York is going to be the home ranch for the next 10 days." And it was.

WILE "One of the wisest of 'Plain Bill's sayings, in my opinion, was his observation about college men. It ran something like this: There are too many college graduates running around helpless. They're so pollshed it's impossible to fasten a hook on 'em and make

# One Way to Get Trade.

Baltimore American. In one of the rural cities of France lived a physician who was in the habi employing an ingentous artifice hen he came to a neighboring town to have lost his dog, and shadows of December darken and go out in the night just at hand may all who have been oppressed by the gloom that is reflected from the cold temper of the last of "the tweive fair children" of old 1911 take new courage and in supplanting reflection with anticipation greet the first born of 1912 with new hope and courage.

A big city seems inevitably to outnot found, but patients were,

# Elections to FIII Vacancies.

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Will you kindly inform me whether the Secretary of State, to be elected next year to fill a vacancy, will serve for two or four years? I have been urged to become a candidate for the office, but will not seriously consider it until I understand just what the term of office will be. I contend that at the next election a Secretary of State will be elected for the unexpired State will be elected for the unexpired term of two years, but one prominent lawyer advises me that it will be for a full term of four years. E. E. SHARON.

He will be elected for two years, as the election will be to fill the remainder of an unexpired term. A Case of Marksmanship.

# London Telegraph. An Englishman was recently invited

An Englishman was recently invited by a New Yorker to accompany him on a hunting trip on Long Island.
"Large or small game?" Isconically asked the Briton, who had hunted in every quarter of the globe.
"You do not expect to find Hons and tigers on Long Island, do you?" que-ried the New Yorker.
"Hardly," responded the other, with a laugh; "but I like a spice of danger in my hunting."

in my hunting."
"If that's the case," answered the American with a grin, "I'm your man, all right. The last time I went out I shot my brother-in-law in the legt"

# The One Charm of Venice.

Kansas City Star.

A young woman who had returned from a tour through Italy with her father informed a friend that he liked all the Italian cities, but most of all he loved Venice. "Ah, Venice, to be The New Year will have a dismal beginning for English textile workers, with 250,000 idle.

A combine of Coast brewers to prohuving cannot affect the Mark's and Michelangelos." Oh, no. The chain of the combine of Coast brewers to prohuving cannot affect the combine of Coast brewers to prohuving cannot affect the combine of Coast brewers to prohuving cannot affect the combine of Coast brewers to prohuving cannot affect the combine of Coast brewers to prohuving cannot affect the combine of Coast brewers to prohuving cannot affect the combine of Coast brewers to prohuving cannot affect the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to prohuving cannot be considered to the coast brewers to she interrupted, "it wasn't that. He liked it because he could sit in the hotel and fish from the window."

# Elements of Wool and Water.

Smith and Jones were speaking about the fine points of their respective sons.
"That boy of mine," remarked Smith extravagantly, "is the genuine article.
He's all wool, you can bet." Shouldn't wonder," commented Jones. "I notice that be shrinks from wash-

# A Tearful Pair on Exhibit.

Puck.
"I'm the suddest thing there is-the

ghost of a lost love,"
"Huh! I'm worst than that! I'm
the ghost of a vanished bank account!"