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THE ASTORIAN PUBLISHING CO.,

THE "WORD SYSTEM."

The "word system" of spelling that is now being employed in the public schools is coming in for severe condemnation from the press of the en tire northwest. The Oregonian precipitated the discussion when it quoted letters from high school graduates who had submitted applications for mostitions the Post-Intelligencer and Tacoma Ledger have brought out the fault, which lies in the "word system" above referred to. The Ledger characterizes it as intrinsically and wholly had and adds that it is the essence of stubidity. In a spelling book prepared for pupils the "word system" is exemplified by the following lines: "Alfed Ten-i-sun woz a po-et;

Hi rote a-bout a king named Ar-thur. The naits wer ol-wez kaind, and tuk car of the sic and ov the pur."

On the opposite page appears the English of this idiocy. The Ledger maintains that such a production, placed before the youth who is at school for the purpose of learning, is an outrage. It points out that there is no reason for filling the mind of a child with nonsense and expecting that in later years it will sift this out for itself. The Ledger's indignation runs into sarcasm when it denounces the method in the following language:

This country takes pride in its has no patience, nor any reason for having patience, with the introduction that the "Naits tuk car ov the pur." and exhibits the decent and seemly word "kind" disguised as "kaind." The pupil will make mistakes enough even when there is an intelligence tryine to guide away from mistakes, rather than a plot to lead into error. If this "word system," or whatever the abomination is called, receives me treatment it deserves, it will be rated as the visible evidence of a crime. There is no more sense in it than there would be in the plan of making the pupil believe the sum of two and two to be five, and then expending effort in making the mistake apparent. Schools are supported at considerable expense, and willingly, but they are



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Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets assist the tion of the "Discovery," when a laxasupported in the belief that they educate. In so far as they are trying to do exactly the contrary, they should be reformed with all speed. The Har Wagner style of geography is bad enough, but a speller that does not snell is worse

The Cigarmakers' Official Journal contains the text of an address to retail and wholesale dealers regarding the operations of the American Tobacco company, which is and has for a long time past been engaged in an offort to secure for itself monopoly of the business. The circular points out that the tobacco trust is notoriously unfair, in that it refuses to employ union labor. By employing child labor it seeks to produce its wares at so low a cost that it can successfully undersell other manufacturers, and in this manner drive them out of business or compel them to sell their plants to the trust. Its efforts to destroy the union have been persistent. The cigarmakers' union points cut that the only hope of combatting the encroachmen of this grasping monopoly lies in the general refusal of all fairminded retailers and wholesalers to handle any brand of tobacco or cigars that does not bear the union label. In conclu sien the circular contains this intellirent appeal to the dealers whom i eacks to enlist in its righteous cause We ask you, in the name of good. sound business policy, and in the name of humanity as well, to lend us your moral assistance, to purchase and bandle nothing but union blue label cigars. In doing so you not only assist a worthy cause, but do what is of infinitely more vital importance to yourself-protect and preserve your own business interests."

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reared a large family. She knew little of the aches and ills which vex the modern woman who has entered upon the heritage of woman's rights. Statisticians have called attention to the decrease in the size of the family. Women shrink from the pangs and obligations of maternity. The very participance of women in outdoor sports once termed manly, is only an evidence of the fact that she recognizes her physical deficiency and weakness. But outdoor sports and exercises are open to comparatively few women, and while exercise may promote the health when it is once established, it cannot produce health. In fact, where there is womanly weakness, exercise may be an

exercise. The first and greatest of woman's rights is the right to be healthy, the right to enjoy herself as a wife and to be happy as a mother. Give woman this and all other features of womanly equality will take care of themselves.

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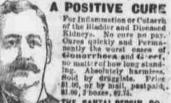
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