### ASTORIA, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1903.





### RATES:

SEMI-WEEKLY.

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legislature of any of its legislative The Astorian guarantees to its adpower, our form of government would vertisers the largest circulation of any newspaper published on the Columbia River.

#### WHERE THE FAULT LIES.

"Western Oregon needs the canal," says the Oregonian, and then the Portland paper launches into a vigorous utterance with reference to commercial conditions existing now and in the past in the Pacific northwest, and particularly in our own beloved Oregon. The expression is a remarkable one, for it bears out all that was ever maintained in Astoria respecting commercial matters, and is a complete refutation of the Gregonian's own strenuous statements during the long period that the famous common point agitation was carried on Says the Oregonian:

"Why is Portland not a city of 200,-900 people today instead of 100,000 or 125,000? The answer is that the trade that would otherwise have come to it has gone to Puget sound. Seattle has 100,000 people, and Tacoma has 50,000. The state of Washington has 518,000, the state of Oregon has 413,000. The state of Washington increased by 160,-000 from 1890 to 1900 while the state of Oregon increased but 95,000-why? Principally because the sound has been built up through the efforts of railroads Fauling across the Cascade mountains those eastern Washington and eastern Oregon products which, with an open river and consequently lower rates, might have come to Portland."

The failure of Oregon to keep pace with her sister state was indeed due to the fallure of Oregon to hold the bulk of the grain exporting business. That failure was the fault of Portland. Long before the sound country had reached its present important proportions, Portland's railroad-the O. R. & N. Co. (then nothing more than a local line, depending solely on business picked up between Spokane and Portland for its maintenance, and making no pretensions, except in name, as a transcontinental)-went into a pool with

expense. The Oregonian knows this, and knows when Harriman secures the desired depth on the Columbia bar he will overlook Portland as a port vastly

the spectacle of a salt-water sail will

THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE.

creme court points ont emphatically

the power of the people. Those seeking

that it was in violation of that article

of the constitution of the United States

form of government; that, should the

people succeed in depriving the state

in pronouncing this idea incorrect. The

people, it says in effect, are the highest

legislative power, and if they see fit to

pass upon measures intended for en-

actment by the legislature it is quite

within their province to do so. The

ruling on the point in question is in-

"The initiative and referendum

amendment does not abolish or de-

stroy the republican form of govern-

ment, or substitute another in its

place. The representative character of

the government still remains. The

people have simply reserved to them-

selves a larger share of legislative

power, but they have not overthrown

the republican form of government, or

substituted another in its place. The

government is still divided into the

legislative, executive and judicial de-

partments, the duties of which are dis-

charged by representatives selected by

the people. Under this amendment, it

is true, the people may exercise a leg-

islative power, and may, in effect, veto

or defeat bills passed and approved by

the legislature and the governor; but

the legislative and executive depart-

ments are not destroped, nor are their

powers or authority materially cur-

tailed. Laws proposed and enacted by

the people under the initiative clause

r statutes, and may be amended or

"The veto nower of the governor is

not abridged in any way, except as to

such laws as the legislature may refer

to the people. The provisions of the

amendment that 'the veto power of the

governor shall not extend to measures.

referred to the people' must neces-

sarily be confined to the measures

which the legislature may refer, and

cannot apply to acts upon which the

referendum may be invoked by petition

The governor is required under the

repealed by the legislature at will.

not be republican.

eresting, and follows:

be as mire as hen's teeth.

## Special Session Stands by Its Determ-

ination to Quit.

WILL ADJOURN TONIGHT.

Salem, Dec. 23 .- Both the senate and house yesterday voted to stand by the agreement of yesterday's caucus to adjourn Wednesday night. With the opening of both houses i flood of bills were introduced, 16 in the senate, all but two of which were passed, and 36 in the house. In the afternoon the house passed a bill repealing the Phelps fax law, which has caused all the trouble, and re-enacting the old law. A bill was introduced in the senate reaffirming the present In declaring valid the initiative and law which provides for all hangings referendum amendment to the consti- to be at the penitentiary, but authortution of the state of Oregon, the su- izing a sheriff to hang any man convicted under the old law, but who was not hanged before it was superto defeat the amendment maintained ceded by the new law.

MATTER FINALLY SETTLED. granting to each state a republican Transfer of Friar Lands in Philippines

> Has Been Made By Governor Taft.

St. Paul, Dec. 23 .- Archbishop Ireland has received a cablegram from The supreme court is very explicit Mgr. Guidi, apostolic delegate to the Philippines, announcing the purchase of the Friar lands in the islands and inviting the archbishop to rejoice with him. Archbishop Ireland said:

"I want to add to this my expression of great pleasure at this termination of the long drawn negotiations. All praise must be awarded to Governor Taft and Mgr. Guldi, who have labored hard to bring all the parties interested to a final understanding."



of the amendment are subject to the same constitutional limitations as oth-FAST TIME

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the sound monds, the arrangement mak ing it possible for the Northern Paeific and Great Northern to handle annually many hundreds of thousands of bushels of grain that should never, in justice to all concerned, have been hauled one foot beyond the Columbia river. Our farmers were mulcted, our prosperity threatened, and Portland, the metropolis of the northwest, stood on the banks of the Willamette an insurmountable barrier to the progress of the great state of Oregon.

There was then a solution of this problem, and the Oregonian fought bitterly to maintain the existing order of things. Its editor a director of the Oregon road, the Portland paper raised its voice against the people of its own state and the vast country behind it and assisted in every manner possible in continuing the very situation that gave the sound its commercial prestige. R ridiculed the indignant protests of the people living elsewhere in the state and sought the undoing of those who opposed the unholy pool. Its wilful subrepresentations polsoned the minds a fthe people most concerned, the farmers, against the Astoria contention, and the producers were robbed of a vast sum annually, the while Seattle and Tacoma and other Washington towns became cities.

Now the Oregonian howls for an open river, that the products of the inland empire may be hauled down to its docks in direct competition with the railroads. Had terminal rates been extended to Astoria six or eight years ago there would have been little need for port would have brought the railroads portant personage. into competition with each other. The Oregonian once had great influence with a railroad-or vice versa-but that time has passed. Mr. Harriman does not recognize Oregoniana in his commercial plans. He seeks to do business at the least possible operating nature is on each box. 25c.

onstitution to exercise his veto power if at all, within five days after the act shall have been presented to him, unless the general adjournment of the legislature shall prevent its return within that time, in which case he shall exercise his right within five days after the adjournment. He must necessarily act, therefore, before the time expires within which a referendum by petition on any act of the legislature may be invoked, and before it can be known whether it will be invoked or not. Unless, therefore, he has a right

to yeto any act submitted to him, excont such as the legislature may specally refer to the people, one of the safeguards against hasty or ill-advised legislation which is everywhere regarded as essential is removed-a result manifestly not contemplated by the amendment."

As was to have been expected President Roosevelt has taken the part of the Oregon senators in their contention with Secretary Hitchcock, who has, acting under instructions from the president, revoked the order holding up land entries. The secretary has been extremely discourteous to the Oregon senators, and quite unreasonable in his attitude toward settlers. That he should have punished the innocent

along with the guilty was the height of imprudence, and the action of the president in stepping in will be good news to many persons who have been prevented from acquiring lands to which they were entitled. The secretary doubtless now has learned that an open river, for utilization of this a United States senator is a pretty im-

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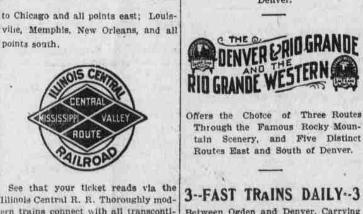
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