

**\$10 REWARD**

We shall give \$10.00 in gold as a first prize, and \$5.00 as a second prize, to the boy or girl under eighteen years of age writing the best poem of two or more verses, using the MONARCH RANGE as subject of the poem. All poems to be handed in before 6 P. M. on February 16, 1905.

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**Today's Weather.**

Portland, Jan. 27.—Western Oregon  
—Saturday, fair; south winds; prob-  
ably showers in north portion.

**COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS.**

The world is growing better. People go in for decency and upright living more than they ever did before. That is, the majority of them do. And the majority is growing as fast as in a republican landslide and almost as fast as the conversions to socialism. This may seem a strange statement, but it is a true one, and the course of human events proves it day after day. This is a day of centralization and special-izing. Things are resolving themselves into classes. Lines between the various characteristics of the units of the human race are becoming more sharply drawn, and unconsciously, perhaps, people are being placed in the class to which they belong and are being so firmly placed there that there can be no mistake about their position in life. It is a condition which the customs of the day have established. The people of tolerant tastes and with a respect for the duties which they owe to their fellow men, make up the great majority of the populace which, without any noise or excitement gives stability to the doctrine of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Among this class is the conservative business man, the heavy tax payer, the man who takes very little interest in politics, the class who are supporting the Tuttle charter, for instance. Over against these are the ones whose cussedness predominates and the sensational press is filled with a kaleidoscopic succession of thrills and sensations of fraud and wilful misstatements in the wild endeavor to keep track of the record of all their doings. And their doings are plenty. The newspaper editor is not confronted with a dearth of material, but he is put to the rack in the selection of it.

The fellow whose avarice is his distinguishing mark and who works his strong arm methods on his own hook. Putting together all the men whose greed for gain predominates to the extent of making them heartless, devilish and conscienceless. Their coagulations have but recently reached gigantic proportions to stagger the city, but they are getting together. Simply because they continue to do business, making laws and amending charters to suit themselves and abrogating laws which do not suit them does not change their character, nor does it in any manner affect the moral crime committed. The will of the majority is subordinated to the schemes of unscrupulous politicians and amateur magpies, superinduced by efforts that mitigate against society and good government.

**A CONSTITUTIONAL PUZZLE.**

The amendment offered by Senator Dubois to the statehood bill, reserving to congress the right to legislate concerning polygamy in the new states, raises an interesting question of constitutional law. The purpose of the amendment is clear and admirable. But can congress create a state which is not a complete state by reserving to itself any power as a local legislature within its limits? The theory of our government is a union of equal commonwealths, the new states having equal powers and privileges with the old, even the original 13, with their antecedent sovereignty. In the territories congress has a free hand and

can act as a domestic legislature, but can it in effect amend the constitution so far as new states are concerned by inserting in their fundamental law grants of power to it which it does not possess in dealing with other states?

We are not disposed to answer that question offhand. It is a difficult one, which has come up on more than one occasion in our history. It may perhaps be said that it came up and was settled in the admission of states with free or slave constitutions. Yet while congress could undoubtedly refuse to make a state whose constitution did not suit, its ability to prevent modification may be doubted. Illinois, though admitted as a free state, was years after agitated by the question of introducing slavery. The constitutional amendment was defeated by a narrow vote, but if it had been carried we do not see just how the United States could have constrained the commonwealth to adhere to its old law. Stipulations concerning federal property in new states do not involve the question of governmental equality. That is partly, though not entirely true of the old arrangement by which Texas is bound to permit its own subdivision at the discretion of congress. That in no sense interferes with the nature and balance of the federal system. The constraint of the law and constitution making power of a state after it is once admitted, in other ways than those prescribed in the federal constitution for all the states, is, however, quite a different matter.

When Utah was admitted it was put under solemn obligations concerning polygamy, which, everybody knows, have been disregarded. What guarantee is there that any stipulation in the neighboring states would be more sacred? Congress seems to have no way of getting at recalcitrant states. It cannot send an army to force a change of local law to conform to an old promise. The Dubois plan, if valid, reserves an initiative in legislation to congress, but would the United States courts enforce such legislation within a state against its will, or regard as effective any overruling under such a reservation of laws of one state which would be perfectly valid if passed by some other state? We do not attempt to decide. It is one of the fascinating puzzles of our highly complicated system, in which logical theory and hard facts of national life frequently clash.

**TWO GOOD MEASURES.**

One of the best measures introduced in the legislature is Salem bill No. 144, by Brownell. It provides that the county court of each county shall designate two newspapers printed and published in their respective counties, in which shall be published the general laws, and such special laws as relate to the affairs of the county, which are enacted by the legislative assembly, and all concurrent resolutions adopted making any changes in the constitution of the state. The bill provides that the state printer shall furnish the necessary information to the papers designated. provides the rate of compensation and also provides that the cost shall be paid by the state. There are a large number of people in Oregon who have no means of knowing what laws are passed by the legislature. They are tax payers and citizens interested in the welfare of the state and are ready and willing to contribute their just proportion of the expense for publishing the laws.

Another meritorious measure is house bill No. 242, which provides that the county courts of the various counties of the state shall publish the assessment rolls. The advantage of this law is to keep the tax payers informed as to their taxes, the amount and when payable and will save the officers considerable trouble and the county expense in notifying them. It will also be appreciated by the tax payers, who are often thoughtless and have no means of knowing when taxes are due and payable, and will reduce the delinquent tax roll to a minimum, thereby saving the counties a large sum of money in publishing delinquent tax sales. The press of the state is unanimous in favor of both measures and it is to be hoped they will become laws.

**COOK IN BUSINESS.**

Astoria Police Commissioner and Nehalem Coal Promoter in Business. We are in receipt of a folder with the compliments of W. J. Cook, giving a description of a patent automatic roller window screen (manufactured in Buffalo, N. Y.) The folder gives a complete description of the little joker

and shows it to be a double-geared back-action, shuttlecock, veneered ac-companiment, that no house should be without. There is no doubt but it is a good thing—for W. J. Cook. He has an elegant office fitted up in room "606 Oregonian building," and has several boosters and spicers employed, and says he is doing a good business. He has sold all of his property in Astoria and his family are now living in Portland, although the folder does not disclose whether he is burning Nehalem coal or wood. He likes Portland better than Astoria as a residence place, and only registers from Astoria to hold down the police commission job. Mr. Cook has many friends in Astoria and Chinook, who will wish him success in his new business venture.

**NATURALIZATION.**

Naturalization of aliens is a question that is being considered by congress with a view of securing better citizenship and preventing frauds. In some of the large eastern cities, aliens are naturalized and made full citizens before they have been in the country six months. This is done by politicians who have no respect for citizenship or law, being imbued with the single idea of getting office. The value of citizenship in this country can scarcely be measured and every possible means should be adopted to prevent unqualified foreigners obtaining it. Unless a foreigner is able to read and write the English language, unless he has at least mastered the rudiments of American history and the American theory of self-government he cannot intelligently vote.

Numerous instances are on record in Astoria where men have applied for citizenship who had to talk through an interpreter. They know nothing of our laws or the laws of the United States. An American born has to live in his own country 21 years before he can become a citizen or vote. A foreigner often becomes a citizen and votes within two hours after he has landed.

As a rule, a large majority of our foreign born population make good citizens, in many instances equally as good and superior to the American born who has resided in the state 21 years. There is no objection to their becoming citizens, but there are strong objections to making a citizen out of a man and have him sworn to support the constitution of the United States when he don't know one word about the document, does not understand the nature of an oath and knows absolutely nothing of what he is swearing to.

**THE STAR THEATER**

Astoria's Fashionable Vaudeville House in connection with Star and Arcade theaters of Portland.

Change of Program Monday.  
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**MATINEE DAILY AT 2:45 P. M.**

**MONSTER BILL**

Week Beginning  
MONDAY, JANUARY 23.

Week Beginning January 23, 1905.

**FRYE AND ALLEN**  
In their comedy singing sketch  
"A Simple Lesson."  
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The Modern Titan Champion Heavy Lifter  
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In a typical comedy act entitled  
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**CARRIE BELLE MILLER**  
The versatile vaudevillian  
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Pictured melodies singing  
"Open Your Mouth and Shut Your Eyes"  
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The Cineman's acrobatic guest trials and troubles of an automobilist.  
Admission 10 cents to any seat.



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50c, 40c, 35c Henty Books for Boys  
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Swell Togs for Men.

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