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POST BUSINESS A GAUGE. Portland's postal business increases to an extent calling for more room.

The government will build an addition to the federal building to provide for the heavier demand.

The present structure is inadequate to permit the handling of holiday mails without great inconvenience to the postmaster and the public.

The increase of postal business is absolutely correct criterion whereby to judge the growth of a city.

Postal business is perhaps the most accurate index.

And Portland is growing, expanding, reaching out in all directions just as rapidly as builders may put up houses and materials be secured for the building.

Every additional clerk, every added room, all increase of facilities for the handling of mails denotes increase in the number of people who live in Portland.

It was recently shown upon the statement of larger business this year that Portland has within its limits 120,000 people.

This does not include suburbs that are served from sub-stations, but only territory that is properly within the boundaries of the city.

Were Portland to include in its claimed population contiguous localities such as are included in the population of Seattle and other coast towns, the population would be no less than 125,000.

The rate of growth is certainly satisfactory. Portland is advancing along the roadway of prosperity as no other city on the north coast. And there is solidity in the growth.

THE COAL SITUATION. The Coal Trust is in sore straits.

Smarting under the treatment they received from men high up, the officers of a large hard-coal railroad and the independent operators have decided to refuse to become a party to the movement of the Trust to negotiate a settlement with the miners outside the Strike Commission.

At a recent meeting of the independent operators of the entire region, it was decided that they would refuse to agree to a settlement with the other operators, and would ask the commission to proceed with its investigation.

The independents feel that the roads had been giving it to them much harder than they knew, and that the investigation will accomplish the destruction of old methods and give them a better chance.

The big combinations are being joined from four sides. The public, which has been forceful in its denunciations, are against them.

The "suits" filed by Hearst of the New York American, are so many thorns in their flesh. The mine workers, of course, are bodily against them, and this revolt of their former allies is making the combination realize that there is little hope of its escaping without its methods being made public, and that it desires to prevent, even if it has to surrender unconditionally to the miners.

The Prince of Siam was here from his kingdom of 12,000,000 people, and with a name that makes the people here glad that he has no abiding place where they must often pronounce it—Chowfa Maha Vajiravudh. Nevertheless, the people were happy to entertain him, and to show the Oriental royal personage the metropolis of the greatest region on the earth.

CLIMATIC COMPARISONS. While the frost has barely visited Portland, it is hard to realize what different conditions as to weather exist only a short distance away. A pitiful

MAKING POLITICS RIDICULOUS.

The Republican party of Oregon would do well to look to the doings of certain members of that body. For months since the appointment of Mr. W. F. ("Jack") Matthews to the position of United States Marshal of the state, that gentleman has repeatedly been referred to as the chairman of the committee and never has Matthews nor any of his colleagues stepped forward to disannulize the public on this question.

Recently Mr. Matthews has interfered in the affairs of the postmaster of Portland and stirred up strife in a department of government service that is seldom tainted with the breath of scandal and which has been freer from criticism on this very account than has any branch of Uncle Sam's public institutions. Knowing that the present United States Marshal had been referred to all over Oregon as the chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, The Journal brought charges against him on the grounds of offensive partisanship. The Journal stands ready to go to trial on this issue, even though the chairmanship matter be obliterated from the controversy. The Journal believes, with every honest citizen, that United States offices are not created for the purpose of subserving political ends. Civil service was evolved for the purpose of doing away with the evils of political debauchery and the making of a public office a public nuisance. In the case of the Oregon marshals, politics seem to come first and office afterwards. This is why it behoves the Republican party of Oregon to call a halt.

Is the State Central Committee of the Republican party of Oregon a mere bauble for the political play of men who see fit to juggle with it? Are the voters of the party going to permit a "Now you see it and now you don't" policy to rule its chairmanship? Who is the political pea under the restive shell if it is not Walter F. Matthews? Was he not referred to as "chairman" by the newspapers of this city repeatedly, and has he not allowed his name to be heralded throughout the country in Associated Press dispatches and in the columns of the state press as such?

It is useless waste of time to give denial to a state of affairs that has become common through failure of the principal actors to speak in rebuttal. The Journal does not believe that Mr. Matthews ever unreservedly tendered his resignation as chairman of the State Central Committee. He may have filed a letter to be read in event that his partisanship in matters concerning which no employe of the government has right to interfere might get him into trouble. He has allowed his name to be used as chairman without protest and has posed in the caucuses in an admiring "push." Now let the State Central Committee free itself from the ridiculous position in which it has been placed by making inquiry into the reason for having been made absurd in the eyes of both the Democrats and the Republicans all over the state.

REGARDING STATE REFORMS.

While the methods and laws respecting county and city matters have received close attention with good results, many of the laws concerning the administration of affairs of the state would, if studied, lead to equally valuable reforms. As the state grows in population the demands upon the Legislature grow proportionately. With this conceded fact staring us in the face one policy must be pursued. New methods, other than the direct tax, must be devised for raising revenue, and the wisest economy exercised in the expenditures.

It will doubtless surprise many of our readers to learn that there is now no method by which a person, even if he so desires, can pay for the care of a patient at the asylum, or a minor at the reform school. It is also too easy to get boys into the reform school, and not a few are there to their injury. Ordinarily, the parent had better look after his "incorrigible" boy and not have him made a state charge. There are not a few people who are beginning to think we are having too many "free" things, and that the state is being called upon to carry many burdens it founder never dreamed of. When insane or idiotic persons, or their parents or guardians, have the means of paying for their care they should be required to pay for it. The same rule should apply to the State Reform School.

Instances exist when relatives desired to pay, but could not do so, as there were no bonds for the superintendent, or, as in the case of a foreigner with quite a considerable estate remained many years in the asylum, a guardian having in the meantime been appointed by the county court of Marion County to care for his estate. He died a year or two ago, his heirs in Europe inherited his estate and the state received nothing. In many of the states they have laws covering these matters and they have been found to work well. The per capita cost at the State Reform School is about \$20 per month. In California it is made the duty of the committing magistrate to determine whether a parent or guardian has the ability to pay for the care of the minor by the state, and if so found and determined, then they are required to pay therefor the sum of \$11 a month in advance. It is estimated by competent authority that if some such law was in force in this state the savings would run into the thousands of dollars each year.

It is well that these and like matters should receive attention before the cost gets greater than it now is. It is so easy to impose all sorts of burdens on the state, only the greatest vigilance will keep them within bounds. A very brief study of the laws of the state will convince the most casual reader that the above are not the only places where reforms can be instituted with good results, but they will do to commence with.

story comes from Salt Lake of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilcox, who were caught in a snow storm while on their way from Castledale to Mona, both points in Southern Utah. They got lost and traveled three days, when their horses gave out. They had walked three days more, when the wife gave out, and Wilcox left her under a tree while he continued his search for help. He found it and the party sent back rescued his wife.

Both had their feet badly frozen, but will recover.

Let the courts clear the atmosphere surrounding the question of inspection of foods and dairy products and herds. Let it be known who has authority, whose duty it is to see that the public is protected and then let that determined authority be ground for demand that all officials do their duty, and, doing it, are protected in their actions. The inspection of meats and other foods is a matter that forms part of government wherever modern ideas obtain, and it will be to the good of this state if the courts clarify the air and settle some mooted questions that are bothering the people and the officials.

The keen scent of a horse saved James Beck, aged 72 years, who lives near Big Butte Creek, in Jackson County. Last Sunday about 3 o'clock, parties who were out looking after their homesteads, were riding along the road about three-quarters of a mile from the Beck residence, when one of their horses suddenly became frightened at something near the road. On investigating, the old man was found sitting on a log, numbed with cold, and exhausted. He was taken home, but had he not been discovered by the keen-scented horse, would have undoubtedly perished.

Carnegie gave Pittsburg \$5,000,000 for a Polytechnic School, and now Frick, because he hates Carnegie, is going to outdo him by giving the city a university that will take the shine out of him. There may be some question as to the real value of gifts of libraries and the creation of new universities indiscriminately, but there is no doubt but that the turning of money back into its natural channels is of benefit to the whole country. A man may as well spend his money foolishly as to keep it uselessly.

It is said that Marion County members of the Legislature will present measures to the coming assembly for the appropriation of state money for the widows of the guards killed when Tracy and Merrill escaped. The argument will be that they were killed while in the line of duty and that Oregon owes it to their widows to make provision for their keeping. One of the widows is said to have been left destitute and with a family of several children dependent upon her.

The United States National Bank, of which Mr. J. C. Atsworth is President and Mr. F. C. Miller, Cashier, makes a strong showing in its "statement of condition," as published in The Journal. The United States National has become one

THE STATE PRESS.

To Them That Hath: Astorian: Is it reasonable for Governor Geer to expect that the Republican party ought to keep him perpetually in office just because he has been Oregon's chief executive for four years? Certainly, he has been treated with consideration by his party. The governor evidently forgets that Senator Fulton was his warm supporter in 1898, and that Clatsop County gave him the greatest majority ever accorded a gubernatorial candidate. If Governor Geer were properly appreciative he would now be lending his assistance to Senator Fulton, instead of trying to place obstacles in his way.

Will Look to Oregon: La Grande Chronicle: Then who will say that the Oregon of the future shall not stand, and be recognized as the world's ideal from which to take its inspiration? Its literature, art and all the attributes that cluster about the highest type of culture and civilization.

Social Pride: The people of Union take pride in their woolen mill and they are pleased to know its output is to be increased. Union with her pure water and central location is an ideal place for this institution.

Hurts the Normal: Weston Leader: The leader voices the hopes of the community that President Martindale will soon recover from the dangerous sickness that for the past week has menaced his life. A man of vigor, moral integrity and indomitable energy, Mr. Martindale's presence and work are needed at the educational institution of which he is the head. That he should have been stricken with illness while beginning his new duties with so much success and energy, is a misfortune to the school and to the community, now that the Normal has entered upon such a prosperous career. The leader is glad, therefore, to learn today that the patient's condition is much improved.

It All Helps: Salem Statesman: Salem's long-advocates are bringing here more and more instances to the aid of the forest reserves. It is getting a great deal of benefit from it. No one can be enterprising or public spirited in any way without helping his neighbors—even the "knockers" among them. But Salem has few knockers, of vigorous vitality and energy, away or are dead. Those who are not, ought to be.

Not Yet Come: Salem Statesman: Referring to rumors of this district, the Post said yesterday: "My time has not yet come. We have many things to accomplish before death." Grand old man! And his words are a rebuke to many a younger man in years. There are many things for a man to accomplish as long as he lives, and he should neither grow old in spirit nor think of dying before his time.

It Hasn't Worked: Times Mountaineer: The new China service for the West House, consisting of several thousand pieces, is being imported from Europe, there being nothing of American manufacture good enough, and still we have had a protective tariff half a century trying to build up industries capable of manufacturing such articles.

Let the Slurs Go: Harney Valley Items: If those Eastern Oregon newspapers, which are digging here and there, trying to place the blame for the loss of the forest reserves in the Blue Mountains, will confine themselves to a few facts why the creation of a reserve will be of great injury to their localities, they could, and probably would, be of greater service to the people by so protesting against it. Slurs and insinuations against public officers, whom they do not happen to be pulling with politically, will avail them nothing, but will, at the same time, belittle their cause.

Some Sound Sense: New Age: Some Puget Sound papers are trying to injure Mr. Levi Ankeny by saying that he is an Oregon man. Mr. Ankeny is no more an Oregon man than a house on the residents of Washington who originated or years ago lived in Oregon. Mr. Ankeny is a friend of Oregon, no doubt, but that does not make him any the less through a Washingtonian. Another cold storage operator, and done enough to advance its interests, to make such a slur ridiculous.

He Has Method: Baker Democrat: It is said that Congressman William Gilman is of the opinion that if he can get private irrigation plans in Crook County, he may be able to secure for the Prineville country a greater amount of the government fund for the reclamation of arid lands. In this the congressman is very badly mistaken. The government will not attempt to reclaim lands that irrigate arid deserts miles and miles away from transportation while boundless areas of splendid land are being allowed to go to waste. And besides all this Mr. Gilman is to be the congressman for Crook County or will he represent the Second District?

Well, Hardly Ever: Aurora Herald: Wall street speculators yell "atrocious" when they cannot borrow on certain securities with which they are loaded. Will the time come soon when the West will be bothered with the ups and downs of Wall street?

Make It Unanimous: Bohemia Nugget: Just to show its employes that its heart is in the right place the Southern Pacific Railroad Company has voted an increase of 10 per cent in the wages of its train dispatchers, telegraphers and station agents. Let the good work go on until every man in their employe gets an increase in proportion to the increased cost of living.

Half-Million Will Come: Arlington Record: Governor Geer has decided not to call an extra session of the Legislature. We think he has decided wisely. An extra session at this time would do no possible good, and might do a great deal of harm. Let the first business of the regular session be to appropriate \$500,000 for the exposition. The bill will pass by a unanimous vote. No man in the Legislature is so stupid as to put himself on record as opposed to it. Some people still harp about flat salaries, which everybody knows is simply humbug, balled down. There is enough money made out of the state treasury to pay the salaries of all the state officers, and yet we hear of no efforts on the part of any one to turn this money into the school fund or the state treasury.

Kaiser's Carriage: The Kaiser has had a carriage built from his own designs, for use for his correspondence on the field. It is drawn by six horses, and is swifter than a hand writing material is stored in drawers, and by letting down a panel a convenient writing table is formed. It has a roof, and canvas sides, permitting its use in all weathers.

QUEER LUCK OF A STRANGER.

(Chicago Journal) A chance meeting with a pretty girl, who had mistaken him for her best fellow, cost Walter Blatchley, 2667 York Road, \$115 yesterday and a good lecture from Justice Peching at the Central station. The girl, who was the mistaken identity was very mortifying to the young lady who was the victim. She is Miss Annie Darnay, 6 Belaire avenue, and, according to her testimony at the station, she had mistaken the side of a store at Baltimore and North streets, when this young man, pointing toward Blatchley, "came up to me." "May I be of any assistance to you?" he asked. "I thought he was a friend of mine and I said:—

"Why, Harry, what are you doing here?" "He then told me that he had gotten off from work a little earlier than usual and started for home. He said that he had seen me at the station, and when we got to Fayette and Holiday streets he kissed me. I told him that he should not have done that, especially on the street, where we would be liable to arrest. He moved and he appeared to be shorter than usual, and I remarked to him that he appeared so, but then I also noticed that he wore an Alpine hat, while Harry always wears a derby," I said.

"Well, I guess it is that new hat that makes the difference. When did you get it?" "He said that it was about three weeks old and had seldom worn it."

"We walked along until we came to Belaire market. There I felt another nervous attack coming on, and I told him who ran a saloon close by, and advised him to get into the place with me. I consented and when we entered the parlor he asked me if I cared for anything to drink. I said I did not, but he ordered some ginger ale. When the waiter turned the light on him, and for the first time I got a good look at my companion, and was horrified to find that it was not Harry, but a stranger. I told him just how low I thought he was for taking such an unfair advantage of me. He left the place, and I went home and told my mother. She suggested that we go to the saloon and find out who the man was, which we did. The saloonkeeper told us where he worked, and we went the following evening. He said that he had been subject to a kind of spells when younger and that he had found a cure in a good remedy for them, so he had endeavored to be of assistance to the young lady. Justice Peching, however, did not think the excuse sufficient and fined the young man \$25 and after a few days reduced it to \$10. Blatchley is 27 years of age and upon which he was fined was that of obstructing the free passage of persons along the public highway.

BRITTLER SPRING CHICKENS. (Buffalo Courier) Spring chickens that have been in cold storage for two years are not by any means strangers to Buffalo tables; more are "fresh eggs" that have been in cold storage for a year or more.

"And it takes a mighty good judge to tell the difference between a fresh chicken and one that has been in cold storage," said a well-known cold storage man with whom a reporter inquired yesterday.

"In storage," said he, "we keep the rooms at a temperature of from three to four degrees below zero all the year around. Whatever is put into storage is simply frozen stiff and in this state it is impossible for it to change condition; it is not the semblance of a spot, as there seldom is in the modern farms, the object of the piece being, according to the confession of the author, merely to make people laugh and forget their troubles for the time being.

There is a large number to be secured by witnessing this production at Cordray's. Mason and Mason give one song and dance in particular that brings down the house. It is "Deutsche Lied." They were recalled time and time again. There is a character song and dance by Mr. Mack, as a Hebrew, that appears to catch the fancy of laugh-seekers, and brought him considerable applause. Jeanne and her partner, in a song "Za Pretty Lady," and Mr. Walz and Zadora Porter have some songs specialties.

The chorus girls are not to be overlooked for looking pretty and dancing well.

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"Fiddle-Dee-Dee." "Weber & Field's" great musical burlesque, "Fiddle Dee Dee," is by far the best thing that has been given to theater-goers, and the crowds that fill this place of amusement nightly attest to the popularity of the production. That is what San Francisco said of "Fiddle Dee Dee," during its long run there at Fischer's Theater.

"Fiddle Dee Dee" fairly bubbles over with fun and catchy music and has proved a really grateful surprise to those who enjoy clean, innocent mirth with a good sprinkle of ginger in it. It became evident from the start why this burlesque has been so successful. There is a laugh in New York and for six months at Buffalo during the Pan-American Exposition. It is one of the brightest and most tuneful musical comedies ever seen on the Coast. The comedians and prima donna are of the highest quality and are above the standard. The piece is beautifully staged and the costumes are new and beautiful. The evening's entertainment is literally crowded with specialties and novelties and it is one of the few real funny shows that lived up to all its promises.

"Town Talk." of San Francisco, has this to say: "Fun is a good thing. It drives away Dame Care. It sweetens life. Whether it is a new pun or a poke that is unfamiliar to you, it is all right. And that is the way 'Fiddle Dee Dee' has struck the Coast. It is not to be wondered at that it is meeting with such phenomenal success. There is a laugh in every one of the hundred and sixty-five minutes that the performance lasts. It abounds in original musical numbers which are sung by a large and beautiful chorus with a kaleidoscopic variety and with a dash of the English language into the scenery, costumes and the paraphernalia have never been excelled for originality. And such a large company of superb comedians and comedienne who take the English language into their hands and reconstruct it in a manner that is extremely funny. They keep their audiences in a continual paroxysm of laughter during the time given up to their quaint sayings, happy repartees, and dialogue work. Altogether 'Fiddle Dee Dee' is the cleverest and funniest entertainment that has been seen in San Francisco, and those who have seen the piece once, want to see more of it; as it is really one good thing of the season."

AN IMPOSSIBLE DISEASE. Mr. J. H. Sharp, of New York, has somebody told me yesterday that I seemed to have—aw—watah on me brain? Miss Sharp—That's impossible. Mr. Tiddie. You never had anything on your mind, did you?

AWFUL POOR EXCUSE. (Peoria Star) The definition given in the Prince of Plisen of the meaning of the word "alderman" is "A Poor Excuse for a Statesman." And this is the definition which lends it its magnitude and its humor. This poor excuse for a statesman attempted to use his office and badge to intimidate a policeman into arresting a poor little newsboy for mauling the alderman of the magnitude of the deed. The policeman refused, however, to be bluff by any such poor excuse as Whitney and told him to take himself and his authority to a place where brimstone was more common than bluffs and paid better. Scarcely more successful was the luckless city father with the fearless and gallant Tom Webb. Whitney took under his wing the traveling man who'd been hauled out of his traveling bag and was sought by a magnificent show of authority to make the doughy Thomas give up the bag without the cash he'd loaned on it. "To—with your star," cried Tom when he softly flashed his badge upon the broker's optics. "How do you know you haven't stolen it?" All of which goes to show that even being an alderman doesn't save a cheap man from the consequences of being cheap.

"Shall We Forgive Her?" The play in which Marie Walright made such a pronounced success, "Shall We Forgive Her?" will be the offering at the Baker Theater all next week, starting with the usual Sunday matinee. The New Stock Company will appear in excellent advantage in this splendid play. The usual packed houses will be the rule throughout the entire week.

THE FRENCH TELESCOPE. (New York Sun) It will be remembered with what a flourish of trumpets the intention was made of the greatest telescope in the world, for the Paris Exposition was heralded, and how persistently it was advertised before and during the exposition. It was entirely useless for experts to tell us that the plan adopted was in certain respects a failure. It was of little use in most astronomical observations; the advertisers' clamor drowned all other voices. It is interesting to note in the report of the British Astronomical Association that this great telescope has lately been used for observing the planet Mars by a competent person—"to no purpose," he says. "Mars was a far better object in a 3-inch telescope than in the 49-inch."

A PARADOXICAL CONDITION. It is odd, but true, that when a man is suddenly run down by an automobile his earthly affairs are likely to be wound up with small satisfactions.

TONGUE'S ATTRACTIONS.

The Marquam—"Fiddle Dee Dee," popular prices. The Baker—"The Masqueraders." Cordray's—"Adolph and Rudolph."

COMING ATTRACTIONS. The Marquam—"Fiddle Dee Dee," for the week, with matinee Saturday. The Baker—"The Masqueraders," for the week, with matinee Saturday. Cordray's—"Adolph and Rudolph," for the week, with matinee Saturday.

"The Masqueraders." Henry Arthur Jones' English play in four acts, "The Masqueraders," was given two presentations at the Baker Theater last Sunday. Especially at the afternoon performance the company acquitted themselves with high credit.

It may be suggested that perhaps the men would improve the performance were they to read their lines less loudly, moderate their voices and carry by clear enunciation rather than by increase of volume. However, the play is excellent and the company excellent in their presentation.

The two conspicuous parts as given here are those of Dulcie Laronde, by Miss Countess, and Sir Brice Skeene, by William Bernard.

Miss Countess has a part this week that ranks next to her Gloria Quayle, in "The Christian," for opportunity and brilliancy of attainment; opportunity that she fully grasped, splendidly so, in fact. It is a part demanding versatility of wide range. The first act is similar to the prologue of "The Christian," in some respects, but the comedy afterwards is of a different order and at times calling for repose. The hysterical scene in the third act is an especially good piece of work, making as great demands as the corresponding scene in "The Christian."

Mr. Bernard accomplishes wonders with a very fine part. In every respect he reaches the level of the playwright, depicting the dissolute villain and brutal husband in a manner to deceive a stranger almost to belief that he is personally such a character himself. He did brilliant work on Sunday, sustaining his enviable reputation won during twelve weeks in Portland.

Mr. Russell was a clever Eddie Remon, and Mr. Sidde, a Jimmie Stokes, did us good a bit of character acting, rising to the demand of the occasion, and giving a very good portrayal of Montagu Lushington.

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Miss Ingham was her usual clever self as Lady Shalton, and Miss McNeill, in a very trying part as Helen Laronde, was pleasing. Miss Edmond, Lady Clarice, appeared to advantage in the repose called for by the assignment, and Miss Gleason, as Lady Grandios, was as good without saying, was more than capable. Roy Bernard appeared only in the first act, but with her usual facility.

Mr. Mann has a few lines this week as the Earl of Crandover.

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"Fiddle-Dee-Dee." "Weber & Field's" great musical burlesque, "Fiddle Dee Dee," is by far the best thing that has been given to theater-goers, and the crowds that fill this place of amusement nightly attest to the popularity of the production. That is what San Francisco said of "Fiddle Dee Dee," during its long run there at Fischer's Theater.

"Fiddle Dee Dee" fairly bubbles over with fun and catchy music and has proved a really grateful surprise to those who enjoy clean, innocent mirth with a good sprinkle of ginger in it. It became evident from the start why this burlesque has been so successful. There is a laugh in New York and for six months at Buffalo during the Pan-American Exposition. It is one of the brightest and most tuneful musical comedies ever seen on the Coast. The comedians and prima donna are of the highest quality and are above the standard. The piece is beautifully staged and the costumes are new and beautiful. The evening's entertainment is literally crowded with specialties and novelties and it is one of the few real funny shows that lived up to all its promises.

"Town Talk." of San Francisco, has this to say: "Fun is a good thing. It drives away Dame Care. It sweetens life. Whether it is a new pun or a poke that is unfamiliar to you, it is all right. And that is the way 'Fiddle Dee Dee' has struck the Coast. It is not to be wondered at that it is meeting with such phenomenal success. There is a laugh in every one of the hundred and sixty-five minutes that the performance lasts. It abounds in original musical numbers which are sung by a large and beautiful chorus with a kaleidoscopic variety and with a dash of the English language into the scenery, costumes and the paraphernalia have never been excelled for originality. And such a large company of superb comedians and comedienne who take the English language into their hands and reconstruct it in a manner that is extremely funny. They keep their audiences in a continual paroxysm of laughter during the time given up to their quaint sayings, happy repartees, and dialogue work. Altogether 'Fiddle Dee Dee' is the cleverest and funniest entertainment that has been seen in San Francisco, and those who have seen the piece once, want to see more of it; as it is really one good thing of the season."

AN IMPOSSIBLE DISEASE. Mr. J. H. Sharp, of New York, has somebody told me yesterday that I seemed to have—aw—watah on me brain? Miss Sharp—That's impossible. Mr. Tiddie. You never had anything on your mind, did you?