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FOR A NEW RAILROAD.

"Portland should have a railroad from The Dalles to Burns via Prineville," said a prominent citizen yesterday.

We ought to secure the interior Oregon trade to this city, and especially the trade of Prineville and Burns, two of the most important interior points.

The trade of either of these points is worth all that it will cost to get both, in the long run. The two towns supply a large territory and handle an immense amount of groceries and dry goods and large quantities of other supplies. It is true that Portland supplies the bulk of the groceries at these points already through merchants at The Dalles, Pendleton, Baker City, Huntington and Ontario, but a large amount of the dry goods and clothing comes from the East.

But the trade of this section is growing and it is worth looking after. The wide-awake Eastern wholesalers are not idle. First thing the Portland merchants know the Eastern grocerymen will be getting in there too, and we are entitled to every dollar's trade that goes into that country. Upon equal terms we will get it, too. But a railroad is already being surveyed from Nyssa, which is heading for the interior, and once a railroad penetrates the country from that side of the state, we may at least not expect it to benefit Portland.

The Columbia Southern has done us some good, but we need more. It is claimed that if the Columbia Southern is continued that it will go to the Deschutes instead of to Prineville and this will not accomplish what we want. Prineville is the most important point in that whole section and we need a railroad direct to Prineville; and when it is once completed to Prineville, it will be an easy matter to interest capital to continue on to Burns.

There is apparently no argument but that there will be railroads built into the interior of the state from other points. The railroad heading this way from Nevada and California, via Lakeview, will doubtless find a destination in connecting with the O. R. & N. at some point. Suppose it should meet a road at Burns that Portland capital should aid in building from The Dalles to Burns via Prineville? Imagine what a field it would open up! It would not only give us the trade of Crook and Harney, but would give us a chance at the Lake County trade which we at present cannot hope for.

If we sit idly back, though, and let the road-building come from the other direction, and wait for outside capital to build it, the outside capital will build it where it will be most beneficial to it, and that will certainly not be in Portland's interest.

Since the Daily Journal first took this matter up several weeks ago, a great deal of interest has been taken in the matter in the interior. The matter should be agitated from every source until the road is under headway. Portland business men can well pay to connect this city with that country by rail, for the money thus expended will not only soon pour back into the city, but it will bring with it a larger volume which will continue to increase as the years roll by.

PIERCE SCHOOL TAX BILL.

Senator Pierce has a recruit to the support of his school tax bill in the person of Mr. J. H. Ackerman, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Even though the Pierce bill is a material modification of the plan proposed by Mr. Ackerman in his annual report, that official accepts the principle of the bill as sound and better than any other that has been offered.

The truth is that Senator Pierce has proposed a plan that will go a long way toward curing the evil of a too low assessment.

Senator Pierce's proposition, in brief, is: In place of the present 5 mill school tax required by law, provide by statute that, say, $8 per pupil be raised by annual school tax, leaving the number of mills to be imposed to be determined by the County Courts of the several counties.

It is notorious that the property of the state is not now assessed honestly. The law requires it to be assessed at full cash valuation. It is assessed at not more than one-third, often at one-fourth. But, if assessors were to schedule the property at full cash valuation, the school fund would be several times larger than the people desire it to be. Hence, in assessing the property there is a constant lowering of the total, until from $160,263,646 in 1892, the total reached the exceedingly low figure of $117,804,874 in 1900, and this in spite of the fact that the State of Oregon has increased enormously in population during that period and has increased at even a greater ratio in wealth.

With this reduction in the total taxable valuation, comes the raising of the per centage of general taxation, which operates to deter investors and it wrongly classes Oregon among the states that compel the payment of exorbitant taxes.

Governor Chamberlain, in his message to the Legislature, discusses this evil of low assessment, and advises the appointment of a commission whose duty it shall be to investigate the subject during the coming two years and report to the next Assembly a plan whereby the matter may be righted.

There is no antagonism between the bill of Senator Pierce and the recommendation of Governor Chamberlain. Governor Chamberlain's proposed commission would be a wise movement. But, pending the final and complete settlement of the issue, and to eliminate the fixed mill rate of school tax, the Pierce bill is exactly what is needed.

The question of assessment of property and adjustment of the same between the various counties, is something that Oregon should not put off any longer.

WHAT KAY'S BILL ALLOWS.

Representative Kay of Marion has introduced a bill to place state officers upon a flat salary. The bill allows:

To the Governor, $5,000.
To the Secretary of State, $5,000.
To the State Treasurer, $5,000.
To the Attorney-General, $3,000.
To the Chief Justice, $4,500.
To each two Associate Justices, $4,000.

It is known also that a bill is to be offered soon naming a salary for the Superintendent of Public Schools, and one has already been prepared by Senator Mulkey to provide for a constitutional amendment placing the State Printer upon a flat salary.

Figures have been compiled showing the expense of operating under the existing system of paying the minimum salaries named in the constitution, plus fees and emoluments for service upon the various boards that have been created by Legislative enactment. These figures indicate that the several state offices have cost:

For Governor, salaries	$ 4,250
Annual appropriations, executive department	6,950
For Superintendent of Schools, salaries	2,500
Annual appropriations	12,607
For State Treasurer, salaries	5,312
Appropriation for clerks	2,900
For Secretary of State, salaries	2,850
Fees, estimated per year from records	14,643
Appropriation for clerical service	8,984
Fees turned over to Treasurer	4,135
For state printing, 1892-1899	53,164
For state printing, 1901-1902	73,260

In these items appear many that must be allowed under the flat salary law, such as clerk hire, private secretary of the Governor and others. It is alleged, however, that a saving of $50,000 can be effected by the adoption of salaries for all state officials over present expense.

THE PEOPLE'S WILL MUST RULE

The idea seems to have gained credence in many quarters that the measure generally known as the initiative and referendum is likely to be declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, and no inconsiderable number of the citizens of the state are much exercised thereat.

While The Journal has no specific knowledge of what the Supreme Court is likely to do in the matter, it believes that the members of that body will hesitate long before endeavoring to interfere to block what is the plainly expressed wish of the citizens of Oregon. In fact it is quite unlikely that any such idea has ever been seriously considered. Still, should the matter come to such a pass the people shout warning that their will in this matter is not to be lightly set aside.

Properly administered and properly invoked there is no measure on the statute books of any country which so makes for popular protection from the rapacity of the professional lobbyist as does the initiative and referendum, and that the benefits of its use shall be lost to Oregon is an idea not to be endured.

Some men are to be elected to office in this and other states, and it is timely to quote words that were quoted by Reuben Jones in nominating Harold Preston for the United States Senate from the State of Washington:

God give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor, and who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And scorn his treacherous flatteries without winking.
Men, sun-crowned men, who live above the fog
In public duty and private thinking.

Senator Bailey of Texas would better give some reason why he opposes the Cuban reciprocity treaty and with it the Philippines tariff reduction bill. He is fooling with a very strong public sentiment, and at the same time placing the Democratic party in a false light. Mr. Bailey made himself offensive by assaulting Senator Beveridge during the last session. He will be more obnoxious if he continue his present unreasoning course.

After all, a very few objectors may raise a remarkably large cloud of dust. Vide, the much-feared antagonism to the Lewis and Clark Fair appropriation, which went through the line of the opposition like a 230-pound guard or tackle through an academy football line.

If the Eastern Oregon delegation succeed in agreeing upon a readjustment of the relations between the sheepmen and cattlemen, a troublous state of affairs will have been settled to the good of the state.

Senator Mulkey's measure for the submission of a constitutional amendment placing the State Printer upon a salary will meet no intelligent opposition in the State of Oregon.

Senator Smith of Umatilla has a commendable bill for road improvement. It apparently meets needs of Oregon that have hitherto been ignored.

HOW AGUINALDO WAS TAKEN.

Gen. Funston Gives New Version of the Affair.

Manila dispatches received at the headquarters of the Department of Colorado state that Hilary Placido, a Filipino who aided General Funston in the capture of Aguinaldo, has been sentenced to life imprisonment for murder. Details of the crime are lacking, but General Funston and other army officers here who knew the scout believe that the crime was committed since they left the island, as it does not seem probable that Placido could have been called to account for something done during the time he was engaged as an active participant in the revolution.

In speaking of Placido General Funston said:

"He was never my spy, and the only money he ever received from the United States was for the part he took in the capture of Aguinaldo. He fought against the Spaniards and then took up arms against the United States. In 1899 he was severely wounded, being shot through the lung. He recovered, and again took an active part in the war. The following year he surrendered at the same time that General Garcia did.

"He was a prisoner for about three months and then I released him. He took the oath of allegiance, and oftentimes of his own volition gave me information regarding the enemy. He was not a spy in the sense of the word that he was in the government's employ, nor did he ever go into their lines for information for our use.

"When I arranged the plan for the capture of Aguinaldo I took Placido along. He did not know the object of the expedition until we were well under way. I then explained my plan to him and he agreed to help me. In order to carry out the scheme he became the nominal commander of the expedition, as it was necessary to make the natives believe that we Americans were prisoners. When we reached the camp of Aguinaldo, Placido rushed in and threw his former chief on the floor of the hut and held him there until we made him a prisoner. For his part in this work he was paid by the government."

H. C. Frick's Promptness.

H. C. Frick, who is always more or less in the public eye, is one of the most punctual members of the millionaire class. It is said that he has not been late once in the last ten years in keeping an appointment of any sort.

Until a year or so ago Mr. Frick was a director of a certain national bank in Pittsburg, a position which he held for 15 years. The board of directors held their meetings at noon, and for years Mr. Frick and his social and financial chum, Andrew R. Mellon, invariably entered the directors' room on the first stroke of 12.

After this thing had occurred several times, two or three of the other directors decided to watch and see how Mr. Frick and Mr. Mellon managed to be so unnaturally punctual. The investigators took up their station outside Mr. Frick's office, saw him issue therefrom at 10 minutes before 12 o'clock, followed him to Mr. Mellon's office, which he reached five minutes to the noon hour; shadowed Mr. Frick and Mr. Mellon to the front door of the bank, which they opened at the minute of the hour, and then on into the directors' room precisely as the big clock in the tower of a nearby church began striking.

Once in the meeting, Mr. Frick did not drop his methodical method.

"Good afternoon, gentlemen," he'd say. "Is there any business of importance to be transacted today?"

If there was, he'd take a seat and take a hand in it; if there wasn't, he'd say: "Please excuse me today, gentlemen. I'm quite busy."

WHAT THE FAIR WILL DO FOR OREGON

By J. V. W. Montague.

What will the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition accomplish for Oregon?

I think a great number of persons have overdrawn the matter. It is especially so among those who have done the least for the Fair. There are many who expect to reap a fortune without sowing anything. After it has reached its best there are those who will be disappointed. It will be those who expect everything for nothing. The Lewis and Clark Exposition will no more do everything for nothing than any other legitimate enterprise, and those expecting it to do so will be greatly surprised.

I have the utmost hopes in the Exposition doing a great deal for this country, and all that it could be legitimately expected to do, but when it comes to thinking that it will do everything and that everybody will get rich off of the Fair, I expect those who think that way to be disappointed. It is easy to figure on results, but it is more difficult to secure them. There are those who expect too much without proper effort, and this class is most generally disappointed.

The people of the East and at other places who are expected to visit the Fair are not fools, neither have they money to throw away. They are men who have succeeded, in a measure, under difficult circumstances and have saved their money through rigid economy. They have not made it so easy as have we, and they do not spend it so readily. They will think a long time before they come, and they will think longer after coming before investing their money. They will have to be absolutely certain before they spend their money in this country. They are hot an adventurous set. They belong to a different class from that constituting the element composing the population of this country, and those who measure them by the sentiment dominant here are doomed to disappointment.

They may not be so shrewd as the Westerner, they may not be so deep-seeing, but they are more cautious. Upon this point they depend for their own protection. They know how difficult it is in their country to make a fortune, how easy it is to lose it, and how much more difficult it is to regain it. Hence their timidity about branching out in a new field.

I do not mean to discourage the Fair, but I mean to warn those against the idea that the Fair will do so much more for this country than could be reasonably expected of it. It will bring us proper returns for what we expend, and not very much more, and no one should school himself to believe to the contrary. Disappointment is always sad, and especially so in money matters.

As has been well said by a local citizen, through the columns of The Daily Journal, the Fair will do for Oregon what Oregon does for it. If we do not offer inducements people will not come, and when they come we will have to "show" them before we may expect to do much business with them.

PORTLAND'S OPPORTUNITY

We know of nothing that will be of more value to the City of Portland and the entire Pacific Northwest than the holding of the Lewis and Clark Exposition. It will bring to our country many thousands of people from all parts of the East and Middle West, who are wholly unfamiliar with our conditions: climatic, productiveness of soil and general resources. We're "long" on all of the above conditions and "short" on population. Get the people out here and when they have seen for themselves, a large per cent will "stick."

As stated, the Exposition will bring the people as nothing else could, and now it's up to us to shape our ends so as to care for them when we have brought them here. Nature has outdone herself in giving to us of the Northwest the best the world affords, and we must do the little that remains to be done; namely, make preparations to care for an excessively large crowd when they arrive, as they surely will.

GRINDSTAFF & BLAIN.

WHAT WOMEN TALK ABOUT

(By K. K. K.)

Portland skies have not been behaving their prettiest these days, even with so many visitors in town waiting and hoping for a glimpse of the mountains. In two cases, at least, there are compensations.

Mrs. E. J. Stringham of New York is just up from a week's sunshine in Southern California, and is a little weary of the monotonous brightness. Pack of the California experience were weeks of Southern weather.

Much as Mrs. Stringham admires the San Francisco women's style and dash, she wishes they were not quite so open about some things. One afternoon she went into the Emporium, for example, with an Eastern friend. In passing the cosmetic department they saw a woman having her face made up. They simply stopped in horror and gazed on the scene, which must be of daily occurrence for the clerk bowed to them, at the end of the operation, and asked if they wanted to be painted, too. She had most evidently taken their cold stare of horror for waiting admiration.

Southern beauties are getting rare these days. At least, in all her trips through that part of the country, Mrs. Stringham has failed to see many of them.

Of course, one sees the representative women at the theatres, driving or lunching at the swell cafes, yet there is not a really pretty one in dozens. She is not enthusiastic over the South, anyway, since she lost her engagement ring at one of the leading hotels in Texas.

Mrs. Stringham is delighted to be in Portland the day Ossip Gabrilowitsch arrives. They are acquainted through mutual New York friends. She cannot stay over for the concert tonight, rather to Mr. Stringham's delight, for, like a number of Portland people, he prefers "The Good Old Summer Time," and "Hiawatha" to all the classical music going.

Once, to please Mrs. Stringham, he sat through an evening of Lohengrin, but revenged himself by quoting Billy Baxter's sentiments when he was suffering like torture.

Mr. and Mrs. Stringham leave for the Sound today.

ANOTHER VISITOR.

I spoke of another visitor who was rather glad of the rain, Mrs. Cochrane of Ashland, Wis. She is in Portland for just a week, and planned to do and see so many things, but is confined to her room with a cold. Sunshine would be an aggravation under such circumstances.

It seems odd to her to be in a snowless city. When she left Wisconsin every one was enjoying the finest kind of sleighing. She found Chicago in the midst of the coldest snap within the memory of the usual oldest settler. I think she really pities us for our lack of ice and snow.

Even in the midst of winter pleasures the women of Ashland are faithful to their Monday Club. Mrs. Cochrane is not a club woman herself, but is interested through friends. She entertained two delegates last summer, though, when the State Federation of Women's Clubs met at Ashland.

Mr. and Mrs. Burdett were guests of the club. Mrs. Burdett is so enthusiastically interested in clubs she makes a series of meetings successful. Mr. Burdett was, of course, ready with the humorous touches.

BIBLE STUDY.

The Council of Jewish Women were led in their Bible study yesterday afternoon by Dr. Stephen S. Wise. He made the Book of Proverbs even more interesting than the members had expected. Mrs. S. M. Blumauer read the paper of the afternoon. Questions to Dr. Wise followed in the time allowed for discussion.

AT THE WOMAN'S CLUB.

The Woman's Club is to have a postponed pleasure tomorrow afternoon. Mrs. F. J. Mann was down last November for a review of her recent trip abroad. Mrs. Card's death made a memorial service appropriate for Mrs. Mann's afternoon, and she insisted on her talk being postponed. The members have been looking forward to the promised account ever since. There is only one thing more delightful than hearing of another's foreign experiences, and that is going abroad in person.

Miss Lind, who is to have the musical numbers, is a pupil of J. Adrain Epping. Mr. Epping is predicting great things for her in the future.

THIS AND THAT.

Mrs. George Stowell and Mrs. Paul, both of Sitka, Alaska, left Monday evening for Seattle to take the steamer for their Northern homes.

Mrs. M. T. Nolan is visiting in the city this week. She left The Dalles on Monday.

John Logan, who was called to San Francisco by the illness of his wife, has returned, and reports her safely past the crisis of her illness.

Mrs. M. Calif is entertaining Miss Nellie Jeffery of Astoria.

The Ladies' Afternoon Reading Club of Corvallis, at a meeting held last week, passed resolutions supporting the Lewis and Clark Fair and asking the members of the Legislature to vote for a liberal appropriation.

Miss Josie Bozier came up from Astoria to spend a few months with Portland friends.

Reciprocity as a Confidence Game.

"There is no hope for any of the reciprocity treaties now pending in the Senate," writes William E. Curtis. "The Republican party is not in favor of reciprocity, or else it is not represented in that body."

The truth is that if this session of Congress goes by and the treaties are still ignored, the party will be fully convicted of using reciprocity as a fraudulent campaign cry. It is now some 12 years since it was employed with dramatic effect by Mr. Blaine during the debate on the McKinley bill. He forced reciprocity into that bill, and before its repeal a beginning was made in the negotiation of treaties and their adoption which was full of promise. Since then the party has converted that promise into political capital many times over. Its platform of 1896 said:

"We believe the repeal of the reciprocity arrangements negotiated by the last Republican administration was a national calamity, and we demand their renewal and extension on such terms as will equalize our trade with other nations, remove the restrictions which now obstruct the sale of American products in the ports of other countries and secure enlarged markets for the products of our farms, forests and factories."

The calamity, it will be recognized, is now perpetuated by those who bemoaned it, and the very organization which demanded the renewal and extension is incapable of enforcing the demand though it is in possession of all branches of the government. Five years after the passage of the Dingley bill, with its enabling clause, there is still no progress beyond the executive, and the prospect is that the treaties will fail and reciprocity remain a dead letter, though it was applauded by the late President, is indorsed by his successor and was used to placate tariff reform Republicans so late as the campaign of last fall.—Chicago Record-Herald.

An Exceptional Mummy.

The German Oriental Society has been most successful in its explorations at Abu-Sir, in Egypt, and most interesting "finds" were distributed among the Berlin museums. One of the most important discoveries was a perfectly preserved mummy of Jen Em Jechvet, the high priest of the Temple, who died about 2,000 years before Christ. The body was found in a family vault, which also contained the remains of his priest and reader and their wives. Only three tombs of such an age have been found in good preservation during the last century, and this is the first time that the contents have been brought safely to Europe. Jen lay in his coffin enveloped in a brown linen shroud, just as he had been placed there 4,000 years ago. In accordance with the fashion of the time, he has small side whiskers and a longer tuft on his chin, and his eyes are made to appear unnaturally long by means of the careful application of rouge. The wig, which is large and parted down the middle, has a bluish tint verging on green, and must originally have been the color of lapis lazuli, an imitation of the hair worn by Egyptian gods. The mummy was lying slightly on the left side, as Egyptians sleep today, and the head rested on a support such as still is in use in the Soudan. The eyes are turned toward the rising sun. Two staffs were found beside the body, and a little wooden statute.

Merely a Pardonable Error.

The stories told in "the profession" of Mr. Brookfield's scathing repartee are endless. On one occasion a young actor who had lately made a hit in a small part was regaling a few friends at great length upon the "splendid notices" he had received and the various merits of his performance. At last Brookfield quietly remarked: "But my dear sir, you are not really good at all in the part. I have never seen you do anything well, but in this particular you are simply naughty."

"Indeed," said the young man, bridling up. "I suppose so distinguished a critic as yourself would deny my being an actor at all!"

"I certainly should," said Mr. Brookfield.

"Then what would you call me?" asked the young man, a little recklessly.

"Well," said Brookfield, with a sweet smile, "I think I should describe you as a pardonable error."

MEMORABLE FEATURES OF 1902

The year that saw the Boer Republics disappear from among the nations of the earth saw the Cuban Republic begin its independence; and the year that saw Great Britain unite with Japan to protect Korea and China from Russian and German aggression saw Great Britain unite with Germany in an aggressive movement upon Venezuela. These are regarded as the chief events in world-politics of 1902. The chief events in our own country was the great coal strike, which, like the Venezuelan imbroglio, will be settled by arbitration, thanks to the good offices of the President. And while Mr. Roosevelt has united opposing nations and factions in the bonds of arbitration, Mr. Marconi has spanned the Atlantic with his wireless telegraphy, and the Pacific has been crossed by a British cable. Ties of another sort have been established between the United States and Austria by the visit of Dr. Lorenz, and between the United States and Germany by the visit of Prince Henry. In this connection, too, should be mentioned the effort of Cecil Rhodes to promote world-peace by providing in his remarkable will for the education of American and other foreign youth at Oxford.

And while 1902 is regarded as a year of increasing peace and good-will in international affairs, it is regarded as a year of unprecedented prosperity in the United States, despite the hard times abroad. "The best year the country has ever experienced," is the verdict of Bradstreet's; and a good many other journals agree. Not only have the capitalists and captains of industry prospered, but it has been a year of large demand for labor and of wage-raising for those already at work. The farmers have produced more than $2,500,000,000 in crops and the manufacturers have turned out $14,000,000,000 worth of their products. American capitalists have startled the British and accomplished what the New York Times calls "the chief business feat of the year" by forming the Atlantic shipping combine. The year as a whole, however, has not been notable for the increase of combinations; indeed, the "two leading features" of the year in business, according to the New York Journal of Commerce, have been "a heavy decrease in consolidation of industrial properties and a marked increase in the organization of competitive enterprises." The prosperity was threatened seriously by the coal strike, whose effects are still severely felt, but the business interests appear to have weathered the storm successfully, as they have also stood the unprecedented drop in the price of silver, which has declined 17½ cents an ounce in the last two years, and reached the lowest price on record, about 46½ cents an ounce, a few weeks ago. An even larger degree of prosperity is expected from two great enterprises sanctioned by Congress last spring—irrigation of the arid West and the construction of the Isthmian Canal. Despite the good times, however, we are informed by the Chicago Tribune, which publishes a great sheaf of interesting statistics at the end of each year, that the gifts and bequests to educational, charitable, and religious enterprises in this country foot up to about $77,000,000, as compared with $124,000,000 in 1901.

The year will also be remembered as "the volcanic and earthquake year," thinks The Tribune. Pelee and Soufriere destroyed 45,000 lives in Martinique and St. Vincent, and more than 20,000 others were killed in Mexico, Guatemala, and the Orient by volcanoes and earthquakes. Storms and floods claimed 12,000 more victims. The figures for suicide show that the increase in that form of crime still goes on, with a sudden and startling increase in the number of women. The lynchings show a decrease from 135 in 1901 to 96 in 1902, while the legal executions show a corresponding increase from 118 in 1901 to 144 in 1902.

As the iron industry is considered by many to be at the basis of our commercial system, the following comment on the year's business by The Iron Age is of especial interest:

"The history of the world can be scoured in vain to find a parallel with the condition of affairs in the United States in 1902. At no time since the advent of steam as a motive power in transportation have the facilities for the distribution of commodities been so completely overwhelmed by the vast offerings of all classes of merchandise as within the past few months. The greatest railroad systems of the country, whose capabilities had always previously been rated far in excess of any demands, fell as seriously short of serving the manufacturing and commercial interests dependent upon them as the lines less ably managed and admittedly poorly equipped. Manufacturers turned out greater outputs than ever before, but could have done still better by considerable if they had not been hampered by the difficulty of securing raw materials on the one hand, particularly coke, and the frequent inability to make shipments of their products on the other. A specially remarkable feature of this experience is that it came not after a period of pinching economy by the railroads, in which their equipment had suffered, but after several years of heavy earnings and unprecedented expenditures for rolling-stock of greater capacity as well as for other facilities. In no previous year had the railroad companies been such heavy purchasers of all classes of supplies as in 1902, their urgent demand crowding manufacturing establishments to the utmost.

"The natural increase in the business of the country, due to the growth of population and the great purchasing power of a people whose average earnings were far more than sufficient to cover the necessities of life, would in itself have been enough to keep the iron trade well employed. But the extraordinary and insatiable demands of the railroads undoubtedly brought about the marvelous growth in consumption of iron and steel which outran the huge productive capacity of this country."

THEATRICALS

TONIGHT'S ATTRACTIONS.

The Marquam Grand—Ossip Gabrilowitsch, Russian pianist, in recital.
The Baker—"For Fair Virginia."
Cordray's—"A Gambler's Daughter."
Fredericksburg—Vaudeville.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

The Marquam Grand—"The Everlasting Devil's Auction," tomorrow night and Saturday matinee and night.
The Baker—"For Fair Virginia," for the week, with matinee Saturday.
Cordray's—"A Gambler's Daughter," for the week, with matinee Saturday.
Fredericksburg—Vaudeville.

MANAGERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS.

"The Devil's Auction."

Mr. Charles H. Yale, proprietor of the "Devil's Auction" Company, which comes to the Marquam Grand Theatre tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday nights, with a popular matinee Saturday, is one of the best known theatrical managers in this country, and his name is a huge magnet to over 5,000,000 theatre going people throughout the United States and Canada. At present he has four large attractions on the road, viz: His personal companies, "The Devil's Auction," and "The Twelve Temptations," and in conjunction with Sidney R. Ellis, "The Evil Eye" and "Al. H. Wilson," the German comedian in a new and original romantic play, "A Prince of Tatters," by Sidney R. Ellis.

Besides the above mentioned attractions, Manager Yale is now building at his studio in Philadelphia a new spectacle which promises to be a revelation in this particular line of theatricals, and will be seen in the principal cities and towns throughout the country the coming season. Manager Yale's claim that the "Devil's Auction" is the oldest in name yet the newest in point of novelty, can well be substantiated in this, the 21st edition of this famous spectacle, as everything is new from the time the curtain rises on the first act until it is rung down on the beautiful new transformation scene, "A Tribute to Our Country," at the close of the performance. Every act, novelty and feature being new, all the scenery, properties, etc., etc. In fact, not one old feature is retained and the theatre-going public of Portland certainly have a treat in store for them.

Next Week at Cordray's.

The attraction at Cordray's next Sunday matinee and evening, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, January 25, 26, 27 and 28, will be one of the season's best offerings. Manager John F. Cordray has secured Mr. Myron B. Rice's production of "Whose Baby Are You?" a farce comedy without a peer. This season will see the piece as a brand new cartwheel just from the mint, bubbling over with side-splitting laughs and gestures caused by an exceptionally strong cast of mirth provokers. Mr. Rice has secured Miss June Mathis, as pretty and clever an ingenue as the stage can offer, to play the role of Madge Morton. Mr. John F. Ward will be seen as Mr. Walter Milton, Sr., a character which is said to offer him unusual opportunities for his original methods and quaint humor. "My Friend From India," another jolly farce comedy, follows for the remainder of the week.

Coming Attraction at Cordray's.

"My Friend From India," a comedy by H. A. Du Sauchet, that has made millions of people laugh, follows "Whose Baby Are You?" at Cordray's Theatre next week. For three nights only, starting Thursday, January 29, with a matinee Saturday.

"Charley's Aunt."

At The Baker all next week, starting with the usual Sunday matinee, that funny comedy, "Charley's Aunt," will be the attraction. It has been a long time since this play has been produced in Portland, although it has been a continual success season after season with first-class road companies in the East. The play is so well known by reputation that no further advertisement is needed than just to simply state it is to be here. Even though you never saw it before, like the proverbial old cat, it seems to be a familiar, welcome friend to be greeted with a broad smile and open arms.

LITERARY INFERIORITY.

It is sometimes urged that the literature of the United States lacks great qualities because American life until now has been too strenuous and active to admit of the atmosphere of intellectual repose necessary to the production and appreciation of art. A French scholar resident in this country, M. Albert Schinz, of Bryn Mawr College, takes an opposite view. American literature, he thinks, is distinctly inferior to that of other nations for the reason that it is born of conditions too prosperous and comfortable. He elaborates this argument as follows, in an article in La Semaine Litteraire, Geneva:

"What is it that inspires a poet or a writer? Struggles in noble causes, for liberty, country, religion, principles. And these conditions are only met with in formative periods of peoples, not at the time when they have 'arrived.' The United States have 'arrived' too soon and too easily. Unlike the peoples of Europe, Americans have, so to speak, begun their evolution in the middle; and the periods that they have not jumped they have crossed with prodigious rapidity. Thanks to their tardy entrance into the history of the world, they have, in a few years, passed over ground that the oldest nations have spent centuries in getting over. They have not had to conquer their country; they have not undergone long conflicts with neighboring peoples, accompanied by a long succession of heroic deeds, inspiring bards and minstrels.

"Even periodical literature is yielding more and more to the pressure of the novel. One of the best-known American reviews makes a specialty of publishing a complete novel in each monthly issue, and in the case of a holiday number, a string of short stories is added to this novel to the exclusion of any other sort of article. A whole series of magazines publish nothing but short stories. Whether you discuss the question of the immorality of the soul, or the Philippines, a rule of the game of ping-pong, or crab fishing, never think of sending an article of more than 5,000 words—3,000 would be better—to an editor. He will return it unread, requesting you to be so kind as to submit it to the operation of Procrustes, or to refrain from offering it again. As was wittily remarked one day by some one who was discussing this astonishing fact, had St. Paul sent his Epistle to the Corinthians to an editor of Boston, New York or Chicago, he would have seen his divine prose come back to him by return mail, accompanied by a request to shorten it. The fact is that the reader must not be asked for more than he can give. The men in America work exceedingly hard; it is impossible for them, if they read at all, to read what we call a serious book; they must have light literature or none at all. The women have, doubtless, more leisure, and they really constitute the reading public. It may be added incidentally that as they possess to a high degree the delicacy of touch and that chic that is so often lacking in men, excepting, perhaps, Frenchmen, they have also more and more invaded literature as authors. It is so already in both America and England; it will be the same upon the European continent before long."

Indeed He Don't.

The St. James Gazette, of London, refers to Russell Sage as "a young man of 86, who is still hard at work piling up higher and higher the mountain of gold which he has built for himself. The pleasure of giving is an unrealized joy to most men who have made much money, and Mr. Sage has not indulged in it extravagantly."