Editorial Page of The Journal

OREGON DAILY JOURNAL Small Change

PUBLISHED BY JOURNAL PUBLISHING CO.

and every Sunday morning at The Journal Building, Fifth and Yamhii streets, Portland, Oregon.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND

THE PASSING OF 1904.

TN A FEW HOURS the year 1904 will have ceased to be time present and will have become the nearest portion of that great aggregation of time called the past that stretches backward beyond our ken, where we ay imagine it merges into the anterior eternity. The moment that ends one year and begins another is a purely arbitrary selection, not more natural than any other moment might be; hence only man, who divided time for convenience sake, pays any heed to it. But to mankind, this moment in the annual revolution of the earth around the sun when the clock strikes the midnight hour has through long custom and association of ideas attained a real importance.

The closing hours of a year, which is itself a natural unit of time, as is the day, afford an appropriate period for pausing, reflecting, reviewing, re-considering, taking ck of the vanishing year's doings, contemplating the outlook of the new year that will have sped a flight of everal hours ere most of us awake.

Long custom has made the passing of a year and the eginning of another an event of varied interest to many. The new year's advent marks the termination of the year-end holidays, of which, next to Christmas, New Year's day is the chief; it is a time of pleasure for chiliren, of social amenities, of interest to all, and with some marks, simply because a new year begins, the beginning of a better life. May this be the case with many to-

night, has been, taken all in all, about an average year, in he world, in the nation, in the state and city. Much has asure and rejoicing-the same old story of every year. I in the grand aggregate of events we can detect an spward, forward tendency of the human race, as we bethat mankind was not created in vain, and that a little of his godward destiny has been this year wrought out.

To Oregon the vanishing year has on the whole been kind though not so agreeable as some. We might have ordered some different weather; in portions of the state would have desired better crops; there are many who e suffered from accident or disease; but in these rects we are no worse off than the people of all other fates, and better off than those of most.

In Portland, as well as in the state, scandals have developed and dishonesty has been busy with temporary success, but much material and we believe much moral progress also has been made-more than in any former and the year leaves Portland, and Oregon, and all cific northwest, with brighter prospects than were disclosed by the departure of any preceding year. So there is ground for bidding 1904 a farewell tonight witht bitterness or animosity, and welcoming 1905 with

We say to you, 1904, a kind good night. On arising to

PORTLAND AND IRRIGATION.

OME NEWSPAPERS published in the semi-arid

But the delegates wanted to see the Lewis and Clark orthwest, and so decided to come to Portland. The decision was wise, or at least not obnoxious to the criti-cism made, for irrigation can be talked, and plans, projects and results discussed, as well at Portland as at nver, Salt Lake or Boise. And while Portland is not within or very near the arid districts of this and adjacent states that may be irrigated, this city is deeply and vitally interested in the subject of irrigation, and in all the irrigation projects in eastern Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and even in other states and territories. Portland is a seaport of growing importance; a great part of the products of the irrigated districts will be shipped here, and of the merchandise consumed by the pro-ducers will be purchased here. Hence no city of the western country is more vitally interested in the prosecu

tion and success of all irrigation projects than Portland. But Portland's active interest is as yet not commensurate with the vast importance of the subject, and the meeting of the irrigation congress here next summer may and should help to stimulate a more lively and enthusiastic interest among Portlanders in the subject of

It is only about two and a half years since the passage of the act which placed the irrigation of arid western lands not already appropriated under government control. It is complained that the government moves too lowly, but the people must have patience. This is a new and a large job, and haste on the government's part cannot be expected. A great amount of technical data in obtained. It is better to move slowly and succeed with what is undertaken than to make a failure, for most have been impossible to have gotten it through. eastern people and their representatives in congress have Portland people should encourage and aid this great things which is now upon us.

movement, that is destined to add immensely to the prod

Senator Clark of Montana recently stated that the 50, 000,000 acres which will be rendered arable by irrigation (though it is estimated by experts that over 100,000,000 acres can thus be made productive) will support 20,000, 000 people. If this be a correct estimate, irrigation means 20,000,000 more people in the west, besides the natural increase, within a few years, a large proportion of them producers from the soil, and many of these people will form an important factor in the future development of Oregon and of Portland.

Of the many national conventions that will meet in Portland next year none is of more importance than the irrigation congress, and especial preparations should be made for its entertainment, and to show Portland's ap preciation of the importance of irrigation.

JOHN HALL'S REMOVAL.

S ENSATION crowds on the heels of sensation so fast do they follow. All eyes have been fixed upon the federal grand jury as the storm center. Out of that body have come many sensations, so many in fact that the public rather rashly concluded sensations could not come or at least were not to be expected from

With all eyes fixed on the federal court a thunderbol s, hurled from Washington. It is contained in the announcement of the removal of United States Attorney Hall. Ma Hall received a recess appointment to his of fice and it was then commonly accepted as a fact that he vided two to two on the appointment which was long overdue. In that apparent emergency the president came to the rescue and nominated Hall. In the case of recess appointments they must again be made when congress reconvenes. It was significantly noticeable that the president failed to send to the senate for confirmation the nomination of Mr. Hall which he had seemed so bent on making only a few months before. This gave the wisc ones their first intimation that things might not be as they seemed. Relatively few, however, had any thought

It is only another indication that all branches of the government are working in full accord in the matter of he land fraud investigations. That is now paramount to all other considerations and it is apparent that nothing will be allowed to stand in the way. It is evident that Mr. Hall was in some way regarded as an impediment, with reference to him only makes it all the more apparent that all federal officials are expected to do their full duty no matter what interests become involved and those who fail will receive short shrift.

TOO FREE WITH LICENSES.

HE CITY COUNCIL, and especially the license committee thereof, in view of their authority in the matter, owe to Portland the important duty of denying liquor licenses to the proprietors of some of the worst and most lawless dives of the city and of requiring a stricter regulation of some others to whom

and must not be tolerated during the coming year. A forming to the law, and appear to know that they are not nof these dens of vice are of almost daily occurrence; they tre here for the past few days, or during the present manifestly exist principally for the purpose of robbing

It is said "Bob" Patterson and J. B. Moore will not be granted a license, but judging the future by the past fair next year, and visit the chief city of the Pacific it will not be many weeks, or days, until they are again engaged in their occupation of thuggery and thievery. If not, we shall give due credit to that extent. But there are some others of the same type who will apparently be permitted to conduct their illegal and horrible debauching resorts, and now is the time to shut them off and drive them out of existence.

it cannot afford to take money from such people and for such purposes. It would be a better policy to raise the license to \$500 or \$600 a year, which would shut out few if any saloons and would bring in as much additional revenue as would be lost by refusing licenses to the bandits of the slum saloon business.

THE PORTAGE ROAD.

THE CONTRACT for the building of the portage road has been signed, the bond of the contractors has been accepted and filed and work will begin at once. There is no event which so radically marks the new era that has dawned for Portland and Oregon. Here is a public undertaking which means much for the whole state, but very much more proportionately for certain sections. Yet the whole state cheerfully taxes itself for the enterprise. The amount originally appropriated was found to be insufficient. People interested got together and pledged the amount needed to complete the job and get the work finished on time. It was a delicate and difficult undertaking. It ran counter-to certain heavy general, and with regard to each proposed project, must interests and had nothing to commend it but the fact that it was for the general good. A few years ago it would

The fact that it is safely landed at last is in the high scant sympathy with the movement, and would be glad est degree gratifying and as we have said distinctly of an excuse to oppose it. But in every possible way marks the new era of energy, self reliance and doing

fore attained by any theatrical produc-tion.

"Charley's Aunt" has been translated into French, German, Russian and mod-ern Greek. In all our colonies, in India, in the French colony of Hainan, in China, in Hongkong, in Japan, in the backwoods of America, into every civ-ilized corner on the earth, "Charley's Aunt" has penetrated. Companies have carried her into the mining camps of California and the Klondike and to the cotton fields of Louisiana. Mr. Brandon

There are no antis in Japan. Muls (A. L.) will grind no dirty grist

Let the scandals be clear time the fair opens.

Will the legislature sustain the law defying fish warden?

Uncle Chauncey is happy. price was is not reported. The portage road will be one

Next Monday holiday nonsense and the business of 1905 begins.

A Sunday New Year's should be good day to make a good beginning.

No church row would be worth mentioning without a woman at the bottom

Odell has decided to elect Depew. The legislature, still less the people of New York, have no say in the case.

It is said that cooks are paid more than teachers. But as Owen Meredith wrote, we can live without books, but not without cooks.

All Oregon should spruce up next year so as to make a good showing to visit ors. If everybody will do a little, a great change can be errected.

The latest consumption cure is simply eating a great deal. But some consumptives can't get the stuff to eat, and others can't eat it if they have it.

statement from Constantinople to soon be assassinated or deposed. Per-haps peripatetic Perdicaris is bobbing into notice for the purpose of being kidnaped again and rescued by Uncle

Oregon Sidelights

A third shingle mill has been built or

Coyote hunting is a favorite spor

The logging industry around Clataks nie is very active. Ripe raspherries and strawberries

Tillamook editors are still abusing or

The year goes out with more fall crop in the ground in Oregon than ever be

Eastern Oregon is white, western Oregon is wet; all the same good for nex

The Spray Courier objects strongly to the frequent practice of shooting on the streets of that town.

All over Oregon the people are dent of good times in 1905, and so give the new year a glad greeting. The harder the winter back east, th

Fog was so thick near Spray one day this week that a farmer claims that he missed the road and drove right across a deep canyon on the fog.

"Grant county grass for Grant county stock" is the determined slogan of Grant county stockraisers. But it should not echo in murdering gun reports.

People of Silver Lake have raised

bonus of nearly \$400 to induce a North-Dekota doctor to locate there. Isn't a bonus to a doctor for coming to a town a new thing under the sun? Oregon newspapers are almost with

The Houlton Register says Columbi

During 1904 there have been erected in Woodburn 26 residence buildings, four brick buildings, a livery barn, a ware-house and four barns, and a large num-ber of additions to houses have been made.

Eastern Oregon welcomes lots of snow. It is good for miners as well as farmers. The Baker City Democrat says that part of the state without snow in winter is like a cow without a tail in fly time.

Sunday School Lesson

with Rev. H. D. Jenkins, D. D., one of the editors of the Chicago Tribune, to publish every Saturday his celebrated Sunday school lesson. Dr. Jenkins is well known and highly regarded in Portland and his Sunday school lessons occupy a place of their own.

January 1, 1905.—Topic: Jesus the Life and Light of Men.—John 1: 1-18.

Golden Text—In him was life, and the life was the light of men.—John 1: 4.

INTRODUCTION.

What a privilege to begin the new

since the Catholic church does not encourage lay teaching in religion. The enrollment must include the greater part of the children in our Protestant households, and gives us every reason to believe that with fidelity upon the part of the teacher and application upon the part of the taught. Bible knowledge ought to be sowed close and deep over all tha land. In one county in Missouri, as shown by a map at the St. Louis exposition, 95 per cent of the entire population was in one way or another connected with some Sunday school. That, probably, is the banner county of the world.

But it is sweet to begin the year with John's story of our Lord's appearance at the waters of the Jordan along with many who came to hear the stirring discourses of his forenunser. The two were relatives (Luke 1: 36), but they had not been brought up together (John 1: 36-33); Jesus living in the humble home at Nazareth (Luke 2: 51), while John retired to the ascetic communities of the zealous religionists in the uninhabited districts of Palestine (Luke 1: 80), remaining apart from the world until moved to return and preach

subtract, divide or multiply infinities and they are neither increased nor diminished by the process. Wherever the beginning was, the word of God was there and was with God, and was God.

yers cannot retain. The Word of St. John's gospel without the divine nature and the sternal background which St. John presents."

Verse 4. This is the pivotal verse of the section. Jesus impressed his immediate disciples, the writer of this gospet among them, as being by his very nature radically different in nature while in form like unto his brithren (Heb. 2: 17). The merest trific suffices to terminate our earthly existence, but mo man living was able to put Jesus to death without his consent (John 10: 18). And even more than his discourse, his life made the path of duty luminous and plain. Life as they saw it in Jesus was life in itself, life in to a coarse tirade against all Christians as "hypocrites, sneaks and cowards." But in the very midst of it an aged and greatly beloved Christian philanthropist came into the room, and the calumniator stopped as quickly as though he had been shot. There was no use talking against the "light" of such a life as that.

Verse 5. Yet when forced to be still, the unbeliever is not won. It is all folly to insist that were the gospel presented "as it ought to be preached," men would quickly surrender to its power. They did not when Jesus preached if. Nothing is, so hard for a bad man to understand as a good man's motives or aims. Some of the noblest sermons ever preached have been spoken to men who could not, half an hour later, tell what the sermon was about.

Verse 5. It is delightful to have inspired men affirm the direct, divine agency and aim of such a life as that of agency and aim of such a life as that of agency and aim of such a life as that of agency and aim of such a life as that of agency and aim of such a life as that of agency and aim of such a life as that of agency and aim of such a life as that of agency and aim of such a life as that of agency and aim of such a life as that of agency and aim of such a life as that of agency and aim of such a life

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Verse 6. It is delightful to have inspired men affirm the direct, divine. The last state of John the Baptist because we realiss that of John the Baptist because we realiss that worth of John the Baptist because we realiss that worth of the sermon have a care simply for one man in a million. If God asside John the sermon have a care simply for one man in a million. If God asside John the sermon have a care simply for one man in a million. If God asside John the server is one to be a minister of great refinement and spirituality does not reach the common people as well as an evangelist who has less regard for their social customs. John could do a preparatory work which, humanly speaking, Jesus could not so well accomplish. He did not so often shock their sense of propricty. He made more of rites and fasts and modes of prayer. And when the hattenday and more and the common of the sense was not fasts and modes of prayer. And when he had won the attendion, and the confidence and the good will of the people, the three haddenes and modes of prayer. And when he had won the attendion and the confidence and the good wil

The Play

ten in Greek and later than the three which are placed before it in our canonical list, and that it was designed to supplement those by hotting many incidents omitted in them, while omiting those things which were in them plainly set forth. For this reason the nativity and childhood of our Lord are passed by the narrative begins with "showing" the Savior to Israel.

Verse 1. No one can afford not to commit to memory these first verses of John's gospel. Every class should repeat them verbatim. They are so striking, so impressive, so significant, that they have entered into the literature of the whola Christian world. It is not of much utility to inquire whong, the evangelist obtained this striking metaphor, presenting Jesus so boldly without explanation or introduction as "The Word of God. If it had eyer been used before, it had falled to make itself self. Now he presented it so that if could never be forgotten. It means that we can take our stand upon the teaching of Jesus as we rest upon the word of the Father.

Verse 2. We cannot use the same lianguage in speaking of infinities that we use in comparing finite quantities that the wine of the Father.

Verse 2. We cannot use the same lianguage in speaking of infinities that we can take our stand upon the teaching of Jesus as we rest upon the word of the Father.

Verse 2. We cannot use the same lianguage in speaking of infinities that we can take our stand upon the teaching of Jesus as the court of the wide world is gradually is earning to accept as actual truth. But to be "interesting and infinities that we use in comparing finite quantities that we leave the same standard will spear of silver, flowers, ribbons, or the ribbons.

The Lesson.

The Lesson.

Ben Greet's players returned to Portation the subject of the Maria times and preached a Christian and preached a Christian season to the whol

"The Star of Bethlehem" is a play which from the very first line evinces the highest order of poetic writing in quaint vernacular; its subject is treated with maryelous fidelity and sincerity, and as incident followed incident there was revealed an equal masters of the morning. There was still another supper after the votillon for those who cared to stay.

beginning was, the word of God was there and was with God, and was God. Before such facts relating to the divine nature and the eternal background which St. John's gospel without the divine nature and the eternal background which St. John presenta."

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Vanderbilt's Debut

Lewis and Clark

December 31.—During the night there was a high wind which covered the ice with hillocks of mixed sand and snow; the day was, however, fine, and the Indians came in great numbers for the

Champ End Condence.

From the New York World.

Representative Champ Clark has some interesting youngsters who go to Sunday school. One of them smiled superciliously when the teacher was trying to teach the children the creed. "Why did you keep smiling all the time my dear?" asked the teacher of the youthful Clark after the lesson. "The other children didn't."

"Oh they're babies," answered the

"Oh, they're bables," answered the youngster. "I've found out that Santa Claus is just my papa and mamma. I haven't found out yet who God is, but I bet I do before long."

getting a glimpse of the babe, and their

getting a glimpse of the babe, and their persistence reaches the point where Mak's wife deems it advisable to take up the little one. Her aubsequent efforts to quiet and disguise the struggling sheep are genuinely funny.

In the next scene the kings are put under a spell by Herod's imps and lose sight of the guiding star. They supplicate in the name of "Thou child, whose power no tongue can tell."

Who is the Lord of Heaven and of hell."

THE LADY AND THE LACES.

From the New York Sun.

This store is told among the department store sleuths of an alleged episode of this rush season. A man pushed into a crowded store, wiping his brow, and panted in the car of one of the floor de-"See that woman, George: the clever looking one in the black dress?" indicat-ing a woman who had just entered the

store.

George saw her.

"Well." said the perspiring stranger.

"watch her; she's the ilmit; she's just come from our store. We know her; she's been playing the game there for some time; she'll load up like a pack horse if you give her a chance. I've hiped her off all the afternoon and have shadowed her up here. Watch her, I tell too."

The woman in black approached a if swept by fire. Chicago, Philadelphi

a load under her loose-fitting cloak, but her peckets were bulging. "Leave her to me, George. I know her the visiting sleuth. "You stand here at the door."
George stood at the door for five min utes. Then he went out into the cold world and is still looking for:

1—The woman. 2—The other sleuth.

WHAT A "BLOCK" IS WORTH. According to figures printed by the Insurance Press, there are blocks in New York city in which \$25,000,000 worth of property would be-destroyed ounter on which was a display of lace handkerchiefs and, looking around cautously, slipped about haf a dozen of them under her cloak.

What'd I tell you, George? Pipe her, and the sleuth from the other store, as it the sleuth from the other store, as maded George in the ribs.

From the lace handkerchief counter.

In a table showing the rank of states sly, slipped about haf a dozen of a under her cloak.

What'd I tell you, George? Pipe her, the sleuth from the other store, as sudged George in the ribs.

Tom the lace handkerchief counter from the lace handkerchief counter werean in black visited the slik hose counter and then went to several at A at each she helped herself, gensity and dexterously. George, with ther sleuth, followed at a convenidistance. The woman, when she leaves the slipped herself, gensity leads with more than \$4,000,000,000.

THE LOTTERY OF A PLAY.

From the London Chronicle. "Charley's Aunt" was offered to several managers, but they uniformly declined it, and Mr. Thomas had in despair to seek the assistance of a city financier to seek the assistance of a city financier. This gentleman put about \$1,000 (\$5,000) mto the venture, an investment which has since yielded him no less than \$27,000 (\$185,000). For the author it has been equally productive. Royalties amounting to \$6,000 have sometimes accrued to him in one week. Since it was first produced in the most modest way at a theatre in Bury St. Edmunds in February, 1892, the comedy has never ceased being played on lawful days. It has now reached its one hundred and twenty-one thousand five hundred and tenth performance, a figure never be-