

## THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER  
Published every evening (except Sundays) and every Sunday morning at The Journal Building, 112, 114 and 116 South Street, Portland, Ore.  
Entered at the postoffice at Portland, Ore., for transmission through the mails as second-class matter.  
TELEPHONE—MAIN TIRE  
All departments reached by this number.  
FOREIGN ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE  
Vogelbein-Barnes Advertising Agency, 125 Nassau street, New York, Tribuna Building, Chicago.  
Subscription Terms by mail to any address in the United States, Canada or Mexico:  
DAILY  
One year.....\$2.00 One month.....\$ .35  
SUNDAY  
One year.....\$2.00 One month.....\$ .35  
DAILY AND SUNDAY  
One year.....\$4.50 One month.....\$ .85

Thou art wise, if thou beat off petty troubles nor suffer their sting to fret thee.—M. Tupper.

### GOOD LEADERS NEEDED.

NO LEGISLATURE of the state Oregon ever needed the right kind of leaders more than the legislature now in session. Not that the members as a whole are not up to the average of former legislatures. Probably they are; perhaps above the average. Not that as a rule they do not mean to do right and serve the people well. Most if not all of them do. But legislation is almost invariably enacted or prevented through the leadership, the dominating influence of the few, and this not usually in arguments on the floor but in quiet talks and suggestions in committee rooms, and in the lobby and other places.

In the nature of the genus homo, the majority are followers; the few furnish the ideas and the arguments. Some do not see results clearly; some are rather careless of results; few have any legislative initiative. The personal equation counts for much—often too much. In many cases a member gets a bill through which he or his clients or some friends or only a few people are interested, but which is a bad or, at least, an unnecessary law, just because he is a good, lively fellow; the rest like to oblige him, and they take his word for it without investigation or consideration, or even act against their judgment.

The follower ought to be more careful and conscientious than this. A law concerns half a million people; unless clearly a good one it ought not to be passed to please an agreeable, persuasive member, or a few people who have some personal interest in its passage. The leader should be even more careful and conscientious. His obligation to the people is great, his responsibility heavy. He is a bad, dangerous man if he does not act and speak with an eye single to the people's interests.

New times are upon us. Conditions are changing. New questions, or old questions with new and immensely larger import and consequence, have arisen. Measures of vast importance to the people are to be discussed, decided upon, and in some measure settled. This legislature has a greater work on its hands than any of its predecessors had. There is no time for trifling. It is least of any similar occasion the time for fooling with the people's affairs.

### A HINT OF AUTOCRACY.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS of the joint postal commission in regard to the regulation of the matter published in newspapers, particularly in Sunday newspapers, appear to contain official absurdities that would more properly emanate from a joint commission of lunatics from various asylums throughout the country. The excuse for the recommendations made is the annual deficit in the postal revenue, which is charged up to the carriage of second class mail matter, mostly newspapers, but not one person in 10,000 feels or cares anything about that comparatively trifling deficit, and if it were really desired to get rid of it all that would be necessary is to cut off the graft of railroads in carrying the mails.

There is not much danger that the absurd suggestions of this joint commission will be adopted, or any attempt made to put them into practice, but they are interesting and even important as indicating the rapid and alarming trend of the federal government toward autocracy.

Already it has been significantly and evidently with careful design announced that the general government should and must assume far larger powers, and that the state governments must sink into comparative insignificance. Already we have seen the president actively meddling and interfering in state politics, and dictating to political leaders and voters in New York, Pennsylvania, Idaho and Oklahoma. Already the presi-

dent in his last annual message has threatened to use the federal army to coerce the people of California to accept his view of a treaty obligation with reference to the schools of the state. And now, prompted, we may presume by the same high authority, this commission recommends that the federal government shall dictate to newspapers throughout the country what they shall publish, or not publish, to some extent, the size and weight of papers to be sent through the mails, and the kind or quality of paper to be used, and so on.

If the federal government can go this far, may it not in future go farther, and dictate to newspapers what news they shall publish and what they must repress, and what the scope and nature of editorial comments shall be? May we not have ere long, under the Rooseveltian program, newspaper censors in every city, authorized to inspect all newspapers and suppress such as they imagine would not suit his autocratic majesty at Washington. At first we should only be put on a level with German papers in these respects, and be allowed quite a considerable latitude of criticism, but as the dictator called a president became more arbitrary the country might be placed on a plane with Russia, where a paper dares publish nothing except what is pleasing to the autocracy.

We do not seriously represent that such is the present intent of these newspaper regulators, much less that the consequences mentioned would follow, for the very good reason that the people would not allow any such repression of a free press; but this attempt if successful would if unrestricted logically lead to these results, and it shows the nature of the policy of the present administration with respect to almost unlimited increase of federal powers.

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION.

A RECENT news article gave some additional details to those heretofore published in regard to experiments in municipal government through a commission, patterned after the Galveston plan. One of the cities trying this system is Brookline, Massachusetts, territorially a part of Boston, but which has resisted political annexation, desiring to govern itself by the commission method, which has grown up there rather naturally because similar to the old New England system of government through "selectmen." The Brookline form of government closely resembles that of Galveston, and it is claimed that its conspicuously efficient administration furnishes a striking and pleasing contrast to that of adjacent or surrounding Boston. In both the Galveston and Brookline cases, the commission system was adopted not to carry out a preconceived theory but to meet practical and pressing exigencies. They do not claim consideration as a logical embodiment of abstract principle, but as an effective, practical apparatus of good government of which results are the test. The objectors are now the theorists, saying that the scheme violates a fundamental principle of democratic government in that it combines the legislative and executive powers. For the same small set of men both to pass laws and execute them is un-American, it is said, and must result disastrously; but it is results that the people are after, and most of them are not greatly concerned about the form of means employed; and so far the Galveston and Brookline and Newport scheme seems to have brought about good results.

It seems to most people necessary to have a division of powers, one department being a check upon others, yet it is found by actual and sufficient experiments that seven or five or three men, vested with both legislative and executive powers, can govern a city better than many men, each clothed with a small fraction of power, the people will not care much about abstract theories of government. It was said in the Federalist: "The true test of a good government is its aptitude and tendency to produce a good administration." The plan, system, means or machinery by which this is accomplished, so long as the people retain the right freely to change it, and to change frequently, if desired the men entrusted with power, is immaterial, a mere matter of detail. Madison in the Federalist (pretty good Democratic authority), said that the principle of the separation of the powers "does not require that the legislative, executive and judiciary departments should be wholly unconnected with each other," and that "unless these departments be so far connected and blended as to give to each a constitutional control over the others, the degree of separation which the maxim requires, as essential to a free government, can never in practice be duly maintained."

While it has been clearly shown that Mr. Harriman assumed different names as toll collector from shippers of the coast, it has been indisputably proved that he was consistent in his policy of charging all the time all the traffic would bear.

If the temperature were 10 degrees colder, a couple of feet of snow on the ground, car service paralyzed and water mains frozen and the pipes burst, Portland would remind some of our visitors of a regular eastern city in midwinter.

The light, power and transportation companies that are complain-

We can find corroboration of this truth, and evidence of evil consequences of departure from it, right here now, where a city council is able to wield a pernicious or undesirable control over the administrative department. The trend has been in recent years to center more power in the mayor and give councils only formal and perfunctory duties, and Galveston and some other comparatively small towns have simply gone a little farther by combining the dual functions and vesting them in one small set of men, who, if they disagree among themselves cannot spend most of their time and efforts in trying to put another department "in a hole."

We do not say that this experiment will prove an unqualified success, or that it would work so well in large as in small cities, but the example of Galveston, that since the great tidal wave has accomplished wonders for a small city, is certainly worthy of careful study.

### INCREASED WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

A PAGE of the New York World was devoted recently to the increased cost of living as it affects all parts of the country. It was shown that while wage advances of last year, amounting in certain industries to over \$41,000,000, have done much to relieve workmen from the stress of high prices, wages as a whole have not increased as much as the cost of living.

This condition exists along with an unprecedented state of apparent prosperity, where the demand for efficient labor in all parts of the country far exceeds the supply. Prosperity among the laboring classes would be more real if they restricted purchases as they do when times are hard. Flush times prompt liberal if not extravagant buying. The more people have to buy with the more they want, and of better quality. As a meat packer puts it, "75 per cent of the demand is for 25 per cent of the steer." But if prosperity is real and permanent, why should not workmen have better things and more of them, and still be able to save a surplus? Certainly they could if they were getting their share.

Yet wage-earners, even if hoping for or expecting economic readjustments beneficial to them, should guard their expenditures and make the most of such opportunities as they have. The world says: "A general cost of living which is the highest known in 25 years is of serious import. It handicaps the wage-worker despite his fatter pay envelopes. It affects more seriously those many persons, widows, children and invalids, whose dependence is upon the income of trust funds, resources slender and not susceptible of increase for the emergency. It affects all salaried classes, whose incomes are practically stationary, whether fixed by law or custom.

What is to be the end? No period of prosperity ever approached permanency. If the cost of living pinches in a time of plenty, when nearly everybody is employed, how will it be when the lean years come?"

Yesterday's gathering of ice on overhead wires, as well as overhanging trees, was a literally weighty argument in favor of underground wires, and an argument that must have appealed forcibly to the telephone and light companies as well as to the public generally. In accordance with an ordinance, the wires will have to go underground and the sooner the work of putting them there is done the better for all concerned.

"The four normal schools will have to remain," says the Salem Statesman. It would be interesting to know all the details of the reasons why they must remain. "Will have to" is a strong phrase. Hasn't the legislature the power to reduce the number? Or hasn't it the courage? Or is it only that there are so many opinions that agreement is impossible? The people are entitled to some relief in the matter of these schools.

The statement that Bret Harte's daughter has been sent to a poorhouse in Maine must be untrue. It is unbelievable that the gentleman who made fortunes republishing the works of the distinguished father would permit his child to become a public charge.

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The light, power and transportation companies that are complain-

ing because the ice-laden trees are falling on and breaking their wires have the remedy in their own hands. They can put the wires underground, where they ought to be.

The postal commission was so intent on fixing up absurd regulations for newspapers that it couldn't see that big railroad graft in carrying the mails.

It is reported that Swettenham has resigned, and if England has any colony of barbarians or savages, there is the place to send him.

An extraordinary event shook congress out of its accustomed lethargy yesterday. No message was received from the president.

But whatever it finds out, the Texas legislature can't rescind its vote by which it elected Bailey senator.

It is just possible that this is called a "silver thaw" because it isn't anything of the sort.

The order of the day: "Please close the door."

## The Play

The dramatized version of Mrs. June McMillan's novel, "Oregon," as presented at the Baker last night was far more of a success than many of its friends anticipated. It is a plain and simple story of a plain and simple people by and with whom events that possess every element of stirring romance.

As a play it will probably not pass far beyond the jurisdiction of Oregon, but the dramatized version of "Oregon" presented at the Baker last night was far more of a success than many of its friends anticipated. It is a plain and simple story of a plain and simple people by and with whom events that possess every element of stirring romance.

The story deals with a family of emigrants of the early fifties, Oregon-bound. James Harvey, a Missourian, is bringing his family to the new country in a wagon, and the daughter of "Doc" Doublebarrow, a rugged pioneer, who had assisted the emigrant family. She had been kidnapped from him years before and the restoration is consequently a happy climax.

In the way of scenery the piece is perfect. It is descriptive of the great forests, of the crags and rocks along the Columbia and the route the emigrants traveled until they reached the present site of the city. The forest sunset scene is wonderfully realistic. William Grabach spent months in painting it and the result of his efforts is very pleasing.

The plot act is tedious and threatens weariness to the audience. There are so many details and so much conversation that it is rather dreary and has no special bearing on the story that has to have a few forebodings. However, after enduring a brief period of suspense as to whether it is really going to be worth while, one's fears are dispelled. The play is perceptibly enlivened and interest grows accordingly.

There were a few cases of memory-lapses on the part of the actors last night, a few awkward situations, and a few minor defects that are almost unavoidable to the initial performance of so elaborate a production, but altogether the piece is wonderfully well staged and played. The cast is large and the acting is uniformly good. Special mention is made of the performance of John M. Salpino, Mr. Salpino takes the part of Lee Linton, Alice Harvey's lover, and wins the admiration of the audience as the dancer and the lover. It is afforded an opportunity to display her ability in that rather difficult part. Miss Ethel Grey Terry does quite a good bit of acting as "Little Fawn," the Indian maiden.

Donald Bowles and Howard Russell are fun-makers for the occasion. They succeed in arousing considerable merriment and merriment of the front-row spectators. But the honors must be passed to James A. Gleason, who took the part of Sandy Gillespie. Mr. Harvey's hired man. He has an exquisite Scotch burr and brings out all there is to the part.

The other regulars of the Baker company did their parts to make the new piece a success, and succeeded in giving pleasing and interesting impressions. Arthur Mackler as Chief Sarceface was a typical Indian brave, though unfortunately he is required to talk so long on one occasion that he has become more of a bore than a chief. William Harria is highly satisfactory as Tom Doublebarrow, the good-natured pioneer who befriended the Harveys. Remarkably well tutored in acting were the "downer" or "shillies" who comprise the Harvey family.

There was a large audience at the initial production of "Oregon" last night. Despite unpropitious and disagreeable weather and partial suspension of car service the house was well filled. Next Oregonians predominated. The list of patrons included many of the most prominent families in the state. The play will be repeated tonight and tomorrow afternoon and night. Few Oregonians will fail to see it, and even fewer will be dissatisfied.

### Sell Your Mining Stock.

From Collier's.  
If you have bought mining stocks, sell them. Offer them back to the man who sold them. Offer them at the same price. Offer them at 10 per cent less. Offer them at 25 per cent less.

## Directivity

By Professor Edgar L. Larkin.  
"I have seen the word directivity in magazines of late. Please explain."—T. W. P. Springfield, Ill.

"What is the meaning of the new word directivity?"—A. W. El Paso, Tex.  
"Is the word directivity scientific?"—Please reply."—C. T. P. Honolulu, Hawaii.

"Is directivity based on scientific discovery?"—C. T. P. Mobile, Ala. And many others.

Directivity is one of the most impressive words ever written or spoken. Science is scarcely 200 years of age; and its higher branches, wherein the most accurate and careful researches are made are about 40 years "young," a few studies are five years "young," and some five months. In view of these facts I wish to be careful in this reply, for the subject is startling, indeed.

Directivity means this: That corpuscles of electrons, atoms and molecules, all matter, know what to do, when to go and when to stand unattainably mysterious and unknown inherent force impels them to separate and unite again.

These inconceivably minute bodies, small beyond any imagining, act as though something within told or forced them to act. That is, they go of their own accord, of their "own free will." The vast subject is profound beyond all computation.

The "beginning" of life is approached when we study electricity under the head of directivity, for the trend of science everywhere is along the electric way.

Professor O. Lehmann, in Stuttgart, Germany, has delivered a remarkable lecture before the German Congress of Physics. He has shown that there is no rigid barrier between crystals and the most elementary living animals. Animals have soft bodies containing liquids and everybody thought that crystals are solid.

But the professor made liquid crystals, and 29 varieties of these are now known. Some of the types look like vegetable forms, long known in ice, but now in milk.

Dr. Vorländer developed crystals that move incessantly, like animalcules in a drop of water. Two of these on contact unite like two drops of water.

Professor Gattermann has produced a liquid appearing in drops, but each has a crystal-like structure. Compress one of these crystal drops and it will resume its shape like any primitive organic being. These wonderful things go through with the process of generation like amoebae, and species of types may be "crossed" like living creatures, and they combine into strings or chains like living bacteria.

Thus science cannot now tell where inorganic existence ends and life begins. The latest out is: There is no barrier, but all life is actuated by intelligent forces, which two words may be consolidated into one—directivity.

Now, what mind is may never be discovered, or it may. The theory is advanced that these new crystal drops have a quantity of mind, whatever that is, as a living being of regular organic form of about the same microscopic dimensions.

The incessant discoveries in electricity are opening up the most wonderful corridors and lanes in nature—so amazing that the ablest men in the world are astonished and impressed with the complexity of all existing things.

The ancients, for centuries, asserted that all matter is alive. But they did not know one law of nature, so must have guessed; but we now know there are many as a hundred laws. And it would be strange indeed if accurate science should discover that this prehistoric and persistent assertion is true.

Do not say that comical corpuscles know what to do; but will say that they behave under the microscope, and in electro-chemical laboratories as though they do.

Passes for Public Officials.  
From the Walla Walla Enquirer.  
A member of the Oregon legislature has prepared a bill making it compulsory for all railroads of that state to issue free passes to all state and county officials for the railroads of that state. The author of this bill contends that the railroads are quasi-public corporations and owe a great deal to the state rights-of-way, the right of eminent domain and other privileges granted them. In return for this he contends that the issuing of free passes to public officials would be but small compensation. Moreover, every state and county official were entitled by virtue of his certificate of election to railroad transportation within the county or state, according to rank, official influence and the longer he purchased his passes the more he would be benefited.

It must be confessed that there is some merit in the proposition, and if the bill is made a law by the Oregon legislature, its operation will be watched with interest by the people of other states.

### January 29 in History.

1759—Henry Lee, American revolutionary officer, born. Died March 25, 1818.  
1820—King George III of England died.  
1847—Thomas Bonacum, Roman Catholic bishop of Lincoln, Nebraska, born.  
1858—Napoleon III married Eugenie de Montijo, Countess of Teba.  
1867—The Victoria Cross instituted.  
1867—President Johnson vetoed the bill to admit Nebraska.  
1898—John M. Clayton, prominent politician, assassinated in Arkansas.

1902—Andrew Carnegie gave \$10,000,000 to trustees of Carnegie Institution.  
1904—Thibet demanded the withdrawal of the English expedition.  
1905—Successful flight of airplane "California Arrow" at Los Angeles.

This will accomplish your own disillusionment and save you money, for you might have bought more. It will also effect exposure of the person who sold you the stock. Are you thinking of buying shares in Fidelity Trust or Hopwood Jump Along? Don't. And this "don't" is without qualification of any kind. To women chiefly, wives of husbands who are in the higher wage-earning class, this paragraph is commended. Not that it is itself folly, we ingenuously admit. They are the ones who know the value of savings, and they may be in time to save a foolish husband from an act of pecuniary folly. If you are tempted by the full-page advertisements published by the newspaper partners of mining swindlers, don't! If some acquaintance is urging you to buy shares, he either profits by the sale or is himself deceived.

## New York's Free Synagogue

From the New York World.  
The Rev. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, who was rabbi of Temple Beth Israel in Portland, Ore., has left his parsonage there and come to New York to establish a free synagogue for the rich, the poor, the Jew and non-Jew. In the accompanying article Dr. Wise explains the aims and purposes of this new synagogue.

By Rabbi Stephen S. Wise.  
The founding of the free synagogue signifies such loyalty to the synagogue as many of us would be loathe to lose the high place singled out for it by the compelling destiny of the God-chosen people of Israel.  
Ours is a world that needs a shrine to justify its name. It will be free to all, poor and rich, its message alike for the non-Jew and the Jew. The support of the free synagogue is not to be a burden imposed through various methods of taxation and assessment, but a privilege to be assumed and shared by those who believe, as I believe, that in order to command the allegiance of the world, the message of Israel needs to be bravely spoken—not honestly heard; that in order to give back to the Jew the place of primacy in the moral world, the message of Israel needs to be lived.  
The free synagogue will not be away out of Judaism, but a way unto and forward with Judaism, out of the Judaism, forsooth, that never was, until the Jewish people had made a century of steps, but is a never-ending process, a never-ceasing development.

Development means going and growing, not standing still, not being dangerous, but to stagnate is to die," says an interpreter of Tolstol. Putting it rather differently with Tennyson, "Stagnation is even more dangerous than death." The rudder will in the end be ruled by the rock.  
The free synagogue will be the embodiment of our common conviction that the future lies not in the past; that the Jewish reform movement was neither an unwitting blunder nor yet wilful treason, but was and is a wholly consistent and loyal manifestation of the permanent self-renewing and vitalizing spirit of Israel. The free synagogue is not so much to abandon the letter as it is to emphasize the spirit; not so much to minimize the law, but to emphasize the law's essentials; not so much to surrender the passing and the perishable as to rest upon the rock of the imperishable.

The future of Israel in America is likely to be a struggle between the future of Israel the world over. Here the Jew is of right, and not by courtesy nor on sufferance. Here of right and of duty alike he will remain free to work out his lofty destiny and by reason of his message a doubly important factor in the conglomerate of peoples which make up the American democracy.

As one surveys conditions throughout the land and views the thousands repelled and alienated by the failure of the synagogue rightly to interpret the thought of Israel; the tens of thousands who are being drifted by the tide of time, the central mass of the Jewish brotherhood; the millions in the land who have not any understanding of the vital teachings of the synagogue for our age, one is moved to exclaim with him of old, "Is there not a cause?" There is a cause, and to the furtherance of that cause the free synagogue will be dedicated.

### What Is Left of Republicanism?

From Salem Journal.  
A party organ undertakes to roast the Capital Journal as not being a good republican paper because it calls on the independent and reform forces to stand for results in the right direction rather than for the party leadership.

When the republican party of Oregon has taken and enacted every main feature of populism except flat money, what is there to howl about anyway?

When President Roosevelt has adopted every main plank of Mr. Bryan's platform except government ownership, why "holler your head off" about the demands that reforms be recognized in this legislature?

When the gold standard party has deliberately taken up and put into office every one of the free silver leaders, what right has any of the machine party to cry about the demands that reforms be recognized in this legislature?

When Mr. Bryan in every speech eulogizes President Roosevelt for carrying out the program of democracy, what is wrong if he is right about the name of the party? The people want results any way they can get 'em.

The present legislature has made a number of efforts to adopt reform programs. The republican party council has enacted one after another of the demands of the prohibitionists.

It is no longer possible to read the riot act to a newspaper or to a public man because he accomplishes results that would be better than the platitudes of the reform parties.

The republican party in Oregon has badly needed to get some traits of reform and some elements of character into its ranks. It has had to acquire enough of the bad reputation style of leadership.

The people of Oregon have rebuked this rotten leadership by twice electing a Democratic government, and are fully for the machine to cry out to the independents and reformers should get out of the party.

The only excuse for the existence of the republican party in this state is the kind a convent organization for the people to act through.

They know that they will get very few reforms that are not started from the politicians and office-holders at the top of the bayonet, and so far as this paper is concerned it will hammer away at reforms and get them in any old way, so long as they are enacted.

### Prince Luigi's Birth.

Prince Luigi Amedeo of Savoy, Duke of Aosta, who has announced his intention to take another voyage of exploration to the arctic regions this summer, was born in Madrid, January 29, 1878. He is the third son of the Duke of Aosta and first cousin to the king of Italy. During the past eight or ten years he has fitted up numerous expeditions at his own expense and penetrated into the remotest parts of the world. In 1890 he succeeded in getting near the north pole than had ever been done before. Last year he directed an expedition which penetrated Central Africa and accomplished the ascent of Mount Ruwenzori, between Albert Nyanza and Albert Edward Nyanza. His estimated height of which is about 15,000 feet. In 1897 the duke came to America and made the ascent of Mount St. Elias and also of Logan's peak. The duke is an ardent lover of Italian navy and a proficient engineer.

## Small Change

It will thaw all the weak in New York.  
High losses in usually opposed by low tactics.  
Note for temperance advocates: See what Jamaica rum did.  
Some important matters ought to be given to shape up this week at Salem.  
The tree-trimming done Monday cannot be called artistic, even if nature did it.  
The street car wires and rails were on somewhat of a strike yesterday morning.  
It was to be expected that Colonel Doach would be in favor of an exhibit at Jamestown.  
The majority of people think they wouldn't worry about the income tax if they only had an income.  
Not everybody is so fortunate as to live in New York—N. Y. World. No, lots of people are in penitentiaries.  
"All great Oregonians get their start in Salem," says a paper of that town. A good many Oregonians get their finish there.  
There will be a great demand for money, is the head of a leading editorial in the Salem Journal. We don't doubt it a bit.  
Perhaps a German paper sited up Governor Swettenham about right when it said he was "ein aussergewöhnlicher handschrübisch."  
Senator Bourne will have a seat in the rear of the chamber on the Democratic side. This will not be so very inappropriate, as he has manifested Democratic leanings on some occasions.  
Senator Ankeny has introduced a bill in congress for the relief of Benjamin Holladay to the extent of \$252,175, on account of services in carrying mails and for mail lost about half a century ago. There may be some Holladay heirs who would like the money, but as to Ben, who was the big gun in Oregon two scores years ago, he either needs no relief, or else an appropriation would not afford him any.

The buffalo and the bull that were caused to fight at El Paso Sunday manifested more good sense than the audience did. When the bull had enough he quit, and the buffalo, like a decent sort of fellow, refused to punish his honorable antagonist any more, but the crowd, less than half a century ago, were less disappointed. The four-footed animals are entitled to admiration and respect, the alphas only to the contempt of humans people.

### Oregon Sidelights

Coquille women have a progressive club.  
The Baker City High school has 110 pupils.  
Both shipyards on the lower Coquille are active.  
Monmouth can now boast of good sidewalks.  
Loring is living up in anticipation of a railroad.  
Several Airtide boys chased a coyote all night and didn't get him.  
Some Dallas young men, after an all-day chase, killed a gray fox; also four coons.

Many lots are being sold in the town of Prosper on the bay, and it thinks it is sure to prosper.  
Steelheads continue to pour into the cold storage by the hundreds daily, says the Gold Beach Gazette.  
Ashland and Medford papers are both claiming the new coal mines as within their respective territory.

There are only two real cities in Oregon, Portland and Pendleton, says the East Oregonian, because no other one has paved streets.

Contradicting a recent report the Gold Beach Globe says: "Curry has a nicely furnished house in Astoria and a comfortable place to hold regular meetings there, besides several Sunday schools and religious classes of different sects, and also one resident minister who holds services in different localities in the county."

Milton Eagle: The scarcity of fuel will be the cause of many old relics of pioneer days being removed and lost to posterity. We refer to the old rail fences that have been doing duty for the last 25 or 30 years. Many farmers are taking advantage of the high price of fuel to sell their rail fences for wood and replace their fences with barb wire.

Two councilmen of La Grande, says an eastern Oregon exchange, are under indictment for an infringement of the county laws. The mayor was arrested a few days ago for violating the quarantine ordinance and the marshal has just been acquitted of a charge of using profane language while arresting a man for using profane language. Otherwise La Grande is quiet.

### Clock Regulates Street Lights.

Consult Albert Halstead of Birmingham reports that an automatic gas controller has been patented in England which may materially lessen the cost of public lighting in the municipalities of the United States if in practical operation it fulfills the claims of its owners.  
The controller is said to be adaptable to any type of incandescent burner to fit any lamp, and to be instantaneous in its lighting and extinguishing. The mechanism consists of a clock which can be so set as to light the gas each night at a distinguishable hour, or by means of a chart, the street lights are turned on and off, lighted and extinguished, at a different moment each day throughout the year, according to the season. The gas is turned on and off in the ordinary way, quite independently of the gas controller.

These controllers are on trial at Bath, and give satisfactory results. In the city of Birmingham proper there are 13,800 street lights, and in the district outside, which is supplied by the municipal gas department of Birmingham, there are 1,018 street lights, their caretaking costing \$102,452 per annum. To equip these street lights with this gas controller would involve an expenditure of \$183,051. The cost of operation is claimed, would be just one-half.