EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

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When young we trust ourselves too much, and when we are old we trust others too little.—Colton.

THE VEHICLE TAX DECISION

IT WAS important that the controverted issue in the vehicle ordinance case should have been settled in the court of last resort. It is one step more in establishing definitely the status of direct legislation. It is confirmative of every decision that has gone before in sustaining the principle as a part of our organic law. If it has made some confusion in Portland municipal affairs it is merely a confusion that time and intelligence will clear away. It is opportune in that it fixes models along which the charter commission must fashion. The people of Portland have a right of veto and except in instances of emergency, before an ordinance can become effective, 30 days' time must be given them for exercise of that right. It is a right guaranteed both by vote of the electorate and pronouncement of the court. It has to be reckoned with as a factor in our local government, just as the same principle has to be reckoned with in the larger field of state life. Repeated decisions have made it a part of our jurisprudence, and about all that remains is to clarify the atmosphere by an intelligent application of the power. For this end conservatism and wisdom should prevail. Unless there be material and very patent reason for resort to the referendum, it should not be done. Before any man signs a petition he should be thoroughly convinced of the necessity of it. By such a course he will be a real friend of the principle. The present decision, secured by Attorneys Watrous and Freeman, confirms the contention of Governor Chamberlain in a famous message to the legislature at the session of 1903, in which he contended that the emergency clause should not be affixed to bills other than those of emergency character and affecting the public health or public safety. His contention was that the right of veto is vested in the electorate, and that sufficient time must be given for exercise of that right before the measure becomes effective. The new decision is fully confirmative of the position then taken by the state's executive.

THE FARMER'S WIFE

ONE OF the most interesting hearings before the Country Life Commission in this city dealt with the farm home. Is that home in Oregon as good as it ought to be, was the query on which the commission based its inquiry. The consensus of reply was that there are a few good homes, but that the many lack in sanitation, lack in comforts, lack in conveniences, lack in many of the things that make for human uplift. The startling statement was made that at one time most of the women patients in the Oregon insane asylum came from the farm and that the strenuous life of the farm housewife is the cause. Water carried from distances for household use, homes and schoolhouses without sanitary toilets were testified to as conditions that hamper life and health in the country homes of the state. What shall the commission recommend to the president as a means for correcting these unfavorable conditions? was asked, and to this query there were many suggestions.

One of the most rational recommendations was by President Kerr of the Oregon Agricultural college. A prime factor for uplift, he urged, is a proper educative effort. The importance of sanitation, the means of saving or restoring soil fertility, the esthetics of the home, the essentials of domestic science, the messages of the tree, the soil, the flower and the growing plant for human life—the story of these should be carried into the remotest homes of the state. This character of education should be given in the public schools and the teachers should be trained to give it with intelligent and illuminative effect. If the child once learns the true relation between itself and the various phases of nature, it will see beauties in the country that it could never otherwise see, and by that vision become wedded to the soil. As further agencies for carrying this instructive process to the farm, President Kerr urged extension work in publications from the colleges and instruction carried into the rural districts by traveling schools of agriculture and domestic science. For these purposes more money, he suggested to the commission, should be appropriated by the federal government. He maintained that as soon as the farmer's income is increased he will at once begin to add to the conveniences and comforts of his home. The reason he has not done so more liberally in the past is because the surplus money has not been available. The first beneficiary in this improved condition will be the farmer's wife, the patient, sacrificing woman who bears heavily the burdens of maintaining the republic.

It means something in this country that thousands of farms along the Atlantic coast have been abandoned. That abandonment is not without a cause. The soil is the first factor in sustaining life. It is the premier factor in creating wealth. The country is the ideal home for man. It is the inspiration of the philosopher and the dream of the poet. It is the sweetest path in all the walks of life. The flowers, the birds, the greensward of the valley, the forest, the stream, the lowing herds are the fairest of all settings for human existence. Why, then, is there a story of the desertion of the soil? Why is it but for the lack of economic and social adjustment, whereby the farmer and the farmer's wife do not get a square deal? Why else is this exodus of youth and brains from the country to city?

EQUALITY IMPOSSIBLE

THE NEGRO problem will long if not perpetually be a subject of discussion and of some friction. It may never be entirely settled and dismissed from the public mind as the source of some worriment. Yet The Journal does not share the apprehension of some that out of the race question will grow a race conflict, or negro extermination, or any other very great trouble; on the contrary, we believe that time and patience and more liberal and enlightened thought will gradually render the situation less acute and troublesome.

President Roosevelt recently made a fine, characteristic appeal for justice for the negro and for the treatment of him as an equal, not a social equal, but as a citizen entitled to equal rights and opportunities. On the surface this sounds very well, but it will not well bear close analysis. The Republican platform declared for the strict enforcement of the three amendments to the constitution adopted after the civil war, but this was a specimen of party insincerity, for the leaders of that party have no intention of interfering with the disfranchisement amendments to several southern state constitutions, nor of enforcing equal political rights. It would be unwise to do so, and there was no occasion to put forward this false pretense, except thereby to gain or hold negro votes in the northern states. There is and can be no political equality in the south, nor is there nor can there be social equality anywhere, between the races. The president acknowledges this, and approves of it, yet he urges equality of opportunity in industrial life, which inequality in the other respects renders impossible. The Brooklyn Eagle clearly points out the inconsistency of the president's well intended plea, in part, as follows:

> In the one and same breath he concedes social inequality and clamors for equality of opportunity, assuming one to be compatible with the other. If it be opportunity to earn a living and if white workmen combine for the exclusion of the black, which they do, they assert their social superiority, their race supremacy, to what may be called the business detriment of the black. To that extent they restrict his opportunities to earn a living. In hundreds, not to say thousands, of other ways, social inequality signifies that the black will be handicapped in the struggle for existence, the trouble with the President being that he takes a merely sympathetic view of the case, which means that he does not see it as a whole.

Nor is legal equality compatible with social and political inequality. As the Eagle further says: "Inequality does not begin at one point and end at another. It runs from top to bottom. If it can be said to begin anywhere, it begins everywhere. If it can be said to end anywhere, it ends everywhere. Concede that equality is not social and the whole case is admitted—the handicaps run all along the line. It is drawn if a tea, pink or otherwise, be on the tapis; it is drawn at the door of the factory, and, in final analysis, it is drawn by those who wear the ermine, by those who have seats upon the bench in the court where the organic law finds interpretation."

The president pointed out the success of the extensive settlement of Bayou Mound in Mississippi, where on ground that was a desert 20 years ago there are factories, mills, banks, schools, churches, everything to constitute a prosperous and progressive community, and yet there is not a white man there nor thereabouts. This instance controverts rather than sustains the president's assumption that legal and industrial equality is compatible with social inequality. The entire absence of the white race explains the negroes' success; they have no frictional contiguity with white men to contend against.

But while equality anywhere along the scale is impossible, this very fact should prompt the white race to liberal, encouraging and industrially to fraternal treatment of the negro. He is in this country and to stay. As the weaker race and one long handicapped through the white man's fault and not his own, he ought to be given every possible chance to maintain and improve himself in the industrial world. In a former age the law of life and the rule of society were that the weaker must go to the wall, must be overrun and downtrodden, but the modern idea is that they should rather be encouraged, aided and guided by the stronger. It is in this spirit that the whites should treat the blacks. And while equality is an impossibility, at least in the south, there may and should be a gradual approximation to it, or as near an approach to it as possible, in the respects mentioned in the president's address.

PROLONGING HUMAN LIFE

PROF. METCHNIKOFF, the Russian scientist who recently won a Nobel prize of $19,000, has announced that he will use it to carry on investigations and experiments in which he was already engaged with a view to the prolongation of human life. While other scientists have been busy discovering and studying bacilli that cause disorder and disease in the human body, Prof. Metchnikoff has devoted himself rather to the study of the good bacilli, those that war upon the bad ones, and that make for health and longevity—for scientists generally agree that bacilli that infest the human organs are of these two opposite kinds. His endeavor therefore is to recruit, strengthen and marshal in fighting order the armies of bacilli that fight for man's physical wellbeing against those that seek to weaken, corrupt and destroy the body. In the physical as well as in the moral world it seems that there are those two opposite and constantly contending forces, and it is as much the work of the scientist to protect, aid and recruit the one as to oppose and destroy the other. This is this Russian scientist's chief thought and life work, and the world may be greatly benefited by his use of this little fund that has been worthily bestowed upon him.

Metchnikoff is an enthusiast, and may be deluded to some extent, as enthusiasts and specialists are prone to be. He has been called "a Ponce de Leon of science, seeking the fountain of youth in sour milk." He says that "the war of the intestines is a more dramatic conflict than the imaginary battles waged in pages of fiction by the inhabitants of Mars." He believes he can help mankind to live much longer and be healthier, and there is nothing unreasonable in the belief that this may be done whether this man's theories are entirely right or not. It is quite generally agreed that human life can be greatly prolonged by simple and natural means. The trouble is that mankind is prone to give aid in all sorts of foolish and thoughtless ways to the mischievous and murderous bacilli, and to snub and starve and outrage those that strive to be mankind's friends and preservers.

AN EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

A RAPIDLY GROWING city like Portland needs many things, all of which it cannot get at once. Some must wait and selection must be made of those most urgently needed. Among the latter is an emergency hospital. Its need has been generally recognized for years and talk of providing one has been indulged in from month to month and from year to year, but nothing has been done. It is time to quit talking and act.

The council will soon give its attention to the needs of the city for the ensuing year, and will make the division of the available funds and the levy for the maintenance of the city government. In doing so this matter ought not to be overlooked. It is fairly shameful that a city of Portland's size has no emergency hospital. The need of one is exemplified almost daily. Occasionally a death occurs because of the lack of such an institution. It need not, we imagine, be a very elaborate and expensive affair, yet should be something sufficient for some years to come.

Now when the attention of the people of Portland is being especially directed toward the efforts a worthy organization is making to cure or help victims of tuberculosis and to prevent the ravages of that disease, is an opportune time for them to urge upon the authorities the necessity of an emergency hospital. Portland ought not to pass another year without one, and it will be as easy to provide one next year as at any future time.

The Haytien revolutionists appear to have overthrown the government and deposed the old president or dictator, Nord Alexis, a fate which from the scanty news received from that unstable tropical island he seems to have well deserved. But there is slight probability that the new government will be any better, or will long escape a similar end. The people down there are chronic political malcontents, and one government is as good as another, and no government as good as any.

An effort has been made to argue that on the score of morality and as an exhibition of moral courage Statement No. 1 members of the legislature ought to break their pledges to the people. This beats the devil quoting Scripture.

Harriman lately acquired control of another big railroad, and now has obtained control of the Hawaiian-American Steamship company. If that man could live long enough he might control the transportation of the whole world.

It seems to be a fairly reasonable proposition that a man who will commit a deliberate, malicious murder may possibly lie in order to try to save his neck from the noose.

In addition to self-defense and insanity, perhaps Finch's attorneys will set up the defense of a divine command that supersedes the criminal law.

Letters From the People

Letters to The Journal should be written on one side of the paper only, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. The name will not be used if the writer asks that it be withheld. The Journal is not to be understood as indorsing the views or statements of correspondents. Letters should be made as brief as possible. Those who wish their letters returned when not used should inclose postage.

Correspondents are notified that letters exceeding 300 words in length may, at the discretion of the editor, be cut down to that limit.

The Panama Canal.

Oregon City, Dec. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal—Will you kindly tell through The Journal at what place in the Isthmus of Panama will the canal go through? Was there talk a few years ago of changing it from the old proposed route, to Nicaragua, and if so, what was the reason for the change? Please let us know through The Journal and oblige. WILLIAM HARTNELL.

[The canal crosses the Isthmus near its northern extremity, from Colon on the Atlantic to Panama on the Pacific side. There was much talk for many years of constructing the canal across Nicaragua, via the large lake of that name, and by many that was considered the best route, but Panama was finally selected by congress, probably through the influence of promoters, who desired the United States to pay a large sum to the French canal company, and of opponents of any canal who if the construction of one could not be prevented, desired that route selected which would be least objectionable to the railroads. Another reason was the vacillation or obstinacy of Nicaragua in coming to terms, while Panama, encouraged and backed by our government, was glad to secede from Colombia and become independent, or rather an appanage of the United States.]

Hitchings Denies Complicity.

Portland, Dec. 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—Much comment has been made in the three previous issues of your paper concerning the sad and unfortunate ending of the life of Mr. R. B. Fisher. I notice the name of J. F. Logan quoted as saying that Mr. Fisher was positive that Hitchings had sent him anonymous letters and telephones. I refuse to believe that Mr. Fisher ever told him any such thing, as he had no reason to base such a conclusion upon, unless Logan distilled it into his mind. It appears from another local paper of the same date, November 30, in an interview with Logan that Mr. Fisher would like to know who sent this letter. this letter.

I called at the office of the district attorney December 1 and asked to see the letters in question. I found but one little note, evidently from some one who desired to do Mr. Fisher a favor by warning him to look out for some supposed enemy who intended doing him some injury, and this writer, fearing to disclose his name or the enemy may do him harm, signed "Physician." I fail to see wherein this little note did any one an injury. If every word in it is true the writer is guilty of no crime not even a wrong by sending it, but only did his duty. Only a deranged mind would harbor such delusions of conspirators sending notice to the victim, then commit the crime in broad daylight in the presence of everybody. No one but a traducer of the good name of his neighbor would attempt to frail my name into this dirty mess.

According to the reports of the press, Logan claims the credit of having Mr. Fisher appointed to prosecute the Finch case. In turn Logan is appointed to referee a disbarment proceeding and is often in company with the deceased, and it turns out that poor Mr. Fisher is innocently led into a dangerous place and lost his life, hence to shift the responsibility Hitchings is suggested as the possible writer of a single innocent note. This is a deliberate, malicious lie. If I had sent this or any note or telephone message I have the manhood to come out and say so, as it injured no one, but I know nothing whatever concerning any notes nor telephones to the late Mr. Fisher.

J. H. HITCHINGS.

Wholesale Bribery in Oregon.

Portland, Dec. 4.—To the Editor of The Journal—As much is being said about the senatorial question in Oregon, will you kindly give space in The Journal for the views of an independent voter, one who voted for the Statement No. 1 men elected in Multnomah county, who also voted for Jonathan Bourne at the preceding election, not because they were Republicans, but because they stood for a principle; and I voted for Chamberlain last June, not because he was a Democrat, but because he stood for the same principle of government by the people. Chamberlain was the choice of the voters of this state, not because he is a Democrat (whatever that may be), but notwithstanding he was handicapped by this fact.

First, a word or two in regard to the childish plea that is being urged by some weakminded partisans that the selection of Chamberlain by the voters is contrary to the United States constitution. Exactly the same principle is involved here as is found in the election of the president by the presidential electors; the constitution says that:

"Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, etc."

It then provides for the election of the president by the electors, and the framers of the constitution intended that the electors should be free of any previous pledge in the selection of a man capable of filling the office of president. At first the electors were chosen by the legislature of each state. Commenting upon the change from this method to the one of choosing the electors by popular vote, Townsend in 1868, said: "Thus the sense of the people operates in the choice of the chief magistrate with much more certainty than it would were the choice of electors confined to a preexisting body." The same is true as to the election of United States senators.

The demand of the voters in Oregon that a candidate for the legislature should pledge himself to vote for the people's choice for United States senator, is no more unconstitutional than was the election of electors last November who were to vote for Taft or Bryan as the case might be. And yet if one of the Taft electors were to vote for Bryan, these same "antis" here in Oregon would be the first to charge that he had been bought; and so if any Statement No. 1 man flops, he will never be able to convince any honest man, even among his friends, that he was not paid to do it. And if he does not take the pay, he only proves himself a fool as well as a knave, for it will always be believed that he took it, anyhow.

Who are the leaders, anyhow, in this movement to defeat the popular vote of the entire state? They are the members of the old political machine that so long dominated Oregon politics—mainly Republicans, of course, but among them are some Democrats who under the old regime were rewarded for their support of one or the other factions of the Republican party.

INDEPENDENT VOTER.

Favors Carrying Guns.

Portland, Dec. 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—I notice a letter from Frank Croner in yesterday's issue, regarding gun packing and will say that he is the only one of the many who have taken up this subject that has mentioned the finish of the holdup man, the burglar and bad men in general. If every reputable citizen had a good old Colt handy and let the daylight through any one who attempted to hold him up, it wouldn't be long until highway robbery would become very unfashionable, but as long as every thug knows that 99 men out of every 100 are unarmed through fear of a $50 fine, what's the use?

F. L. SCHOTT.

In Accord With Mr. Croner.

Portland, Dec. 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—I notice in this evening's Journal one of the best letters I have ever read in your paper. Same was headed, "Comments on Gun Carrying," and was written by Frank Croner, Beaverton, Or.

While there is so much robbery and holdups and so few of such gentry being caught and given their just deserts, I should think that all reputable citizens should be urged to carry a gun and use same when occasion demanded, instead of being fined $50 for carrying one. If I am not mistaken, it was only a few years ago when the holdup season was on, that the authorities and papers rather encouraged all reputable citizens to go armed. As I have stated before in your paper, when the holdup men and thugs are put out of business then there will be no use in going armed (dead beats are in my opinion worse than either of the above and should also be put out of business), until such time I believe all reputable citizens should be prepared in cases of emergency.

The sale of firearms (especially revolvers) should be restricted, so that every Tom, Dick and Harry could not procure them, as is now the case, but there are few (I believe) who think that the fining of any reputable citizen for carrying a gun, will prevent much of the crime that is now going on.

L. S. WRIGHT.

Sensible Publicity.

From Public Service.

President Josselyn of the Portland, Or., Railway, Light & Power company, displayed good judgment in announcing that the company would spend more than $2,000,000 on improvements and extensions, practically as soon as the plans were adopted by the board of directors. The announcement gave Mr. Josselyn the opportunity to discuss traction matters in the Portland newspapers at considerable length and to let the community understand that the company meant and wished to do well by it. Not only was the bare fact of the proposed expenditure given to the reporters, but much of the general plans were imparted, and President Josselyn took occasion to express the faith of the directors in Portland, notwithstanding the machinations of petty politicians. He also discussed traction lines and improvements in the east, pay-as-you-enter cars, fender tests and other innovations.

Too many public service managers have been too secretive in the past about things of interest to the people, and to which general knowledge would have done no harm. President Josselyn is one of the hundreds who are breaking away from the old and mistaken policies of secrecy about matters that should be open to all.

Purely a Moral Question.

From the Canyon City Eagle.

The Oregonian's arraignment of Statement No. 1 is apparently based upon the assumption that all men are liars. It assumes that men can pursue any conduct, consistent with integrity, so long as it does not conflict with expediency or their own advantage. It would argue that the administration of the government under the Republican party depends upon the members of the legislature repudiating their pledges. Like a moral pervert, it reasons for the justification of a moral crime. This holy political roller is entitled to the sanctimonious post of presiding elder of Roosevelt's Ananias club, for inasmuch as it admonishes men to break their word and pledge, it is a logical deduction that they can have no regard for their own veracity. A liar is contemptible; but a man who procures and induces others to lie is a moral pervert, and he lacks entirely that moral nature that differentiates man from brute creation. As a matter of fact, Statement No. 1 is not a political question at all. Where applied it is simply a question of a man's integrity. If a man is a liar, he will go back on his pledge as the Oregonian advises, and if on the other hand he meant what he said, when he made a free and voluntary pledge, he will keep his word in spite of the Oregonian.

The Corvallis Times is publishing a series of articles entitled, "The Editor Has Fits." He is trying to wake up the people to invest money in means of development.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Cows.

Milk.

Cream.

Butter.

Dairies.

More of 'em.

These products are hgh.

The business is profitable.

Oregon imports lots of these products.

It is one of the best dairy states in the Union.

This condition of affairs ought to be changed.

The present condition is not creditable to the people of Oregon.

But they are doing better, and prospects for greater progress are encouraging.

It will be a merrier Christmas than it was last year.

Put a Red Cross stamp on every letter and package.

Those who have already bought 'em have saved themselves much wear and tear.

It is expected that Roosevelt's last message will be a bully, corking document.

Too stringent laws to enforce morality provoke reaction and result in lawlessness.

The bigger and stouter the infant industry has grown, the more protection it demands, and gets.

Jakey Riis says he was a b-a-d boy; perhaps stole a spoonful of jam or played marbles for keeps.

The ordinary law respecting citizen has no use for a gun; others should not be permitted to carry one.

Perhaps after awhile a mere alleged spell of absent-mindedness will be urged as a sufficient excuse for murder.

People of Portland generally should indorse and uphold any effective movement to insure the sale of pure milk only.

By strategic economy of time, the college students may be able to learn and recite a few lessons between now and Christmas.

Apparently Mr. Carnegie is determined to die in disgrace—if he said some years ago it is disgraceful for a man to die rich.

Oregon is importing large quantities of high-priced storage butter, showing the need of more dairy cows and dairymen. But this is an old story.

Saintly men like Rockefeller and Archbold cannot be expected to remember everything about business that an opposing lawyer wants to know.

Don't expect any Christmas present from poor Kate Gould; rather send her a thousand or two; the poor creature has to struggle along on only $25,000 a year.

Roosevelt has ordered four pairs of specially made hunting boots for his African trip, but he may break them in a little this winter by kicking some undesirables.

A Michigan man has been sent to jail for 30 days for swindling the government out of 2 cents. Perhaps when J. D. R. hears of this, he will figure on this sum in proportion: As 2 cents is to $29,400,000, so is 30 days to the answer.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS.

Eugene may have a new four story hotel.

Several new residences are being built in Milton.

Milton needs a good new hotel, says the Eagle.

A merry milkmaid's opera is to be given in Milton.

Several Cecil, Morrow county, wells have gone prohibition.

Signs point to the rapid growth of Brownsville, says the Times.

Sandlake correspondence of Tillamook Herald: Many new residences, nine new families, three cheese factories and new campers' resort on island.

La Grande is being electrically lighted, and its factory motors are being operated by electricity that surges through 90 miles of conveying wires.

The Corvallis Times claims that 175 houses were erected there from January 1 to November 1, and that there will be 200 for the year, and 3500 population.

A Josephine county little girl was shot in the head by her little brother with a not very little rifle, which is such a nice thing for little children to play with.

Due principally to the activity of the women of that city, La Grande is going to have a natural park on the river with a boating pond, a swimming pool and all that goes to make a beautiful summer resting place.

A Tillamook man bought a separator for $1.50, and left it with a second hand man for sale. A few days later a Tillamooker brought in some brass and sold it to him for $4. He got to looking at the brass later and thought: "Why, this looks as if it came from my separator," and so it did.

Corvallis Times: Some day, and that time is not as far distant as some Oregonians think, the fine fruit lands in Benton county will be producing fine fruit. Land as good as the best in famed apple sections sells here now for from $35 to $75 per acre. That land set to fruit trees, and these properly tended, will be worth from $300 to $1200 per acre.

Moro Observer: Jack, the minister's dog, was put to use as a messenger Wednesday to bring in the delinquents at the Dorcas society. A note was pinned to his collar, and he was told where to go and he didn't stand on the order of his going, and the note was effective.

"Ay tank ay ban drinkin' leetle, not mooch. I kom har yasterda an gat wurk with man. He ban pooty goot faller an' say, 'kom gat dreenk' an' ay went in an' dreenk one, two, maybe tree times, not mooch; yusta leetle. Yust now ay fin' mysen in yail. Ay cannot see why ay ban har," said Jan Carlson in police court at The Dalles. But he had to pay all the same.

"I never saw a prettier place nor a more beautiful valley than that of the Rogue river," said Opie Read, the famous humorist, author and writer, after a three days' stay in Medford. "The climate seems as near perfection as can be made. Apparently all that anyone could ask for to make life enjoyable has been showered on the country by nature."

Quite a bit of excitement was caused in Gold Hill during the past week upon the announcement that an eastern company was in Sams valley securing options and bonds upon all available land for the purpose of drilling for oil, says the News. It has long been known that the land in the valley bears good traces of oil, but nothing has ever been done towards developing it. The announcement has been given out that two drilling machines are now on the way from the east and that just as soon as enough land can be secured to warrant them going ahead with the work, extensive operations will be commenced.

Running Shots

Written for The Journal by Fred C. Denton.

Haiti is always running with the blood of heroes and revolutionists. The French and negro mixtures there seem to have developed a love of heroics to a most liberal degree.

Cuba must be gobbled even if a revolution has to be manufactured in New York twice a year. Should Cuba give any evidence of being able to govern itself with half the grafting of New York or less bloodshed than in Tennessee, then shall the American flag be run up to stay. The American grafters' united syndicates need Cuba in their business.

If the German emperor only had a few Hindu or African subjects to go gunning for, how the poor devils would howl! As it is, he can only take his wrath out on the palace flunkies. An emperor who cannot cuss the English without permission of a chancellor! What is glory and power, anyhow?

What a glorious old fraud is our great American tariff. The denizens of the baldheaded eagle country do love to be humbugged. Any three card monte man who could not size up the game should read the reports of the tariff investigation committee. The American hayseeds enjoy being skinned and the confidence men in charge do so enjoy the work.

Agriculturists of Oregon spend great sums of money for powder with which to blow out stumps. They ultimately spend in labor and means sometimes as high as $175 an acre to clear land, and when the assessor values their land at $75 an acre while the stumps of the speculator are valued at $10 the speculator is satisfied and the farmer seems to call for more.

In some localities inhabitants of small towns seem to be unable to pull together long enough to fill up a mudhole. In one locality not very far from Portland the material for half a mile of sidewalk through a muddy lane is offered for nothing by a mill where it is burned to get rid of it, yet the 50 or more people who wade, flounder and slip up and down that lane every day have not so far been able to get together sufficiently to lay the free plank. This has been going on for some years.

The hardships endured by pioneers in Oregon have been very great, but never were what they are and have been in states and territories further east.

Our honored legislators are busy deciding how to divide the pie. For legislation we may have to depend upon the initiative.

The amendments proposed by the initiative are mostly offered by the folks who do not like any kind of initiative and would chop its tail off as close to the ears as possible.

If Fulton could get together some definite promises from Taft to reward any scoundrelly inclined Statement members of the legislature—if he could—even that might not be sufficient. Like some of the Rube landowners of Oregon, they cannot be induced to name their price. Perhaps "our Charlie" might induce the courts to permit condemnation proceedings to further the securing of his right of way to the United States senate.

If you have any doubts as to the love of the great journalist for Oregon, just induce him to give an estimate of the population of Portland. On that subject he will knock worse than the worst mossback that ever growled. Simply to his interest to do so to preserve a telegraph franchise. What interest is it that induces him to knock the honor of Oregon and suggest and defend pledge-breaking, dishonesty and rascality in the legislature?

For years the Republican platforms of Oregon demanded the election of United States senators by the people. It was a good thing to put in to please the Lincoln wing of the party, but it was never supposed that the party would be called on to make good. Now that it is the machine is rolled out to keep the legislature in line for another auction. It has had several crimps put in it of recent years. Another is coming due.

The famine in India is always going from bad to worse. The people would rather starve to death than fight for liberty and die on the battlefield. Nature will kill off any people too indifferent to their common interests to die for one another. There is plenty produced in India to stop any famine in a few days. The people prefer to starve and hang separately, rather than together. Nature will punish them with famines in the midst of plenty for 10,000 years if they do not learn the lesson of the brotherhood of man.

Much better school houses could be built in rural districts if the residents were given contracts to build and furnish materials and the absentee land speculators were called upon to furnish the cash. This plan elaborately worked out has proved successful in many instances.

If the people in city and country would try and remember to ask for Oregon products every place and everywhere it would set in such a tide of prosperity that even a New York made to order panic would not cause it to flicker.

One reason why men dodge jury duty is because the trials occupy too much time in proportion to the justice dealt out.

The juryman is frequently punished by imprisonment while the criminal goes free. The criminal frequently has his picture in the paper half life size while the juryman is mentioned as an incident of the trial, a sort of 'also spoke.'

Sir Frederick Bridge's Birthday.

Sir Frederick Bridge, the celebrated organist and master of the choristers of Westminster Abbey was born in Worcestershire, December 5, 1844. At the age of 6 he entered the choir of Rochester cathedral and remained there until he was 14. In 1867 he qualified for the fellowship of the Royal College of Organists and took the degree of musical bachelor at Oxford in 1869. After several years at Manchester cathedral Dr. Bridge in 1875 was appointed deputy organist of Westminster cathedral and in 1882 he succeeded to the full title. He presided at the memorable service held in the abbey in connection with Queen Victoria's jubilee in 1887 and at the coronation of King Edward in 1902, for each of which events he arranged all the music that was performed and composed all the anthems. Dr. Bridge was knighted in 1897, and was made a member of the Royal Victorian order at the time of the coronation.

This Date in History.

1661—Earl of Oxford, prime minister of England under Queen Anne, born. Died May 21, 1724.

1782—Martin Van Buren, eighth president of the United States, born at Kinderhook, N. Y. Died July 24, 1862.

1791—Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, musician, died. Born January 27, 1756.

1823—Professor Max Muller, famous scholar and writer, born in Germany. Died in England, October 28, 1900.

1830—Opening of the canal around the falls of the Ohio at Louisville.

1843—Dedication of Tremont Temple in Boston.

1876—First cremation in the United States performed at Washington, Pa.

1899—The Canadian steamer Niagara wrecked in Lake Erie, with loss of 16 lives.

His Way Out of It.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

"He don't give nuthin' to the church now?"

"No. Somebody told him the Bible says salvation is 'free,' an' he says fur be it from him to dispute the scriptures!"

The Joseph public schools have 200 pupils.