EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

Published every evening (except Sunday) and every Sunday morning at The Journal Building, Fifth and Yamhill streets, Portland, Or.

Entered at the postoffice at Portland, Or., for transmission through the mails as second-class matter.

TELEPHONES—MAIN 7173. HOME, A-6051. All departments reached by these numbers. Tell the operator the department you want. East Side office, B-2444; East 320.

FOREIGN ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE. Vreeland-Benjamin Special Advertising Agency, Brunswick Building, 225 Fifth avenue, New York; 1007-08 Boyce Building, Chicago.

Subscription Terms by mail or to any address in the United States, Canada or Mexico:

DAILY.

One year.....$5.00 | One month.....$ .50

SUNDAY.

One year.....$2.50 | One month.....$ .25

DAILY AND SUNDAY.

One year.....$7.50 | One month.....$ .65

Circulation Guarantee

This Certifies that the circulation of the OREGON JOURNAL *has been audited and is guaranteed by the Advertiser's Certified Circulation Blue Book*

1908

Circulation Actuary 115 Dearborn St Chicago

This Paper has proved by investigation that the circulation records are kept with care and the circulation stated with such accuracy that advertisers may rely on any statements of same made by the publishers under the ownership and management in control September 9, 1908.

And each shall care for other,
And each to each shall bend,
To the Poor a noble brother,
To the good an equal friend.

—Emerson.

DOES ELECTROCUTION KILL?

THE QUESTION of whether electrocution always kills is again at the surface in the east. Doctors are sometimes quoted on both sides of the question. Three months ago an interview was published in which a New York physician cast grave doubts over the efficacy of official executions in the electric chair. He related an instance of the most sensational character. After being placed in what was supposed to be a proper contact with the current, a condemned man was taken from the chair for dead. He was laid on a couch and to the astonishment of those present a faint flush soon appeared on the cheek. Then came a twitching of the limbs and later faint heart beats. In 45 minutes the supposed dead man had returned to complete consciousness and the remarkable alternative was presented of placing the unfortunate man a second time in the death chair. This was done and within an hour after the first attempt at execution, a second official electrocution had been inflicted, and, as the denouement showed, with more success. The physician who related the incident raised the question, if, in other electrocutions, the attending physicians had not, on many occasions, been the actual instrumentalities of death. It was a suggestion of hideous import and attracted wide attention.

A new discussion of the efficacy of the process has arisen over an incident that occurred the other day in Pennsylvania. A man received a heavy shock from a broken trolley wire on a street corner and was picked up apparently dead. He was taken to a hospital, where at first the physicians announced that life was extinct. After a considerable period he showed signs of life and as a result of the work of a physician over him for several hours, he returned to consciousness. He was able to converse, but remembered nothing of the shock with which he had been felled. All that was clear was that while the physicians were working over him he experienced great pain.

Dr. Spitzka of the Jefferson medical college says the incident proves nothing for those who claim ability to revive the dead sent out by the electric chair. The contact, he says, was momentary and the voltage unknown. The shock was probably received through clothing and upon a dry skin. In electrocution, sponges wet with salt water, press upon the shaved body surfaces and the shock is great and prolonged. The tissues are torn asunder and the blood changed by the intensity of the current. In short, Dr. Spitzka concludes, "there is no chance that life may remain."

TAFT AND THE TARIFF

IN HIS recent speech at the meeting of the Ohio Society in New York city Mr. Taft said, "I am a protectionist," which statement elicited much applause, but he had not finished his sentence, for he went on to declare that the promise of the Chicago platform must be kept, and to give his interpretation of it, which is not at all the interpretation of the standpatters and over-protected interests. After quoting the platform, he said: "What that means, as I understand it, is that the cost of production includes abroad a reasonable profit or interest on capital, and so here a reasonable interest on capital, and that that differs abroad from what it is here, and that all that means is that you include the elements of cost abroad, which include the raw material, cost of labor, interest on capital, and perhaps other things, and so on this side, and then you reach the difference."

This is not very clearly expressed, but seems to mean that Mr. Taft construes the "reasonable profits" of the platform to mean simply reasonable interest on the capital invested. And it may be reasonably inferred that the president-elect would not consider 40, or 30, or even 20 per cent interest on capital actually invested as "reasonable profits." So far, Mr. Taft appears to be a better tariff reformer since the election than he was during the campaign. He undoubtedly desires sincerely a considerably reformatory revision of the tariff, and will use his influence to this end in a "sane" and perhaps an effective way.

SOME RECENT HISTORY AND ITS SEQUEL

DR. WALDO COE of Portland is in Washington on a mission. He is laboring, so the account runs, to secure the withdrawal of John C. Young and the substitution of John Minto for the Portland postmastership. It is further related that the plan has failed and that Dr. Coe has proposed a compromise providing two years more for Mr. Minto and the accession at the end of that time of Mr. Young. This plan seems likewise not to have met with favor, and the impression is that Mr. Young will ultimately be confirmed.

Impotency in this matter is the price Senator Fulton is paying for the path he has traveled politically for some months past. Those friends of Senator Fulton who followed him in that path and perhaps counseled him to persist in it are falling by the same sword. It was destruction for Mr. Fulton when he assumed the unfortunate attitude of resisting the electorate in its wish to choose senator last spring. Senator Fulton was repeatedly told in The Journal that it would ruin him. His friends were told in this newspaper repeatedly that in taking the same course they were working out his destruction. They were told this when they passed at Salem and at Portland the resolutions denouncing Statement No. 1. It was told to them by The Journal that their course and Senator Fulton's course was political madness, and that it could have no other outcome than a miserable failure.

They refused to heed the warning, and the rejection of Senator Fulton at the primary polls was the consequence. With that deadly warning the madness of Mr. Fulton and his friends should have ended, but it did not. A folly infinitely more irrational was undertaken. The infamous activity was engaged in of attempting to break down in their pledges men who had vowed to support in the legislature the people's choice for senator. It was proposed to smash the ballot box in Oregon and set at defiance the will of the electorate expressed at that ballot box. It was a program of inexcusable folly, involving a moral standard so low and methods so anarchistic and revolutionary as to everywhere meet with condemnation. It showed on the part of those who planned it a woeful underestimate of the public conscience and a complete lack of touch with the purpose and civic conceptions of the Oregon electorate. It met with rebuke from almost every newspaper in the land. It met with rebuke from the national Republican administration. It was countenanced nowhere, and denounced everywhere. It was the price that had to be paid for a course of political madness, a madness of which, in kindness and constancy, this newspaper repeatedly forewarned Mr. Fulton and his friends.

Its logic is that the impossible must not be attempted. The inevitable cannot be prevented. The hand of progress cannot be turned backward. The tides of the ocean cannot be arrested in their resistless sweep. The breath of a butterfly cannot turn back the onward rush of the hurricane. The will of a determined people cannot be overthrown or turned aside. The lesson should be accepted and a beginning be made by Senator Fulton and his friends along lines attuned to the heart throbs of Oregon people.

MONOPOLIZATION OF ATHLETICS

PARTLY IN SUPPORT of the Chehalis county (Wash.) school superintendent's opinion on school and college athletics is that of Professor Simon Newcomb, graduate athletic manager of Harvard. He is not against athletics; on the contrary he says we need in our universities—and we suppose this applies to lesser schools also—"not less athletics but more." But he complains that under the present system of intercollegiate contests the benefits of athletics "do not reach hundreds of young undergraduates who are dissipating their energies in foolish living"; who are merely "lookers-on and pipe smoking idlers." He says they should be induced to undertake their own physical development in a sane and systematic manner, and should not be left to their own volition.

Professor Newcomb points out that under existing conditions college athletics are practically monopolized, first, by a few men already so splendidly developed physically that they do not need them at all; second, by vigorous young men who, while undoubtedly benefited in a way by the exercises, are in no absolute need of them. The body of students, many times outnumbering these two classes—who need the exercises to build up partially or feebly developed physical manhood, and who, if thus assisted, will contribute to the community the largest number of its most forceful citizens, physique and mentality both considered—are practically ruled out of participation therein.

There is in this and similar criticisms of men whose opinions are valuable a subject for careful and earnest study on the part of leading educators throughout the country. It is conceded generally that a moderate, reasonable amount of athletics is good, is even necessary, and the elements of contest, and sport cannot be entirely separated therefrom; but the point seems to be well taken that athletics are not sufficiently distributed, are too much monopolized, and that they should be made more a matter of education for all and less a matter of sport for a few.

NINE YEARS MORE OF "PROSPERITY."

JOSEPH FRENCH JOHNSON, dean of the New York University's School of Finance and professor of economics in the University of Pennsylvania, recently made a statement that is not very encouraging to the average wage earner. Professor Johnson figures it out not only that the cost of living has increased 44 per cent in the past nine years, but that it is going to keep on increasing for nine years more, and that in 1918 prices of the necessaries of life will be 80 per cent higher than they were in 1897, when the "era of prosperity" began.

But how about wages? If they rise in proportion, all right. But so far they have not, and Professor Johnson says that they will not. He says it is a law of political economy that wages do not rise as fast or as much as the cost of living, when this is going up. So, he says, "the workman will find himself pinched in pocket. He will not know whom to blame, and probably will say it is his wife's fault."

We did not need the statement of the learned professor—though his is first class testimony—to know that the cost of living is constantly increasing, and that wages are not increasing in proportion. We do not even need the government statistics to ascertain this, for everybody can see it in his own experience, but the government officially declares the fact.

If this is to go on for at least nine years more; if after the temporary break of last year the "era of prosperity" is to continue for nine years more, with the cost of living constantly going up and wages rising but little, in what condition will the workingmen be by that time? Will it have been a period of prosperity for them? How can the millions of wage earners prosper on a slightly increasing income and a heavily increasing outgo? There is this to be considered; however; in such a period there is a big, active demand for labor, so that most wage earners of all kinds can find steady employment, while in a period of low prices wages are low, and besides that many people cannot get work at any price. So on the whole, it may be argued, high prices are best. But can this large increase of cost of living and small increase of wages go on forever or indefinitely? Must there not be a limit to it? And when that limit is reached, what will happen? Will Professor Johnson put on a pair of strong spectacles and answer our "And then"?

There is a very practical, important lesson for all wage earners in this state of affairs. They may not be able to change conditions by thinking and talking about them, but they can be provident, economical, prudent. Nearly all of them can thus lay up something from week to week, from month to month, from year to year, against the colder, darker days that may come. Most of them can manage even to get homes of their own. According to this learned man's prediction, they can do this more easily now than they can later. Having done this, they will be independent, in ease, when the dark time comes. The government is never going to help them much; they must help themselves, and provide for themselves against the future.

IDENTIFICATION

TESTIMONY as to identity is always to be regarded with caution. Here are several intelligent, conscientious people with good visual capacity who declared that Burks, so-called, was not one of the train robbers, particularly not the one who menaced the engineer for a long time with a revolver. Burks, they said, did not exactly correspond with the robber in any particular, indeed scarcely resembled him; yet Burks, who seems determined to convict himself, convinced them by a recital of incidents which only he and they could have known that he was the man. To turn the case about, many a wrong person has been positively identified. A crime has been committed; some one resembling the guilty person is caught and identified by the victim, perhaps by others, who swear positively to his identity with the culprit; and yet it turns out that he was entirely innocent. And how often is this the fact when it does not so turn out, and an innocent person suffers for a guilty one? Doubtless many a negro has been lynched on hasty and mistaken or careless identification. Next to expert testimony as to handwriting, that of identification of a stranger is the most unreliable.

AN IRRESISTIBLE MOVEMENT

A WASHINGTON dispatch to The Journal may not exaggerate when it says that the recent fifth meeting of the Rivers and Harbors congress "marked an epoch in the economic history of the nation."

This movement for better and more steady, energetic and systematic improvement of rivers and harbors, and for sufficient and regular appropriations therefor, began several years ago, and has now reached the stage of positive, marked influence. In connection with the Inland Waterways and Conservation commissions, this influence will soon become irresistible, and the opposition of Cannon and other fossils and reactionaries will become futile.

The objection that it would not be wise to issue bonds to the extent of $500,000,000 until it was fully and finally decided just where and how the money should be expended is sufficiently answered by Representative Ransdell when he says that the bonds need not be issued until needed; what is sought now is the positive governmental adoption of this policy, assurance that it will be promptly and persistently carried out, and means provided for doing so as soon and as fast as is practicable.

The war in Venezuela has begun, but Gomez being on the ground ought to have the better of Castro, who is far away.

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.

Vitrified Street Paving.

Portland, Or., Dec. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal.—The slogan and one of the paramount sentiments of every progressive citizen is, and ought to be, better streets in the cities. And better highways in the country are the growing impulse and should be the ambition of all. Therefore, the inspiring cause of this article is to attract the attention and elicit the interests of experts and adepts in earths and minerals that can be fused, that are lying adjacent to the street or road, by means of a portable melting furnace, to be borne along (as the work progresses) by a traction engine with ample power to drive all the machinery requisite to the work.

But the greatest difficulty arises from the prevailing feeling among professional men and experts along this line that that which has never been done cannot be done. But if this article attracts the attention of some foundryman, artisan, machinist, mineralogist, or practical glass manufacturer who will communicate with O. M. Pringle, 921 East Burnside street, Portland, Or., the object of this communication will have been attained.

I think the practicability of the scheme can be easily demonstrated, and that it is destined to revolutionize all road, street, dam and retaining wall building, and lessen the cost from one half to two thirds. O. M. PRINGLE.

A Great, Commendable Movement.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

Obviously, transportation facilities must be increased and enlarged. If the increase and enlargement of railroad facilities cannot be made then it follows that they must come from the utilization of our inland waterways—the utilization of our wasted natural resources. The movement therefore, is to be commended. It is a great work that should be done greatly. A half billion of dollars will be by no means too large a sum to be expended with resulting benefits as set forth in the report of the commission in view. It would not be too large a sum expended over 10 years, if it will insure us against periods of freight congestion such as marked the winters of 1906 and 1907.

But the movement has struck a snag in the opposition of Speaker Cannon. He opposes the proposition of issuing bonds for the purpose. He would have congress make the appropriations for the purpose biennially, and he would have those appropriations limited—perhaps to $20,000,000. His view, as he disclosed in his speech before the commission and its conferees, is a narrow one. But he is a man, in the speaker's chair, of such power that he is formidable. Therefore, his declaration of views is disturbing. Clearly "Uncle Joe" must be educated to the necessities and the great value of the work.

This Date in History.

1811—More than 100 persons perished in the burning of a theatre in Richmond, Va.

1829—A party of Choctaws attacked a camp of Osage Indians on the Canadian river and killed seven of their number.

1837—Admiral George Dewey of the United States navy born in Montpelier, Vt.

1838—Morgan S. Bulkeley, governor of Connecticut and United States senator, born in East Haddam, Conn.

1847—Hugh Conway, poet and novelist, born. Died May 15, 1885.

1861—Federal force captured Tybee island.

1887—David Howard Harrison became premier of Manitoba.

1900—President Paul Kruger arrived in Paris.

Francis Brown's Birthday.

Dr. Francis Brown, president of the Union Theological seminary and one of the most distinguished Hebrew scholars in America, was born at Hanover, N. H., December 26, 1849, and received his first diploma of graduation from Phillips academy in 1866. Later he studied at Dartmouth college and at the Union Theological seminary. He also spent some years in study abroad. In 1890 Dr. Brown became professor of Hebrew and cognate languages in the Union Theological seminary and last spring he was chosen president of the seminary to succeed the late Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall. For his distinguished contributions in the field of learning Dr. Brown has been rewarded with honorary degrees from leading universities in America and Europe.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

O, the wretched day after!

* *

A normal Christmas, as to weather—wet.

* *

Perjury is considered a small crime beside murder.

* *

Have you noticed that the days are getting longer?

* *

Don't worry yet; it's a week till the month's bills come due.

* *

Some of the Christmas spirit should extend throughout the year.

* *

Next Christmas we suppose Roosevelt will have lion or tiger for his Christmas dinner.

* *

Some people may be congratulating themselves because they put off buying them till too late.

* *

"Colossal fortunes are on trial in this country," says Dr. Schurman. Bet a million they will be acquitted.

* *

We don't hear much of the "north end" any more. In its former sense, it has pretty much disappeared.

* *

Christmas was made partly to soften up the tight-wads.—Salem Statesman. If so, it is in that respect a failure.

* *

If Uncle Sam had given Christmas presents, that deficit would have mounted up to Rockefeller-like propositions.

* *

The president's opinions are never permitted to merely leak out.—Chicago Record-Herald. No, they are spouted out.

* *

A man may agree in general with the Roosevelt policies without indorsing everything that Roosevelt does and says.

* *

A Umatilla county man named Card and his wife have sued each other for divorce. They want the judge to cut the Cards.

* *

The Castellane kids are lucky in escaping the custody of Boni providing they don't come within seeing or smelling distance of De Sagan.

* *

Two Massachusetts girls had a regular pugilistic contest Thursday. Now will those who make the excuse that women should not vote because they can't fight cease their opposition to woman suffrage.

* *

Kaiser William, like President-elect Taft, has announced that he will drink no more. Being broke, on only $10,000,000 a year, he can't afford to.

* *

John D. Rockefeller's income or financial gains this year amount, it is said, to $80,000,000. He can give away a few millions and still be happy, so long as he does not have to pay that fine.

* *

A Chicago woman offered a prize of $100 for the best verses favorable to municipal suffrage for women, the same to be sung to the music of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," and a sample of the thousands of competing poems reads:

It is a burning shame that you should
shoulder all the cares
When we are willing to be your helpers
and the mayor's.

This should appeal to Mayor Lane, who, however, has long been a woman suffragist.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS.

Medford Socialists have nominated a city ticket.

* *

Many road districts are voting special taxes for good roads.

* *

Wheat crop prospects were never better at a year's end in eastern Oregon.

* *

The Astoria Budget issued a large, valuable and very creditable special Christmas edition.

* *

Over 300 men and 210 head of stock are now working on the railroad within a radius of a few miles of Klamath Falls.

* *

Corvallis Times: The packing houses now being erected at Portland will require large numbers of hogs. Dairying and hog raising go together. Benton county has much land good for dairying purposes, and could produce many hogs for the Portland markets. Take the advice of a college professor and save the calves. Let the calves become milkers, furnish local creameries with butter fat, and feed the separated milk to hogs.

* *

Owing to the fact that the excellent qualities of southern Oregon granite are gaining a reputation in other sections of the state and in California, the Oregon Granite company has found it necessary to open a branch office and shop in Eugene and is already contemplating one in Portland, says the Medford Tribune. The company contemplates erecting new shops near Medford. Development work on the quarry is being rushed.

* *

The Roseburg Review says that it sincerely believes that Roseburg has already lost more than $35,000—which is the total of the proposed bond issue—by not getting the paving work started last fall as planned. The councilmen who opposed the bond issue should let the fact penetrate their minds that the people of Roseburg are decidedly in favor of street paving and are not in any mood to stand any further "rag chewing" over the several kinds of pavement proposed.

* *

The hobo nuisance is again becoming very conspicuous in Roseburg, an average of 100 of these persons passing through the city daily, most of whom are north bound, says the News. The hobo camp, situated along the river in the vicinity of the brickyard is said to be alive day and night with these individuals, among whom are many mere boys ranging in age from 12 to 20 years. The officers are powerless to quell their intrusion.

* *

The Dalles Optimist: That Oregon is likely to lose the only sugar beet factory we have, the one located at La Grande, is more than a probability. But will it be a great evil? We think not, in the long run. It may cause some inconvenience, some loss, for a time, but in the end it will give us a valuable fruit acreage where beets are now grown. We really believe that for the benefit of the state at large the sooner the factory is closed the better.

* *

President French of the Wiston Normal school has been attending a teachers' institute in Harney county, and says that county "is a most promising place to invest money. Settlers are coming in by the hundreds and land is yet cheap. Some of the most extensive and richest valleys in the west lie in that county as yet undeveloped, waiting for opening." Many teachers had to come on horeback 30 or 40 miles through snow, but all the teachers of the county but two were present.

FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

"The Example *of* Washington"—By Charles Francis Adams

(From an oration by the famous minister to England on "The Progress of Liberty in One Hundred Years," at Taunton, Mass., July 4, 1876.)

One of the strongest muniments to save us from all harm is the example of Washington. Far be it from me to raise up a visionary idol. I have lived too long to trust in mere panegyric. Fulsome eulogy of any man raises with me only a smile. Indiscriminate laudation is equivalent to falsehod. Washington, as I understand him, was gifted with nothing ordinarily defined as genius, and he had not had great advantages of education. His intellectual powers were clear but not much above the average men of his time. What knowledge he possessed had been gained from association with others in his long public career, rather than by secluded study. As an actor he scarcely distinguished himself by more than one brilliant stroke. As a writer the great part of his correspondence discloses nothing more than average natural good sense. On the field of battle his powers pale before the splendid strategy of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Yet, notwithstanding all these deductions, the thread of his life from youth to age displays a maturity of judgment, a consistency of principle, a steadiness of action, a discriminating wisdom, and a purity of purpose hardly found united to the same extent in any other instance I can recall in history. Of his entire disinterestedness in all his pecuniary relations with the public, it is needless for me to speak; more than all, and above all, he was master of himself. If there be one quality more than another in his character which may exercise a useful control over the men of the present hour, it is the total disregard of self, when in the most elevated positions for influence and example.

The star of Napoleon was just rising to its zenith as that of Washington passed away. In point of military genius Napoleon probably equaled, if he did not excel, any person known in history. In regard to the direction of the interests of a nation, he may have occupied a very high place. He inspired an energy and vigor in the veins of the French people which they sadly needed after the demoralizing sway of centuries of Bourbon kings. With even a small modicum of the wisdom so prominent in Washington, he, too, might have left a people to honor his memory down to the latest times. But it was not so to be. Do you ask the reason? It is this. His motives of action always centered in self. His example gives a warning, but not a guide. Had Napoleon copied the example of Washington, he would have been the idol of all later generations in France; for Washington to have copied the example of Napoleon, would have been simply impossible.

Let us, then, discarding all inferior strife, hold up to our children the example of Washington as the symbol, not merely of wisdom, but of purity and truth. Let us labor continually to keep the advance in civilization as it becomes us to do after the struggles of the past, so that the right to life, to liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, which we have honorably secured, may be firmly entailed upon the ever enlarging generations of mankind.

And what is it, I pray you tell me, that has brought us to a celebration of Washington's birthday? Is it not the steady cry of excelsior up to the most elevated regions of political purity, secured to us by the memory of those who have passed before us, and consecrated the very ground occupied by their ashes? Gloriously, indeed, may it be said of it in the words of the poet:

"What's hallowed ground? 'Tis what gives birth
To sacred thoughts in souls of worth.
Peace, Independence, Truth, go forth,
Earth's compass round!
And your high priesthood shall make earth,
All hallowed ground."

Through the Cascades by Electricity.

From Electric News.

Passenger trains hauled by electric locomotives will be running through the Cascade tunnel of the Great Northern railroad before January 1, 1909. The electrification of this long tunnel, which has been a source of trouble and annoyance since the road was built, is the largest undertaking of its kind ever attempted in the west, and the Great Northern is the first of the great western roads to adopt electric propulsion for any considerable portion of its road.

Not only is the Cascade development the largest of its kind in the west, but it is the first three phase railroad system to be installed in this country and one of the first in the world. The most unusual feature of this electric service as planned by the General Electric company's engineers, is the fact that the motors, which pull the electric locomotives and trains up the grades, will naturally and inherently become generators on the down grades and return electrical energy to the line.

The Cascade tunnel is a little less than three miles in length. The electrification of this division will eliminate the present congestion of traffic, because steam locomotives cannot pass through the great bore very often on account of the stifling gases and deadly smoke. The danger of suffocation will be removed and the traffic cost will also be lowered, as the electricity used is manufactured in the vicinity from water power.

The Great Northern has secured the rights and titles for enough water power along the Wenatchee to develop 100,000 horsepower and it is said, upon good authority, that several of the heavy grades near the tunnel will also be electrified in the near future, and it is prophesied that the entire western division will be run by electricity within a few years.

While this railroad is the first in the west to adopt electricity as a motive power to any great extent, it is passing evident that it will not be the last, as nearly every railroad in that section, from the Canadian Pacific to the Southern Pacific, is planning more or less electrification work, which will be started during the coming year.

Would Better Trust the People.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

Other administrations before that of Mr. Roosevelt have been as bitterly arraigned as his on charges quite as specific and scandalous as that relating to the purchase of the Panama canal. Other presidents before Mr. Roosevelt, notably Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant and Grover Cleveland were the victims of attacks that carried criticism into the realm of the libelous and the malignant. Yet they took no recourse to the courts either for their administrations or themselves. They trusted to time and to the good sense of the American people for their vindication, and they did not trust in vain.

True to Life.

From Lustige Welt.

Photographer (to young man)—It will make a much better picture if you put your hand on your father's shoulder.

The Father—Huh! It would be much more natural if he had his hand in my pocket!

Proposed Bond Issue for Waterways

In point of attendance and interest and the work accomplished, the National Rivers and Harbors congress, through its fifth annual convention, held during the second week of December, marked an epoch in the economic history of the nation. And the resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by the convention fearlessly went upon record for a bond issue of $500,000,000 to improve the rivers and harbors of the United States "as shall be authorized by congress, said bonds to be sold from time to time and in such quantities as may be necessary, the provisions for the issuance of said bonds to be similar to those authorizing the bonds for the construction of the Panama canal."

This action on the part of the National Rivers and Harbors congress, was the culmination of the campaign of education begun several years ago, the piecemeal appropriations on the part of the congress of the United States, by river and harbor bills, in no sense outlining a fixed and comprehensive policy of waterway improvement, commensurate with the ever increasing demands of trade and commerce.

Notwithstanding the objection entered by Speaker Cannon to the bond issue feature of the resolutions, the committee on resolutions, representing all sections of the country, had no differences as to the need of fixed annual appropriations for waterway development and they believed the time ripe for an explicit declaration to that end. The time for argument had gone by with the 3500 delegates who were in attendance upon the convention, the time for action was at hand.

Representative Ransdell of Louisiana, president of the National Rivers and Harbors congress, who has for many years been an active, earnest worker for a comprehensive plan of waterway betterments, in explaining the action of the congress over which he presided, said: "Nobody contemplates the issuance of $500,000,000 of bonds at one time. All we plan is to have bonds issued from time to time as needed. These bonds are for permanent works, for work just as permanent and possibly more so than the Panama canal and destined for the same commercial uses. These works are not alone for ourselves, they are for posterity as well and should be paid for, at least in part, by it.

"By the authorization of the issuance of $500,000,000 of bonds to carry out a broad and comprehensive policy of waterway improvements we are but imitating the wise example of the railroads who make money by borrowing money to be used for line extensions, thereby increasing the means of handling traffic.

"If it should be found that sufficient money cannot be appropriated from current revenues to carry on the work of completing water projects under way and the beginning of new ones approved by the board of army engineers, then there should be sold sufficient waterway bonds from time to time, so that each year will find the work of improving our rivers, harbors, and canals steadily going on to final completion.

"In 1903 the congress of the United States authorized the issuance of $130,000,000 of Panama bonds to be sold as needed. With the $50,000,000 issued the other day the amount of the Panama bond issue up to this time is $84,631,980, extending over a period of nearly six years.

"As a large deficit is in sight, to be exact, $58,070,201 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1908, for the next fiscal year as per the estimate of the secretary of the treasury $114,000,000, and $143,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1910, it is clear that only by a bond issue can the work of waterway development on a comprehensive plan proceed. It will take but $10,000,000 a year—about the cost of one battleship—to pay 2 per cent on the proposed $500,000,000 bond issue. And this sum wisely spent on our watercourses, our rivers and our harbors will save the people more than $500,000,000 annually in reduced freight rates."

Proposed Waterway Improvements.

From the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The plan proposed by the waterway advocates has nothing in common with a general policy of bond issues for permanent improvements. It is essentially different. It is definite, not indefinite. It wholly eliminates the log rolling feature and with it the evils that spring therefrom. It is not proposed that congress issue bonds the proceeds of which shall be spent how, where and when congress pleases. On the contrary, it is exactly that irresponsible, haphazard, foolish method of expenditure against which the waterway advocates are contending. They would be the last to ask for a multiplication of the waste they are endeavoring to prevent. It is exactly to prevent further waste that they propose a bond issue under the terms and conditions which are the essential features of that project. They would not advocate bonds if congress could be depended on, without an annual wrangle and without imposing unwise conditions, to appropriate neither more nor less than would be demanded. It is merely because the current revenues are uncertain, and because the temper of congress from session to session is still more uncertain, and most of all because they want to put a stop to log rolling, waste, extravagance and folly that they offer the suggestion of $500,000,000 of bonds.

The terms and conditions which, we repeat, are the essential features of the project of the waterway advocates are (1) that the proceeds or as much thereof as may be found necessary shall be expended, not according to the direction of congress, but under the supervision of a commission of experts in such places, for such works and in such amounts as will produce the most permanent and most effective results in the shortest time and for the least money; (2) that the bonds shall only be issued from time to time in such quantities as the progress of the work demands. That such a commission as would be appointed by Taft or by Roosevelt would spend the money not only judiciously but economically the country's experience with the irrigation commission proves. As a matter of fact except by the appointment of a commission, made wholly independent of congress for appropriations, there can be no systematic, no wise and no economical development of the waterway systems of this country; and a commission can only be made independent of constant congressional interference by authorizing, as in the case of the Panama canal, a bond issue to be taken advantage of as needs require. With such an assurance a general plan of improvement can be mapped out and prosecuted continuously to completion.

Post Mortem Fame.

From the Kansas City Times.

"Despite all your wealth," said the cynic, "your very name will be generally forgotten in 20 years after your death."

"No, it won't," replied the financier; "my estate is large enough to keep the heirs squabbling longer than that."