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It is exceedingly delicious to withdraw the sanction of religion from government. If we feel that it is all injurious we should strip the earth of its flowers and blot out its pleasant sunshine.—E. H. Chapin.

There is clamor for the legislature to reform the initiative. Judge Lowell wants the legislature to reform the initiative. Sundry other persons call upon the legislature to reform the initiative.

There is a broad field in which beneficial changes can be made. The stealthy assassination of meritorious bills in committee can be stopped. The introduction of bills can be restricted to the early part of the session.

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British people is not yet ready for taxes on food to be imposed—and without the food taxes the Conservative protective tariff will require complete overhauling and reconstruction.

IN HIS Jackson day address, Judge King quoted "The Victors Belong to the Spoils," and insisted that even in minor offices the party should see "that none but Democrats are placed on guard."

Mr. Bryan, one of the great Democrats of his time, says in the last issue of the Commager: The men Wilson selects should be selected, not because of political service rendered him, or even because of past services rendered the Democratic party.

There is a bill now in the Washington legislature for eliminating partisan designations from the ballot. In the late election, Multnomah county put public order above everything else and by big pluralities elected a Republican district attorney and a Democratic sheriff.

After weeks of quest for him by congressional officers armed with a summons for his appearance before a committee at Washington, nobody in the United States seems to know the whereabouts of William G. Rockefeller.

One day he is reported as sailing from the Bahamas. Two days ago physicians reported that he was too ill to appear before the committee.

All the wealth of the Rockefellers has been piled up under protection of the laws of the United States. All their rise to affluence and all their progress from poverty has been under the friendly shelter of the courts and government of the Republic.

His failure to do either is example of the anarchy of wealth, anarchy beside which the anarchy of poverty is trivial.

THE Chicago Court of Domestic Relations collected from husbands of deserted and dependent wives last year \$128,000. About one half, or \$63,980, was paid into court under the judge's order, and at once disbursed by the court officers for the benefit of the deserted family.

or single. He insists that all shall be set to work. It will be remembered that the Chicago Court of Domestic Relations arms the judge with the same kind of elastic power that is vested in the judge of the Juvenile Court.

REGON is in a new mood respecting roads. It is a better mood for securing results. The trial of strength by the conflicting forces in the late election has had a sobering effect. It was illuminating to radicals. It was edifying to conservatives.

Each has now a wholesome respect for the other. After measuring strength, each knows that the other has power. The effect is to put each in the mood for concession and compromise. It makes conditions more favorable now than ever before for a healthy beginning in road legislation.

All this was made very clear at a good roads dinner at the Commercial club last night. Speakers representing every faction of the road forces discussed the situation in a vein indicative of coming agreement.

No other responsibility rests on the coming session than the duty of meeting the roads problem squarely and solving it intelligently.

After all the drivel and slush printed about the iniquitousness of capital punishment," exclaims an up-state newspaper in beginning a characterization of opposition to hangings.

THE Medford Mail-Tribune has issued a New Year's number of thirty pages, well written, well printed, and finely illustrated. It tells the tale of progress, both in the magnificent Rogue River valley and in its prosperous home city, during 1912.

BY THE collapse of scaffolding, two Portland workers sustained broken backs, and may die. It is a common occurrence. The casualties of industry are a frightful toll on life. From the pyramids to the modern office buildings, the trail of progress is strewn with skeletons of workers.

Letters From the People (Communications sent to the Journal for publication in this department should not exceed 300 words in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender. If the writer does not desire to have the name published, he should so state.)

Single Tax Examples Cited. Portland, Jan. 7.—To the Editor of the Journal:—The lord mayor of Sydney, N. S. W., has declared that all local taxes should be placed upon land values.

Alberta is getting an immense amount of free advertising, some of it from thousands of American home builders and hundreds of millions of dollars of American capital because of the encouragement given to men and enterprise by that commonwealth that calls its system of taxation the single tax.

Discipline is maintained by what is known as the "silent" system, which means that the prisoners are not allowed to mingle together, or to speak. The inmates of the same cell are permitted to talk in low voices until ten, at 9 p. m., but in the shops, the dining-room, the chapel, or while marching to and from work, silence prevails at all times.

From the San Francisco Bulletin. It is generally conceded that Leavenworth prison, which is now the center of much interest as the place of confinement of the sentenced labor leaders, is the best conducted and most sanitary penal institution in the United States.

Portland, Jan. 7.—To the Editor of the Journal:—It was with relief that I read the article in Sunday's Journal in regard to the docking facilities of this city.

Why "slush"? Why "drivel"? In the late election 41,951 electors voted against hangings. Is the belief of all these thousands "slush" and "drivel"? Of the voting people of Oregon, are nearly one half gibbering idiots?

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COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE. A president-elect never suffers for lack of advice. Of course all public employees would like an increase of salary.

Regarding the Idaho court, the colonel adheres to the word "infamous."

The Idaho Fair association is one of the institutions that invariably head "more."

It is possible for a well-meaning public official to be over-zealous in some directions.

There was a little chilly hereabouts, but colder even in northern California, and back east—where?

A vehicle tax law is talked of again; but is there any use in passing one as long as there is a supreme court?

The Idaho supreme court benefited instead of punished the newspaper man, and injured only itself and its members.

For six weeks beginning next Monday, Salem will be a more important news source to Oregonians than Washington, D. C.

Every good citizen condemns incendiarism, and regrets losses of fire victims; some fires are a big benefit to the city.

The superintendent of the Washington C. police was rash, not to say foolish, when he declared that the woman suffragists should have no inaugural parade in that city. He has changed his mind.

San Quentin Man Describes Leavenworth Prison

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OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Albany Democrat: Henry McMurry, brought to the Democrat's attention a branch from a bush in his yard which had nearly two dozen ripe red raspberries upon it. He broke the branch from the bush Christmas morning.

Lebanon Tribune: Lebanon needs a new city hall badly. Thirty-seven rooms in which to hold public meetings, place to house the city council, to protect the city records and to care for the fire apparatus. One building would suffice for all these purposes.

Rev. Robert McLean, pastor of Bethany Presbyterian church, Grants Pass, has resigned to take charge of missionary work among the Spanish speaking people of the territory comprising California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas and representing a population of 500,000 Mexicans.

Burns News: The last month of 1912 was a busy one at the local United States land office. Thirty-seven home-stead entries and seven desert entries were made, two timber and stone entries, one railroad selection, and the usual number of desert and home-stead, were taken.

The Baker Democrat defends rabbit drives, rebuking those who oppose them as cruel. The Democrat points out that either the rabbit or the farmer must go, and that jackrabbits must in mighty good sense be exterminated, and that there is a demand for it that cleans up the supply right along.

Myrtle Creek Mail: This section is well suited for walnut culture for trees that leaf and bloom late. The young man who was to start a business that will insure him a future income, and has the patience to await the results, cannot miss the mark if he will plant walnuts of the right kind.

Mr. Eaton's Plan

Representative Eaton, of Lane county, proposes a number of legislative reforms. A letter sent to the Journal and others is too long for the Journal to print in full. In this letter, Mr. Eaton says: "The number of house committees should be reduced by eliminating all useless ones, and every member of the house should be set to work, giving him the work he is best fitted for and likes best."

The members of the committee should be selected by the house through a committee on committees consisting of five members elected by the house, no two to come from the same legislative district. All committees should meet according to a schedule prepared by the chairman and ratified by the house, which should become a part of the house calendar and the house may compel the attendance of members at committee meetings. Meetings should be open, unless otherwise ordered, to all newspaper editors, and senators and accredited members of the press.

ADA WALLACE UNRUH. Preliminaries. From the Washington Star. "What is going on?" asked the terrified stranger in Central America.

"Revolution," replied the man in the uniform. "Who is leader of the rebels?" "Don't know yet. That's what this fight is about."

Depend Upon the Strong Arm of Business. The Strong Arm of Business protects your good health and the entire nation against fraud, deception, and ill-advised buying. It enables you to buy with forethought and knowledge instead of by blind instinct. It guides you to efficiency in buying the necessities and luxuries of life and aids you in the economical management of your household.

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