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It is exceedingly deleterious to withdraw the sanction of religion from emusement. If we feel that it is all injurious we should strip the earth of its flowers and blot out its pleasant sur shine.- E. H. Chapin.

BEGIN AT HOME

THERE is clamor for the legislature to reform the initiative. Judge Lowell wants the legislature to reform the initiative. Sundry other persons call upon had been presidential jobs enough he legislature to reform the initi-

Why not have the legislature re-Where is there a more fertile field

for reform? What but the frivolities and folles, what but the inefficiency and shortcomings of the legislature aused adoption of the initiative in the beginning?

sibly there are minor changes hat should be made in the initiative. But they are not half as pressing a essity as important changes that ould be made in the legislative proses at Salem.

It is said already that more bills are in prospect than at any former saion, all to be considered in only orty days. There is no more need domes on the state house. There is other, and vice versa

without hope that The Journal humbly suggests that if the body is really human atoms. bent on reform that it first reform afterward

There is a broad field in which meficial changes can be made. he atealthy assassination of mericrious bills in committee can be The introduction of bills an be restricted to the early part session, leaving the latter brough without surveillance, with- feller, out consideration, without debate the closing hours.

can be announced and the body getdown to real work on the second t many a past session.

There is nothing the legislature will so much help the state as to eform itself.

FREE TRADE IN ENGLAND

THE Unionist, or Conservative party in England, is in straits, on the question of the tariff. Tariff reform, as advocated Joseph Chamberlain and his followers, was the policy adopted recently by the entire party on the aborption of the Free Trade Uniona group of politicians, insigafficant in numbers but considerable y virtue of the high standing of the majority of its members.

The moving cause for the general adoption of a tariff on food stuffs and raw materials was to give a foundation on which preferences to the British colonies, and to Canada in particular, might be set in mo-But as soon as a tariff on wheat and flour and other necessaries of life became a certain prospeet for the British people if the Unionists came into power mutterin all parts of England, Scotland and Ireland.

Whereupon a general meeting of the Unionists in Parliament was course. In the end a memorial to order, and at once disbursed by the Andrew Bonar Law, as the head of court officers for the benefit of the the party, was adopted, to eliminate deserted family. The residue was casualties of industry are a frightful taxes on food stuffs from their pro-expended by the erring husband for toll on life. From the pyramids to gram. But, in view of the previous family expenses under the eye of the modern office buildings, the trail eceptance of the food taxes by the the court. Unionist party as a whole, and to But Judge Gemmill is not yet sat- of workers. orestall a complete break up, a con- isfied, although he says that his Eleven years is the average career dition was attached that the tariff court pays out for the wives more in modern steel construction. In the now proposed, with food taxes struck money in a month than is paid in past sixteen months, 164 workers out, should be submitted to, the any other state in a year. He is pre- paid with their lives the forfest of scial "referendum."

Anguith government.

without the food taxes the Conserva-

PARTIES AND OFFICERS

HIS Jackson day address, Judge long the Spoils," and insisted party should see "that none but Democrats are placed on guard."

meant? Was he not carried away first aim of his court. by the enthusiasm of the occasion? Does the Democratic party exist for the offices?

Mr. Bryan, one of the great Democrats of his time, says in the last issue of the Commoner:

The men Wilson selects should be strengthen the party and advance those things for which the party stands. The mission of the Democratic

party is not offices. Its aim is not -a job. When office is the main desideratum, its usefulness is ended. The Republican party is in its have offices enough for both Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt. If there

to go round, that party wouldn't have been split wide open. The old idea that a Democratic constable was a sign of Democratic achievement has been repudiated. There is never an election in which

the people do not show an utter con-

tempt for partisan office holding. 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. In the same election, thousands of Oregon Republicans voted for a Democratic president, not to fill the offices with Yet there were 725 bills Democrats but in the hope of renefore the legislature at the 1911 dering service to their country and mankind.

No party ever rendered a nation introduction of 725 bills at more conspicuous service than has alem than for having seventeen been rendered by the Democratic party during the past sixteen years, no more need for limiting the num- in its leadership for progressive prinper of bills on the ballot than for ciples. Its protests and its appeals limiting the number of bills to be have led the country and public introduced in the legislature. One thought into the present splendid at is just as much of an abuse as is the titude when the triumph of progressivism seems imminent. As never Possibly the present legislature is before, an almost united country to be a reform body. There are some wants equality before the law, wants favorable signs. Many excellent men special privileges for none, wants a re members. It is therefore not government for the average man and wants justice and a living for all its

And it is a sentiment largely itself and attend to the initiative brought about by the Democratic party-out of office.

RICH ANARCHISTS

FTER weeks of quest for him by congressional officers armed with a summons for his appearance before a comart to careful consideration and mittee at Washington, nobody in the That will prevent pas- United States seems to know the 66 sage of joker legislation, rushed whereabouts of William G. Rocke-

One day he is reported as sailing and without anybody's knowledge in from the Bahamas. Two days ago physicians reported that he was too The appointment of committees ill to appear before the committee.

This man, in one of his numerous castles, surrounded by his retainers day instead of in the second week. and his wealth, seems able to resist mbers can be appointed on com- the power of the official United mittees on merit and not for the States. At least, a committee represpecial purpose of pushing through senting the legislative authority of me questionable bill, or to defeat the republic is unable, after several ne reform bill, as has been done weeks to ascertain his whereabouts or secure his presence.

All the anarchists are not in the an do in the way of reform that ranks of poverty. There are rich anarchists whose resistance to law is more harmful than a dozen ragged regiments of red mouths.

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. Yet, when information is wanted from one of them for the use fles the law.

cabled the fact to the committee.

WIFE DESERTERS' WAGES

ings of general protest were heard HE Chicago Court of Domestic Relations collected from hysbands of deserted and dependent wives last year \$128,000. About one half, or \$63,980, was to consider their future paid into court under the judge's

legislature of Illinois which will tries. appears at an earlier date—this provide for the disbursement of a wall. The worker fell, and his body amounts to a concession of large portion of the husband's earn- dropped into the concrete under re years' longer lease of life to ings for the use of their families, such conditions that removal is im-This judge does not approve of idle possible.

British people is not yet ready for or single. He invisis that all shall ment could hence the men who work taxes on food to be imposed—and be set to work. The great dams that make arid acre-

It will be re complete overhapling and recon arms the judge with the same hind and fabrics of civilization are the of elastic power that is vested in the product of human hands. judge of the Juvenile Court. The his chambers. There he exercises King quoted "To the Victors Be- the functions of a conciliator in very many cases of domestic quarthat even in minor offices the rels. He has the power to order money payments by a deserting husband, and to enforce those orders. Did Judge King say what he But reform not punishment is the

IN A NEW MOOD

REGON is in a new mood re

specting roads. It is a better mood for securing results. The trial of The offices should be used to effect. It was illuminating to radicals. It was edifying to conservatives.

other has power. The effect is to ments and personal property less. road legislation.

effective in developing sentiment, on stocks of goods. Never, before did so many people

club last night. Speakers representing every faction of the road forces discussed the situation in a vein indicative of coming agreement.

There is no problem that cannot be solved. Distinct progress has been made in the two years' delay since the great fight over road bills in the 1911 legislature. That progress consists in a better understanding all around, and a stronger sentiment than ever for a road system.

The problem is one to which the egislature should address itself. The committees of both houses to and agitators, they will "inch along" mitted should be composed of the two in the course of a few years. broadest gauged and best balanced ure taking taxes from \$1500 of improvein feudism and passion, but in pa- that time the lies circulated by the optience and constructive purpose.

It is to be borne in mind that legislation is to affect both an Eastern contemplated. and a Western Oregon, sections that | A measure exempting 10 per cent quires legislative intelligence and a Alberta has done. patriotic desire to be just to each

meeting the roads problem squarely and solving it intelligently.

NOT DRIVEL

FTER all the drivel and slush printed about the iniquitousness of capital punishment." exclaims an upstate newspaper in beginning a characterization of opposition to hang-

Why "slush?" Why "drivel?"

In the late election 41,951 electors oted against hangings.

Is the belief of all these thousands gibbering idiots?

It is the habit of inexperience to write in superlatives of contempt. Sometimes, too, there is a loftiness and sublimity of superiority and knowledge that wears off with use. In time, our up-state banging advocate will feel its oats less, and been sold, and I might say given away hardly refer to it as "slush" and perhaps for a mere song?

ITS ANNUAL NUMBER

HE Medford Mail-Tribune has of the government he flees the coun- It tells the tale of progress, both in try or barricades himself in one of the magnificent Rogue River valley his minions and his millions, he de- ing 1912. It notices the impending great stone docks-the Alexander docks railroad development, both in steam If ill, he should have so informed and electric lines, which is to make the committee weeks ago. If in the the city the center of transportation Bahamas, he should have promptly for both trunk and interurban lines. It tells of city improvements in His failure to do either is example streets, pavement, water supply, sewof the anarchy of wealth, anarchy erage, new and costly hotels, a new beside which the anarchy of poverty library, as well as in stores and residences, by which it intends to jusand chief distributing center for business in southwestern Oregon.

THE BUILDERS

DY THE collapse of scaffolding. two Portland workers sustained broken backs, and may

It is a common occurrence. The of progress is strewn with skeletons

voters at a general election, or by a paring a bill for presentation to the risks and hazards in Oregon indus-Since this process will take at compel the setting to work of hus- In one of the great dams across must two years—unless the unlikely bands ordered to be imprisoned for the Mississippi, a human hand prosomens and the Liberal majority wife desertion, and then also will trudes from the massive concrete

The Free Trade majority of the prisoners in inil, whether married | Than this dam no nobler monu-

fertile, the office buildings, the railtive protective tariff will require Chicago Court of Domestic Relations road tracks and all the great towers

> There should be a just compensa most effective part of the judge's tion law for the slips and misses of work is done, not in court but in those in the ranks of the great army of builders.

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal publication in this department should be a ten on only one side of the paper, should exceed 300 words in length and must be companied by the name and address of sender. If the writer does not dance to be the name published, he should so state.)

Single Tax Examples Cited. Portland, Jan. 7 .- To the Editor The Journal-The lord mayor of Sydney, N. S. W., has decrared that all local taxes should be placed upon land values. That city, of 700,000 inhabitants, selected, not because of political service rendered him, or even because of strength by the conflicting forces in do not tax improvements or personal party. The offices should be used to offer the late election has had a sobering property for local purposes, and thrive thereby. In the great state of New South Wales over 325 cities and towns levy local taxes on land values exclu

Each has now a wholesome re-spect for the other. After measur- vote of four to one, declared in favor of D. C. ing strength, each knows that the taxing land values more and improve expected to secure from the provincial present straits because it did not but each in the mood for concession legislature the right to tax city land and compromise. It makes condi-values almost exclusively and to relieve tions more favorable now than ever from taxation improvements and homes before for a healthy beginning in The vote was 25.424 in favor of the new method and 6404 against it,

British Columbia has abolished the The agitation of the campaign was poll tax and is about to abolish the tax Aberta is getting an immense amoun want better highways. In no past of American home builders and hundreds time have so many realized that a of millions of dollars of American capgood road is a matter of buriness ital because of the encouragement given and not a matter of sentiment or to men and enterprise by that common wealth that calls its system of taxation the single tax. Every city and town is All this was made very clear at a or shortly will be, on a single tax basis good roads dinner at the Commercial for its local revenues. They have no counties in any of the Canadian or Aus-

tralian states, so that local revenues thereby equal what we would county, school, city, port and road taxes The voters of Oregon have not killed the single tax but only caused it to be more widely discussed. It is coming, step at a time, throughout the civilized world. All Canada will be on that basis for local revenue within a few years All that was proposed in Oregon was to catch up with British Columbia and Alberta at one stride. The people refused to make that stride, but did show a willingness by their vote to exemp household furniture, to "inch along," and when recovered from their scare, thrown into them by some well paid journals which the road bills will be com- some more, and maybe take a stride or

men in the legislative body. The ments and personal property of every subject should be approached, not taxpayer will be submitted in 1914. By position about the western provinces of Canada will have been exposed. A resubmission of a home rule measure is But the silence got me, and you don't get

are widely unlike in conditions. The improvements and personal property cach year successively until land values nice adjustment of legislative pro- only are taxed is acceptable to many visions to meet such a situation re- who are afraid of doing at once what

Of course, these propositions are not the single tax in full, for there will temain our national taxes, levied on in-No higher responsibility rests on come and imports, amounting to more the coming session than the duty of than all the rest. There will be income and imports, amounting to more come and inheritance and license taxes in Oregon. But every step toward justice will be fought as single tax until the name attracts votes as it does in Toronto, where every new city official is in favor of the new system but one. ALFRED D. CRIDGE.

About the Port of Portland.

Portland, Jan. 7 .- To the Editor of the Journal-It was with keen relish that I read the article in Sunday's Journal in regard to the docking facilities of this city. You have here in Portland, just as in other coast cities, troubles, owing to the fact that some person or persons have seen fit to sell the waterfront to the special interests, namely. the railroads and a certain few privileged concerns, which have, of course dominated and controlled by private slush" and "drivel?" Of the voting ownership what should by all means people of Oregon, are nearly one half have been a revenue producing proposition for the common benefit of the city of Portland.

I am often surprised as I stroll along he waterfront and look upon your beautiful river, and see a few rotten docks and a very few steamers and ships doing business in this port. Whan can you expect when the whole commercial but who does not choose freedom which water highway to the sea has literally I also notice in the article in The

ears bored in token of his perpetual slavery, "and he shall serve forever." Journal a statement about Hamburg. This chapter also provides that "he Germany. Yes, it is quite true. They do things entirely different over there, shall surely be put to death;" that "if They are not so selfish and greedy as a man smite his servant until he die to take only the monetary part into conissued a New Year's number of sideration. They look at the commercial smiting) his slayer shall not be punthirty pages, well written, well and industrial benefits also, especially ished;" that "if an ox gore a man or printed, and finely illustrated, when they employ thousands of men a woman that they die, he (the ox) against a few hundred here. shall be stoned till he die."

And this is not only a fact in Germany, but also in England, Take, for the whole chapter (Genesis 9) to find his palaces, where, surrounded by and in its prosperous home city, dur- instance, the city of Liverpool. See the that blood is required not only of the man but of the beast and also the man's brother. If one part of this com--where you can walk for miles from mand to avenge man's blood by taking dock to dock and land a steamer or ship blood is to be transplanted into this at any stage of water. Then, again, as you have made this comparison, so I century, transplant all-yes, even also make it, and perhaps there are Would it against the man who "defles the Sabsome who do not like this. bath." and he "shall surely be put to death." Of the man who picked up not be a good idea to follow these What have you got a river for, sticks on the Sabbath day we are told and why is this waterfront left neg-"the man shall surely be put to death, lected for a certain clique? I am cerand the congregation shall stone him tain that you have here a grand opporwith stones without the camp." tify its claim to be the metropolis tunity to make this a commercial port of entry, as it should be. You have all but when Christ was reprimanded for the resources and facilities right at healing and plucking corn from the hand. You can, if you only will, create field on the Sabbath he made it clear a great commercial market. You can that man was not made for the Sabbath but it was made for man. I still lower shipping rates by water. You can through these channels create new bear the master say, "But I say unto business, more work and mere wages, you," and from Deuteronomy to Romans we find that God has held one thing and establish an all year industry, instead of having an army of idle men all sacredly to himself; winter. You can do all this easily enough, mine," and "Vengeance belongeth to Now, then, will you do it, or will you God" again. If he will, he can breathe the just say, "To the devil with it?" breath of life into a Body stricken by FRANK MARTIN. his breath of wrath or Justice, but man

Bible's Capital Crimes List. Portland, Jan. 4 .- To the Editor of The Journal-Referring to Rev. Mr. Leiper's article in answer to mine, "Are You a Hangman?" let me say that I honor the Bible, and look to it as the final court of appeal. I so honor it, ever, that it seems profane to use the sacred scripture to prove the claims can be amply protected by the incarof those who believe in capital pun-One can prove almost any cruel or Hogical belief by taking dispassages from the book and reading into them preconceived notions. Among my earliest memories is one not in the form by which legalized murof sitting on my father's knee white der is committed, but in doing that e, the lone abolishlopist in the con munity, argued with those who believe do. Capital punishment logically tends slavery could, be proved right by the lo holding life less sacred, and so low-Bible. I can hear yet the heated voices or the standard. That is why we work quoting "Cursed be Canaan; a servant against it. of servants shall be be." "None of you. And then, if men are hanged for mur-

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

SMALL CHANGE

A president-elect never auffers for Of course all public employes would be an increase of salary. Regarding the Idaho court, the colonel dheres to the word "infamous."

he cry of "rain" as a consequence tariff revision downward is dying

The State Fair association is o

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

It was a little chilly hereabouts, but colder even in southern California, and back east—whew! 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 men, and injured only itself and its members. For six weeks beginning next Monday,

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

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

each prisoner is compelled to wear

also on the front of his trousers.

to mingle together, nor may they speak.

The inmates of the same cell are per-

mitted to talk in low voices until taps,

"That is the worst feature of Leaven

"Don't the men ever get a chance to

shall be freed from being bondmen."

been freed, and no one now reads a con-

The same chapter of the Bible from

which is quoted, "He that smiteth i

man so that he die shall be surely put

text literally and give it a twentieth

century application, that a bondman who

has been sold for a term of years and

whose time for freedom is at hand,

separates him from his wife and babies

We recommend also the reading of

Of the man who picked up

God gave life, he can give it

necused instead of cooling

In many cases, swept by passion at

the horror of a murder committed,

courts and prosecutors seek evidence

weighing evidence to find who is the

guilty one. Under such conditions the

innocent are often convicted. Society

ceration of the convicted one, and if

later the sentence for cause is reversed

he can at least, be given the remainder of his life in God's green world.

The horror of capital punishment is

none but God has authority to

"Vengeance is

lieve in the sacredness of the Sabbath,

then

cannot do that,

against the

to death," also provides, if we take

dening of slavery into the scripture.

few minutes.

tables in season.

talk?" he was asked.

San Quentin Man Describes Leavenworth Prison time, and they can have all the maga-

Myrtle Creek Mail: This section is

well suited for walnut culture for trees that leaf and bloom late. The young

From the San Francisco Bulletin. zines and books that come. It is generally conceded that Leavenworth prison, which is now the center "Warden McClaughery doesn't believe in denying men anything that will take of much interest as the place of conup their minds and make them better. finement of the sentenced labor leaders, And the new deputy warden, W. H. is the best conducted and most sanitary Mackey, is a fine man, a big improvepenal institution in the United States. ment over the last deputy. He is work-Its population is about 1150, and the Its population is about 1150, and the ing now to get a baseball ground in inmates are confined in what are known shape, and all the men like him. as "double" cells, which means that each "At San Quentin you can't even have cell accommodates two men. At present

supply right along.

a Christmes card, and no magazines or a new cell house containing 1000 "sinbooks that are sent you. Then, gle" cells is in course of construction. sides, Leavenworth has a good library There are no stripes. The clothing is and each man gets a catalogue and can of a gray material, somewhat similar to draw any book he wants once each that of a letter carrier's uniform, but week." "What are the forms of punishment?"

"Well, for talking-for your first ofnumber across the back of his coat and fense-you lose your tobacco privilega. Discipline is maintained by what is or maybe your writing privilege. For known as the "silent" system, which means that the prisoners are not allowed 'hole.' They call it the 'hole,' but it is a cell just like the others, with a barred door, and you put your hands out between the bars and they handcuff you at 9 p. m., but in the shops, the dining- that way. "But the longest time I ever knew s

room, the chapel, or while marching to and from work, silence prevails at all man to be punished in the 'hole' was three or four days, and, of course, he is not handcuffed to the door at night. worth," declared a man recently released "The worst punishment they have is from Leavenworth. "I was in the trans- solitary. But even that isn't a case of fer from San Quentin in 1910, and Leav-enworth was like heaven in comparison. there for years. The longest time I enworth was like heaven in comparison. ever knew a man to be kept in solftary much chance at the fresh air. At 7 at Leavenworth was two months. And o'clock you come out of your cell and a man in solltary has to work; he has march to the dining room, by twos; from to break stone in his cell. Of course there you march to work, and at night that makes it better for him, because you march back to your cell, with hever it keeps his mind and body occupied.

chance to stay outdoors more than a "They have what are called paroled But when you consider other things, have lots of privileges. It is the same Leavenworth isn't such a bad prison as a trusty, only better, and a man may Take the food, for instance. It's better get a parole the day after he grrives. than at San Quentin; in fact, there is no The regular parele, that is the kind comparison, For Sunday dinner we got where you are allowed to go away from roast pork with brown gravy, mashed the prison entirely, is also in use. potatoes and green peas. There is a big prisoner who has served one-third of farm, where about 100 men work, and his maximum sentence can be paroled, of us have been engaged for two years, there are always plenty of green vege- I'm not sure, but I think it is mandarequirement.

"Everybody is compelled to go the Fourth of July. Sometimes a man olic and Protestant services, and you waits six months before be can speak have to go to one or the other. to a friend, perhaps to his own brother. "Of course, a prison is a prison, and But the prisoners are allowed to have doing time is no joke; but there are

presents sent to them at Christmas lots of places worse than Leavenworth.

der, how shall we find adequate punish-"Servants obey your masters," and "Of ment for more awful crimes? I do not the children of the strangers, of them shall be buy * * * and they shall be here refer to that crime for which the mob so often metes out swift punishbondmen forever." Slaves have ment, though one turns in horror from that, I mean that most awful of crimes, the seduction of fair young girls. For what father or mother is there who would not more readily forgive the man who murdered his daughter than him meetings are irregular and often men who through foul machination or devilish temptation leads her to that which them and get away are compelled to sets her aside as a hissing and a byword, hated, despised and scorned, shut out from all a woman's future-a sin who are still in bondage, shall come so much worse than that which has public market place and have his turned us pale with horror in these recent revelations in our city, as the seduced girl's future is blacker than that of the victims of the recent crimes that curseth his father or his mother And yet, while the murdered souls and defiled bodies of these cry out to us we would not mete out death to them, for we have no right. That is God's If he continue a day or two (after the prerogative,

ADA WALLACE UNRUH.

Preliminaries. From the Washington Star.

"What is going on?" asked the terrified stranger in Central America "Revolution," replied the man in uniform

"Who is leader of the rebels?" fight is about."

Mr. Eaton's Plan

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

be selected by the house through a com-mittee on committees consisting of five nembers elegted by the house, no two come from the same legislative dis-

Rev. Robert McLean, pastor of Beth-any Presbyterian church, Grants Pass, has resigned to take charge of mission-ary work among the Spanish speaking people of the territory comprising Cai-ifornia, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas and representing a population of \$00,000 Mexicans. 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 Burns News: The last month of 1812 was a busy one at the local United States land office. Thirty-seven homestead entries and seven desert entries were made, two timber and stone entries, one railroad selection, and the usual number of proofs, desert and homestead, were taken. attendance of members at committee meetings. Meetings should be open, unless otherwise ordered, to all members of the house and senate and acredited members of the press.

All bills should be considered by the committees in the order in which they are received as far as possible, and every bill should be reported to the house within seven days after it has been received, but the house may grant additional time for the consideration of a bill by a majority vote of those present. The time may be specified but if not, seven days should be understood

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 jackrabbit meat is mighty good eating besides, and that there is a demand for it that cleans up the supply with a long. as the limit. No bill should be introduced after the tenth day of the session unless a majority of the house consents, and no man who wants to start some 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. bills should be introduced excepting by the consent of a two-thirds vote after the twentleth day of the session. In addition to the above I hope we

can secure a resolution to make efficiclerks, The above rules it would seem should have no opposition, none has yet appeared but there is little doubt that when the time comes there will be a great deal of talk about "the old rules are good enough" the reason being that some men and some measures are pro-

tected by the rules that have remained unchanged for so many years. There are 45 standing house commit-tees, a number of which never meet and a large number of which amount to nothing. These are the graveyard committees used to fool new members and punish others who do not "line up" or 'stand in." An appointment on some ten of these is at best a joke. or two new committees should be added to the list, but the whole number could be reduced nearly one-half. While it is true that all members are not equally qualified for committee appointments,

I have never known a member of the

house who, properly placed on a work-

ing committee, could not have helped materially the work of the session. Alli useless committees should be cut out and every man set to work. At the last session of the legislature the committee on alcoholic traffic did not have a single meeting, the same was true of federal relations, internal improvements, manufactures, statistics and immigration; the committee on commerce did not have a bill to consider; capitol buildings and grounds thought they had one but it was taken away and given to ways and means. just once in 10 years, and health and public morals about the same. The

Indian affairs has met and adjourned busiest of these 10 superfluous committees is salaries and mileage, which never meets but on the next to the last lay of the session, and delegates one o men, who can go outside the walls and its members to get the secretary of state to figure out how far each mem-The change in the selection of members of committees from appointment by the speaker to selection through a committee of five from five separate

district is a plan upon which several It is substantially the plan used by the tory if his record has been up to the national house of representatives, and if adopted will be the most progressive step taken by any state in the Union. "Yes, twice a year, on Christmas and church each Sunday. They have Cath- The organization fight has been a detriment to every session in which I have been a member, because every speaker has had to make pledges to win his These pledges have not reelection. sulted in the selection of the best or fairest men for responsible positions, but too often the shrewdest and most arbitrary.

No one who has ever attended a session of the Oregon legislature has failed to see the great waste of time and efficiency, on account of no system for the meeting of committees. important and the great bulk of work is done in committees, and yet the session is usually half over before the committees get down to work. Then their who should be able to appear before wait a week for a few minutes' consultations.

Bills should be considered on their merits regardless of who introduces them; but they are not always. If a committee does not like a man or his measures they sometimes pigeonhole his bill and if allowed smother it entirely; if he complains they may wait for another bill to take its place and report it to the house first or instead. A bill is also sometimes held in the pocket of the chairman of a committee until he can use it as a club to compel some legislation in which he is interested.

The adoption of a rule limiting the introduction of bills to the first 10 days of the session would influence members to prepare their bills before the session and get them in early. As the consideration of bills is the main work of the session, it is apparent that the house could get to work much ear-"Don't know yet. That's what this Her if bills were ready for introduction the first days.

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