

THE JOURNAL AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. Published every evening except Sunday and holidays. Office: 125 Fifth Ave., New York. 1215 People's Building, Portland, Ore.

of all forms of communication in the United States, totalling fifteen billion conversations a year, an aggregate in excess of the number of telegrams, letters and railroad passengers in the same period.

MISS DIMICK THIRTY-EIGHT years in a school room is a long teaching record. Miss Dimick could not have served so long without leaving an impress upon many lives.

UNPAVED BROADWAY IT IS ONE year, eight months and seven days since Broadway bridge was opened to traffic. Ten blocks of street on its east approach are still unpaved.

MAKING IT RESPECTABLE LOBBYING has taken a new form in Ohio. A number of persons interested in legislation for the public health have organized a federation which will keep itself informed about proposed laws by having a senator of the state university review in a systematic manner all legislative proposals.

PADDED PAYROLLS INDIANA officials indicted for presenting and approving illegal claims against the state have been acquitted. They were charged with violating a law of 1895 by padding the payrolls with employees whose employment was prohibited by that enactment.

EDISON SCORES AGAIN THOMAS A. EDISON'S latest invention, the "telescribe," will be among the remarkable exhibits at the Panama-Pacific exposition. It is a combination of telephone and dictaphone and has never been exhibited at an international exposition.

WHAT BUSINESS NEEDS EUROPEAN nations have placed contracts in the United States for more than \$300,000,000 worth of supplies since the war began. This is the statement of Charles M. Schwab, president of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, who has returned from a second business trip to England.

THE BILLY CHICKEN YARD Portland, Dec. 28.—To the Editor of The Journal—I offer here a few words of thanks for publicity given in the Sunday Journal to the wholesome agitation on foot for a general cleanup in Portland. It will prove a blessing, unless it strikes directly at the source of filth on the back lots of our city, to wit, the chicken yard, whose very nature seems to be, in spite of all theory, endless filth and disorder.

an American concern to supply submarines to any of the belligerent nations would be a violation both in letter and in spirit of the neutrality of the United States. Mr. Schwab threw the orders aboard and went back to Europe for other orders. He got them and his concern will be kept busy.

While distributing presents at a mining camp near Coeur d'Alene, Mrs. Jack Robinson, bride of five months, of Spokane, was accidentally shot and instantly killed. Her husband was showing a revolver to a friend, when it dropped and was discharged. The bullet penetrated the victim's heart and she fell into her husband's arms. It is to kill people that revolvers are made, and this one got its victim. It was in the fullness of youth and life and happiness that Mrs. Robinson was garnered for the blood roll.

Proposing Permanent Relief. Portland, Dec. 28.—To the Editor of The Journal.—There has been a great work done during the last few weeks in Portland, in the way of helping the poor and unfortunate. It has demonstrated the public spirit and his heartedness of the Portland people who have given temporary relief to thousands of poor people. I would therefore like to suggest that a proposition be put before the people of Portland, and the different charitable organizations, whereby a plan may be formulated to give these families permanent relief, so that they may be independent instead of dependent.

THE ST. JOHNS CASE THE St. Johns city council is proposing to pay forty-eight times the assessed value for five acres of land for cemetery purposes. The tract is valued at \$33.33 for assessment purposes and at \$1600 for cemetery purposes. The law requires property assessed at its true cash value, and a great deal of property is assessed at 50 to 75 per cent of its real value. But here is a tract of land assessed at little more than two per cent of the value which it is demanded the city of St. Johns shall pay for it.

CIVILIZED WARFARE IS JAPAN to stand out in this great war as the most civilized of the belligerent nations? This question, asked by the St. Paul Dispatch, is answered by saying that perhaps the most unprejudiced student of war events might go further and pronounce the Japanese the only civilized power engaged in warfare.

Congratulations Appreciated. Portland, Dec. 27.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on your securing the services of Governor West as your special correspondent in connection with the work of the pending legislative session at Salem.

The Ragtime Mus The maid of my dreams is a creature so rare That I vainly have sought her for Yet I really don't care what's the shade of her hair Nor how she shapes her ears. That paragon girl may have teeth that And aren't pearls As I muse on the maid of my dreams! I never have thought if her form should be round. Athletic, lissid or lean; I only wished it would be neatly gown'd. In a gown artistically clean. It is important that she should recall Green Latin or wise college themes; If she knows how to cook by the book, That is all I ask of the maid of my dreams.

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A FEW SMILES "What do you know about the constitution? I'll bet you can't repeat the opening clause." "We, the people of the United States, being of sound mind and disposing will, do hereby interrupt the other man. 'I didn't think you knew it, old top.'—Puck.

SMALL CHANGE A wise man says what he has to say and then shuts up. Knowledge isn't always power. There is the football contest, for instance. Experience comes high. Still, the automobile factories are busy. Some people give the impression that they believe every word they say. You can always tell when a girl is jealous by the way she says she isn't. As a matter of fact, one half the world doesn't care how the other half lives. It's difficult to convince old bachelors that love and common sense have anything in common. We have reached the conclusion that Europe's theatre of war has developed a good many bum actors. The chances are that if Mexico could get a taste of real peace she would like it almost as well as pulque. Every girl vows when she marries that she will stand for nothing but her husband's way her poor old mother does. It doesn't take the average man long to develop into a nonentity in the eyes of the species who chased him to the altar. The people of this country are guaranteed the pursuit of happiness, but the trouble is many of them do not stop to think until they get into the hands of the police. If David were alive to read the war reports from Berlin, Petrograd and Lenna he would repeat his well-known declaration about the mendacity of men.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE (Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words, must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender, and should be held subject to the name published, he should so state.) "Discussion is the greatest of all reforms. It rationalizes everything it touches. It shows the principles of all things, and shows the reasons for their existence. If they have no reason, it shows them to be mere conclusions in their stead."—Woodrow Wilson.

CHARITY Hood River, Ore., Dec. 27.—To the Editor of The Journal.—The recent charitable disposition shown everywhere as depicted by the press leads to a bit of commendation and comment. It is at once beautiful and distressing, the sight of all this human kindness and human woe. That people should be so generous and kindly is truly a delight; that such need for charity should exist is woeful, indeed, and, besides all this charity is but a surface showing, for poverty is deeply ingrained in the social state. The world's noblest and best ever stand back and wait until all others first are served, and these we never see nor know. These kindly souls distributing charities are much like the nurses who follow up the brave of war to bind up the wounds and put the broken men together; for they go out after the fallen victims of greed, the dissolute and the drunkard, who are generally, if not always, quite useless and the only good in it is apparently the good that may come of it. For many people are positive that Christians are doing a good deed when they give to the branches does not kill, but rather may foster an evil tree; that the ax must be laid at the root of the evil. The system of profit making, they claim is the source of all crime, and generally all human conflict and crime. Do we know the real cause, and are we brave enough to learn the real truth and proclaim it? JUSTICE.

TO OBTAIN A PATENT Long Creek, Ore., Dec. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Please inform me through your question column how a patent may be securely obtained. [An answer to this question, to have any considerable value, in the opinion of the inquirer, must be of length beyond the bounds of reasonable space. Therefore, the best practical answer is to hold the inquirer to address "The Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C." and request him to send a copy of the "Rules of Practice," which is sent free to applicants who contain forms and instructions that will fully answer all requirements.]

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF OREGON SIDELIGHTS English born residents of Eugene at a banquet to be held January 4 will effect an organization, apparently after the manner of the various "State" organizations in Oregon. Medford Sun: The Medford Elks are busy setting in the furniture for their new building. The Oregon Weeks & McGowan placed a carload of oak furniture in the lodge room, and more is expected during next week. North Bend's council has passed an ordinance that so increases the tax on street furniture that peddlers—that, in the opinion of the Coos Bay Harbor, there is no chance for even the gold price. Traffic is considered along now as if the street were paved. Instead of the rumbling and constant shaking of the wagons and automobiles now glide down the streets as if they were on ice.

FACTORY GIRL VS. THE CONSTITUTION Mr. Justice Pitney adverse when he questions the granting of a fixed wage without reference to efficiency or Mr. Chief Justice White when he asks if some employment contracts are within the defense expert agreement from Mr. Justice McKenna who appears to take issue when Mr. Brown declares there is no "reasonable"ness in the Oregon statute? Or from Mr. Justice Holmes when he cites the degeneracy of the working classes in England before the factory acts curbed absolute "freedom of contract"? Or are these questions and comments more wisely directed of alert and open minds desirous of examining the subject from its every angle? "But whether we count them favorable or adverse, one question remains unanswered by the plaintiff which must be answered by the court. Ex-Senator Fulton is summing up the case of the plaintiffs, Mr. Justice Hughes, silent until now, leans forward. "Do you base your argument on the theory of freedom of contract?" he asks. "Then," answers the counsel, "is there not a precedent in the Ohio case in which this court held constitutional the 54 hour for women in industry?" objects Mr. Fulton, "there is a difference between hours and wages." "What is it?" "Long hours," he repeats, "break down women so that they become public nuisances, and are a burden on the community. The amount of wages has no relation to health and morals." "But," contends Justice Hughes, "suppose it had supposed this court finds that these evils are in consequence of wages paid in employment." And it is upon this question that the defendant, the industrial warfare commission, submit most telling evidence. Their defense is not based on contemplation of a nation shattered by the payment of minimum wage, but on a contention that the law which actually exists when wages are paid women "inadequate to supply the necessary cost of living and to maintain them in health." Mr. Brandeis does not present to the court population, but facts, human documents collected in a brief which was prepared in cooperation with Josephine Goldmark of the National Consumers League, and deductions drawn from those facts. First of all, the counsel pictures the conditions found in Oregon by the industrial warfare commission and confers with the defendant, who argues that working women do not buy enough to eat in order that they may dress decently, that those who do eat plenty go without proper clothes or shoes, that those who buy all their things often have them at the expense of morality. Freedom of contract is an empty phrase, avows Mr. Brandeis, when it implies a single woman pitted against a corporation, and the laws of supply and demand, like all natural laws, must be regulated. These two arguments before the supreme court bear in upon the spectators as more than the case for and against the minimum wage. They reflect two attitudes toward a document that has been the subject of much controversy. The very bulwark of our constitution according to the plaintiffs—and the sacredness of human life, to the defense, the real meaning of constitutional government.

STUDYING RATE PROBLEMS The only thing the roads have to sell. They have a right to charge for what they get enough to keep the roads in good shape, expand their service when necessary, and to pay a fair return on the money invested in the transportation business. Now comes another shipper with an interesting proposal. Why not have the government acquire for experimental purposes a typical railroad, and operate it with a view of determining from actual experience what are fair rates? In some such laboratory, this man thinks, could be worked out rapidly the valuation of railroad property, and a determination of fair rates. If, as a result of experiment, present rates were found to be fair, investors would have a basis for demanding from the government when safety and business were big enough to tempt investors to buy their notes, bonds, and stocks. Rates have been pegged low, and meanwhile expenses have mounted up. The government has disappeared and profits have been cut to a ridiculously low figure. The rate question is a vital one. Transportation of freight and passen-

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