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A MUCH NEEDED REFORM.

The final report of the grand jury of Multnomah county, filed on the 16th inst., charges that the county assessment rolls have been tampered with while in the hands of the county clerk to be copied, so that the "taxes of certain persons have been reduced." This is quite a serious charge but the grand jury was unable to bring it home to the perpetrators because "parties would not give evidence to criminate themselves." The g.and jury, however adds a paragraph that will find an echo outside Multnomah county. It says "We think that all the laws creating and regulating out the means of carrying on its business. These things have been atour county offices should be revised as quickly as possible." It is simply an outrage on the taxpayer that the sheriff of a county like Multnomah should have an income equal to half of the salary of the president of the United ary of the president of the United congress. States or a clerk or a sheriff of a county like Wasco should have an income so large that a hundred men in the county as good and efficient as ever filled these offices could be found at five minutes notice willing to undertake them at one third the income of the presenf incumbents. It is with no thought of invidiousness that the CHRONICLE makes the broad assertion that it is by no means an uncommon occurrence that men are elected to offices and salaries of the character described who are unfit to earn fifty dollars a month in any clerical capacity in the world. It is time these conditions were altered for others more in harmony with reason and common sense. The governor of the state, who must be a man of intelligence, education, business who, opening a room, showed her the capacity and social standing gets \$1500 a year. A representative who ought to be equally endowed get \$3 a day. A sheriff or clerk whose only capacity it may be is his ability to command votes, gets \$5000 or \$6000, or, as in Multnomah -county, \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year. Here is work for the grange and alliance. The CHRONICLE does not believe in cheese paring, but it does not believe in a foolish wasteful and criminal extrava-

The democratic majority in the lower house of congress has passed Mr. Holman's resolution pledging congress to a rigid rejection of all appropriations not essential to the carrying on of the governmem. The resolution if strictly enforced will work a decided hardship in many places, especially in the Northwest, where so many public improvements are needed. It will most likely be interpreted to exclude all appropriations for the improvement of the Columbia and this would be nothing less than a calamity to the people of the Inland Empire. However from a purely democracic standpoint the resolution is right. The democratic majority was elected on a p'atform of retrenchment in public ex- Back Bay. Some of the oyster shells penditures and rigid economy. It is are ten inches long. Other specimens manly and honorable for the party to come from South Boston, midway becarry out its pledges, though the minority may seriously question the wisdom of confining appropriations within the limits of necessity. However if the people want it that way they will have a chance to say so before many moons.

The Hood River Glacier says it has frequently heard the name of Captain A. S. Blowers mentioned in connection with the legislative ticket in the next election and adds that it knows of no one in that section Letter qualified to fill the office than the captain, nor one who would make a better run. Hood River is entitled to be recognized when the time comes to make up county tickets, and if the legislative lightening should happen to fall in that precinct it could hardly strike a better all round man there or any where else than Captain Blowers.

The Salem Journal is an earnest advocate of the portage railway around the dalles obstructions, but in view of the fact that Holman is chairman of the committee on appropriations and that his resolution, limiting appropriations by the present congress to the actual necessities of the government, has passed the house by the large democratic majority the Journal thinks there is not "the ghost of a chance" for an appropriation. It thinks the only relief for Eastern Or-

lature. It can be assembled by March let. In a two week's session it can provide for a portage railway at the dalles and it can be built for the pext fall's crop. The Journal thinks there is no as regards what may be expected from the present congress and should be delighted to think that the governor would take the matter in his own hands.

Multnomah county has rejected all bids for voting booths and will now buy its own lumber and have the supervisors make plain, cheap booths, that, it is bethe new election law equally with the more expensive kinds.

W. Lair Hill was expected to return from Washington to his home in Seattle in his pocket.

Democratic Determination.

There is a determination on the part of the democrats of the house to fix the rules so that riders will be allowed on appropriation bills. This is done for the purpose of securing the repeal of some of the legislation enacted by the last congress. Of course any such attempt to legislate in the appropriation bill will be met in the senate with a negative. There may then be a deadlock, but it is believed that the republicans in the senate will prolong the session of congress indefinitely before they will allow any such appropriation bills

Worshiping Medicine Bottles. An eminent lady missionary in Burmah recently gave Dr. A. J. Gordon an instructive but somewhat startling chapter from her experience. In one of her tours, she said, she came upon a village where cholera was raging. Having with she went from house to house administering the remedy to the invalids and mutual gift on the wedding day.

The price of a wedding ring on the she had gone. Returning to the village some months after, the missionary was met by the head man of the community, who cheered and delighted her by this intelligence: "Teacher, we have come over to your side. The medicine did us so much good that we have accepted your God."

Overjoyed at this news, she was conducted to the house of her informant, painkiller bottles solemnly arranged in a row upon a shelf, and before them the

Bowery Pawnshops.

The pawnbrokers' sales shops have held and enacted on every block of that throb- fuse to do." bing avenue, but it all seems to me as nothing beside the tragic and pathetic not promise to give them back the same tales that are told by the goods in these store fronts. The vanity of man is felt "Of course we send the article to be by every poor stranger who is knocked made over to the workmen, but it is about and jostled by the crowds that thrown into the same crucible as all the throng the pavement, but for a sermon upon vanity I know no text in all New York like the contents of one of these windows.-Julian Ralph in Century.

Fossil Shells Near Boston

Twenty-one specimens of fossil shells have been found in the vicinity of Boston. Some of these fossils were found in the Muddy river, on the border of Brookline; some have been found in the dredging of the Charles river near the tween City Point and Castle island. None of these are now existing north of Cape Cod and but few north of New Jersey, except in rare cases.-Philadelphia Ledger.

Japanese Festivals.

The Japanese festivals are easily remembered: First of first month, the new year; third of third month, feast of dolls, for girls; Fifth of fifth month feast of flags, for boys; seventh of seventh month, the day for the god and goddess of love, Tonabota; ninth of ninth month, the "escape to the mountain," the feast of chrysanthemums. The latter is not now generally observed .-Philadelphia Ledger.

Few trades have increased so much of late years as that of the secondhand clothes dealer. A short time ago there were not above one or two in each town. Now they may almost be counted by

The development of the cotton seed industry has been so great, and the many articles now made from it are so useful, that it has supplanted the famous olive tree products in a majority of

Electric headlights of about 2,500 can- or at least but triffing, wear, its durable dle power are now in general use on the railroads in Indiana. They are very favorably spoken of by engineers.

In nailing on heels by the use of machinery one man and a boy can heel 800 It thinks the only relief for Eastern Or-egon lies in an extra session of the legis-five men to do this by hand.

BUYING WEDDING RINGS.

Most Young People Are Very Matter of Fact When Choosing the Band. Just think of it! One jewelry store on the Bowery claims to sell over 400 weddoubt such a bill would pass the legisla- ding rings a year. And yet we hear the ture almost unanimously. We have a cry that "men are not marrying." If profound dred that the Journal is right one out of the many stores that supply these golden fetters of matrimony can dispose of such a number within a year,

what must the sales amount to when all those that are supplied by other firms Surely somebody's getting married. Down on the Bowery, near Grand

street, there hangs a golden hoop large enough to marry all the brides on that side of town. It is hung above a jewlieved, will answer all the purposes of elry store, and can be seen as well from the elevated road as from the sidewalk. It was from the window of a down town train that I first caught sight of it. A young country looking couple that sat near by also noticed the giantlike emblem of wedlock, and I heard the girl whison the 16th but his friends do not think per, "Oh, Willie, there's where we got he will return with the circuit judgeship our ring." But Willie didn't look until the car had passed the store; then he raised his eyebrows a little and said. "I see," indifferently, and turned again to the paper he had been perusing. The girl bit her lips and looked down at the

gold band upon her ungloved hand. At the next station I left the train and visited the store where Willie had bought the ring. One of the salesmen said, in answer to a question, "There isn't as much sentiment in the business as one might suppose. By the time the happy couple arrive here they have got beyond the blushing stage of heart disease, and they buy the ring in the most matter of fact way. Sometimes the man and woman come together, but usually the gentleman comes alone to get the ring.

to become laws. Of course it is known their own wedding rings? Not very often, although there was a lady here last week who did so. When a couple come in together the man picks out a ring and asks his 'friend' if it will do, and she invariable answers 'Yes.' Then he pays for it, and that's all there is about it.'

"What size of ring is usually required?" I asked. "In this part of the city," replied the practical salesman, "from six and a quarter to seven are the usual sizes; but they run smaller up town on Broadway.'

Upon the counter he then placed two trays containing wedding rings. Some of them appeared too large for any finger but that of a giant; yet it happens some times that these are not large enough for a would be purchaser. It is customary her a quantity of a famous painkiller among the Germans for both the man and woman to buy a ring and make a

Bowery ranges from eight to twentyfive dollars, the average price being ten or fifteen dollars. In style, the old fashioned plain round circle is generally preferred, because it is as comfortable in the dishpan as in the drawing room, and the sentimental little wife need never take it off for fear of its being spoiled.

When asked how long it usually took to purchase a wedding ring, the salesman laughed and answered that in his fourteen years' experience it had never taken a couple longer than half an hour whole company immediately prostrated to select one, usually ten minutes. The themselves in worship.-Modern Church. woman seems to think it's best to hurry in the buying, or her escort's mind may change on the subject.

"We have never," said he, "had a ring me before their windows many and many that was bought returned because the an hour since childhood, and today when marriage didn't come off. Sometimes a I nause before one I feel a keener touch gentleman orders a ring made that is too of the impulses of youth than anything heavy for the slender finger that is to else can bring back to me. There is much wear it, and then he brings it back and humbug in the Bowery, but there is no we take off some of the gold. Frequenthumbug in what these stores display. Pa- ly, too, people bring us old rings to be thos and tragedy are constantly exhibited melted and made over, but this we re-

"Why?" I asked. "Because we cangold that they brought us," he answered. other gold, and who knows after that which was 'grandma's ring' or the 'baby's spoon;' not we, surely."-New York Advertiser.

Fragrant Wood.

Few of our native trees have odoriferous wood like the sandal wood of the islands in the Indian ocean; but a few of the coniferæ on the Pacific slope have sweet scented woods. The fine church at Metlakatla, built by the civilized Indians of Alaska, is as fragrant as if incense was continually floating through the air, from the wood of the great arbor vitæ (Thuja gigantea) of which it is built. Libocedrus decurrens, found farther south, is known as "incense cedar" from its fragrance. The yellow cypress (Cupressus nutkaensis) and the Monterey cypress (Cupressus macrocarpa) have also scented woods. In the Atlantic states red cedar and arbor vitæ have scented wood .- Meehan's Monthly.

Different Sizes of Feet.

"Did you ask what would be considered a small foot?" said a pretty shop girl in a big establishment, as, kneeling before a customer, she deftly fitted on a pair of india rubbers. "Well, I should call No. 3 a small size, and 34 even. The average is about 5; 7 is large, although I have seen very nice looking feet that were 7s. I have one customer who wears 9's and another who wears 1's. Quite a contrast, isn't it? The smallest foot on a grown person I ever saw belongs to one of our customers; she wears 13's, child's size, but it isn't Jewelry Made to Order. pretty a bit; it looks so tottering."-New York Tribune.

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