East Oregonian.

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1903.

"I know a man that mostly wins at cards. I know a man that mostly loses. He says it's his luck. All right. I know a man that works hard and is gettin' rich, and I know another that works hard and is gettin' poor. He says it's his luck. All right. Call it luck. I look around and see folks movin' up or movin' down, winners or losers everywhere. All luck, of course, but since folks can be born so different in their luck, where is your quality? No, seh! Call your failure luck, or call it laziness, wander around the words as you will, prospect all yu' mind to, and you'll come out at the same old trail of inequality."—Owen Wister in the "Virginian."

Louis Post's Public says the Jew in Russia is the pack mule for political abuses, as the negro is in America. Whenever the Russian government feels like administering a brutal kick to some one, a defenseless Hebrew is selected as the victim.

Railroads accidents are almost invariably accredited by the press reports to the carelessness of employes. If press writers were compelled to bear in mind as many vital rules of conduct, as those in charge of the passenger trains of the country, there would be much less inclination to jump at conclusions.

The awarding of the city printing of Portland to the Oregon Daily Journal, the youngest paper in the city and also the city printing of Spokane, to the Press, the youngest paper in that city, would indicate that reform in those places means something. The old rings are dissolving wherever there is united opposition.

The county court must not forget the county road question. The state of Oregon needs more roads, better roads and bridges and more inducements to county improvement. This is the home-building era. Farms will be beautified and improved just as the environment improves. The entire burden of county development lies upon the officials who control public improvement.

Eugene is trying to stop Sunday baseball. The only way it will ever be successfully and completely stopped is by the introduction of a stronger attraction by those who oppose it. People cannot live in this strenuous age without excitement. They must have a cause and an opportunity to yell. When a more drawing attraction than baseball is furnished, Sunday baseball will cease. Not before. It should be a matter of personal choice.

Boise City is wrestling with the school room situation, and will settle it gracefully. She now has five school buildings, all equal in size to the Pendleton high school building, and is ready to vote for still another to accommodate the increasing school population. The Boise Statesman says: "We have to make provision for schools; the present buildings are overcrowded and the board cannot accommodate all the children asking admission. It would be a very great mistake to permit such conditions to continue. They would grow much worse before another year. Therefore the matter should be settled now."

The gathering together of the delegates from Oregon's labor forces in a public convention, reminds the close observer that this state is taking on the metropolitan robes. It is no longer an unorganized frontier. The great industries are assuming a symmetrical form; those who bring forth the riches of mine, field and factory are devising means of betterment and self-improvement and Oregon is taking her station on an equal commercial and industrial plane with states fully half a century older in organization and development. The labor forces and the throbbing valves of industrialism, and all the wheels of commerce move at their command.

As a result of his cosmopolitan education and close study of national issues the world over, Andrew Carnegie says of the question of transportation:

"You can say for me that I am thoroughly in favor of Kerr Hardy's suggestion that all railways should be nationalized; it would be an excellent thing for the people if that were done. Look at the economy that would be effected if all the railways were under state control. Fares would be lowered and the comfort of the passengers would be better looked after. People would travel more, learn more of their country and be more able to exercise the sovereignty of citizenship."

The pupils of the Pendleton public schools, who have conducted the high school journal during the past winter, [illegible] in spite of experience to their advantage. [illegible]

tion. The work done during school hours is not all of the educational process. Pendleton is most fortunate in having a corps of teachers, whose work of adding to the class-room training, by the use of school orchestras, theatrical entertainments, literary programs and journalism, through the school journal, has made Pendleton the leading educational center of Eastern Oregon. The people appreciate highly the educational ideal which is being attained here.

The Oregonian, in speaking of the proposed Southern Oregon forest reserve, says: "There seems to be a prospect that as a result of the creation of the forest reserve in Southwestern Oregon the state will have some 40,000 acres of base to sell. If this should be the case, it is to be hoped that Governor Chamberlain will find a way to secure the entire advantage to the school funds, and not let the base be gobbled up by the lieu-land ring, which has had the favors of so many administrations in the past." It is certainly time that the citizens and press of Oregon were awake to the needs of the public school fund. If Oregon school lands had been sold for something near their value in the past, the 10-mill school levies that are now imposed upon taxpayers, would not be a part of the records.

WISE USE OF POWER.

Political power is a dangerous force to handle. Those who look lightly upon the responsibility that accompanies the use of power are unsafe sponsors for the public weal.

Whether it be in the hands of the individual or the masses, power that deals with the public must be conscientiously controlled.

Oregon has so far advanced ahead of other states in the Union, that she has given to the people of the state almost unlimited authority in matters of legislation. Can the people be trusted with this gigantic force? Will they use the referendum as a check upon political trickery or will they prostitute it to the uses of retaliation and revenge?

It must be handled with care, for its adoption is the greatest forward step in the history of the state and upon its success in Oregon will depend the fate of the measure in other states. The people must use it cautiously. It is not a toy, but one of the most potent engines of popular government ever conceived by man.

Speaking of it the Oregon Daily Journal makes the following pertinent observations:

"The incorporation into our state constitution of the initiative and referendum provision was a practical application of the theory that the most wholesome check upon unwise legislation would be afforded by giving opportunity for the direct expression of the popular will.

"Believers in the initiative and the referendum have always contended that the greatest safety of the commonwealth lies in the closest possible approximation to the wishes of the mass of the people. It is certain that the majority of the people will never be influenced by the corruption which sometimes taints legislative proceedings and the collective wisdom of the voters of the state should be as trustworthy as their integrity.

"Oregon is now making a practical test of this theory. The result must be awaited with the keenest anxiety, not merely because of the immediate influence upon measures of great importance to the public but also and in far greater degree because to many it will be an answer to the question, 'Is the initiative and referendum amendment a desirable feature of our constitution?'

"Passion and prejudice should not be permitted to enter into consideration of matters of such great importance to the people of the state. The referendum was not designed to be used either as a means of defeating public enterprise in the interest of some selfish corporation, or as a club by which any class in the community could enforce its views upon some outside issue, foreign to the measure to be referred."

THE BUSY MAN IS THE SAFEST.

During the Spanish war not a ship was lost and not a serious accident happened, and the United States navy fought the two greatest sea fights of modern times with the loss of one man killed.

The navy has lost two ships since the war, the Charleston and the Yosemite. Not long ago in the one accident on the battleship Massachusetts, and recently in the one accident on the battleship Iowa, the casualties exceeded the navy's battle list during the entire war.

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The explanation is undoubtedly that during the war every officer and man on the ships was alert, full-eyed and watchful—there was something doing.

In other words, the navy was busy. The same is true all along the line of human endeavor. The active man is the safest. It's the man who is not busy who makes the blunders—who overlooks something right under his nose.—Denver Post.

WHEAT CROP OF INDIA IN 1902-03.

According to the second general memorandum on the wheat crop of India for the season of 1902-03 the condition of the crop in the United Provinces is so favorable that a full yield is estimated for the the eastern divisions and Oudh, and 90 per cent of a normal crop for the three western divisions; but in the Punjab and the Northwest Frontier provinces the yield on unirrigated land, except in the submontane districts, is likely to be poor, unless rain falls very soon.

The excellence and extent of the crop in the northern districts of the central provinces make up for the deficiency in the southern districts, and the estimated average yield for the whole area is 105 per cent of the normal. The estimates for Bengal are 92 per cent of the normal.

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The area under wheat in the Punjab district is estimated at 7,260,500 acres, against 7,227,000 acres last year; in the Northwest Frontier provinces, at 855,000 acres; in Bengal, at 1,460,000 acres, against 1,460,000 acres last year; in the Central provinces, at 2,600,000 acres, or about the same as that of last year.

In the Bombay presidency (including Sind) the total area in British districts is estimated at 1,266,000 acres, or 21 per cent below last year's area. The Native States return 581,000 acres, which is 35 per cent over last year's area and 6 per cent over the average. In Berar the estimated area under wheat is returned at 218,377 acres, being 20 per cent less than last year, but the season has been favorable and the outturn will amount to 75 per cent of a normal crop.

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The amount of wheat exported is small compared with the production, and depends greatly upon the price ruling in Europe. The exports last year were 7,321,818 cwts.; of wheat flour, 529,328 cwts. were exported. This year it is probable there will be a larger quantity available for export, as so much will not be required for home consumption.

LONG-LIVED WARRIORS.

There is still living a veteran of the Greek war of independence in 1824. He is 105 years old and has been complimented by King George. The London Chronicle has gathered a number of slimlar instances. Sir Joseph Fayrer, one of the king's physicians, has spoken to a man who fought in the battle of Buxar in 1764. William Gillespie, who saved the colors at Preston Pans, died in Dumfries at 102, and the last survivor of the capture of Gibraltar lived to be 115.

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Thomas Wimms, who died in 1791 in Ireland, had fought in the battle of Londonderry in 1701, and Phoebe Hessel, the Amazon who received a bayonet wound at Fontenoy in 1745, lived to be 108, receiving a pension from George IV. A veteran of Culloden drew a pension for 60 years and died aged 106, and a man whose horse was shot under him at Edgehill in 1642 died 94 years later, aged 113.

There is now no survivor of Waterloo, but Mme. Givron, of Viesville, Hainault, saw the ground drenched with blood, and Napoleon riding "as if in a dream."—New York World.

OLD NEWSPAPERS—20 carpets, on shelves, wai ping purposes. Old ne bundles of 100 each at 25 at the EAST OREGONIAN ton, Oregon.