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#### THE FIRST SINGER.

We heard a bluebird singing, . sweet;

He swung upon the lilac, the 
snow was round his feet; The wind blew roughly o'er him, the sky was steely-gray, But yet he perched there, singing the chilling gloom .

Brave traveler from the south- . too soon; For ice still binds the stream-

lets, the sun is wan at . noon:

their earthly bed, And not a greening blade of • grass has dared to show . its head.

But, oh, we're glad to greet you. . about. sweet harbinger of • spring:

No sound was e'er so welcome . as your gay caroling; Courageous little songster upon ◆! the leafless spray,

A-singing and a-singing our . weariness away! -From March Farm Journal. •

#### WHICH WILL THEY FAVOR?

\*\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

In doing road work Umatilla county should follow the methods used by private corporations that engage in construction work. The working system should look to efficiency and economy. It should be the aim of the county court to get work done speedily and thoroughly yet at the least p lble cost to the taxpayers.

Uma- la county will not be following the above methods if the commissioners again adopt the policy of supervising road work themselves. This county formerly followed that policy and those who are familiar with affairs know that it was a polkey that looked to swelling the salarles of the members of the court rather than to getting results for the county. Under that policy members of the court would travel about the county drawing good pay and traveling expenses while perhaps devoting less than 10 minutes of the day to actrol service for the county. It was a re to way of doing business and it is not supprising that complaints were heard.

County Judge Maloney has a good plan for doing road work. He would employ three roadmasters to take charge of the work in their respective sections. He would have men who know how to work roads themselves and know how to make other men under them work. He would have the roadmasters spend their time upon the roads, not in passenger coaches. Judge Maloney suggests that in the spring when there is much work to be done each roadmaster collect a crew of men and keep them together, day and night. He would have the men camp by their work at night instead of returning to town or to their homes and wasting several hours enroute. It is common knowledge that during the past few years men have been paid for working on roads when as a matter of fact they have spent a big portion of their time traveling to and from their work. The county judge would overcome this loss by providing a road crew with a camp just as a harvesting crew is equipped.

It is the intention of the new county court to do away with the county roadmaster at the March meeting and to take up a new system of caring for the road work. It will be interesting to note what sort of a plan the commissioners favor. Will they take up with a plan that will bring about efficiency and economy or one that will get married, and some others know promote graft and waste?

#### KEEPING SOME POWDER DRY.

International peace extremists were not sufficiently strong to prevent the mits a copy of the charges of the fortification of the Panama canal, though they tried desperately to do which is filed for public reference DON disn not want to take chances of losing ter being open one hour on January s piece of work that will cost about 22.

five hundred millions when complet-

From a Pacific coast viewpoint the fortifying of the canal is particularly lesirable. The government refuses to maintain a fleet upon the Pacific or She stands for all that's good and to fortify this coast to any extent despite the fact that there is more danger of war from the orient than from any other direction. The west has been frequently told of late years that She with the completion of the Panama canal so near there is no need of a Pacific fleet., With the canal completed the Atlantic fleet may be sent here on short notice. Provided of course that the canal is not taken by the enemy and so made impassable to American warships. The canal will be fortified with the view to preventing any such contingency as this

from arising. Peace extremists think that money spent fortifying the canal is money wasted. But the fact that the canal s fortified may some day keep this country out of a war and If so then he money will have been well invested. The day of universal peace will arrive some time no doubt. But just now there are all sorts of signs that such a day is not yet very near. Unsong was magic- til it draws closer Uncle Sam will make a mistake if he does not keep some powder dry.

#### HE IS DOING WELL.

Though Governor West has been in office less than two months he has already made a record that further land, perhaps you came • strengthens him in the estimation of the people of the state. By his own personal efforts he drove the legislature to pass a law placing the state The violets are sleeping close in • printer upon a flat salary at the conclusion of the term of the present incumbent. It is a reform that has been demanded for years but no previous governor was able to bring it

> The governor has also rendered good service to the people through the use of his veto power. In the view of this paper he vetoed some bills that should have been left alone. But by far the greater number of bills that were vetoed deserved the axe. By his work he protects the state treasury to the extent of \$600,-000, and he has served to lighten the charge that the legislature was ultraliberal in its appropriations,

During the two months he has been in office Governor West has shown himself to be a man of good judgment, energy and courage. He is making good and will probably continue to do so for he has the habit.

The little city of Stanfield heard a Sunday school talk Saturday. Much of the talk we have heard from Stanfield of late has been by the lawyers in the Furnish-Coe litigation and it has not been of the Sabbath school

Local people shivered last night and thought it very cold. Yet the thermometer did not go lower than five above zero. We are becoming regular Californians,

### MANY SOAP BUBBLES. .

One of the most attractive of the advertising features at the Brusseis exposition was a soap bubble fountain, designed and built by a prominent soap manufacturing concern of Europe. It is the only one in exist-It produces a continual flow of bubbles, delightfully colored, in which all the delicate hues of the rainbow are to be found. When iiluminated at night the effect produced by the multicolored electric lights completes a sight which appeals strongly to the artistic mind. The general appearance gives them the Illusion of a flowing mass of sparkng diamonds. The fountain produces 17,600 bubbles a minute and 25,344,-000 bubbles are obtained from pound of soap.

#### THE LATEST WRINKLE.

In a shop recently a well known actress, who is noted for her perennial youth, asked for a traveling bag of alligator skin. The shopkeeper, who had none of that particular sort brought out instead some of smooth leather.

"And you tell me this is alligator kin!" objected the actress. where are all its wringles?"

"Ah, madam," replied the wily dealer, who knew his customer, wrinkles are out of vogue. The correct alligator bag is made from the skin of an alligator that has been may saged."-Tit-Bits.

#### SENSE IN SENTENCES.

We are still patiently awaiting the ivent of wireless politics. Formerly the people burned witch-Now they roast politicians,

Occasionally the man with an eagle ye proves to be a human vulture. Some men don't know enough to too much.

Remember, girls, that pinning a \$17 hat on a 17-cent head doesn't increase the value of the head

Vice Consul George E. Holt trans-Eastern Telegraph Co. between Tan-gier, Morocco and European points. illion dollars will be ex- with the bureau of manufactures. ce in preparing the big It is stated that the New Chilean loan, which returns 5 per cent, was oversubscribed in London 10 times at-

#### JUST ABOUT WOMEN,

on the job from morn till night, she is a source of rare delight, has her fads and follies, but her virtues are the thing;

true, and she is noble through and through, O, woman, lovely woman, she would

make a fog horn sing.

rises at the break of day and dishes up our breakfast hay, She scrubs and dresses all the kids and packs them off to school: irons out their Sunday clothes. she bakes a pie and mends our

Then makes a tempting dish of jell and puts it out to cook

In times of trouble she is great, she takes the knocks and bumps of fate

Without a word of bitterness of whining or regret; stock of patience is immense, she makes man look like thir-

ty cents; In joy or sorrow woman is the country's one best bet. -Detroit Free Press.

#### OUTDID THEM.

George Vanderbilt was captain of company L. Tenth New York cavalry. in the civil war. He was a very ec centric fellow, and fond of a practical joke, and a fine, brave officer, who was often in command of his regiment in the absence of his superior officers. On one of those occasions, when stationed near Warenon, Va., one Sunday morning he received a note from the commander of the 16th Pennsylvania Cavalry, sent by an orderly, stating that the chaplain of the regiment had been holding revival meetings in his regiment and several members had been converted. Twenty-five soldiers were to be baptized in the river at 2 o'clock p. m., and he invited the Tenth New York cavalry to be present. After reading the note, he summoned the chaplain of his regiment to his presence and issued the following verbal "Chaplain, I have just been informed that the chaplain of the Sixteenth Pennsylvania is to baptize twenty-five men today at 2 o'clock p, m. Now I want you to understand that no blamed Pennsylvania regiment can outdo the Tenth New York. I will make a detail of thirty men, and at 1 o'clock you march down to the river with them and baptize

#### DISAPPOINTED IN HER.

"And so your father refuses to onsent to our union '

"He does, Rodolphus." The sad youth swallowed a sob. "Is there nothing left for us, them, but an elopement " said he. "Nothing."

The girl was fond but firm. "Do you think, Clementine, that youcould abandon this juxurious home, forget all the enjoyments or great wealth, banish yourself forever from your devoted parents' hearts and go west with a poor young man to enter a life of poverty and self-denial "

"I could, Rodolphus." The sad youth rose wearily and reached for his hat.

"Then," said he, "you are far from being the practical girl I have all along taken you to be,"

And with one last look around on the sumptuousness that some day he had hoped to share, he sobbed and said farewell.—Browning's Magazine

#### MEN AND CIGARS.

"Certainly, I will make a few marks," said the cigar salesman who. because of his solemn garb, had been mistaken for a man of cloth. Ascending the platform, he said: "Men are like cigars. Often you can not tell by the wrapper what the filler is. Sometimes a good old stogie is muse popular than an imported celebrity. Some men are all right in the show case, on display, but are great disappointents when you get them No matter how fine a man is, eventually he meets his match. A two-for often puts on as many airs as a 50-center. Some men never get to the front at all except during cam-Some are very fancy outpaigns. side and are selected for presents. Others have a rought exterior, but spread cheer and comfort about them because of what is inside. But all men, as all cigars, good or bad, twofers, stogies, rich or poor, come to ashes at last."-The Standard.

#### WRONG VIEWPOINT,

Zach McGee, who traveled all over this country while the last political campaign was on and wrote power-ul pleces about the voters, was on a train one morning running into St Paul. He had never been to that city, and was anxious to know how long it would take him to go from

St. Paul to Minneapolis, Sitting beside him was a man in terested in the sporting sheet of a newspaper. McGhee leaned toward him and plucked him by the sleeve. 'How far is it." he asked, "between St. Paul and Minneapolis?"

"One hundred and four points," replied the stranger, "and they play

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