

The West.

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THE State University at Eugene will be represented at the World's Fair at Chicago.

DAY & AUSTON are now the proprietors of the Woodburn Independent, and a good paper they publish.

IT is fatal to hero worship to see the names of de Lesseps and Eiffel spattered with the mud of the Panama canal.

THE Czar prays for peace for Russia during the coming year. He has the answering of that petition largely in his own hands.

ORGANIZED feminine labor has declared against electing bachelors to the Congress. When David B. Hill hears of this, there will be one firm, if hairless, opponent of woman suffrage.

The Junction City Times still continues to abuse the Siuslaw people and their country. The editor even sneers at the money we expended to secure the appropriation for the light-house.

THE times have greatly changed since the day we first came here when the arrival of one small steam schooner was a hap-hazard affair to be reckoned by seasons. Now sailing vessels make regular weekly trips, and the whole town is alarmed if one misses a trip.

WE NOTICE the name of Amos K. Jones in the Scout. Long years cannot erase from our memory the excellent editorials written by Mr. Jones, and the last, and one of his best, was printed in THE WEST. To us it is more than pleasing to know he has returned from California to Oregon.

EASTERN congressmen seem to be arraying themselves against the free coinage of silver, and the hope so long drawn out in the western peoples' minds that such legislation would soon be enacted, seems to be only a speck in the far-away future. The approaching step to free silver—the Sherman Act—is to be torn down.

THE ructions between the Democratic party and Governor Penoyer are not so gaping as we are led to believe by some papers. The Governor seems to be consulted in all that the Democrats do except in firing cannon in honor of President Cleveland, which is going to unwarranted lengths according to Penoyer.

SALEM now has three daily papers, the Independent being the last venture. L. H. McMahan is the editor, and as he states in his salutatory "that Salem is not large enough to support three daily papers," it is presumable only the best will survive. Volume 1, No. 1 of the new journal is at hand, and it is a good beginning.

OUR city election comes off on the first Monday in April. It seems quite consistent that we should have a convention of all the people within the city limits and nominate men to fill the offices. There will be positions none care

to seek, but the Recorder and Marshal are of sufficient importance to demand the closest attention of every citizen. Much depends upon the efficiency and good judgment of these officers.

THERE may be doubt as to the attitude of some Democrats toward the McKinley Bill, but the Louisville Courier-Journal is fairly outspoken when it says: "We mean to rip up, exterminate, abolish, annihilate, and in the foulest ignominy and disgrace, every vestige of fraud called protection, wherever we can find it."

ANOTHER railway smash-up has been caused by overworking the train men. The engineer of the colliding engine states that he had been on duty for thirty consecutive hours and could not keep awake. The official who permitted this violation of all common sense, should be held responsible for the accident.

THE divorce court in South Dakota is losing none of its agility. About October last J. H. Moss left this town and his family, going to the land of blizzards. Not later than December he procured a divorce and again married in January. But this speed is outranked in an account of the rapid work of this double-broke marriage, de-marriage and re-marriage machine, coming from Denver, Colorado. Judge Miller granted divorce to James W. Williams and married him to Ethel West, who was with him in court, handing Williams a marriage certificate along with the decree of divorce.

THERE is no getting over the fact that the trade in lumber for the home market will exceed all former sales in preceding years, while exports will climb to heights heretofore not expected. It is the influence of push with which this business has been surrounded that is bringing it forward, and once sufficient capital can be induced to come and take a part incident to our great resources in giant trees, then enormous sums of money will be drawn through the open gateway of the Siuslaw river to Florence. Already our tug has settled the question in the minds of sailing navigation companies as to the depth of water on the bar, the evidence of which is a large craft on its way here for lumber.

IT is somewhat strange that the majority cannot see that the solution of the problem, how to relieve financial depression, is the free coinage of silver. The sure fact that gold steadily increases in value, is being hawked about from one country to another to meet urgent demands for money, is evidence that more silver must be coined to meet the requirements of trade. We all know that before the demonetization of silver prices for all commodities were more in keeping with the value of gold and silver, and the country had an era of prosperity such as never before. Men

who work were in demand every-where at great wages. Lands grew richer for the tilling, and it virtually amounted to a re-creation of our country. And as has been said: "For twenty years our country has tried the reverse of that and has reduced business down to a nominal basis, and has caused more loss and trouble and distress than would a war with the strongest power of the world."

APPROPOS to the subject of county division, the Springfield Messenger says: "The Junction City Times said some uncanny things about Senators Alley and Veatch last week, but the senators will not let it trouble them in the least." The Messenger is quite right so far as we are concerned. Secure in the consciousness that every man over here approves heartily the action we took regarding the division of Lane county as proposed by the "Blaine" men, nothing that the Times can say or do about it will disturb us in the least. Even the latest gross misrepresentations breed only scepticism as to the existence in the editor's mind of a virtue so old-fashioned as integrity, and engender only the feeling of pity for the misfortunes which brood over the panic spirit of the disloyal and disunionist editor of the Times.

WHILE reading of the death of a brakeman while coupling cars recently, called up the whole question of the possibility of preventing accidents of this kind by the adoption of power brakes and automatic couplers. It is at once obvious that the work of brakemen is exceedingly dangerous. He must run along the top of moving freight trains in all kinds of weather—rain, sleet or snow—at midnight as well as midday. The statistics for Iowa show that out of 80 railway employees killed in one year, no less than 42 were killed while engaged in braking or coupling. Power brakes and automatic couplers would thus have saved in that one state 42 lives. This would seem worth accomplishing even at the cost of a cent in the precious railway dividends; and if railway companies will not voluntarily do this much for the preservation of human life, legislation may well be invoked.

THE question regarding the Oregon Weather Bureau is not likely to become less acute when the people have studied more fully the second biennial report recently published by H. E. Hayes, Lecturer State Grange, and B. S. Pague, of the United States Weather Bureau. The report is too exhaustive for even a resume of its leading features in a newspaper, so every farmer should send in his name, to either of the gentlemen named above, at Portland, and have a copy mailed to his address. This will be done free from charge. It will be especially interesting for the readers of the report to note the "weekly bulletin issued during the growing season and the effects of the weather on crops." Then, too, that part of the report treat-

ing upon the subject of "Soils of Oregon," and the "Origin of Soils," is remarkably distinguished for its advantageous results that would accrue, in a careful perusal, to every husbandman in the State. In an age in which the sense of science for the direct benefit of the producer has been so singularly quickened throughout all classes of the community, and when the influence of the benevolent scientific research is every-where so conspicuously visible, it ought not, one would think, to be necessary to insist upon the Oregon Weather Bureau's report becoming current literature.

A STARTLING article appears in the current number of the Forum on "The Science of Municipal Corporation." It is unsigned, making it almost unique in the history of review articles; but the reasoner thus, as the editor says, becomes obvious when the plain-spoken revelations made by the writer are read. The story is told of "a young man of a good New England family," who came to be the trusted employe and agent of a company doing business with municipal corporations. At first he was only sent as an expert accompanying the regular agent to the towns where his firm secured contracts, and, though he knew nothing of the methods employed by his superior, "he was often surprised, especially when competition was active, by prolonged secret conferences between his superior and shrewd, but rough-looking members of the boards, who unceremoniously rushed into the hotels at any hour." The agent's work was with the very best men of the boards whose votes he almost always secured. Finally, the innocent young man was sent out alone to secure a contract in a small western city. He went to work "full of enthusiasm" and apparently secured the support of everybody; but about a week before the contract was to be let, a rival turned up. The young Puritan sought out his competitor, discovered that he knew little as to the rival merits of the two companies, and received from him a compliment on the campaign he had been making. In fact the belated agent of the rival concern "expressed regret that he had not reached the ground earlier, as he could see at once that he had now no chance, and had so written home;" but said that he was expected to stay for form's sake until the vote was taken. "In the mean time he would not try to do much, but would simply enjoy himself." The guileless youth believed this and went on with his sturdy campaign of argument, vastly amused to see his supposed opponent wasting his time playing checkers in the office of "a lawyer of the village kind." Presently the papers came out in behalf of the rival company; but this did not disturb the hero of our tale, who suspected nothing until he lost the contract by vote of the board and then awoke to the fact that the lawyer's office had been the den in which his experienced antagonist had bought up the members. And when he went home and told the story of his defeat, his own company promptly sought out and employed his successful rival.