

Theodore Henry Durrant has been

hanged, but contrary to expectation,

he protested his innocence to the last.

This naturally causes the public to

wonder if he was guilty. Ordinarily,

when a man knows that he is to meet

death, and that his career on earth is

about to close, he reveals the secrets

locked in his heart, and if he is guilty

of crime he seeks to relieve his conscience

by making a clean breast of his

guilt. This Durrant did not do.

But on the contrary, he insisted to the

last that his hands were not stained

with the blood of Blanche Lamont and

Minnie Williams.

The evidence on which Durrant was

convicted was all circumstantial, and

though the chain of circumstances was

very damaging to Durrant, there was

nothing submitted that directly con-

vinced him with the crime.

Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams

disappeared ten days later, their

murdered bodies were found in

Emanuel church. Circumstances

pointed to Durrant as being the party

who killed them, and the circumstances

were such that he could not deny.

He was therefore convicted not on the

strength of the evidence produced by

the prosecution, but upon the weakness

of his defense. An awful crime

had been committed; public sentiment

demanding that some one should suffer.

Durrant was the most convenient vic-

tim and he was convicted.

Finally he was faced with death,

every resource to save him had been

exhausted and he came face to face

with the stern realization that his life

must end. Had he been a natural

human being, possessed of the natural

faculties of a sane being, he would

have known that denial of his crime

could no longer be of avail, and had

he been really guilty, it is but reason-

able to conclude that he would have

made a clear confession of his guilt.

Taking all things into consideration,

it would seem that an innocent man

has been convicted of an awful

crime, and that a guileless man has

been executed.

JURY REFORM.

A move is on foot in New York for

the reform of the jury system in that

state. It is begun in a broad way,

and by collecting all laws governing

the system, bringing out in this way

both the good and the bad features

of the various laws, and when the work

is completed it is expected a compre-

hensive measure may be submitted to

the New York legislature with all the

incongruities eliminated.

The two most objectionable features

of the jury system in most states are

that they do not provide the best jury-

men and that the power to compel

the attendance of anyone as a juror

often works a most serious inconve-

nience upon the party summoned. Both

evils may be easily, in a broad way,

remedied by a few simple changes.

The requirements of the law as to jury-duty

is not too onerous for many competent

and intelligent men, but the enforced

tedious and costly attendance when no

actual duty is required are needlessly

expensive and practically oppressive.

This fact induces the class that would

make good jurymen to evade the ser-

vice if they can—and it is not difficult

and encourages those to whom these

requirements make no difference.

This latter evil, however, is not so

WE LEARN BY EXPERIENCE.

Many residents of The Dalles look

upon the extension of the Columbia

Southern railroad into the interior as

a calamity, and a threat from which

the city will not soon recover. And

to some extent it will, though the dam-

age will not be permanent. That the

building of this road further south

than its present terminus will extract

from The Dalles much of the wheat

and wool trade that now comes here

cannot be disputed, for people will not

make long hauls by wagon over steep

and difficult wagon roads when they

can reach a railroad by shorter hauls,

but this does not necessarily mean

that the trade of the interior will be

taken away from The Dalles. Means

can be adopted to cause almost all the

trade of the Inland Empire to center

here.

The Dalles presents facilities for

manufacturing and doing a general

jobbing business that are not possessed

by another city in the state, not even

Portland. It has a good freight rail-

way to any other point on the coast; it

has low rents on business buildings;

it has a large and healthy population;

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MONEY LOCKED UP.

State Treasurer Meacham has made

his semi-annual report, showing the

balance of the state treasury, and re-

ports the balance of unexpended funds

to be \$867,763.23. This neat little

sum has been collected off the taxpay-

ers of Oregon, and locked up in the

hands of the state treasurer (presum-

ably at least) while the state is paying

interest on very nearly that amount of

outstanding warrants for current ex-

penses. This is one of the legacies

left by the was-to-have-been legisla-

ture of 1897. Had the legislature or-

ganized the money collected for state

taxes would have been returned

through the channels of trade to the

people, where it would today be per-

forming its ordinary functions, and

the interest charges would be stopped.

That the money is not actually locked

up in the vaults of the state treasurer,

for course everybody understands, for

Mr. Meacham is not the kind of a man

to allow money to lay around idle, but

so far as the taxpayers are concerned

it is inactive, since they will have to

pay accumulated interest in time.

However had a legislature been

elected in 1896 with some other object

in view than the election of a United

States senator, this would not have

been. At least the general approval

of the bill would have been passed, and

what was left over of the state taxes

would have been squandered in the

ordinary manner, so Mr. Meacham

would not have had such a large cash

balance to have reported, and we

would not now be paying interest on a

half million dollars of state debt.

Oregonians may some day learn that

the legislature has other functions to

perform than to elect senators.

PASSING OF THE BULLY.

There may or may not be truth in

the story that England, Japan and

Russia have arrived at an agreement

regarding Corea, but it is a reflection

on the position of England that such a

story should be told.

There is nothing more remarkable

in history than Great Britain's self-

abandonment of her attitude as the

world's bully. Time was when she was

not thought capable of trades and

agreements with Russia, when she

yielded nothing to humiliations or

threats, when she would stand with

her dignity to compromise her robber-

ies of weaker powers. In an earlier

age England would have asked neither

advice nor assistance and would have

repulsed Russian and Japanese in-

terference in her disposal of Corea.

But today her statesmen seemed to be

worried to the point of despair, and

her people appear to relish the

humiliation that she brings upon her-

self every time she undertakes to en-

gage in a land grabbing operation

without having previously sought the

counsel and obtained the consent of

her once-despised European neighbors.

Today it is the same old story. How

far will the next century be advanced

before the world is playing poor old

England?—Portland Telegram.

OUR SOUVENIR EDITION.

It is with a feeling of pride that we

present to the readers of the Times-

Mountaineer our 1898 souvenir edi-

tion. It has been printed at a con-

siderable outlay of both time and

money, though we feel that it is an ex-

penditure that is justified, for no sec-

tion of the world is more in need of

being presented to the world in true

light than Wasco and Sherman

counties. Their resources are not

well developed, and their worth is but

little known beyond their immediate

territory. It is hoped that the souvenir

edition of the Times-Mountaineer will

put them in true light before the

world, for we feel certain that the peo-

COLUMBIA IMPROVEMENTS.

At the present session of congress no

doubt the matter of improving the

Columbia river between The Dalles

and Celilo will come up for considera-

tion, and since the war department