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ATHENA, ORE., FEB. 21, 1908

Penalties unprecedented in the history of the prosecution of corporations in California, or a complete revision of the laws applicable to railroads will be the outcome of an investigation instituted by the California state railroad commission. Four thousand cases of rebating have been perfected against the Southern Pacific company, through its own admissions. In each case the evidence practically is conclusive, from bills of lading to the endorsed checks issued by the company to the shippers in reimbursement. Should convictions be obtained on each of these cases, and the maximum penalty of \$20,000 be imposed for each violation of the law, the Southern Pacific will face an aggregate fine of \$80,000,000. In some of these rebates the railroad refunded 53 per cent of the original charge to the shipper. In other cases the rebates averaged approximately 40 per cent of the total sum the company received from the shipper.

At one stroke of the Lieutenant Governor's pen, 150,000,000 acres of forest land in British Columbia have been placed in reserves. This includes every acre of the province's timberlands, except what has been leased. This is as much land as was put in the National Forests of this country between the years 1891 and 1907. The action was taken to check wasteful exploitation of timber resources and to bring the care and cutting of timber more effectually under government control.

The Swiss government is pursuing the policy of railroad ownership preparation for which was made by the insertion in franchises of clauses providing for the option of valuation and purchase by the government at specified periods. Under the purview of this policy, the government now owns and operates some 2469 kilometers of main line, broad gauge service, as against about 903 kilometers still in the hands of private corporations.

A Georgia contemporary says it is worth a trip to California to see the grafters breaking out of jail. The chances are, however, that the grafters can get out quicker than tourists can come across the country to see them do the act.

A Portland woman was scared into withdrawing her money from bank, and then the adviser proceeded to rob her. In hundreds of cases during the flurry the money taken from bank for hoarding was lost.

The National Board of Trade is evidently controlled by the republicans, for at the annual banquet at Washington only republicans were invited to make speeches and those were of the stand pat order.

There is a proposition to make ex-presidents high officials in the peace movement. How long will it be before the country can have an ex-chief magistrate who is built that way?

A man in Hood River valley built a \$4000 house last year from the sale of fruit from four acres of apple trees. It is proper to add that he gives his orchard the best possible care.

Nashville wants immigrants and will circulate a German newspaper in Germany to attract the kind it wishes. It will find the variety is welcome in any part of the country.

Cuba's first president had been long a resident of the United States. Perhaps the island is waiting to find another man with a preliminary American training.

By the time they finish their cruise our sixteen battleships will be able to furnish the highest living authority on the glad hand and international hospitality.

It is said the Aldrich currency bill will pass the senate with but little amendment and in the house, if necessary debate will be cut off by a special rule.

A Georgia paper gets to the marrow of the Democratic nomination when it says that Mr. Bryan is the absolutely unavoidable candidate.

It is well to remember when thinking over the currency question that inflation of the currency will not always prevent a contraction of credits.

People of Sherman county do not like a snowless winter, but they always wait until February and March are over before making up the returns.

Crop prospects are promising, and none looks safer for a bountiful supply than that of Republican presidential booms.

We may be sure, at all events, that the favorite sons are not going to form a league or union of any kind.

### INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM MEASURES.

Eighteen measures will be considered under the initiative and referendum by the voters at the polls in June in addition to the work of electing officials. Initiative petitions proposing measures must be filed with the secretary of state not later than January 31. Each of these petitions are required to have at least 7400 signatures. Four laws enacted at the last session of the legislature will be subjected to the referendum. Eight amendments to the constitution will be considered, one of which was submitted to the last session of the legislature, and seven by petition. Six bills proposed by petition will complete the list to be considered by the voters in June.

Two of these bills are for the regulation of salmon fishing on the Columbia and are in conflict. One provides that there shall be no fishing with wheels on the Columbia river above the mouth of Sandy river. The other permits such fishing but provides for a closed season, prohibits salmon fishing on Sunday and restricts the gill netters in the size of their nets.

To increase the annual appropriation for the state university to \$125,000.

To require railroads to issue passes to all state, county and district officials.

To appropriate \$100,000 for national guard armories.

To give sheriffs exclusive control of county prisoners.

Amendment to the constitution for which petitions have been filed or are now being circulated are:

To increase the number of judges of the supreme court from three to five (by the legislature.)

To give political parties proportionate representation in the legislature.

To provide for the recall of public officials and to elect their successor.

To take from the district attorney the power of indictment and invest it exclusively in grand juries.

To exempt certain property from taxation.

To prevent the legislature from amending or repealing initiative laws (By the State Grange.)

To give each city or town the sole right to regulate its business houses, theaters and the like on Sunday.

To extend suffrage to women.

Petition to the following bills have been filed or are being circulated:

The corrupt practice act. Limiting the amount of money that candidates may spend for campaign purposes. (By U'Ren.)

Requiring all legislative candidates to subscribe to Statement No. 1. (By U'Ren.)

For the division of Wasco county and the creation of another county, with Hood River as the county seat. (By the people of Wasco county.)

Prohibiting the fishing for salmon above the mouth of the Sandy. (By Astoria fishermen.)

Enlarging the powers of the Port of Portland in the interests of better navigation on the lower Willamette and Columbia rivers. (By the people of Multnomah county.)

### POPULAR AMUSEMENTS.

Every person of mature age is capable of choosing his or her amusements; every parent is responsible for the early associates of children and conscience and decency and moderation are the only judges.

In an advanced and progressive age when the world is sweeping away from the old creeds, old dogmas, old "blue laws" which have held people in fear and trembling, it is folly to denounce ALL dancing and card playing as vulgar, vicious and evil.

There are evil forms of all these, and many other popular amusements. Harm can be made of almost any custom or practice of the human family.

But sane and wholesome people, parents who know and respect the laws of propriety and decency are not to be condemned for indulging in innocent amusements which may not suit people of different tastes and different mental inclinations and different callings.

There is a middle ground, a moderation, a sane level upon which people must walk with conscience and self-respect, but because a corner dance hall in a down town district in St. Louis or Chicago is indecent is no excuse for condemning all social dances as such.

The place, the crowd and the surroundings make up the status of the amusement and it is just as wrong to condemn all dances as it would be to condemn all ministers for the acts of one.—East Oregonian.

Keeping Open House. Everybody is welcome when we feel good; and we feel that way only when our digestive organs are working properly. Dr. King's New Life Pills regulate the action of stomach, liver and bowels so perfectly one can't help feeling good when he uses these pills. 25c at Palace Drug company's store.

**Wellington's Vanity.**  
Among the portraits at the Royal Academy there are some which could tell stories, some with little touches to reveal the idiosyncrasies of subjects no less than of painters. Is the story of Lawrence's portrait of the Duke of Wellington commonly known? The duke had only one vanity—his wrist was like steel. Now, when he was given the sword of state to carry it was able to carry it upright. All his predecessors had had to slope it toward the shoulder. He would go down to posterity, he resolved, glorified by the power of his wrist. In vain Sir Thomas Lawrence pointed out that as a matter of art it would never do; that the sight of a man perennially carrying a sword from his wrist would fatigue those who looked at his picture. The duke insisted upon having his way. Lawrence did manage to smuggle in a cushion upon which the duke seems to rest his elbow, but close examination shows that arm and cushion do not meet.—London Sketch.

### TALES OF CITIES.

Chicago has put its freight traffic instead of its passengers below the surface of the streets.

The population of Brooklyn at the time of consolidation was 838,000. It is now 1,358,000, a gain of 520,000, relatively larger than Manhattan's.

Where London consumes 90,000,000 gallons of water a day New York consumes 500,000,000. Where London has an area of 118 square miles, New York has 326.

### Suffering and Dollars Saved.

E. S. Loper, of Marilla, N. Y., says: "I am a carpenter and have had many severe cuts healed by Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It has saved me suffering and dollars. It is by far the best healing salve I have ever found." Heals burns, sores, ulcers, fever sores, eczema and piles. 25c at Palace Drug company's store.

Ring's Little Liver Pills wake up lazy livers, clean the system and clear the skin. Try them for biliousness and sick headache. Price 25c. Sold by Pioneer Drug Store.

To stop that pain in the back, that stiffness of the joints and muscles, take Pineules. They are guaranteed. Don't suffer from rheumatism, backache, kidney trouble, when you get 30 days' treatment for \$1.00. A single dose at bed time proves their merit. Get them today. Sold by Pioneer Drug Store.

### Neighborhood Favorite.

Mrs. E. D. Charles, of Harbor, Maine, speaking of Electric Bitters, says: "It is a neighborhood favorite here with us." It deserves to be a favorite everywhere. It gives quick relief in dyspepsia, liver complaint, kidney derangement, malnutrition, nervousness, weakness and general debility. Its action on the blood, as a thorough purifier makes it especially useful as a spring medicine. This grand alternative tonic is sold under guarantee at Palace Drug Company's store. 50c.

Kodol is the best remedy known today for dyspepsia, indigestion and all troubles arising from a disordered stomach. It is pleasant, prompt and thorough. Sold by Palace Drug company.

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Sold in Athena by McBride.

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GOOD LIQUORS SPECIALTY

Clark's Pure Rye in bottle and bond; Velvet whiskey in bottle and bond; Montrose whiskey and Olympia beer for family use  
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