## Editorial Page of "The Capital Journal"



## In his beautiful Christmas carol Charles Dickens makes the spirit that is guiding Old Scrooge reveal to

 ragked, scowling and wolfish; but prostrate, too, in their ragged, shumility.

## Spirit," cried the miser in terror, "are they yours?

 They are man's," said the Spirit, "and they cling to This appeaing is Want. Beware of them both, but most of all beware of this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased.In our day, as in that of Dickens, Ignorance and Want are the twins of Despair. In our day too Ignorance is
the more to be dreaded, for through all the ages there has been written on the brow of Ignorance that which is Doom unless the writing is erased
There are only two reasons for failure today-natural incapacity and wilful self-destruction. A thousand-y a thousand thousand-living examples emphasize th ruth that every normal man can be prosperous if he will But the rule of progress is preparation
In this age and on this continent who has the right hold himself blameless if he fail through ignorance?
Has he whose time is squandered while his possibilitic Has he whose Or he whose youth was but a succession of broke resolutions and supine resignatio
Or he to whom Opportunity appeals in vain because he will not open his eyes no
thunder through the ages?
We have done much to erase the writing from the brow
Ignorance not wifful. The American Public School has reated an atmosphere in which the brand of School has dissolves: and the endless variety of cheap books has pro vided a medium through which young men may insure
Perhaps the time is near when man no longer will have need to shrink in terror from tho
children-Ignorance and Want.

HOW THE PEOPLE ARE BEING WORKED The state highway board-still persists road fund as a premium to induce counties to go int debt. Columbia, Clatsop, Jackson and one or two more
which have voted themselves hopelessly into dot will most of the fund again next year while the counties which pay for their road work as they go along are given no assistance The poticy is unfair and unjust and seem.
to have been adopted at the dictation of road bond buyer and paving trust, since no
encouraging such issues.

## To show how the scheme works, an incident which o curred at the meeting of the highway board this wee

 might be cited. The judge of Columbia county in pleading for more money, as an argunent stated the people of year (in addition to a big bond issue) and if $\$ 00,000$ were appropriated by the state for next year, it would make yote a seven or eight mill tax next year. An Poor Columbia, in the grip of county officials interested only in schemes to "jolly" the people into voting and the paving trustThe Pendleton Tribume is evidently trying to reform It prints an editorial in which the slump in the price of wheat is discussed without once referring to the tariff Naturally it should jump to the conclusion that free trade has caused a lot of cheap wheat from India to be dumper upon our shore-which is about as sensible as the averag high-tariff argument-but strangly enough it does not in this instance. On the other hand it notes that Canadian farmers are getting a better price than our own growers

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because they are taking English bonds in pay our farmers want the gold There is no doub in this statement and it is a relief to see it in a paper which in the past has charged all
produce to free trade and all high prices to produce to free trade
of the European war. $\qquad$
Now the price of lumber is said to be and the demand stronger. If this is true then is, indeed, close at hand, for it is our large
Fruit, wool and general farm produce is Fruit, wool and general farm produce is in prices and everybody has faith that the
will come back strong within a few weeks. to put it mildly, is very encouraging.
There was bloody fighting yesterday a maennele and Hartmannswvederpopf on
front. Those names would make almost front. Those names
enough to run amuck $\qquad$
Frank P. Walsh sees a "dawn of industrial democ federal commission much better than the real

The Newport Review, published by Sheely
the News, which no doubt fills the field fully.
Now that the Christmas toys are coming any one of the worst calamities of war has been averted

## RipplingRhymes

HE MORTGAGE
 if you'd describe the grief of one who has a mortgage on his shanty. The mortgage is a grievous weight for workingman to
stagger under; it bends the back that once was straight, and makes the hair as gray a thunder. The toiler says, "To blithely roam the landscape o'er, l've long been wanting I'll put a mortgage on my home, and buy a mortgage on his shack, and buys a moto pay it back."." he says. "ort it will be bhamed

 werld indorses-will soon from his possession slide, fiercest hell that dead horses. Debt

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