

used in decorating automobiles and other vehicles used in the great parade. The total number of roses grown in the "Rose City" annually has been estimated as high as 25,000,000.

This year the city will plant 250,000 rose bushes, decorating 3,000 city blocks, which means one hundred miles of roses!

The bushes blossom from May to November in this climate, and it is not unusual to see roses in bloom in Portland yards throughout the winter.

Portland expects at this year's festival the greatest throng of travelers in her history.

---

## THE ARMY OF DESPAIR

BY FRED ISLER.

Teamster and Sec'y Hoboes' Union  
**BARREL HOUSES.**—To many of the member of the Army of Despair the barrel house or cheap saloon fills the place of the club of their more fortunate fellow citizens. Welcome nowhere because of their generally dilapidated appearance and sadly depleted pocketbook, having no home, no place they can call their own, hounded off the street corners by vigilant policemen, barely tolerated in the lobbies of the cheap lodging houses, and most of the time suffering intensely from the effects of the cold, they naturally flock to barrel houses, where they have an opportunity to meet their companions in misery, get acquainted, exchange views and, above all, a chance to be in a warm place. Besides, for a nickel one can get a big "foaming schooner" and either soup or free lunch. And cheap whisky, known by the names of ky, a shot of houch, katy-flyer, beachy-flip, sky-rocker, one on the sleeper, rocky mountain fix, and other nicknames, can be gotten for five cents.

Although the liquid is strong enough to burn the entrails of a hog,

many men, in fact too many, will drown their misery in it and for the time being imagine themselves to be perfectly happy. And sometimes a man with a few dollars in his pockets, "a live one," comes in and treats others to something to drink. When such an event happens few are those who refuse.

Paradoxical as it appears, it is a well-known fact that a starving man can get a drink easier than a meal. The effects of strong drink upon an underfed stomach can be imagined. It leads to chronic drunkenness, delirium tremens and an early grave. It really looks as if circumstances would combine in a huge conspiracy to push those unfortunates down the social ladder to the gutter and keep them there. Only the strong can retain their balance and not sink.

When you enter a barrel house you see a motley crowd of men of all ages either sitting around tables or else standing singly or in small groups around the walls. The majority wear clothes that long ago have ceased to afford protection to the wearer. The life of the homeless is such that clothes soon lose their original shape and before long look like a shapeless mass of rags, only fit to decorate a scarecrow. Some of the most ragged have to tie up their clothing with pieces of string, and often a safety pin picked up on the street, or even a small stick of wood to replace a missing button. Many wear shirts that have not seen the inside of a laundry for sometime, and no doubt vermin keeps them busy. It is not always an easy matter for one who has no home and no money to clean up, especially in the winter time.

A full description of their footgear would fill a chapter. Unpolished, misshapened, leaky, heels worn out on the side, sometimes a toe sticking out, some of those shoes, if they could only speak, would tell a sorrowful tale of the trials and tribulations of the owner. For they have been the constant companion of the man