

Morning Oregonian

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How Long, O Lord, How Long? The amazing story of increasing taxation in Oregon for the past twenty years cannot be better told than in the following table.

Table showing population and average per capita tax for Multnomah county from 1890 to 1920. Columns include Year, Population, and Average per capita tax.

There is no quarrel with Doctor Rocky over how fine a thing it would be to establish a great medical center on Maquam Hill.

There are those who are not in favor of the proposed hospital. They give as a reason the enormous burden of taxation which the nation has to pay.

With due regard for what Vancouver, B. C., has accomplished with its million-dollar hospital, which houses 1000 patients, most of whom pay for the care given them, it may be pointed out that we are spending a million dollars for one patient.

Customs and prejudices of people vary. There is an unbridgeable gulf between the two. It is not surprising that the Oregonian, contrary to a possible implication in Dr. Rocky's letter published Sunday, has not specifically condemned the county's participation in the medical center plan.

But aside from the foregoing the history of the county hospital has been disquieting. The outside estimate for the completed unit with necessary building and fixtures is not more than \$450,000. The measure of public approval that it gained was based on that understanding of its cost.

The commissioners have deviated from established forms in letting contracts for equipment. They have turned down home industry to do it; we are paying several thousands for the mistake of an engineer in establishing the foundation depth; we are paying in public capacity for personal injuries for reckless disposal of earth excavated from the site.

as well as the probably lower price to be had a year hence, are clearly worth considering. It is indeed true, as Dr. Rocky says, that all men make mistakes.

Alarm at the prospective exhaustion of the petroleum supply of the world just when its use for fuel and many other purposes has become well nigh universal should be allayed by recollection that there have been such scares before.

There was probably a similar alarm when the forests of Europe began to show a deficit in supply of wood for fuel, but coal took its place.

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Those members of congress who call for reduction of the army and navy programme have uncommonly short memories. They give as a reason the enormous burden of taxation which the nation has to pay.

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a few years ago had advanced the art of potato culture far beyond the stage it had reached in the United States. Per capita consumption in Germany just before the war was about four and a half times that of this country.

Corn, a native of America, is still best understood in the western hemisphere, but other countries now produce a total of about half as much as we do, the world's crop having reached more than 4,000,000,000 bushels in a favorable season.

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fish in the Sandy river. The congestion of automobiles, the cries of the vendors, the screams of women amateurs wielding the dip nets, the sight from the bridge of myriads of fish leaping their way against the clear current constitute a scene not found elsewhere.

Or a trip up the Willamette river during the spring salmon trolling season, the wait in the mist of the falls or in the rapids for the strike, the fight with a glorious fish that at least pulls like he weighs a hundred pounds—one needs no literary brush to touch up the local color there.

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BY-PRODUCTS OF THE PRESS

Days Recalled When Eels Were a Delicacy in Portland Markets. The news story coming from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, telling of the stopping of a ferry boat by reason of an eel getting into the feed tank and interfering with the early days when all the means of public travel between Newberg and Portland was by steamboats plying on the Willamette river.

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Those Who Come and Go.

Beneath the cheering glow of a brilliantly lighted Christmas tree in one of the downtown hotels Christmas eve, there was enacted a Yuletide homecoming that wrung the hearts of those who knew and understood. He was dressed in the cotton fabric which a thoughtful public provides for the big front seats swinging outward. The prison pallor had not erased the copper tint of his skin, nor had the years of servitude bowed the shoulders of this unsmiling descendant of early American Indians.

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SCHOOL HEAD MISUNDERSTOOD

Elimination of Foreign Languages for Elementary Schools Only. OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Or., Dec. 26.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian recently I note a statement in a story from Salem that the "elimination of all languages in the public schools and colleges of Oregon other than English" had been advocated by me in an address at the annual banquet of the Six O'clock club of the First Methodist church of that city.

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More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague. PRE-DIGESTED LITERATURE. Although, like every literateur, I'm deeply interested in the classics, I much prefer to take it pre-digested. I'd rather not partake of pie when I can get a tartlet. And that explains the reason why I'm strong for Mr. Bartlett.

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John Burrough's Nature Notes. Can you answer these questions? 1. Do birds of different species flock together in winter? 2. Does a man's voice reflect his character? Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.