Oregon Daily Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher
[Be calm, be confident, be cheerful and do unto others as you would have them do unto you.]

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When one has had all his conceit taken out of him, when he has lost all his illusions, his feathers will soon soak through and he will fly no more.
—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

PARTNERS IN THE PLANT

AN IDEAL relationship between two forces never grew out of antagonism and distrust. It never grew out of unrelenting combat. It was never cemented by ties of might.

A civilization based on might is not a sound civilization. It may live temporarily, but it will ultimately fall. A government founded on might is a tottering government. Any relationship depending for its existence on might alone will not withstand the rigors of the years.

Capital has looked with suspicion on labor. The workingman has, and often rightfully so, distrusted capital. Each has been antagonistic to the other.

Each has invariably questioned the other's motives and unalterably opposed its proposals. On that basis an industrial system has been reared in America.

It has not been eminently successful. No system is eminently successful that is lacking in efficiency. Millions of dollars have been wasted in lockouts. More millions have been swallowed up in strikes. Plants have lain idle for months and months, while workers were without work and wages. Economic wastage has gone out to strikebreakers. Lives have been spent in the struggles, while operations were at a standstill. The system is not efficient and not permanent on such a basis.

There have been moves to establish industrial plants on a foundation of cooperative effort and mutual assistance. Visioned men have recognized that the interests of capital and labor are inter-dependent, that one's fortunes are dependent on the other's fortunes in our present scheme of things. On that principle some plants have been operated and they have been successful.

The Armours have presented a cooperative proposal to their employes as a solution of the present differences. They offer a plan of industrial democracy in which the employes share in the control of the business.

The employes are wary of the overtures of the packing magnates. In view of the past record of the packers the workers quite naturally question the sincerity of the present proposal.

But it is a plan that should not be hastily rejected as without merit. If genuine it is based on cooperation and mutual aid and is calculated to eliminate antagonism and distrust. It is a move toward a combination of workers and capital for the benefit of both. It recognizes a principle—that capital and labor are partners—that should long ago have been written into the code of operations of American industrial institutions.

"The Community Chest puts charity on a cold-blooded business basis and I am opposed to it." This statement was made by a Portland lawyer, when asked to be a speaker in behalf of the Chest campaign. Others should not fall into the same error. The Community Chest furnishes an intelligently organized connection between the warm heart of generosity and the needy. It finances organized philanthropy in a week for a year in order that appeals shall not be disappointed because of lack of money. The Community Chest furnishes a whole city rather than the comparative few a chance to put charity on a cash basis and thus keep the heart of charity stronger than ever before.

CAN THEY DO NO WRONG?

IT WAS less than a week ago that a Portland policeman shot a motorist in the head because he did not stop his machine when the officer commanded him to halt. Although the motorist declares he did not hear the command, and although the officer was in plain clothes, the latter blazed away, shooting to kill, at a man against whom he had no charges.

A few days later, another officer jostled a man on the street. The man remonstrated and was immediately arrested, although no charges were placed against him.

At almost the same time we hear of another patrolman knocking an intoxicated man to the pavement with a terrific blow.

Have Portland policemen come to believe that they are all-powerful? Have they come to think that they are clothed with such authority that they can do no wrong, that they can jostle people about on the street and arrest them on general principles if the latter dare to assert their rights, and that they can even employ their weapons to kill regardless of the innocence or guilt of a citizen? Are they empowered to mercilessly beat a drunken man when blows are not in any way necessary to place him under arrest?

It is apparent that some of Portland's officers are in need of instruction as to their own conduct and the duties and power of their positions.

That the teachers are taking an active interest in accident prevention in Portland is evidenced by a traffic accident chart maintained to keep prevention constantly in pupils' minds. It is encouraging to the mothers and fathers of this city to know that the teachers are taking steps to protect the lives and limbs of the children in their charge.

WHEN CIVILIZATION ROTS

TO WHAT extent is there moral rottenness among those who revel in millions in America?

Here was a man who they say was seriously discussed as a candidate for president of the republic. A shot revealed to the world his open liaison with a girl whom he ruined while she was yet in her teens. He was a topnotcher in the millions at his command and as a political leader.

And here is the disgusting story of the president of the National City bank, one of the premier banking institutions of the world. He is a master of finance, a member of Gotham's exclusive rich. His adultery with a chorus girl and his fatherhood of her illegitimate son are revealed to an astonished country by divorce proceedings.

And to cap the climax, by unanimous vote the directors of his bank refused to accept his resignation as president, tendered by him as a result of the scandal. Is their moral concept so low that all the indulgences of a bigamous life by the president of the institution is a mere trifle?

In the ethics of millionairedom is money license? Is there no longer an old fashioned code of morality in which the vows of marriage and the obligations of home are sacred? Is there no law against adultery for money kings and barons of oil? Probably not. But from the Stokeses, the Stillmans and the Hamons we are given examples of moral rottenness that amaze and confuse. And from the annals of the past we learn that when nations became thoroughly immoral, they perished from the earth.

The pessimist who predicts that hard times will continue at least four years is flanked by the optimist who declares that he can see the time approaching when he will be able again to get all he wants to eat for 35 cents.

WHEN WE HAD COMPETITION

THERE is some controversy over what Mr. Hickman of the telephone company said to the hotel men. It is fair to him to say that some hotel men say he was not correctly quoted. A Journal reporter, present at the meeting, says that Mr. Hickman angrily replied to one questioner in effect that "if you do not like our rates cut out your phone; we are not seeking your business."

In any event, if the old Home system had still been in competition with the Bell, no representative of either system would have made such a reply. When the Home system was functioning both companies were competing for business. Both were seeking patrons and were very obliging in their efforts to land them. They would tell you the time of day and give you information about the result of the day's baseball game, call you mornings and render other accommodating service. But all that was dropped when the two systems were merged.

But when we had competing telephone systems the people were told that they were keeping up two telephone plants, that it caused duplication and that it was more expensive. The utilities always tell you that competing systems and duplicating plants are wasteful and costly and that the thing to do is to combine them into one so the cost of service may be cut and rates be reduced. And the people get used to the argument, gradually accept it, the consolidation takes place, and almost without exception, the rates go up and service retrogrades.

And the Home phone would be in Portland today, and there would be competition in service and competition in rates, but for the deliberate action of the people themselves. At an election they voted down the measure requiring the competing systems to interchange service. They listened to the paid agents and to those who told them that interchange of service was impracticable and impossible. The Journal advocated passage of the measure, declaring that interchange was practicable, and its insistence was fully confirmed when, after buying the Home company, the Bell system installed a complete interchange of service and is now operating both lines under such an arrangement.

In their present situation it may be of value to phone users to ponder over this maxim: That it is a good thing to think when you vote and then vote as you think.

Certain articles of American manufacture have never been dislodged from their foothold in European markets by imitation or price cutting. Among them are safety razors, fountain pens, tooth paste in collapsible tubes and dress shields.

KEEP THE PLEDGE

A GREAT gathering of farmers is to assemble at Washington to urge congress to enact agricultural legislation at the extraordinary session of congress. From every state there will be representatives of the National Farm Bureau Federation, the National Milk Producers' association and the National Farmers' Union. What they ask is emergency tariff legislation to stop importation of certain farm products. It was promised them by those who won the election. The pledge ought to be kept.

Imported shoddies are in competition with American wool. The consumer gets no relief from that competition or from the importation of foreign wools. The price of clothing is so high that people are refusing to buy. Anyway, there is less than $8 worth of wool in an average suit of clothing when wool prices are high, and an import duty sufficient to protect the home industry would scarcely affect the consumer.

The same thing is true of hides. The farmer cannot sell a beef hide for enough to buy a pair of shoes. A shoe that used to cost the retailer $5 now costs him $12 to $15. The leather trust has made unparalleled dividends and the stockman is counting his losses. The tariff from time immemorial has favored the leather trust and the shoe trust and the other trusts and left the farmer the husks.

Here is an instance typical of hides: A Montana farmer obtained a beautiful black hide from a two-year-old steer. He sent it to a hide and fur company to be tanned for a robe. The company wrote:

To tan this hide will cost you $12.17. To line it and make it into a robe will cost you $22.50 complete. We are not doing any tanning this season without $5 in advance, and ask you to remit us $5 on account. If we do not hear from you within 10 days, we shall be compelled to send you a check for the value of the hide, which is $1.13, less 72 cents for freight.

For the first time the farmers, gathering at Washington in force, are taking a course that will yield results. The trained and paid lobbyists of the institutions that sell to farmers have always been in the legislative corridors, stacking legislation. They have flocked and swarmed around congress demanding all kinds of high import duties for the manufacturer, and getting them. It has meant high prices for what the farmer buys and low prices for what he sells.

The proof is on every hand. It appears in the country-wide losses to agriculture, placed at $6,000,000,000 in the late slump in prices. It is to be seen in the increase in the number of farm mortgages, in the mounting level of farm tenantry and in the drift of farm population to the cities.

American automobiles are gaining a widened market in Argentina. But until American road builders also turn their attention to the southern republic, it is doubtful if touring will become as popular as the machines. Most of the roads are merely tracks on the natural surface.

THE ORACLES SPEAK

IT was a grand day at Camden, New Jersey, Thursday. The superdreadnought Colorado, the most modern and most expensive seafighter in the world, glided into the waves for the first time. Young Mr. Roosevelt had his say. So did Senator Nicholsen of Colorado. So did Representative Kelley of Michigan.

Roosevelt branded all pacifists as fools.

The senator from Colorado described those who favor disarmament as feeble-minded.

The Michigan representative declared there can be no such thing as disarmament.

The oracles had spoken. The giant fighter glided into the water. And now all those in this country who desire freedom from war and war expenses must know that they are feeble minded and fools.

THE END OF THE LEVER ACT

From Loud Hurrahs to Mournful Sighs
Ranges the Comment on the Supreme
Court's Action—A Thing Which
Everybody Save the Gouger Not
Only Needs but Wants, Is Still
Beyond Legislative Powers.

Daily Editorial Digest
(Consolidated Press Association)

The stamp of "unconstitutionality" placed upon the Lever act, originally designed to protect the public from wartime profiteering, remains unquestioned as to its validity by the American newspapers, but a large number of writers feel that the people will suffer when even this false bulwark is removed. Conceding that it was "a bluff" that worked to some extent at least during wartime, fear is expressed by some that, now that it has been "called," the profiteer will be encouraged. There are those, of course, who think that the "illegal law" is better out of the way and that the stimulus which its removal has given business will more than make up for the escape of a few offenders.

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The Portland Oregonian (Ind. Rep.) takes a practical view of the matter. Although "it now turns out that the Lever act was a gigantic bluff in the sense that it had no support either in constitution or law," it, nevertheless, "worked" because it was backed by "the united, overwhelming force of public opinion." While the New York Post (Ind.) finds it "unfortunate" that the decision had to be made which permitted nullification "of hundreds of prosecutions" and admits that it is "a lesson on the way not to draft a law," that paper still feels that the act was "of great value in intimidating many would-be profiteers and speculators." The Boston Transcript (Ind. Rep.) likewise agrees with the soundness of the supreme court's ruling, but also feels that the law "has served its purpose." The Buffalo Commercial (Ind.), too, considers that "it checked the greed of the profiteer and the labor leader." That the results of the act "in practice fell far short of the necessities of the situation," the Baltimore Sun (Ind. Dem.) believes, but grants that they had "a great psychological effect."

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There are those who can see little in the war record of the law to excuse its existence as a meddling civilian. Says the Fort Worth Star-Telegram (Ind. Dem), "The decision of the supreme court puts an end to the intolerable interference in business which has been practiced under the Lever act. Not only was it intolerable in time of peace, but it actually defeated, rather than served, the purpose which it was intended to serve."

Probably no recent court decision, the Brooklyn Eagle (Ind. Dem.) believes, "has done so much to settle business conditions," for, in the words of the Detroit Free Press (Ind.), it will "place a quietus on the activities of some people who have been trying to use the Lever act as an excuse for sticking their fingers into things with which they have no concern." Reminding its readers that it "has repeatedly questioned the validity of a law which, in peace times, should dictate to a dealer what he should charge for anything he had for sale," the Canton (Ohio) News (Dem.) remarks: "There is no law which requires patrons to buy from any particular dealer, and the dealer has a right to demand what he pleases for his merchandise—his property rights are guaranteed by the constitution. It is doubtful if the public took seriously prosecutions made under the Lever law against alleged profiteers." In the opinion of the Pittsburg Gazette-Times (Rep.), the act was "seizure of despotic power by the government of a democratic republic" assented to by the people simply "because the country was at war and they were willing to make any sacrifice necessary to win."

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However, another side to this phase of the question is recognized by many papers, among them the Sioux City (Iowa) Journal (Rep.) which grants that "the act was an interference with business," but continues: "There is a point at which it becomes the right and duty of the government to interfere with business. Although the act was difficult of enforcement and has been declared unconstitutional, it was not wholly ineffective."

Following this logic a step further, the St. Louis Star (Ind.) suggests that now since the supreme court has "cleared out some of the trash," the people can "demand something constructive to take its place," and the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette (Dem.) predicts that "sooner or later there will be a law in this country that will make it possible for organized society to protect itself against exploitation." That this will not be so easy of accomplishment is the fear of the Ohio State Journal (Columbus, Rep.), which feels that "the main thing the government could do successfully to protect the public to some degree against the greedily powerful" would be negative rather than positive: that is, "merely to grant no special favor of any kind to any interest, and thus do something in promoting fair and free competition." As it is, the abolition of the Lever act, the Hartford Times (Dem.) regrets, "leaves the country without any protection against price gouging except the little it may secure through the anti-trust act and conspiracy statutes."

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Under these circumstances, the Norfolk (Neb.) News (Ind.) believes that it "will be generally regretted that there remains no adequate way of dealing with the man who made a fortune out of the war by taking advantage of the distress and needs of the people." The "moral" effect of the decision will be detrimental, the Birmingham Age-Herald (Ind. Dem.) believes, for "it will give comfort to unscrupulous firms and individuals" and "it will strengthen the conviction of the profiteers' victims, who constitute a considerable part of the nation's population, that their government cannot prevent them from being exploited." These "immediate and lasting effects of the ruling," the Rochester Herald (Ind.) thinks, "will be profoundly harmful."

Curious Bits of Information

Gleaned From Curious Places

Howe's cave, in Schoharie county, N. Y., 39 miles from Albany, is regarded as the most remarkable cavern in existence, after the Mammoth cave in Kentucky. It was discovered in 1842 by Lester Howe, who is said to have penetrated into its interior for a distance of 12 miles. The farthest point reached by the visitor is about four miles from the entrance. The cave contains some remarkable stalactites and stalagmites and abounds in curious and fantastic formations.

MRS. HARDING'S FIVE COOKS

From Capper's Weekly.

Mrs. Warren G. Harding found her servant problem solved for her when she became mistress of the White House. Cooks, chambermaids, laundrywomen, butler and pantrymen—20 in all—are provided by the government at a cost of $30,000 a year, and there is a housekeeper who has been in charge of the servants since the administration of ex-President Taft. Previous to that time a steward was in charge. Only the expense of the personal servants whom a new president and his wife may choose to have accompany them to the White House is borne by the chief executive.

Mrs. Harding has retained the services of Inez McWhorter, her cook, and a chauffeur, but she found at the White House four cooks retained by the government and four chauffeurs.

All food bought for the White House table, whether for the private table or for state functions, must be paid out of the pocket of the chief executive. Caterers to the White House usually are selected by the housekeeper, unless the "first lady of the land" desires to follow particular preferences which may previously have been formed.

Letters From the People

[Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written only on one side of the paper; should not exceed 300 words in length, and must be signed by the writer, whose mail address in full must accompany the contribution.]

REBUKES COMMISSIONERS

Not Bound, to Render Decision on Incomplete Information.

Portland, March 22—To the Editor of The Journal—The decision of the hotel owners to ask for a rehearing in the telephone rate case and, failing there to get relief, to take the decision to the courts, is the prescribed procedure in the public utilities act. Following this course would, perhaps, appeal more strongly to the more sober minded persons than the recall movement. It might be appropriate to mention in connection with the above that the public service commission has already stated though the press that if the public is not satisfied with its decision it has the privilege of seeking redress through the courts. Putting this statement in as mild a form as possible, it is a defiance; that is, if you don't like its decision, "cut it out" through the courts, but don't bother us. The representative of the telephone company said yesterday to the hotel owners: "If you don't like our rate charges or our method of proportioning rates, cut your telephones out; we are not seeking your business."

The public might construe or understand the statements made by both the commission and the telephone company, that if it did not like the decision and the telephone rates it could go to h—l. I would not advise the acceptance of such an invitation, but I certainly would advise going direct to the courts for relief and proceeding with the recall movement. The public service commission has admitted that it was not authorized under the law to examine certain sub-corporations of the parent company and was thereby barred from making a complete investigation, which was absolutely necessary as a basis for raising or reducing telephone rates. Notwithstanding this important fact, the rates were increased 30 to 250 per cent. This in itself, in my opinion, would disqualify the personnel of the present commission. I have carefully examined the law creating the public service commission and setting forth its powers and duties and I cannot agree with the statement that it is without power to make a proper investigation; on the contrary, it has practically unlimited power and authority and could force the utility companies to furnish any and all information required, upon which to base an equitable decision.

The decision of the commission in the telephone rate case reads in part: "Under the law and in the light of the records of this case, the commission has no alternative other than to provide additional revenue."

It is claimed and admitted that the evidence was incomplete. Yet an increase in rates was granted. The commission was not duty bound to render a decision on an incomplete record or in the absence of a complete and sweeping investigation of the case. In the absence of complete evidence the public should have been given the benefit of the doubt. W. L. Archambeau.

THE OLD POSTOFFICE

Insistence That It Be Left Alone; Monument Somewhere Else.

Portland, March 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—The present old postoffice at Fifth and Morrison streets is needed, and badly needed, by the great mass of ordinary, everyday citizens that live or do business "downtown." To abolish it would cause inestimable inconvenience to the mass of people who make Portland great, no matter how many "branch postoffices" were put in behind little blind desks in drug stores and other inconvenient places. As sure as that office is discontinued a cry will go up for some other downtown place where business can be transacted on a big scale, as it is there; where the Christmas rush can be taken care of, at least to a degree.

The needs and convenience of the great mass of citizens should be the first thought of our public men, and Congressman McArthur is to be commended for asking expressions of opinion as to the removal of the building. Just let it alone. Business will get along very nicely. The real estate dealers will find "something else to play with," and Mayor Baker's fervid patriotism will soon bubble over in some new place.
Horace Addis.

THE TELEPHONE INCREASE

A Protest Against One of the Company's Chief Arguments for It.

Portland, March 23.—To the Editor of The Journal—For working people there is not much interest in the controversy between the telephone company and its patrons over the question of increased rates. It is only when the henchmen of this overfed corporation justify the increase with the proviso that the higher rates will enable the company to create jobs for the idle, that one objects. The fact is that we have been fed up on such bunk for so long that the dish has become nauseating, and unless the telephone company has some more plausible reason than the philanthropic one of trying to find work for the unemployed it should not succeed in retaining the higher rate.
R. Harrigan.

WOULD RENAME THE COMMISSION

Portland, March 22.—To the Editor of The Journal—Would it not be proper to rename the public service commission of Oregon? I would suggest it should be called corporation service commission. The commission has done nothing to help the public in the matter of high prices. Everything in the way of eatables and clothing has taken a decided drop. Why not phones, gas and other public utilities?

The people of Portland and Oregon must be thankful to The Journal for the fight it has always put up in favor of the people. I think it is the only paper worth while in the city.
Sam Goldenberg.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says

One of these here agricultural sharps was a-tellin' us at the Corners school house t'other night that farmers had orter keep books so's to tell where they're at on the cost of butter, pigs, loganberries and sich. But Jedge McCracken doubted the wisdom of it. He 'lowed that if the farmer got to figgerin' like the big corporations does he'd bring hisself out busted all the time, and, not havin' any bunch of commissioners to raise his rates fer him, like the railroads and the telephones has, he'd git so discouraged that he wouldn't raise nuthin' nor buy nuthin' and the country'd go Bolshevik by 4,000,000 majority.

HE'S DOOMED

From the Baltimore American

An international roping match has been announced between a Mexican woman and an American woman. The name of the man has not yet been divulged.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Everybody happy?

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Let the Community Chest swell.

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The terror of sin is that children must bear the burden of penalty for their elders.

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As fast as automobiles lengthen the spines of the race, reckless drivers shorten life, so the score is even.

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Some of these new "California bungalows" seem to have been built to fit California's drouthy climate.

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Having been given an inch, the public service commission seems to want the whole city.

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When the Clara Hamon motion pictures are released we shall have a real test of the worth of censorship.

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Twenty-five chickens to a city lot will be quite enough to make the sleeper's Sunday morning nap one long cackle.

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"Masterpiece carved on bean." No, sonny, that doesn't mean that someone has been crowned with a length of pipe.

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Veteran coughs up Civil war bullet. That's nothing. We coughed up the price of a sack of flour just before the price dropped.

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It will be handy to have a capable man like Hoover in the cabinet if for no other reason than to solve riddles for his colleagues.

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Farmers are to make a drive on congress. Given the same success farmers have in their gopher drives, congress had better look a little out.

SIDELIGHTS

If you knew yourself as well as you do your neighbor you might not think any more of yourself than you do of him.—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

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Portland is hot on the trail of the high school fraternities; the Portland board must have decided to take over the management of the school system.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

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Since he has successfully run a newspaper, the confidence with which President Harding has attacked his job of running the government is perhaps not unjustifiable.—Weston Leader.

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The construction of a tourist hotel at Crater Lake, like the building of a railroad to the Blue Ledge, hinges on keeping the lead pencils sharp and the throat clear.—Medford Mail-Tribune.

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What are we going to do about the slaughter of American citizens in Mexico? Some of the editors who know just what Wilson should have done ought to prompt Harding at once.—Eugene Guard.

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Professor Weizman says that 45,000 acres of land are available in Palestine for Jews who wish to buy it. Professor Weizman will have to offer something besides sentiment, however, to get American Jews of normal intelligence to go back to Palestine.—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

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The Corvallis Gazette Times is installing a semi-rotary press which will deliver papers at the rate of 3500 to 4000 an hour. That's a handy little machine to have around at press time, but what will it be good for during the other 23 hours and 59 minutes of the day?—Cottage Grove Sentinel.

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL

Random Observations About Town

Mr. and Mrs. Leon E. Rennells of Eugene are guests at the Seward. "Just say I am here on business," said Mr. Rennells. "I don't want everybody to know I am here on my honeymoon. Till a week ago my wife was Miss Alta Gentry of Grants Pass. I find business conditions from Eugene to Klamath Falls improving on account of farm credits easing up. I sell farm machinery, so I am in position to know. While in Klamath Falls recently, about all I heard from the farmers was praise for Captain Siemens, the banker. He held lots of the notes of farmers and stockgrowers. They could not sell their livestock and hay, so they could not take up their notes. He called them together and said, 'If I enforce collection a lot of you will go to the wall and lose your places. I will close my bank till you can dispose of your stock and take up your notes; then I will open again.' He did so and, now that he has reopened, you couldn't drive his depositors away."

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Dean Abrahams, from the cheese metropolis of the Pacific coast, is at the Imperial and reports the farmers of Tillamook well pleased with conditions there.

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Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Shepard, whose home is at McMinnville, are Portland visitors and are registered at the Oregon.

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William Brown, from the inland seaport of Reedsport, is registered at the Oregon.

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Mr. and Mrs. George T. Michaelson of Bend are guests at the Hotel Imperial.

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F. B. Holbrook of Goble is registered at the Imperial.

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H. M. Kershaw of Willamina is at the Imperial.

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T. B. Desch of La Grande is registered at the Imperial.

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C. S. Oliver of Hood River is a Portland visitor.

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L. H. Ziegler of Lexington, Morrow county, is a guest at the Imperial.

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Dr. J. W. Kerr, president of O. A. C., is a guest at the Imperial.

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L. E. Bolt of Pendleton is transacting business in the city.

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F. H. Haradan is in town from Astoria, registered at the Hotel Benson.

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Carl Crow, registering from Shanghai, China, is at the Benson.

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Grant Hale is in the city from Albany.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Weaver, proprietors of the Hotel Umpqua, are guests at the Hotel Portland. "The roads between Roseburg and Portland are in excellent condition," said Mr. Weaver. "It is about 250 miles from Roseburg to Salem and we made it in five and a half hours and then came on into Portland in a little over two hours. From Roseburg to Portland in less than eight hours is good evidence that the roads are in good shape. We met lots of autos. Tourists are coming up from California, while a good many are headed southward. Last Friday night we had six big cars drawn up in front of the Hotel Umpqua, whose passengers stayed overnight. From Portland to Roseburg is a little over 200 miles. A good many Portland tourists plan to make Roseburg the stopover point on their way south."

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A. J. Burley is here from Sheridan, the town named for and made famous by the dashing cavalry officer who, when lieutenant, was quartered at the Indian agency.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Reed of Turner, in Marion county, are registered at the Imperial.

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H. T. McGrath, who calls Kings Valley his home, is transacting business in Portland.

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D. R. Brownell of Umatilla is at the Imperial.

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T. C. Nye of Pendleton is a guest at the Oregon.

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F. B. Stanley, hailing from Bend, is a Portland visitor.

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W. M. Smith of Astoria is a guest at the Hotel Oregon.

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R. B. Wanless, from the University City, is a Portland visitor.

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A. L. Barnett of The Dalles is a guest at the Multnomah.

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M. H. Butler and B. Butler of Corvallis are at the Multnomah.

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F. T. Petty is down from the Capital City for a brief visit in the metropolis.

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The Misses C. and L. Taylor of Corvallis are guests at the Hotel Portland.

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Delbert Starr of Brownsville is a guest at the Hotel Seward.

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E. B. Adams of Hood River is a Portland visitor.

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E. P. Eolls of Hood River is at the Seward.

OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS OF THE JOURNAL MAN

By Fred Lockley

[Choice extracts from his private correspondence, Mr. Lockley shares with Journal readers today. Reminiscent of the World war are two of these. Another will be enjoyed by those who are fond of the study of gems, particularly the opal.]

If I were a collector of postage stamps I could make a good sized collection of stamps from all over the world, from the letters written me by friends I made while overseas, many of whom are now wandering to the far corners of the world. In yesterday's mail I received a letter from Colonel G. E. R. Overton of the British army, whose address is Frimstone, Liphook, Hants, England. I was his guest at dinner at Winchester. In his letter he says:

"I often think of the pleasant times I spent with my American friends at Winchester. I am not a very good correspondent, although I send occasional messages to some of my American friends. I often hear from Colonel Jones, who was in charge of the camp at Winchester. The world is going through a rough time just now. Our latest plan is to help the devastated villages of France. Many towns and districts in England have formed committees to help some particular devastated town or village in France by sending clothing or other articles to help them make a new start. My wife and I have been living very quietly on our place in the country since the war. Remember me, if you will, please, to any Winchester friends you may chance to meet."

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Percy Marks is a most likable Australian. His address is No. 5 Hunter street, Sydney, N. S. W. I received a letter from him recently. He is an old-time gem miner. He writes most interestingly about his experiences in mining for the rare and beautiful Australian black opal. This type of opal is found in a small area in New South Wales near the Queensland border. The district where the finest gems are found is known as Lightning Ridge. This district is about 500 miles from Sydney and the nearest base of supplies for the opal hunters is at Collarendabri or at Walgett. This field was discovered in 1907. The opal is found at a depth of 5 to 50 feet. The locating of an opal bed is almost entirely a matter of luck. The only guide toward getting a good place is in noticing the presence of "potch" on the surface of the ground. This potch is a soft black or brown opalized substance without commercial value. The opal usually occurs in seams of very hard rock or in geode-like nodules. When this district was first opened the miners usually sold their black opals in the rough at so much an ounce. Later they had them faced or even shaped and polished and if it happened to be an unblemished specimen of some size they made a killing, but often an apparently fine specimen would develop into a stone with sandshots or other blemishes and prove unsalable. Flawless black opals of good size are not only rare but are becoming increasingly valuable. The black opal is a rare form of hydrated silica in a porodine condition. The wonderful luster is caused by its having experienced unequal contractions in varying directions and, being amorphous, its polarization is similar to that of a doubly refracting body. The unique beauty of the black opal comes from the fact that the prismatic colors with all their scintillating glory occur in a background of sombre hue, so that you get the effects of the flashing of the Northern lights against a velvet blue-black sky. The real black opal varies from Nile green to Crater Lake blue, with all the varying shades between, and in its heart are flame-like flashes of hidden fire. There is a fascination about a black opal hard to describe. Someone speaks of them as "ablaze with flashes of liquid flames that change to sapphire blue or merge into molten green of the racing wave as it breaks on the shore." They are agleam and aquiver with points of glowing crimson that even as you look change to golden fire. They burn and twinkle like stars on a frosty night or glow with a lambent glory like the stars of the Southern Cross. Experts will show you harlequin black opal, royal blue, golden flash, black pinfire, redblack harlequin or plaid and crimson black fire opal, and many other varieties, but to me they are all bits of ever-glowing, ever-changing color that fascinate with their glorious riot of rainbow colors mixed with sunshine, starlight and living fire.

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Recently I received a letter from my long-time friend, Wallis Nash of Nashville. For many years Mr. Nash was an editorial writer of The Oregon Journal. He has recently written a book of reminiscences which is as fascinating as a novel. In his letter to me he says: "A paragraph in the introductory epistle to Sir Walter Scott's 'Monastery' that I came across today made me think of you. Possibly you may care to reprint it. Here it is: 'The man in the iron gray suit could tell the very year in which the family of De Haga first settled on their ancient barony. The family of De Haga—modernized into Haig of Bemerside—is of the highest antiquity and is the subject of one of the prophecies of Thomas the Rhymer:

'Betide, betide; whate'er betide,
Haig shall be Haig of Bemerside.'

"So slips into ancient history the field marshal, commander-in-chief of the British armies in the great war. Melrose Abbey, the near neighbor of Abbotsford, stood on one corner of the lands of 'Haig of Bemerside'."

The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader

OREGON NOTES

For the first time in 14 years Albany college will turn out a baseball team this season.

Reduced rates on lumber and shingles from the Pacific Northwest to Eastern markets will be effective March 31.

At an auction sale in Klamath Falls, Seaforth Queen 3d, a 4-year-old roan cow owned by S. T. Hempe, brought $675.

The Lewis Malone Logging company, on the Lewis & Clark river south of Astoria, will start active operations early in April.

The Malheur county farm bureau has fixed the wages of farm laborers for the coming season at 20 cents an hour, room and board.

Daniel Lane, living eight miles north of La Grande, was burned to death in his home when flames completely devoured his residence.

Lynn Skillington, 18, messenger boy for the Western Union, was struck by an automobile in Klamath Falls and sustained a fractured skull.

The Union Oil company of California sold in Oregon during February gasoline and distillate upon which it paid to the state taxes amounting to $3814.33.

The Gold Hill cement plant, which suspended operations last December, has resumed with a crew of 110 men. The output of the plant is 1200 barrels daily.

The general board of education of the Presbyterian church has offered to give $100,000 to the endowment fund of Albany college provided the college raises $200,000.

Daniel Boyd of Enterprise was presented last Saturday to President Harding by Senator McNary, who urged Boyd's appointment as minister to Nicaragua.

The Oregon Alpha association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon has bought a tract of land and will erect this summer one of the most pretentious fraternity homes in Corvallis.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the First National bank and the First Savings bank of Albany, Ralph McKechnie was elected cashier of the two institutions.

Another drop of $3 a thousand in the price of common lumber was announced this week in Vale, making the total reduction about 50 per cent below last year's prices.

WASHINGTON

W. Thompson, 54, in jumping from a truck at Vancouver, fell under the wheels and sustained two broken legs.

Six tanks for Company L, Washington National Tank corps, have been shipped to the Centralia company from New Jersey.

It is estimated that 35 to 40 per cent of the 1920 crop is still in the hands of the wheat growers of the Palouse country.

Four hundred acres of orchard belonging to the Yakima Orchard company are to be cultivated this year by use of dynamite.

Louis Primorsch, a seller of moonshine whiskey, confessed to federal authorities at Tacoma that his profits last year were $15,000.

George Kuhn suffered a fractured arm and two broken ribs when the bridge on Seventh street in Pomeroy went down under a caterpillar he was driving.

The I. S. Pue home at Ahtanum was destroyed by fire last week, causing a loss of $13,000. The mother of Mrs. Pue narrowly escaped being burned to death.

Governor Hart has signed the bill passed by the recent legislature placing automobile bus transportation under regulatory authority of the director of public works.

Sixty-three inmates of the Washington state reformatory at Monroe were paroled by the board of control at its last meeting before going out of existence under the new civil administrative code.

Charles Edmonds, under arrest at Seattle, has confessed that he had been involved in the burglary of 22 Seattle homes, covering a period of six months, and had taken loot estimated to be worth $5000.

Three boys playing in a park in Seattle stumbled onto a girl lying unconscious and drenched under an umbrella. An empty bottle that had contained poison was lying beside her. The girl was Anna Park, aged 19.

Heirs of John D. and Mrs. Sherwood, the wealthy Spokane couple who were killed in an automobile accident in California, have just paid at Olympia the inheritance tax on their estates. That of John D. Sherwood amounts to $49,450.92 and of Mrs. Sherwood $27,553.52.

IDAHO

Federal pay for two troops of Idaho cavalry has been received at Boise. The amount is $2571.93.

The Oregon Short Line railroad has reduced the rate on peas and beans from Knull, Idaho, from 83½ to 65 cents per hundred pounds.

The alfalfa meal mill at Emmett, which was destroyed by fire a week ago, will be rebuilt immediately. The plant was valued at $25,000.

There is now stored in the Jackson lake reservoir near Burley 311,020 acre-feet of water as against a total of 140,840 acre-feet at the same date last year.

The People's Highline Ditch company at Blackfoot has gone into the hands of a receiver because of an indebtedness of $90,000 which has been accumulating for several years.

William Hess, 30, of Burley entered the room where his three children were sleeping last Friday night, fired a bullet into his head and died instantly. The children were not harmed.

Governor Davis left Boise Saturday for Washington, where he will assist congressional members from the West in drafting the reclamation legislation to be presented to the special session of congress.

KNOW YOUR PORTLAND

The Portland Realty board's name indicates its purpose. It is an association of real estate men. It was organized in February, 1906.

It has at the present time 435 members, of whom 260 are active members and 175 affiliate members. The latter class includes large owners of property not directly in the business of buying and selling real property but whose interest is usually due to the fact that their buildings and lands are bought and sold by authorized agents.

The president of the Realty board is Coe A. McKenna. Frank McCrillis is first vice-president; A. R. Ritter of Ritter, Lowe & Co., second vice-president; A. G. Teepe, third vice-president; B. Lee Paget, treasurer, and Paul A. Cowgill, secretary.

The executive committee members are Rodney Glisan, attorney; Alfred A. Aya, manager of the Peninsula Industrial company; A. R. Johnson of Johnson-Dodson company; Walter Gill of A. H. Birrell-Gill company; Frank McCrillis, financial agent; Walter M. Daly, Title & Trust company.

The Realty board has done much to give dignity, confidence and stability to the real estate business in Portland. It frowns upon exa