

ROSEBURG NEWS-REVIEW
 Issued Daily Except Sunday.
 S. W. Bates, L. Wimberly, Bert G. Bates
 SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 Daily, per year, by mail, \$4.00
 Daily, six months, by mail, \$2.00
 By Carrier, per month, .35
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 Entered as second-class matter May
 17, 1920, at the post office at Roseburg,
 Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879.
 Roseburg, Oregon, Aug. 25, 1920

THE HIGH COST OF RATS.

It costs New York City \$25,000,000 a year to feed its rats, says Dr. Victor G. Heister, of the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Heister has recently been in Central and South America studying the relation of rats to bubonic plague, and says that the two go together. Wherever there is a case of plague, a rat will be found in the ceiling, in the floor or wall near the bed of the sufferer. The minimum cost of a rat's food is 5 cents a day. This runs to \$18 a year. To make the figures very conservative, \$10 per rat per year was allowed by those doing the figuring. As there are about 3,500,000 rats in the metropolis, the estimate given above seems very moderate. A man back in New York from a business trip to Peru said that the city of Lima has just been ordered burned to the ground by the authorities, because of the rats and plague. It is a town of 5000, with more than 1000 buildings. This is a desperate remedy indeed, and one which no American community would want to be obliged to consider today on account of the high cost of building. The cost of plague, however, is even greater than the cost of rebuilding an entire town in rat-proof style, the Peruvian government believes. And if the cost of grain and other constituents of the rat's dietary is figured in, perhaps the rebuilding will be cheap indeed. Why harbor rats? In city or country they are alike a menace. New Orleans and San Francisco have been having rat campaigns, and one is urged for New York. Rat bounties are not advised, because they encourage unscrupulous persons to breed rats for the bounty. Not only should the docks of seaport towns be watched, but every farmer, every householder, every person in charge of a business block should become intelligent upon the rat question and should know how to dispose of the rats now inhabiting such domain, and how to keep them out in the future.

EXPRESS BILLS.

Hard upon the award of the \$30,000,000 yearly increase of pay to the express company comes the announcement that the American Railway Express company—the present holding company controlled by the government—is preparing to ask the Interstate Commerce commission to raise its rates enough to take care of this new expense—and then some. The company has already filed application for rate increases amounting to \$72,000,000. With the new wage item, it will want about \$100,000,000 new revenues a year. This does railroad history repeat itself in the express business. The Commerce commission will doubtless grant all or most of the demand, and the public may as well make up its mind now to pay more for express service, just as it will for freight and passenger service. And just as with the railroads, the public will not grudge the money, if it only gets the service which that money ought to command. It has been many years since the express business has been conducted satisfactorily. Under federal control, assumed in war-time and maintained since, with a prospect of indefinite continuation, the old dishonesties have mostly been reformed, and there have been improvements along the lines of standardization and simplification, but there has been far less accommodation and convenience to patrons than there was under private operations. If good service can be combined with honest service, the public will be content. Otherwise there will be merciless criticism. The public is willing to pay for what it gets, but it is beginning to insist more than it has for years on getting what it pays for.

USED GOOD JUDGMENT.

The almost unanimous decision of the stockholders of the Roseburg Park and Fair association to sell their holdings east of the city known as the fair grounds, to the state, the tract to be converted into a model farm, meets the approval of every citizen of Roseburg and Douglas county who appreciates a step forward in the advancement of those enterprises that materially affect the upbuilding of the community. It seems a hard matter to put anything over in Roseburg without a concerted action to block the effectiveness of the project, but yesterday's action of the part of a great majority of progressive citizens will probably be the nucleus for more important events in the future that concern the welfare of our citizens. Other cities throughout the state are taking advantage of every possible means to add substantial improvements and maintain a steady and permanent growth which will redound to the good of all concerned. Roseburg must not continue to lag further in this respect, and that its citizens are beginning to realize this fact most forcibly is fully demonstrated by the spirit that is daily gaining momentum to put the old town in the front ranks, along with other progressive communities of the state. It is time for everybody to be a genuine booster—hit her up good and hard—and at no time more than now. The city would add to the city's achievements. There's a whole lot to be done and the easiest and most satisfactory way to do it is through the concerted action of every livewire in the city.

ALLIED NATIONS REVIVING.

News that the maturing "Anglo-French loan" floated in this country before the United States entered the war, will be taken care of promptly in October, is doubly welcome. American investors are glad, naturally, to get their money back. Of more moment than that, however, is the evidence of soundness revealed in the finances of England and France. There has never been much doubt of Great Britain's ability to pay her part of the \$500,000,000 loan when the time came, and what doubt there was is dissipated by accumulating proof of reviving prosperity in England. France was more doubtful. She had suffered far more from the war than Great Britain. She had counted on a big cash indemnity from Germany to meet such payments, and Germany so far has paid France no cash. Indeed, France has been obliged to send money to Germany for coal and other materials necessary for French industry. It is a pleasant surprise, then, to learn that France is ready with the money to pay off these bonds. Reconstruction has evidently gone much further in France than Americans thought possible. The same indomitable spirit that fought back the Germans has been applied, after only a little faltering, to the immense task of restoring French industry and trade and meeting the obligations left by the war. Belgium has done even better, and Italy is making good progress. All of the allied powers that Americans thought utterly exhausted by the war have shown amazing powers of recuperation, and on the whole have tackled the problems of peace more creditably and courageously than America has.

Now and then some new discovery or achievement is proclaimed which makes one wonder whether our zeal for efficiency does not carry us too far along new lines. It has recently been announced that English foresters have learned how to grow square trees. They are not yet being grown on a profitable commercial scale, but that is supposed to come in time. These trees have trunks 30 inches wide by two inches thick and resemble artificially cut out boards more than they do trees. Experiments are said to have shown that by a simple but well-directed brace, a tree trunk can be made to grow in any desired direction, stopping its growth in other directions. The school of forestry at Cambridge, England, has produced another queerly shaped tree with a round table top of beautifully patterned wood, said to be very much harder than the normal wood would have been, and the tree grew much more quickly after its skillful bracing than before. A forest of trees with two-by-thirty-inch trunks might be very fine for a lumber company, but would it not seem a deformed thing to the nature-lover? However, the nature-lover probably need not worry too much about this discovery, for there are not enough schools of forestry in the world to flatten out all the trees that grow.

Carroll Fancher, who has been spending his vacation visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Fancher in this city, returned this morning to Portland, where he is employed with the Tru-Blu Bleacut Company.

Advertise in the News-Review.

LOVE and MARRIED LIFE
by the noted author
Idah McGlone Gibson

A STRANGE VOICE.

Miss Parker came rushing in and as she did she glanced at me expectantly. Evidently she thought I had been asleep and was hoping that the bell would not awaken me. With great effort I kept myself quiet and Miss Parker went to the phone. I heard her speaking very low.

"Yes, this is Mrs. Gordon's residence—Miss Parker speaking. The baby is not very well and I am sitting up with her." There was a silence and I knew she was listening to the voice at the other end of the wire.

"Mrs. Gordon has just gone to sleep and unless it is very important, I would rather not awaken her." Again there was a silence and I heard Miss Parker say, "Oh, I didn't recognize your voice."

"It must be Alice," I said to my fearsome soul.

"I don't hear you," said Miss Parker and then I heard her exclaim, "Oh, they've cut us off."

In a moment the bell rang again and I heard Miss Parker make that absolutely inane exclamation which almost everyone makes on such occasions at such a time. "They've cut us off."

I could stand it no longer. "Wait a minute, Miss Parker, whom are you talking to?" I asked.

"With Mrs. Staunton," she said.

"What is Alice calling me up for at this time of night, it must be very late, isn't it?"

"As I walked toward the phone, Miss Parker said to me: 'I was talking to Mrs. Gordon.'"

"Here, I'll talk to Alice," I said and I took the receiver from her hand.

"Is that you, Katherine?"

"Yes, yes, this is Katherine, who is speaking?"

"It's Alice."

"Something must be the matter with the phone, your voice sounds so strangely, I did not recognize it. What's the matter?"

I could hear Alice's sobs at the other end of the wire. "What is the matter?" I exclaimed. "Has something happened to Tom?"

"No, no," said Alice, "Tom's all right."

"What is it, Alice, tell me," I implored, as she did not answer.

"There has been an automobile accident, Katherine. I just got the word a minute ago. It's a terrible accident—and—and—"

"And John is dead?" said a strange voice.

"Here! here! Get off the wire please, I am talking to Mrs. Staunton," I said.

"Yes, yes, Katherine, I'm here," said Alice.

"Well, what did you say?" I asked.

"I said there had been a terrible accident."

"But some one said that John was dead."

"You said it yourself, Katherine, dear, you interrupted me when I said that there had been an accident. You seemed to know that something had happened to John."

"I didn't say that, Alice. It was not my voice."

"Yes, you did dearest, and it was your voice, hoarse with horror."

"But is it true? Oh, it can't be true. Has John been hurt? Are they taking him to a hospital? Tell them to bring him here. Why don't you speak?"

"Here, let me take the message, Mrs. Gordon," said Miss Parker, who had been standing by. "I'm afraid you do not understand."

I gave the receiver to her and said, "I'm sure I do not understand. All I can get is that Alice seems to think that John has been hurt in an automobile accident."

Miss Parker took up the conversation and said, "It is I, Mrs. Staunton. Mrs. Gordon doesn't seem quite to understand your message. Let me have it. It seemed to me that she was waiting there for long minutes before she turned to me slowly, as she hung up the receiver and said:

"Mrs. Staunton is coming right over."

TOMORROW — The Wages of Sin.

SUGAR TO TAKE BIG DROP.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—A drop in the price of sugar from 8 to 10 cents a pound, predicted by the wholesale grocery trade, has brought joy to every housewife who has been in despair regarding her annual fruit preserving. There is plenty of sugar in New York, but the price has kept around 23 cents a pound.

WHY LIPTON USES SAUCER.

NEW YORK, August 24.—"You know," said Sir Thomas Lipton, as he was being entertained at a tea by the National League for Women's Service Convalescent Home for Soldiers and Sailors. "You know, they say I drink my tea from a saucer because I can't lift the cup."

Am now booking orders for day old chicks for 1921 delivery from high producing Fancred strain White Leghorns, Earl Vosburgh, 702 Fullerton St., Roseburg.

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ALL NEW CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE FOUND ON LAST PAGE UNDER HEADING "NEW TODAY."

WANTED.
 WANTED—Work with a truck. Phone 21.
 WANTED—Chambermaid at Umpqua Hotel at once.
 WANTED—Jury, large or small. Boyer Bros., Phone 11-211.
 WANTED—Two prune pickers. J. W. Montgomery, Days Creek, Ore.
 WANTED—12 or 15 prune pickers, 2 tree shakers, also some men in drier. J. G. Bacon, Umpqua, Oregon.
 WANTED—Woman or girl for confectionery work. Apply Fouch Confectionery.
 WANTED—Middle aged woman would like position to do housework. Inquire 427 Mill street.
 WANTED—Prune pickers. Good picking, good camping grounds. Write for particulars. Phone 18-22. Wm. E. Weaver, Myrtle Creek, Oregon.
 WANTED TO RENT—Nicely furnished house with bath, electricity and gas, about 5 rooms. No kids. Answer N. K. care News-Review.
 WANTED—Young man or boy to do better work evenings for board. Apply at Cafeteria.
 WANTED—Man with teams to take logging contract, short haul, all winter's job. Fir-Tine Lumber Co., Glendale, Oregon.
 WANTED—A good efficient girl for housework in family of two. Will pay \$4 a month to the right girl. See Florence Aiken Banks, 242 South Main St., Telephone 21-3.
 WANTED—By two adults, who can furnish reference if desired, a modern furnished house of 2, 3 or 4 room apartments by Seely, 514. Address C. A. Jacobs, 512 Lincoln St., Eugene, or Inquire Room 203, Hotel Umpqua, before Wednesday evening.
 WANTED—A few more out of town school teachers desire room and board the coming year. The community must provide suitable accommodations for teachers if the schools are to be maintained. Citizens having rooms for rent or board to offer, see Mrs. E. H. Rice, 212 S. 4th St., or Mrs. H. H. Rice, 212 S. 4th St., at once, mentioning the kind of rooms, conveniences and prices.

ROOM AND BOARD.—For men, in private house, 322 N. Main.
OR RENT.—Safely deposit boxes. Roseburg National Bank.
OR RENT.—Two partly furnished housekeeping rooms. 202 W. Washington St.

MISCELLANEOUS.
SAFETY FIRST.—Secure a safety deposit box for your valuable papers at the Roseburg National Bank.
WELL DRILLING.—R. E. Heinzelman, driller, 11 E. Roseburg. Phone 2-26.
INVESTMENT EXCHANGE.—If you have investment of any kind for sale or exchange, list it with Dr. R. E. Hunt, 228 Oak St., Roseburg.
MONEY TO LOAN.—20-year rural credit farm loans, low interest rate. \$2,000 local money to loan on good real estate. First mortgage. See M. E. Rice, of Rice & Rice.
LOST AND FOUND.
LOST.—Collie dog, license No. 111. Finder please returned to 721 Court St. or phone 125.
LOST.—New Firestone automobile tire, mounted on Dodge rim. Finder notify this office. Reward.
STRAYED.—Jersey and Shorthorn heifers about 11 months old. Finder please notify W. B. Henze, Alexander Addition.
FOUND.—Center side curtains for auto. Owner may get same at this office by paying for this ad.
FOUND.—Lady's black silk coat. Owner please call at News-Review office for it.

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 Prepare to do it this fall before the rains fill the wood with moisture. Oil and water do not mix well and it will be better to fill cracks, crevices and exposed pores of wood with linseed oil and pigment now while water is absent.

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