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It would be retributive justice to take the money found in the Chinese gunman's trunk Tuesday and give it to the woman hit by one of the murdered's bullets.

Portland sold lumber aggregating 9,500,000 feet for shipment to Shanghai and Australia. We would be glad to see lumber commence to move again to foreign markets. Lumber is our biggest industry; few of us realize how much our prosperity is dependent upon it.

The renewal of negotiations between the railroad brotherhoods and the railroad president leads to the hope that the differences between them may be amicably settled. Surely we have enough statesmanship in this country to avoid the throes of a railroad strike which would cost the country more in the one week than the whole amount of wages involved in one year.

When it comes to inventive genius, there is no doubt that the United States inventors would hold their own with those of the world. While it is unfortunate to utilize inventive genius in inventing methods of killing people, at the same time it has to be done as a defensive measure. Thomas A. Edison and other men of genius should be utilized to the fullest extent in the measures to protect this country from foreign attack. The job should be turned over to the national defense board, and the matter of log rolling in Congress to get appropriations for private inventions at a cost of millions should be stopped. Some how or other we have a suspicion that Washington is infested with graft. So far as the army department is concerned we know that it is incompetent to handle any problem of national defense or attack.

Members of Ambassador Gerard's party tell of Germany's internal situation which shows that the empire is in a pitiful plight. Food is scarce, infants are suffering for lack of milk. Their mortality is increasing. The nation must eke out its supply of food until this year's harvest. The government is nearing bankruptcy and confiscation of private property may be necessary.

England is also feeling the pinch of hunger. Her finances are in not much better shape than Germany's. All this shows the horrors of war.

A reader of The Observer the other day said that this paper was trying to drive the country into war. How ridiculous. As if any sane man or woman would deliberately try to bring on a war. The Observer approves of President Wilson's stand to protect American rights on land or sea. But President Wilson is not in favor of war and is not trying to bring on a war. If we get into a war it will be because of some act of aggression or act of war by a foreign nation.

Farmer, but No Farm!

Did you ever hear tell of a farmer
without a farm?

Did you ever hear tell of a successful
business man without a bank account?
Success is just as likely to come to you
without a bank account as it is to a
farmer without a farm.

This bank meets your needs—fits your
case, and is a bank of personal service.
The same hearty service here for
the man who opens a small account,
as the man who opens one with more,

La Grande National Bank

PLANS BETTER SYSTEM, METAL HIGHWAY SIGNS

EVERYWHERE IN STATE, ENGINEER TALKS SIGNS

Suggests That Manners of Signs be Subjected to Heavy Fines. Says System Will Save Money.

J. W. Morris, former city engineer of Portland and now consulting engineer and state engineer for the Oregon State Motor association, has a "bug". And that is to give Oregon the best system of permanent road signboards in the United States. Everywhere he goes, and he is traveling all over the state in his organization work, he is talking signs, and everywhere his ideas are meeting with hearty commendation.

Being a civil engineer and having had experience with all kinds of signs from surveyors' stakes to granite monuments, Mr. Morris is pretty well versed in the habits of signs. He knows the habit the wooden sign possesses of decaying after about two years of service. He knows the habit of fading away which a painted sign cannot seem to overcome when exposed to the weather and he knows the habit all signs have of disappearing when attached to something no more permanent than a fence corner or a telephone pole.

The Morris ideal of a sign he outlines somewhat as follows: A diamond shaped iron signboard enamelled letters (somewhat similar to the Portland street signs, which have done service for 25 years.) This sign is to be riveted to the flattened end of an inch and a half of iron pipe, which is split at the bottom and sunk into the ground and bedded in a chunk of concrete. "And then we will have a sign which will be all but bullet proof for the next 20 years," concludes Mr. Morris.

He states: "The chief cost of a sign is not its first cost, but its maintenance. Such a sign as I described will, over a period of 10 years, be the cheapest sign yet erected in the state. Should a uniform plan be adopted for installation of such signs in Oregon the state would soon have, instead of the irregular system of wooden and tin signs which need repainting every year if they can be found to be repainted, a real signboard system for her roads and lost tourists would become a lost species."

Mr. Morris states that the county courts have been authorized to erect sign systems, and that, "If I have my way, the Oregon State Motor association units in each county will bring every influence to bear which will aid in forcing the county to erect real, permanent signs."

The Morris sign would not be left to the tender mercies of vandals if its originator can help it. He asks: "Why is it that not one in a hundred men has the nerve to shoot at a pheasant outside of the open season?" and answers himself: "Because there is a fine of \$50 which he knows he will have to pay if caught. Then why can't we have a law passed making it an offense punishable by a heavy fine to mar a road sign?"

"Roaring Lion" Is None Other Than Norden, of Kamela

"Senator King" Sees "Tracks," Sees Tracks and Gathers in Dogs and "Swede Faller". King Says It's Always Open Season on Swedes Anyway.

Kamela, Ore., March 14.—(Special)—"Senator King" has again distinguished himself as a hunter and trapper in the early hours of the morning. Several days ago he discovered tracks in the fresh snow on his back porch. The imprints were of such proportions that he at once decided they must have been left there by some hungry, man-eating jungle animal taking Bertillon measurements and conferring with Teddy Roosevelt and the Smithsonian Institute, he decided, that, without a doubt, the intruder was a mountain lion. After due consideration, the "Senator" concluded that an animal of this species would be much safer in captivity, than at large, and at once borrowed all the bear traps in the country and placed them at close intervals at an opening in a thicket, on a trail along which the beast would likely pass. He had been told that the scent of "new mown hay" is an attraction to all animals, so he baited with a bale of alfalfa, broken open, so that the aroma would carry to a greater distance.

Now it happens that Mr. Norden owns a much valued circus dog, that for selfish and other reasons is not allowed to stay indoors at night. In his wanderings a dog found the hay and decided it would be a first class location to spend the night, but before he had the bed made up to his doggy satisfaction, he stepped on the trigger of one of the traps. Young Norden, being awakened by the

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THE QUALITY STORE

howl of the dog, went up to investigate, walked into another trap and kept company with the dog until daylight, when the "Senator" King, with a 50-110 explosive ball elephant gun, sneaked up through the underbrush and took several pot shots at what he supposed was the much-sought-for lion. Norden "ban a swede fallow", and from the accounts distinguished himself as a linguist on this occasion. It is hard to measure, by any table of weights, the amount of ill-feeling that exists between the erstwhile trapper and the Nordens. King claims that there is an open season on Swedes all the time, and that a liberal bounty is also paid, provided the hide is presented at the county clerk's office, with the ears and claws attached.

Norden contends that they are protected and that it is against the laws of the State to hunt or trap them, or to hold them in captivity, or to be in possession of their meat at any time.

Baker Fuel Situation Threatens.

Baker, Ore., March 15.—Once more the railroad company has been appealed to by the city officials of Baker to save the city from a fuel famine, which again has threatened to stop fires in both residences and business houses.

Mayor Palmer requested M. H. Dougherty, O.-W. R. & N. agent in Baker, to divert two cars of railroad coal. This was done yesterday afternoon and the fuel is being distributed

to those who are in greatest need of it in allotments of one-half ton. Not an ounce more will be allowed to anyone, says Commissioner Mahan, who in the absence of Mayor Palmer, is superintending the distribution.

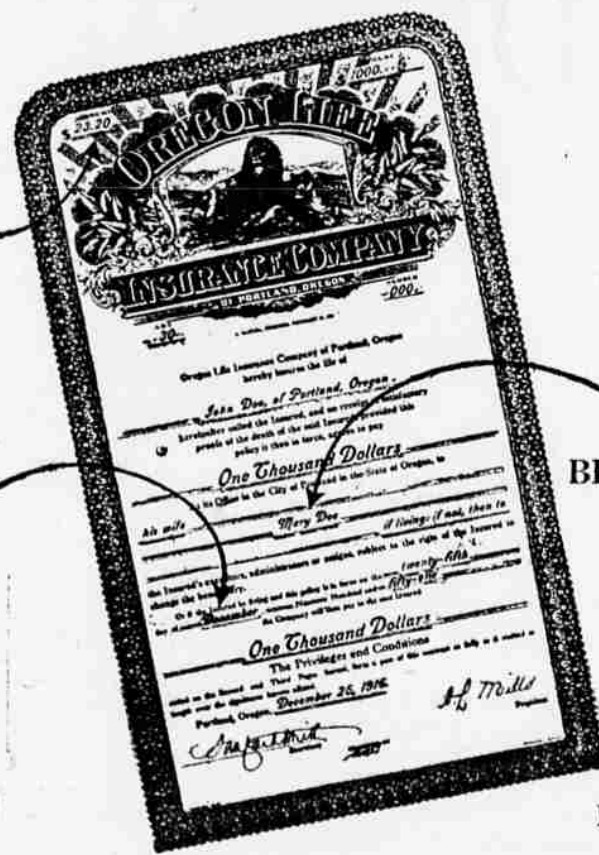
Shoe Sale.

We are closing out our Harlow line at \$1.50 less than we could buy them at the present market price. If you need any shoes in the next two years it will pay you to call and see us.—The Toggery.

Government scientists in the Philippines are studying a shrub that grows prolifically, in the belief that camphor may be produced from it.

You Will Buy Our New

LOW PREMIUM ENDOWMENT MATURING AT AGE 65
If You Give Our Salesmen an Opportunity to Show the Contract



Low
Premium
RATE

PAYS YOU
If You Live

Complete
Protection

The Ideal
Policy Contract

Pays Your
BENEFICIARY
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