

OREGON NEWS IN BRIEF

Benjamin Brannan, a pioneer race horse owner of Eugene, died at his home there at the age of 85.

For the first time in history, Christmas turkeys sold in the wholesale market in Roseburg for 41 cents a pound.

All members of the S. A. T. C. of the Oregon Agricultural college, with the exception of a few students on the sick list, have been discharged.

Edwin B. Hatch, of Portland, was named a member of the state board of pharmacy to succeed Frank S. Ward, of Salem, secretary of the board.

Ira Langley, a well-known cattleman of Dixie creek, near Rye valley, was shot and killed by an unidentified person who was hidden in the brush near the road.

The top notch price for cattle in Lake county was reached when W. D. Robinson, of Summer lake, sold 33 head of beef stock to W. G. Moss, of Lakeview, at 10 cents a pound.

State teachers' examinations in Walla Walla, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Polk, Coos, Douglas, Yamhill and Jackson counties were cancelled because of prevalence of Spanish influenza.

Five very large telephone poles and many large trees, some of which were more than two feet in diameter, were torn up in the vicinity of Eugene when a small cyclone visited the section.

Gold Hill recently renewed the ban on influenza by quarantining all cases, closing all public meeting places, pool rooms, and prohibiting the assembling of more than five persons in public places.

A tax levy yielding \$550,782 will be required to maintain the public schools of Multnomah county during the coming year. The school census shows 62,935 children of school age in the county.

All logging camps in Coos county, numbering about 30, closed Saturday night and will not resume until after New Year's, save the six at Powers, which shut down the 24th and reopened on the 28th.

While it is said no case of influenza at the state hospital for the insane threatens to terminate fatally, Dr. Steiner, superintendent of the institution, is contemplating closing the hospital to visitors.

The total assessed valuation of the state is \$97,523,596.97, an increase of \$58,928,326.61 over last year, when the assessed valuation was \$285,605,270.26, according to figures given out by State Tax Commissioner Galloway.

All restrictions on the serving of food by hotels, restaurants and other public eating places were discarded Monday, in conformity with instructions received from Washington by the Oregon food administration.

Labor and industrial problems in Oregon during the reconstruction period will be the special subject of investigation and consideration of a convention of the state's leading interests called for January 9-10-11, at Portland.

It is reported from the lower Umpqua river that the Hubbard sawmill, being rushed to completion for opening about January 1, is to be abandoned and no further work will be done upon it until the lumber situation develops.

The food administration has announced the cancellation of flour milling regulations. This will throw the market wide open to millers and dealers to make such prices as they see fit on flour and mill feed, subject only to the laws that pertain to profiteering.

The new lease of the Pacific Chemical company on Summer lake was approved by the state land board and Jason Moore has forfeited the \$10,000 which he had deposited to cover the former lease. Under the new lease the first payment of royalty money is due January 15, 1920.

Mining for gold and platinum will be undertaken at Whiskey Run, a locality a few miles above Bandon, on the ocean beach, where H. M. Axtell is assembling machinery and apparatus for the work. Whiskey Run is one of the places that were famous for gold production in early days.

In instructions sent out to all district sealers of weights and measures Deputy State Sealer Spence Wortman countermanded his order of September 27, when the district sealers were told to waive the enforcement of the gasoline law as far as the gravity of the gasoline is concerned.

All bonds of state officials should be written yearly; they should be required to have the written approval of the attorney-general, and with the exception of the bonds of the treasurer and secretary of state should all be kept on file in the office of the secretary of state. These are recommendations which will be included as a part of the forthcoming biennial report of Secretary of State Olcott, which is now in the course of preparation.

State Treasurer Kay, in his biennial report to the legislature, expresses the belief that added duties should be given to the sealer of weights and measures, or the sealer and his work should be transferred to the jurisdiction of the public service commission.

Complaint is being made regarding the present train service between Albany and Lebanon and petitions are being circulated in Lebanon asking for a rearrangement of the schedule. People of Lebanon assert that that city has not had such an unsatisfactory train schedule for 25 years.

La Grande again has gone into rigorous quarantine as a result of spreading of the influenza. At no time has the situation been as bad as now. Many deaths have occurred and new cases are developing rapidly. Theaters, dances, churches, lodges and all public gatherings are affected by the closing order.

One of the problems with which the next state legislature will be confronted will be a deficiency of \$430,168, representing the difference in the amount that can be levied by the state tax commission under the 6 per cent limitation amendment, and the requirements of the state institutions and departments.

Thirty-four delegates from 17 farming communities of Deschutes county met at Redmond with the county agent and state leader of county agents and organized the Deschutes County Farm Bureau. The meeting was an enthusiastic one, and the organization will take an active part in the development of central Oregon.

While the bill closing the Willamette river to commercial fishing south of Oswego is now in effect, it does not repeal a law of the 1917 legislature, which allows abutting property owners along the stream to take salmon for themselves and families. Attorney-General Brown has advised the state fish and game commission.

The expenditure of state road funds during the last biennium amounted to \$2,388,267.68, and 50 miles of hard surface, 111.8 miles of broken stone or gravel, 134.5 miles of graded roads and 40 bridges were constructed, according to figures contained in the advance sheets of the biennial report of the state highway commission.

Fourth class postmasters have been appointed in Oregon recently, as follows: Alalfa, Deschutes county, Lucy M. Smock; Big Eddy, Wasco county, Harriette B. Ward; Huber, Washington county, Elizabeth H. Thompson; Maplewood, Multnomah county, Ida E. Crawford; Mohawk, Lane county, Vasco H. Seavey; Willows, Gilliam county, Augusta O. Parker.

Disastrous fires occurring just at the close of the 1918 season made the forest loss in Oregon the greatest in its history, according to the report of State Forester Elliott, now in course of preparation. The loss is estimated at 1,107,743,000 feet damaged or destroyed, representing a monetary loss of \$734,692.25. Of this amount he estimates that 544,583,000 feet may be salvaged.

Between 2,500,000 and 2,000,000 pounds of fruit a month, or about 10 carloads a week, in an evaporated condition, are moving out of the Salem Fruit Union, which expects to get its immense orders cleaned up by February 1 at the latest, according to an announcement made by Manager Robert Paulus of the union. Growers will receive as high as \$160 per ton for their prunes this year.

Oregon will be entitled to receive \$987,587 from the federal government each year for educational purposes under the provisions of a national educational bill introduced in congress by Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, according to figures which have been submitted to School Superintendent Churchill, of this state, by the National Education association. The measure, in a general way, has for its purpose the elimination of illiteracy, and the general development of the physical, mental and moral wellbeing of young citizens.

The rivers and harbors bill will include Oregon projects that call for more than \$1,250,000. Immediate appropriations call for \$951,000, and \$218,900 will follow later for the Yaquina river project. New projects, with the amounts appropriated, are as follows: Coos bay inner harbor for 22 feet, \$130,000; Yaquina river, \$100,000; Coquille river bar and entrance, \$64,000; maintenance of present projects at the Columbia river entrance, \$130,000; lower Columbia and Willamette, \$424,000; Coos bay, \$74,000; upper Willamette, \$27,000; Clatskanie river, \$2000.

State Historian Cornelia Marvin has well under way the gigantic task of compiling the names of all Oregon men who entered the country's service during the great war. County historians have been appointed in each county by the state council of defense, to co-operate with Miss Marvin and facilitate the work. Bulk records available so far show that 5000 men of the O. N. G. entered the regular army as a unit; 7500 volunteered from July, 1917, to March, 1918; 18,000 men were drafted; 2400 enlisted in the navy; 2000 enlisted in the United States marine corps; 4000 enlisted in the S. A. T. C. and officers' training schools.

What a lot of this war the German historians will have to forget.



ANOTHER LEAF

By HELEN M. RICHARDSON

Within life's book another leaf is turned;
Today we face a new and untried year,
Its secrets and its purpose all unguessed.
No hand may lift the veil that hides from us
Success or failure, and no feet save ours
May tread our pathway, do our several tasks.
We step into the New Year's outstretched arms,
And wonder if with all her luring charms
Truer she'll prove than one we leave behind.
What we have gained from wrestling with defeat,
Mayhap will give us strength new foes to meet
With greater courage. Come, then, storm and stress,
Defeat and failure, or joy's magic spell,
To each or all the new year holds in store
We reach our hands in welcome, for we know
Our truest blessings from our failures grow,
And that our share of happiness will be
What we acquire through self-mastery.

—Farm Journal.

PERSONAL STOCK-TAKING

Dawn of New Year a Good Time to Bolster Up Weak Spots

NOW'S the time for a personal stock taking. The habit is in the air around Christmas. The middle lives a miserable life from the first of December trying to do his best so that old Santa will be good to him. The average man starts in around Christmas to think about the New Year resolutions he is going to make. All his friends, wise and otherwise proffer advice gratis until the poor chap isn't sure whether the New Year is coming or going and he himself is hopelessly lost. If he's wise he will go off by himself to a quiet corner and turn over the events of the past year and strike a balance on the results. The chances are that he will feel as chipper as a squirrel in May when the job is finished. There will be many instances where the "might have been" will condemn what was.

Life has many lessons that are hard to learn.

One is that you can't put your ability in cold storage until needed for some great scoop. Your present job may be no compliment to your ability, but you dare not slight it for that reason. To keep yourself fit you must constantly employ your talents to the limit. As soon as you begin to go easy on them you start to decline. Unused potentialities deteriorate. Labor saving devices and man-made expedients won't work out with the Divine masterpiece. God never intended ability to be held in reserve for spectacular purposes. The wise man takes stock daily to see whether or not he is measuring up to his privileges. This is the season to begin the practice of it.

Man's measure is best taken when he toils for the good of others.

Much that he does in this line is not appreciated. The knowledge of this kills some folks at the start. Most men do their best when the thing they advocate is popular. A few indomitable souls are fired to the heroic point by opposition. It takes the big souled man to struggle on when he sees few results and gets little thanks. He works for the sake of the thing to be done, and that is the evidence of the master-workman. It takes the stalwart to keep on the job in cloud and sunshine with his best always as the goal. If you are willing to take stock and profit by the results shown, you may be in that class soon.

The fellow that is honest in his stock taking will find many loose connections in his past efforts.

He has failed to keep the pace because his ideals and ability did not mix properly; or he has been short on one or both of these essentials. There are many sincere souls that are failures because they have gone at high speed with a bolt loose somewhere. No wonder they wreck themselves to death. The stock taking will help

them to see where their personal mechanism needs repairs. Weakness in any one part hinders the best work of the whole. For the sake of a temporary gain you dare not endanger your future usefulness. The past has been of your making. If it does not please you find what has been the matter and make sure of a better record for 1919. It's unfair to blame your competitors for lack of success. If you had been able to deliver the goods you would doubtless have had your share of the trade. They have won because you have failed somewhere. Most failures begin with the mental apparatus. Look well to yours for the New Year. There is no time for adjustments after the race starts.

When the head is supplied with right thinking the body is apt to be best fitted for its tasks.

To be sure the care of the body influences the thinking, but even that needs right thinking to help it. If you head is off you can't give your body a square deal. You can't booze all night and have a clear head the next day. You can't dance until day-break and have elasticity and sprightliness of body when the rush is on the next afternoon. You can't fill your stomach with cheap candies, creams and chemically preserved fruits and be happy and obliging to a trying customer in busy times. You must have the whole human mechanism working in harmony if you are going to get the most out of the coming year. That's why your old uncle is asking for a mental and physical examination. He's concerned for your welfare and wants you to make good. Think right, and you will generally be right.

If you haven't measured up to expectations during 1918 you must find the reason.

The truth will doubtless jar your self-opinion a little, and you would hate to see the analysis in the news-group. Half way up the flagpole was a great shaggy monster who cleverly reversed himself, sild to earth, turned a dozen graceful somersaults and walked around on his hind feet.

"Oh, we'll put him on our vaudeville program as the one leading attraction tomorrow" voted a dozen observers. "What's the row?" as cheering echoed from the other end of the encampment. From a dust-covered, battered automobile two men were throwing off packages.

"Belated mail," announced the driver. "Section A. Throw off the plunder, men, and you hungry fellows grab and distribute."

Boxes, packages, tied-up bundles of newspapers and letters passed from hand to hand. Roy Bartley was most active in the work of sorting out the heterogeneous mass.

"Something for you, Dale," he called, posing a square box before hurrying it. "I say," inspecting the marks on the box, "it's been up and down the whole battle line!"

"See if there isn't a letter," directed Dale, placing the box beside a tent, and his eyes were eager and hopeful. Doubtless the box held remembrances from some home group, but his soul was hungry for something more prized.

"Nothing for you," called out Roy, running over the letters in his hand.

"Hey! look out for your box!" Roy spoke just in time. Old Bruin, unnoticed, had been sniffing intrusively at the box. Then he had pawed it, his claws piercing the frail pasteboard.



He Acted Frightened.

He sniffed again, uttered a satisfied grunt, and, seizing it in his powerful jaws, shook it.

"Whoop! a fruit cake!" yelled a watchful soldier, and grasped it as it rolled to the ground. "Hurrah!"

Some knitted socks and a dozen little packages tied up with ribbon fell out of the shattered receptacle. Dale uttered a sharp gasp. Among them was a letter. He snatched it up and, afash and quivering, secreted it in his pocket quickly.

But not for long. When he had divided the cake among his importunate comrades and gathered up the numberless mementoes from home, he got to his tent speedily. He opened the precious missive, his eyes sparkled, he kissed it fervently and his face fairly shone.

What a wild, riotous, fun-producing New Year's day! Old Bruin did himself proud, and Dale never sang the patriotic songs apportioned him on the program so thrillingly.

"I say," observed Roy quizzically as the day waned, "you've acted like some wild schoolboy!" "Reason to!" cried Dale fervently, and his heart beat faster against the cherished missive lying next to it—the letter from Winnie saying: "I have always loved you, and, though half the world separates us, I love you now more than ever!"

WELCOME, 1919!

Nineteen-Nineteen, welcome!
Oh, I'm glad you've come!
Though you're yet a mystery—
Tongue discreetly dumb.

Nineteen-Eighteen, scurrying!
That's because you're here.
And I'm glad—but, just a moment,
Till I dry this tear.

He was kind to me you see;
Kind as I deserved;
Though, when it came to punishment,
His justice never swerved.

But I've let him carry off
All unpleasant things;
Keeping safe in Memory's box
Only that which sings.

With the closing or slowing down of many war industries there will be a necessary shift of industrial work, but this country has for two years been short of many essentials in domestic trade which can now be given in plenty and with little reduction of actual labor. Those who fear that changes will come so rapidly as to promote revolutionary ideas should remember that our great task in this war is not yet completed. It is more than probable that we shall keep 1,000,000 men in Europe for more than a year. This, with the resumption of normal manufacturing, ought to act as a sort of brake to stabilize industries and make the new organization the more easily effected.

It is not too much to say that the universal recognition by the American people of the necessity of individual saving and conservation was one of the principal factors that won the victory over Germany. For if they had not complied so generally with the food regulations it would have been impossible to keep the people of the allied countries supplied with the necessities of life. The war would have been lost through the failure of sustenance of those who were bearing the heaviest burden of it.

Students of Asiatic problems perceive a dazzling light in the east in the formation of the new Siberian republic that developed so amazingly and will so revolutionize age-old concepts of the far eastern question. It is too early, perhaps, for the world to realize what the bringing of western democracy to the east—incidentally to the bigger half of the habitable globe—means in the development of the entire human problem, but great things are coming out of Asia.

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Things are already getting back to the pre-war basis. Time is money and this country does not waste it in idle waiting. The rapidity with which we got into the war astonished the world, and we are not going slow about reconstruction.

An incidental but significant proof that the war is over is found in the fact that jewelers' stocks of left-hand "service" rings and pins are already being marked down one-half.