

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

INSTRUCTS ON AMENDMENTS

Miss Cornelia Marvin Gathers Data on Both Sides.

Salem—Miss Cornelia Marvin, secretary of the Oregon Library commission, has been a very effective worker in spreading information regarding the 19 initiative and referendum laws which have been submitted to the people for approval or rejection in June. She has gathered all the published material she can find on both sides of every question submitted, and has been loaning this material to granges, debating societies and other organizations that will make good use of it. This work has been taken up as a part of the system of debate libraries which Miss Marvin established nearly two years ago. The plan is to provide debating societies with material for discussions of all public questions. In gathering the material Miss Marvin shows no partiality, but includes in the collections everything she can find on either side of every question. The debate libraries are loaned for a period of two weeks, and when returned by one organization are immediately sent out to another.

INSPECTOR DOES THE WORK

Owner of Orchard Must Pay for the Spraying, However.

Salem—County Fruit Inspector E. C. Armstrong has begun a new phase of war upon San Jose scale by hiring a gang of men to go into the orchard of Rev. F. M. George, near Liberty, and spray the trees. Heretofore enforcement of the law has consisted of chopping down diseased trees, but that course is pursued only in the case of trees that have been rendered valueless by disease and neglect. The George orchard is one of the most valuable in the vicinity of Liberty, but has become infested with scale. Mr. George sprayed 10 acres, but left 20 acres unsprayed. Mr. Armstrong will have it sprayed and charge the cost to the owner. When the work in this orchard is completed Mr. Armstrong will put the gang at work in other orchards in the vicinity.

Set Out Many Grapes.

Grants Pass—One of the largest shipments of Tokay grape cuttings was unloaded at the depot this week that has ever been received in one lot in Southern Oregon. One hundred thousand cuttings were consigned to W. B. Sherman, who is setting out 80 acres in the foothills just outside of the city limits overlooking town. Several other consignments of small amounts have been distributed to various other fruit growers. Growers feel jubilant over the outlook for grapes and are hustling to get well rooted vines to plant and in some instances Willamette valley nurserymen have been unable to fill more than half the orders.

Market Day is Big Success.

Baker City—Baker City's first monthly market day was a pronounced success, hundreds of farmers having brought in stock to be sold. Between 11 and 12 o'clock there was a band concert by the Baker Concert band and at 1 o'clock the horse show was held. Hundreds of horses were in the parade. Immediately after the parade was held the public wedding, which was one of the chief attractions, took place. The crowds then went to the public auction, where thousands of dollars' worth of stock was sold. The merchants of the city did an immense business, having made special reductions for the day on all of their goods.

May Manufacture Sugar.

Eugene—The promotion department of the Eugene Commercial club has received a quantity of sugar beet seed from the Pacific Sugar Construction company, which a year ago built a big sugar factory in Glenn county, California, for the purpose of testing the soil of Lane county as to its adaptability to the raising of sugar beets, and if the test is satisfactory steps will at once be taken to induce some sugar beet manufacturer to build a plant in Eugene. The seed will be distributed among a number of representative farmers.

Invited to Visit President.

Salem—Governor Chamberlain has received an invitation from President Roosevelt to attend a dinner at the White House on Tuesday evening, May 12, when there will be an assemblage of governors and other officials to discuss the question on conservation of national resources. Governor Chamberlain hopes to be able to attend, but is afraid that he will be unable to do so, owing to other pressing matters.

Build Larger Grandstand.

Salem—The state fair board has ordered an addition to the grand stand at the fair grounds race track, increasing the seating capacity 60 per cent. The grand stand will be extended forward from the present front so that the front row of seats will be on the line of the race track. W. E. McElroy was chosen musical director for the fair of 1908.

WEATHER CONDITIONS FAVOR

Fruit in Willamette Valley Promises to Do Unusually Well.

Salem—Climatic conditions during the past winter have been exceptionally favorable for all farm crops and the present fair weather is considered ideal for fruit. The cold spring has kept the fruit trees back, thus protecting them to a large extent from danger of injury from frosts and late rains. Growers expect fair weather through the blossoming period and with such conditions prevailing a full crop of fruit will "set."

Apples in the Willamette valley were a short crop last season and with even fair conditions this year the trees should bear an immense crop. Cherry, pear and prune trees are apparently in perfect condition and there seems to be no reason why a bumper crop should not be realized. The high prices secured in recent years for fruit has encouraged the growers to do more extensive pruning and spraying than ever before, with the result that the quality of fruit harvested will be exceptionally good. The coming of fair weather has set the plow going in all orchards and cultivation will this year be unusually thorough.

Clears Columbia Channel.

The Dalles—The Portland contractors, Wakefield & Jacobsen, who have been dredging and otherwise clearing the narrow channel of the Columbia at what is known as Three-Mile rapids, near this city, have completed their work and brought the dredge to The Dalles, where it is now moored. The removal of the rocks and reefs from this portion of the Columbia has cost the government about \$100,000, and has occupied several years, though it could have been finished sooner but for the fact that it could not be carried on the year around, on account of high water. The Columbia is now free from impediments to the Big Eddy, where it connects with the portage road.

Pupils at Reform School.

Salem—The report of D. L. Looney, superintendent of the state reform school, shows that during the past quarter there has been expended as general expenses, \$7,024.93, and from the improvement fund \$114.30. The report, which was read and approved at the meeting of the board, consisting of Governor Chamberlain, Secretary of State Benson and State Treasurer Steel, shows there are 116 pupils in the institution. There were 108 on January 1. Since then 25 have been admitted and 15 discharged. One has escaped and one is on leave of absence.

The Dalles to Have Float.

The Dalles—At a meeting of the commercial club it was decided that this city shall be represented at the rose show in Portland by a float to be designed and constructed by J. W. Harper, of Portland. A committee has made a canvass of the business houses and obtained \$600, with the promise of an additional \$100. The float will be decorated with the products of this vicinity and will be one of the features of the spirit of the Golden West parade.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 84c; bluestem, 87c; valley, 85c; red, 82c.
Barley—Feed, \$24.50 per ton; rolled, \$27@28 per ton; brewing, \$27.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$26.50 per ton; gray, \$26.
Corn—Whole, \$33.50; cracked, \$34.50.
Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$17 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17.50; clover, \$14; cheat, \$15; grain hay, \$14@15; alfalfa, \$12.
Fruits—Apples, \$1@3.50 per box, according to quality; cranberries, \$8@11 per barrel.
Vegetables—Artichokes, 75@90c per dozen; asparagus, 9c pound; beans, 20c pound; cabbage, 1 1/2@1 3/4c pound; cauliflower, 50c@51; celery, \$4.50@5 per crate; parsley, 25c per dozen; peas, 10c pound; peppers, 20c per pound; radishes, 25c per dozen; rhubarb, \$2@2.25 per crate; spinach, 85c crate; sprouts, 10c per pound, squash, 1@1 1/2c pound.
Onions—Oregon \$4.25@4.50 per hundred.
Potatoes—45@55c per hundred, delivered Portland.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 27 1/2c per pound.
Poultry—Average old hens, 14@15c per pound; mixed chickens, 13c; spring chickens, 16@20c; turkeys, live, 15@16c; dressed, choice, 17@18c; geese, live, 9c; ducks, 16@17c; pigeons, 75c@81; squabs, \$1.50@2.
Eggs—Fresh ranch, 16c per dozen.
Veal—75 to 125 pounds, 8@9c; 125 to 150 pounds, 7c; 150 to 200 pounds, 5@6 1/2c.
Pork—Block, 75 to 150 pounds, 7@7 1/2c; packers, 5@6 1/2c.
Hops—1907, prime and choice, 4@5c per pound; olds, 1@1 1/2c per pound.
Wool—Eastern Oregon, average best, 12@16c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 16@18c, according to quality; mohair, choice, 25c per pound.
Casaca Bark—30 per pound.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES

Wonderful Growth of Past Sixteen Years.

By Cornelia Marvin, Secretary Oregon Library Commission, Salem.

In 1905 traveling libraries had been authorized by law in twenty-five states. In sixteen of these, the libraries were in the direct charge of state libraries or library commissions.

This wonderful record of growth from the idea promulgated by Mr. Melvil Dewey in 1892 is a most significant testimony, not only that illiteracy is becoming unpopular, but that good taste in reading is to become an American habit. Time was when some of our scholars thought that bad reading was better than none at all. A well known teacher of English literature at one of our large universities stated to one of his classes twenty years ago that it would be better for people to read even the "Fireside Companion" than to have no reading at all. In those days our rural population had little or nothing to read. Magazines were expensive, and the almanacs and county papers made a very meager literary diet. Even the doubtful good of having the cheap weekly papers thrust into the dooryard was denied the average farm home.

In these days, when the farmer is just as close to the heart of the world as the rest of us, if he chooses to be, he is greeted by a bewildering opportunity for choice among mediocre and even more vicious publications than were common twenty years ago. There are capable men and women, highly cultivated and useful citizens, whose early reading was largely of the character then current in the cheap weeklies; but who shall dare prophesy that the youth of today, whose literary excursions take him into the company of "Buster Brown" and "Happy Holliday," will have an even chance with the youth of a generation ago to develop into a useful and law abiding citizen? The influences of the dukes, haughty countesses, swaggering pirates and common ruffians of those days was certainly not so quickly transmuted into bad conduct as that of the current yellow favorite.

Isolation had its advantages for the people on our farms. Today, the farmer's lad, only less than his city contemporary, has the worst that our times afford thrust upon him. In the cities, the public libraries are live to the necessity of getting people to read, and to read that which is, at least, not distinctly harmful, with strenuous efforts to promote the more vigorous and helpful sort of reading. That those in charge of traveling library systems are fully conscious that wise selection of the books means much to the commonwealths whose interests they serve, may be seen from the character of the books they are sending to the villages, country school and farm houses. It is recorded of one well selected and combined collection of 40 volumes that in three years it traveled over 2,000 miles, and had 918 recorded loans in 28 months of actual circulation in 8 different neighborhoods. Only 64 per cent of this circulation was fiction, so that these encouraging figures show that the miscellaneous books are being read and appreciated. What the general result of the circulation of this better class of books in more or less bookless communities is, no one may definitely know, but the librarian of any system of traveling libraries could find in the correspondence of her office innumerable and eloquent testimonials of the good work that is being done. So general is the belief that this class of literature will help people to live on farms and in villages more intelligently, and therefore more contentedly, that state workers in farmers' institutes have persistently acted as advocates of traveling libraries, with excellent and immediate results in many cases.

Oregon now has 95 state traveling libraries being sent to as many stations throughout the state. As these libraries belong to the state there is no charge for their use. Oregon people, wherever they may be located, may draw books from the Oregon Library commission at Salem.

Dish Drainer.

The majority of improved appliances designed to assist and lessen the work of the housewife are too complicated and troublesome to warrant even a trial. To gain attention they must be exceedingly simple in construction, such as the dish drainer shown here, the invention of a New York man. This dish drainer is made a part of the dish pan, being hinged to the edge at one of the handles, so that it will not slip. The drainer is also in the form of a pan, having side wall to prevent the dishes falling to the ground when being drained. The water draining from the dishes descends down the inclined bottom of the drainer into the dish pan. A small upright serves to support the outer end of the drainer, and raise the drainer on an incline. The drainer and dish pan can be instantly separated or readjusted.



DISH DRAINER.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS IN BRIEF

Saturday, April 11.

Washington, April 11.—Debate on the naval appropriation bill in the House today resolved itself in the main into a discussion of the possibilities of war between the United States and Japan. In line with his well-known views on the subject, Hobson, of Alabama, pleaded for four battleships instead of two for the next fiscal year, and pointed out that from now on the United States should have a fixed policy with regard to naval construction. A war between the yellow and the white races he regarded as inevitable, and he asserted that Japan's present military activity was with a view to the supremacy of the Pacific and ultimately she would clash at arms with the United States.

Washington, D. C., April 11.—No definite arrangement has yet been made for the consideration of the Fulton land grant resolution in the House. While a privileged matter, it is not as highly privileged as appropriation bills, and as long as there are appropriation bills waiting to be considered there will apparently be no time to take up the resolution.

Chairman Mondell, of the House public lands committee, who has charge of the resolution, said today that he would call it up at the first opportunity, but he did not deem it wise to endeavor to crowd it in ahead of any appropriation bill, for by so doing he would arouse those members interested in appropriations and furthermore, probably be overruled by the speaker, who would consistently give preference to appropriation measures. Before long, however, the appropriation bills will have all passed the House, and then, if not before, Mr. Mondell thinks the resolution can be called up and passed.

Friday, April 10.

Washington, April 10.—The dove of peace hovered over the house today. Instead of interminable roll calls and clashes of party leaders on questions of parliamentary law, there was an orderly session devoted almost entirely to consideration of the naval appropriation bill. Both Chairman Foss, of Illinois, and Padgett, of Tennessee, of the committee on naval affairs, made exhaustive speeches justifying the action of the committee in reporting what they characterized as a conservative naval program for the next fiscal year.

Thursday, April 9.

Washington, April 9.—The bill relating to the liability of common carriers by railroads, passed in the house of representatives on April 6, was today passed by the senate without amendment and without division. The senate bill on the same subject was not confined to railroads, but covered all forms of common carriers, and Dolliver, of Iowa, who had reported it from the committee on education and labor, sought to substitute it for the house bill, but his motion was defeated. Numerous amendments were offered, but all were voted down.

Washington, April 9.—Three times today in the house the Democrats caught the Republicans napping and forced them to produce a quorum. On one other occasion a vote by teller disclosed the absence of a quorum, but Speaker Cannon peremptorily applied the Reed rule and secured a quorum to be present. In doing so Cannon had a brief but lively clash with Williams. Notwithstanding repeated roll calls, progress was made in the transaction of public business. Both the army and the fortifications bills were sent to conference; the senate bill to increase the efficiency of the revenue cutter service was, with Democratic help, passed, and the bill to promote the safe transportation of interstate commerce explosives was considered. It will be finally disposed of tomorrow.

Wednesday, April 8.

Washington, April 8.—The naval appropriation bill, authorizing the construction of two instead of four battleships, and eight instead of four submarine torpedo boats, and carrying a total appropriation of \$103,967,518 for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, was reported to the house today by Chairman Foss of the committee on naval affairs.

The bill carries an item of \$1,000,000 toward the construction of the submarine torpedo boats and an item of \$445,000 toward the construction of sub-surface torpedo boats. Provision is made for the enlistment of 6,000 men to man the following ships, which are to be put in commission within the next few months: The California, Mississippi, Idaho, New Hampshire, South Dakota, North Carolina, Montana, Chester, Birmingham and Salem; and for 1,500 men required to man torpedo boats not now in commission.

Representative Hobson, of Alabama, submitted a minority report recommending that provision be made in the bill for four first-class battleships instead of two.

Tuesday, April 7.

Washington, April 7.—The senate today adjourned until Thursday, and on

that day will take another adjournment until Monday of next week. This program was arranged today by the Republican leaders because no new measures now on the calendar are likely to be enacted this session. The unfinished business is a bill by Gamble to regulate the settlement of the accounts between the United States and the several states relative to the disposition of public land. It is understood that this bill will not be passed at this session, and that the other land bills, such as the one to provide an enlarged homestead, will also go over until next session at least.

Expectations are that there will be little legislation except the appropriation bills, and it is not impossible that congress will be ready to adjourn some time between May 15 and May 30.

Washington, April 7.—The whole of the session of the house today was devoted to the consideration of the District of Columbia appropriation bill. Two amendments of more or less national interest were adopted, one providing for 75-cent gas for all district establishments and the other requiring that all outside doors to public buildings should open outward and that new buildings shall have four exits. An effort to secure the incorporation of a child-labor provision applicable to the district failed. The bill, which appropriates \$9,561,450, was passed and thereupon the house, out of respect to the memory of the late Representative Abraham L. Brick, of Indiana, took a recess until 11:30 o'clock tomorrow, being still on the legislative day of Monday.

Monday, April 6.

Washington, April 6.—The army bill, carrying an appropriation of almost \$100,000,000, was passed by the senate today practically as reported from the committee on military affairs. The only amendment adopted carried an appropriation of \$20,000 for a system of water works for Fort William Henry Harrison, Montana. The bill materially increases the pay of officers and enlisted men.

The fortifications bill, reported to the senate today, carries Senator Ankeny's amendment, increasing the appropriation for fortifications on Puget sound \$1,000,000. As the bill passed the house, it appropriated \$747,000 for this work. The appropriation is not itemized. The senate today passed Ankeny's bill, appropriating \$220,000 for a public building at Walla Walla.

Washington, April 6.—Beyond forcing roll call on the approval of the journal and on adjournment, the Democrats of the house today offered no obstruct on to the orderly transaction of business. This being suspension day, several important bills were put through by practically unanimous vote. Among these was the Sterling employers' liability bill, only one vote being recorded against it, that of Littlefield, of Maine, and the bill establishing a naval station at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and appropriating \$650,000 for the purpose, against which Sherwood, of Ohio, stood alone.

At 5:10 p. m. the house took a recess until 11:30 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Ridder Sure of Victory.

Washington, April 9.—Herman Ridder, of the New York Staats Zeitung, who represents the Newspaper Publishers' association in their demand for free wood pulp, so as to reduce the price of white paper, said today, after conferring with President Roosevelt, that he was sanguine congress would not adjourn without passing such a measure. Mr. Ridder said he had the written pledges of 68 Republican members of the house, which, added to the Democratic vote, makes a large majority. Mr. Ridder declares that the ways and means committee of the house is responsible for not reporting a bill.

Federal Law Is Violated.

Washington, April 13.—The President has received and referred to the Attorney General a letter signed by six men, two of them of the same family, styling themselves "citizens of Rutherford, N. M., in conference assembled," protesting against the manner in which the anarchist meeting in Union Square, New York, on March 28, was dispersed, and charging that the local authorities of that city are grossly violating the Federal Constitution.

Castro Did Not Lose Mail.

Washington, April 13.—President Castro's caustic reply to the complaint filed at Caracas regarding the opening of mail sacks containing mail for the gunboat Tacoma at the La Guayra postoffice has reached the State Department. A report of the incident has also been received at the Navy Department. It appears that the La Guayra postoffice received 83 sacks of mail, three of which were all opened, as is the custom at the office. It was not until this had been done that the mistake was noticed. No indication is given at the State Department as to what will be the next step in the matter.