

THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW
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THE REVIEW is entered at post office in Portland, Oregon, as mail matter of the second class under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

The year that has just closed brought marked changes to St. Johns, the most striking of which was the establishment of the Grant Smith-Porter-Guthrie shipbuilding plant and the elevator system. Both are immense projects and practically double the number of workers employed in St. Johns. The other leading industries have expanded and added more workers, until now the payroll in St. Johns has increased from less than \$100,000 to approximately \$300,000 per month. Business in general has shown a marked quickening and there is more prosperity in evidence than has ever been the case locally. What the new year will bring forth in an industrial way is only a matter of conjecture, but the future is full of bright promise and undoubtedly more industries will locate here during the present year, more residences will be constructed and the march of progress will continue with increasing celerity. The year 1917 was a very good one for St. Johns, but 1918 will in all probability be not less kind to this favored community. May it even excel its predecessor.

High School Happenings

We are pleased this week to welcome to our school three new students. They are Evelyn Johnson, a senior, and her sister, Ruby, a freshman, of Falls City and Hazel Rakes, of Bend, Oregon.

The school play "The Disappearance of Dora," is coming along nicely now, and the school expects great things from the cast and from the newly appointed manager, Oscar Anderson.

At the music assembly Thursday, Erma and Esma Griswold sang a duet, "Keep the Home Fires Burning." They represented the third term class, and judging from the applause, the class was well represented.

The students returned to school after their Christmas holidays refreshed and ready for work. The building looked thoroughly natural and was the same as ever except for a new coat of oil on the floors. Most of the people were glad to get back, pupils as well as teachers, and everybody was in the best of spirits.

To those who have not heard of the new plan of the Music Commissioner it may be well to explain that in succession each class is expected to furnish a musical number on the program on their appointed day. The classes up to the fourth term have now performed and the fourth termers will have their chance next week.

A reception was given at the home of Opal Weimer in honor of Edith Warfield, a student of O. A. C. at Corvallis, who was at home on her vacation. Edna Hollenbeck told the fortunes of those present in a charming manner, and the very best kind of a time was enjoyed by all in the playing of games and singing of songs. Popcorn balls were served as refreshments.

Many good times were enjoyed during the vacation, among the most notable being the Alumni party and the reception at the home of Opal Weimer. The Alumni girls held a juvenile party at the home of Arline Shaw on North Ivanhoe street. All the guests came in children's clothes, short dresses and "knickers," and the evening was pleasantly passed playing the games of childhood, hide the thimble, etc.

Since the government has assumed control of the railroads the North Bank train leaving St. Johns depot at 8:05 a. m. has been taken off. This had been a well patronized service, and its removal does away with the morning train to Seattle. However, there is an O. W. R. & N. passenger train leaving Portland at 8:30 a. m. for Seattle, which goes through the tunnel. If the matter was brought before Mr. Wm. McMurray of the Union Pacific System by a body of citizens, there is a possibility that this train could be diverted over the North Bank road instead of through the tunnel, thus giving our people a morning train to Seattle and points between. The Union Pacific System has always shown a disposition to serve the people in the best possible manner, and Mr. McMurray, the general passenger agent, has ever taken pleasure in carrying that policy out, so there is little doubt but that

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HE GOT THE SNIPER.

An Incident of the Landing of Our Marines in Vera Cruz.

The San's marines know how to handle a rifle; 50 per cent of the force are qualified, listed snipers. There is a story about the occupation of Vera Cruz that tells of good shooting and a sure eye. Our bluejackets were marching up the street from the Plaza between rows of low two story houses. A well dressed Mexican gentleman, with a newspaper over his knee, was sitting on the balcony of his house, apparently intent on watching our sailors advance, but hidden under the paper he held a big revolver, and as our men went by he fired. The bullets were striking, but our officers could hardly suspect a well dressed Mexican, reading a paper and looking peacefully on from his own house, of being the sniper.

Dropping his paper, the Mexican went inside to reload. When he came out again on the balcony the glint of the gun caught the attention of Lieutenant Colonel Neville on horseback in the Plaza, a thousand or more yards away. Through his slight power glass the colonel saw plainly the flash of the shot under the newspaper.

"Get him," he said, turning to his orderly. The man raised his rifle, pressed the trigger—and the Mexican fell out of his chair.—Henry Reuter in Youth's Companion.

WEIGHT OF THE FEET.

Greater When You Are Asleep Than When You Are Awake.

Your feet weigh more when you are asleep than when you are awake. At least that is the conclusion of a scientist who has experimented with the question. These tests were conducted in a most interesting manner. The subject was laid on a long plank, which was then placed upon a cross-stick, saw-saw fashion. The man upon the plank was balanced on this cross-stick, and the plank remained at a level without any effort upon his part. But the moment that he went to sleep it began to incline downward at the end opposite his head.

This experiment was repeated with a number of persons belonging to both sexes, and in every case the result was the same. In no instance did the sleeper's head incline toward the ground.

This phenomenon is explained by the fact that the head is drained of surplus blood when a person is asleep, and the blood naturally flows toward the extremities of the sleeper. Immediately this makes the head lighter in weight, the difference being sufficient to upset the balance of a man resting in the position described.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A Theodore Thomas Retort.

A characteristic story is told of one of the first rehearsals of the college choir (of the Cluclnati College of Music), at which Theodore Thomas had reprimanded some of the sopranos sharply for inattention. "He treats us as if we were members of his orchestra!" exclaimed an indignant singer to her next neighbor. Thomas overheard the remark and let it pass for the moment, but at the close of the rehearsal, as the performers were leaving the stage, he passed the lady in question, and turning to her, said very quietly, but with that biting sarcasm which those who knew him did not care to excite, "Madam, you will have to sing a great deal better than you do now before I shall treat you as I treat the members of my orchestra"—Memoirs of Theodore Thomas.

Origin of the T Rail.

Robert Livingston Stevens sailed from New York to Liverpool before the advent of the ocean steamer. In those days the passage took two months, and Stevens passed many an hour, back-knife in one hand and a piece of wood in the other, brooding over a problem that had often worried him—how to run a railroad without stone stringers for tracks. He wanted to get an iron rail that would "hold" and would take the place of the thin strips fastened to the chair of the roadbed. Just before he reached England his whittling revealed to him the solution of his problem, and that solution took the form of a T rail with a broad base that could be applied direct to a solid wood support. That T rail is still in use on all the railways of the world.

the change could be accomplished if shown that there is a large number of citizens interested in having it done.

THE PLAY OF "HAMLET."

Does It Always Make the Dams and the Gravedigger Enemies?

In his "Notes on Shakespeare's Workmanship" Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch says that "Hamlet" was written "not for an audience of Goethes and Coleridges, but for an audience of ordinary men and women," and, speaking of its popularity, he says that this day a traveling company of (British?) actors, thrown on their beam ends for lack of money, having acted this or that to empty houses, always as a last resort advertise "Hamlet."

"When an actor takes a benefit, 'Hamlet' is the piece most commonly chosen. . . . But why does the gentleman who enacts the first gravedigger also choose 'Hamlet' for his benefit night? I was once assisting at a dress rehearsal of 'Hamlet' when the first gravedigger came off the stage in a passion. In the greenroom it exploded. 'Why,' he wished to know, 'should I be treated like a dog by this conceited fool?'—meaning our Hamlet, of course. 'The tempo gets viler at every rehearsal. Surely, after striding his vanity through four acts, he might be quiet while I have my little say!'"

KEEPING TREES IN HEALTH.

Roots and Crowns Must Be Made to Balance Properly.

Well nourished, healthy trees are less liable to the attacks of insects than those that for lack of sufficient plant food are making a slow and uncertain growth. To keep trees well fertilized and in a vigorous condition is the best possible insurance against insect depredations and all forms of disease.

A soil which supplies abundant nutriment and moisture is the prime requisite for successful tree culture. In the forest natural conditions are favorable in this respect, but in the open field or town they are frequently quite the reverse. The roots are robbed of the required moisture and air by heavy soil or pavements. To grow trees under such conditions requires scientific care in the way of fertilizing and pruning to maintain proper balance between the roots and the crown or top.

If the nourishment received by the roots is scanty the judgment thinning out of the branches of a tree has much the same effect as soil improvement. A heavy top cannot be adequately nourished by a stunted root growth, and if not pruned the effect is quickly indicated by dying branches here and there, nature's way of maintaining the right balance between root and crown. It is better for the tree to forestall nature in this respect by timely and careful pruning. Dead branches are not only unsightly, but the scars thus left are slow to heal and invite disease and decay.—Tree Talk.

Caroline Herschel.

Among distinguished women who have helped to shed light upon astronomic subjects was Caroline Lucretia Herschel, the noted astronomer. She was the daughter of a musician of Hanover. Her early education was designed to lead to a musical career. She accompanied her brother, William—afterward the illustrious Sir William Herschel—to England. Brother and sister soon turned their attention to astronomy, and in 1788 Caroline published a "Catalogue of Stars." Until Sir William died in 1822 she was content for the most part to be known only as his assistant, but later she engaged in many original and independent investigations. She devoted special attention to the discovery of comets, and claiming priority in the discovery of at least five.

No Hurry.

The telephone bell rang with anxious persistence. The doctor answered the call. "Yes?" he said. "Oh, doctor," said a worried voice, "something seems to have happened to my wife. Her mouth seems set, and she can't say a word!"

"Why, she may have lockjaw," said the medical man. "Do you think so? Well, if you are up this way some time next week I wish you would step in and see what you can do for her."—Harper's Magazine.

War Endings.

No great war of modern times has ended during the winter months, nor, with the exception of the Russo-Japanese war, has any begun then. For a century all wars have begun in the spring, summer or early autumn and ended between March and August.—Argonaut.

Skates on the Flour Barrel.

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"Well, have you been fixing your fences?" "Been digging trenches," declared Congressman Flubdub. "I'm in for a real fight."—Kansas City Journal.

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Notice to Creditors

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Multnomah County. In the matter of the estate of Thomas Matthew Smith, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Fred Smith, has been appointed executor of the estate of Thomas Matthew Smith, deceased, by the County Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Multnomah, and has duly qualified as such.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified and required to present the same, duly verified as required by law, to said executor at the office of his attorney, J. J. Johnson, 314 Spalding building, Portland, Oregon, on or before six months from the date of first publication of this notice.

Dated and first published December 14, 1917.
FRED SMITH, Executor of the Estate of Thomas Matthew Smith, dec'd.
J. J. Johnson, 314 Spalding bldg., Portland, Oregon, Attorney for said Estate.

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