

OREGON CITY COURIER

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NEW LAW NEEDED

Three shocking attacks on women the first three days of last week in the northern part of the state...

In the three crimes of last week justice was more fortunate than usual. Two of the degenerates were caught soon after their attacks had been made...

It would seem that a change in the law dealing with crimes of this vile character might well be made. The degeneracy that leads to these crimes...

Womanhood in Oregon would be far safer were the law so amended as to make degenerate crimes and degenerate criminals subjects for the immediate investigation by physicians forming a sanitary commission...

But to release a man charged with such a crime on small bail, to permit him to further be at large and menace the community in which he lives...

The law regarding such crimes should be changed; bail should be denied the accused until he has been examined as to his mental condition...

"Printing with a punch"—at the Courier.

MORE ABOUT WAR

From time to time it is to be observed that the Courier is getting lax in this matter of having stirring editorials on war and preparedness.

Hence we suppose that we've got to say something. Unfortunately if we said what we wanted to, the post office wouldn't permit the Courier to circulate through the mails.

The war seems to be continuing as usual. We observe by the daily papers that passenger vessels are still being blown to Kingdom Come...

Likewise we see by the papers that the United States is still calling on Austria and Germany to explain, and that the two explainers seem to have something like writer's cramp when they get down to business.

Otherwise about the war we don't know much. We have been reading what Walter Hale, Edith Wharton and many other writers have been saying about the war in the standard magazines...

And also we would add that we have had a touch of the grippe, and that we don't blame Henry Ford getting sick when he got close to Europe...

In short the Courier hasn't got any sympathy left with the war, and it is fast beginning to think that one of the best things that could happen would be to have all the civilized part of the world join hands and pile in and knock the stuffing out of the uncivilized part that is now warring.

We hope these few remarks will satisfy those anonymous writers who have been getting more and more hungry for our opinion of the war in Europe.

WHITE ALL OVER

The snow that sifted down from the skies New Year's Eve, and that has kept on sifting more or less since then, transformed Oregon to a white state, just as it is on the cute little maps that the Anti-Saloon League puts out, to show the prohibition territory.

The soft flakes that fell softly and buried everything in a mantle of white, silently but effectively blotting out all other color, might have been little white ballots. In fact the Courier is surprised that no brilliant newspaperman in the state took up the chance to draw a cartoon—showing

the prophetic snowstorm that heralded the coming of a new era. It would have made a lovely cartoon—and would have appealed to both wets and dries.

The snow that ushered in the new and dry year probably was prophetic, at that. It covered the state with a mantle of white—it made Oregon a white smear on the map, just as the prohibitionists have it. And the snow covered up all the mud and dirt underneath, too; just as the prohibition law covers up the twenty-four quarts of beer and the two quarts of booze that any of us may have in our homes...

Quite a fine bunch of hypocrisy the "snow white mantle of prohibition" is covering in Oregon. The law says that mixtures containing more than one-half of one percent alcohol may not be sold as that peruna and the carlinos sarsaparilla mixtures, which contain up to 20 percent alcohol, may not be sold as "medicines."

There are great acres of fertile land unused today on this account. In many sections near the National Forests pioneer conditions still exist. The population is small and the means of road building is beyond the means of the residents. There is little or no demand for the timber, and the receipts from the Forests which go to the community are small.

home seekers. Since the work was begun, more than 1,900,000 acres have been made available for the benefit of 18,000 settlers.

"In short, lands within the Forests really adapted to agriculture are being occupied as homesteads under favorable conditions. While the lands suited to settlement are classified and opened to entry, those which are not chiefly valuable for agriculture are retained in public ownership. The alienation of timberlands under conditions that will lead not to settlement but to speculation and to increasing the holdings of private timber owners would defeat the very purpose for which the Forests were established.

"The real agricultural problem within and near the Forests is to make possible the successful occupancy and development of the lands that already have been opened to entry or actually patented. The mere private ownership of land does not insure successful use of it. In Oregon and Washington alone there are about 3,000,000 acres of logged-off land, much of it agricultural in character, now lying idle. In this condition speculative holdings of the land for higher prices play a large part. Another cause is the lack of transportation facilities. A settler may clear land and raise crops upon it, but he is helpless if he cannot market them. There are great acres of fertile land unused today on this account. In many sections near the National Forests pioneer conditions still exist. The population is small and the means of road building is beyond the means of the residents. There is little or no demand for the timber, and the receipts from the Forests which go to the community are small. The fact that the public property is not sub-

the trial at all. And if the jury really thought that the defendant was irresponsible, it should have returned a verdict of "not guilty," in which case the \$7.80 costs would have been hung on the city.

As an example of useless, uncalled for and needless application of the legal business of the city, the first jury trial was undoubtedly a success. But as a model of judicial procedure it was a good deal of a joke—just about the kind of a joke that might have been expected from a great reform scheme that had its birth in the facile mind of the Hon. B. S. In the abstract the argument for the Bill Stone amendment sounded logical; but people who really thought about the matter, and who realized that the recorder's court is only called upon to try misdemeanors, didn't vote for it.

It will be interesting to see how many \$7.80 bills are hung onto the city in the future by jury trials in the recorder's court—all through the great wisdom of friend Bill Stone.

BACK TO THE WOODS

The Portland Journal last week threw an editorial fit about the coined word "Usona," which is made up of the first letters of "United States of North America," is lauded as a fitting and proper "popular" name for our country. According to the Journal "Usona" is a word evolved by the Esperantists, and is pleasing, euphonious, short and distinctive.

Maybe it is. But there are reasons why it will never be adopted in the United States—reasons which the Journal doesn't appear to know anything about. Esperanto may have "Usona" in its vocabulary, but the word wasn't invented by Esperantists. It was first coined in Canada by head-



Beautiful your home with new furniture. Dear Amy: The other day I told John he just had to let me fix up the parlor. I got tired of seeing the old things in it any longer. I hope your husband is not so thoughtless of the home as mine has been. But now he too is glad that we've fixed up our parlor. He enjoys home lots more, and he doesn't want to stay down town "nights" anymore. John wants you and Bob to come to see us. Always your friend, Lou.

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A Prosperous 1916

May Father Time deal kindly with you and yours during the new year.

May he bring brightness into your home and may his foot prints be upon the right side of your bank book

May he often incline your feet in our direction and may your business be of such a nature that when the new year has grown old we will both look back and say "A very good year indeed."

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vides a way by which any family that wants to may have a drunken spree under its own roof. It is a fine law to cover up in a mantle of white the muck and mire of deceit that underlies all.

Verily, Oregon is a white state—until the snow melts.

REAL CONSERVATION

The foolish reign of eastern bureaus in the affairs of the West appears to be at an end, and no longer will faddists of the Pinchot variety "conserve" the public domain for us. A new era of sanity in the administration of the nation's great public wealth is at hand, and a general sigh of relief goes up from the West, and the Northwest in particular, as this is realized.

ject to taxation makes such communities feel, and very justly, that the Forests are not contributing enough to local development.

In conclusion, the Secretary repeats his recommendation of last year that "upon a showing of public necessity appropriations be made for a specific roads and similar improvements, to be charged against the State's future share of receipts from the Forests. Such action would promote the local development of agricultural and other resources."

THE WISDOM OF IT

Bill Stone's amendment providing for jury trials in the recorder's court in the county seat, which was passed by a small majority at the last city election, has had its first trial. The jury trial cost the defendant in the action \$7.80, and the verdict returned by the jury is now one of the judicial wonders of Oregon City's legal annals. The verdict found the defendant guilty of the charge, intimated that leniency was very desirable in the case because of the alleged mental unbalance of the person at trial, and was wonderfully and miraculously spelled.

Inasmuch as a competent sanity commission had already passed upon the mental condition of the person at trial, the "Bill Stone jury" went away out of its province in offering suggestions in regard to this phase of the matter—which didn't come into

writers on the Canadian papers, who couldn't make "United States of North America" fit in a single line of display type one column wide. It carries with it that degree of opprobrium that is always to be found in any Canadian allusion to anything that pertains to the United States; and Americans who have traveled beyond our northern boundaries are quite familiar with it and the perpetual sneer that goes with it.

If the bright person who wrote the "Usona" editorial in the Journal had ever been to Canada, or had a smattering of learning that didn't come out of "The Journalist's Handy Guide," that editorial wouldn't have been written. If the Journal was as "American" as it likes to pretend that it is, it would never suggest that this country adopt as a "popular" name for itself a term that has grown weather-worn and trite in Canada for a neighboring country that is feared more than it is loved. The Journal might just as well suggest that "Greaserdom" would be a good "popular" name for Mexico. It would come just as near hitting the nail on the head if it did.

It is wonderful how, even now and then, the Journal reveals how much it doesn't know.

The Courier has a full line of Legal Blanks for sale. If you are in need of Legal Blanks you will find that it will pay you to come to the Courier.

GOLD DREDGING PAYS

Mining in Oregon Shows Increased Yields During Past Year

Preliminary estimates of the output of metals from Oregon mines in 1915, by the United States Geological Survey, show material increases over the figures of 1914 in both gold and copper, and slight decreases in yield of silver and lead. The gold yield for 1914 was \$1,591,461 and the estimate for 1915 is \$1,771,618 which is an increase of \$180,157 for 1915. The silver output for 1914 was 142,552 ounces, and the estimate for 1915 is 136,033 ounces, or 6,519 ounces less. The yield of copper in 1914 was 39,248 pounds, while the estimate for 1915 is 910,104 pounds, an increase for 1915 of 870,856 pounds; and the yield of lead was 16,436 pounds in 1914, as compared with 6,650 pounds in 1915, or 9,786 pounds less. These preliminary figures are compiled by Charles G. Aye, of the San Francisco Office of the Survey.

It is noteworthy that such material increases in output of gold and copper should be apparent when the fact is considered that the number of producing mines in Oregon has fallen off fully one-third in the past two years. Those which have dropped from the producing list, however, have been mainly small placers of various kinds where the ground has been worked out, or has failed to pay. The larger deep mines continue their productive career, with few exceptions, but not many new properties of moment have of late been opened. More capital for mine development is needed in the State, where there are few extensive properties in operation.

Baker county continues to be by far the most productive county of the State, yielding annually fully 85 percent of all the gold. The most productive deep mine in Oregon in 1915, as also for the preceding two years, was that of the Commercial Mining Company, operating the Rainbow mine in Cracker Creek district, Baker county.

Of the placer mines in Oregon, the most important enterprise is that of the Powder River Dredge Company, Cracker Creek district, Baker county. This company, which owned but one dredge in 1914, put another one in operation in the same field in 1915, and it is to the work of this company that the increase in gold yield in the State for the year is mainly due. Other placer mines are the Osgood, Waldo district, Josephine county; the Layton, in Applegate district, Jackson county; and the smaller mines around Grants Pass, in Josephine county. The gold yield from the dredging operations is greatly in ex-

cess of that from all other forms of placer mining combined.

Kundig Bound Over

In spite of the pleas of his attorney, the Honorable Christian Schuebel, Edward Kundig was bound over to the grand jury by Justice John N. Sievers on Monday. Later Kundig received his liberty on bail. Kundig is charged with having attacked the wife of a neighbor, and with having threatened to shoot her if she did not accede to his demands.

Gladstone, never having had a saloon in its midst, saw its first drunk the day that prohibition went into effect in the state. 'Twas ever thus—drunks never get to the home neighborhoods until prohibition is enforced.

O. A. C.

FARMERS' AND HOME-MAKERS' WEEK and RURAL LIFE CONFERENCES January 3 to 8, 1916 Live Information, Practical Help for the Home the Farm, the Community. Conventions of Oregon's Greatest Industries Conferences on Oregon's Most Vital Problems LECTURES—DEMONSTRATIONS—EXHIBITIONS—ENTERTAINMENTS Two thousand people attended last year. It is a great place to make friends—with live thinkers and live thoughts, good workers, and good work.

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