

The Oregonian

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Portland, Tuesday, May 5, 1908. A great, rich, yet defenseless, nation is a sorry spectacle. It lacks the first element of prudence—forecast of danger and preparation of defense.

Without means of defense at sea, and if not by sea, a people of one hundred millions are weak for their very numbers; and the richer they are the less powerful.

We want a Navy, but only for defense. Of moral forces, in restraint of war, much is said; but moral forces never yet prevented one nation from pushing its aggressions upon another.

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place that Christianity won its way and peace in the world, not by submission to assaults, but by its militant energies. Lack of preparation for defense has subjected every rich nation that has neglected means of defense to aggression and to plunder; and it is useless for a nation as for an individual to pile up wealth without taking precautions to guard it.

When we vote for United States Senator in Oregon we want each man to mark his ballot as though his determined the result. When the voter expresses his approval or disapproval of the single-tax bill, the university appropriation bill, or any other measure now before the people, we want each to cast his ballot as though he knew that ballot would turn the election.

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can be reached by the deep-sea carriers. At present this point is Portland. Fifty years hence it may be the Cascades, and a century hence it is not beyond a possibility that The Dalles may be the head of navigation for deep-sea shipping.

We can demand, with a fair certainty of success, that the railroads reduce present rates per ton per mile on grain and other commodities seeking a tidewater market, but we cannot ask them to increase their service 100 miles in competition with a carrier that handles the freight for 7 cents per ton.

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IS HE FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD? Third Term Clamor Implies That Roosevelt is Not. Chicago Inter-Ocean. Washington again has the nightmare and dreams of a "stampede to Roosevelt" in the Republican National convention next June.

On the 4th of March next I shall have served three and a half years, and this, three and a half years constitute my first term. We are customarily invited by the President to two terms regarding the substance and not the form.

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Initiative and Referendum Measures. For the information of voters there will be published on this page from day to day brief summaries of the initiative and referendum measures to be submitted to the people at the June election, together with a short statement of the arguments for and against each.

NUMBER 8. The University appropriation bill, providing a continuing appropriation of \$125,000 annually for the University of Oregon, is one of the measures upon which the people must vote at the June election.

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Hail! strange stranger of the grove, Sweet harbinger of Spring; Now heaven repairs thy rural seat And woods thy welcome sing.

It was pleasant to recite (with an accent on "of" and "ger") even though one hadn't a very clear idea of what a "harbinger" might be, or how "harbinger" might be accomplished, and always thought it had something to do with carpet beating; but my seatmate said it was a man who ran on roads with a stick.

She said she had seen a picture of such an individual, labelled, "The Harbinger of the Great King" or some such such title. I retained my own opinion, however, for she couldn't prove that the stick might not be intended for beating carpets anyway; and besides didn't people always beat carpets in Spring? It was a little puzzling to be informed by the teacher that it really meant the cuckoo, and that the bird was given that strange name because it let you know that Spring was coming.

We had to protest to be satisfied with this explanation, although it was difficult to see just why a cuckoo, or any other bird, should require a "rural seat" (presumably of rough, knotty wood, varnished, like the "rustic" one in our garden) and trouble Heaven with the keeping of it in repair. My impression was stirred, didn't you? where they pecked, and that they would have done it in "taking a seat" in the ordinary sense of the expression.

On the other hand our carpet-beating man found the garden-seat remarkably convenient and useful. But poems are queer anyway and the teacher insisted that it was about the cuckoo; and she couldn't be proved, after school if you didn't agree with her, so finally we let it go at that. I understand that the cuckoo does not frequent the Willamette Valley, but its functions as "harbinger of Spring" seem to have been assumed by the common or garden lawnmower.

I also understand that while the cuckoo has never been tamed, and is, indeed, highly undomestic in its habits, the lawnmower is seldom or never found in the wild state and may be ranked as one of the most useful if not the most agreeable of domestic pets.

At present the cheerful note of the lawnmower may be heard in any of Portland's suburbs, or, indeed, quite some in walking distance as the "for rent" advertisements put it.

Morning and evening, just before dusk, are the best times for studying the creature's habits; for at such times it goes out to seek its prey and its purring, rolling, clicking note, continuous not staccato like that of the cuckoo, rises high and clear on every hand.

There is one particular variety of lawnmower which sings its best and loudest in the earliest hours of Sunday morning. Unrestrained neighbors (especially those who do not possess lawnmowers of their own) who have a strange desire for late and uninterrupted slumber on Sunday mornings, are never so often annoyed as when the owner who permits this. Indeed, I know cases where hard words and harder objects (such as shoes and sticks of wood) have been showered on the owner of a particularly strong voiced mower.

It should be remembered, however, that the man may not be entirely to blame; some lawnmowers are very powerful and self-willed, and often grow so big and so over the grass whether he wants to go or not. Moreover, a lawnmower cannot be silenced, like a canary, by throwing a cloth over its cage; although I understand that much can be done by kindness, the application of the proper kind of oil, and care in adjustment. The language of the lawnmower is often very brilliant and varied, however, much more attention being paid to it by fanciers than was formerly the case, when the plain red and green heavily hooded varieties were most generally seen.

In the windows of a leading dealer I recently observed mowers in the following colors: Blue and silver; green and gold; blue and gold; red and blue; green, red and gold; black and tan; black and silver (suitable for half mowing for an uncle who has left you property); red, white and blue; white and silver (honeymoon special); brown and black (for dyspeptics presumably); green blue and silver with touches of red.

It is easily seen, therefore, that no serious difficulty should be experienced by a man who desires to have a lawnmower to match his hosiery or tie, or even his wife's best hat. The truly fastidious owner is careful to select a mower that will not clash in color with his complexion even in a heated state (this means heated state of owner not mower) while the ambition of the ultra-fashionable woman should be to have a mower to match every costume.

In choosing a mower, however, most men, I am told, pay little attention to the exact shade of its coat. Price and "ball-bearing" are, strange to say, the first things usually mentioned.

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