

The Oregonian

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EXPLANATIONS FROM SEATTLE. The Seattle Times takes exception to some friendly comment made by the Oregonian on the Seattle method of grading out building permits. In a fine burst of indignation, the Times asserts that "The general methods of issuing permits for improvements, no matter whether they be for repairs of an old building, the removal of a building already constructed from one point to another, or the erection of a new building, are the same in Portland as they are in Seattle."

ated the natural food of the duck in the Columbia marshes, but there are no carp in the Klamath waters, and with proper protection the birds would multiply there as rapidly as they ever did. It is not entirely proved, either, that they would not nest along the Columbia if they had a chance. This was formerly one of the principal breeding-grounds for wild fowl. The loss of the wapato would naturally cause it to deteriorate, but there are other vegetables which the ducks consume, and it stands to reason that some would stay and breed if they were not driven away. The desire for a longer open season is not rational. Since the birds are worth little for food after January 1, the principal motive for shooting them must be the lust for blood, which is not a very admirable thing in itself, even if it did not ruin the sport.

LIFE IN THE OREGON COUNTRY. Hurd Luck. Shayton Mail. During the absence of the editor there was a gentleman came to our city for the purpose of opening a bakery, but there was no available building. Advantages of Staying at Home. Silverton Appeal. A small blaze was started between the walls in the editor's home Saturday evening, but the sudden application of water prevented a serious loss.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, FEB. 1, 1909.

CESSION OF ACTIVITY IN PREPARATION FOR THE HARRIMAN "INVASION" OF PUGET SOUND AND GRAYS HARBOR TERRITORY, previously regarded as the special preserve of the Hill family, is strongly suggestive of a truce between the railroad interests of the country. This truce, if it has been effected or will be effected, may result in postponement of the projected Harriman line in Oregon. Mr. Harriman has made frequent visits to the Pacific Northwest. He has personally investigated localities in which railroad facilities are needed, and he has expressed a willingness to build some of these lines. His faith in these projects has been shown by exhaustive surveys, which would never have been made had there been no intention of eventually building railroads.

Decision of the County Court to comply with the law and work the county prisoners on the roads under charge of the Sheriff ought to result in some good road building, unattended by the scandals that have marked the conduct of Kelly Butte in the past. This change, which would give to the county a more valuable asset than any other, will force more than sixty able-bodied men working in the county jail to get out and work. This will have an economic advantage for the taxpayers, and it will also have a tendency to lessen the number of criminals who will no longer regard a jail sentence with favor.

When the anti-racetrack gambling bill was up for discussion in the California Legislature, one Senator waved his arms and exclaimed, "I am for racing. If this is to be my political death, I'll take it; I don't want to come here any more." He probably will not go. He could not distinguish between favoring racing and favoring gambling. It was formerly thought that races could not be had at the Oregon State Fair without gambling as an accompaniment. Experience has shown that the races without gambling are more largely attended than with gambling, and that there is more interest because it is known that the race will be fairly conducted.

The "devil" in this office is thinking of moving to the Rock Creek, Washington, to school and take up as a specialty spelling, as reports come to him that there is a school man over there that has adopted a rule that when the girls make out a spelling one of the boys can kiss her, providing he spells the word right. In consequence she has a room full of poor girl spellers.

THE CRY FOR MORE PAY. The statement that there are before the State Legislature bills providing for increase of salary for officers in twenty-eight Oregon counties discloses the startling dimensions of the grave dilemma that confronts the taxpayers of Oregon. Just why the county legislative session is only half over and much may be done in three weeks. It is incredible, of course, that the officeholders in these fortunate six counties are satisfied with their pay, since no public officer anywhere else is paid so much.

It is quite generally conceded that Oregon needs a new water law—one that will provide for the determination of water rights without interminable litigation. It is generally agreed that such a law should provide for regulation of the use of water so that waste shall be prevented and so that each person entitled to use water shall be secured in its enjoyment. Provision should also be made by which persons who acquire water rights for power purposes shall not secure a perpetual right or one free from Government control.

Washington dispatches state that President-elect Taft will undoubtedly take up the reins of government with an entirely new Cabinet, with the possibility of the Secretary of Agriculture, Wilson and Postmaster General Meyer. So far as Secretary Wilson is concerned, this news will be regretfully received in the Pacific Northwest. The three states Oregon, Washington and Idaho, in the fiscal year ending July 30, 1898, shipped about one-fifth of all the wheat and flour exported from the United States and Canada. So lightly has Secretary Wilson regarded this vast territory, which turns out such a large proportion of our great cereal crop, that a competent agricultural expert has never been assigned to this field, though all other principal wheat states are so favored.

The Oregonian, usually right in its editorial comment, displayed its weakest ignorance in its editorial Wednesday advocating the division of Lane county by the very impractical north and south division line proposition, a hobby of the Eugene Register. Has the big daily been subsidized by the county seat ringsters? Cottage Grove Leader.

These mighty forces in the financial and railroad world have for the past two years been devoting their energies to lines east of the Rocky Mountains. They have been "connecting up" their lines in what eventually may be one great system from which all competition will have been eliminated. Pending completion of these plans of reorganization and for acquisition of the Eastern railroad properties—plans now gradually coming to light—Mr. Harriman's arrangements for immediate development of the Pacific Northwest have been interrupted. Mr. Rockefeller and his associates representing large holdings in the Hill lines, the Harriman lines, and the Milwaukee road might successfully argue with each other no more and until their plans were worked out in the East.

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COST OF EXCAVATION AT PANAMA. Important information is supplied to the world by the completion of the canal at Panama. The general cost, not including rock work, was estimated by the old commission at 80 cents a cubic yard. But this work is actually being done at 40 cents. The original estimate of the cost of rock excavated for this canal, by the methods now employed it is done for less than one dollar.

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CLOSER ESTIMATES OF COST FOR A SEASIDE CANAL CANAL PROBABLY BE MADE THAN FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL PLAN; for the cost of the great dams and locks is an exceedingly uncertain problem. But all the estimates for either plan are as yet untrustworthy. "De Lesseps," says the New York Tribune, "at first expected to cut a sea-level canal 28 feet deep in eight years for \$114,000,000, but nine years later reckoned that his best performance would be a lock canal 15 feet deep in twenty years at \$31,000,000. In 1892 the new French company hoped to complete a lock canal in twelve years for \$180,000,000, and in 1900 our commission estimated that to complete the lock canal on the French plans would cost \$142,242,578. Of course, there have been material changes of plans since 1890, to provide for the passage of larger ships than were then in existence, and the prospective cost of the canal has thus been increased."

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CONCERNING DUCKS. People in general cannot be expected to feel more than a languid interest in wild ducks since the law virtually forbids them ever to partake of such game. Still the controversy over the length of the open season is not without its importance. Mr. Jean Cline, whose letter was printed yesterday, is certainly wrong in saying that the law in the matter of hunting and protection of the game is to defer the time of extinction as long as possible. The true object is to defer the time of extinction forever. There is no necessity whatever that any species of game should become extinct. Neither need it be excluded from the market by reasonable shooting forbidden. On the other hand, Mr. Cline's notion of the way to preserve game is sound. If his statement is correct that the breeding grounds of the wild ducks are invaded by persons who collect the eggs by the hundred thousand, they need look no farther for the cause of the diminishing flights. One diligent egg-seeker will destroy more game than a hundred hunters.

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TACITUS "YELLOW" AS HISTORIAN. Signor Ferrero Whitewashes "Roman Fossil" Tiberius and His Julia. Chicago Tribune. A new angle on a celebrated divorce scandal of early Rome was presented for the twentieth century club at the residence of Mrs. La Verne W. Noyes by Sig. Guglielmo Ferrero. The marital troubles of Tiberius and Julia, he said, deserved little more than the notice of the first page of one of the widely circulating newspapers, and not the publicity and opprobrium of centuries.

What the "Devil" Heard. Silver Lake Leader. The "devil" in this office is thinking of moving to the Rock Creek, Washington, to school and take up as a specialty spelling, as reports come to him that there is a school man over there that has adopted a rule that when the girls make out a spelling one of the boys can kiss her, providing he spells the word right.

THE REAL THING. Pilot Rock Record. Oscar Owens and Johnny Linsner recently unearthed a den of snakes, and succeeded in killing a great many. They were rattlesnakes and blue-racers, some of the former being very robust and of great length.

Tough Days for Chinese Pheasants. Eugene Register. A. C. Travis, who has a ranch near Irving says seven Chinese pheasants, three males and three hens have taken up their abode with his chickens at the barn and are getting as good treatment as his domestic fowl. He says he has tried the bushes of wheat about the place for them and the quails to live on. He also reported counting 192 of the pheasants lying in the snow in front of the house.

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Life's Sunny Side

Mr. Highbrow—It was Michelé, I believe, who observed that "woman is the salt of a man's life." Miss Keen—Quite true. Young men aren't half so fresh after they get married—Boston Transcript.

With the 23d of February looming up in the middle distance, the young teacher thought she saw a good chance to inculcate patriotism in her young charges. "Now, what little boy can tell me anything about George Washington?" she asked sweetly. Then selecting the boy attached to the hand which seemed to be waving the most frantically, she said, "You may tell, Willie."

A Beloit woman said to her servant: "Jane, I've a milkman kiss you this morning. Hereafter I shall go out after the milk." "It won't do you any good," the servant replied, "he has promised not to kiss a woman but me."—Beloit (Kan.) Times.

A physician engaged a nurse, recently graduated, for a case of delirium tremens. The physician succeeded in quieting her patient, and left some medicine, instructing the nurse to administer it to him if he "began to see snakes again." At the next call the physician found the patient still quiet, but he had given her the medicine, and she had given him a few medicine pills.

A persistent attorney who had been trying to establish a witness's suspicious connection with an offending railroad was at last related by the witness's admission that he "had worked on the railroad." "Ah!" said the attorney, with a satisfied smile. "You say you have worked on the P. T. & X."

"For how long a period?" "Off and on for seven years, or since I have lived at Penedales on their line." "Ah! You say you were in the employ of the P. T. & X. for seven years, off and on?" "No, I did not say that I was employed by the P. T. & X. I said that I had worked on the road, off and on for that length of time."

"Do you wish to convey the impression that you have worked for the P. T. & X. for seven years without reward?" asked the attorney. "Absolutely without reward," the witness answered, calmly. "For seven years, if you mean the P. T. & X. instead of the P. T. & X. cars, and never once have I succeeded."—Youth's Companion.

"Canny" Bridgeman Macdonald told his new bride wife: "The meenster doesn't approve of my marrin' again, an' see young a wife, too. But as I tellt him, I canna be ayne burryin' burryin'."—Funch.

Charleston News and Courier. Mr. Bryan never had any chance of election from the beginning to the end of the campaign. He was nominated by the Democratic party, and the Democratic party did not want him and would not have him. He carried most of the Southern States and he carried Oregon. He was not even nominated by the Democratic party again if he can. That is what his constant advertisement of himself means, and if he shall be placed in the head of the Democratic party, not even the South will be left to fight his battles any more. We do not mean to be misunderstood, however. We have nominated Mr. Bryan for 1912 and 1916 and 1920. Our record upon this point is clear, but we do not think he ought to be nominated, and we are sure that he can never be elected.

A Leg for a College Education. Trenton (N. J.) Dispatch. William Conway, a boy of Jersey City, N. J., who has been longing for a college education, but unable on account of lack of money to get it, has received \$2000 of money for the loss of a leg, and will spend the money on his education.