

The Oregonian

Entered as Second-Class Matter, Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice No. 414. Subscriptions Rates—Invariably in Advance.

How to Remit—Send postage money order, express order or personal check on your local bank.

Postage Rates—10 to 14 pages, 1 cent; 15 to 25 pages, 2 cents; 26 to 44 pages, 3 cents; 45 to 64 pages, 4 cents.

Eastern Business Office—The S. C. Beckwith Special Agency—New York, Rooms 411-12 Tribune Building, Chicago, Rooms 210-211 Tribune Building.

Portland, Tuesday, Feb. 16, 1909.

THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN.

The statement that President Roosevelt has serious concern about the danger of a rupture with Japan contains no exaggeration. These apprehensions have been entertained by him more than two years.

Japan could inflict enormous loss upon us, with little danger to herself and little expenditure of money. She could seize the Philippines at once.

But we must make another quotation—it fits so exactly: "The more judges remedy has failed in the past and would fail in the future. It encourages sloth, indifference, resistance to genuine reform."

But surely, we were told, Japan will not risk war for such trifling causes. Forget not that causes which seem trifling to us may not appear so to Japan.

Even without this assurance the world would probably be rebuilt, since both the dead and the survivors of the devastating shock are loyal to an extent that does not contemplate the possibility of existence without "fair Messia."

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Three members of the new Cabinet are to hail from the Mississippi Valley. The old and reliable James Wilson will remain Secretary of Agriculture and incidentally support Mr. Wood's bill.

Reynolds, mentioned above, or somebody else from the blooming prairie of Illinois, will manage the Treasury. The promotion of Mr. Meyer to be Secretary of the Navy is a pleasant circumstance of course, but one regards somewhat that he has not been put in the postoffice, where he has done such good work.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. The House some time ago passed a bill to submit to the people a proposition for a constitutional convention to be voted on at the next election.

Though the House passed the bill some two weeks ago by a very large vote, we do not observe that the Senate constitution submitted to the electors in November, 1912.

THESE GREAT "EMERGENCIES." In the Legislature of Illinois there is a "more judges" bill. Twelve more are called for in Chicago—eight for the Circuit Court and four for the Supreme Court.

But the Chicago Record-Herald says the bill is a cool, pertinent illustration of how not to do it. That journal declares that the authors of the bill "ignore the clearest demonstrations of the urgent need of very different remedies for the intolerable evils of the law's delay and the law's wastes and burdens."

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DEIFYING DISASTER. The world hears almost with a shudder that Messina, the Italian city lately destroyed by earthquake, will be rebuilt.

When his job is lost he must break up his home and take to the road. If he has to do this too often, it is lucky indeed if he does not acquire a taste for roaming and degenerate into a tramp.

DRY LAND FARMING. A Pendleton dispatch in yesterday's Oregonian said that 10,000 acres of land within a radius of ten miles of Pilot Rock, hitherto considered unproductive, have been placed in cultivation within the past eighteen months.

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While all of the experiments and investigations conducted by Professor Campbell and his methods are religiously followed, the change from dry-land farming to irrigated agriculture in the limited field where it has been made, but the possibilities, especially in the immense semi-arid regions of the Pacific Northwest, are almost unlimited.

the language of Professor Campbell, "there is hardly a section of the United States that can be said to be free from the danger of crop failure by reason of the irregular distribution of rainfall."

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Wheat, oats and corn, the "big three" in the cereal world, soared up to new records for the season again yesterday. The May option in the premier cereal touched \$1.14 in the Chicago market, and May corn sold to 64 1/2 cents, with oats 53 1/2 cents.

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Jacoba Irene, a Jersey cow owned in Illinois, has just finished a two-year test in which she gave over a ton of butter. She is truly called the "champion long-distance dairy cow of the world."

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ROSES INJURED BY FROST. Examine the bushes and cut away the Damaged Wood. PORTLAND, Feb. 15.—(To the Editor.) The past winter with its spell of almost zero weather was hard on many varieties of roses.

Lincoln and Washington. Brooklyn Citizen. Lincoln is even more widely appreciated than Washington. The appeal of Washington has always been rather to the intellectual than to the domestic affections, whereas Lincoln comes home to the genial and tender side.

Exempt Pioneers From Taxation. WESTON, Or., Feb. 14.—(To the Editor.)—As others are having their growl, I don't say that the Oregon Legislature is doing too much for the young and rising generation; but is it not doing it at the expense and neglect of the old pioneers who have borne the heat and burden of the day?

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of President Roosevelt, but it was a case where "the velvet scabbard held a sword of steel." With the assurance from Mr. Taft and his competent force of engineers that the canal would be successfully and speedily completed on present plans, the majority of the American people will be satisfied to await results with a confidence which in the past has at times been disturbed by reports put in circulation by interests opposed to any kind of a canal.

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Life's Sunny Side

Walter C. Goodson, an attorney of Macon, Mo., attended Circuit Court at Oklahoma, Ia., one day this week, and noticed some interesting features which differed from the Missouri practice.

"One of the lawyers up there told me this story. A lineup of jurymen appeared before me and Judge just the same as on the day I was there and every man explained that it would mean disaster to him to serve at that time of year."

"No sir." "Have you got a sick mother-in-law needing your attention?" "No sir, no sir." "What about your crop?" "Don't raise anything."

"What become of your dog? I haven't seen him a long time." "You notice what a cold I've got." "Yes, but what's that?" "Well, a lot of people told me things to do for my cold, and I was just enough to try 'em on my first." "Cleveland Ledger."

"Why," said the millionaire, "do you want to reach over to whisper to the clerk, who shook his head in perplexity. Then the Judge's curiosity got the best of him."

"He had appealed to the doctor for relief, reaching ever to whisper to the clerk, who shook his head in perplexity. Then the Judge's curiosity got the best of him."

"Do you stammer all the time?" asked the man of science. "N-n-n-n," he spluttered, "I only stutter when I am nervous when I talk."

"That is a pretty picture of yours, that orchard scene," said the nearsighted lawyer, "but why didn't you sign it 'I did,' replied the artist, 'don't you see? Down here.'"

"Oh, is that your name? I thought that was the part of the fence!"—Yonkers Statesman.

Reflections of a Bachelor. New York Press. When a man puts a high value on club life it is his loss.