

The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter. Subscription rates: In Advance, (BY MAIL) Daily, Sunday included, one year, \$8.00...

How to Remit—Send Postoffice money order, express or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency accepted.

Postage Rates—10 to 14 pages, 1 cent; 15 to 20 pages, 2 cents; 21 to 26 pages, 3 cents; 27 to 32 pages, 4 cents.

Eastern Business Office—The S. C. Beach-Whitely Building, Chicago, rooms 510-512 Tribune building.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26, 1910.

DISPOSAL OF THE PUBLIC LANDS.

From a recent official report we learn that up to June 30, 1909, a total of 6,124,395 acres of public lands had been entered under the homestead act. This would make one and one-half millions of farms of 100 acres each. Under other land laws a large total of lands has been entered in small bodies by individuals.

The free homestead law was one of the most beneficent ever enacted. More than all other measures it brought about the settlement of the great region known as the Far West. It was especially important in the prevention act, by which lands during many years preceding had been sold at low prices.

The policy of making grants of lands for railroads began as far back as 1850. In 1852 grants for railroads were made to Missouri, and in 1853 to Arkansas. In 1854 and 1857 further grants were made, in every case to the states themselves; and the states dealt with the corporations building the railroads.

This policy now seems to have been all wrong. It has been generally conceded that the lands granted to the corporations have been wasted. It is one of the cases wherein men are wise after the event. Inaccessibly lands were regarded as of no use and of little value.

Another abuse almost equal in magnitude was the policy of allowing persons to make entry of timber land on the supposition that they would hold them for their own use and benefit. Immense numbers made the entries for no other purpose than to sell the lands for what they could get; and in many, perhaps most instances, they were hired by speculators to make the entries, and as soon as possible the lands were conveyed to themselves, at price but a fraction of their actual value.

The shipping community and a great many others who take an interest in the weather and in news from the sea, ought at least to possess a volume of thanks for Captain Bridget men, but it is necessary if we expect to understand them. Hence a newspaper which records the events of the day as they actually happen more fully fulfills its plain duty to its readers.

A sensible reader does not want to be deceived for his soul's good any more than for his soul's harm. He wants the unvarnished facts so that he may make a proper use of them. The paper would have done more fairly by its patrons if it had not suppressed so much of the dark side and had exaggerated the bright side deceptively.

RECKLESS GIVING. Dr. A. K. Pearsons' resolution to give away all his property before he dies is in the line of wisdom. Even those millionaires who do not care to endow colleges might imitate him with advantage.

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has continued for several months on both sides of the ocean. Europe, owing large sums of money to Egypt for cotton, and Russia to South America for grain, stock, etc., shipped back our high-priced securities with a request that they be converted into gold, and the gold shipped away to the countries which were indebted.

The executive has made this clear to men with whom he has talked during the last week. All he can do, he said, is to do the best he can to make the Government as good as he can, to secure as much legislation as he can in the right direction, and, in doing so, to use those instruments which are indispensable to the passage of laws.

The President has said the country is passing through a period of supreme hypocrisy, in which the men who make the loudest protestations of hatred of monopoly, political corruption and bossism have the great advantage.

The President presumes this frequently has been so in politics, and that his fate is no different from that of others.

The trouble with the correspondents, in the view of the President, is that they are on the outside and do not take into consideration the troubles they would have if they had to do something they were charged to do and were to look about to see if they could do it and have it done.

It is probable the Lords will yield on the budget, but will not yield on the proposal to grant a local legislative council to the people of Ireland, then would go to the people again, a local legislature for Ireland can hardly be "tacked" on a finance bill.

Food buyers want too much, along with the food they purchase. That's why prices are high. They demand that the farmer should have a high return for his crops, and that they keep up delivery wagons and horses and delivery boys.

The fake cripple who has been soliciting alms with one arm bound close to his body, to give out the impression that he had lost it, has been sentenced to 15 days on the rock-pile. In order to make the punishment fit the crime, he should be compelled to break rock with one of his arms pinioned in the same manner as he carried it while begging.

Walla Walla would solve the meat problem by eating chicken. But all cannot stay out so late and many have a fear of bulldozers, traps and shotguns.

The Irish members of Commons will hold the balance of power. That will be better even than if the members were policemen.

ERA OF SUPREME HYPOCRISY.

The Day of Blatant Irresponsibility at Washington. Washington Telegram to Chicago Tribune.

President Taft has thrown aside the role of politician which has been distasteful to him, and hereafter will devote himself exclusively to the performance of the duties devolving upon him as chief executive.

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SHAKESPEARE WAS SHAKESPEARE

Ben Jonson's Tribute to the Transcendent Talents of His Brother Dramatist. Mr. John Muro has this to say in "The Shakespeare Allusion Book."

Ben Jonson stands alone. He is the only dramatist which benediction criticism has conferred on him. He is the friend of Shakespeare, one who talked and laughed with him, as the most solid, most learned, and the strongest of the Elizabethan playwrights, his utterances concerning his superior in drama deserve our profoundest respect.

The art of Shakespeare, like that of all great geniuses, seldom shows evidences of effort or difficulty; it is direct, simple, and natural. His characters win us always with their human appeal, and p'ue with the warm blood of life.

Where Jonson was original—and he is said to his everlasting honor—was in his praise of Shakespeare, the man, is all the more valuable when we remember how difficult Jonson was to get on with in the mind of his contemporaries.

DEVELOPMENT OF CHESS. In its Present Form It is a Modern Game. Strand Magazine.

Chess is but a game, a pastime, a relaxation; but it has at times absorbed the faculties of the intellectual in every age of the world.

Only a Painted Devil. New York Sun.

Why then make such a pother about Canon and his irredeemable wickedness? Simply because he is the meat and marrow of insurgency—a number of gentlemen from districts once full of Populism and still smitten with the conviction that they are their fences. By using poor old Uncle Josephus as a bugaboo they hope to make their nomination and election sure.

Bohemian Food Boycott. Boycotts against the high food prices are becoming quite the fashion of the moment.

Two American Birds. Chicago News.

WHO SHALL MANIFEST THE TRUTH?

Christian Scientist Defines Ideal Followers of the Nazarene. PORTLAND, Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—The brief extracts referring to Christian Science in The Oregonian today quoted from Rader's paper on "Modern Substitutes for the Religion of Jesus Christ," before the material conference yesterday, indicate the extent that one may go in drawing conclusions from a doubtful understanding of any teaching.

To characterize any teachings as a substitute for the religion of Jesus Christ is serious business. Were one able accurately to determine that any would be declared by God to be exactly what he would have it, in case he were on earth, they would then be able to say, after understanding thoroughly various teachings and methods of salvation differing therefrom, wherein they were wrong. I do not know of any individual from earth today who possesses the degree of knowledge calculated to enable him to do this or who with reason may so characterize all teachings.

As to what Mrs. Eddy has given to the world, and which is responsible in numbers instances for the healing of sin and disease, and an inn among the hope of complete salvation, she says on page 9 of the preface of Science and Health: "Today, though rejoicing in some progress, she is still in the unwilling disciple at the heavenly gate, waiting for the mind of Christ."

On the question of the reality or unreality of spirit, the Christian Scientist is due to failure to recognize the standpoint taken by Christian Science. It may be suggested that the presence of spirit and the lack of obedience to God who is good and whose danger could never be anything other than good.

Garfield Pinched. Columbus Letter to Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

James R. Garfield's defense of Clifford Pinchot is a masterpiece of logic. Pinchot was one of the strongest supporters of the Roosevelt policies.

Dr. Bell's New Word "Drome." Chicago Post.

There is much to commend Professor Alexander Graham Bell's advocacy of the word "drome" as the verb to signify flight in an airplane.

Embarrassed Advice. Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph.

President Taft's advice that the factions in Congress cultivate harmonious relations should be taken as an admission to Kansas to "raise more corn and less hell."