

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, Feb. 11, 1910.

LUXURIES BECOME NECESSARIES.

The remark that the real remedies for the high cost of living are more industry and less extravagance offers the only suggestion that can be of real value in this field of inquiry.

It has often been remarked that the luxuries of one age become the necessities of the next. This is true now to a greater degree than at any former time in the economic life of mankind.

Recently the trade journal known as the Technical World presented a list of things once known as luxuries or superfluous, and very sparingly used, but now the people of the United States spend more than \$2,500,000,000 annually on such articles.

The total here is nearly \$2,500,000,000 a year. No item in it that was not once deemed a luxury. This list includes all necessary food, clothing and other supplies, about which complaint of high cost is made.

OVERLOOKING THE FACTS.

The Spokane Review, in objecting to The Oregonian's comment on the terminal rate controversy, continues to ignore unpleasant facts and at the same time to make a number of statements with gaudy theories.

The Oregonian based its assertion regarding the inability of the railroads to compete successfully with the water carriers on actual transactions. To be specific, we shall not cite the case of the Spokane druggalder, hardware men, dry goods merchants, or any of the large numbers of business concerns who ship Eastern freight by the water route to Portland.

If the water route to Portland endures, the publishers of Spokane should be on his ink after paying the freight for a 400-mile rail haul after the ink reaches Portland, it is not plain beyond the necessity of argument that Portland has at least the advantage of that 400-mile rail haul.

must ultimately make it the largest city of the Pacific Northwest. As the only people method by which these rates could be secured would be by taking the big ocean liners up to the foot of Spokane Falls to discharge their cargoes, that "wonderful" trade expansion that is supposed to be the result of the resources with which Spokane has been favored.

THE TROUBLE AT ROME.

Now that the Methodists in Rome have discovered a way to embarrass public men who happen to visit that city, they seem disposed to make the most of it.

Since Mr. Roosevelt is not a Methodist there is no emphatic reason why he should seek out the Methodist school in Rome for a visit. Judging from the scenes displayed by its management in the Fairbanks incident, it cannot be a very interesting place.

The cry that travelers will "show their loyalty to Protestantism" by visiting this intrusive little school is idiotic. If a person cannot see both the school and the Pope, and if he cannot, he displays infinite good sense in preferring the Pope.

THE DEATH-DEALING TAIL.

Scientific opinion from other sources does not support Professor Booth's prophecy of disaster and death from the tail of Halley's comet.

Others, perhaps quite as wise as Professor Booth, do not forebode such sweeping destruction. The tail may reach the earth, it is admitted, but they will be selected with discrimination and their end will be easy.

MR. LODGE ON THE TARIFF.

People who believe that the world is ruled by money and that money support for their faith in one of Senator Lodge's recent speeches in the relation between the tariff and the price of meat.

Commenting on these remarks, the Springfield Republican aptly asks of what the duty is if it does not affect prices. Of course, the removal of the duty cannot lower prices, the imposition of it did not raise them.

There are a number of duties which stand in the same dilemma precisely as that on meat. The duty of 25 cents on wheat is one of them. It is not a bushel on corn as examples.

delays, convicted and sentenced to be hanged on February 11. Appeal to the Supreme Court has been allowed, pending which stay of judgment has been granted.

Dr. Mary E. Green, who died in Seattle a few days ago at the age of 56 years, had been active in her profession and in the philanthropy which attaches to the practice of medicine for more than forty years.

CITY OF HOMES.

Portland as a "City of Homes" has a reputation throughout the land. That there is small likelihood of this reputation suffering is evident from the details of the building permits now being issued.

A Philadelphia dispatch says that the shareholders of the United Gas Improvement Company at a special meeting here today voted to cut a 39,000,000 melon.

The usual Chinese New Year's festivities in New York have been robbed of one of their chief attractions by an order of the Police Department forbidding the discharge of fireworks.

LIVER IMPROVEMENT ASSURED.

The Columbia River project to have farred very well in the appropriation recommended by the House of Representatives.

WHY SHOES DON'T SQUEAK ANYMORE.

Most every man and woman remembers the shoes which squeaked when new, but they will be noticed that it is the spotlight that is again shining on the Fairbanks of the Washah.

COLLEGE GIRLS EDUCATE THEMSELVES.

Professor Ada Comstock, dean of Women of the University of Minnesota, has found that 70 out of 500 university girls have been inclined to read the article of food in Persia, and from there it is imported into India.

TWO KINDS OF OFFERINGS.

A wealthy lay church worker in St. Louis said in an address the other day: "You men put in the plate as an offering to God a sum you wouldn't dare give to a Pullman porter."

KANSAS CLAIMS A WHEAT KING.

Kansas claims the wheat king of the country. He is John Elfreid Colby, who last year harvested 19,000 acres at a net profit of \$60,000.

POLITICAL COMMENT.

Congress seems to be in no hurry about those tariff policies. The President probably would not have been so anxious if Congress on your hands—Atlanta Journal.

THE DIETIST.

There was a fat woman, And what do you think? She learned in a paper That vitamins and drink Were making her fat, so She went on a diet.

IDEAS ON PRESENT DISCONTENT. Present Tariff Represents Dominant Feeling of Both Parties. New York Sun.

So far as the causes of the increased cost of living can be guessed at or accounted for, the duty on protection, there is nothing of politics in them. The tariff, as impulsively blamed, represents the dominant feeling of both parties.

The economic argument of the increased price of living is unavailing to the Democrats. They long maintained that the money amounting to a revenue measure, this may save his face, but it must be hard for him to keep a straight one.

One of the most surprising things in a world full of surprises is the marriage of a young girl with an old man and her retirement with him to a lonely and practically inaccessible mountain home.

The provincial Parliament, now in session at Victoria, has decided to interfere with the building of paper railroads.

RIGHT TO "SPEAK OUT IN MEETING."

Choice of Candidates by Assembly Not Violation of Primary Law. GOLD BEACH, Or., Feb. 9.—(To the Editor.)

The right of every American citizen to "speak out in meeting" is one of the rights which he will not surrender. Few want to return to the old convention system, but they also want a chance to publicly discuss the fitness of candidates whom they are expected to support.

The Minnesota of the Wilderness. The price of beef and eggs being what it is, there is a clamor for the news in the Calcutta Englishman's learned and comprehensive discussion of the subject of manna.

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Portland has 251 miles of distributing water mains ranging from 4 inches in diameter to 30 inches. The cost of these mains, covering a period of many years, has been \$1,817,000, as shown by the statement of the Water Department on December 31, 1909.

This average cost of \$10,000 a mile, or \$1.89 a foot, is important just now in discussion of charter amendments proposed for the purpose of assessing the cost of mains against benefited lots and relieving the water consumers.

As the charter now reads, lots supplied from a main 10 inches or more in diameter, get the main—if it be a new one—the expense of water consumers, while a lot that draws water from 8 inches or less in diameter are assessed for the cost thereof.

Criticism of the existing arrangement has been made for several years ago, whereby water consumers paid for all the distributing extensions, has been based on the theory that the land-owner should pay the cost of extending the city's pipe system to his lots or suburban tract.

But, owing to the difficulty of defining benefited districts—on account of network of pipes—it was found difficult to make assessments and set rates, uncertain of their pay, declined to bid. Therefore in the 1909 election the city laid out a plan to charge the larger mains—those of 10 inches or more—to the water fund, leaving the smaller mains to be paid for by the property owners.

THE WATER DEPARTMENT LAYS NO MAINS OF LESS THAN 4 INCHES DIAMETER.

Some 62 miles of pipes of smaller size but they were all acquired with the money of the city. The mains in Albina and East Portland, which the city connected with its own system, are of 6-inch diameter and 6-inch pipes is not included in the \$1,817,000 total in the foregoing.

Ninety per cent of the distributing mains are cast iron. This material is the most durable and satisfactory. The cost of laying mains has much increased in late years, probably about 50 per cent in the year 1909 ended. At the Engineer's office of the Water Department the following estimates of average cost per foot have been obtained:

Table with 3 columns: Diameter (6-inch, 8-inch, 10-inch, 12-inch), Cost per foot, and Total cost.

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ALL THE LATTER PIPES ARE IN EAST PORTLAND, MOST OF THEM IN ALBINA, WHERE THEY WERE LAYED BY PRIVATE WATER COMPANIES.

For adequate fire protection even 6 inches is deemed too small by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. In 1906 engineers of the board made a very complete inspection of Portland's water system and recommended larger than 6-inch mains in districts that extend to the water supply.

The general distribution system, 4-inch is the smallest size used and there are strong practical reasons for using mains of less than 6 inches. For adequate fire protection even 6 inches is deemed too small by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

A large part of the hydrants are connected to mains of not more than six inches in diameter. The hydrants are usually discharged fairly good quantities at the tests, some of them gave unsatisfactory results. The experience of the city's small mains has fully demonstrated their inability to do adequate service.

From the foregoing totals of Portland's main mileage and of probable cost of laying them at the present time, it will be seen that the average cost of the distributing pipes of all sizes today would be \$10,000 a mile or \$1.89 a foot. The actual cost has been nearly \$7000 a mile, or \$1.32 a foot. The cost of laying an 8-inch main at the present time about equals that of today's average cost of mains of all sizes.

AVERAGE WATER MAIN, 6-INCH

Shown by Cost of System, Mileage of Pipes and Needs of Service.

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size; while the cost of laying a 6-inch main at the present time almost equals the average actual cost of the mains. This method of assessment should be adopted of assessing suburban lots by districts on the basis of the average cost of all the mains leading the city's water up to them, the lot would be charged as for a 6-inch or 8-inch main. In Seattle, they are assessed as from 6-inch mains.

By this plan, each lot served with water would be charged between \$60 and \$90, that is, either \$1.50 or \$1.90 a foot for 50 feet frontage. Each block would be assessed between \$600 and \$750.

This arrangement would lift a big expense from the water fund and enable a very marked reduction in water rates. In 1906, one-third the gross earnings from water rates were spent for extension of mains most of the mains being through suburban tracts that were greatly enhanced thereby in value. When this big disbursement for mains was reduced by the amendment of 1907, water rates were reduced about one-third.

In conclusion, it may be added that the 6-inch main just about equals the average size of all of Portland's water mains, also the average cost of the mains and the average needs of all districts. It will be noted that 40 per cent of the main mileage consists of 4-inch mains. If the city should lay hereafter as 6-inch are now laid in most extensions, the average cost of laying mains of all sizes would approximate the cost of 8-inch mains.

PROTECT THE CHILDREN'S EYES.

New York School Authorities Make Rules for Safeguarding Sight.

Statistics of the Board of Health show that more than 23 per cent of the pupils in the upper grades of the elementary schools suffer from ocular defects, and that this percentage increases from grade to grade through the schools. The conclusion is that such marked increase in defects of vision is caused by the amount of close work required by the present curriculum both in the school-room and at home.

With a view to putting in practice the essential rules for the preservation of good eyesight, the women principals suggest that a label with the following reminders printed on it be pasted in all school rooms: "Rest your eyes by looking away from the book. 'Your eyes are worth more to you than any book.' 'Safety and success in life depend on the eyes. Therefore take care of them. 'Always hold your head up when you read. 'Do not read in a dim or flickering light. 'Never read with the sun shining directly on your book. 'Don't face the light in reading, but have it come from behind, or over your left shoulder. 'Avoid books or papers printed indistinctly or in small type. 'Rest your eyes by looking away from the book. 'Bathe your eyes night and morning with pure water.' 'These suggestions are worth keeping in mind by every one. It is a fact proved by systematic investigation that the vast majority of street accidents, resulting in all sorts of serious consequences, from loss of limb to loss of life itself, are due to the defective eyesight of the person injured."

NOTES THAT ARE CURRENT.

Friend—Is it safe to send your stuff in a wrapper like that? Post-Well, I find it always comes back all right.—"He was once a member of the Legislature, was he not?" "Oh, yes. And ever since he has been laying down the law, the reputation he might have made."—"Yes."

Mrs. Jawback—The doctor says I must sleep with my mouth shut. How can I get the eye, therefore, that is, without opening it when you are awake.—Cleveland Leader.—"There is Nebuchadnezzar eating grass like an ox," said one courier. "Let's hope he won't get any of it."—"I don't know," said another. "I don't know if he's trying to get even with the Babylonian Bee."—Washington Star.

Tom (who takes his meals at a hotel)—Do you like your meals served table d'hôte? Dick (who patronizes a street car)—No, I don't. I don't like to eat in a la carte.—Baltimore American.—"Have you got any old clothes you don't want?" "No, but there is an old automobile you may have. It's got a very good motor, trouble supplying its own wants, without begging assistance from door to door."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Cousin (who has been summoned from the city)—I'll be home at a hotel—How many hundredweight did you say, mum? Lady (sweety)—Oh, I don't want to be any more than I am. I don't like it if she kept on being naughty you'd say that she was only a little bit naughty. She's behaving better now, thank you very much.—Punch.

IN THE MAGAZINE SECTION OF THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN

DETECTIVE CONNOR'S VALENTINE

New series of stories, each complete in itself. They who read "Detective Connor's Christmas Adventure" can form a true estimate of its heart-grIPPING qualities. These are not detective stories at all, but tales of sympathy, practical interest in the "submerged tenth." They commend themselves instantly.

FIRST NEWSPAPER IN OREGON

Historical sketch of the Spectator, established February 9, 1840, at Oregon City. This is a notable piece of work by George H. Himes. It is of special interest to the pioneer stock of the Pacific Northwest, but the picture of life in the wilderness 64 years ago will appeal to our new people.

MEN WHO ARE TRYING BALLINGER AND PINCHOT

Personal side of Knute Nelson and other distinguished men of either house who will pass on the National convicts.

SECOND PRIZEFIGHT FOR WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP

ORDER EARLY FROM YOUR NEWSDEALER