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POSTAL SAVINGS BENEFITS. Postal savings banks will fortify the cause of sound currency and strengthen the foundations of the Government.

THE CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAMME. Congress will meet tomorrow for resumption of its short session after the holiday recess.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ECONOMY. If Mr. Brandeis, who has become famous by his statement that he could save \$300,000,000 per year by a better system of railroad management, should turn his attention to the Government's management or mismanagement of some branches of its service, he might find equal opportunities for economy.

PREVENTING INSANITY. The increasing frequency of insanity has at last awakened the doctors to the desirability of trying to prevent its occurrence. In other terrible maladies, like consumption, prevention has been found a great deal better and easier than cure.

RAILROAD EARNINGS. Detailed statistics on railroad operation as presented in a Chicago special dispatch printed in The Oregonian yesterday account in a large degree for the inability of railroad companies to market new securities to advantage in this country.

LESSONS FOR OUR THEODORE. Ex-Presidents before our Theodore, quitted the office without deeming themselves summoned to "boss" the country. Nearly all of them retired to lighter duties. None of them, so far as we know, attempted to turn the country over; and it may be added that none ever hunted lions.

THE WOODGROWERS NEED NOT WORRY. The Senate and House will not settle down to work along the lines defined by the President without more or less exciting and diverting excursions into various political and legislative fields. Senator Bristow's resolution for submission of an amendment to the Constitution by popular vote will be one lion in the Senate's path that cannot be pacified, or avoided, or ignored.

THE HOUSE OF THE BALLENGER REPORT WILL NOT DOWN, AND IT MAY LEAD TO PROTRACTED AND FRUITLESS DISCUSSION. The House rules, too, both the insurgents, and they may insist on immediate change in procedure. The Democrats have lost much of their interest in that burning topic since the last election.

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the war, but was a nonentity in history. Chester A. Arthur expected again to practice law, but death came. Grant lived to be a candidate for a third term and to be defeated. Hayes retired to private life and to educational work. Cleveland became an educator and a publicist. Benjamin Harrison resumed practice of law.

THE COST TO OREGON. The State of Oregon has contributed to the Government reclamation fund, up to June 30, 1910, by the sale of public lands within its borders the sum of \$7,860,000. The amount is now said to be approaching \$9,000,000. The reclamation act was passed in 1902. It contained a provision (section nine) that within ten years 51 per cent of the aggregate amount contributed by any one state should be expended or appropriated for reclamation projects within its borders. It is obvious that the Reclamation Service, under this provision, inserted through the careful foresight of Representative Tongue of Oregon, would necessarily have enlarged the scope of its Oregon projects. The only way to avoid compliance with law and the doing of substantial justice to Oregon was to repeal section nine. So section nine was repealed, without a syllable or sign of protest from the two Oregon Senators.

Now, in the distribution of the \$48,000,000 fund (\$20,000,000 being appropriated by the act, \$8,000,000 Montana, \$8,000,000 Idaho, \$8,000,000 Wyoming, \$8,000,000, and Oregon, which gave more to the fund than any other state except North Dakota, is contemptuously shoved to one side with a petty \$925,000. This we see what it costs Oregon to send to Washington a Senator of the highest caliber, of their duty is to leave it all to Lodge or Aldrich.

Post-mortem news regarding the British steamship St. Denis, which sank somewhere off the "terrible north coast" a few weeks ago, is to the effect that the vessel was overloaded to an extent that it was impossible for her to rise under the weight of a big sea. This British Columbia habit of overloading vessels is not a new one. A Vancouver dispatch states that a court of inquiry will be held for the purpose of fixing the blame. Perhaps if some of the authorities at the Canadian seaports would do a little "inquiring" into these matters before the vessels were permitted to depart for sea, the death list would be smaller. The St. Denis was a vessel of 378 tons register, and according to Vancouver advice, she left port with 600 tons of coal, in addition to that which filled her bunkers. By taking note of these figures it is not surprising to learn that "she rested low in the water."

It is instructive to remember that the Ohio farmers who sold their votes so freely and frequently were "ignorant foreigners." They appear to have been of good old Yankee stock, speaking New England dialect and graduates of the common schools. One of the grandest lessons some of our native sons can learn from the Italian section gangs is how to vote intelligently and honestly.

Take the country over except Oregon and look at the balance sheets of all business. Isn't it a matter of congratulation that the country has 1210 equalled those for 1907? Of course here in Portland, the general average doesn't count. With new blood, new capital, new enterprises and renewed energy the margin of profit kept pace with the increased activities.

In 1922, the "Oregon Territory" celebrated the centennial of the discovery of the Columbia river; in 1905 the Lewis and Clark expedition, and now we are on the eve of commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Astoria. New as it is in the National annals, still a historic place the mouth of the Columbia has become!

About the biggest little industrial news in The Oregonian yesterday was an authentic report of a Clackamas County farmer who netted \$605.50 for 1210 hens last year. When you consider that Portland consumes a car load of Eastern eggs a day, there is no immediate danger of Oregon overdoing this profitable industry.

It is not agreeable to read that some 500,000 more or less dependent on charity. If the phenomenal growth of that town means merely the multiplication of paupers it might be well to stop and take breath and think things over. There may be a better way to grow.

There is to be no liquor at the forthcoming Portland Jackson Day banquet. Appropriate comment on the great renunciation might be made by the Seattle lawyer who is to speak on the topic "If Andrew Jackson Lived Today."

In keeping with the progressive spirit of Portland, the Y. M. C. A. shows a growth from 3,252 to 4,019 members in the year. Oh, there's no holding of us back now that we've put on our seven-league boots.

Except for the enterprise of John Jacob Astor centering in the sale of his land, perhaps a good many of us would be freezing back East today instead of enjoying the balmy weather of Oregon.

Peace as it is conducted nowadays costs Europe a billion and a quarter dollars a year and adds about that sum to the total of public debts. Fighting would be cheaper.

It savors of disloyalty when Kaiser Wilhelm has been thinking of making London. May he be salivating on the Berlin tailors who don't advertise in the Court Journal.

Do something to make yourself laugh, no matter how silly it may be. Play jokes on your friends if you can think of nothing else. Even that is better than to go crazy and murder them as the man is only too likely to do who never lets up on the everlasting grind of life. "Break the routine at all costs," is the advice of the wise to the toiler in store and office. If you have a habit of breaking the routine then break that habit occasionally. Change is the law of life. He that does not change is as good as dead.

Considered as the law of life, it comes from sowing wild oats. It is curious to reflect what a variety of crops is usually reaped from that youthful sowing and insanity is one of the most common and least desirable of them. Drink together with the excess of youth and account for half the inanity of males. Women go crazy for other reasons. Life on the lonely farm with no parcels post to break the drear monotony of the hideous days is one of them. Bad roads are directly responsible for the lost wits of thousands of farmers' wives. Had there been post to get the husbands to attend church all would have been well. But the mud was too deep and the ruts too bottomless so they staid at home all winter brooding over the kitchen stove and the next Spring they were carted off to the asylum. The pity of these tragedies is that they blow up in the face of the men who are mainly at fault.

The biennial report of the Attorney-General for the State of Alabama asserts that liquor was the cause of 258 out of 630 homicides in that State in the two years ending September 30, 1909. In the previous two years 233 out of 656 killings, were charged to the same cause. The amount of woe, misery and murder that is caused by improper use of liquor is staggering in its immensity, but in order to make fair comparisons between liquor and other influences which prompt murder, it would be necessary to know, in many of the more than 600 tragedies were chargeable to other influences. Some day the purveyors of liquor will take due cognizance of these statistics on murder and insist that their patrons stop short of inebriety. A good many men who are amiable and harmless when sober, become quarrelsome and vicious when intoxicated. The profits on the drinks that place them in that condition hardly repay the liquor men for the odium that is cast on their calling.

Prophylactic measures against insanity have been almost untried in modern communities. The most barbarous in this respect. And not only do we neglect disastrously to try to prevent our friends and relatives from going crazy, but no very exact method has as yet been invented of telling whether they are sane or not. The usual practice has been to wait until the insanity has demonstrated his abnormality by killing somebody. Then we set about his cure more or less scientifically. This practice respects the profound wisdom of the poetesses who wished to know whether a certain mushroom was poisonous or not. After long meditation she decided to eat it and take the consequences. It might kill her to be sure, but in any event she would have the blessed satisfaction of knowing the truth about it.

Recent students of the subject segregate the insane into three pretty clearly marked categories. The first is of adolescence, that of maturity and that of old age. Of course the last is the most hopeless of all. It arises from the failure of the faculties of the mind. The pitcher having made too many trips to the fountain is at last broken. The wheel is broken at the center. The best that can be done for the insanity of old age is to mitigate its miseries by care. It can be warded off, no doubt, in many cases by devoted attention, but it can hardly be cured after it has once fixed upon its victim. Very likely the best way to preserve the waning intelligence of the old is to make their lives as untroubled as possible, to multiply their interests and keep them occupied with duties which seem important even if they are really trivial. The worst possible treatment for grandpa, whose mind has begun to waver a little, is to establish him in an easy chair in the corner and then let him undertake any occupation. By all means give the poor man something to do which will take his thoughts off the condition of his brain and stomach.

People who wish to keep their wits in good working order up to the verge of the grave must furnish themselves with a multiplicity of interests. Charles V. said that for every new language he learned he felt himself another man. Knowing half a dozen was the equal of half a dozen poor wretches who knew but one piece. Certainly the more subjects a person is interested in the more holds their wits have on them. When one anchor slips they have others to throw out and some of them are sure to catch and hold. The case of the man who has devoted himself wholly to business to the utter neglect of art, books and play is pitiable when the evil days come and the years draw him in which he has no pleasure. Had he remembered not only his Creator but the mental faculties his Creator gave him, in the days of his youth, his old age might have been a time of serene and prolonged enjoyment instead of a period of sordid waiting for dissolution.

It is in truth the most enviable time of life if we only take measures to get ready for it when we are young. But the taking of these measures also has its dangers. It may bring on that insanity of maturity which is the fate of many Americans. This arises from too much work, too much worry, too little play and not enough change. The human machine runs on month after month and year after year at full speed and then on a day when he thinks not the soul who owns it finds himself with a brain that will not work. It begins to rattle and grind. The cogs make a terrible popping sound. The only sure prophylactic against the insanity of maturity, according

to the latest lights of science, is play. Do something to make yourself laugh, no matter how silly it may be. Play jokes on your friends if you can think of nothing else. Even that is better than to go crazy and murder them as the man is only too likely to do who never lets up on the everlasting grind of life. "Break the routine at all costs," is the advice of the wise to the toiler in store and office. If you have a habit of breaking the routine then break that habit occasionally. Change is the law of life. He that does not change is as good as dead.

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Argument Offered That There is No Virtue in Immunity Measure. PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 1.—(To the Editor.)—Much stress has been laid upon the unvaccinated condition of some of the small-pox cases at Silverton and I think equal prominence should be given to the vaccinated condition of other cases. Three persons traveling in Mexico came in contact with small-pox on the train. One of the three was vaccinated, the other two never had been vaccinated. The vaccinated one took the disease. The two others escaped until they were shut up in the same house with the vaccinated smallpox case in Silverton. Then in due time they, together with the Silverton family, came down with small-pox on the same day. There is no guessing about who conveyed the infection from Mexico to Silverton. It was the vaccinated woman. In the case of the unvaccinated person, she shortly developed smallpox. Then it was announced that she had never been vaccinated until she went to this case when in the train. One of the health officials must have assured her that this vaccination would protect her. But it did not. Then two nurses were sent to the scene and the vaccinated person was vaccinated. One of the new nurses took the disease and then the Poisonous press said she had not been vaccinated all right. Now we are informed by the papers that all three of the nurses have the smallpox. Where was the protection of vaccination come in?

Vaccination is said to have saved the life of the first case, but it was her susceptibility to smallpox that saved it to all the other cases. Those who escape with their lives will be said to have been saved by vaccination, but at least one unvaccinated person is reported to have been recovered, the child of the Silverton family.

The apologetics for vaccination now have to do some more figuring. Without disputing K. Sheldon's facts we may be permitted to point out a slight flaw in the logic he brings to bear upon them. Let it be candidly admitted that the vaccinated person was the first to take the smallpox and that he communicated it to the others as K. Sheldon states. Does it follow that vaccination is worse than useless? Not at all. It is one of the primary facts about vaccination that it must be repeated at intervals of a few years. Its virtue is lost in the case of the vaccinated person is no more immune than the unvaccinated. This disposes of the particular instance which our correspondent cites. Persons who wish to take a broad and sane view of the matter will not forget that vaccination has virtually banished smallpox from these countries where it is rigorously enforced upon the entire population as it is in Germany and Denmark. This fact admits of no question and it is decisive of the scientific training of the individual is immune to smallpox while one who is not properly vaccinated will take the disease if he is exposed to it. In the face of this fact argument is vain.

Equator and Pole. ANTELOPE, Or., Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—I have heard it argued that the equator is not a straight line, but a curve. The North Pole, but for my own part can't see through it. Would you please answer in The Oregonian? FINLAY M'BRETH.

Height can be measured only when the base or foot of the thing or things to be measured is given. Strictly speaking, neither the equator nor the North Pole has height. The equator is an imaginary line belting the earth equidistant between the Poles and the name of the point on the earth's surface representing the extremity of the earth's axis. From the center of the earth every direction is up. As the earth is slightly flattened at the Poles the distance from the center to the surface at the North Pole is greater than the distance from the center to the surface at the North Pole. In this sense the equator may be said to be higher than the North Pole.

When "height" is used as a synonym for "altitude" the measurement is upward from sea level. We are told by Peary that the North Pole is located in the Arctic Ocean. The equator crosses both land and sea and the imaginary line therefore is at times at greater altitude than the Pole.

A Dangerous Navy. It's a mighty good thing for Brazil under the circumstances that her navy isn't any bigger.

Asa Carey and the Bear. (In Pendleton, at the annual round-up, spectators gape at the daring of cowboys who ride bucking horses and wild asstors, as they are called, along the same different lines. A true story of the achievement of a certain Oregon cowboy has been told into the appended verse.) But did you hear the story, so strange, yet true as well, Not one that fancy pained like some folks from tell. But one that's really truthful, and this I will declare, And emphasize with firmness—Asa Carey rode a bear.

This happened down in Curry, a part of this fair state, Which now seems forging to the front, As he came out the night late, Like blossoms on the sweetest rose—But really I declare, I quite forgot my story—Asa Carey rode a bear.

Asa went and set a bear trap, beneath a spreading oak, And trouble then was brewin'—for there was no ink in the ink bottle. And from a limb suspended, he placed a bill of fare; I think he said 'twas equine, and Asa caught the bear.

He caught him by the hind leg, well up to be secure, Asa went then to a neighbor's to have a witness made, The neighbors came and saw him throw a rope, that landed fair, Around the neck of buin, and then he snubbed the bear.

Horatius at the bridge is naught, Thermopylae is lame, This train ride of terror entitles Asa to a name, Asa stood there like a Spartan, erect, serenely fair, Then bowing to his audience, he calmly rode the bear.

E'en Nolan in the jaws of death on Balaklava's field, Must in the final issue the palm of courage yield, The world did wonder as it should when death shots filled the air, The jaws of death were e'en bestrode, when Asa rode the bear.

FOREST SERVICE BLUNDERS AGAIN

Practical Forester Asserts That Public Will Get Sugar-Coated Pill in Planting of Southern Oak and Walnut in Northern Burned Areas.

BAKER, Or., Jan. 2.—(To the Editor.)—On December 29, 1910, an article by the Forest Service appeared in The Oregonian. This article was headed "New Timber Introduced, Black Walnut and Red Oak to Be Seeded in Burnt Areas." It then goes on to tell that 500 pounds of black walnut seed and 124 pounds of red oak acorns have been shipped from Harriington, Ark., to the district forester at Portland, to be distributed through the burnt districts of the Northwest. And that in 25 years Oregon will rank as an important producer of commercial walnut seed oak timber.

Such sugar-coated pills for the public demand attention. Let us look at this article more closely. Most certainly the Forest Service has experienced during the past season, heavy forest fires on the various public forest reserves. Why? Not because the season was extremely dry, nor because there were too many rangers employed, nor because there was too little money to expend, but for the simple reason that men who should have been patrolling the forest reserves during the fire season were assigned to other duties and assigned to do various kinds of so-called improvement work (fence building, etc.) against their own belief and protest. No one in the Forest Service was out, nor wild for days, and finally got beyond control. Had these faithful, over-worked rangers been allowed to do what the public thought they were doing and what they were supposed to be doing, millions of thousands of dollars, millions of feet of timber, and the lives of many brave men would have been saved.

Now that the fires have laid waste millions of acres of the forest primeval, up jumps the conscience-stricken Forest Service with the claim that they have been burned-over areas by planting for the good of the public. Merely to do some more figuring, let us assume that the unvaccinated person was the first to take the smallpox and that he communicated it to the others as K. Sheldon states. Does it follow that vaccination is worse than useless? Not at all. It is one of the primary facts about vaccination that it must be repeated at intervals of a few years. Its virtue is lost in the case of the vaccinated person is no more immune than the unvaccinated. This disposes of the particular instance which our correspondent cites. Persons who wish to take a broad and sane view of the matter will not forget that vaccination has virtually banished smallpox from these countries where it is rigorously enforced upon the entire population as it is in Germany and Denmark. This fact admits of no question and it is decisive of the scientific training of the individual is immune to smallpox while one who is not properly vaccinated will take the disease if he is exposed to it. In the face of this fact argument is vain.

How many millions of acres of timberland are burned over annually in the forest reserves? How few acres in comparison can the Forest Service ever hope to plant? How many millions of acres of timberland will still remain after the Forest Service has put its absurd drop in the empty bucket? Why bother about uncertain gambles under the name of experiment? The Forest Service has experimented and

has taken its ideas from nature first, and always. Nature has made the forests on a plain before the Forest Service was ever evolved by the pipe dream of an idealist or nursed at a "Pinchot breast." So like bees swarm the planting land in referring to the burning-over areas and intellectuals and what on earth happens? Of all ridiculous and blundering ignorance that which follows is the worst. That at vaccination is worse than useless? Not at all. It is one of the primary facts about vaccination that it must be repeated at intervals of a few years. Its virtue is lost in the case of the vaccinated person is no more immune than the unvaccinated. This disposes of the particular instance which our correspondent cites. Persons who wish to take a broad and sane view of the matter will not forget that vaccination has virtually banished smallpox from these countries where it is rigorously enforced upon the entire population as it is in Germany and Denmark. This fact admits of no question and it is decisive of the scientific training of the individual is immune to smallpox while one who is not properly vaccinated will take the disease if he is exposed to it. In the face of this fact argument is vain.

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studied for years. What has it given the public that is original and not taken from the ideas of others? Give the public a little common sense judgment to its immediate practical needs. Faithfully perform duties entrusted—the care of the Nation's timber. Stop bluffing and get down to business.

Why trot down to Arkansas and bring home a load of southern tree seeds into the northern climate when on every hand we have splendid forest trees which we know will grow and prosper—trees that are indigenous and acclimated which will produce lumber of much greater value than any southern tree possibly do? As a matter of fact it would be almost impossible to prevent good reproduction of native seedlings on most of our burnt-over areas.

This absurd expenditure of money under the heading of experiment, which on the face of it must fail, appears to be a strategic play in the hands of the public to hide past neglect and blunders.

To crown further this masterpiece, the district forester says he believes that in 25 years the public will have the public to hide past neglect and blunders. Commercial walnut and oak lumber, could anything be further from the truth? The bulk of Commercial lumber from black walnut and red oak seeds under the most adverse circumstances in 25 years! How absurd! Go to the state forests and see the seedlings that are in its native home under most favorable circumstances from 40 to 60 years are necessary to produce commercial black walnut timber, while from 40 to 50 years are required for oak. The same stands development. Yet the Forest Service will grow this timber out of its natural range in 25 years. Both of these tree species are one of our native trees. Why not invent. Perhaps the service intends to inject a catalpa or an eucalyptus serum into these trees to make them beat out their native trees. The public has studied on and on, always expecting the public to take the innocent, proffered, sugared pill.

The forest reserves, strictly speaking, are not on a paying basis and never have been. This is contrary to the usual claim and belief. Thus far, the grading of the timber has been very low, and the large extent. Are the forest reserves sheep pasture? Why not faithfully care for the timber and not oppress the grazing man? Why not keep the grazing man to keep from going to the poor house. That's what's the matter. The fundamental and prime reason for creating the forest reserves and organizing the Forest Service was to protect the forests by their wise use—not to burn them up, nor to bottle them up, but to give them to the people who created and will support in the future. The public has studied on and on, always expecting the public to take the innocent, proffered, sugared pill.

Furthermore, by holding this reserve timber at a high price, the Forest Service is acting not unlike a gigantic trust, while millions of feet of timber burn, decay and go unutilized. The public is ready for this reserve timber. He will purchase it for a sum far less than what it actually costs to produce. It is a pity that the Forest Service is not wise in an stringent and narrow-minded policy which prevents the present economic use of millions of feet of timber which are now rotting under the most liberal methods of management.

A PRACTICAL FORESTER.

VOTERS AND SINGLE TAX AMBUSH Only Small Percentage of People Know True Purport of Measure. Harry Park in Brownsville Times. Your statement in last week's Times that the people of Oregon were up against a hard proposition in enacting the