

The Oregonian

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as Second-Class Matter. Subscription Rates—In Advance.

Delivered by carrier, one year, \$3.00. Daily, Sunday included, six months, \$1.75. Daily, Sunday included, three months, \$1.00.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1911.

CITY AND COUNTRY.

It is not particularly encouraging to learn from the census report that more than three-fourths of the immigrants whom Oregon has received in the last ten years have flocked to the cities of the state, while less than one-fourth of them have settled on farms.

The contrast between the gains of town and country compels attention in the analysis of the census returns which has been prepared under the authority of the Commercial Club. This shows that while the farming districts of the state have increased their population only 29 per cent since 1890, the cities have grown 191 per cent.

Outside of the municipalities some of our counties, five of them to be specific, have actually less people now than they had ten years ago. Curiously enough, Marion is one of these regressing counties.

Wheeler County has lost 8 per cent of its rural population in the last ten years. Gilliam 10 per cent and Grant 11 per cent, but the most regrettable figures are shown by Union County, which has a smaller rural population now than ten years ago by fully 20 per cent.

The growth of towns without a corresponding development of rural life is a sort of hypertrophy. It extorts admiration only from those who do not know that it is a disease. Some small comfort perhaps may be obtained from reflecting that most of our sister states suffer from the same complaint.

As a rule the country districts of Oregon are more populous than they were ten years ago, but not much more. The lamentable decrease in Wheeler, Grant and Union Counties is said to be accounted for by the merger of small holdings into huge wheat farms.

The vast unoccupied tracts in the Willamette valley stretch out in a productive solitude about the same as they did ten years ago. There has been some increase of population in this attractive region, but not much compared with what there should have been.

High-Water Prophets.

This is the season for high-water predictions. The careful prophet who tells one-half of his acquaintances that there will be high water and confides in the other half the prophecy that there will be no high water this year is sure of adding to his reputation.

The removal of the foliage undoubtedly hastens the melting of the snows and swells the flood that each Spring starts seaward from the base of the Rockies and the Bitter Root Mountains.

While local history records no previous period when the high-water marks of 1876 and 1894 was exceeded, it is not improbable that many times in the long-distant past similar floods may have covered the Lower Columbia region.

The climatic conditions which govern the Columbia and its tributaries to run bank-full and stop over each year there is found a striking illustration of the vast size of the Columbia basin.

The prophet who each year tells us in advance the stage of water that we may expect can place but slight reliance on precedent. All signs fall in flood predictions as well as in dry weather. Denuding the land of its trees is a factor of increasing importance in regulating the flow of water.

Since Senator Bourne assumed his new role of magazine writer we have had increased opportunities for studying the workings of the mind of that distinguished gentleman. The Senator's latest effusion is entitled "The Composite Citizen" and appeared in a recent issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

Of course, Mr. Bourne does not mention himself by detail on the sins of legislators whose members are "nominated by conventions controlled by practiced politicians backed by campaign contributors." But all these things have been done away with by the direct primary, which sends men to the legislature direct from the people.

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Under this system there is no opportunity for secret manipulation by a committee. A bill proposed under the initiative cannot be amended by the insertion of a joker just before the vote is taken.

The people are given credit by Mr. Bourne for understanding all the bills submitted to them for adoption or rejection, but few of the people will pretend to have understood all the bills submitted to them at the last election.

on the safe side or to express their disapproval of having such questions submitted to the state at large. With what Mr. Bourne says of direct legislation in general, any candid observer of its workings can agree, but the system as we have it in Oregon has many serious defects which can only be removed by open discussion of the subject.

The debate in Washington the other night on the question whether bald heads or whiskers are the more detrimental attained international consequence. Its importance arose partly from the profound scientific problems involved, partly from the distinction of the department of agriculture.

Luther's name is really the first of pre-eminent importance in modern German literature, and between the great reformer and the contemporary of Goethe, there was long interval of comparative barrenness.

The possibility of a conflict in authority between the Interstate Commerce Commission and some of the Railroad Commissions of the country has frequently been commented on. There are many localities in which the railroads are at all times in that position sometimes described as "between the devil and the deep blue sea" on account of conflicting orders from the state and Federal commissions.

There is an overflow of the \$2.50 gold pieces in the Treasury, and coinage may be stopped. The \$2.50 coin was put out of business when the Australian ballot law came into general use.

The cold wave from Alaska that is making the East shiver must have taken the Canadian route. His friend Watson will carry the gun hereafter, for Sherlock Holmes has decided to quit killing.

Some of the big graft "discoveries" resemble a miniature fuse sizzling in a cannon cracker. The plumbers were considerate to strike during warm weather.

Clark County seems to be full of prunes this year. Salmon may now become cheap enough to eat.

Tacoma has the elephant by the tail. The suit that brought out the ruling of the court yesterday morning was that of P. A. Hume against the Chamber of Commerce building. Hume was suing for \$52,500, but a demurrer was entered by the defendants, who say that they had not agreed to the building.

What difference between what you expect and what you actually get? A woman passed a barber shop. No customers being present, the sign "barbers waiting" was prominent. "The lady things," the woman said.

TRAVELOGUE IS MOST UNIQUE

Miss Perrin to Show How Pacific Coast is Being Educated. Something unique in travel talks, illustrated with splendid pictures of the subjects covered, is promised for next Monday and Tuesday nights at the Helix Theater, when Marie Alice Perrin will show what she has been doing in adventures on the Pacific coast states to the East.

Her travelogue covers Oregon, Washington and California, and is said to be among the best descriptive entertainments ever given along similar lines. Oregon people will be interested in seeing and hearing the travelogue, for they will want to learn how the state is being advertised throughout the East.

Miss Perrin has developed the travel talk until it has become highly instructive. The places she tells of and shows in pictures become real to her audience, and her humorous touches keep her hearers from being bored by the description.

Absolute denial of the charge of Frederick J. Godby in his complaint that the Columbia Orchard Company, of which he agreed to purchase ten acres of land, did not have a clear title to the property.

Godby's charge that he could not secure a title is false. I still hold the title to the land, and if I want to take it up I can deliver a clear title on the part that he started to purchase as well as on any other part of it.

Rev. Mr. McPherson, Councilman Candidate, Outlines Policy. "I intend to enter the City Council as a peace-maker if an elected, and I will make it my business to do so."

Webb Resists Sentence. Murderer Once Condemned to Confinement for Further Delays. On motion of Deputy District Attorney Collier yesterday morning that J. P. Webb be sentenced to death for the murder of William Johnson, Judge Morrow set Saturday for arguments.

Way to Market is Shown. Agricultural College Professor to Give Practical Demonstration. An unusual platform demonstration will be made tomorrow night in the auditorium of the Portland Friends' Christian Association by Professor A. G. Lunn, of Oregon Agricultural College, in connection with his address on "Preparing and Marketing Poultry Products."

Government Witness Trees. (Portland, May 1.—(To the Editor.)—Will you please explain how I can move a Government witness tree to a section corner without laying myself liable to the Federal Court? ERASTUS GARDNER.

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WEST SHOULD GET TOURIST

Seattle Railroad Man Would Draw Travelers From Europe. "More than \$200,000,000 is spent in Europe every year by American people traveling merely for pleasure, but I doubt if \$1,000,000 is distributed by the same class through the Northwest."

The Northwest ought to receive a large percentage of American tourist business," he declared. "I believe it can secure its rightful proportion of the tourist trade by accomplishing that end."

William McMurray, general passenger agent of the Harriman line, and C. Chapman, manager of the Commercial Club, are among the Portland men interested in his movement.

"Swat the Fly" Now the Cry. Portland Council of Jewish Women Join Plan of Campaign. "Swat the Fly" is now a motto of the Federated Women's Clubs of Oregon in the crusade which will open May 15 with a general "Cleaning-Up Day."

Sub-Contractor Need Not Wait Until Work is Finished. That sub-contractors are entitled under the state law to prosecute mechanics' lien cases either within 30 days after the material is furnished or within 30 days after the work involved is completed, was a ruling made yesterday morning by Justice Gantenben.

Plans of Portland 20 Years Hence Will Be Exhibited. Portland as it will look 20 years from now will be pictured in sketches exhibited in colors before the National City Builders' Convention—a new organization. The gathering will be held in Philadelphia and Dr. J. R. Wetherbee, Portland's representative, left last night to attend the convention.

Plumbers Out on Strike. Journeymen Refuse to Work When Old Scale is Not Recognized. Consequent upon the failure of a few plumbing contractors to restore the old wage scale of \$8 for eight hours labor, nearly a score of journeymen plumbers went on strike yesterday.

Elliot is Expected Today. Northern Pacific Railroad Chief Comes for Brief Visit. Howard Elliott, president of the Northern Pacific Railroad, is expected to arrive in Portland today for a brief visit.

100 More Carpenters Strike. Los Angeles, May 2.—Union officials declared today that 100 more carpenters walked out in Los Angeles on Monday and there met officials of other roads.

Switzerland Gets Hero Fund. Berne, Switzerland, May 2.—It is officially confirmed that the government has accepted \$100,000 in the form of United States steel bonds from Antwerp, Canada for the purpose of establishing a Swiss hero fund.

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Advertising Talks

By William C. Freeman. "A newspaper is not the place in which to show a signboard. Merely printing the name of some article without telling something about it won't pay."

"Advertising has reached the point where it is regarded as news by readers of newspapers, and in order to make it effective it must be news."

I wish Mr. Whitlatch would follow his own opinion in the advertising of his company, as he is only using newspapers now to a limited extent.

The public is mightily interested in reading details about anything it eats, or wears, or invests in, or that is provided for its entertainment.

A bunch of signs or street cards in the newspapers would look queer, but articles that are advertised on signboards and in street cards, if truthfully and intelligently written about in display advertisements in the newspapers, would put these articles in touch with the people very quickly, and their sales would jump much faster.

Country Town Sayings by Ed Howe. (Copyright, 1911, by George Matthew Adams.) Farmers say a mule looks resentful like an elephant, and finally gets an enemy with a big kick.

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