

The Oregonian

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Portland, Thursday, Nov. 27, 1913.

THANKSGIVING.

On Thanksgiving day the Spirit of Good Cheer is abroad. All the rest of the year we may grumble at fate if we will. Today we count our blessings and thank the ruler of the universe that things are as well with us as they are.

OUR ANTIQUATED SCHOOL LAWS.

The school laws applicable to Portland need a thorough overhauling. There may be legislative differences of opinion, as to whether taxpayers only should vote or whether the privilege should be open to all registered citizens.

TAXES.

Taxes are high. They are always high and always will be high, so long as government assumes more and more functions and the citizen insists more and more upon having the benefits of a paternal system.

MAKE SEA TRAVEL SAFER.

The seamen's bill, which has been passed by the Senate and which now faces fierce opposition from shipowners in the House, is not a measure solely for the protection of seamen.

honor. It is still respected more than it deserves, but it is an idol of clay and it must come down for ever.

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promises well, but far more useful to him as an exhibition prizefighter would be his gift of tongues.

AN INVITATION TO SUE.

As we understand a recent ruling by the State Supreme Court in an Astoria case, it is in effect the law of Oregon that a jury may be called in court to pass upon the propriety of any street improvement ordered by city ordinance.

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result of the next Presidential election a striking contrast to that of the last.

The technical lawyer was rebuked by a common-sense judge when Judge Meals, of the Appellate Court of Cleveland, said in refusing to reverse the lower court's verdict on a pickpocket who had appealed on the ground of technical error.

Home Town Thanksgiving

Nothing care I for the rich cafe, Nor chefs well versed in the cookery books, For I am slated to get today The Thanksgiving dinner my mother cooks.

Oh, the pumpkin pies and the salads fine, And turkey browned to the richest brown, And spices at which the palate thrills— I'm going back to the old home town.

For there is my dream of daintiness sure; One of the kinds you read in the books, To be the soul of an epicure, Is the Thanksgiving dinner my mother cooks.

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WASHINGTON COUNTY CATCHING UP

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Twenty-five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of November 27, 1888. New York, Nov. 25.—The first storm of the winter is still sweeping over the Atlantic Coast and the Great Lakes, causing many shipwrecks.

Washington, Nov. 25.—Senator Quay today said the Republicans would have a majority of nine in the next House.

Heppner, Or., Nov. 25.—The Willow Creek branch of the O. R. & N. was completed to Heppner today. The last spike was driven by Hon. J. L. Morrow and Henry Heppner, the pioneers of the colony.

Albany, Or., Nov. 25.—John Schwartz was shot dead in November by Earl Walton on the Siuslaw, by George Montgomery, who mistook him for a bear.

Salem, Nov. 25.—The Republican city convention tonight made the following nominations: Mayor, George Williams; Recorder, L. Conni Marshall; James Ross; Treasurer, E. J. Swafford.

Colonel W. W. Chapman is suffering from a stroke of paralysis.

Chief of Police Parrish suggested to some friends at the Gilman House that something be done to give the patients at the smallpox hospital a Thanksgiving dinner. The suggestion was taken up by S. H. Henshler and in a few minutes he collected \$31.

The County Court yesterday gave G. W. Brown a 50 years' franchise to build a street railway along the county road between the city and the county, to use two and one-half miles of the road.

Ben F. Smith, of Sellwood, says that place is in favor of annexation to Portland.

St. Johns—This little town, on the east bank of the Willamette, is growing rapidly.

The constant explosions in the northern part of the city are from the clearing operations on the Irving tract, east of Margaretta avenue.

AMERICA'S DIPLOMATIC BLUNDER

Strong Hand Like Huerta's Necessary in Mexico, Says Resident.

BAKER, Or., Nov. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Since I returned from Mexico, where I spent the last two years, I have seen nothing so sensible and level-headed regarding the Mexican situation as your editorial, November 24, headed "National Duty." You have covered many telling points and have made plain the real issues at present confronting Mexico.

The failure of the United States Government to recognize Huerta within a reasonable time after he became de facto the head of the Mexican state was a diplomatic blunder and a gross injustice to Huerta himself. The man has his shortcomings and is probably capable of committing the same kind of errors that Huerta has committed. The Mexican presidential chair have never hesitated at, but even so, there is nothing proved against him, and the charge of complicity in the Huerta-Madero, so firmly believed in by those who know nothing whatever of Mexico and the conditions there, and flatter themselves by those who know better, is a gross injustice to Huerta.

As to his not having been constitutionally chosen, that is a question of procedure. How many votes, think you, were ever cast for Juarez or Diaz or even for Madero himself? Outside of Mexico, there are not a few who would elect Huerta who would ever trouble themselves to go to the polls. The automatic government of Mexico, if it were a country, would be the result of this apathy, and not the cause of it, as some would have us believe. In the present case, the sad part of the matter is that it really seemed as if a man had arisen who, with proper support from outside nations, might have brought about a change of law and order to the country and given the people a chance to work out their salvation under settled conditions, but by the stupidity of our Government the man's hands are tied and he can accomplish nothing towards pacification.

Let us not think that a hundred and one different bands of revolutionists now in field against Huerta have the slightest political motives or that they are in any way better conditions for the people. Half of Madero's Generals were notorious bandits and outlaws, and they were the great bulk of the revolutionists. They found that the success of his revolution meant a cessation of their chances for plundering. These are the reasons why they are so determined to "constitucional" Nothing will at this time serve the turn in Mexico but a strong military government, with an iron man at the head, fighting for brigandage, restore, communications, give industry a chance, and, above all, reopen the schools and let the younger generation have an opportunity to grow into better citizens.

And since we have knuckled one seemingly capable man, it is another should arise, our statesmen will take a somewhat different view regarding self-government in Mexico, and they will not before. They will then see that Mexico has no future, and that before there can be any hope of success under a real democracy.

KENNETH NEWEN.

ECONOMY IN FLAT RATE SYSTEM

No Need of Sending Bills to Consumers or Reading of Meters.

PORTLAND, Nov. 25.—(To the Editor.)—I have read with much interest the discussion about our Water Department charges for water by meter or flat rate. In The Oregonian C. B. gives his reason for advocating the meter system. He compares the city with the big electric corporation which in business to make all the money they can, besides they have to produce what they sell, but our city corporation is not there to make money, does not produce in this case; it simply levies a tax to meet the expenses of the Water Department.

The duty of our "business administration" to find the best and cheapest method to raise this money is not to make money, but to find the flat rate system is the only business system for Portland. Drawing the line between the "ordinary house" and the big electric corporation is established by giving the former six facets and the latter the larger number. C. B. could keep his water bill down to the minimum by metering, but he chooses and would not be obliged to carry the "burden of someone else."

We were told after the completion of the new reservoir that the city would have water enough for 50 years to come; why do we have to be stingy with our water and why would it not be much more businesslike to spend the \$300,000 intended for meters in bettering our water system so we do not have to sit up 35 o'clock nights to get water for our laws?

The flat-rate system is by far the cheapest, as there is no necessity of sending bills to customers, no expense of reading meters. The wasting of water could be eliminated to a great extent by having the plumbing inspected at regular intervals and imposing a fine on neglectful customers. A. J. H.

Are Your Profits On Your Shelves or In Your Bank?

January first is approaching. It is 12 times when most merchants make their annual inventory. A good merchant goes through his stock with a fine-tooth comb, no speak. He invents his own methods, takes the loss on his deteriorated stock, counts his money, and