

The Oregonian

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Portland, Thursday, Jan. 28, 1915.

ALASKA'S PATCHWORK GOVERNMENT.

Utter incompetence of Congress to make proper provision for the government of Alaska is shown by Secretary of the Interior Lane in an article in the Outlook entitled "Red Tape in Alaska." Control of the affairs of that territory is divided among all the departments at Washington, and authority overlaps and conflicts at numerous points.

Mr. Lane cites several examples of the confusion resulting from what he well terms "the patchwork system of administrative machinery," and from the absence of men on the spot who are endowed with full authority.

Mr. Lane's scheme to create a development board which shall have control of all the resources of Alaska, composed of residents of the territory, with full authority under the direction of a single cabinet officer.

A MATTER OF BUSINESS.

The proposal for the lease of Summer and Albert Lakes in Central Oregon, now before the Legislature, reads like a fairy tale. But it is a fairy story of the substantial kind that appeals to the pocketbook as well as the imagination.

The two lakes involved are impregnated with salts of commercial value, provided they can be extracted. It is acknowledged by the State Land Board that their own experts, on the assumption that there exists a hydro-electric plant and that a process has been devised for reduction and separation of the salts that is practicable.

A DEMOCRAT FOR A TARIFF BOARD.

A Democratic Representative, Mr. Church, of California, has at last taken up the cause of tariff revision through a nonpartisan board. This policy was recommended for years by many economists of business men.

Mr. Church proposes a Federal Tariff Commission of thirteen members, one from each Federal Reserve district and one at large, to serve for ten years, though the first members would be appointed for shorter terms in order that there should always be hold-over members.

Essentially there should be an adequate guarantee of parity. The rate must not be set by a promotion scheme which contemplates the flooding of the country with stock in an uncertain enterprise.

PROGRESS OF THE TWILIGHT SLEEP.

Readers of the Countess von Arnim's new and charming novel, "The Pastor's Wife," must have been struck with one incident in particular. It relates to the peril which befell the heroine of the book, the young sister Julia.

It is the opinion of Attorney-General Brown that there is no particular halo of legislative sanctity about it that prevents its consideration in the same fashion as other laws.

PLAIN SAILING.

The opinion of Attorney-General Brown throws a clear light upon the duty of the Legislature toward the proposed prohibition law.

Now the Attorney-General shows also how an emergency clause, putting the new law into effect at once, could be used to forestall the opposition.

BEAUTIFULLY FAT.

Ever since Verdi composed his opera "Aida" a furious discussion has raged over the question how the lovely heroine grows so enchantingly fat.

MR. WILSON NOT BLAMELESS.

While frankly condemning the greed for spoils betrayed by Secretary Bryan in his letter to Mr. Vick, demonstrating that he is not blameless and describe as a misfortune to him the necessity of remaining allied to a man of such debased political ideals as Mr. Bryan.

THE ENGLISH SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The English Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the German Chancellor are saying unkind things about each other. We trust that the exchange will not lead to serious trouble.

THE POLISHED BEAUTIES OF THE BOULEVARD.

The polished beauties of the boulevard are enough to tempt a man to part with his bank account. We refer, of course, to the auto show exhibits.

VISITORS TO THE EXPOSITIONS.

California has already begun receiving the crowds of exposition visitors, two trainloads from Montana having arrived at Los Angeles on January 23, and is now making calculations on the number that will come during the year and on the amount of money they will distribute.

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PURPOSE OF OREGON HOP-GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

The purpose of the Oregon Hop-growers' Association is presented herewith in a statement prepared by an officer of the organization on request of The Oregonian.

The Portland Rose Festival in June will be an especially strong attraction for the fame of Portland's pageant has spread through the land.

THE KAISER MUST FEEL FLATTERED.

The Kaiser must feel flattered at the kindly attentions the British have planned for his birthday.

IT IS TOILY TO DOUBT THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF THE ROCKEFELLERS.

It is toly to doubt the good intentions of the Rockefellers in endowing their foundation. But time plays sad tricks with philanthropic dreams.

THE HOP-GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

The hop-growers' association is organized upon the theory that a central body, controlling at least 70 per cent of all the hops raised in Oregon, Washington and California, can sell them at a minimum price of 15 cents a pound.

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NAVY MILITIA IS \$12,000 ANNET.

Henry Breske, converted, finds where Oregonians disagree in a way.

The local training ship Boston, receives from the Federal Government about \$200 yearly for payroll; for provisions bought locally \$200; coal purchased locally, \$300; sundry supplies, \$200; excess supplies, \$120.

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Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 23, 1890. Emma Cooper, D. C. Briston, Horra Pratt and Mrs. S. A. Clarke died yesterday at Salem. They were all well known.

A. F. Wheeler, E. S. Miller and H. G. Sibray, of Portland, have been appointed notaries public.

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