The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class matter.
Subscription Rates—Invariably in advance:
(By Mail.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$8.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months	4.25
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	6.00
Daily, without Sunday, six months	3.25
Daily, without Sunday, three months	1.75
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.60
Weekly, one year	1.50
Sunday, one year	2.00
Sunday and Weekly, one year	3.50

(By Carrier.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$9.00
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75

How to Remit—Send Postoffice money order, express order or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at sender's risk. Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—12 to 16 pages, 1 cent; 18 to 32 pages, 2 cents; 34 to 48 pages, 3 cents; 50 to 60 pages, 4 cents; 62 to 76 pages, 5 cents; 78 to 92 pages, 6 cents. Foreign postage, double rates.

Eastern Business Office—Verree & Conklin, New York, Brunswick building; Chicago, Stenger building.

San Francisco Office—R. J. Bidwell Company, 742 Market street.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1915.

A PIECE OF DIPLOMATIC MANEUVER.

Great Britain and France have been maneuvered by the State Department into a difficult position in maintaining their latest retaliatory measures against Germany. The State Department takes a firm stand on international law with a view to forcing the allies by moral pressure to bring their naval warfare on Germany into conformity with recognized usage. If this pressure fails of its purpose, the United States will be in a strong position legally to resort to retaliatory measures short of hostilities.

Either the allies intend a blockade or they do not, is the American position. If they intend a blockade, they have a right to confiscate ships and cargoes which attempt to enter or leave German ports, but they have no right to blockade neutral coasts or to interfere with non-contraband goods going between neutral ports, whether or not the ultimate destination is Germany. If they do not intend a blockade, they have a right to seize only contraband destined for Germany, conditional contraband when intended for German military use, and the ships carrying such goods when more than half the cargo is contraband.

The allies wish to prevent goods of any kind from going to or from Germany, either directly or indirectly, whether contraband or not. Under the rules of blockade they could prevent direct but not indirect trade with Germany in non-contraband unless they could prove the actual ultimate destination of goods to be Germany. In order to gain the sanction of these rules, the allies now call their plan of campaign a blockade, but in order to gain broader rights than those rules permit, they in effect offer surrender of some rights which they might exercise, namely condemnation of all ships and cargoes.

An embargo by the combined neutral powers should prove effective in forcing the allies to bring their procedure within international law. It would throw them as completely on their own resources as they seek to throw Germany and Austria. Were the South American countries to join in an embargo, Britain and France would be dependent on Canada, Australia and India for grain, meat and horses and would need to make practically all their own guns and ammunition themselves. They could not draw on Russia for grain and petroleum until they had forced the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus. Their export trade would be terribly diminished at a time when they need all their resources to prosecute the war. The damage they would suffer might prove greater than that which they inflicted on Germany.

The President could impose an embargo only by direct authority from Congress, which would need to hold a special session for that occasion. Both Mr. Wilson and the leaders of Congress wish to avoid an extra session. For that as well as for weightier reasons resort to an embargo is likely to be seriously considered only after all other means have failed. But it is a weapon which can be used most effectively if the allies prove obdurate.

A TIMELY OBJECT LESSON.

Several distinguished Democrats, including President Wilson, have said that the tariff should be used as the means of building up neglected industries and developing neglected resources. The war has called attention to one such industry. Early in its progress our textile mills were threatened with suspension by the lack of dyes, which could be obtained only from Germany. By great exertion and through the mediation of the State Department a cargo of dyes was permitted to come from Germany, and by the grace of the allies American mills were able to operate. The textile industry thus has a most precarious hold on life.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield says that the supply of coal-tar dye in the United States "is amply sufficient to supply in abundance all the crudes required for the manufacture of dyestuffs in the United States." Four American firms supply part of the domestic trade, but Mr. Redfield says:

> Their advance, beyond certain limits, in the manufacture either of intermediate or finished dyes is persistently checked and prevented by the united action of German producers in underselling them. The entire German color industry is so completely organized and accustomed to act as a unit in furthering general interest at home and abroad that little success in facing their determined opposition has heretofore been obtained.

Our laws and public opinion are opposed to the organization of any industry in such a manner that it can "act as a unit" in the same manner as its German competitors, but it is possible, as Mr. Redfield suggested, to pass "an effective law preventing that action toward control of our markets by the foreign manufacturer which is now prohibited to a domestic monopoly." He practically admitted that "the present crisis offers the most favorable moment to decide upon a policy with regard to this one important industry, whether it is to be firmly rooted in American soil or whether the dependence upon a foreign source is to continue indefinitely." The textile industries of England and France have insisted upon emancipation from like dependence on Germany, and the British government has subscribed $2,000,000 to the capital of a dyestuff company and has granted $500,000 for a research laboratory.

The American people would not tolerate a direct subsidy, nor would they sanction a measure of tariff protection like that which built up such monstrosities as the steel trust and the woolen trust. They would, however, approve a scheme by which American dye manufacturers were given sufficient protection to offset any advantage enjoyed by the German monopoly, and by which this protection would be gradually withdrawn as the cause for it passed away.

Such a scheme could be worked out and applied by a tariff commission and probably in no other way. The commission could after close inquiry determine what measure of protection was necessary to meet the case and how much of that protection could be withdrawn from time to time as the industry became more firmly established and able to compete on equal terms with the world. Were the policy of protection thus applied to industry in general, so that the people could feel assured that no duties were excessive or were a bulwark for monopoly, much of the opposition to that policy would disappear and it would cease to be a political issue. Having once enjoyed the stability and certitude as to conditions which would result from a rational, fixed tariff policy, the people would make short work of any politician who tried to make the tariff a party issue.

FAVORITE SONS.

"The Republican party," says the New York Times, "is about to enjoy the luxury of its first favorite-son campaign in twenty-eight years." It then gives the following somewhat formidable list:

> Ohio has no less than four, Governor Willis, ex-Senator Burton, ex-Ambassador Herrick, and Senator-elect Harding. Illinois has Representative Mann; Idaho, Senator Borah; Iowa, Senator Cummins; Massachusetts, Senator Weeks; Pennsylvania, Governor Brumbaugh; Missouri, ex-Governor Hadley; Indiana, ex-Vice-President Fairbanks; New York, Governor Whitman; Wisconsin, Senator La Follette.

Some of the favorite sons have been barely heard from outside their respective states, though absence of a National reputation is not necessarily a handicap after the candidate has been nominated. One or two others are a little too well known to be available, and at least one—Senator Borah—is at a serious disadvantage through geographical considerations. Yet the opinion is growing that he is of real Presidential stature.

The next National convention will not be the scene of any bitter struggle for factional supremacy. From present appearances the various states will be only mildly anxious to push their favorite sons. There will be no reason why, after a respectable effort to solve the deadlock by the choice of one or the other of the present candidates, the strong undercurrent of sentiment throughout the country for Charles E. Hughes will not find suitable response and expression.

MITCHELL POINT.

The State Highway Commission has only a limited amount of funds at its disposal, and it is true enough that it must apportion them with care and without discrimination, in view of many demands from various parts of the state for aid in the building of highways. Nevertheless, it seems to The Oregonian that the Commission cannot, without obvious bad faith, ignore the pledge made last year to the people of Hood River County to spend $50,000, or so much as might be necessary, in construction of the Columbia Highway around Mitchell Point. It may be assumed that State Senator Day, in his objections to the expenditure by the state at Mitchell Point, was not aware that a specific and formal resolution for the $50,000 appropriation in 1915 had been adopted last year by the Highway Commission. It was in its essence a contract with Hood River County to spend $50,000 on road construction at Mitchell Point, if it would vote $75,000 road bonds.

Mitchell Point is a difficult obstruction for the highway. The old road, long since fallen into disuse, goes up 700 feet over its crest, at varying grades, but with a maximum of 28 to 30 per cent. The sharp and winding ascent and descent and the sudden turn at the summit make the road dangerous and even impassable, and for a great many years there has been no attempt to travel over it. Now the problem at Mitchell Point is to be solved for the Columbia Highway by a cut and tunnel, without heavy grade and in keeping with the general plan for a great thoroughfare.

The contract for the Mitchell Point work calls for about $40,000, or $10,000 less than the original estimates. It is not to be denied that it is a good deal of money; but the Columbia Highway is a great enterprise, and Mitchell Point must be conquered, or the road ended there.

AN EARLY SPRING.

Spring is coming early this year if the signs are not deceptive. There may be a lapse to Winter and the great bursting of buds and opening of blossoms that is under way may be but the prelude to storm and ice. But thus far March has been more like latter April than her own blustery self. The winds have been balmy with no more than a faint memory of their usual bite. The sun shines with kindly warmth and wild flowers, tempted out of their shelter in the mold, have blossomed everywhere. The forest trees, which are rarely deceived by false promises of precocious Spring, have yielded to the allurements of March this year.

Nothing can be told by the willow, which opens her catkins upon the slightest excuse at any time after November. But the discreet oak buds are swelling and even the walnuts show signs of life. The black walnut leaves out at about the same time every Spring regardless of weather enticements or discouragements, but the cultivated sorts have many individual peculiarities. Some of the shy Mayettes do not come into leaf before the end of May.

Scientific men say this is a valuable trait, since it puts the nuts out of the reach of frost. Be that as it may, these sullen lingerers are almost the only trees of orchard or forest which have not begun to put on their Spring gala dress. But the making of buds and leaves is not their earliest activity. A discerning and practiced eye can detect signs of life in an orchard very soon after the Winter solstice in this climate. The buds are still as dormant as in December, very likely, but looking across the orchard rows one sees a freshening in the color of the bark on trunk and branches. The surface glistens. The texture becomes firm and elastic.

No doubt it is the returning sunlight more than the temperature that wakens the first signs of life in plants. In the Fall they become dormant as the light fails, no matter how warm the lingering sunshine may be or how soft the Autumnal breezes. As the days begin to lengthen life returns. Cold and storm cannot stop it. In fact, they appear to help it onward. Everybody must have noticed how rapidly plants begin to grow in the first mild weather after a hard January freeze. The cold probably stimulates everything that it does not kill. This Winter the arctic days of January destroyed a good deal of growing grain for the farmers which must now be replanted, but since it destroyed at the same time countless noxious insects with their eggs and cocoons very likely the balance swings about even.

SPLIT INFINITIVES.

An astonishing confession that Booth Tarkington has lately made encourages one of our contemporaries to put forth a feeble defense of the split infinitive, that grammatical pariah. Booth Tarkington's confession was that he knew less about grammar than a high school student. This might well be true and the flourishing novelist still be pretty well versed in the grammar of his mother tongue, for many high school students know a good deal about it. We rather infer from some reading of his books that Mr. Tarkington is not so ignorant as he professes or else he is able to write correct English without knowing how. Like Dogberry's gift of reading and writing, the ability comes perhaps by nature.

Filled with courage by Booth Tarkington's more or less veracious boast of ignorance, our contemporary hurls epithets right and left at the foes of the split infinitive. He calls them "mental snobs," "noisy purists," and the like, but luckily hard names break no bones. We shall go on loathing the split infinitives until somebody defends it a great deal more effectively than our esteemed contemporary does.

According to some pedantic grammarians, the split infinitive is formally correct. The true objections to it are on grounds of taste, not morals. No doubt Wordsworth's famous verse, "And negro ladies in white muslin gowns," is perfectly correct, but it is no great credit to him to have written it. A split infinitive may likewise violate no rule of formal grammar and still shock every nerve in the body of a lover of good English. Most of our great writers have slipped into the use of this abomination now and then, but it is safe to say that none of them was proud of the lapse.

There are plural nominatives with singular verbs in the Bible, but shall we therefore ignore the rule that subjects and predicates must agree in number? It is the virtues, not the vices, of literary luminaries that we must imitate if we wish to profit by their example. A man might collect a big volume of evil precedents by diligent search through English authors, but he would be none the better for his labor. Shall we all become sots because Daniel Webster occasionally got tipsy?

BRET HARTE.

The Riverside edition of Bret Harte's collected works has now reached volume twenty, a goodly goal for an author who, for all his worthiness, is still not of the highest rank. This volume is filled with poems and stories never before collected, though most, or all, of them were published somewhere or other in the long ago, when the author was a young Westerner longing to go East. They precede the time of the California tales that really made Bret Harte's fame. It is wonderful to think of the sympathetic accuracy with which a few years after he had produced these fugitive and comparatively valueless pieces he began to describe rough men and wild places, while in his own breast he longed to live where life was smooth and elegant. Of course, his detachment was part of his power. Had he been living the miner's life he could not have described it nearly so well. Harsh personal experience would have extinguished the fun, though the charm might have remained as far as he was personally concerned.

The exaggeration which appears in Bret Harte's Western stories was part of his literary apparatus from the beginning. In these early pieces it is often the sole interest. He tells one story, for instance, of a man who went in swimming in a lake, leaving his clothes on the bank. A merry party of youths and maidens arrived on the scene and the swimmer only escaped disgrace by posing as a classical statue on a rock. No doubt he was much admired. Before the picnic was over he had fallen in love with one of the girls, whom he afterward married. This is the sort of tale with which Bret Harte began his literary efforts. No wonder it was a long time before he found much favor with the public.

The Western pieces with all their exaggeration are full of real life and their sympathy with it is profound. In his later years, when he was writing among the polite influences of Europe and the Eastern States, he did nothing half so good.

ATTACK ON THE DARDANELLES.

The allies are now engaged upon the most difficult part of their attack on the Dardanelles. The Anglo-French fleet had no difficulty in reducing the forts at the mouth of the straits, for there the ships could spread out fan-shape in the open sea and concentrate their fire in irresistible weight, while out of range of the Turkish guns. When the fleet entered the straits to attack the inner forts, it lost all the advantage it had enjoyed outside. There was no chance of concentrating the long range fire of many ships. The fire was necessarily direct, at short range and within easy range of the Turkish guns. Only by firing from the Gulf of Saros across the peninsula of Gallipoli under the direction of aeroplanes could the allies attack some of the inner forts at long range.

With their notorious procrastination the Turks doubtless had not prepared for attack. Probably their supply of ammunition at the outer forts was old and deficient in quantity. The allies may have counted on as easy an entrance to the Sea of Marmora as Dewey made over the mines which did not explode and past the guns which did not shoot into Manila Bay. But when the outer forts were battered down, the Turks, doubtless spurred on by German officers, appear to have made feverish efforts at defense. Krupp guns which had lain idle were hastily mounted. Probably new mines were laid in the narrows. Land forces were assembled at Constantinople and on both shores of the straits. Forces which were landed from the allied fleet to dismantle the outer forts had severe encounters with superior numbers. Minesweepers and three battleships have been sunk and others damaged, and many men have been lost.

The allied fleet continues the attack, but it will need the co-operation of land forces equal to those of the Turks in order to hold the ground gained. Without such aid, naval forces cannot reduce land fortifications on narrow waters except at great sacrifice. Heavy guns are no longer placed in permanent fortifications; they are mobile, moved to any place where they are needed, and mounted in screened positions. It will probably be found that, under the guidance of German officers, the Turks have mounted new Krupp guns in concealed positions on the wooded hills of the Gallipoli peninsula. In order to gain permanent control of the straits, the allies need an army which can occupy the ground already gained—forces which can co-operate with the navy in silencing these mobile guns and in attacking the forts from the land side. The army would need to advance on both sides from the mouth of the straits toward the Sea of Marmora and to occupy the bay at the head of the Gulf of Saros. Ships in this bay could then fire across the peninsula at Turkish artillery guarding the outlet from the straits to the Sea of Marmora.

Some reports indicate that the allies are already gathering land forces for this purpose. An Athens dispatch announced that twenty-two French transports had been seen in the Aegean Sea. Britain could probably transfer 100,000 men from Egypt without danger to her hold on that country. Probably a force of 200,000 men could be landed on both sides of the straits.

The allied commanders cannot have been ignorant of their need of land forces in order to insure permanent success. They may have reckoned on Turkish inefficiency for a quick and easy victory. They may have been tempted to make the effort by the moral effect on the Balkan states. The bombardment of the Dardanelles no sooner began than a war fever broke out in Athens and Sofia, and probably mutual distrust alone prevented Greece or Bulgaria or both from entering the war in order to snatch a piece of Turkey. Greece had a ministerial crisis and is soon to have an election on the issue of peace or war. The result may be greatly influenced by the progress or lack of progress made by the allies.

Kennewick is one of the most important Washington towns on the Columbia River. It has three railroads and a serviceable dock. It is growing, enterprising, and has a live commercial club. Through oversight of a draughtsman and hasty checking up in the editorial department, Kennewick was not designated on the map published in The Oregonian Sunday showing the course of the Columbia River and the location of the ports to be benefited by the opening of the Celilo Canal. The Oregonian is thoroughly aware of Kennewick's importance, and has no wish or intent to discourage an early realization of Kennewick's unquestioned future as a leading distributing center of the Inland Empire.

If the Russians and Germans continue to take and retake Przasnysz, they will knock a few letters out of its name and make it pronounceable without dislocation of the jaw.

If the Chicago policewomen carried their investigation of women's smoking habits among the women of the idle rich, they must have found more than one smoker in twenty.

The steering wheel of a jitney is not the place for a near-sighted man, and properly was his license revoked after five accidents in thirty-six hours. There may be others.

These are the days when womenfolk scour the greenhouses for plants for cemetery planting, later to be stolen by people beyond the hope of redemption.

One woman in twenty in Chicago smokes, but not one in a hundred thousand can scratch a match manfashion in damp weather.

Another American steamship bound for a neutral port and food-laden has been taken to Hull. Washington is protesting, as usual.

The effect of the press censorship is that we get the real story of early events in the war six months after they happened.

The Chinese have declared an iron-clad boycott on the Japs. Which will not be iron-clad if the Japs decide to use shrapnel.

France will leave protection of her citizens in Mexico to the United States. Then her citizens had better prepare to flee.

Womenfolk will observe that the new traffic law says they shall face the front when alighting. But will they?

The way the French take the ditches and blow them up is a good deal like pulling a well out of the ground.

Unrest in India is laid to America. Sure. We probably caused the mosquito plague on the Nile, also.

The various contending armies are compelling millions of people in Europe to adopt outdoor life.

Stories of Texas tenant farmers' life recall those which were told in the Irish Land League days.

More United States ships tampered with. Time for another batch of State Department complaints.

Utah and Wyoming will be the oases in the ride across the western half of the continent.

As soon as business becomes good, note that the jitney crews lose their early politeness.

It is not Turkish gunners who are putting the allies' ships out of business.

Senator Lewis' views of America's possibilities are not as rosy as his locks.

One Senator insists that we must have two great fleets. Let's get one first.

Is the baby carriage in the emergency class under the new traffic law?

Bryan signed a peace treaty for his birthday. Another scrap of paper.

This is orange day, meaning the fruit and not the color.

The seed catalogues are displacing the "best sellers" these days.

Better start getting your plans ready for the Rose Festival.

The ball fan is beginning to perk up.

FARM LOAN RATES ARE TOO HIGH

Advance in Agriculture Awaits Lower Interest on Borrowed Money.

PORTLAND, March 19.—(To the Editor.)—We hear a good deal from Portland boosters about getting people back to the land, helping to build up the country and encouraging development of country life.

Is there a man in the bunch with money to loan on farm land security who will come forward and join a committee to assist the movement for rural credits?

By that, I do not mean to loan or offer to loan money to the farmer at 7, 8 or 10 per cent interest, as that sort of help will not build up the country, nor will it encourage development of country life.

The farm industry will not carry a high interest rate and succeed any more than any other standard industry. Why should we expect the steel industry or the railroad industry to prosper carrying a bonded indebtedness and paying 8 per cent interest?

Can a railroad live and prosper and build up the cities while it operates on borrowed capital and pays 8 per cent or 7 per cent interest and a 2 per cent bonus to the broker for securing the loan?

Why should the farming industry be expected to carry a heavier burden than the steel trust or the railroads can bear?

I have before me a list of the best improved farms in the Willamette Valley, varying in price from $60 to $135 per acre, which carry mortgage indebtedness ranging from 6 to 8 per cent. Practically every loan that was secured on these farms cost the farmer a bonus of 2 per cent, and additional charges for inspection, abstract and attorney's fees. The actual cost of the loan to the farmer runs these interest rates up from 7 to 10 per cent.

It is impossible to farm without working capital if the farmer is to make any reasonable financial success. He is in the same boat with the merchant and the manufacturer in that respect. Of course, he can take his farm of 80 acres, with 30 acres cleared, and pinch along and mud in a little crop and eke out a living from year to year. But that is not success. The farmer must have the same chance that the merchant and the manufacturer has in the money marts if he is to make any substantial advance in a single generation on Oregon land, where clearing and development cut so large a figure in his advancement.

It has been my fate for the past few years to be on the farmer's side of the financial game and to assist a good many farmers to get loans on improved farms. In most cases I have been profoundly impressed with the hopelessness of the farmer's financial problem. With the best security in the world he comes into the office of the money lender (the average banking-house does not invite him), and he is asked to pay higher interest rates than are demanded of even the retail merchant, whose assets are far less substantial and whose prosperity depends upon the winds of trade.

While the money-lending class is not organized, it is wonderfully uniform and sympathetic in its operations. As a class it is composed of men who have good hearts and morals. They never foreclose a mortgage excepting as a last resort. All they want is their brokerage for making the loan and all the money owner desires is his interest, paid in regular installments. But somehow, somewhere back in the dark ages, when farming was regarded as a poverty-stricken and peasant vocation, there grew up a practice of charging an exorbitant interest rate. As the business of merchandising and manufacturing developed into higher efficiency and surer profits these industries were able to beat down the interest rate on money they borrowed. But the farmer failed at that game. He still is paying to Molock the 8 and 10 per cent for money that he must have to make his vocation possible.

While it is true that the farmer has practically no competition, it is also true that the very nature of his business makes organization impossible. He is today and always will be alone with his problem, unless organized aid is offered.

If Portland's newly consolidated commercial organization would do something to build up country life and develop the farming industry in order that Portland may grow greater, its first and all-important task is a solution of the farmer's financial problem.

There will be no appreciable advance made in the farming industry until the farmer with reasonable security to offer is able to get the use of money in his business and get it at a maximum cost of 6 per cent net.

There is not a dollar in Portland today to loan on farm mortgages at 6 or even 7 per cent net to the borrower.

C. M. HYSKELL.

Bull Run and Food Values.

PORTLAND, March 19.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Kindly state what Portland (Bull Run) water shows by analysis. (2) Also, if I can obtain in Portland table of food values sent out by United States Government.

(1) The most recent Government analysis was made from samples taken from the stream at intervals of ten days between August 1, 1911, and August 1, 1912. This analysis shows the following averages:

	Parts per million.
Turbidity	Tr.
Silica (SiO2)	9.00
Iron (Fe.)	.02
Calcium (Ca.)	2.70
Magnesium (mg.)	.52
Sodium (Na.)	2.10
Potassium (K.)	.50
Bicarbonate radicle (HCO3)	12.00
Sulphate radicle (SO4)	3.10
Nitrate radicle	.31
Chlorine (Cl)	1.30
Total dissolved solids	30.00

This analysis is practically the same as one made 25 years previously, in 1887, and would, in all likelihood, be identical if modern methods of analysis had been in vogue at the earlier period.

(2) We do not know of a Government table of food values obtainable in Portland, but bulletins containing such information are issued by the Department of Agriculture. Tables showing digestible nutriments and available energy in some of the common foods are published in the International Encyclopedia. Apply to reference department of Public Library.

Cable That Was Cut.

PORTLAND, March 19.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Was the transatlantic cable which England was supposed to have cut in the beginning of the war owned by the German government or a private company? (2) Was it a direct cable between Germany and the United States, and what ports did it connect?

H. GRAF.

(1) It was owned by the German government and operated by the Postal Telegraph Company. (2) It was the most direct cable between the continent and the United States and connected the ports of Emden and New York City.

Needle in Haystack.

SALEM, Or., March 19.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly publish some way of locating a person in Australia.

H. B. A.

Australia is larger in area than the United States. We know of no way to locate a person there if it is merely known in a general way that he is in Australia.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian March 20, 1865.

Louisville.—We learn that Sue Mundy and her (or his) guerrillas have adopted a new uniform recently. Sue wears a red flannel suit with a red cap, adorned with a long black feather fastened in front, with a $100 greenback bill pinned on with a magnificent diamond pin. The men are also dressed in red flannel with a black stripe two inches wide down their pants, but their caps are unadorned with feathers. All of them are "flush" with greenbacks, diamond pins and rings and seem to take things easy in this world. Billy Magruder's men are about to adopt similar style of dress.

The Dalles Mountaineer publishes a dispatch claimed to have been received from Newell saying that the mint is all right and that Logan has been appointed its superintendent. In view of the success of his mission Newell announces he will return soon. To believe that the mint was not to be located at Portland, according to the request of the Legislature of Oregon, would be equivalent to considering the latter wanting in all that constitutes honor and good faith, and adepts in the science of perfidy.

Salem—The grand jury of Marion County found a true bill against George Beale and George Baker for the murder of Daniel Delany, Sr. Whether the trial will take place depends on the ability to impanel a jury in that county, and the efforts the counsel for the accused may make to procure a change of venue.

Robert Cowan, an old and much respected citizen of Umpqua Valley was killed by a falling tree near Yoncalla, March 9, while he was working in the woods.

The Willamette Portage Company has incorporated, A. P. Ankeny, Ad M. Starr and W. J. Van Schuyver, being the incorporators. The company intends to engage in navigation steam or otherwise on the Columbia and Willamette rivers.

C. B. Heald, one of the passengers on the ill-fated bark Industry has given out a graphic description of her wreck on the Middle Sands at the mouth of the Columbia, March 16.

Law as to Homesteads.

SKAMOKAWA, Wash., March 18.—(To the Editor.)—1. In buying a relinquishment, the man that sells has lived on the land one year. Can the buyer deduct it from the time the law says he must live on it before proving up? 2. Can a claim that has 7,000,000 feet of timber on it be proved up as a homestead? If so, how much a thousand does one have to pay for said timber?

A SUBSCRIBER.

1. In buying a relinquishment, one does not acquire residence rights of the former claimant for the property.

2. It is doubtful if a homestead such as is mentioned could be acquired because of the difficulty of living up to the homestead requirements, which provide that 20 acres must be in cultivation the second year of residence. In the event that compliance could be made, there would be no price per thousand feet to be paid for the timber. In the event of commutation, $1.50 an acre must be paid.

Depth of Water at Panama.

STANFIELD, Or., March 18.—(To the Editor.)—Please say if there is any difference in the stage of water at the Panama Canal between Atlantic and Pacific. If so, what is it? A READER.

There is a difference in the depth at mean tide in the two approach channels. The depth on the Atlantic side, where the maximum tide oscillation is two and one-half feet, is 41 feet at mean tide, and one the Pacific side, where the maximum oscillation is 21 feet, the depth is 45 feet at mean tide.

If the correspondent desires to know if there is a difference in ocean levels at the Isthmus of Panama the answer is no, except local variances that may occur at different tide stages.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian, March 20, 1890.

Tacoma.—O. A. Holmes, of Portland, a railway construction engineer for the Union Pacific Railway, arrived here last night with instructions to go to Port Angeles with a corps of engineers and do some platting and reconnoissance. The Union Pacific owns some 6000 acres and considerable water-front property there.

Seattle.—Alfred Holman, editor of the Post-Intelligencer, knocked out W. H. Sherman in the lobby of the Rainier hotel here last night. Mr. Holman is a man of medium size, while Mr. Sherman is veritably a giant, being 6 feet 2 inches and weighing 210 pounds. The fight, which was only one round, arose over Mr. Holman's opposition to Mr. Sherman's candidacy for secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Holman is a member of the board of trustees and the episode is said to mean Mr. Sherman's complete elimination from consideration.

The State Democratic Central Committee met at Salem yesterday and called the state convention for April 24 in Portland, eight days after the Republican convention.

Berlin. — General von Caprivi, commander of the Tenth Army Corps, has been appointed Chancellor of the Empire to succeed the great Bismarck, who resigned two days ago. Caprivi will not assume the foreign portfolio. Von Boettecher becomes president of the Prussian ministry; Count Eulenberg, Governor of Hesse-Vassar, succeeds Von Boettecher as Minister of the Interior. Count Herbert Bismarck will receive an ambassadorship.

Judge Williams will preside at the 21st anniversary celebration of the Portland Young Men's Christian Association tomorrow evening at the Tabernacle. S. M. Sayford, of Boston, will give the address of the evening.

Messrs. D'Arcy and Miller addressed the Union party meeting at Nonpareil Hall last night.

Miss A. S. Jorgeneen, proprietress of the elegant millinery establishment at 165 First street, will have a grand opening next Tuesday and Wednesday.

W. F. Kettenbach, a banker of Lewiston, Idaho, is at the St. Charles.

In response to invitations from G. E. Markle, president of the Multnomah Street Railway Company, a large number of prominent citizens were present at the power-house yesterday at 3 o'clock to take a ride over the company's line on Washington and B streets from First street to the City Park, on the first electric car run by the company. There are ten cars that will start in a few days on the regular schedule on the main line, leaving First and Washington every two minutes.

Dr. Dav Raffety is improving the grounds surrounding his new residence on Brooklyn Heights, setting out fruit trees and shrubbery in profusion.

Danger Heat for Kerosene.

ASTORIA, Or., March 18.—(To the Editor.)—Please state the heat kerosene will stand without exploding in lamps. A READER.

The point at which kerosene will explode varies with different grades of oil. The kerosene ordinarily sold on the Coast will begin vaporizing at about 120 to 125 degrees Fahrenheit, and it then becomes dangerous. Some kerosene oils of the poorer grade, however, vaporize at 110 degrees or even less.

Surveyor-General in Oregon.

PORTLAND, March 19.—(To the Editor.)—Can you give me any information as to the address of the United States Surveyor-General?

WALTER A. STONE.

Each public land state has such an official. United States Surveyor Worth, Custom-House, Portland, is the address of the official in this state. All surveyors-general are under the direction of the General Land Office, Department of the Interior.