

The Oregonian

Published at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class matter, August 15, 1886. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 1, 1918. Postage paid at Portland, Oregon, under permit No. 100. Entered as second-class matter, July 16, 1879, under Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on July 1, 1918. Postage paid at Portland, Oregon, under permit No. 100. Copyright, 1915, by The Oregonian Publishing Co. Printed at the Oregonian Press, 1000 Commercial street, Portland, Oregon. Telephone 1000.

Portland, Friday, August 20, 1915.

IMPROVEMENT OF WATERWAYS.

The visit of the House committee on rivers and harbors to the Pacific Northwest is peculiarly important because the first stage in improvement of the principal waterway of this section is near completion and because there are evidences that Congress is about to adopt a new policy relating to such Government work. The filibusters by which the last two river and harbor bills making specific appropriations were rejected in favor of a broad program of improvement, have been raised to a new level. The question whether inland navigation was not entirely out of date in this country and whether all money spent on improvement of rivers, except as ship channels leading from the sea, was not wasted. The question that has become more important than ever is whether the stream should be improved, but whether any stream should be improved.

FORCING THE ISSUE.

The destruction of the Arabic is an event of the most impressive gravity, for it is in fact, if not in form, Germany's reply to the latest American note. At the writing it is not known whether any American passengers have lost their lives. If there were American passengers, and if they have been saved, it would be through good fortune and not through the intention of the submarine, acting for Germany, to spare the lives of innocent passengers. The attack on the Arabic is a challenge, definite and defiant, to President Wilson to follow his words with deeds. The President had notified the imperial government that any repetition of acts in contravention of the rights of American citizens to travel freely on the seas would be regarded as "deliberately unfriendly." Germany does not concede, but openly disputes, the right of any neutral to protection if she shall take passage aboard a British merchantman. If she carries munitions, or is suspected of carrying munitions, Germany will sink her without warning, no matter what the public law is and no matter who or what- ever else is aboard.

SOME WORDS ON LANGUAGE.

A kindly disposed reader of The Oregonian sends in some of those inquiries about the use of words which seem to interest so many intelligent persons. He first asks about the use of the word "none." Is it singular or plural? Usage makes this elusive word either singular or plural, according to the wish of the writer. In recent years there has been a decided tendency to make it consistently plural, but it is still singular when the meaning requires it. The inquirer is also puzzled by the use of "or" in the following expression: "But none are greater cartoonists, or so great." He is inclined to think that "nor" should be used. But he is mistaken. The writer's meaning is exactly the same as when he says "I was not in the city, or in the country." It is not his purpose at all to set forth two co-ordinate ideas. Far from it. He first expressed the complete thought that no cartoonists were greater than the one he had in mind. Then it occurred to him to revise his sentence and make it still stronger. To do this he added the supplementary words "or so great."

TREND OF FOREIGN TRADE.

Exports to Europe increased from \$1,448,987.72 to \$1,917,422.15 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, as compared with the previous year, when there was a decrease from \$258,644.92 to \$477,081,320 to other parts of North America, from \$124,539,909 to \$99,323,957 to South America and from \$35,568,417 to \$77,767,725 to Oceania. There was an increase in exports to Asia of a little over \$1,000,000 and to Africa of \$600,000.

of Portland has spent more than \$4,000,000 in deepening the ship channel of the Columbia and Willamette from seventeen feet to thirty feet, and that body contributed \$475,000 to the cost of the north jetty at the Columbia's mouth, while the Port of Astoria gave \$25,000 for the same purpose. The expenditures made by the Government in jetty-building and dredging have deepened the channel over the bar from twenty-two to twenty-eight feet, with the good prospect that completion of work now in progress will increase the depth to forty feet at least. Oregon contributed \$300,000 to the purchase of the Willamette locks. Other expenditures of local funds, either made or about to be made, for river and harbor improvement in Oregon, are: Coos Bay, \$24,000; Siuslaw, \$225,000; Tillamook, \$43,000; Tillamook, \$43,000; Coquille and Bandon, \$244,000. Vancouver, Wash., has also spent \$25,000 on channel improvement. These sums are expended on work which is strictly the function of the Government and are aside from further expenditures on jetty works, such as docks, wharves and dry docks.

Oregon comes to the Government, therefore, not as one asking everything and giving nothing, but as one voluntarily sharing the burden it asks the Government to assume only partly. By so doing it shows its faith in the merits of our projects, for we are only doing to tax ourselves for worthless work. This state looks forward to the day when Congress will adopt a broad system of utilizing the Nation's water for all purposes—a system which will not create a suspicion of pork. When that time comes Oregon will be ready, as it has proved, to bear its share of the cost. Meanwhile the state asks Congress to practice that liberality to which the intrinsic merits of its waterways and the public spirit of its citizens entitle it.

FIVE MILLIONS SAVED.

The Oregonian is grateful to the Mayor of the great City of Philadelphia, Mr. Randolph Blankenburg, for a copy of his annual message for the year 1914. Those persons who have recalled that it was once contemptuously described by a famous muckraker as "corrupt and contented"; but evidently he was mistaken.

Three years ago Philadelphia started to clean house. It did not adopt a new and radical charter, nor hurry along to a commission form of government, nor elect a city manager. It put at the head of the city a Mayor who had backbone and who meant business. He and the councilmanic system.

The Mayor proudly points to the record of a nearly finished term, describing as his best achievement a saving in that period of \$5,000,000. Hear him:

The direct savings for four years will amount to more than \$5,000,000. It is shown in the reports of the various departments, while the indirect savings, such as the reduction of the city's general debt—directly traceable to the adoption of the new charter—amount to a vasty sum.

Yet in the pursuit of economy, there has been no neglect of a real efficiency, for the city is lighted more cheaply and better than ever before; a pure water supply is guaranteed to the community; the streets a few years ago were a most deplorable condition; and sewerage has been constructed with economy, without any of the usual objections to bringing credit upon Philadelphia; the work of the city has been reorganized and rendered more effective; the death rate has been reduced; and in general, the city has made great strides toward a businesslike government.

Without there has been retrenchment all along the line—retrenchment so systematic and intelligent that millions have been saved to the taxpayers. For example, in the department of supplies, in 1910, the purchases of coal aggregated \$29,845 tons, but in 1914 they were reduced to 22,316 tons. In 1911 the city paid for lumber \$74,617, but in 1914 the total was \$36,427.

Even more significant is the item of milk. In 1911, 1,109,926 quarts were bought at a cost of \$42,071. In 1914 the total had increased to 1,307,372 quarts at a cost of \$72,891. There was an outright saving of \$9000, although 200,000 more quarts of milk were used. Mayor Blankenburg leaves one wholly in the dark as to why the cost per quart should be greater in 1914 than in 1911. Perhaps there is no good explanation. Mayor Blankenburg has demonstrated that economy and inefficiency are not incompatible. It is interesting for Portland to note that, unless he shall be re-elected, he will be soon out of a job.

tion, our exports of explosives in the eleven months ending May 31 to Great Britain having increased only \$24,000,000. The allies so far have not carried on the war with American ammunition.

There is no insuperable reason why the Rev. Frank W. Gorman should not be as near the Lord on the vaudeville stage as in his pulpit, but we fear the intervening distance will perceptibly widen. It seems upon the whole somewhat easier to keep close to the pulpit as a preacher than as an entertainer of mixed audiences. We do not predict any serious backslidings on Mr. Gorman's part, but if they should occur we should not be much surprised.

How would you enjoy biting into a red-hot coal in a spoonful of ice cream? The interview of the Congressional junketing party with Miss Arnold and her lively sisters must have been a good deal like that. Basking in Portland's balmy breezes, they seemed not a care within a thousand miles, when all of a sudden enter Miss Arnold and the others. "What is joy? 'Tis but a vapor, soon it vanishes away."

Next to the sheep, which was made to be shorn, the hog is our most perfect pacifist. He eats his daily swill, expands his nostrils in satisfaction and squeals a little when the knife is at his throat, but never dreams of biting the hand that sticks him. Sheep and hogs seem to enjoy life fairly well while it lasts. Shall we take them for models? "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow the butcher comes."

The slogan "Back to whiskers" has gained a certain momentum. Before a great while all of us whom nature permits may be wearing weepers, perials or mutton chops. The Civil War gave us the mustache, which has been a great boon to the nation. This war may give us something even more romantic and unhygienic. There is evidently some intimate relation between war and whiskers.

The value of our monthly export of automobiles has increased fifty times over in the last year. Before the war began, our auto purchasers were inclined to look to Europe for their cars, but all that is changed. The cannon have cast the native auto upon the scrap heap and neither France nor England has any for export. The United States must supply its own riders and Europe's, too.

The lessees of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel will pay an annual rent of \$800,000 for the next ten years. This is 5 per cent on \$16,000,000. Beside his rent he must pay enormous running expenses. A modern hotel is as costly as an army to the lessee, but the owner is not to be troubled with the details of the most serene of all occupations is collecting rent.

The Nebraska-Kansas Society, which is a flourishing institution in Yamhill County, a few days ago chose Editor John T. Bell, of the Newberg Enterprise, for president. This was fit, for Mr. Bell was a young man of prominence in the days when Nebraska was young and many years on this Coast has not dulled his recollections.

Mrs. Flieke has yielded to the seductions of the movies. She is acting in the ground being Boston's high-toned Beacon Hill, where Thackeray put up when he was in that city. George Ticknor was his host. This film should be the most calmly aristocratic ever taken.

One so naturally associates the Chinese with bombs that the effort to assassinate the Governor of Shanghai in that way seems to be more of a jolly. When the Chinaman means business his dependence is placed on a hatchet or an automatic.

Unless the allies can supply the Balkan States with arms and ammunition, the addition of the latter's armies to their forces will not help much. The allies have plenty of men if they were only fully supplied with big guns and shells.

Emperor Francis Joseph is an old man to endure the strain of the conflict. He was 85 yesterday, an age at which most men hope to sit by the fire, smoking and reading the morning paper, while younger men do the work.

A residence lot is fifty feet front and a cord of wood piled four feet high is eight feet long. That allows for six cords of wood, which amount of fuel may suit some and not suit others.

The steamship Dacia, stolen by France while under American registry, has been renamed the Year, and she will have to be a heap "wiser" if she escapes German submarines.

If the Russians continue losing big men to the Germans at the rate of 400 in a bunch, the allies will do better to supply no more, for it is equivalent to supplying the enemy.

The Eugene baby show this year will run more to defective than to eugenic prize-winners, if there be anything to admit their darlings are not the best ever.

Russia has an order in this country for 65,000 tons of steel rails. Wants to use them for battering rams, probably, in her primitive mode of warfare.

In Utah, where woman had been nearly half a century or less a chattel, the Bar Association is sticking on admitting one to membership.

Organization of a Marine League at Chicago is welcome evidence that the interior has at last awakened to its interest in the merchant marine.

James J. Hill is Minnesota's "great-living citizen." Nobody can aspire to that honor with Mr. Hill in the running.

Berlin calls the sinking of British war vessels "good results," which depends on the point of view.

Is it not about time the reefs that endanger navigation around San Francisco were removed?

The Admirals will note the date of the Astoria regatta, September 2.

The Arabic will no more carry munitions eastward.

Russia is calling her grown boys to the sacrifice.

ON SCHOOL MONEY DISTRIBUTION.

Census Basis Declared Next to Poorest Way to Get Best Results. PORTLAND, Aug. 19.—(To the Editor.)—One of the changes most needed to improve the condition of the schools in Oregon, and of many other states, is a change in the basis for distributing the school money. Distribution on the basis of the school census is just one remove from the poorest way that has ever been devised.

The very poorest is on the basis of the entire population. Why should a district draw money on children that are not in school, on children that have quit school and never will enter it again, on the women if they happen to be under 27? Such distribution sets a premium on poor schools, for if a district has children enough on its census, it can, by paying poor salaries and running short terms, meet all its expenses with no local taxation whatever. It may even discourage a school by an increase of its enrollment often means an increased expense for teachers' salaries. A neighboring district may have a smaller census, but it may have a larger enrollment, a better attendance, a longer term and better teachers at a better salary, but it may pay for these things by local taxes, while its wealthier neighbor goes tax-free. It would not be hard to find districts in which the 50 per cent of the entire population is in school is large enough to pay the teachers and also pay for all needed improvements, and the school boards evade the law by using the money in this way.

If the money were apportioned to each district on the basis of total days' attendance in that district for the year, the district would be rewarded for what it was actually doing for its children and not for the number that live within its boundaries, whether they have any connection with the school. Such distribution would encourage keeping the children in school, raise the standard of attendance, enable parents and school boards in competing with the business, make truant laws almost self-operative and do away with the tight-wad opponent of the longer school term, for such opposition is based on the dollar so close to his eye that he cannot see the child. It would do away with such disgraceful proceedings as coaxing large families into one district to another long enough to get them enrolled in the school census. One family of six children was enrolled in two different districts, and another family of six in at least one state, Washington, apportion its money on the basis of total days' attendance, and it is found very satisfactory.

Has anyone a more just or equitable method to suggest? J. W. SMITH, 15 West Alberta street.

ON FARMERS AND GOOD LIVING.

Girl Born in Country Says Many Do Not Live as They Might. PORTLAND, Aug. 18.—(To the Editor.)—I was born and lived most of my life in the country, and I think I am in a position to judge and say that the Oregonian is correct when it says farmers do not live well.

I began visiting homes of my girl friends when I was very young, and have since been in business which has taken me to some of the best cities in the country. No doubt the farmer selects the largest, freshest eggs for himself, because they will sell better. But he takes other things which show quality, he sells the very best and uses what is going to waste. He has a good table set for his family, and a little urchin from the city, who wears a hat or tie in city style comes for a day, the table is loaded with temptations, and the city dweller speaks of the happy, prosperous farmer.

There are, of course, exceptions to this, but these except the worst best of the partitioned farmers, who may have the best, but usually do not. I always feel like taking some time to consider before contradicting an editor writing in Oregonian, although the editor sometimes seems to go wild; but time proves him usually correct. I feel that one may safely conduct his farm by following the editorials, and he will certainly be a good thinker and a good talker. In saying this I do not feel any disrespect for the Oregonian, but the foundation to all property and business. L. U.

Oil Companies in Oregon.

LENTE, Or., Aug. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Are there any oil companies in Oregon? If so, what are the names and the addresses of their offices? SUBSCRIBER.

The following companies are incorporated and at least two or three are operating: Beavis-May Oil Company, Z. V. Trine secretary, 617 Medical building, Portland. Central Oregon Oil & Gas Company, Ltd., Harvey Curtis, president. Isis Oil & Gas Company (Malheur County), J. B. Hubbard secretary, 495 East Thirty-fifth street, Portland. The Polk County Oil, Gas, Coal & Land Company, Dallas, Or. Sherwood Oil Company, Sherwood, Or. Sunset Oil & Gas Company (Malheur County), R. Cartwright secretary, Sallouville, Or. West Shore Oil Company, Bandon, Or. Westway Oil Company, A. E. Davis, 202 Concord building, Portland.

Madison-Street Bridge.

BOISE, Idaho, Aug. 17.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me what year the new Madison bridge was completed. Was there any Madison bridge previous to the present one? If so, please tell me what year it was built before Burnside bridge? ARTHUR BARKER.

The original Madison-street bridge was started in the Fall of 1889 and thrown open to traffic January 11, 1891. It was a wooden bridge with a swing span, built by a private company and opened as a toll bridge. The city purchased the bridge on November 11, 1891, and had it a free bridge. The present Hawthorne bridge, which replaced the Madison-street bridge, was completed in 1911. The Burnside bridge was erected in 1893.

Witnesses to Marriage.

HOGUAM, Wash., Aug. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Is marriage legal in the State of Washington with only one witness? SUBSCRIBER.

It is necessary to have at least one witness to obtain a marriage license in Washington. This witness must be able to swear he is personally acquainted with the principals; that they are not nearer than second cousins; that neither has been divorced within the last six months and that there is no legal impediment otherwise. Two witnesses are necessary for the marriage ceremony, although for the ceremony the witnesses do not have to be personally acquainted with the principals.

CIVIL WAR FILM CONDEMNED.

Grand Army Post Opposes Exhibition of "Birth of a Nation." PORTLAND, Or., Aug. 19.—(To the Editor.)—The following resolutions were adopted unanimously by George Wright Post, No. 1, Grand Army of the Republic, at a regular meeting Wednesday evening, August 18: "The 'Birth of a Nation' is a company composed of gentlemen of means of Philomath and Corvallis has been organized to develop the ledge sufficiently to determine its value.

"The picture of the so-called burning of Atlanta is a misrepresentation, as it carries the idea that the whole of Georgia was burned. The picture was brought by a Dutch vessel in 1813 and landed at Jamestown, Va., where they were put to work on the tobacco plantations. The picture of the so-called burning of Atlanta is a misrepresentation, as it carries the idea that the whole of Georgia was burned. The picture was brought by a Dutch vessel in 1813 and landed at Jamestown, Va., where they were put to work on the tobacco plantations.

"The character Stoneman, which claims to show the spirit of the United States Congress during the Reconstruction, is a misrepresentation, as no such period as that portrayed did exist in that Congress. It only sought to give the emancipated slaves their rights as was anticipated in the emancipation proclamation of Abraham Lincoln and which rights were first violently resisted by the former slave states themselves.

"The scene which represents the negro men armed to a man and shooting down the whole of the white population unarmed and unprovoked, is a shocking misrepresentation, as it conveys the idea that such a state of affairs existed wherever the negroes were. Equally untrue is the idea conveyed that the so-called carpet-baggers were generally looked upon approvingly by the people of the South, and also by the United States Government. They were simply adventurers, who on their own responsibility were in the advance of the unsettled condition of affairs in the South, to feather, each for himself, their nests as best they could.

"The representation that the 'Ku Klux Klan' was organized especially to suppress certain outrages upon white women by negroes, and that the purpose of the Klan was to take vengeance on the negroes, is false. The fact is that the Ku Klux Klan was organized before the close of the war for the purpose of suppressing the Union sentiment which was shown in certain portions of the South, especially in some of the States of the South, where they even extended their infamous work into the States of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Union men were forcibly taken from their homes, and their property and their lives were in jeopardy, and instead of going in large numbers to the aid of the Union men, they always went in small bodies, in order that they might accomplish their cowardly deeds as secretly as possible.

"One of the worst features of the 'Clansman' is that in which our martyred Lincoln is represented as a slaveholder. This is a gross misrepresentation, and it is to be regretted that the editor who has been condemned to death by the military authorities; that is for the purpose of giving an air of respectability to the 'Clansman' and the play and thus to cause its pernicious influence to be more deeply impressed upon the minds of the uninformed.

"And now, let us ask why it is that in all this play of the 'Clansman' there is not one word of respect for the colored people of the United States, who were at Port Pilloon one of the villainous treatment of Union prisoners at Andersonville and other prisons nor of any other atrocious acts of the South before, during and after the rebellion? Is it because to exaggerate them would be impossible? THOMAS A. JORDAN, Commander George Wright Post. A. C. SLOAN, Adjutant.

Germany a Limited Monarchy.

PORTLAND, Aug. 18.—(To the Editor.)—The German Emperor, who is a limited monarch, and has the Kaiser absolute authority? READER.

Germany is a limited monarchy, but as compared with other limited monarchies, the power of the German Emperor is great. The imperial dignity is hereditary in the line of Hohenzollerns and follows the law of primogeniture. The Emperor exercises the imperial power in the name of the confederated states. In his office he is assisted by a federal council (Bundesrat), which represents the governments of the individual states of Germany. The members of this council are appointed by the individual states for each session. The legislative functions of the empire are vested in the Emperor, the Bundesrat and the Reichstag or Imperial Diet. The members of the latter, numbering about 400, are elected for a term of five years by universal suffrage. Vote is by ballot, and one member is elected by approximately every 150,000 inhabitants. The executive power is in the German Emperor's hands. He represents the empire internationally and can declare war and make peace. His consent of the federal council must be obtained. Both the Bundesrat and Reichstag meet in annual session convened by the Emperor, who has the right of proroguing or of dissolving the Diet, but the prorogation must not exceed 60 days and in case of dissolution new elections must be ordered in 90 days. The Emperor may, for 90 days, suspend the laws, but the sanction of the Emperor before becoming law. The Emperor's appointive power is exceedingly broad. It is noteworthy that the Emperor is "German Emperor," and not "Emperor of Germany," a distinction made at the time of the forming of the empire.

Studying Law.

PORTLAND, Or., Aug. 18.—(To the Editor.)—I am employed during the day and want to study law. Please tell me by what means I can obtain a law education without going to law school. I would appreciate your frankness in telling me how this can be done in this state without giving up my position. A STRUGGLER.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of August 20, 1890. Corvallis, Or., Aug. 19.—The passage of the rivers and harbors bill, giving Yakima \$125,000, the largest amount ever granted, caused great rejoicing here.

The marble found in Douglas County is said to be finer than the Italian and will bear turning.

A valuable quartz ledge has been discovered on the farm of Mr. Behr, near Philomath. A company composed of gentlemen of means of Philomath and Corvallis has been organized to develop the ledge sufficiently to determine its value.

The bill authorizing the construction of the bridge across the Columbia at Vancouver was passed by the House Monday. It now remains for the President to sign or veto it and such a thing as vetoing a bridge bill has never been heard of, so it is to be expected that the bill will become a law within a few days.

Mrs. Oscar Wilde is amusing herself compiling an alphabetic dictionary of Shakespearean quotations.

Clarence Eddy, of Chicago, who has a world-wide reputation and stands at the head of the list of American players upon the pipe organ, will be in this city the latter part of the month.

ON THE USE OF CERTAIN WORDS.

Cottage Grove Correspondent Puzzled By The Oregonian's Choice. COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Aug. 18.—(To the Editor.)—I have learned much in reading The Oregonian and studying the English it uses, but sometimes I am puzzled. In a recent editorial you say: "But none are greater cartoonists, or so great as you." Which do you consider correct and why? In the sentence I have quoted from your editorial I am puzzled by your use of "or." Wouldn't you consider it used in conjunction with "nor," and in that case shouldn't "nor" be used? I note that you make frequent use of the words "ought to," at which many purists throw up their hands in horror. Do you think it would be better to use "should" instead of "ought to"? Well? I am asking these questions for information and not in a spirit of criticism, for I am not at all certain but that you are right. STUDENT.

London and New York Population.

HAINES, Or., Aug. 17.—(To the Editor.)—Can you please give me the address of Matt W. Pinkerton, of the Pinkerton Detective Agency, Chicago, who has recently been the object of a Government order, and to get in touch with Matt Pinkerton you should call upon the local office in person, if feasible. BEN BOLSER.

Matt W. Pinkerton has no connection with the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, but he may be reached at the office of Pinkerton & Co., United States Detective Agency, an entirely different concern, has recently been the object of a Government order, and to get in touch with Matt Pinkerton you should call upon the local office in person, if feasible. MRS. GUY M. SMITH.

School Tuition.

PORTLAND, Or., Aug. 18.—(To the Editor.)—I would like to know if a girl would have to pay tuition to go to high school in Portland if her parents lived in another county. She is working for her board in the city, but the family she lives with are not taxpayers. H. A.

Under the rules she would have to pay tuition. By special action, however, the School Board can admit a student without tuition if she shows that she is unable to pay. Application should be made to Superintendent L. R. Alderman on a special application blank, which can be obtained at the office of School Clerk R. H. Thomas.

Wife's Property Rights.

FOSSH, Or., Aug. 18.—(To the Editor.)—A man and wife are separated, not divorced. (1) Can he sell any of his real estate accumulated prior to their marriage without her signature? (2) Can he transfer any of it to his relatives? (3) Can a family estate (being an heir) be sold and she deprived of all interest in it (4) Can he have an option on, what would be the wife's rights? A CONSTANT READER.

(1) No. (2) He can transfer the property subject to the dower right of his wife. (3) No. She would retain a dower right. (4) The wife would retain her dower of a life interest in the income from half the property.

Back to Plain Shoes

Having had a fantastic jamboree of colored leathers and changing shapes, fashion has decreed that the shoes are now to be plain black. Simplicity will mark the new fashions and effects will be obtained by trim fit and well modeled lines. Fashion apparently loves the law of extremes—the charm of infinite variety. No wonder women like to keep posted on the good dame's vagaries and no wonder that more and more women are becoming readers of newspaper advertising. The advertising columns nowadays are a regular fashion magazine.