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Portland, Wednesday, Aug. 25, 1915.
ADVANCE OF PROSPERITY.
Business prosperity is at almost full tide in the East, where manufacturing and mining predominate; also in the Middle West, where agriculture is the chief industry; also in the Rocky Mountain and interior states where sheep raising, agriculture and live stock, on the Pacific Coast agriculture, dairy and horticulture thrive, but lumber, the premier industry of this section, hangs back.

It might be tolerable to live in a cowardly country under a white flag if the aggressive and belligerent nations of the world would let us alone. But alas they would not, any more than they have kept their hands off China.

It is conceivable, and indeed it may be many thoughtful minds appear probable, that a great military power will some day arise in Europe and proclaim its dominance of the world over the prostrate bodies of its enemies.

It should happen that the United States should have been itself at odds with the conquering nation, and if it should happen also that it had been running its factories day and night to furnish munitions and other supplies to the defeated nations, what then?

It is an affecting and terrible story which comes from a remote part of Idaho. John Toth is the name of a farm thirty-five miles south-west of Twin Falls. He had four children ranging from two to eight years, and there was a little visitor from a neighboring home, an eight-year-old girl by name Harrison.

Without considering the moral right of parents to leave young children alone at home, or for any reason, to be present at such a time, it is obvious that it is criminal stupidity to pen them in a house without a chance to get out in case of accident.

DOG MATISM AND GRAMMAR.
A correspondent of the gentler sex, who writes from Corvallis, is dismayed that the man who believes in a progressive, or at least a liberal interpretation of grammatical rules.

There are good grounds for the statement that never before in the history of the world has so much been done for so many by so few.

It does not seem possible that in all other sections of the country and in all other industries of this section can long fail to spread to the lumber industry. Foreign markets are hungry for our lumber, but scarcity of vessels and high freight rates are preventing the export of our lumber.

Our correspondent finds the usage illogical, if not positively dishonest, but that does not matter. In questions of language usage triumphs what is the very thing that the self-confident is not admitting. He will confess that the one brave schoolman who sets up her authority against that of every great writer of English, including the translators of the Bible, still we must be left to decide, with regret, that she is wrong.

There is another point in English usage that often bewilders half-educated people. It is the trick we have of expressing future time by the present tense.

The Southern has another reason for his equanimity. The five great allied powers have 79,528,000 spindles, of which 56,900,000 are British, against 16,500,000 in Germany and Austria and none in Turkey.

The Walnut Growers' Organizing Committee which meets at the Imperial Hotel next Saturday afternoon will no doubt lay the foundations of prosperity for a great Oregon industry.

THE CONSPIRACY OF THE POLITICIANS against Wendell Phillips and Sing Sing come, so that she is largely independent of market fluctuations. In the course of time we should not be surprised to see fruit and nuts counting as two among many equally important products of Oregon farms.

Oregonians smile complacently to read the complaints in the Eastern papers of a great mosquito plague this summer in the state of Michigan. It is a man of ideas who believes in treating the state's wards like human beings. He had stopped the drug traffic within the prison and cut off the source of petty grafts.

Reports of work in Belgium that indicate Germany intends to hold the kingdom may be believed in view of Great Britain's inability to lodge claims for the items in the peace terms, if ever there be peace.

The attention of Colonel Hofer is called to this prolonged dry spell. The big medicine man weary of serving his state, and has become so used to a dry Oregon that his command of power has been cast into the discard.

Reading between the lines of the order to place all rolling stock of Roumanian railways at the disposal of the minister of war, one can see that Germany will receive the 1915 crop of grain.

Where are the big flocks of turkeys that should be getting plump on grasshoppers in the Eastern Oregon fields?

AN ESTIMATE OF SIMON BENSON
An Old-Time Friend of Portland Man
Writes Tribute to Him
Alfred Homan in San Francisco Argonaut.

CHARLEROI is among the highly important forge-and-foundry cities which have been brought behind the leading German lines by the Germans at the outbreak of the war, was the center of the Belgian iron industry.

Charleroi was founded in 1668, and named after the willful sovereign, Charles II of Spain, who was king of France and the Netherlands.

There is a strong French element in the city's character. Many Frenchmen were in the industry of the Charleroi district.

ALTRUISM LOST IN EDUCATION
Present-Day System Falls in Vital Point, Says Correspondent.

LENTS, Or., Aug. 23.—(To the Editor)—Soon another school year will have begun. Soon many thousands, say, millions of American youth.

The so-called educated, book-cramped, text-graded young man or young woman who has not learned the reverence, the good, the beauty, the noble career, regardless of the grade of the institution whose course may have been "finished."

Japan is not slow to avail herself of the United States' law her by passing the seamen's law. The Oriental hustlers will build more liners and take possession of the Pacific Ocean.

Why should you worry because of your age? Or how old are you, while on life's stage?

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Twenty-Five Years Ago
From The Oregonian of August 25, 1890.

The handsome engine house on Fourth street, between Yamhill and Morrison, will be ready for occupation in about a week.

The noble courtesy and winsome softness of our courtesans commend them to the palace and cottage alike.

Half a Century Ago
From The Oregonian of August 25, 1865.

The Quebec Canadian debt exceeds \$75,000,000.

D. Freedman was arrested yesterday on a charge of riding a mule in the street at greater speed than six miles per hour.

The frame is up and will be included in the new schoolhouse in the Third Ward.

We learn that Colonel Curry has ordered Captain Lafollette's company to the mouth of the Crooked River.

An occasional correspondent of the New York Times writes from London as follows: "I have had a selection to all true friends of honest dealing to know that, in a business point of view the London Times has felt the folly of its position."

LIBERAL GRAMMAR IS OPPOSED
Corvallis Woman Denies Propriety of the "Historical Present."

PHONE INTERCHANGE HELD EVIL
Public Service League Answered as to Physical Connection Proposal.

PORTLAND, Aug. 23.—(To the Editor)—In reply to a letter and card recently sent by the Public Service League, suggesting interchange of telephone systems between the two telephone systems, I wish to publish, in the interest of citizens of Portland, the following information:

Interchange of service by physical connection of the telephone systems, will not close an office or reduce the investment of either telephone company, but will increase the investment of both.

FOREIGN CHattel Mortgage.
PORTLAND, Or., Aug. 16.—(To the Editor)—What can be done on a chattel mortgage gives me some trouble.

Improvement of Laurelhurst.
PORTLAND, Aug. 23.—(To the Editor)—Kindly inform me whether any improvements in Laurelhurst, consisting of grading, paving, sidewalks, curbing, water and sewer, which the city has recently approved as "Portland Improvement Bonds," have been issued, which constitute liens on the property, were paid for by the contractor in full payment made in public way by warrants, cost assessed against property-owner. The city is not aware of any details of the kind the correspondent suggests.

A Pirate's Brutal Remark.
New York City.

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