The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1916.

A GREAT WORK OF DEVELOPMENT.

The plan proposed by the Oregon Irrigation Congress for National and state guaranty of irrigation bonds has been broadened to cover the entire field of farm development. It was originally proposed that the guaranty should cover only bonds issued by irrigation districts; it is now proposed to extend the plan over drainage districts, clearing of logged-off land and rural credits. As now presented, the plan contemplates putting water on dry land, taking water off wet land, taking stumps off logged-off land and supplying settlers with capital to make farms of this land on such terms that they can pay principal and interest out of the products and still have a comfortable living. The waste places of the state would then be occupied by a large population of home-owning, financially independent citizens who would be Oregon's greatest strength.

Oregon is now top-heavy with cities, and it has for years been growing more so. Between 1900 and 1910 the increase of population was 218,229. Of this increase, 212,160 went to the cities and towns and only 46,069 went to the rural districts. The ratio of urban to rural population has grown enormously between 1900 and 1910. In the former year it was 22.2 to 47.8, while in 1910 it was 42.6 to 54.4. This is a far more rapid increase in urban population than is shown for the United States as a whole, for in the same period the percentage of urban population grew only from 40.5 to 46.3. The urban percentage for the United States was 5.8 greater in 1910, while for Oregon it was 13.4 greater.

The task before the state is not solely to irrigate arid land, to drain wet land, to clear stump land or to provide farmers with capital at reasonable interest. It is to do all of these and other things as parts of a general policy of agricultural development with the general purpose of correcting the balance between urban and rural population. To the over-development of the cities is largely due the depression of which the cities have chiefly complained. We regard the erection of a new building, the establishment of a new store or factory as a sign that this depression is passing away. It is not so unless these improvements are accompanied by corresponding improvement in the back country to justify men in occupying the building, to furnish customers to the store or factory. Without rural development it is only aggravation of the disease.

We have had a general, hazy idea of the ailment from which the state is suffering and have talked of curing it by attracting settlers to the back country, but attracting settlers is not such easy work as it was when the whole West lay before the pioneers and when a few hundred dollars sufficed to start a farm. The land which can be so easily brought under cultivation is now taken. A large investment is required to prepare the remaining land for cultivation—$75 to $100 an acre for arid land, a corresponding sum for wet land, probably $100 an acre for stump land. Capital is now required to stock, seed and equip a farm. Tens of thousands of men are needed for the work. The men with the necessary industry, skill and ambition can be found, but they lack the capital. The men who have the capital either lack these qualities or are unwilling to become farmers. If the state will place its credit behind the farmer, men with money will lend it. The task before the state is to prepare the land for the farmer, to select the right men for its backing and to start them with initial capital on terms of repayment which are within their means. It is a task which will occupy the best brains of Oregon—engineers, bankers, farmers, administrators—but public-spirited men would reap their reward in the spectacle of a well developed, prosperous state, where city and country grew in due proportion and each contributes to the well being of the other.

This is no untried experiment. It has been done in every progressive country of the old world. It has also been done in the great British colonies of Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The Australian state of Victoria has started more than 4000 farmers in business, lending them money and letting them pay for land and houses at 4½ to 5 per cent after borrowing at 4 per cent. So far from suffering any loss, the state has accumulated a surplus of over $500,000 from its operations. What Victoria has done, Oregon can do.

LUMBER'S RESISTANCE TO FIRE.

The persistent popular delusion that wood is the most dangerous, because the most easily inflammable, of building materials has been successfully attacked by the West Coast Lumber Manufacturers' Association with a practical test.

A small house was built at Seattle "inside out." One side was composed of ¾-inch by 8-inch shiplap, over which galvanized iron was nailed, while the other sides and roof were of 1 by 6-inch tongued and grooved lumber. The 2-inch material was painted, a flue 14 inches square was built and a draft door was made at the floor at the opposite end.

Fire was started inside the house, and in seven minutes the paint began to burn. In ten minutes dense smoke poured through cracks in the shiplap, and nine minutes later it began to flame outside the building. Twenty-five minutes after the fire started the outside of the 2-inch lumber was cold, but five minutes later the four top boards of iron-covered shiplap were burned or broken through. Not until the fire had burned for forty minutes did the first and only red coals appear outside the 2-inch wall at a crack near the bottom.

After burning forty-three minutes the fire was extinguished. It was found that all the metal-protected shiplap had been consumed, while the 2-inch lumber was only charred three-fourths of an inch deep, showing that metal covering absorbs heat much more rapidly than wood.

This test, which was made in the presence of representatives of the Seattle building and fire departments and the Seattle Port Commission, should go far to restore the reputation of wood as a safe building material. Lumber is the typical American material, and in economy, convenience and artistic finish will compare favorably with any other material. Through the carelessness of builders and the interested statements of dealers in other materials the impression has become widespread that a frame house is a firetrap. Well-built, it is not and its fire-resisting qualities can be increased by treatment to make it slow-burning. Other nations build of wood, but have a ratio of fire loss which is only a fraction of ours. The fault lies not in our material.

MAKES OF THE LAW.

That interest in the Sunday closing law slumbered for fifty years before awakening is not an isolated illustration of forgetfulness concerning law enactments.

A constitutional amendment which prohibited the Legislature to regulate taxes without referring the law to the people was repealed with considerable flourishing and trumpeting in 1912. Yet it was not so long ago that an Oregon judge held a tax law invalid because it conflicted with the repealed section of the constitution and reversed himself only when his memory was jogged.

In the last session of the Legislature a Senator attempted to invoke another constitutional provision that had been superseded in 1910.

A bill designed to make lobbyists declare themselves was lately introduced in the Legislature and defeated, and that defeat is still a subject in some quarters of severe comment. Yet for fifty years there has existed in Oregon a statute which imposes a penalty of fine or imprisonment upon the individual who attempts to influence a member's action on a bill or even to explain it to him, unless that individual has first declared his interest in the bill or that of those who employ him.

There is a perfectly clear constitutional provision which prohibits the incurring of state indebtedness in excess of $50,000 except for specified purposes of which irrigation is not one. While the 1915 Legislature was in session a Portland newspaper telegraphed an urgent appeal to a State Senator to use his influence to create a bonded indebtedness of $500,000 for irrigation. Because the Senator did not pay any attention to a telegram which invited him to defy the constitution he has been blackguarded by the newspaper ever since.

Although ignorance exists in high places the people are invited under the free and unrestrained use of the Oregon system to pass on large quantities of miscellaneous and sometimes technical legislation on the theory that they always know exactly what they are doing.

A GLORIFIED CHAUTAUQUA.

The tercentenary of the Pilgrims' landing may be the occasion of another world's exposition, and of course such a fair would be held in Boston. But in Boston the old type, "with its splendor and magnificence and exaltation of material achievement is out of the question." Mr. Ralph Adams Cram has stated what the Boston exposition ought to be, and naturally enough it is a sort of glorified and magnified chautauqua.

There would be operatic recitals, concerts, presentation of the drama in its varied forms and great religious gatherings in churches built for the purpose. There would be a place for Olympic games and pageants and an opportunity "for reconsecration of old ideals and adjustment of new ideals which will result from the present war."

One of the few grosser or material suggestions made by Mr. Cram is that there be cafes or restaurants where one may partake of viands as prepared in other countries, in surroundings typical of the nations represented. This last is not exactly a wide departure from the customs of the old type of exposition, but a difference might be effected to possible advantage.

We have sometimes wondered at the expediency of putting necessities, such as transportation and catering, on an exorbitant concession basis while the exposition provides dignified and wonderful entertainment for nothing. The thought occurs that that great majority who go to expositions resolved to expend no more than a certain amount might contribute more in gate receipts, which are all profit, if they did not have to expend so much within the grounds for food necessarily poor at the price because the concessionaire has to pay the exposition a percentage or per capita tax.

There may be some great and overwhelming business reason for such a custom, but if the Boston idea is fully carried out physical contentment, as well as the artistic and intellectual senses will not, we hope, be prostituted to commercialism.

THE FARMERS' BOYS.

The following is from a recent issue of the Corvallis Gazette-Times: "We have looked over the programme for Farmers' Week and fail to find any plan for keeping the boy on the farm that has to do with cutting out the chore business."

While the paragraph is a little vague we understand that the Gazette-Times infers that the farmers' sons are driven from the farms on account of the chores they are expected to do. If that is the meaning, The Oregonian thinks it a rather narrow view of the hinge cityward. The boys on our farms are not as a class lazy and as a rule they do not in the least object to doing their full share of farm work. As the "chores" are the lightest of that work those duties are in a large measure assigned to the boys, and they are usually done cheerfully.

It is not hard work that drives the boys from the farms; it is not the chores. It is in a great majority of cases not a question having anything whatever to do with labor, provided such labor is not required to be done under unfair conditions. We use the word unfair as meaning extraordinary hours. No boy should be asked, and mighty few are asked in these days, to work from dawn until dark, or later. Such might have been the custom on some farms a generation or two ago, but not now except in rare instances.

Let it be said, in defense of the boys, that when such conditions did to a much larger extent prevail than at present there was less of a rush cityward than there is now. Why? Largely, we think, on account of the homes. We believe that when the grown men of today were passing through their chore-doing period on the farms the old-fashioned parents exerted a greater influence in teaching children certain homely virtues, one of the chiefest being the love of home and the home folks.

We intend no reflection upon the parents of the present. It is not that they are less loving, less kind, less intelligent or less indulgent. It is all due to the age we are living in and the pace at which we are living. The tallow candle has passed and the electric lights have come. The horse and buggy stage is no more; in its place is the automobile craze. The spelling bees, the husking bees, the molasses pullings—all past and gone and in their place we have the moving pictures, the phonographs, the variety theaters and the pool halls. The boys' minds are turned to the things away from home more than the things at home. Not intentionally so, but that seems to be the trend of our educational systems of today. The country lad who goes to school now poorly clad, no matter how neat and clean he may be, is doomed to meet with a rather cool reception. He feels this and yearns to dress as well as his fellows, and his ideas turn cityward, where dress counts for so much—and his feet take him there as soon as he can get away. This is perhaps not the universal rule, but oftener, far oftener such yearnings rather than the hate of chore-doing deplete our farms of their boys.

THE EBB AND FLOW OF PROGRESS.

The wheels of human progress turn with ponderous slowness. It is the same leisurely movement that marks the course of the hour-hand. The closest observer may not detect that motion is in process, yet the little hands make the rounds every day even as the wheels of progress disclose gains with every year. It is when we cast an eye back over the year that the advance is visible, and while the gains may not be conspicuous in such a trifling interval of time, they are certain.

Perhaps the great, black cloud on the distant horizon has blinded us to the settings of the immediate foreground, but in scanning the year it must be seen that the busy human animal is continuing his forward march and that he is just a little farther along in his task of conquering heaven and earth.

In the highlights of the past year few single events of great importance strike us outside the war zone. Survey of our own National Government and its affairs discloses a record of little consequence. Conspicuous events are the President's veto of the immigration bill in January because of the literacy test and restrictions against political refugees. Of little moment in the present hour. In March, Congress adopted resolutions for strengthening the powers of the President to enforce neutrality laws. If greater powers were needed they have not been exercised to advantage, as we all know.

May 26 the United States Court of Customs Appeals clipped $10,000,000 per annum from expected National revenues by finding that the five per cent tariff discount on goods imported in American bottoms must apply also to goods imported in ships of countries having "favored nation" treaties. June 8 the country received the welcome news that William J. Bryan had effaced himself as Secretary of State, a post for which he was wholly unfitted, and which he abandoned, according to his own explanation, because he could not approve the President's methods of enforcing the neutrality laws. National and international, June 23 Robert Lansing was named in Bryan's place.

November 1, the Supreme Court declared unconstitutional a law enacted by Arizona providing that eighty per cent of the employes of any concern must be Americans. December 11, Postmaster-General Burleson noted in his annual report a decrease in revenues of $21,000,000, asserting at the same time that $10,000,000 of this had been made up through savings in disbursements. December 15, the Secretary of Agriculture reported that the year's harvest had netted the country's farmers $5,500,000,000, and the next day President Wilson signed the measure extending the war revenue act for another year.

Among foreign governments, crises and squabbles were of every-day occurrence, so far as European powers were concerned. There was more or less of strife elsewhere. Mexico continued a seething hotbed of anarchy, its condition rendered worse by American interference. China was brought to consent that a consultation be had with Japan before making foreign financial, industrial and political arrangements in South Manchuria. Portugal held a National Assembly and named a new President, Theophile Braga. Denmark was the scene of important reform, a new constitution being put into effect over the signature of King Christian reducing the political power of landowners and giving suffrage to women.

Japan gave fresh evidences of adopting Occidental traits when a graft scandal was unearthed and the Minister of the Interior, Viscount Oura, was forced to resign under charges of taking money from candidates during the March elections. In November Yoshihito was crowned at Kyoto with pomp and ceremony. In December, China entered the realm of monarchy and the constitutional President, Yuan Shi-Kai, ascended the throne, revolutionary activities appearing at the same time.

Conspicuous legislation among the states was that abolishing hangings and doing away with liquor. North and South Dakota joined the states which have done away with capital punishment. Alabama, South Carolina, Arkansas, Iowa and Idaho joined the galaxy of states which had elected to exclude the liquor traffic, while the final torch to alcohol's doom in Oregon was lit when Governor Withycombe signed the law which had been enacted. Governor Spry, of Utah, vetoed a prohibition statute passed by the Legislature, presenting technical reasons for his action. Alberta adopted prohibition, the matter was passed along to the people by the Legislatures of Alaska and Montana, while in Ohio prohibition was rejected by 33,000 majority.

Woman suffrage met with both victories and reverses. Legislatures agreed that the question be passed on by the voters in West Virginia, Arkansas, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. In October, New Jersey rejected suffrage by 50,000 majority, and in November New York took the same action with a majority of 134,467, rejecting also a short-ballot constitution. Massachusetts defeated the suffrage amendment with a majority of 122,000, and Pennsylvania with one of 44,000. Near the close of the year Dr. Anna Howard Shaw retired as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt was named as her successor.

The most conspicuous achievement in the realm of science was the perfection of better means of communication between distant points. In January, San Francisco and New York were connected by telephone. In February, wireless communication between moving trains was established. In April wireless communication by day was found possible between Washington and the Panama Canal Zone, while in September wireless telephonic conversation was held between operators, one stationed at Arlington, Va., and the other at Honolulu, a distance of approximately 4900 miles.

The record of minor events, all contributing their part to the ebb and flow of human advancement, might be extended indefinitely. No great outstanding achievement can be set down. But no matter what the year may have given to the race, the story of the twelve-month is certain to be submerged in the great struggle abroad. Nineteen-fifteen can never be known to posterity by any other term than "the war year."

The letter from Mr. Youngs in The Sunday Oregonian calling attention to a possible menace to city folk who eat the jackrabbit should be read and considered by the health authorities. The "jacks" do not arrive in the best of sanitary condition, for they cannot under the circumstances. What he says about non-consumption in the regions where they flourish is true; in days past the man who killed a few fried and ate the hind legs and threw the carcass to the hens. Lacking the sense of smell, the hen is not particular. Nowadays the man up in Bunchgrass who would eat a jackrabbit is considered an Indian. Mr. Youngs' suggestion to eat the tame rabbit or hare is sound, for it is a clean animal, and, as the joker said, if the eater will not think of cat he will find it palatable.

The Federal Trade Commission is proud of having headed off formal complaints of anti-trust law violation by taking up informal complaints with corporations and procuring abandonment of illegal practices without need of publicity. These methods open the way to abuse and may be made the means of "fry-the-fat" extortion, but they conform to the secret procedure of the present Administration, which was pledged to "pitiless publicity."

Secretary Garrison believes compulsory military service the only perfect system of defense, but thinks the continental army the most the people will stand, so he compromises. Why not make a fight for his convictions and put the responsibility up to Congress for rejecting them?

By dropping the first letter of her last name Ada Crehan robbed Ireland of the credit for her genius in the minds of many who did not know she was born at Limerick, but Ireland will claim her.

There is much force in Senator Borah's argument that a government which dare not go to its capital is not a government such as should be recognized.

A candidate for a city office in the Forest Grove election today says he feels that he is competent and needs the salary. A candid man like that ought to win.

Seattle has a candidate for the Vice-Presidential nomination, and that's the funny part of it—Seattle willing to play on the second violin.

Who will be the next to give $5000 and carry Oregon Medical College a step nearer to having a building worthy of its fame?

Representative Ferris has won only the first round in the fight for his water-power bill. The real fight will come in the Senate.

Once in awhile a fool hen gets into print by laying an egg of monstrous size, but like many a man she cannot respond to an encore.

That proposed mobilization of a military division at Washington may yet become necessary to keep order in Congress.

When the bell rings for school at John Minto's institution all the "boys" will be present. "Playing hookey" is impossible.

The grapegrowers of California who think the state will not go "dry" must remember that Oregon grows a powerful lot of hops.

Germany is certain it cannot lose. Great Britain is positive and Sweden is in agony astraddle of the teeter-totter.

The dairymen may yet evolve a flavoring for milk which will enable a man to have a milkwhite jag.

All that beer going into the sewers of Baker makes a noise like Fern Hobbs at Copperfield.

Even the most respected man in the city would be suspected if seen carrying a demijohn.

The Oregon Dairymen fail to tell how to carry hot milk in a bottle in the hip pocket.

An humane officer who cannot kill a cat with a gun might send it by the river route.

A south wind and warm rain help the lazy man clear his sidewalk.

Safety-first signs need protection against wild automobiles.

Pessimists pick flaws; optimists see the silver lining.

Germans again are shelling Nancy. Poor Nance!

Tenth day of the "dry" spell, and all is well.

Formation of Pools.

Boston Transcript.

"Henry, how do financiers form these pools we read about?" "I don't know, my dear, unless they use the water in the stocks."

How to Keep Well

By Dr. W. A. Evans.

Questions pertinent to hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, if matters of general interest, will be answered in this column. Where space will not permit or the subject is not suitable, letters will be personally answered, subject to proper limitations and where a stamped, addressed envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Requests for such service cannot be answered.

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Dreams.

THERE is no fundamental difference between dreams and thoughts. The thoughts of sleep are known as dreams. Therefore dreams are normal, physiological, one of the ordinary phenomena of life. It is normal for a man to think. To stop thinking would be abnormal. It is normal for a man to dream. To stop dreaming would be abnormal. Then why give any time to the subject of dreams?

The reasons are twofold. Under certain circumstances dreams do harm. By a study of dreams we can sometimes learn a good deal about the mental processes of the person under investigation. Under the first of these are those cases in which dreams disturb the rest or even induce insomnia and the cases of sleep walking.

Dreams are instigated by physical factors and by the memories of the day. If a person has eaten a hearty supper and his overfull stomach is in the way of the diaphragm, or if the same effect is produced by gas in the intestines, a man will dream, and probably somewhere in the course of dreaming choking or difficult breathing of some sort will be a feature.

If the room is ill ventilated and the air gets close and hot the skin nerves will send in an impulse which will start dreams and also will direct them. If there is too little cover on the bed and the man becomes cold a line of dreams will be started by that impulse. If the cover slips off and some part of the body is exposed the fact registers on the subconsciousness and starts a line of dreams.

Other frequent instigators of dreams are tight bands on the clothing, uncomfortable pillows, uncomfortable mattresses, uncomfortable position, contact with the persons of fellow sleepers, the bites of insects, noises, lights, odors and flavors.

The influence of bodily discomforts arising from internal organs must not be lost sight of. One may grow tired enough to sleep in spite of a pleurisy pain or the smothering of kidney asthma, but the discomfort of the malady projects itself into the sleeping brain.

A quality of the mental process of dreams is the disposition of the mind to jump from one thought to another. We will say that the dream is of something which causes the man to roll on his back and stick a leg from under cover.

At once the uncovered member starts a dream in which the dreamer, clad only in a night shirt, appears among, women, or swimming in the altogether, ladies are seen coming down the road. By this time, his lower jaw having dropped when he rolled on his back, his mouth has become dry and he begins to dream about tasting and smelling. Next his soft palate gets in the way of his breath and he dreams that some one is sitting on his chest. He snores extra loud and his ears carry the loud sound to his brain and the register wakes him.

The instigators are not limited to the physical. The brain having started up as the result of physical causes, the memories of the thoughts of the daytime or even of the dreams of the night instigate new dreams and determine their direction. The sleeping brain reasons poorly, does not see well or hear well, but it remembers fairly well, has some capacity for imagination, and can register the most violent emotions.

The sleeping brain is fairly well cut off from the physical side of the body. Especially is this true of outward currents. It can and does hear, see, taste, smell and feel. But its impulses are rarely converted into action.

In nightmare a man tries his best to yell, but his yelling apparatus will not work. The best he can do is to utter a kind of inhuman moan. He dreams he is attacked and is fighting back, but he cannot get any force into his blows. He has all the emotions which lead to action. He may think he is acting or even act lightly, but he cannot command his muscles. These bounden slaves of the day refuse to be driven by the sleeping brain.

Every now and then a person is so constituted that his sleeping brain can command his systemic nerves and muscles, can put his impulses into action. Such individuals are sleep walkers or somnambulists. On the other hand the sleeping brain is much under the influence of the memories of the day. Any thought which has run through the brain and left a vivid recollection there is apt to influence the dreams.

As most men are more influenced by their emotions than by their higher mental processes, it follows that the emotions color dreams unduly. Envy, hate, fear, cupidity, revenge, are the great inciters of disturbing dreams. A violent brainstorm of any sort during the day is liable to produce disturbing dreams. And the dreams which are productive of insomnia are disturbing dreams.

The disturbing dreams are those which violently agitate, those on which the mind concentrates and persists in working out and those which lead to action or to violent efforts to act.

Treatment to Avoid.

Mrs. W. writes: "Kindly tell me what I can do for my children, 4 and 2 years old. They are always constipated, all sorts of stewed fruit fail to help. I give each enemas every night to clean out the bowels. They will not take oil."

REPLY.

You have nearly ruined your children by giving them enemas. You must discontinue the practice. Continue giving them fruit and vegetables in quantity. Do not limit the fruit to stewed fruit; fresh fruit is better. Give them bran for a morning cereal, give them bran bread instead of white bread, give them plenty of water between meals, say, give them twice as much as they are now taking. Have them play hard in the open air. Twenty-four hours after you inaugurate this policy, discontinue the enemas.

Hives and Itch.

A. H. asks: "Will you kindly tell me the cause of the hives, and what will relieve the itch? My body is covered with them at present. Are soda baths of any benefit?

REPLY.

Something eaten. Fast and take a purge. Tradition says, bathe with soda water. There is no proof that any of the soda gets into or can get into the tissue below the scarf skin, but you will have to apply soda water or fight friends. Therefore, apply it in the name of peace.

Poster for Rose Festival.

PORTLAND, Jan. 9.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me if there has been an announcement of a poster contest for the 1916 Rose Festival, and if so, where I could obtain the conditions of the contest.

MRS. YVON D. GUILLIUME.

There has been no poster contest announced for 1916. It is probable that the poster for this season will be contributed by a professional artist.

Embargo on Horses Lifted.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 8.—(To the Editor.)—Some time ago an inquiry from one of your correspondents in respect to the shipment of horses from British Columbia to the United States was published. At that time there was an embargo on such shipments, excepting in special circumstances, but is now lifted, as the purchase of horses to a great extent by the allies has ceased.

BARNEY GOSS.

CONCEPTION OF DUTY BROADER

Proper Observance of Sunday Not Now Defined as Century Ago.

PORTLAND, Jan. 9.—(To the Editor.)—I doubt if it is possible to enlighten some sanctimonious minds that within a period of 100 years people have progressed mentally, morally and religiously. While some of us have minds that dictate a more free conception of religious duty for one day of the week, others are bound to a rule that has in this generation been discarded wherein strict observance is concerned.

It is possible to find just as many and just as good plodders today who take a little relaxation on Sunday as in the days of "thee" and "thou." The day of passing the hours with head uplifted and hands folded, with a sad, faraway look, has vanished, and in its stead has entered one of optimism, good cheer and a goodly amount of honest respect for the "seventh day."

Recreation is the savior of tired minds and bodies, and it is just and right that no man be denied it. He can seek recreation in a theater or the ball game and not loose his soul either; or, if need be, when the larder is empty, "scoot" to the nearest grocer and replenish of the viands that adorn his shelf and not feel any remorse for his terrible offense.

We must not forget the slave of that soothing weed, tobacco. Perchance he has forgotten to lay in a supply of his favorite cigars for Sunday. Should we allow him to suffer through a whole day and be so irritable that even his mother-in-law would be compelled to scuttle to the attic in fear of losing a happy home?

In Oregon will be found many men who have chosen vocations which demand that they give a big portion of their time to the interests of their business on Sunday. Is it necessary that we class them among the "lost" sheep?

Each and everyone helps to swell the army of men who pay large taxes and are first to give generously for any cause that will help their city and Oregon.

Oregon is a great state and enjoys that distinction from the Pacific to the Atlantic; then why destroy it and in its place herald to the world that we are now treading a path that has neither rock, pit nor turn and have taken up the cause of the sanctimonious "thee" and "thou" for evermore.

FRANK THOMPSON.

BIG THING FOR POSTAL REVENUES

Mathematician Calculates Possibilities of Endless Chain Prayer.

PORTLAND, Jan. 9.—(To the Editor.)—A San Franciscan has sent me as one of nine friends a copy of the "An Ancient Prayer." It reads as follows:

O Lord, I implore thee to bless all mankind; bring us to thee; keep us to dwell with thee.

This prayer is to be sent all over the world. It was said in ancient days that all who wrote it would be free from calamity, and all who passed it would meet with some calamity or misfortune.

Copy and send it to nine of your friends, and on the tenth day you will meet with some great joy.

DON'T BREAK THE CHAIN.

Is this an effort to help the Postoffice Department conceal the general Democratic deficit under the cloak of the Lord and make the humbug-loving public hope a joy-prize is coming to each one of them in 10 days for credulity?

The enormity of the letter postage revenue for one year from the scheme would be unthinkable and would bring a reputation for financial efficiency to office-holding Democrats better than they deserve.

Suppose the nine letters referred to were started off as per schedule. Assume they in turn would be received and sent off again in, say, 12 days, and that this new lot would be mailed and delivered in another 12 days, and so on. Then there would be about 30 batches in a year.

First day, seed letter	1
12th day, 1st crop	9
24th day, 2nd crop	81
36th day, 3rd crop	729
48th day, 4th crop	6,561
60th day, 5th crop	59,049
72nd day, 6th crop	531,441
84th day, 7th crop	4,782,969
96th day, 8th crop	43,046,721
108th day, 9th crop	387,420,489
120th day, 10th crop	3,486,784,401

The ninth crop would represent more people than there are in the United States.

Figures are getting too big to handle with rapidity. As for the 360th day—30th-crop logarithms show there will be 29 figures in the answer and that it will be over 42,391,127,450,000,000,000,000,000. There would be more letters in this last batch than there are people in hades.

WILLIAM E. MORRIS.

MANY ALASKA ROBINS IN CITY

Bird Is Described Under Name of "Varied Thrush" in Library Book.

PORTLAND, Jan. 9.—(To the Editor.)—If "Subscriber," who writes relative to Winter birds in this vicinity, will consult William G. Lord's "Birds of Oregon and Washington," which may be found at the Public Library, a section therein will be found devoted to this particular subject and describing in an accurate and interesting manner all the feathered citizens who visit our dooryards during the cold season.

The Alaska or Winter robin is listed under its true name of Varied Thrush, and anyone reading the description cannot fail to recognize the bird when seen. There are hundreds of these handsome fellows in and about Portland at the present time, and dozens of them come every day to the food I am providing for them; also juncos, or snowbirds; yellow hammers, chickadees, nuthatches, one towhee or chewink, and, of course, the ubiquitous English sparrow. Nor does this by any means exhaust the list of our permanent or Winter bird residents. Since the recent snowfall a couple of fine Chinese pheasants (roosters) have foraged in the yards of our neighborhood.

The birds are extremely grateful, these chilly days, for a few bread crumbs or almost any table scraps broken into bits. The little effort expended in providing for them is well repaid by the pleasure derived from observing them, not to speak of the debt we owe for their labors in our behalf against the various garden pests. It adds greatly to the interest taken if one knows the names and something of the habits of the feathered neighbors who avail themselves of his bounty, and I believe there is no better guide for this locality than the book referred to above.

BIRD LOVER.

"Keep Moving" Law Is Needed.

PORTLAND, Jan. 9.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian stated that Commissioner Dieck proposes to get rid of the gasoline supply stations located on the street parkings, which probably is a good idea, but Mr. Dieck can go one better still. Why not get rid of the peanut wagons from the narrow, congested street corners? On Morrison street, at both Second and Third, they have stood there stationary for ages, until the street is cut into ruts.

Mr. Dieck's bright idea of a year ago that he would compel them to repair the street apparently came to naught, but why should traffic be continually inconvenienced by turning out by allowing stationary wagons on busy streets? Surely the small income is no compensation.

Portland has outgrown the conditions. A new ordinance, I believe, was enacted recently making it compulsory for wagons to move every half hour, which, I dare say, means putting in five minutes to drive around the block and get back to the old congested spot for another half hour spell.

A "keep moving" wagon ordinance would be in order.

CITIZEN.

In Other Days

Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 10, 1891.

Al Churchill, one of the most prominent citizens of Yakima, died at St. Vincent's Hospital in this city last Wednesday night. He had been suffering for the past six months with dropsy and came to the city for treatment.

William Cuthbert, who was sent by Captain Symons, United States Engineers, to make a survey of the Snake River from Huntington to the Seven Devils mining district, has returned here.

Two palatial closed cars for the Mount Tabor motor line are expected to arrive today. They were ordered last Summer.

Yesterday morning Bruce Blessing, a 14-year-old boy living in East Portland was accidently shot in the eye by a pistol in the hands of his brother. He received, probably, a fatal wound.

At the meeting held by the Tammany Club Friday evening the following officers were elected: President, B. Goldsmith; first vice-president, J. N. Teal; second vice-president, F. B. Holman; third vice-president, Thomas O'Day; fourth vice-president, Thomas Colbert; recording secretary, M. M. Harris; financial secretary, Henry Gray; corresponding secretary, W. T. Muir; treasurer, A. Roberts.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 10, 1866.

To those whose daily walk does not call them very often to the upper part of Front street the scenes presented must be very striking. A new building is either in course of construction or under contract for nearly every other lot on the street above Yamhill to Harrison street.

At the annual meeting of the Portland Turn Verein, held in this city on the 7th, the following officers were chosen: F. S. Ostheim, president; Leo Metzger, secretary; Louis Waterman, treasurer; trustees, S. Goldsmith, H. W. Hyman, Leopold Wolf.

Joseph Buchtel has recently purchased the entire interest of A. B. Woodard in the gallery in Vaughn's building.

We have news from Captain Borland's Company, of the Oregon Infantry, which we hope is exaggerated. It seems that the company marched from Camp Lyon, in the Owyhee country, some weeks ago to come down the Columbia to be mustered out of service. In coming down the Snake River the command was out in the late severe weather and some 20 of the men had their hands, feet and ears badly frozen.

New York, Jan. 5.—Ex-President Fillmore and lady will sail today on the steamer Europe for Brest, intending to spend the Winter in Spain on account of Mrs. Fillmore's health.

OREGON BUILDING AT EXPOSITION

Best State Structure and Most Hospitable Management on Grounds.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 6.—(To the Editor.)—I was very much interested in your editorial, entitled "A Contrast," published in The Oregonian Annual, January 1, 1916, and referring to the Oregon building at the exposition, which has just closed.

I had the pleasure of visiting the exposition about 120 times and I did not miss more than twice in the above number of times calling upon the Oregon building and absorbed the hospitality and good cheer that was always present.

I certainly want to congratulate Oregon upon its showing at the exposition and consider that the building as put up by the State of Oregon and as maintained during the life of the fair was the best state building on the grounds and more typical of Oregon and its products that any other state building. It was practically the only state building where one was made welcome at all times and those in charge are deserving of praise and congratulation.

L. A. COLTON.

Owen Wister.

UNDERWOOD, Wash., Jan. 8.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly publish, at your convenience, a brief biographical sketch of Owen Wister, author of "The Virginian," etc.

L. H.

Owen Wister, the author, was born in Philadelphia July 14, 1860, and was educated at Harvard. He was admitted to the bar in 1889, but has been in literary work since 1891. Among his books are "The Dragon of Wantley—His Tale," "Red Men and White," "Lin McLean," "The Jimmy John Boss," "U. S. Grant, a Biography," "The Virginian," "Philosophy," "Journey in Search of Christmas," "Lady Baltimore," "The Simple Spelling Bee," "Mother," "The Seven Ages of Washington," "Members of the Family." He also has contributed much verse and prose to magazines. In 1898 he married Mary Channing, of Philadelphia, who died in 1913. His home is at Butler Place, Logan Station, Philadelphia. He is a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters and of the board of overseers of Harvard University.

Use Made of Auto License Fees.

PORTLAND, Jan. 9.—(To the Editor.)—What becomes of and how utilized are the funds derived from state automobile licenses? The sum totals approximately $150,000 this year.

G. W. T.

Auto license money goes into the motor vehicle fund, from which are paid cost of supplies and expense of administering the law. At the end of the year the balance in the fund is divided among the several counties in proportion to the amount received from each and becomes a part of the county road funds.

As to Postoffice Employes.

PORTLAND, Jan. 9.—(To the Editor.)—Sometime ago I wrote your paper a letter asking the following questions, and as I have not seen answers to them yet, will write again: How many mail carriers does Portland now employ? How many new ones were put on last year (both clerks and carriers)? Will the new $1,000,000 postoffice employ any new clerks and carriers and, if so, kindly state what you think will be the number.

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Your questions were answered in The Sunday Oregonian, January 2, page 5, section 2.

An Ocean Voyage.

Baltimore American.

"On your ocean voyage did you miss any of your meals?" "No, I didn't miss 'em. My kick was that I ever met 'em."

The Retailer and His Friends

Every manufacturer with a branded product is anxious to reach them.

He must have their good will if he is to sell the goods.

It is not hard to get, and the doorway to it is through newspaper advertising.