

The Oregonian

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is true thrift, from two points of view, in working steadily. The cost to the workman of constant shifting of jobs is no greater in the aggregate than the cost to the industry affected.

The thrifty movement will have a distinct value if it does nothing more than to start a new current of thought in the right direction. There are plenty of subjects to be studied in connection with the main topic, and each man will take the one that he regards as of the most importance to himself and to the community as a whole.

WHO ARE THEY?

The comforting assurance is given by another newspaper that some bills drafted by the initiative and referendum committee introduced by Senator Brown will receive close inspection at the hands of the friends of the initiative and referendum.

There is W. S. U'Ren, reputed father of the Oregon System. There is Representative Brownell, who back in 1911 introduced the first amendment, and fought, hied and bleated for it.

Mr. Brownell introduces a bill for a new position plan and Mr. U'Ren violently opposes it. Mr. Lewelling accuses Mr. U'Ren of heading a clique of mercenaries who are profiting from the present loose-jointed system and want it retained.

There ought to be a showdown on this "friend" business before any bills concerning the initiative are inspected by hand or eye. Is there doubt as to the sincerity of the friends of the initiative? Tush, tush! There is the initiative itself. Let's decide who they are by popular vote.

LEARNING TO WRITE WELL

The shoemaker should stick to his last, of course; but what shall be done with the pen? In London the pen has a fancy, say, for cooking? We should say that in that way many a good cook has been spoiled by someone's mistake in introducing a bad ingredient into a noble treat.

THRIFT DAY

The spirit of the observance this year of February 3 as "Thrift day," which has been quite generally planned throughout the country, is that the scheme deserves at least a trial, and that once people have discovered how easy it is to make important savings without suffering serious inconvenience they will continue to practice it on their own.

AN ACT OF FAVORITISM

By promoting his naval aide and medical examiner, Dr. Carter Grayson, as medical director with the rank of Rear-Admiral, President Wilson has brought down upon himself a storm of criticism from his own party as well as from the opposition.

BACK WAVE IT BEGAN

The center interest in the war is about to be transferred to the Balkan peninsula. Attention has been so absorbed by the tremendous struggles on the Russian and Franco-Belgian fronts that the fact that the war is being fought on the part of the Balkan states, Turkey and finally Egypt and Persia; also with a view to control of both the land and sea routes to the east has been almost completely forgotten.

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is not parallel cases. Both of these officers had won distinction in active service while holding lower rank, and they were not promoted at one jump. General Wood had done valuable service as Colonel of the Rough Riders and had won promotion to Brigadier-General and Major-General of volunteers before he became Military Governor of Cuba.

It will surprise many who have derived their impressions of Colombia chiefly from our dispute with that country over the Panama Canal matter and the California canal, to learn that Colombia has a quite important literature that is peculiarly national, notwithstanding the influence of Spanish, French and English culture upon educated Colombians.

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