The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland (Oregon) Postoffice as second-class mail 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, three months	1.75
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.60
Weekly, one year	1.50
Sunday, one year	2.50
Sunday and Weekly	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, Brunswick building, New York; Verree & Conklin, Steger building, Chicago; San Francisco representative, R. J. Bidwell, 742 Market street.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, FEB. 13 1917.

CONSTRUCTIVE ROAD PLAN.

The proposal to issue state bonds for $7,900,000 to build roads sounds formidable; but it is nevertheless clear and comprehensive in its essentials and altogether promising of a satisfactory solution of the perplexing and costly road problem.

Let it be recalled, in any consideration of roads and their cost, that the sums expended in Oregon in any given year mount to a gigantic total. It is hardly credible, but it is true, that the average outlay in state, county and district for the past ten years has reached the staggering (estimated) maximum of $5,000,000 per annum, or $50,000,000 for the decennium. By comparison, then, the sum of $7,900,000 to be expended by the state, not at once, nor in any stated time, is not beyond bounds. With the limitations of the Government assignment for post roads to five years, and of forest reserve roads to five years, the major portion of the authorized sum of $7,900,000 would be spent in the period of five years.

It has been understood that the state is for some unknown reason committed to a financial policy which permits the issuance of state bonds for no purpose; but it is not true. The people last November, by a large vote, authorized the issuance of $18,000,000 rural credit bonds, and the Legislature is actively at work devising the machinery to make the $18,000,000 plan effective and advantageous to the legitimate borrower.

So $7,900,000, divided, say, into units for each of five years, is not a stupendous sum. Nor is it likely to prove a burden on the taxpayer. A feature of the $7,900,000 project which commends it strongly to the citizen is the simple and easy finance by which the annual interest is to be paid and the bonds to be completely retired by amortization over a twenty-five-year period. It is astonishing to note, but it is demonstrably true, that the whole issue may be cared for by the quarter-mill state tax (as at present) and by the proposed automobile tax.

The plan is that the amount raised from motor cars is to be appropriated to hard surfacing of roads, now ready or to be made ready by the counties for paving. It is the era of hard-surface roads. It is imperative that main-traveled thoroughfares be built to stand the heaviest traffic. The motor car is the greatest contributor to road deterioration. No road, unless it be paved, will long withstand the severe attrition of speedy and weighty automobiles. The road must be built to withstand the friction of heavy traffic, or the annual cost of upkeep must continue to be enormous. It is fair that the automobile, which makes road paving necessary, should bear the expense, or the large portion of it. That is just what the new plan arranges. It is impossible to deny its equity; and we do not think that the automobile owner, who will certainly make a large saving in gasoline and in wear and tear on his car and tires by better roads, will offer any objection.

It is to be noted that the measure provides for the construction of post roads and forest reserve roads, meeting the Government appropriation, throughout the state; and provision is made by which the more remote sections will be reached and aided. It is hard to see how any section, or any interest, can offer serious and valid criticism. The city, and particularly Portland, is to get nothing at all, except the very great and undeniable indirect benefit. The country is to get it all. The bond plan, constructive and equitable as it is, and giving a great and needed impetus to road construction in Oregon, deserves the immediate and attentive consideration of the Legislature. In its fundamentals The Oregonian thinks the consideration should be favorable.

A MEMORIAL TO JEFFERSON.

No partisan motive should interfere with the purchase of Monticello by Congress as a National memorial to Thomas Jefferson. He stood second only to Washington among the founders of the republic. He was the author of the Declaration of Independence, which has taken its place in history side by side with the Magna Charta of England and the Declaration of the Rights of Man of France. By the Louisiana purchase he made the largest single addition to the territory of the United States and he cleared the way for the extension of the republic to the Pacific Ocean. As the third President, he did much to solidify the structure which Washington had begun.

Mount Vernon has become the property of the Nation as a memorial to the man who won victory for the Nation in the field. The Hermitage has been saved by women who raised by public subscription the funds for its purchase, and it is now preserved as a memorial to Andrew Jackson, the victor of New Orleans. Arlington has been purchased and made a National cemetery for the soldier dead in memory of the chivalrous leader of the Confederacy. The Lincoln cabin in Kentucky has been handed over to the Nation by its purchasers as a memorial to the martyr President who saved the Union, while the Lincoln home at Springfield, Ill., is owned by the state and is maintained by an association of women. It is fitting that equal honor be done to Jefferson, who was Washington's co-worker in diplomacy.

Monticello was bought at auction by Commodore Uriah P. Levy, who bequeathed it to the Nation, but the will was broken by his relatives and passed to Jefferson M. Levy, his nephew. The wife of Representative Martin W. Littleton is now leading the movement for its purchase, has written a pamphlet on the subject and has enlisted the aid of several patriotic organizations. Even at this crowded session Congress should find time to provide for its purchase and preservation. By thus honoring one of its great men the Nation would honor itself.

THE SAME BRYAN.

Mr. Bryan's newest illustration of the supreme merits of a turn-your-other-cheek pacifism is stated thusly:

> It is no surrender of a right to postpone enforcement of it. For instance, if I am on the sidewalk and see a drunken chauffeur running his car toward me I know he has no right to come up on the sidewalk, but I would prefer to step aside and settle with him when he is sober instead of standing on my rights and leaving my widow to settle with him.

Any American citizen worthy the name, other than Bryan, would not step aside but would take summary measures to apprehend a drunken chauffeur running amuck, in order to save the lives of inhocent women and children, and men as well, jeopardized by his lawless recklessness. Bryan would wait until the mischief was done and then reason with the madman.

The New York Sun revives recollection of a speech made by Bryan in Omaha, June 14, 1898, where he appeared to have other ideas. He then said:

> Universal peace cannot come until justice is enthroned throughout the world. Jehovah deals with nations as he deals with men, and for both decrees that the wages of sin is death. Until the right has triumphed in every land and love reigns in every heart government must, as a last resort, appeal to force.
>
> As long as the oppressor is deaf to the voice of reason, so long must the citizen accustom his shoulder to the musket and his hand to the saber.

Having differing notions at different times, he's yet the same Bryan.

SAVE THE FISHERIES.

The Legislature has importunities from many sources for appropriations, and a great part of them are worthy. Yet under the barrier of the 6 per cent limitation it is impossible to meet all demands and even some demands which otherwise would and should receive favorable consideration. On that account, The Oregonian has refrained from urging the Legislature to make specific appropriations. Yet it feels justified in departing from its practice to call attention to the great importance of several fisheries bills. Some of them are:

House bill 234, by Mann—Relating to improvements at Bonneville hatchery.
House bill 208, by Beilland—Relating to improvements at Clatskanie hatchery.
House bill 199, by Lane County delegation—For Oregon City fishway, and Upper Willamette and McKenzie hatcheries.
House bill 212, by Rowe—For hatcheries in District Two and their operation.
Senate bill 135, by Handley—For work of Master Fish Warden.

What can be done to promote the fishing industry in Oregon ought to be done. The maintenance of hatcheries is indispensable, for without them there will soon be no fishing. To neglect the hatchery, then, will be ruinous.

TEACHERS IN LOCK-STEP?

Not only is efficiency of the schools menaced by the Senate bill to amend the tenure law but the welfare of the teachers is adversely involved.

The law in its practical operation would prevent transfers or dismissals. The history of hearings under the present system reveals that they virtually turn into a trial of the superintendent or one of the members of the School Board under direction of a skillful lawyer. A self-respecting superintendent cannot be expected to make himself the frequent target of the pique-inspired criticisms that invariably assail a successful man in that position.

Erection of a new authority over dismissals and transfers of teachers means that there will be no dismissals or transfers. Lower efficiency would consequently follow. With low efficiency there is slender prospect of better pay for teachers. The best teachers would be kept in lock-step with poor teachers. There would be fewer promotions because there would be fewer vacancies.

The tendency of such a law is to lower the teaching standard and to compress all teachers into the gauge of the least fit. The Oregonian speaks out of a high regard for the teacher's profession. It cannot believe that, if there is a demand by teachers for this law, it has been well considered. Surely devotion to the cause of education and pride in efficient service have greater weight with teachers as a class than license to an individual here and there to kick up a public disturbance over the judgment of the Superintendent or School Board.

DANIELS' POLICY FAILS.

The strongest condemnation of Secretary Daniels' policy of building naval vessels in Government yards, also of his general policy of having war material manufactured by the Government, is his own record in that respect. Congress authorized construction of many vessels for the Navy in the last four years, and the public was caused to nourish the fond delusion that many of these additions have actually been made. In fact, the only actual additions to the Navy during that period have been four destroyers. Ships, even of the smallest type, which were authorized as long ago as 1912, are still under construction. Our naval preparedness is still on paper or on the ways.

Mr. Daniels' policy has already failed. Congress has contributed to its failure by vetoing the efficiency system which has succeeded at private plants. The leisurely methods and official red tape of the naval bureaucrats do their part. Yet Mr. Daniels proposes to carry it farther by equipping more yards for Government construction, by having armor, projectiles and nitrates manufactured by the Government. He classes private corporations which are engaged in munition manufacture as grafters. Whenever he encounters an obstacle to getting work done by private contract on his terms, he exclaims, "Let Josephus do it!"

This policy is not peculiar to him; it is common to the entire Administration. When we need merchant ships, Secretary McAdoo wants the Government to build them. Postmaster-General Burleson wants the Government to operate telegraph and telephone lines, and gives a further illustration of the workings of bureaucracy by proposing to scrap the pneumatic mail tubes in the great cities and use thousands of automobiles in moving the mails, thus providing fat contracts for automobile manufacturers and many jobs for "deserving Democrats." Secretary Lane proposes to hold the West under perpetual landlordism and make more jobs by leasing the public land.

It is time to call a halt on this wholesale extension of bureaucratic socialism. Private enterprise is ready to build warships at a fair percentage over actual cost, and it has been demonstrated that with this percentage added the total cost is less than that of ships built at Government yards. Private enterprise has proved the ability of the country to provide merchant ships, and these ships will remain under the American flag if Congress will make it possible to operate them at the same cost as under foreign flags. Private enterprise will supply all munitions of war at a fixed percentage over cost. It gives us far more efficient telegraph and telephone service under Government regulation than any nation has under government ownership. Mr. Daniels' policy has served only one useful purpose—as a demonstration of Governmental incapacity to do these things promptly, efficiently and economically.

CURATIVE POWER OF WORK.

The therapeutic value of work is well illustrated by a series of experiments made in the past two years in the Connecticut Hospital for the Insane, and by the practical application of similar principles in other institutions for the care of those afflicted with mental disorders in more or less serious form. Recent development of the work idea in Connecticut has increased the proportion of patients who are usefully employed from 38 to 48 per cent, without compulsion. The beneficial effects upon the patients, while not capable of being stated in figures, is believed to have been even greater.

It is not strange when one considers how men of sound mind deteriorate under enforced idleness that it should be concluded that employment is a palliative, if not a cure, for many forms of so-called insanity not complicated by incapacitating physical degeneration. The public at large has been accustomed to regard the hospital for the insane as a purely custodial institution, which it is not. Its still more important function is to restore mental health and where possible to fit the patients for useful economic lives. Employment, first for the hands and then, by natural development, for the mind, is found to take first rank among the agencies employed. Occupational education develops mental power; it also has an indirect effect by takjng the patient "out of himself," by creating a new interest to take the place of the exaggerated ego that aggravates insanity. Those who are suitably employed thrive encouragingly, and there are many instances in which the process of awakening new interest has resulted in restoring mental health.

An instance officially reported in the institution to which reference is made illustrates the point. No compulsion to induce the patients to work is exercised, but there are various methods of coaxing them. Seasonable entertainments are given for those who are engaged in some form of work, and on one occasion a bazaar was held. One of the women patients who had persistently refused to do anything but sit in her cell, surprised the authorities by preventing herself for admission, offering as her ticket of admission a piece of fancywork that she had done secretly. She had caught something of the spirit, but there was a curious mental twist that had prevented her from surrendering openly until the last moment. It is of scientific value to know that her malady has shown signs of continual improvement ever since.

It is a somewhat common fancy of the unthinking that heaven is a place where no one has anything to do. As a matter of fact, a place where any appreciable number of individuals are doomed to unemployment soon develops into a condition quite the reverse of heaven. This has been shown by the penal experience of ages, and the world is getting away from it as fast as it is able to do so. Without work, preferably of the kind in which the worker can take a lively interest, any man soon decays. Old-time shipmasters believed in the adage that Satan finds mischief for idle hands to do and strained every effort to keep their sailors employed on long voyages, but they grasped only half the truth when they set them at doing and undoing the same things over and over again. Futility has no part in the scheme. But work in which progress is being made is not only a remedy for mental disturbance but a valuable preventive of mental, moral and physical decay.

DECLINE OF TURKISH POWER.

Striking figures showing the rapid decline of the power of Islam as a physical governmental force, compiled by Dr. George F. Herrick, who has labored more than half a century as a missionary in the Turkish empire, are given in a recent article in the Review of Reviews. It is not a century since Turkey, in addition to its great possessions in Asia, controlled the territory now held by all the Balkan states, including both Greece and Roumania, and held dominion over Egypt and almost all of Northern Africa, and over the islands of the Aegean Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean. Turkey was then a formidable power in Europe, and on the sea was far from negligible. But her navy was shattered at the battle of Navarino in 1827 by the united fleets of England, France and Russia, the same nations now taking the lead in an effort to complete the destruction of Turkish power on land. There are men still living who witnessed the severing of Greece from Turkey in 1832, of Roumania in 1861, Serbia in 1867, Montenegro in 1878, Egypt in 1885, Bulgaria in 1879, Bosnia in 1908, Tripoli in 1912 and Albania, Macedonia and the island in 1913. Now the same powers that once crushed the Turkish power on the water have set themselves to the task of pushing the empire over the line into Asia. No such momentous events ever have occurred to one nation in a single century.

But the question now is whether, if the entente allies are victorious, the process will stop with the exclusion of the Turkish government from Europe. Russia is reported to be making some progress in Asia Minor and the British are holding territory in the region of the Tigris—territory that will not be abandoned in the event of anything resembling complete victory. There are 90,000,000 Moslems under British rule in India and 80,000,000 more subjects of Russia, France, Holland and other non-Islamic powers. There are not more than 27,000,000 Moslem subjects of Moslem rulers, and these are in Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan. In the main the Moslems have proved loyal to their later rulers—at least, efforts to induce them to rise against these have failed. It would seem that this has been due in large measure to the greater material advancement possible under non-Moslem rule, to superior forms of justice administered and to the greater capacity for government manifested by the Christian nations. The facts justify the assertion of Lord Bryce recently that the Turks have shown utter incapacity for ruling over other peoples, even of the same religious faith as themselves.

Dr. Herrick points out that eventually a solemn duty will fall upon Americans in this connection. He would not stay the trend away from physical government by Turkey over others, but he pleads for sympathy for those Turks who are striving at the same time to raise their own people. He says that, contrary to popular belief, there are many of these, and he cites instances. They are at the parting of the ways. Their government and their religion both have failed them. He believes the time will soon be ripe for extending them a practical helping hand. This will not take the form of food ships and industrial investments, but of sympathy and understanding. Through this, it is predicted, will come in the next century an even greater regeneration of the Turk than there has been destruction of his temporal power in the last 100 years. It indicates that a large share of the work of the missionaries in the near future will be concentrated in the dwelling places of the Turk, under whatever rule the map makers after the present war may leave him.

The success of a subterfuge in the introduction of a new and important food supply is shown by Secretary Redfield's report that packers of the newly renamed grayfish are already unable to meet more than one-tenth of the demand for the product, and that the Department of Commerce is being flooded with requests for detailed information, coming from points from Maine to Oregon. Experiments have shown that the fish is entirely free from uric acid, and the value of a little hocuspocus in matters of this kind is indicated by the statement that while the presence of this substance in small quantities in all meats, in other fishes and in all poultry has not the faintest significance from the standpoint of public health, the fact nevertheless has had a practical effect in reassuring many prospective consumers who always hesitate to try new things, however low priced and nutritious they may be. Investigations along the line of finding uses for the by-products of the grayfish cannery also promise to have an important bearing upon the economic future of the fish.

There should be no difficulty about enacting the bill placing all postmasters under civil service rules, provided both parties play fair. The most valid criticism of the practice followed by former Presidents, of covering a host of offices into the classified service, has been that it gave permanent tenure to partisan appointees. On this plea Postmaster-General Burleson subjected incumbents of fourth-class postoffices to examination in competition with other candidates, but impartiality demanded that, if they passed creditably, they should be retained. Instead, he picked one of the three highest and, if there was a Democrat among them, picked him, though the incumbent was among the three. Though he had some ground for charging that former Presidents had used the civil service law to keep Republicans in, he used it to turn them out and to put Democrats in.

The best thing done in a long time is the order made to bar small boys from the boxing matches. Not that it is not a good idea to keep them interested, for the boy who is "handy with his mitts" is the lad who gets along; but they are out of place at events for men. In a few years their time will come and they must be content until then. Exception might be made, however, in the case of a boy who accompanies his father. Sporting blood is "good stuff" to develop in the family.

The fatalities attending the fire in the second-class hotel at Minneapolis show the danger that is always present in that kind of hostelry; but all cannot pay a high price and many must take the chance. One thing can be done, however, and that is to provide enough fire escapes to save guests.

Germany tells of the "kills" made by submarines, but John Bull only smiles and says nothing about the number of U-boats he has killed or captured. What's the old boy's game? Has he caught any of them or does he enjoy keeping Germany worrying and guessing?

If the United States can impress the world with the idea that we have new devices for destroying all the new weapons that can be used against us, they may be afraid to fight us. In that class would fall Admiral Fiske's airplane torpedo.

Those optimistic Hood River fellows are counting on this year's apple crop. Hood River is one place where one can count the chickens before they are hatched and tally even.

A man at San Jose says he has a device that will locate the presence of gold. That's nothing. In Portland a man can stand on any business corner and point to hoards of it.

If the Government should dig that canal into Humboldt Bay to salve the Milwaukee, the waterway might be maintained as a valuable permanent addition to the harbor.

People who recollect that a ship was brought overland into deep water down at the Columbia's mouth wonder why the cruiser Milwaukee cannot be saved.

The road over Siskiyou Mountain will be negotiable in a month and every day in the week will be as good as Sunday for a few hours' joyride.

The raise of 1 cent an hour in carmen's pay is not big, but it means a bit of money figured by the year.

Local Socialists are opposed to war with Germany. The Socialist idea of fighting is with the vocal organ.

No woman is too old to experience pleasure on receipt of a valentine. Today is the time for mailing.

Get your throat in condition to make a noise when the returning troops are on parade.

That little girl who persists in running away needs an old-fashioned spanking.

Edison is 70 and still at work. Yet a lot of fellows just above 45 are in a worry.

Great Britain is spending nearly $30,000,000 a day and is not wasting a penny.

A dead gunman is a joy forever to the rival tong.

Gleams Through the Mist

By Dean Collins.

A VALENTINE.

Babykin, Babykin, with big, bright eyes,
Elfish and impish and soft and pink;
Hither and listen, who art so wise,
While I tell you the thoughts that I think, think, think.

There is a wind that whistled through the street,
A tiny wind, a tricky wind, and mirthfully it blew,
Touselling the petals of the daisies at my feet;
A gusty soul of joyousness—a soul like you.

There was a sunbeam that flickered on the river,
A wrinkly beam, a twinkly beam of dancing gold on blue,
That flashed upon the willows where the white leaves quiver;
A soul of light and lightsomeness—a soul like you.

There was a baby faun that skipped among the reeds,
Piping on a tiny flute, and merrily it blew,
Till all the world about it danced, as light as thistle seeds,
A soul of heedless happiness—a soul like you.

And once there was a kitty-cat with soft, soft fur
That purred and burrowed at my neck, as baby kittens do;
I held her gently in my arms and liked to hear her purr,
A cutey, cuddly, kitteny thing, so soft—like you.

And all the things in all the world that seem so soft and bright,
Like the wind and the sunbeam and the kitty that I knew,
It seems to me, the while I make this little song tonight,
Are round me to remind me, O, so prettily, of you.

So elfish, impish Babykin, who listens unto this,
Let's make a little bargain 'twixt your little heart and mine,
And witness it and seal it with a sticky baby kiss,
That each of us to each of us will be a Valentine.

* * *

"Sir," said the Courteous Office Boy, dashing breathlessly into the sanctum, "have the bards begun to twitter yet in the Spring saengerfest?"

"No yet," I said, "but soon."

"The geese are flying North," said the C. O. B., bitterly, and, it seemed to me, irrelevantly.

"But before they begin to twitter, I would twit you further about the season myself, if I have your permission."

"You have," I said, "but you must understand before you sing a note that I do not recognize you as a Bard."

"Barred, so to speak," retorted the C. O. B., and before I could take further measures for self-protection, he tuned up his Adam's apple and began a continuation of his campaign of frightfulness which he had launched Sunday.

Spring Pome Continued.

I went outdoors last night, and tried
In vain to get once more inside;
I beat the door
With roar on roar,
But could not bore
Inside once more.
What made the door to do this thing?
Correct you are! It was

THE SPRING.

I strove last night to sleep, in vain;
My dreams were of unease and pain;
Wires gouged my back,
All blue and black,
As on a rack
Or in a sack.
What made my mattress do this thing?
There's just one answer, sir—

THE SPRING.

A friend of mine gave me, last night,
A big, plump, trick cigar to light;
I lit it, too,
The tip burned through,
And, pouf! Hurroo!
The ashes flew.
I sought to learn about this thing,
And found the cause—it was

THE SPRING.

(Note—At this juncture we muzzled the C. O. B. to prevent him from overexerting himself, but from the way he burbled inside the gag, we have a hunch that he has some more of the same dope in his system.)

* * *

BARDS' SPRING TWITTER.

As announced last week, we have thrown open these colyums to all potes who feel that they must write Spring pomes.

By this unselfish act we feel that we are offering the potes a means of getting it off their chests, and at the same time are in a position to hold the mania within sufficient bounds to prevent it from becoming as frightful as it does ordinarily.

Our only instructions to Spring Potes who come to our Twitter are:

1. Make 'em short.
2. The shorter the better.

Whereupon arises D. H. B., who sang in the late Saengerfest which we are not permitted to mention any more, and he wreaths daffodils in his hair and cuts him a willow whistle and opens the Spring Twitter as follows:

Spring Song.

Tra-la, tra-la, tra-la, tra-la,
The birds act silly,
And frisks the filly,
Tra-la, tra-la, tra-la, tra-la.
I hear the notes
Of the bleating goats;
So I rise, I rise, and I lift my eyes
To Sing of the Spring and to get the prize,
For it would be hard
To find a bard
Whom you would think fitter
For this Spring Twitter.
Tra-la, tra-la, tra-la, tra-la,
The sap is running,
And men go gunning.
(Tra-la, tra-la, tra-la, tra-la.)
Gunning for what?
I can tell you not.
But I toot my flute and I whoop and sing,
Like a blooming birdie: "'Tis Spring! 'Tis Spring!"
Where Spring potes are,
Let me be the star,
With the brightest glitter
In this Spring Twitter.

(Note—D. H. B. has five other stanzas in his pome, but, in accordance with the rules enunciated above, we have made it short, and the other three stanzas are probably on their way to the pulp mill by now.)

Who's the next?

February 17.

PORTLAND, Feb. 11.—(To the Editor.)—In order to settle an argument, what date did Ash Wednesday fall on in the year 1864? REGULAR PATRON.

DESERVING OF GREATER RENOWN

Popular Knowledge of Oregon's Great Senator and Soldier Lacking.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 10.—(To the Editor.)—Mr. Beck's letter and your editorial of this date embolden me to add something to the Senator Baker discussion. When a schoolboy, shortly after the Civil War, my attention was called to the great speech made by Senator Baker, August 1, 1861. The fact that Baker was a friend of President Lincoln and was chosen to introduce him at the time of the first inaugural, that upon the day of the speech he was dressed in uniform, booted and spurred as he came from the field of military operations, his bold denunciation of those Southern Senators that still retained their seats in our Congress, his zeal for the Union cause, and his tragic death so soon afterwards at Ball's Bluff, all this greatly impressed my youthful fancy. I thought his speech not only the most dramatic but one of the most serviceable to the North that occurred in Congress during that wonderful period. In fact, much reading since has not greatly changed that early impression.

Since I came to Oregon to live I have been surprised that so little was popularly known here of Baker. Perhaps if the old practice of public declamation still obtained, our young people might know more of him. With a view of trying to keep green the memory of this brave and patriotic Oregonian, I wrote the following lines, once on a time:

EDWARD DICKINSON BAKER.

O Oregon, dost thou forget—
No longer vaunt his name
Nor treasure up his fame
Nor stir as long ago,
When first the word came slow
But sent hot blood to cheek
And made the full heart speak?

With highest honors him we crowned
And peer he sat with men renowned,
In counsel wise, in effort free,
And who so eloquent as he?
But with his country's flag assailed
His pleasure in debate had failed.
Forth from the Senate then he drew,
Brave, eager, in our Federal blue.

I may not tell those days of woe,
Of foes alert and friends so slow,
Of doubt and treachery everywhere,
Our good great Lincoln near despair!
I only name one fatal day
When treason dared its boldest play.
For untrained zeal its work had done
And shattered ranks proclaimed Bull Run.
Our Senate rang with traitorous boast
Of those who praised the rebel host,
And urged acceptance of demands
That made our sections separate lands.
Aghast men heard and held their breath,
It seemed the Nation faced its death.

Then, suddenly, as soldier clad
He stood, our man, our Galahad.
No glittering armor dazed the sight,
But flamed he with indignant right.
"What here, from very Senate seat,
Men glory over our defeat?
And here propose a craven peace
That agony of war may cease?
Why, in the Senate of great Rome,
When liberty had there her home,
Who there had made such words his own,
Had from Tarpeian rock been thrown."
And so he spoke and traitors feared,
He spoke and patriot hearts were cheered.

Then turned he where death's arrows speed,
Like Warren and like Winkelreid,
To prove that in earth's endless fight
No life outweighs the cause of right.

O, Oregon, dost thou forget?
Thy mountains, that so well he knew,
Still thrust themselves to cloudless blue;
Thy river, uncontrolled and wide,
Sweeps ever to a greater tide;
And that vast flood the river meets,
Whether in smiling calm it greets
Each lesser flood and babbling brook,
Or thundering tears at Tillamook,
Yet calls us, eagerly and ever,
To daring and to high endeavor,
And to the dauntless liberty
Of the wide, unconquered sea.

SEWARD D. ALLEN.

QUERIES IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

Blockader May Sink Neutral Ship Under Certain Conditions.

CORNELIUS, Or., Feb. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Under the heading "Why We Protest," E. M. Clark asks some rather pertinent questions, and it is in regard to your answers that I am writing this.

You make the following statement: "America is not interfering with Germany's treatment of England or with Britain's treatment of Germany, but is protesting Germany's treatment of America. The seas are the common property of all."

If such is the case, please answer the following: Why, in case the seas are the common property of all, does not America insist upon sending cargo ships to Germany? Why is it so necessary to break the German blockade and not the English? Suppose two cargoes of wheat were started from New York, one for Hamburg and one for Liverpool, the one for Hamburg being taken into a British port and the cargo confiscated, while the one for Liverpool was sunk, both acts being committed on the high seas. Which is the worst offense? Suppose there was loss of life on the ship designed for England. Suppose further that the master of the other ship insisted upon going to Hamburg, do you doubt that that ship would be fired upon with consequent loss of life?

In case Germany is "interfering with American rights," why is it that if you were to write a letter to a friend in Norway for instance, the English would be allowed to take this letter from off the "high seas" and do as they please with it? Is this interfering with American rights or not? Isn't tampering with United States mail on the open sea one of the much-discussed "overt acts"? You state that Germany is attempting to make rules for the world, and that it is as unwarrantable as interfering with the internal affairs of neutrals. Very good, but is England interfering with the affairs of neutrals, us included, or not? How about their telling the Hollanders to whom they shall sell their provisions, and even what they shall get for them?

L. LONG.

While the seas are the common property of all, all have assented to certain regulations affecting treatment of neutrals, known as international law. Under international law we would have no ground for protest if an American ship attempting to enter Hamburg refused to heave to upon demand of a British warship and was thereupon fired upon or sunk. Instances have gone unquestioned in which American lives have been endangered by fire of German submarines when the vessel was attempting to escape a summons from the submarine to stop.

The new German policy gives no warning; it provides for no inquiry as to destination, character of cargo or nationality of ship. It is sink on sight if you appear in certain waters of broad area. Crews and passengers may escape as best they may, if not killed by gunfire or the explosion of a torpedo.

All of which is contrary to international law, to freedom of the seas, and to humane obligations.

We shall probably claim and receive indemnity for violation of property rights by any belligerent. Loss of property may be compensated. Lives cannot.

Cost of Philippines.

KELLOGG, Idaho, Feb. 10.—(To the Editor.)—How much did the United States pay Spain for the Philippine Islands? The encyclopedia says that the friars' lands were bought for $7,000,000. Was this money or more paid to the Spanish government?

AUGUST MEINEKE.

The United States paid Spain $20,000,000 for the Philippines. The $7,000,000 paid for friar lands was a separate transaction with the Dominican, Augustinian and Recoleto orders negotiated with Pope Leo XIII.

In Other Days

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of Feb. 13, 1892.

Chicago, Feb. 12.—The Marquette Club celebrated the birthday of Abraham Lincoln with a banquet at the Auditorium Hotel tonight, at which covers were laid for over 500 persons.

Guthrie, O. T., Feb. 12.—Boomers to the number of 20,000 are making arrangements to move to the Cherokee strip March 22, unless Congress takes action toward opening it before then.

French's Park Theater will reopen next Tuesday evening with that interesting play, "Captain Swift." Arthur Forrest is the star, and he is supported by a strong company.

Everybody who has read the poetry or novels of Sir Walter Scott has seen the throstle or mavis frequently mentioned in them. A number of these birds were among those imported here from Germany. Last year they made nests and reared young in the large trees at Ninth and Main streets.

New York, Feb. 12.—The typhus scourge, upon which the Board of Health stumbled yesterday, is increasing hour by hour. No man can tell its extent at this writing.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of Feb. 13, 1866.

A private letter from Professor Agassiz, the famous scientist, to a friend in San Francisco states he will probably come West early next Spring for the purpose of visiting the Yosemite Valley and other natural curiosities of the Pacific Coast.

The town of Lewiston, in Idaho Territory, has been incorporated as a city. A Mayor, four Councilmen, a Recorder, a Treasurer and a Marshal are to be elected in March.

Several flags were at topmast yesterday in this city in honor of the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

We notice that several persons on Front street, toward the upper end of town, are setting shade trees along the borders of the sidewalks. More attention ought to be paid to this item of ornamentation in every part of the city.

See advertisement of Smith's Fish Market. He has just received the first smelt of the season.

"TOBACCO IS A FILTHY WEED"

Grown Men Ought to Taboo It for Sake of Boys, Says Writer.

PROSSER, Wash., Feb. 10.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian Saturday Vic Hammer says he cannot understand the reason for so much prejudice against the cigarette. If Mr. Hammer will get the text book on physiology and hygiene used in our public schools and read the chapter on tobacco and narcotics he will find ample reasons for tabooing the cigarette from civilization. But if he should still lack conviction let him read what David Starr Jordan, of Leland Stanford University, said to the tobacco users and especially to the cigarette smokers. On going home at the close of school last June they were requested to give up this harmful habit or not return to school, as education and the reputation of a great university are of too serious concern to be endangered by so harmful and useless a habit.

Henry Ford made a statement condemning cigarette smoking which the American Tobacco Company asked him either to prove or take back. Mr. Ford replied by publishing a 70-page pamphlet, giving scientific, sanitary, economic and other kinds of proof, which ought to satisfy the tobacco company, and would if it were not for the huge profits it makes. It seems very unfortunate that the Indians taught the white man this use of the weed.

No athletic manager will allow a member of his team to smoke. Our boys need worthy and wholesome examples. Why can't we "full-grown men" voluntarily taboo this habit for the sake of the boys?

GEORGE R. MOORHEAD.

THE U. S. LIMITED.

The U. S. Limited now rides a wet rail,
The grade's uphill and the roadbed's frail,
The headlight's out, no tail lights behind,
The hoghead's bewildered—con's going it blind.

Past the station of Safety with a grinding scream,
The semaphore's set, but its red's unseen;
So through Destiny's night with smothered roar,
Moves the U. S. Limited, forevermore.

In coaches luxurious, with blinds pulled down,
Ride full-fare passengers—on deadheads we frown;
Unconscious of danger, where hell's minions roam,
We're aboard the Limited, to abide till we're home.

The fuel tank's full and there's plenty of sand,
But we're looking above for a Guiding Hand;
With his touch on the throttle and a full head of steam,
Let war's rumors rumble, and its lightnings gleam.

Is track blockaded? Shall we hit an open switch?
Will some head-on collision pile our train in the ditch?
Will some deluge of Fate wash our roadbed away,
And a mass of tangled wreckage greet the light of day?

Watchman, what of the night? Is it war or play?
Good old Union, we're with you for aye,
Come weal or come woe, we're true to the core,
On the U. S. Limited, forevermore.

OLAF OSWALD.

A TOUCHING TALE OF WOE.

There are many sad faces in Portland today, there are many now mourning who erstwhile were gay, there are many who into the future now peer, their erstwhile high spirits knocked plumb out o' gear. The law making Oregon dry as a bone, without an oasis, a bibulous zone, has felt the imprint of the Governor's quill that left his illustrious name on the bill. He felt not a jolt to his conscience as he attached his proud name to the cruel decree, and not a regret was housed under his lid as he threw down the pen and exclaimed: "It is did!" He gave not a thought to the sufferers who were robbed of the product of still and of brew, who'd tramp through the city or loaf 'round the house bereft of the makin's to build up a souse; who'd hurl maledictions 'twould paint the air red at his unfeeling gubernatorial head, and swear by the witch that airplaned on a broom he'd officially dug his political tomb. But great as their torture of soul now may be a greater awaits them when sorrowfully they drain the last drop from the package they got ere the cruel law hit them a soul-crushing swat; entomb the last gulp from the juice of the grains till naught but the breath of the bottle remains, and oft they may sniff at the fragrance of rye till the bottles, like Oregon, all are bone dry. Diplomatic relations with Germany they in their dry throttle state and their painful dismay will hold as a movement less seriously than severing relations with Barleycorn, see?

JAMES BARTON ADAMS.