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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21, 1917.

ONE VOICE FROM THE COUNTRY.

The Corvallis Gazette-Times offers a view of the road-bonding bill which The Oregonian deems it worth while to reproduce here fully, inasmuch as it is a fair attempt of an upstate voice to do justice to the motives of Portland and Multnomah County:

The Government has offered the state of Oregon a considerable sum for roads, providing we will duplicate it.

Nearly every citizen in the state thinks an effort should be made to avail ourselves of the fund.

Now comes a proposition to increase the auto tax and issue bonds for additional development.

The proposition comes from Portland, and many otherwise worthy and sane Legislators immediately become antagonistic, on the theory that they ought to oppose anything Portland wants.

The bill even goes so far as to provide that none of the money shall be spent in Multnomah County.

Inasmuch as Multnomah County, counting its auto tax and all, would have to stand nearly half the expenditure, the proposition resolves itself into exactly the same proposal made by the Government, viz. Multnomah County proposes to put up a large sum for good roads in the other parts of the state providing the other parts of the state duplicate the amount.

The Government's proposition is hailed throughout the state with joy and feasting and celebration.

The same proposition coming from Portland is viewed by certain souls too small for their position as legislators with distrust and alarm.

It's a queer world.

The Legislature in the end was quite thoroughly convinced that the project could not, in justice to the welfare of the state, be rejected.

Reference to the people and provision for a special election at the earliest practicable time, so that advantage may be taken of the beneficent purposes of the measure, is in itself a recommendation for the bonds and an indorsement of the comprehensive plan for construction of paved highways, post roads and forest reserve roads throughout the state.

The biggest idea in the measure is the declaration of policy for the building of designated roads. It means that the state has a definite objective and has abandoned the old ways of confusion, waste and inefficiency. It is high time.

SWINDLERS GET THEIR DESERTS.

In the conviction and sentence of the men who conducted the Northwest Trading Company one of the worst gangs of swindlers which ever infested the Northwest has received its deserts. On the pretext that they would buy merchandise direct from the manufacturer for cash and sell only for cash and would thereby make large profits with small risk, they induced thousands of farmers to buy stock in the company. The fact is that their main purpose was to sell stock and to pay themselves large commissions on its sale, for they bought little from manufacturers. They bought from jobbers on time, like any retail merchant, and soon loaded the company with debt. They played the old game of the get-rich-quick man to get money for nothing by fraud, and if Judge Van Fleet erred at all in sentencing them, he erred on the side of leniency.

Every important statement made by Gale Smith and his confederates has been proved to be false. They promised to do a cash business, but they bought on credit. They represented that the company made a profit when in fact it lost money all the time, and on this false pretense they raised the price of shares by degrees from $20 to $75. They promised not to receive any money from the company beyond salary as officers, but they received large sums as commissions on sales of stock. They professed to have employed an independent agency to make collections, when in truth they organized their own collection agency and through it threatened suit against stockholders who became delinquent.

The officers of the Grange and Farmers' Union cannot escape a share of the blame for the fraud which was perpetrated by this gang of swindlers on their members. These officers helped the game by announcing that they had investigated the company and had found it sound and good, though it was unsound from the first. Whether they knew the truth or not, they are unfit leaders. If they knew it, they deceived their constituents deliberately; if they did not know it, their investigation was a sham or they were incompetent to form a judgment on the facts.

Success for a time of this gang in victimizing citizens of Oregon and Washington under the noses of the state corporation commissioners and in defiance of the laws should be a spur to these officials to exercise unceasing vigilance against fraudulent stock-selling. After promoters have presented a fair-seeming project which justifies a license to sell stock, watch should be kept upon them to see that they live up to their promises and that their statements made at the outset continue to be true. Every dollar sunk in such wildcat companies is a dollar diverted from legitimate investment, and every person thus victimized is filled with suspicion which injures the good name of the Pacific Northwest. There is plenty of honest work for the people's savings in developing the country; the results of thrift should not be permitted to flow into the pockets of the Wallingfords.

Bee-keeping in Russia involves a curious interweaving of the religious and the industrial life of the empire, and, because of war conditions, it has been indirectly subsidized by the government. With the nation's boundaries closed, it has been discovered that there is need for 5,000,000 modern hives, and carpenters are to be provided with suitable dry woods at the cost of cutting in the state forests, workshops are to receive bonuses for making hives and permanent employment is to be given to a suitable number of wounded soldiers who are still able to handle the necessary tools. The condition precedent is that all the wax shall be sold to church candle factories, the number of candles used annually by devout Russians being enormous. For this reason, the Government also is preparing to purchase swarms of bees, as they swarm, and transfer them to districts where agriculture has not yet been placed on a sound footing, and instructors are to be assigned to teach modern methods of bee-raising throughout the empire.

MORE ABOLISHMENT.

Somebody up in Benton County wants to abolish the Legislature. It appears that the ninety men at Salem were slow in responding to the demand for an appropriation to develop lime deposits for the benefit of the farmers, and the resentment among them is said to be so great that they are going to do away with the legislative machinery devised by the state constitution and every other state constitution. You can always depend on somebody in Oregon to start something new, or something that he thinks is new, but isn't.

If the Legislature is a failure, popular government is a failure. If the men elected to represent the people do not represent them, then something is the matter with the direct primary.

We wonder whether a state commission of ten or twenty would give us better government and save the taxpayers' money. The complaint from Benton is of course that the Legislature hesitated—merely hesitated—to expend money for a particular purpose. Since when has reluctance to relieve the public treasury of any of its funds been a crime in Oregon?

The little flurry at Corvallis will blow over, we suppose. But we are indifferent about it. If they abolish the Legislature of ninety, elected from all parts of Oregon, and set up a commission or board of control, it will be because the people want government centralized and not localized.

A START WITH $1,777,000.

Commissioner Daly lets the public know that he will submit at the June election his long-expected proposal for the city to go into the electric light and power business. The modest sum of $1,777,000 is asked at the outset, so that the municipality may embark upon its new and doubtful undertaking. The $1,777,000 is to be obtained through the sale of bonds. It is all quite easy and simple. Let Mr. Daly have the money, and elect him Mayor, and he will do the rest.

Doubtless we shall hear a lot during the campaign about the great service for the people performed in Seattle and Tacoma by their municipally owned light and power plants. These ambitious cities have for several years been competing with privately owned concerns. The capital investment so far made in Seattle has been $3,852,000, and the lighting department is now on record asking for $3,450,000 more for new power and steam plants. The grand total capital investment (raised by bonds) for Seattle in its light and power utility will thus be advanced from $3,852,000 to $7,302,000—quite a tidy sum. But it does not stagger Seattle, which is wholly in the hands of the local Dalys, whose names are Erickson and Hesketh.

We shall start in Portland—if Commissioner Daly has his way—with $1,777,000, just as Seattle started a decade ago, more or less, with a similar sum, or less, as we recall. We shall have to go a little fast to catch up with Seattle. But leave it to Daly.

FUNSTON.

Funston died young—too young, for 51 years is far from old in a man of his activity. More than a score of years should have added their brilliance to his career.

It is using a hackneyed phrase to call him "a typical American," yet that is just what he was. He failed to pass examination for West Point in youth, but was not deterred. He made good in one way and another in early manhood, always with achievement of military ambition in view. The last Cuban insurrection was his opportunity and the Spanish War its realization. As Colonel of the Twentieth Kansas he began to figure in military activity of the Nation and his rise was rapid. His course at the time of the San Francisco quake showed him in possession of the quality that commands large organizations. The Nation kept him at it to the end.

Funston was brave and fearless. This is said of all soldiers; but Funston had the advantage of being Kansan born, something not to be overlooked, for the Kansan alights on both feet and stands solid. He was not a big man—about 5 feet 5—which helped a lot, as he was not obliged to carry dead weight. Napoleon was that way, and so were thousands who have made history from the time of David.

All Kansas mourns him, and the Nation will do him honor. But the greatest testimonial is in the loss felt by every man who has served under him.

DEFERRED ROMANCES.

It is commonly supposed that when a man and a woman reach the point of going to the proper county official and obtaining a marriage license a wedding follows as a matter of course, but recent painstaking investigations of the records of a town in New York show that this is not the case. It is as a matter of fact not unusual for the romantically inclined to repent of their decisions between the time of obtaining the license and the visit to the preacher. In the town in which the investigation was made there were thirty-one such instances, in a total of 900 licenses issued, from which the amateur sociologist may be able to draw almost any conclusions he wishes.

For example, more than half of those whose nether extremities became chilled in advance of the ceremony were born in countries other than the United States. This may be regarded as supporting the theory that marriage is viewed more seriously in foreign countries, and that the couples, although at first imbued with the spirit of haste that permeates all things American, were overcome later by the traditions of their native land and decided to ponder longer before taking the step. It also was significant that a large proportion of those who obtained licenses but never were married confessed, according to the records, to having previously ventured upon the matrimonial sea. There is an old adage that "the burnt child dreads the fire" that would seem to apply somehow, but it is not clear why these should venture so near to the blaze before drawing back. One is entitled also to make his own deductions from the circumstance that there were several widows on the list and only one widower. Data are lacking in these instances as to which of the parties to the venture was responsible for its failure, and at least one of the possible inferences would be highly ungallant.

Half a dozen cases were investigated by personal interviews with one or both parties to the incompleted transaction. The first inquiry revealed a highly unromantic state of affairs. The young man in the case was arrested for stealing a bicycle and was in jail on the day set for the wedding. The bride-to-be asseverated that she would wait years, if necessary, but she did not. It is always a woman's privilege to change her mind. She was married to another man within three months. One or the other of them played in luck, but it is beyond the province of a mere census taker to say which. In the second case, the proposal of marriage and its acceptance were both practical jokes, and the couple had a return of sanity before they could find a minister. Both undoubtedly were fortunate. In the third, the couple simply changed their minds, but three years later, the records show, they obtained a license and were married. If they do not live happily ever after a good many people will miss their guess. In the fourth case a couple had decided that two could live as cheaply as one, but a cold-blooded statistician pointed out their mistake in time and they released one another for admittedly financial reasons. The others said they "simply changed their minds." Information as to the length of their courtship, which is lacking, would be necessary to make any conclusion worth while.

The total number of those who obtained licenses and did not marry was more than 3 per cent of the total number of licenses issued. One need not be a fatalist to believe that it was all for the best. A not inconsiderable amount of work has been saved to the divorce courts later on, provided these couples profit by their experience, and at any rate the proper time to change one's mind is before the wedding ceremony, whether the license has been obtained or not.

DAIRY COWS WORTH LESS?

The annual report of the Agricultural Department for 1916 shows that Oregon is making a satisfactory advance in the number of milch cows in the state. This number was placed at 196,000 by the report of January 1, 1914; at 210,000 by the 1915 report, at 216,000 by the 1916 report, and at 222,000 by the report just issued. The increase is 26,000 head over 1914, and is satisfactory. It is about the same ratio as that of the country at large, which was an increase of 2,031,000 in the four-year period mentioned.

But as to value of animals there is a surprising and unaccountable falling off. The price per animal in 1914 is placed at $65, in 1915 at $63.50, in 1916 at $55, and in 1917, $55. It is hard to believe that the price of cows stood still during the last two years, and still harder to believe that milch cows in the state are worth $10 a head less now than they were three years ago. The solution of this problem is still more difficult when it is noticed that in the country as a whole in the same period there has been an increase of nearly $6 a head.

While making a pretty good showing, Oregon cuts a rather insignificant figure in the dairy business of the country. It will take a number of years, possibly more than a decade or two, for Oregon to take the rank its soil and climatic conditions entitle it to hold in the dairy business of the world. The great trouble is that Oregon got a late start in raising proper food for milk production. Farmers now know that as food for milk production there is nothing grown to compare with corn, when everything is considered. It is less than a decade ago that they began to learn the primary principles of corn-growing.

It has been proved in the last three years that Oregon is peculiarly well adapted to corn-growing, and dairymen are rapidly enlarging the corn area, silos are going up on every hand, and in every way there is a commendable increase in the interest taken on all sides for larger areas of corn to be planted, for better methods of cultivation, but, above all, for better seed selection and better methods of handling.

COMPULSION AND DEMOCRACY.

In order that the opposition to compulsory military service may lose the force of its appeal to public opinion, it is necessary to discover the basis of fact for its argument and, if possible, so to adjust the system that it will be overcome. It is charged that compulsory service tends to make the military power supreme over the civil power, to produce a military oligarchy among the commanding officers of the army and navy, to turn the mind of a nation to military aggression and to make the army an instrument by which the military oligarchy prevents increase of popular power. If these statements were true of all countries which have adopted compulsory service, they might well give this Nation pause before following their example.

That they are not true of all countries which practice compulsion is proved by several examples. Switzerland is the most striking evidence to the contrary. All men must be trained and bear arms, and all are enrolled for national defense, but the Swiss have the most democratic republic on earth, they have no military class and they attempt no aggression. A similar system prevails in Sweden and Norway and, if preparedness for war creates an appetite for war, it might have been expected to show itself when those two countries separated, Norway choosing a king of its own. But neither attempted to win by force, they settled their differences amicably and they remain as democratic as ever, being monarchies in form but republics in fact.

The same statement is true of Denmark and Holland. Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have adopted compulsory training for national defense, but they are as free democracies as any republic and, when they came to the aid of the mother country, they raised armies by voluntary enlistment. Australia having recently rejected conscription for foreign service by referendum. France was more fully prepared for the present war than any other country except the central empires, but France keeps the army subordinate to the civil power, and it is the most shining example of a nation which prevents formation of a military class by promoting social equality between officers and privates. Italy, too, remains a limited monarchy—a practical democracy—under conscription.

The nations which have used compulsory service as means of aggression or of suppressing popular liberty, which have set military above civil power, are the more or less despotic nations of Germany, Austria, Russia and Turkey. They have used for these purposes the same means which the freer nations mentioned have used to maintain liberty and independence. They form a military class of army officers, restricting it to the aristocracy and the wealthy and drawing the line sharply against the enlisted men, but so did Great Britain until the present war, though that country was only driven to conscription by this titanic struggle. Even now men of the new British army receive only temporary commissions, officers of the old army hoping to restore their caste when peace returns. The United States has adopted from Great Britain the rule of making officers a caste distinct from enlisted men, though we still adhere to the voluntary system.

Experience of other nations, therefore, proves that there is no necessary conflict between compulsory service and the maintenance of a democratic form of government in which the military is subordinate to the civil arm, that conscription may be used purely for defense in a democracy as well as for aggression under a despotism, and that military caste may exist under the voluntary as well as under the compulsory system.

The compulsory system can be made thoroughly democratic in this country if we wipe out the social division between officers and men, which is a British importation. France has proved by experience that it is not essential to discipline, as its defenders pretend. It is undemocratic and is consistent with the principle of promotion by merit which has been adopted by this Nation. If every man, without regard to his social or financial status in civil life, were required to serve as a soldier, its absurdity would be proved, for men would hold higher or lower rank regardless of these considerations and the social distinction would prove artificial. It is repugnant to the instinctive democracy of the American citizen, and has been a hindrance to enlistment of desirable men in the regular Army. The rational and genuinely American way is to require that, when officer and private meet off duty, they shall meet as citizens and therefore as equals, and that an officer may associate on equal terms with a private whom he finds congenial without fear of lowering his dignity or of impairing discipline. Were this custom to prevail, those who aspire to be members of an aristocracy would receive needed reminders that this Nation is a democracy, while the animosities which their pretensions arouse in others would be cooled.

Universal service would also be a valuable practical lesson to naturalized citizens in the patriotic duty which they owe to their adopted country. By making comrades in the service of a new country men who have been enemies in their respective old countries it would hasten that process of amalgamation which this war has proved necessary and would kill the venom of disloyalty. It would put fire under the melting pot.

The late William De Morgan, who wrote his first novel at 66, has been outdone by another distinguished English artist and member of the Royal Academy, Sir William B. Richmond, who at the age of 75 has just published the first work of his pen. Like the novels of De Morgan, "The Silver Chain," by Richmond, is of ambitious length—400 pages—and deals with life as the writer has seen it. That the author was moved by no thought that he might be called away before he completed his task is shown by the great pains he took to perfect even the mechanical details, for he rewrote the work once in its entirety and afterward went over it painstakingly several times and corrected the manuscript with vari-colored inks. Critics say that the novel, while biographical in character, is marked with an element of belles-lettres, and that its dialogue is brilliant and its descriptive passages vivid and highly finished. It is another demonstration that a man is never too old to accomplish something until he thinks he is.

One of the most regrettable consequences of war with Germany and her allies would be that the work of relief which Americans are doing for Armenians and Syrians would have to stop. By massacring three-fourths of the Armenians, the Turks have cut down the food supply of their Asiatic territory and have produced general famine, seizing what little food remains to feed the army. If war should come, not only would the miserable survivors be left to their fate but the Americans who have been relieving them might suffer Turkish vengeance.

Through being the main source of coal supply for allies and neutrals, Great Britain has the whip hand. Italy must be good or it cannot get coal for its railroads. Norway must not supply raw material for ammunition to Germany under the same penalty. The necessities make everything possible a subject of barter between governments.

The bodies of the cowboys captured and murdered recently by Mexicans show signs of torture as well as mutilation. Such is reasonably to be expected, but the United States is a Christian Nation and its citizens cannot retaliate.

The weather man was very careless in permitting a deficiency of rainfall just when the state has gone bone dry. What are we to do for a drink if the state becomes a Sahara?

Oil resources are said to be 45 per cent exhausted and suggestion is made to search for new fields. The searchers must not overlook the Malheur country.

When the news of the riot of "starving" women in New York is printed in Europe, the common people will wonder how America got into the war.

Why does Germany delay the departure of Americans? Is it through love of them or as hostages for keeping of the peace by the United States?

Contenders in labor troubles overlook a patent fact, that a strike not settled within three days is as good as lost. It figures out that way.

By refusing to recognize the revolutionary government of Costa Rica, the President lives up to the declaration which he made at Mobile.

All the talk about Billy Sunday's pay is off the point. Those who want him here will pay him and it is the business of nobody else.

Washington, in a few months, will have the comfort of being as "dry" as Oregon.

If young Bob only would "hit him in the slats," old Bob might be happy.

Snow storms will have ceased ere the ball season opens.

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 stamped addressed envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Requests for such services cannot be answered. (Copyright, 1916, by Dr. W. A. Evans. Published by arrangement with the Chicago Tribune.)

CLARIFYING MILK.

A certain correspondent writes me from time to time advocating clarifying milk as a means for securing clean, wholesome milk. I have never been much interested because I have never thought the process of clarifying was a health measure of any consequence, though I could easily see its advantage from the commercial standpoint.

Some of our country-raised citizens occasionally wonder where is the milk of yester year. What has become of that few teasponfuls of dirt and milk in the bottom of the milk can or the few drops in the bottom of the glass of milk.

The bottled milk business could not have prospered had that old condition continued. A thin layer of dirt on the bottoms of the milk bottles would have been death to the business. No, gentle reader, the dirt is not kept out of the milk now. It is taken out. The instrument which takes it out is known as a clarifier.

The clarifiers now in use are centrifugal machines which throw out the dirt and hair, and which make it impossible to find dirt in the bottom of a bottle of milk. Incidentally, the use of these machines makes it possible to market a milk just above the legal line in cream, never skimmed too fine, never overrich, always evenly a certain distance above the legal dead line, at the same level in the milk shortage of February and in the milk flush of June.

But the evidence is that clarifying while it improves the appearance of milk does not make it more wholesome. Bahlman of the Cincinnati health department has been investigating that point. In fact, he found that passing milk through a clarifier actually increased the bacterial count as shown by cultures; while the centrifugal motion threw out a great many bacteria, it broke up clums and thus increased the number of colonies on the culture media. The increase is apparent, but not real.

He analyzed the sludge, usually called slime, that was thrown out. He found it a grayish rubbery mucus containing 950,000,000 bacteria to the 15 grains. Analysis of the sludge showed that it was principally composed of casein from the milk, to which was added such dirt as would fall into milk exposed around a barn.

He found no evidence that the sludge or slime contained any ingredient of the milk necessarily for growth or health for those who lived on the milk. It has been claimed that clarifying milk removed from it some valuable food ingredient. Bahlman did not find this statement correct. Seven hundred and twenty-five gallons of milk yielded two and one-half pounds of sludge, or about 24 grains to the gallon.

His conclusion is that from the producers and dealers' standpoint clarification is excellent in that it removed the gross dirt speedily, thoroughly and economically, but that it is not in any sense a remedy for faulty conditions at the source of supply nor is it a substitute for pasteurization. To which we might add it is not a substitute for cleanliness of hands, pails and udders.

Heat Kills Germs.

L. M. writes: "How long is it necessary to boil a small bottle of light cream in order that all germs may be killed, the cream to be used for drinking purposes? Is one-half hour sufficient?"

REPLY.

Boiling cream for half an hour will kill all the disease-producing bacteria in it. For that matter, so will heating in to 150 (60 degrees short of the boiling temperature) for half an hour.

Cause of Lumbago.

Mrs. N. B. A. writes: "(1) Is sleeping on the left side injurious in any way? (2) What is the cause of lumbago and how may it be prevented?"

REPLY.

1. No.

2. Have your throat, nose and teeth put in order, take more exercise, drink more water. This answers the first part of your question indirectly.

Heat and Cancer.

F. O. F., president of a coffee roasters' association, complains that the article of January 25 gave undue reference to hot coffee as a cause of cancer. In reply I am pleased to state that cancer is not caused by the coffee, but by the heat. Hot tea, bouillon, soup or even the hot stem of a pipe or a hot cigar is capable of causing it. The article in question stated that some cancer was due to "drinking hot drinks and eating hot food," or again, "the drinking of hot coffee and hot soup." "Women have less cancer of the stomach because they sip their coffee and soup, whereas men gulp theirs down." If the coffee roasters wish us again to state that hot coffee and other hot drinks and hot foods cause cancer of the stomach we are willing to make the statement.

Look to Diet.

S. G. H. writes: "I have been a victim of eczema on my hands for 25 years, with occasional breaking out on other parts of my body. I have consulted many physicians without getting help. It began to trouble me a few years after coming to Dakota from Michigan, or when I was about 25 years of age. I have thought that the change of climate was possibly responsible. (1) Are the baths of Hot Springs, Ark., of any benefit? (2) Would a change of climate be of any help?

REPLY.

1. I do not think so.

2. No. I suggest that you have your physician inquire into the possibility that your trouble is due to some error in diet.

Pasteurized Milk.

Mrs. B. L. H. writes: "Does sterilized milk retain all the nourishing qualities it is supposed to have before being sterilized? Do you consider it more healthful than plain milk?"

REPLY.

Pasteurized milk is far healthier than raw milk, except for a slight tendency to cause mild scurvy when used exclusively. This can be overcome by giving daily a little prune, orange, or potato juice. The heating destroys the bacteria of disease and also many of those which cause spoiling. If the temperature goes over 160 degrees the theory is that some of the ferments which prevent scurvy are destroyed.

SERVING IN FAMILY OF SEVEN.

Housemaid Tells of Long Hours and So-Called "Afternoons Off."

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I agree with what Maggie and Jane say about long hours of the housemaid. I am a cook and housemaid in a family of seven, and I work from 12 to 17 hours a day, never as few as 10 hours. This does not include the one or two hours (never more) which I have off in the afternoon. I get one afternoon off (Thursday) during the week.

Well, if I hurry, and scarcely take time to eat, I can get through my work and be ready to go by 2 or a little after, but must be back promptly at 5 o'clock. It takes half an hour to ride downtown and the same back. Now what can I do in the time left? There is not time to go to a show or scarcely to shop.

Then on Sunday when I am supposed to get the "afternoon off," if I rush through my work, almost choking myself in my haste to eat, and there doesn't happen to be company, I can get done by 3 o'clock. But what of that? I must get up earlier on Monday morning to wash the sink full of dirty dishes, or more often they are left on the dining table with the food to dry and harden. Does anyone call that getting out of any work, when I have it all piled back on me?

Why has there never been any agitation to get shorter hours for housemaids and cooks? Are we any less or lower than stenographers or salesgirls? I think not. Personally I think that the girls and women whose work is in the home, who contribute to the welfare and health of the family, who are in many cases trusted with young children and affairs of the home, are not one grain lower than any other working woman, even if she sits all day in a stuffy office.

Then why, when so much care is taken to safeguard stenographers and salesgirls and other office girls, does the general public look with indifference on the sight of a weary woman trudging upstairs and downstairs, hither and yon, fetching and carrying for 17 long hours before she is permitted to creep to her little room, crawl into bed and pull the ragged and worn covers (most of the time not enough to keep her warm,, over her?

KATIE M.

LET TRUNK LINES BE SHORT LINES

Farmers' Organization Favors Most Direct Routes in Laying Out Roads.

AMITY, Or., Feb. 19.—(To the Editor.)—We, as all farmers should be, are interested in the good-roads movement for three reasons: First, preparedness; second, business and, third, pleasure. The first two reasons are momentous and should be treated as business and not from a standpoint of political pull or pie or pork. But if the good roads are to serve the people, then let it be not in a long, winding way through the small towns of our valley and paralleling the railroads where these towns have many cars daily.

As we understand it, these roads are not for the purpose of competing with the railroads, but should open up new territory as much as possible and, especially, where the route is the most direct and easily maintained. We refer to the Capital Highway from Dayton to Salem through a very fertile valley and yet undrained. In an article in The Oregonian, at the beginning of the movement, it is said to be 1.8 miles nearer by the Rex-Tigard road to Salem than on the East Side, and many miles nearer than through McMinnville, Forest Grove, etc. We believe that the roads should be built on the shortest line, and then the feeders to the small towns could be built which would serve the public in general. But let the trunk lines be direct.

It is essential that the farmer get his produce to town as reasonably as possible. That will be of benefit to everyone. We do not believe that our Legislature or committee should listen to the commercial clubs of the small towns in their selfish motives with these roads, but, should they do so, the farmer and producer should see that the "pork" will cost them more in the future than it has in the past. This they can do, for they hold the living of the world in their hands once every year.

North Dakota is getting results through popular demand; may Oregon comply with the demands of the farmer, the one on whom all depend.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF EQUITY.
By L. L. Thornton, Secretary.

MEXICANS CLAIM TEXAS BY RIGHT

Santa Anna No Authority to Acknowledge Its Independence.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—In my three years' service on the Rio Grande I found that the Mexicans on that border claimed that Texas was by right a part of Mexico. Their claim went back 81 years, when "Remember the Alamo" was a slogan that led to our war of unjust conquest.

In 1836 Travis, Davey Crockett, Bowie and other filibusters led a band of followers to San Antonio. There they fortified themselves in an adobe building known as the Alamo and proclaimed the independence of Texas. They were besieged by Santa Anna and a Mexican army. The Mexicans took the place and then we heard the saying, "Marathon had one survivor, but the Alamo had nine."

But soon after, at the battle of San Jacinto, the Texans were victorious and Santa Anna was taken prisoner. He had no right to expect his life would be spared, but he made a bid for it by offering to acknowledge the independence of Texas. Then followed the admission of Texas as one of the United States, and then, in natural sequence, the loss of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and California, a territory larger than Alexander conquered in Asia. And as to this, Santa Anna had no more authority to cede Texas than President Wilson would have a right to cede Vermont.

This may sound like midsummer madness, but the Mexicans are not a logical people. And, what is more to the purpose, bandits do not respect national boundaries, but go where they think they can get the greatest amount of loot with the least trouble.

THOMAS M. ANDERSON.

WHY GO AWAY FOR SALVATION?

Home Talent Able to Lead Way to Heaven, Says Correspondent.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—It seems just a little selfish to have Billy Sunday spend his time in Portland, when he is needed so much now in some wicked city.

Surely, we Portlanders do not need to be reformed any more than we have been. With liquor taken from us, the cigarette taken from our boys, only allowed to see motion pictures that have been viewed and re-viewed by our all-wise censors, our moral squad that is ever on the hiert, how can we possibly go astray?

If there is $25,000 available to put up a building to hold meetings in to convert us, why not use that money for a better advantage?

We have as good ministers of the gospel in Portland as one can find in any city. Let them keep us in the straight and narrow path. Every night there is preaching and singing on some of our streets. Surely it is not without some good results.

We tell our Eastern friends what a wonderful lot of good we have done in Oregon for Oregon, and then call for outside help to convert us.

Let us all do unto others as we would have them do unto us and we will find the Kingdom of God within ourselves and not have to wait for Billy Sunday or anyone else to tell us how to get to heaven.

L. M. JOHNSTON.
202 Twelfth street.

In Other Days

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of Feb. 21, 1867.

The steamer Julia yesterday took up a band of cattle destined for the upper country, and during the afternoon another band arrived at the wharf to be sent up today.

The Owyhee Avalanche, speaking of the non-arrival of the mails, via Chico, says: "Last week we announced the non-arrival of said institution for over 30 days. It has not yet arrived, and we never heard any one thing so universally execrated in Idaho. Yamhill is nowhere as a subject for damnation."

A. J. Hubler has been missing from the Lincoln House since the evening of the 13th inst. It is possible that he has left the city to escape imaginary conspirators who, he thinks, are trying to kill him.

A correspondent of the Washington Chronicle writes of the rapid creation of North Platte, a small village on the Union Pacific Railroad, about 30 miles from Omaha.

Helena, Mont., Feb. 19.—Helena is at present very dull. The large business houses barely make expenses. "A man for breakfast," or supper creates no excitement, and the class killed are not much missed.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of Feb. 21, 1892.

Spokane, Feb. 20.—President Hill, of the Great Northern, returned East this evening after making one of the most successful tours of the Northwest since the times of Villard. He secured a right of way through the city.

Vienna, Feb. 20.—It is rumored here the bulk of the grain the Russian government recently purchased, ostensibly for the relief of the famine sufferers, was really intended to be stored in the national granaries as a preparation for war.

Washington, Feb 20.—Mrs. Harrison gave a public reception this afternoon which attracted more people to the White House than ever assembled before on a similar occasion.

Commencing with the engagement of Mr. Joseph Jefferson, the free list hereafter at the Marquam Grand Opera House is absolutely and emphatically suspended, excepting to the dramatic critics of the press of Portland

New York, Feb. 20.—"Steve Brodie is through with bridge jumping," declared that person today when asked as to the truth of the report that he is to jump from the bridge of the Southern Pacific to the Pecos River, Texas, a distance of 350 feet below.

OPPOSED TO GROUP ANNIHILATION

Mr. Barzee Would Defend Any People Against Destruction.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I do not feel that there was any cause for criticism by anyone in the language used by The Oregonian commenting on my expressed views regarding National patriotism and war. Neither do I resent being grouped with those that stand for the abolition of National patriotism through international patriotism. I was raised with a group of seven boys and we were taught by our parents that we had a common interest and should not fight one another. I have since discovered that this same rule applies to nations, as well as families. I am therefore an internationalist. Those of kin to me who cannot grasp and feel with me the ennoblement of that higher thought have my sympathies, and, as my brother writes, no discord exists.

Because I have climbed to a height that I may see over the wall of nationalism into that millenium of internationalism, why should I throw bricks at anyone not having seen through, not having climbed? I can say with one hated more than I shall, probably, ever be, "the world is my country and to do good is my religion." If I may but help to overthrow the barbaric custom of war, get away from national duelling and move out on that high plane of international fraternity, I shall be well repaid for all the criticisms that come to me from any and every quarter.

It is more than to be regretted that economic conditions have the power of forcing a servility that shuts up in prison walls human minds that should be free to soar above the clouds of this covetous system. While standing, unintimidated for internationalism, allow me to say I do not disrespect the flag of this or any other nation. My case is that of loving "Brutus" more than "Caesar." I cannot, under the present system, get away from that loyalty that would defend any group of people against annihilation. This loyalty is not national patriotism, for I have none. It is all international. My loyalty is in the enforced use of this crude system of government, because the minds of the people are unable to grasp the improved system. It was to improve the system, by educating the mind, that I wrote the letter that called forth the criticism.

C. W. BARZEE.

TELLTALE JOKE IN ZOO STORY

German Translates Names of Those Said to Have Been Killed in Riot.

MILWAUKIE, Or., Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—If it is true that a Scotchman is fond of a little joke although sometimes, a little slow in grasping its point, I take the liberty of submitting a rather good one to your correspondent R. C. McG., assuming from his initials that he is of Scotch descent. It refers to the fearful and dire tragedy enacted by 3000 of the Berlin population who driven by starvation stormed the zoo; a story taken from the Berliner Tageblatt of December 26, "an issue later suppressed by special order of the censor."

Now supposing this story had escaped the sharp, vigilant eye of the censor in war times, which is highly improbable, it assumes a decidedly humorous aspect, when the names of the men killed in the riot are scanned.

There is killed a Captain "D. U. Luegenmaul," verbally translated, "lying mouth" or better "false tongue."

An ensign "A. H. Glaubsnicht," verbally translated "don't believe him."

"Henry Quasselstrippe," a jocular Berlin idiom, hard to render in English, Shakespeare would say, "a ranting knave," "a ribald."

Finally was amongst the killed a "Pster Angstmeier." Peter "fraid-cat" as our children would say.

If your esteemed correspondent will not accept the selection of these names as a criterion for the whole fabric of the story, then he will miss all the enjoyment I had in the perusal of this huge joke perpetrated on the people of Berlin who although suffering from the privations of war would rather put a notch in their belts than storm the zoo, a favorite Berlin place of recreation, even in times of war.

LUDWIG FALK.

Call Them Bryanites.

MIST, Or., Feb. 13.—(To the Editor.)—We have been a constant reader of The Oregonian for many years. We saw among your editorial epigrams this paragraph:

"During the Revolutionary War pacifists were called Tories; during the Civil War they were called Copperheads." Now, I would suggest that the name Bryanites be applied to such persons at the present time.

OBSERVER.