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Portland, Monday, July 30, 1917.

When the state became free.

Sixty years ago (July 25, 1857) George H. Williams published to the world the famous free state letter which powerfully influenced the sentiment of the territory of Oregon against slavery, and which at the same time made impossible of realization the ambition of Judge Williams to be one of the first admitted to the territory.

It is difficult in these days of permanent acceptance of the right of settlement of slavery to understand the vital and overpowering nature of the issue in Oregon in the troublesome years just preceding the Civil War. The Democratic party completely controlled the political organs of the territory, and that the leaders of the dominant Democratic party were for the most part for it, openly or secretly.

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There were men and women in Oregon opposed to slavery, and in 1856, in Jackson County, the new Republican party was born. Later the Yamhill Republicans organized, and the Fremont party was organized in other territories and free states, free farms and free labor, free society and free schools, free thought and free discussion, free speech and free press, free religion and free conscience, free thought and free action.

The issue was now drawn, and the Democratic party opposed to slavery drifting definitely toward slavery. There was to be a state convention to frame a constitution, and when the delegates were elected, only one Republican was among them.

But meanwhile Judge Williams, who had noted the rising tide of freedom among many Democrats, had prepared and published his letter. It is interesting to note now that, in its argument, it made no mention of the immorality of slavery as an institution, but discussed it wholly in terms of its economic phases.

One white man is worth more than two negro slaves—slave labor is "demonstrably the most wasteful and unproductive of any industry during the long, rainy winters."

The letter was most potent and slavery was soon forever dead in Oregon. The constitutional convention submitted it as a separate question and it was defeated three to one; but the convention also prepared and sent to the same public referendum a section declaring that "no free negro, or mulatto, not residing in this state at the time of the adoption of this constitution, shall come, reside, or be within the state, or hold any real estate, or make any contracts, or maintain any suit therein."

ate, or make any contracts, or maintain any suit therein." The clause was adopted by a vote of eight to one. To complete the record it may be added that George H. Williams was a member of the constitutional convention, and a Democrat, but in 1850 he left the Democracy, and aided in the formation of the Union party. He supported Abraham Lincoln for election, and in 1854 he was made Oregon's senator by the Union party—a fusion of Republicans and "war" (or anti-slavery) Democrats.

Nowadays there are no differences between parties in Oregon as to human slavery—white or black. But man is not yet free.

GEORGIA'S DILEMMA.

The state of Georgia is in a dilemma. A citizen, dying, bequeathed \$40,000 worth of wine to the State University, not to be consumed by the state, but to be converted into cash for the promotion of higher education, and Georgia as a prohibition state cannot sell the wine without violating its own laws.

There is no doubt that the alcohol contained in the Georgia wine casks has a certain medicinal value. It is too, and alcohol is indispensable to the manufacture of such necessities as smokeless powder. Treated with sulphuric acid, it is transformed into ether, a highly necessary agent in hospitals. It would seem to be a pity to let all this good material go to waste.

We have just been lost in the reaches of the National Forest of Oregon. The frame of mind was induced by perusing a little book entitled "Camping, Fishing and Hunting Guide, Western Oregon." It is quite an enterprise to provide a camping, fishing and hunting guide for Western Oregon. This book devotes thirty pages to descriptive matter and nearly all of it concerns National Forests west of the Cascades.

Here is a playground of seven million acres of Western Oregon forests abundant in lake, fishing streams, snow-clad mountains, and all are open to the public. One may go and stay as long as he likes. The only requirements are that he should be a citizen of the United States and that he should be a member of the National Forests.

It is such a matter of common knowledge with us as to seem a commonplace privilege that one can go from Portland in two hours of moderate driving over a road paved with asphalt to the finest hunting and fishing grounds in the state.

But let us ignore these more or less metropolitan attractions of the forest lands and plan a trip into the all-outdoors. We propose to do this in a motor car with a driver and a passenger.

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and the other a list of representatives from whom further information may be obtained. Although a railway publication it is as generous with information about automobile roads, wagon roads and trails as about rail routes to points of attraction.

UNITY OF LANGUAGES.

In at least four countries of the world the truth is being brought home that ties of language are likely to be more binding than those of race. Austria is suffering from lack of unity due to its failure to impress a common speech upon its polyglot peoples.

DISCOVERING THE LOGANBERRY.

The East is discussing the loganberry. Its ideas about this useful and delicious fruit are still nebulous, and sometimes amusing, but it is something that the berry is being talked about. It shows that the East is on the verge of discovering a good thing and incidentally finding out that not all the good things of the world are bounded on the West by the Mississippi River.

The important fact is that there is general desire to know more about it. We think that Judge Logan, of California, would be willing even to forego the fame that ought rightly to be his if he could see the loganberry in universal use.

A DREAM TRIP.

Representative Hawley performed a service for mankind which he called "the trip of the War Department to the value of the loganberry in the Army ration. Our boys are going to have their jam, just as the English soldiers do, and it is quite probable we shall be called upon to supply it.

AN UNLAWFUL CENSORSHIP.

The controversy between the War Department and the Associated Press in regard to news of the arrival of the more American troops is a result of the muddle in conduct of the war. The question of what war news should and what should not be published ought long ago to have been decided by friendly arrangement.

It is almost forgotten that it was a Brazilian, Santos Dumont, who was first to circle the Eiffel tower in a dirigible, and this fact is now brought to mind by the decision of Brazil to enter the list of countries in which the United States is to place orders for aircraft in large numbers.

Warning is given that the potato crop of the country may not be as large as expected for various reasons. Almost everybody locally can see promise of good returns, but the harvest is not on and any conditions may develop.

Keep in the Sunlight.

Old Van writes: Am 80 years old and have the whooping cough. Is there anything I can do or take for it that will help me?

Pure Well Water.

Mrs. B. writes: The letter in your paper about typhoid and vacationists made me decide to write you. We intend to take two babies aged 15 months and 3 years, respectively, into the country. How can we tell if the well water is pure and how can we be sure it is?

Trouble With Dog.

PORTLAND, July 29.—(To the Editor.)—I have a thoroughbred Alfrede pup eight months old, and his hair is coming out fast and turning white at the roots. Could you advise through your column a remedy to cure this, otherwise his health is perfect?

Disposal of Old Papers.

GALES CREEK, Or., July 28.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me where old newspapers, what kind and how usually paid. Will it be of any real help to the old United States if people save the papers and rags usually discarded? G. CASARE EMMA.

Write to California Paper & Board Mill.

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How to Keep Well.

By Dr. W. A. Evans.

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More Extracts from Report on Sanitation of Europe.

THE methods of prevention employed are: Care in the diet, especially in eating warm and cold in the drinking water; disinfection.

German Propaganda Invades Publication With Peaceful Title.

By Herman Hagedorn of the Vigilantes. The Messenger of Peace ("Der Friedensbote") is the dovetail title of a religious weekly published in St. Louis by the German Evangelical Synod of North America.

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M. McC. writes: I have a little boy 4 years old who has worms. What is the best remedy for worms? This boy has always been in the best of health until this winter he took a severe cold, and his health became very sick and remain weak for a few days. He eats awfully slow. He never seems to get between meals like the rest of the family.

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At the Close of Senator Williams' Speech at Eugene City.

Mr. Sinnott, of the New Columbia Hotel, to keep up with the times, has purchased an omnibus to carry passengers to and from the Capitol today, and yesterday for the first time and took a gay party of pleasure seekers to the White House and back.

New York.—Among the Perfora's passengers was Captain Patschewoff, of the Russian Imperial Navy, the special favor appointed to hand over the territory of Alaska to the United States.

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Victoria.—The sealing schooner Beatrice arrived this morning with 570 skins. She was warned by the Yorktown not to enter Bering sea.

Dublin.—A meeting of the Irish Federation was held here today. Michael Davitt said that if the members of the party would remain glued to their seats in Parliament every moment that the interests of home rule required, they would meet with victory written on their banner.

Catania.—The eruption of Mount Etna is again very violent. Immense masses of rock are projected to a great height and dense clouds overhang the summit of the mountain.

ROSES AMAZE NEW YORK VISITORS.

Compliment Paid to Portland Finds Echo in Montana. GREAT FALLS, Mont., July 26.—(To the Editor.)—I am glad to see your "Desider." I came across this article and as I had the pleasure of living in Portland two short years and have seen and enjoyed Portland's beautiful roses I thought this a splendid piece and one that perhaps Portlanders would enjoy reading.

Identify of Flower Throat Violet.

MENLO, Wash., July 27.—(To the Editor.)—This Spring I dug up some plants from a hillside in the vicinity of Menlo, Wash. I have identified them as being the same as those which you mention in your issue of July 27. They are a purple flower, the color of the violet, on a stem, the flower the shape of a cone like the ones that fall from our trees.

Meaning of Phrase.

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The Automobile Girl.

By James Burton Adams. She scoots o'er the highways at jaw-dropping speed, her hair with maid-like curls; pedestrians quicken their steps at the foot of her warning "get-out-the-way" horn. Her eyes like two-year-old running on grass, a picture from summit to heel, that fearless, intrepid, American lass who drives her own automobile. She handles the wheel with commendable skill, sits up in her seat as a queen, she skims o'er the levels and soars in flight in her up-to-date automobile. The fellow she honors with a place at her side on out-of-town evening spins a circle like a road on ASCAR. Her pride, on his features a satisfied grin. He knows he is stared at by all of his crowd and pictures the envy that is in their eyes. She is a girl that maiden so proud on the deck of her automobile. The bicycle girl with the skirts split in twain is now but a dream of the past; the maid who o'er proud tallies horses drew rein now as a back number is classed. They once were "way up in the air" but "down with" the lovers of sports were disdored, but they were tossed in the discard by the girl in the automobile—or the Ford.

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