Morning Oregonian

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FRAGILE BRIDGES!

Discussing the relative life of tunnels and bridges, the Scientific American recently said: "There is no reason, except that of human negligence, to prevent the inhabitants of this city (New York) from traveling over, let us say, the Manhattan bridge across the East river—not a Manhattan bridge renewed but a Manhattan bridge containing practically every identical ton of material, at least so far as the main elements of the bridge are concerned, that exists in the structure today. All that is necessary is good weather-proof paint, a conscientious inspection, and the freeing of engineering works in this city, once and forever, from the destructive blights of political interference and graft."

Neither the Burnside bridge nor the Morrison bridge approaches in engineering difficulties or quantity of material the Manhattan bridge over East river. But they are steel bridges. If they were properly constructed and if they have been properly cared for they ought today to be as good as the day they were erected, barring solely wear and deterioration due to overloading. Burnside bridge has been in use but 25 years; Morrison bridge but 15 years. Yet, after these two bridges have been in use this short period we are told by the county commissioners that they must be replaced at a cost of upwards of $4,000,000.

If it is necessary to replace these two bridges there should be inquiry not only into what is the matter with them but why it is so. And what of the other bridges that span the Willamette in the city of Portland? Are they good for only fifteen or twenty-five years? With careful inspection and painting, the properly constructed steel bridge, in the words of the Scientific American, ought to "stand as a supreme monument to the present age of steel construction, not merely for the time of our children and grandchildren, but for unguessed centuries to come."

Multnomah county and Portland want bridges that will last longer than fifteen years. The highway commission of Oregon is authorized to plan bridges for counties. Other counties have taken advantage of this law. Marion and Polk have completed a bridge designed by the highway engineer that cost $250,000. Clackamas county is securing plans from the highway commission for a suspension bridge to replace the present structure at Oregon City. The bridge across the Deschutes on the Columbia highway, now under construction, was designed in the office of the highway commission. The state highway engineers' office is now designing the Young's Bay bridge on the lower Columbia highway. It is of the bascule type, fully as complicated as any Willamette bridge and will be less costly because it is shorter.

Let us have an unprejudiced report from the competent engineering department of the highway commission as to whether we need to replace either Willamette bridge, and if we do why a structure that ought to last indefinitely has worn out in fifteen to twenty-five years. This investigation is to be had for the asking. It is one of the functions of the highway commission.

HOW TO MEET THE YELLOW PERIL.

Pleas for more rigid laws against Japanese immigration give force to the definition of the broad problem in which the Japanese question is included, as given by Professor W. E. Ritter, of the University of California, in an address in England. This definition is thus summarized by the London Times:

Mr. Ritter maintains that the North Pacific ocean, its islands and bordering continents up to their watersheds, and their inhabitants form a unit-area both of physical geography and of the distribution of population. In this area some five hundred million Asiatics are being brought into ever closer contact with some six million Americans. The Asiatics are so placed geographically that "scores of millions of them have about the lowest per capita allotment of any peoples on the earth of some of the primary material necessities of human life." The Americans are so placed as to give them about the highest of such allotment. Economic equilibrium, he contends, will establish itself between these two peoples as certainly as physical equilibrium tends to establish itself when two bodies of salt water of different densities are brought in contact.

That statement of the case makes it more than a mere question of immigration. Unless we do something far more effective, immigration laws to prevent half a billion Asiatics from overwhelming six million Caucasians will be no better than the broom with which the old woman tried to sweep back the sea. We might try to equalize the forces by in every way stimulating growth of white population in the Pacific states, but the movement on the part of Asiatics to establish equilibrium would be too fast to admit of success by that means alone. Physical equilibrium would be accompanied by economic equilibrium. That means that the American standard of living would be lowered toward the Asiatic standard.

An alternative is, while excluding Asiatics from this country, so to direct our policy as to raise the standard of living in Asia. If American engineers, mining men, manufacturers, backed by American capital, were to go to China, develop the country and improve transportation, conditions would be improved, wages would rise, the standard of living would rise and progress would be made toward economic equilibrium. The chief incentive to emigration is desire to better one's material condition. That incentive would be removed or at least weakened. Mongolia and eastern Siberia have vast areas needing development, where the surplus Japanese population could be employed. Progress in Japan has been accompanied by a rising scale of wages and standard of living. If the surplus population overflowed to the mainland, that tendency would be strengthened, and the desire to emigrate to a white man's country would die down.

The solution of the problem of Asiatic immigration is to be worked out in Asia rather than in America. It requires recognition by both Americans and Japanese of inherent racial differences and co-operation in development of both races in such a manner that friction shall be avoided by the minimum of contact. Professor Ritter fears that present friction may grow from a cloud to a tornado. We can best avert the storm by helping to lift the Asiatics in Asia toward the American standard and by helping the Japanese to find scope for their abundant surplus energy in Asia.

VICE-PRESIDENT ON H. C. L.

In the course of an article in the Washington Sunday Star, Vice-President Marshall philosophises on strikes and the high cost of living in this wise:

"If I should strike for more money upon the theory that my services are worth more than I am receiving, how I have spent my salary is nobody's business; but should I strike on the ground of the high cost of living, then justice would demand that I show how I have spent my salary in order that the arbiters may determine whether it is the high cost of living or the cost of high living that ails me."

It is good philosophy if accepted in the spirit intended. Of course Mr. Marshall and everybody else will admit that the American worker's standard of living is something better than a daily menu of cabbage soup and black bread. There is a distinction between comfort or even modest luxury and extravagance.

The lesson in thrift that was to attend popular subscription to government bonds and purchase of war savings stamps seems somehow to have gone astray. But we shall never go beyond moral suasion to encourage individual economy. The guarantee of personal liberty insures to one who earns the right to spend that which he earns as best suits him. But it is another matter when those who, by their own intelligence or capacity, could never attain the extravagance of their desires, exact that extravagance by sheer force of numbers.

RED SOX FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Now pales the league of nations before a matter of superior moment. The din of the steel strike dies away. Lenine is but a misfortunate dub who never saw three runners on bases, with a big league paladin striding up to bat, and the score a tie in the ninth. In democratic concord Americans are watching the all-absorbing drama of two premier ball teams contesting for the championship of the world. Lesser affairs must wait for renewed popular attention until the last game of the series has been slugged to its sprightly finish.

The Cincinnati Reds have clashed with the Chicago White Sox on the home diamond of the former team, and by a score of 9 to 1 have wrested away the first game of the series. Such a score is far from remarkable in a time when matched finesse and athletic artistry frequently achieve the thrilling situation of a tie in the ultimate inning, and when the brilliance of pitchers and support retires the batters with the regularity of a Chinese cannery-hand at his daily stint. And, apropos of this, it may be confidently said that baseball as a finished art has ambled some distance since grandfather's generation.

Just 50 years ago to a day, counting from the opening of the present world's series, the Cincinnati Reds achieved the trimming of the San Francisco Atlantics, on the home grounds of the latter team, according to the files of The Oregonian of that date. They played a different brand of ball those days, and he who kept the tally had no sinecure. For the defeat of the Atlantics—nothing less than utter rout—was by a score of 76 to 5, with 40 scores and 14 home runs chalked down by the visitors in a single inning. What epic riot and confusion must have prevailed, what fogs of hopeless gloom must have encompassed San Francisco, as the battling Atlantics were smote both hip and thigh in those brave days of yore!

ENOUGH OF TONG WARS.

Because the bickerings of fantan gamesters have been amicably adjusted, Portland is to be spared the terrorism of another Chinese tong war. Certain lithe young sprigs in occidental clothing, slant-eyed, inscrutable and fearless, will not receive the wage of murder and walk forth from Chinatown's dens to pour a volley into the person of some Chinese merchant, whose only crime is his tong brotherhood. Peaceful settlements of tong quarrels are desirable, of course, but why the fantan games that may give rise to situations rife with sudden death? And should the public temporize and act as arbitrator in lawless matters that need the iron hand of an unquestioned authority? Some summary lesson, it would seem, should meet the first hint or rumor of another outbreak.

To the stroller Chinatown presents the blankness of a colorful content. Its shops are bright with ruddy gold, the sheen of imported silks and the gleam of jade. Its people shuffle placidly about their affairs. Behind the gratings of its dusty windows the faces of women peer momentarily. In the tong houses old men smoke their queer pipes and drink tea, with the grinning little golden chow-dog wriggling his spiraled tail from the altar of the joss. A bland, inevitable folk, yielding with silent deference to the white visitor.

But it was there, amid blandness just so precise, that Oi Sen, the slave girl, with Lew Soon and Wong Si Sam, of the Hop Sing tong, plotted the pre-eminently successful assassination of Seid Bing, prominent fellow of the Bow Leong tong, back in 1912, and set free a series of retaliations and counter attacks that kept the police busied for several years to follow. The casual citizen, who twists a forkful of noodles now and again, cannot know Chinatown. The unresistant but effective wall of oriental blankness is always there. Tong wars as a dramatic element are altogether too much so. The private quarrel on the public street, adjusted by automatics, ought to be severely frowned upon to say the least. There was a promise once upon a time that the tongs would never battle again in Portland. The police should see to it that not even a hint of hostilities is tolerated.

OLD CLOTHES FOR ARMENIANS.

Armenia is asking Portland and Oregon for a carload of clothing—new or old, but clean and fit for wear. The drive is set for Monday, October 6, and will be of but one day's duration. The fire stations will be central depots for the city collection. The retail grocers' association will collect garments through the delivery service of its individual firms. When the relief ship sails from New York, laden with the gifts of all America, Portland's carload quota must not be lacking.

Armenia—at the word there rises a picture of want in a land made desolate. Recollection summons the stories of wanton outrages perpetrated on a hapless people—the terse and terrible narratives of murder, and rapine, and exile. There are tear-stained letters in Portland which tell of death, and worse than death, at the mercy of the Turk. While civilization fought to subdue the barbarian, Armenia was lighted by burning villages and vocal with the death agony of her people.

There should be no need for argument or appeal when Armenia's wants are known. The heart of humanity is with a land that has suffered over long and that glimpses for the first time the promise of dawn.

THE ALLIES NOT BANKRUPT.

Senator Johnson's reckless characterization of the league of nations as a bond by which the United States—as the richest and only solvent nation in the world—would be bound to the bankrupt nations of Europe finds its deserved rebuke in a pamphlet on "The Solvency of the Allies," published by the Guaranty Trust company of New York. The senator's fling was in execrable taste, even if it had been true, in view of the fact that the United States, after two and a half years of neutrality, acknowledged by joining the allies that they had been fighting our battle. But the publication proves by a great array of well authenticated facts that it is not true.

Britain, France and Italy have enormous debts, but even during war they have increased their means of payment and their people have become inured to heavy taxes. The amount of money which Britain has lent for war purposes exceeds by $2,000,000,000 the amount borrowed, only one-fourth of its foreign investments have been sacrificed, and it will receive a considerable share of the German indemnity. It is able to meet the interest and sinking fund on its debt, of which only 18 per cent is external, the other 82 per cent involving no diminution of national wealth or drain on national income. The efficiency of its industries and the skill and efficiency of its workmen have been vastly enhanced by the stimulus of war. Its financial system has been strengthened by consolidation of banks, industry grows stronger by the same means, lost ships are being replaced, the colonies are being more closely knit to the mother country, and from them an increasing flow of raw materials is secured. The reports of strikes and radical demands give a rather distorted picture of industrial conditions, for the Whitley plan of industrial councils is being rapidly adopted and is establishing industrial peace.

France is more heavily in debt in proportion to national wealth, but it has made decided net gains. New industries in the south and west have replaced those which the Germans wrecked in the northeast, its food production has actually increased during the war, and its output of iron and steel and their products has grown materially, as was proved by the number of guns and shell made for the United States. It gains vastly in coal, iron, potash and textile industries by recovery of Alsace-Lorraine and by occupation of the Saar basin. Already great progress has been made in rebuilding houses and reconstructing railroads, highways and bridges in the war zone, and electrification of railroads and development of water power are going ahead. Efficiency methods of manufacture forced on France by war have added much to productive capacity. The docks, port, railroad and warehouse improvements made by the American army are a permanent gain. The colonies will supply much raw material and markets for manufactures. Having paid in 1873, two years after defeat and loss of two rich provinces, France can pay out after victory, recovery of those provinces and settlement of reparation claims.

Italy's debt is about two-thirds of the national wealth, a higher proportion than that of either of its principal allies, but its budget estimates show ability to meet it and it gains rich territory by the war. Since the war of liberation in 1860 it has vastly expanded agriculture and manufactures. Though it has no coal and little iron, it has developed a steel industry which produced all the rolling stock for Italian railroads, and it is increasing the use of waterpower to dispense with coal. It goes far toward feeding itself, wheat being the chief agricultural product. War necessity gave a strong impetus to production of munitions, airplanes and ships. Italy is on the main route of commerce from western to eastern Europe and western Asia, and will prosper thereby.

As Belgium's war debt to the allies will be assumed by Germany, it emerges from the war owing about one-third of its national wealth. Terribly as it suffered by German devastation, its wonderfully intensive agriculture still lives, its coal and iron industries are unimpaired, and it has more than half a billion dollars of foreign investments—more than double its foreign debt—and it has more miles of railroad in proportion to area than any other country, practically all state-owned and a financial success. While Germany will compensate for all property destroyed, restoration will be gradual as payments are made, but deliberate wrecking of plants was narrowly confined, for the Germans needed the output of many plants and carefully preserved them. Much progress has already been made in repairing railroads and highways, obstructions have been cleared from the Scheldt river and the port of Antwerp has been opened, while work is being pushed ahead at Ostend. Many textile factories await replacement of stolen machinery, but much is being restored, and nearly all the 800,000 persons who were unemployed last November have ceased to draw relief pay. Belgium also has a source of great wealth in the Congo.

When we consider that these nations will be relieved of the expense of great armies and navies, that they will have free access to the wealth of rich countries which have lain fallow, and that they have entered upon an area of automobiles, motorships, airplanes and waterpower corresponding to the era of steam and electricity which followed the Napoleonic war, it is apparent that they are far from "broke," but on the contrary can pay their debts and achieve a higher degree of prosperity than they enjoyed before the war. In fact it is impossible to "break" a nation so long as it remains united in possession of its national territory and retains its national spirit. A nation is not "broke" until its spirit is broken. The rapid resurrection of Bohemia and Poland prove that. The moral factor is most important in considering the solvency of nations, as of men.

Out of the wastage of war it is agreeable to know that the Red Cross will be salvaged in its entirety. The statement of Dr. Livingstone Farrand, head of the American organization, that the tremendous unit of mercy will devote itself to the crusade against preventable diseases and to the distribution of happiness through health, is one that the world has waited for. The gospel of the future will be a revised one. It will hold that religion must include solicitude for physical perfection, and it will strive toward that goal in the knowledge that much of mortal misery has been caused by lack of physical stamina, due to the unrelenting brigandage of disease. In such a cause as this the American Red Cross will continue to prove its worth.

The extreme reliance placed by Germany on the submarine has led many persons to credit it with a degree of superiority which did not exist. The navy department recently made comparative tests of the captured German U 111 and the American S 3, built in 1918. The American boat made a surface speed of 14.7 knots to the German's 13.8 knots, submerged speed of 12.4 knots to the German's 7.8. The American has a cruising radius of 10,000 miles at 11 knots to the German's 8500 at 8 knots, and the internal arrangements of the former are far superior. The Germans excel in a few particulars of construction, but mainly in the Larbarous use to which they put the submarine.

Leaving Fiume and Shantung to their own devices for a moment, President Wilson might snatch time to corner the Cuban sugar crop and bring about a surcease from higher prices and prevalent shortage. The suggestion is made by Henry H. Rolapp, president of the beet sugar manufacturers' association, who should be a competent authority and doubtless is. International affairs have cost the home kitchen dearly for some years past. The sentiment, putting it mildly, seems to call for immediate relief.

The senate is steadily losing friends among the wets. The longer it delays ratification of the treaty, the shorter becomes the interval between war prohibition and constitutional prohibition. The interval may become so small that the wets may not be able to squeeze in a single drink, and it may vanish altogether. The agony of parched suspense is excruciating.

It seems that Foster became a convert from the I. W. W. to regular unionism just to satisfy the scruples of the federation leaders, and that the latter very rapidly forgot his red record and accepted the conversion as genuine.

In the matter of apology for arrest by Siberians of an American officer and flogging of a soldier, that is not enough. The United States is big enough to demand a thousand dollars for each stroke and to see that the soldier gets it.

The fact that the late John Mitchell, former leader of the mine workers, was able to accumulate a fair-sized fortune explains the head for business he possessed when keeping the men under him from trouble.

Must be joyous times in England with the railway strike on. The English striker, freed from all cares, would rather use his fists than suck eggs, which operation is one of the heights of luxury.

The city of Nitro, W. Va., built by the government for a powder plant and fully equipped at a cost of $70,000,000, will be junked at about 8 per cent of cost, which is typical, if not consoling.

Omaha is reaping results already. Her big show, annually pulled off by her "Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben," has been closed, as a precautionary measure.

King Albert will the better appreciate the president at the end of a tour of the big country of which he is ruler.

If sugar goes to 25 cents—even to 15 cents—somebody ought to go to jail. That's the long and short of it.

Hood River horses have what appears to be influenza, probably the "epizoot" of half a century ago.

The beginning of the winter season is a bad time for a strike, but it will be the quicker over.

You can see real ball at Twenty-fourth and Vaughn easier than by going to Cincinnati.

Probably only the steel men's wives know exactly how many of them are on strike.

Everybody appears to be wearing clean linen, despite the picketer ladies.

Nine to one sounds like Coast league stuff rather than big league.

Oregon grapes are in the market, at a high price but worth it.

Yet the race is not always to the swift.

BY-PRODUCTS OF THE PRESS

Picture Factories Distribute Spurious Art From California Cities.

G. Frank Muller writes to the American Art News from Los Angeles that he has been making a special inquiry into the reports that Los Angeles is a distribution center for spurious paintings, and he finds that not only that city, but San Francisco and other towns are infested with "fake" picture factories. Counterfeit works attributed to Inness and Keith, the painters of the Barbizon school, and the modern Dutch artists, are exploited by a band of dealers, he says. Forged signatures appear on these canvases. The California Art club is making an effort to protect the public against the nefarious activities of this gang of counterfeiters.

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At the special request of the Prince of Wales, the moving pictures made at the various receptions and ceremonies in connection with the royal visit in Canada, were projected in the dining car of the royal train en route. A machine was installed by the chief electrical engineer of the Canadian Pacific railway. The entertainment was a great success, the prince expressing his gratification enthusiastically. This is said to be the first time that movies of a trip have been shown on the same trip and on the same train.

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Mrs. Vincent Astor, driving her gray pet mule, and Mrs. J. Griswold Webb, driving a black mule, one of the favorites on her large farm near Poughkeepsie, sent their animals to a dead heat in the mule race, which was the principal attraction at the Dutchess county fair at Rhinebeck, N. Y., September 16. The race brought an assemblage of society folk, and all the residents of this district. It had been announced that it should be judged entirely on its merits. Supreme Court Justice W. Popan Platt, assisted by Supreme Court Justice Joseph Morschauser, were the judges. After a long consultation they decided that it was a dead heat, as Mrs. Astor's gray mule forged up just as it passed under the wire, and as to whether there was a fraction of a nose difference they could not decide.

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Miss Hester Leavenworth Trumbull, descendant of Priscilla Mullens and John Alden, was married at Litchfield, Connecticut, recently to Miles Standish Jr. of Boston, who traces his descent directly from Captain Miles Standish of the Plymouth colony. The bride's line is through Faith Robinson, wife of the famous Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut.

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Those persons who have been in a state of suspense after reading that Henry Francis Koser, who plays hermit, prophet, bolshevist, wild goat and other hairy parts in the movies, had been temporarily restrained by court order from visiting the barber shop, will be relieved to learn that the order has been made permanent during the life of his contract with a prominent producer. After the full import of the court's order was explained to him, he agreed to abide by it, says the New York Sun, without turning a hair.

* * *

Quentin Roosevelt's memorial stone at Chamery, France, erected by the 502d engineers, has been mutilated by a vandal and the name of his father has been chipped off. When the fact was first published by the Paris Herald, attempts to explain the defacement were made by statements that it had been done either by the explosion of a shell, or by an army tractor going over the field. Both of these explanations have been proved false. Chamery was entirely out of the shelling area when the stone was placed and there has been no shellfire in that section at any time since. A careful examination of the stone shows plainly that the name of Theodore Roosevelt has been carefully chiseled out.

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About 50 per cent of the members of the new French chamber of deputies will be veterans of the great war. Binet-Valmer, a writer who rendered eminent services with the tanks in the last two years of the war, expects to be returned. He has written that one of the first measures that he will try to have passed will be the rewarding by titles of the victorious French generals. Commenting upon the title granted by the King of England to General Byng, making him Lord Byng of Vimy, Binet-Valmer writes: "I shall ask the new house that the names of great battles be added to the names of our great marshals and generals. From a tentative list I propose the following: Marshal Joffre, Duke of the Marne; Marshal Foch, Prince of the Yser (the title of prince has to be a foreign one), Duke of Saint-Gond and of the Aisne; Marshal Petain, Duke of Verdun; General Castelnau, Duke of Nancy; General Mangin, Duke of Villers-Cotterets, Gouraud, Duke of Chalons; Debeney, Duke of Montdidier."

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Several thousand persons who passed the summer in bungalows and cottages on the Rockaway peninsula from Rockaway Park to Neponsit, Long Island, are planning to turn their dwellings into winter houses and beat the profiteering landlord at his own game. It is planned to put in gas and oil stoves for heating and cooking, and tar paper and asbestos board are to be used to make the sides and roofs of the houses better fitted to withstand the blasts of winter. It is believed that between 50,000 and 100,000 residents of the district will remain here this winter. In former years the exodus to the city began shortly after Labor day, and only a very few hardy souls lived in the cottages during the winter. This year, however, most of the families have been unable to find apartments in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and those who did find them found also that exorbitant rents were demanded.

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"I do not believe that dress is based on a sex appeal," says Dr. Edith Hale Swift of Boston. "I think it is the reflection, rather, of a class appeal. It is only since the growth of democracy that men have ceased to wear lace cuffs, frills, wigs and all such nonsense. The skirt is not sex in its origin. Kings, priests, mayors and other personages still wear draperies. The cut-away army coat is about the last remnant of the skirt age. With the growth of democracy it became bad form for a man to show his class by his clothes, so he began to dress up his wife. The modern American wife is nothing short of a shop window for her husband. She shows off his success. I speak of the average human critter, of course, not of the intellectual man."

Those Who Come and Go.

"Harry G. Hunter, who worked on the interstate bridge, and made many friends while in Portland, had some thrilling experiences in Russia," related E. E. Howard of Kansas City, who is in Portland to see about the contracts for bridges across the Willamette river. "Hunter learned that he wasto be run out of the country by the bolshevikl. A committee of workmen and soldier delegates waited on him and told him that he was not wanted; that he would better return to America. They said that he was interfering with the workmen. Hunter replied that he was willing to return, but that there were five ships in the lower river loaded with wheat, and these vessels could not proceed to the mill while the river was blocked by a lift span which he was employed to place. Food was short and the flour was needed. Hunter announced that he was the only man in Russia who knew how to get that span in position and open navigation, but that he was perfectly willing to return to America if his passports were given him. The soviet committee decided to let him finish the job."

"When they could wash a doughboy's shirt for a couple of francs, women did not wish to work all day making artificial flowers, so, for instance, there were no artificial forget-me-nots manufactured for the millinery trade for a year and a half," explained P. M. Maxwell, who is at the Benson. "It takes an infinite amount of patience to make the flowers, for it is all done by hand, and done perfectly, and an entire family will be engaged in the manufacture of a single flower." Mr. Maxwell is also dealing in ostrich plumes, specializing in selling to the wholesale trade, and on his June trip to Portland he sold $15,000 worth of plumes in this city. Plumes, he says, are the current rage in Paris, and there is a demand for them which is being reflected in America. The ostrich plumes come from South Africa and the distributing center is London. Judging from the wholesale prices on artificial flowers, it looks as though France intends paying its war debt by raising funds through this source.

"Hotels in San Francisco are thronged and the same condition exists throughout the state," says W. B. James, manager of the Manx, who is paying a fraternal visit to the Imperial. "One hotel in San Francisco is doing $9000 worth of business a day in its dining room alone. That gives some idea of hotel business in the city. At some hotels as soon as a bus drives up people are told that the house is full and that unless the intended patrons have reservations there is no use in getting out of the conveyance."

With $2,000,000 of bonds in a hand grip, Joe Richardson arrived at the Hotel Oregon yesterday from Salem and he wasn't afraid of being held up, for the bonds would be useless to anyone not legally entitled to possess them. These bonds are part of the $10,000,000 issue authorized by the recent legislature for highway construction work. They were sold to a syndicate of brokers scattered across the continent, recently, and Mr. Richardson brought them from Salem for delivery.

Patrons of hotels would relieve the mind of the desk clerk and of the traveling public if they would notify the office as early as possible when they intend leaving. As a rule patrons do not intimate that they are to leave until 5 P. M., and then they start to check out. Meanwhile the clerks are trying to keep a wrathful line of people patient and assuring them that "something will turn up."

Herbert Nunn, state highway engineer, was in Portland yesterday and registered at the Imperial. Mr. Nunn says that work will be pushed on the main lines now under contract and that preparations are being made to keep these open throughout the winter. With the coming of the rains the paving work will soon terminate for the season.

Touring the states, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Seitz, of Shanghai, China, are at the Hotel Portland. They will leave for China next month, by which time the cholera will have largely abated. The Seitzes carry a Chinese maid with them and the Seitz boy carries on conversation with her fluently.

If the rain had not split the prunes, Robert Krims would be several thousands dollars richer. At that, however, Mr. Krims says the crop was pretty good. Mr. Krims, who is at the Multnomah, has what is considered the largest prune drier in America. It is located out of Vancouver, Wash.

"The landlord sold the house I was renting over my head. The people bought the house without ever looking at the inside, and the house was 15 years old. So, dispossessed, as it were, I've left Seattle and intend buying a home in Portland," announced W. S. Cassell at the Multnomah.

Captain D. O. Killman, skipper of a made-in-Oregon boat, which he will soon take to sea, had a visit from his wife yesterday. Mrs. Killman, who lives in Tacoma, came to the Multnomah to see how the captain is getting along with his new command.

With a wonderful production of prunes, the biggest crop for many years, everyone who has this fruit in the Milton section is happy. C. A. Norman, one of the fortunate prune growers, brought this information to the city when he registered at the Hotel Washington.

Greeters will hold a meeting at the Hotel Oregon when Charles Schreiber, who recently attended a meeting of the board of directors at Chicago, will make an extended report. The Greeters plan to make an active campaign for membership.

A. J. Binber has returned behind the desk at the Multnomah. Ray Clark has been assigned the duty of issuing the Multnomah Review, a publication for the house employes and to direct the welfare work in the establishment.

Reputed to be the biggest cattle shipper at Caldwell, Idaho, Fred Harrington is at the Perkins. Mr. Harrington, however, instead of bringing his cattle to Portland, as do a large number of Idaho shippers, sends his cattle to Seattle.

Lumber traffic manager for the Hicks-Shevlin Co., which has a mill at Bend and mills at many other places throughout the country, Donald D. Conn of Minneapolis, arrived at the Benson yesterday on a business trip.

E. L. Rhoten, who probably knows more farmers in Oregon than almost any other man, is at the Hotel Washington. Mr. Rhoten is the editor of the Northwest Poultry Journal.

C. H. Watzek of Wauna and D. E. Stewart of Knappa, prominent lumbermen, motored up to town yesterday and are registered at the Hotel Portland.

Fresh from the navy, Prentiss Hicks, a Canyon City lad, is at the Perkins on his way home. He is a son of Judge Hicks.

M. Hood, chief engineer for the Southern Pacific, is at the Benson with his wife.

M. M. Glavey, a stockman of Dufur, is registered at the Perkins.

OPERA COMPANY NEEDS SUPPORT

Alcazar Organization Is Worthy to Be Portland's Own.

PORTLAND, Sept. 30.—(To the Editor.)—A few years ago San Francisco took to its heart the Tivoli opera company and everybody felt that it was one of the big assets of the community. Strangers in the city made it a part of their programme to go at least once, if not several times, to the performances. Line parties of society people were the order of the day. High school students and a lot of other young people went up in the gallery, listened, applauded, even if sometimes boisterously, and for some time afterward could be heard whistling the catchy melodies on the street.

Why can't we make the Alcazar Portland's Tivoli? The repertoire used by this company is the great bridge between the popular or so-called ragtime music and the class of music used at concerts. There has been a very fair attendance during the summer, but not enough to make the promoters and backers of the effort feel very plutocratic.

Portland has been noted in times past for its comparative indifference to anything that could be termed a permanent local enterprise, although I believe the Baker stock company is a cheerful exception, and shows of the Alcazar standard cost money. I have made considerable inquiry among acquaintances and friends and I find a unanimous verdict for the high class and worthiness of the Alcazar company, and now those who have been to one or more performances should get busy and talk it up to their friends who have not gone. If a thorough campaign of mouth advertising will not make the management feel prosperous and content with their investment perhaps we can resort to a ticket-selling campaign, but let us try the former first.

Let us see some of the material reasons why we should keep the Alcazar players.

There are about 50 people employed, nine principals in addition to the chorus, stage and house forces, a number of these being local people. I have been privileged to see light opera and musical comedy in Germany, England, France and Italy, in addition to the U. S. A., and on very few occasions have I seen any better balanced performances. The principals are artists, the chorus are young, intelligent people, the scenery is exceptionally appropriate, the costumes are bright and have the appearance of freshness that many of our $2 road shows fail to bring. They keep a goodly number of musicians employed in the orchestra. They are willing to give young and ambitious Portland singers who are well prepared a chance to make a beginning, which is of inestimable value in the musical life of any city. They are giving musical plays that have been proved successes. Everyone going is assured of hearing something that has been the frank choice of a multitude of people from one end of the country to the other.

Let us make every effort to establish the Alcazar as our English light opera company in Portland and encourage it to give us some Gilbert & Sullivan, as well as such plays as "Sari," "The Wizard of the Nile," etc. Let us patronize the organization sufficiently to make it ours, so that were a season asked for in other coast cities it would be given by the Alcazar company of Portland. There are people enough here to do this easily because we like bright musical entertainment. The main thing is to wake up and give it a wave of verbal advertising which, added to the newspaper and billboard methods, will put it on a firm foundation.

GEORGE HOTCHKISS STREET.

DUMPING PLACE FOR BAD FRUIT

Infected Product Continually Appears Only to Be Condemned.

PORTLAND, Sept. 30.—(To the Editor.)—Why should fruit growers offer infected fruit for sale and continue to stand the loss by having the same condemned when they understand it is against the law to sell such fruit?

The individual grower does not realize that there is an average of from 50 to 60 boxes condemned each day on the Portland markets. Of this a very small amount comes from Multnomah county. This report does not indicate that Multnomah county has a better quality of fruit. It is a noticeable fact that a large percentage of the infected apples found in grocery stores in the suburban districts comes from homes where few trees are kept and little or no care taken of them, and grocery stores accept this fruit against their wishes in order to hold the trade of such people.

Commercial growers of fruit in this county have come to realize that it pays to sort their fruit before placing it upon the market. In many cases Portland is being used as a dumping ground in order to realize some value for fruit which is unfit for eastern shipment. This practice must be stopped, otherwise losses will continue, as all fruit infected will be oiled wherever found. C. N. W.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of October 2, 1894.

St. Louis—While Senator Vest was opening the democratic campaign in Missouri at Kansas City last night Governor McKinley faced a vociferous crowd here in opening the republican campaign.

Several United States army engineers will assemble here October 15 to consider modifications proposed for the Cascades locks and canal.

John W. Minto, on Saturday named chief of police, was yesterday formally introduced to members of the police force by Charles K. Hunt, the retiring chief, and took over the position.

Colonel James Hamilton Lewis of Seattle, popularly known as "Dude" Lewis, was in Portland yesterday on his way to attend the circuit court of appeals in San Francisco.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of October 2, 1869.

San Francisco—A five-inning game between the Red Stockings of Cincinnati and the Atlantics resulted in a score of 76 to 5 in favor of the visitors, who made 40 scores and 14 home runs in the fourth inning.

The scow loading at the foot of Washington street is bound for Cementville and will carry approximately 300 tons, including 25,000 bricks and 15 tons of provisions.

The building of the East Portland plank road will be started today, the first plank being laid near the Brooklyn mill.

The yacht Erin will be raffled for this evening at the Grotto saloon on Front street.

Suppose Each Nation Amended.

COLUMBIA CITY, Or., Sept. 30.—(To the Editor.)—The editorial in the Sunday Oregonian, September 28, urging ratification of the peace treaty, drives the nail right home, and I am satisfied that you are speaking the sentiment of at least 80 per cent of the people in this community. If every legislative body of every nation that is to ratify the peace treaty would insist on amending the peace treaty and the league of nations covenant to satisfy its own whims, would they reach an agreement in 20 years? O. HENRY OLEEN.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

THE REFORM OF PETER PLUNKITT

Peter Plunkitt was the Bolshevik
Of Hickville Public School;
He said that lessons made him sick;
He wouldn't mind a rule.
He wouldn't study or recite,
He'd sit all day and slack;
He dearly loved to row and fight
And beat the teacher back.

Whenever trouble raised its head
The teacher always knew
Pete Plunkitt was the lad that led
The mischief-making crew.
When little boys with blackened eyes
To her complaining came
She heard, without the least surprise,
That Peter was to blame.

But when to him she pointed out
The error of his course,
He only wore an ugly pout
Nor showed the least remorse.
Kind counsel did not help because
Misconduct gave him joy,
You've guessed perhaps that Peter was
A very naughty boy.

And so one day she took a stick
And with indignant might
She beat the little Bolshevik
Until he saw the light.
He whimpered to his seat with his
Well—say his feelings—sore
And little Peter Plunkitt is
A Bolshevik no more.

* * *

Only a Rush Affair.

The League of Nations business will now be postponed till the dispute in the Big League is settled.

* * *

If You Know What We Mean.

Everybody wants to do something else.—Elihu Root. And everybody's doing it.

* * *

Distinctly On the Map.

Probably by this time the Prince of Wales knows where Boston is.

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Boomerangs

By Grace E. Hall.

You may go far along the crooked trail,
Perhaps escape the censure of the throng,
Your acts maybe shall bring a joy, or fail
At least to bring a grief; but long, aye long
Days after others cease to feel the smart
That you in selfishnes may oft bestow,
Reaction shall occur, and on your heart
Shall fall at last the impact of the blow.

There is "unwritten law" none may defy,
Its consequences follow every deed;
Each calm deliberate wrong at last shall fly
Like homing pigeon back with unchecked speed;
Shall force its entrance at the midnight hour,
Rest in the brain that gave it first abode,
And with persistent sting exert a power
That shall be added weight upon life's load.

Wrong shall not live—it is against the plan,
Though often it may seem to have great strength;
But there are thoughts asleep in every man,
That waken suddenly; and these at length
Are roused and start to tease his weary brain
With tiny spears that deal a deadly pain;
Remorse, regret, both speak in mocking tone,
And torture, when he is the most alone.

Wrong comes back home before it really dies,
And man must pay the price for what he buys.

SUBSTANCE IS PLANETARY DUST

Saturday's Dry Shower Unusual Only as to Quantity, Says Writer.

PORTLAND, Sept. 30.—(To the Editor.)—The shower of dust which fell upon the earth in Portland and at various places is not unusual, though the quantity is usually so small as to attract little attention.

The earth is continually passing dead planets or stars, or fragments of dead planets or stars in the process of forming new heavenly bodies, and when these fragments or dead planets come within the pull of the earth's attraction disintegration of the bodies occurs as they pass through the earth's atmosphere and they reach the ear