Morning Oregonian

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THE COAL STRIKE AND ITS SEQUEL.

Within a few days we shall learn whether the miners' strike can be successfully prosecuted in defiance of the courts, with the forces of the law actively employed to prevent any communication from its leaders in furtherance of it and to protect all work, and with public opinion decidedly hostile to it. This is a combination of opposing forces such as a great strike rarely encounters.

While at the outset from four-fifths to nine-tenths of the bituminous coal miners quit work, this happened on a Saturday, when it is customary for many miners not to work. The number of men who did not go to the mines on Saturday is no guide to the number of men who will remain idle on Monday. Injunction will prevent the national officers of the miners' union from holding strike meetings and will check such activity on the part of local leaders. Thus the usual means of keeping up enthusiasm will be lacking. Troops will prevent congregation of crowds on the streets of mining towns, and will protect those who continue work from assault or insult. Non-union mines will continue in full operation and any attempt of strikers in neighboring districts to march across country and force suspension will be blocked. Unable to use the customary means of maintaining and extending a strike, the miners can do little but sit and wait, with everything going out and nothing coming in. The spectacle of a few mines in operation will be a constant temptation to break ranks, which may lead to gradual resumption of work at one mine after another.

The circumstances under which the strike was called do not favor enthusiasm for it among the miners. When delegates to the Cleveland convention were elected, the rank and file no doubt supported the extreme demands of that body with the threat of a strike to enforce them, but a vote among all the members of the union on a proposal actually to strike on a certain day with the government and public opinion arrayed against them has not been taken and might show a very different result.

The action of the Cleveland convention hinted strongly at the expectation of aid from railroad men in the shape of a sympathetic strike. That too is put under the ban of the law, for the injunction prohibits action to limit distribution as well as production of coal. It thus applies to communication with railroad men to that end and may be extended to the officers of the railroad unions. On the same principle, any sympathetic action by any other union would be enjoined. If the injunction should be obeyed or if disobedience should be successfully prevented, the miners would be unable to take any action to maintain and extend the strike and would be deprived of all help from men in other occupations. The strike would consist only of volunteer inactivity unaccompanied by measures to keep the strikers' will unshaken.

This condition may be considered provocative of secret plots to kill or injure persons or to blow up property on the part of the revolutionary element. The government may be presumed to have provided for vigilant watch for such outbreaks. It knows that there is a large proportion of alien reds among the miners, probably knows who they are and would take advantage of the first lawless act on their part to arrest them. By pursuing this course without relaxation, it may utilize the strike to make a general clean-up of the entire revolutionary element and imprison or deport its members.

The strong stand which the government has taken against an unlimited right to strike may be expected to call forth a declaration from the conference of the heads of affiliated unions, which has been called for November 12 by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor. If the principle advanced by the government, that the right of the public to a necessity of life is paramount to the right of any body of men to strike should be sustained, it would apply with even greater force to railroad operation than to coal production for railroads are a public utility and the supply of neither coal nor any other commodity can be maintained without transportation. The anti-strike provision of the Cummins railroad bill will bring the whole question before congress and its adoption would deprive railroad men of the strike weapon. That both political parties are of one mind on this subject is evident from the practical unanimity with which congress approved the policy of the administration toward the coal strike and by the fact that all members of the senate commerce committee, with the sole exception of Senator LaFollette, endorsed the Cummins bill.

The coal strike thus forces a decision of the railroad men whether to make a stand for the right to declare a general strike at a juncture where the coal miners look to them for help, but where a strike would certainly be enjoined and would therefore be a defiance of the courts. The right to strike is likely to be maintained simultaneously in the courts and in congress and until a final decision is rendered by the supreme court may become an important political issue.

CRAP-SHOOTING AT CAMP SHERIDAN.

The revelations of wholesale fraud in construction of Camp Sheridan, Ala., go to confirm the worst that has been said about criminal waste in execution of army contracts. Fraud was the natural outgrowth of the cost-plus system, for the greater the cost the more "plus" went into the contractor's pocket. The crap-shooters of Camp Sheridan literally gambled away money which was paid for in liberty bonds or taxes, but at that they may have done less harm than if they had tried to earn their wages as plumbers, for they might have left white lead in water-tanks, as did the alleged plumbers who built the steamer West Munham.

Cost plus contracts were a device adopted by the administration when it had accused some firms of making collusive bids including excessive profit. They were expected to save money by comparison with flat price contracts, but the government overlooked the too prevalent idea that it is no crime to rob the government, and the difficulty of securing honest, efficient supervision of such great undertakings as the building of army camps.

Camp Sheridan was probably only an example among many cases of wholesale fraud during the war. A great amount of waste is expected and inevitable in war, but fraud is possible only through dishonesty of contractors, and laxity, incompetence or downright collusion of government officers. The people are willing to pay for unavoidable waste due to haste and war prices, but they will not condone robbery. The committees of congress are doing well to investigate all war activities, and it is to be hoped that they will pursue their work to the end.

GOVERNOR OLCOTT'S TERM.

The Oregonian concedes the logic of the opinion of the attorney general that Governor Olcott is entitled to serve out the full term of Governor Withycombe. The opinion is a well ordered conclusion from the supreme court's decision in the Chadwick case. The only point of difference between the case of Governor Chadwick and that of Governor Olcott is one of length of time in office. The unimportant period of nine days was in dispute in the Chadwick case, while the Olcott case involves his right to hold office for more than two years.

The supreme court in the earlier case held that Governor Chadwick was entitled to serve out the full term of Governor Grover. In the later decision on the Olcott case the supreme court divided on more than one point, one of them being the question as to whether the tenure of office issue was properly before the course. That phase of the Chadwick decision was therefore not reaffirmed, nor was it reversed.

But there are always ambitious persons who are attracted by the long chance. The opinion of the attorney general, while seemingly sustained by a court decision, is not final. It is fully to be expected that if the matter is permitted to rest without another court ruling, one or more persons who could not hope to attain the office in a free and open election will file at the last minute, hoping to force acceptance of their nomination by mandamus and obtain the governorship by default of more worthy candidates.

The attorney general's opinion points out how this may be avoided. The secretary of state is required to certify to the county clerks the list of state officers for which parties are to make nominations in the primary election. This list may be certified at any time not less than 45 days before election. If the secretary of state fails to include the office of governor in the list certified, mandamus may be sought by any citizen and the issue thus squarely be presented to the courts.

It is clear that if the secretary of state takes the full time allotted to him to certify the list of offices to be filled, the courts cannot pass on the issue before the expiration of the final date for filing nominating petitions. The desirable course, therefore, is for the secretary of state to make his certification early enough to permit a final ruling to be made by the supreme court before it is too late for candidates to file nominating petitions. In that way, if the remote possibility should happen and it be held that a governor must be elected in 1920, the several parties would have opportunity to make an intelligent choice of suitable candidates for the office.

PROFITEERING 50 YEARS AGO.

Fifty years ago the word "profiteer" was not in such common usage as in the present, but the essentials of profiteering were charged with all the vehemence of today. In 1869, just as in the present year, the landlord came in for a great deal of criticism. We quote from The Oregonian of November 3, just fifty years ago today:

> Among the many procuring causes of tight times are the enormous rents which are charged for business and dwelling houses in this city. We have little hesitation in saying that the excess in rents above what they should be costs the laborer and the consumer from 10 to 20 per cent more for a living than it should cost, everything else considered. The entire living of a man, including shelter, should not cost him more than 40 to 50 per cent of his earnings. But how stands the matter?
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> Those who are dependent upon day wages, or weekly, or monthly or yearly salaries do not get over an average of $60 per month, from which deduct lost time, and the average will be little more than $50. There are few families of four or five persons who can clothe and feed themselves for a less sum than that; yet there are few renters who pay less than $20 per month for houses of ordinary size and accommodations. It is clear that the rent must be saved by "skimping" in matters of dress and eating. There are to be no luxuries upon the table; days of recreation must be rare; books must be considered among the unobtainable blessings; the children must go to the free school or to none; and the most rigid economy must be practiced in all things, to avoid being turned out of doors for default of rent.
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> The rents literally eat up the substance of the people. They gnaw away at it, directly, in the cost of their own shelter, and, indirectly, in the increased cost of clothes, provisions and the necessaries of life, which they must buy of merchants who also have to pay exorbitant rents, but who make it up by charging their customers a per cent on their goods.
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> There are today more than a dozen buildings on Front street—good business houses—standing empty, because the rents asked are so high nobody cares to take them; and dozens of buildings in the city, unfit for building purposes, are occupied, because business won't warrant the renting of more costly houses. Business men are driven to high insurance or no insurance at all because the rates of rent compel them to go into wooden buildings of cheap and insecure structure. So, high rents impede business, make costly goods, costly everything and bear hardly upon the poor. They, indirectly, keep some people away, drive others away, and thus hinder the growth and prosperity of the city. If owners would but cease the attempt to get rich in a year, consult but their own interest and reduce the rates of rent to a fair standard, they would be gainers in the end through the growth of population and the corresponding enhancement of the value of their own property.

The story reveals much concerning the changes in the scale of wages and living expenses in a half century. Yet the principle that was good then is good today—that one-third of one's income is too great a proportion to pay out for rent.

Probably proportionately high rentals were a reflex fifty years ago of the higher cost of living, just as higher rents are such a reflex now. The article quoted was printed about four years after the close of the civil war. A United States senate report issued in 1893 quotes the average price of commodities in 1865 at 116 per cent greater than the average price in 1860, and wages at an advance of only 43 per cent.

After the close of the war prices declined but wages continued on an ascending scale that finally virtually met the descending commodity prices. By 1869 wages averaged 62 per cent higher than in 1860, while prices averaged only 53 per cent higher.

Because of its remoteness at that time from labor centers and the larger markets, Oregon probably experienced comparatively lower wages than other portions of the country, while eastern commodity prices were more closely reflected in local markets. Decline in commodity prices was delayed here by the long time consumed in transportation.

Today, the house, even of "ordinary size and accommodations" at $20 would be deemed a blessing, but the family of four or five persons with an income of only $50 or $60 a month would be in serious straits if rents were free.

FIRST SETTLERS IN OREGON.

One of those convenient compendiums of dates, or anniversary calendars, which do so much to make easy the work of editors has it that on October 29, 1832, the first settlers from the east reached Oregon. This is an allusion to the arrival on that day of the party of Nathaniel Jarvis Wyeth, who, Washington Irving says in his graphic account of the "Adventures of Captain Bonneville, U. S. A., in the Rocky Mountains and the Far West," arrived "after hardships of all kinds, on the 29th of October (1832) at Vancouver, on the Columbia, the main factory of the Hudson's Bay company." The actual "first settlers" of this party were only two in number, although Wyeth had left Boston with twenty, had been joined at Baltimore by four more, and had set out from Liberty, Mo., then the last station on the border, with twenty-one. The process of selection by which this hopeful band was reduced to only one in ten of its original number was typical of that by which the west was peopled. Only the hardiest of physique and the most resolute of moral purpose survived in those times.

Wyeth probably did not partake of the same spirit that imbued Hall J. Kelley, prime mover in the organization of the Boston Colonization society, although he was at one time partly committed to joining forces with the expedition which Kelley was recruiting, and his projected alliance with Kelley was for mutual advantage on the journey only. It is unlikely that he partook of the ambition of Kelley and his co-workers to repeat, after a fashion and with suitable modifications, in the nineteenth century the performance of the Pilgrim fathers in the seventeenth. But he was intensely practical, which Kelley was not, and his preparation had fitted him better than Kelley was fitted to grasp the business details of an enterprise. He had the foundation of a classical education, given him by his father, a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1792, but instead of going to college had entered the employ of a firm which was the pioneer storer of ice for shipment to tropical countries. His energy and inventive genius practically revolutionized this novel industry. Then his imagination was fired by the commercial possibilities of other virgin fields and he set out for Oregon—but not as a colonist. It probably is true only in part that, as a biographer has said of him, he saw in Oregon "a remnant of the continent still to be subdued to man's higher uses," and that he conceived himself as playing a part in "executing one of his country's trusts for civilization," but it is certain that he foresaw the end of joint occupation of the northwest, that he proposed that Americans should be the surviving occupants, and that he was the first man of any nationality to apprehend the future value of the salmon in the country's food supply. With salmon selling in the states at $16 a barrel of thirty gallons—then a high price—he saw profit in the venture, at least enough to pay the cost of an expedition and leave the income from his fur trade as clear profit on the investment.

Wyeth was restless as well as enterprising. "I cannot divest myself," he wrote, "of the opinion that I shall compete better with my fellow men in new and untried paths than in those to pursue which requires only patience and attention." He could not wait for Kelley to complete the party the latter was trying to get together. Though New England patriotism was fired by the fact that Captain Gray, discoverer of the Columbia, was from Boston, and though "Boston man" has come to be synonymous in the Indian vocabulary with "white man," New England caution still delayed Kelley's enterprise. Wyeth set out from Boston on March 10, 1832, with twenty men. At Baltimore he was joined by four others. He left Liberty, Mo., on May 12, with twenty-one. Fifteen days later three deserted. When, on July 8, he reached Pierre's Hole, at the head of the Lewis river, the party had been reduced by desertion and dismissals to eleven. One died on the way to Oregon. Wyeth cannot have remained long to enjoy the hospitality of the factor at Fort Vancouver, for he records his arrival at Lake Disappointment on November 8, 1832. Here it was learned that the supply vessel, sent around Cape Horn from Boston, had been wrecked in the Society Islands. This discouraged others of his party and all but two requested their discharge. Five returned to "the United States" by sea, one died here in 1834, two remained as settlers. Wyeth returned with two men to the states in 1833.

By that time he had reason to know that no common foresight could avail in preparing for a venture so wholly novel as that on which he had embarked. Irving says of him:

> Wyeth found, too, that a great part of the goods he had brought with him were unfitted for the Indian trade; in a word, his expedition, undertaken entirely on his own resources, proved a failure. He lost everything invested in it but his hopes. These were as strong as ever. He took note of everything, therefore, that could be of service to him in the prosecution of his project; collected all the information within his reach, and then set off, accompanied by merely two men, on his return journey across the continent. He had got thus far "by hook or crook," a mode in which a New England man can make his way all over the world, and through all kinds of difficulties, and was now bound for Boston; in full confidence of being able to form a company for the salmon fishery and fur trade of the Columbia.

Wyeth's associates were always for the greater part, as Irving describes them, "regular downeasters, that is to say, people of New England who, with the all-pervading spirit of their race, were now pushing their way into a new field of enterprise with which they were totally unacquainted." It was this total lack of acquaintance with the problem that so decimated Wyeth's ranks. And primarily the men did not come as immigrants. Wyeth had definitely declined to commit himself to Mr. Kelley, as "inducing ignorant persons to render their scituations worse rather than better." Wages and the prospect of trade were the chief inducements then held out. He had expressed to Secretary of State Everett the hope that congress would "aid good men to form a settlement in that region and assume the government of the colony," but this was because he saw the value of acquiring so vast and important a territory and realized that American colonization would be a means to that end. Once on the Pacific coast, he did not share the misgivings of his men. He found the climate "warm and agreeable, but in the winter rather too much rain." As to spiritual values, he found the following to be true, as expressed in a letter to his parents, written in January, 1833:

> I have in time of need found (in this land of strangers) kind friends who have alleviated all my sufferings with the exception of that one which arises from a consciousness that I shall never be able to pay to them these civilities which I have received. If polite carriage and shrewd intellect are best acquired in more populous parts of the earth generous feelings are fostered by the wilds, and amid savages the civilized man seems to uphold his character better than among his fellows.

This was not the later estimate of missionaries who subsequently recommended that measures be taken to civilize the white residents rather than the Indians, but it was symbolical of the optimism of Wyeth himself. It was on his second expedition, when he left Boston with a party of seventy, that he built Fort Hall, on Lewis river, now in Idaho, and arrived near Portland on September 22, 1834, locating on what was then called Wappatoo island, now Sauvies island, not far from this city. There is a map of Washington county extant that gives the island the name of Wyeth. The end of his hopes came when serious illness compelled him to absent himself for a time and his enterprise was absorbed by the Hudson's Bay company. Governor Pelly of that company wrote in 1838 that "we have compelled the American adventurers to withdraw from the contest," but Pelly crowed too soon, so far as the general movement was concerned. Wyeth and Bonneville had blazed a way. It was over the route which Wyeth had four times traveled between 1832 and 1836 that Marcus Whitman led his caravan, by way of Fort Hall, and it was over the same general course that Fremont came in 1843 to "occupy" the territory. Wyeth lived to see Oregon a territory of the United States and to observe at a distance the development of the region on a scale which his practical vision had only dimly foreseen.

What Dr. Mayo means as prolonging a man's life by drinking "potable" water is just that "potable" means "drinkable" and that should be the best. Nobody ever drinks too much water, except, possibly, the morning after and that is going out of fashion. Essentially, the man who drinks the most lives longest, if it approaches Bull Run water, the best on earth. The system requires five pints a day; anything beyond means longevity. Here is a good place to prove it.

After a number of years in the newspaper business at Vancouver, during which he never failed to get out a good paper, E. E. Beard goes to Seattle. He was in the front in the days when Vancouver (Wash., of course) was making itself, and the Columbian helped wonderfully.

Burglars and other prowlers who use violence toward women are violating rules of the burglars' union. The burglar who carries a card is a gentleman always and willing to show his credentials. If he cannot produce them, just kill him.

Even the prospect of adding ten years to the average man's life has its drawbacks. Some men would like to cut ten years off other men's lives, if they could do so without facing a jury. Take the ex-kaiser for example.

When Admiral Reuter sank the German ships at Scapa Flow, he boasted that German honor had been vindicated. When Germany has to pay for the ships, it may not thank him.

Increasing use of cheap nickel-plated revolvers in holdups may indicate that highwaymen are not unmindful of the lessons of the thrift campaign.

Happy is the man who has his basement full of wood. He can afford to laugh at him who sneered at the disfigurement of the street by his woodpile during the summer.

A world seeking the best apple cannot be turned against the Oregon product through fear of spraying material that might be on the fruit. There is none to hurt anybody.

Dairymen of Washington are opposed to the "short" day, and it is a wonder the milkmaids' union has not long ago called for a double battalion.

National enforcement will relieve local judges of much embarrassment in fining friends and acquaintances who go wrong in rum running.

Forecast for the week is "showery," announcement of which is a bit of supererogation. Oregonians know rain when they see it.

The "Made in America" label is to appear even on the new Russian money.

The food show is worth while. Better attend and learn.

BY-PRODUCTS OF THE PRESS

How Lafayette Was Made a Citizen of the United States.

Morris Edmond Speare of the department of history and English in the United States Naval academy has added the little-known fact that Lafayette was actually a citizen of the United States. Before the United States came into existence, Maryland passed an act to "naturalize Major-General the Marquiss de la Fayete and his Heirs Male Forever," and when that state came into the Union it brought all its citizens with it. The act was passed by the Maryland legislature December 28, 1784, and although the constitution of the United States later assumed, in its first article, the exclusive right of establishing uniform rules of naturalization throughout the nation, all who were citizens of the respective states when they ratified the constitution became citizens of the nation.

* * *

The widely-read Spanish-American journalist, Enrique Gomez-Carrillo, tells a story of Clemenceau, who was once induced to sit to Rodin for a statue. As usual, the great sculptor surrounded his work with an air of mystery, not permitting even his illustrious sitter to inspect the work before its completion. When the moment for inspection at last arrived Clemenceau could not believe his eyes. "Is that I? Never! I don't want that!"

It was of no avail that experts pronounced the likeness perfect. "Let him change the nose, the mouth, the head, the eyes and that pate and I'll accept the bust," said the "Tiger." To which Rodin responded that he had made the work less ugly than Clemenceau really was. "Well," was the latter's comment, "if I'm that ugly I don't want to know it!"

It is said that the great Frenchman to this day does not take kindly to the idea of a statue. "We old fellows look very ugly in marble. Let them keep their pedestals for the young folks."—Christian Science Monitor.

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The flamingo, one of the queerest of birds, sits on its nest while standing straight up, says a writer in the New York Sun. The birds build their nests in shallow ponds, where there is much mud. This they scrape together, making little hillocks, like small islands appearing out of the water about a foot and a half from the bottom. They make the foundations broad, and leave a small opening, or hollow pit, at the top, where they deposit their two eggs, the number the flamingo always lays. To hatch them the flamingo stands over the nest, with its body just above the eggs. It couldn't put its long, awkward legs inside the nest, and to sit on the hillock would jeopardize the eggs.

Young flamingoes do not fly readily, although they run very fast. Once they learn to fly they show speed and resemble skyrockets, with their brilliant red plumage.

Flamingoes were first noticed in 1683 by Dampier, on the Cape Verde islands. Ever since they have been hunted to provide feathers for milady's hats.

* * *

The American Forestry Magazine is urging the planting of sycamores for shade trees. It shows that they are of rapid growth and attain large size. It also calls attention to the beauty of the tree—a thing which many people do not really appreciate. In the interest of more beautiful cities, it is desirable that sycamores be encouraged, the magazine urges.

The largest shade tree in this country is a sycamore in Worthington, Ind. It is 46 feet in circumference and 150 feet in height—the most beautiful specimen of a tree to be found, at least in the middle west. But it isn't the only "grand old sycamore" to be found; there are thousands and thousands of them in this country.

The sycamore requires plenty of moisture, but moisture is easily supplied in a modern city. Besides, the tree has a habit of reaching out after moisture, its roots extending for long distances and going deep into the earth.

* * *

The death of William Waldorf Astor reminds a Philadelphia litterateur of the fact that his first novel, "Valentino," produced in 1886, made a sensation among publishers because the manuscript was entirely typewritten.

A third of a century ago only a wealthy man could afford such a luxury.

Three years later, in 1889, the Rev. Joseph C. Harvey, of this city, took a typewriter with him to the University of Edinburgh, and when he wrote his theses upon it students and members of the faculty flocked to his room to see how it was done.

In these days, when we take all manner of labor-saving appliances for granted, it is somewhat startling to be reminded how recent is the origin of many of them.

* * *

"I liked all the glimpses I had of American home life in the suburbs of New York and in other townships of the United States," writes Philip Gibbs in Harper's. "I liked the white woodwork of the houses, and the bright sunlight that swept the sky above them, and the gardens that grow without hedges. I liked the good nature of the people, the healthiness of their outlook on life, their hopefulness in the future, their self-reliance, and their sincerity of speech. I liked the children of America, and the college girls who strolled in groups along the lanes, and the crowds who assembled in the morning at the local station to begin a new day's work or a new day's shopping in the big city at their journey's end. They had a keen and vital look, and nodded to one another in a neighborly way as they bought bulky papers from the book stall and chewing gum from the candy stall and had their shoes shined with one eye on the ticket office. I like the greeting of the train conductor to all those people whose faces he knew as familiar friends, and to whom he passed the time o' day with a jesting word or two. I liked the social life of the American middle classes, because it is based, for the most part, on honesty, a kindly feeling toward mankind, and healthiness of mind and body. They are not out to make trouble in the world, and unless somebody asks for it very badly they are not inclined to interfere with other people's business. The thing I liked best in the United States is the belief of its citizens in the progress of mankind toward higher ideals of common sense; and after the madness of a world at war it is good to find such faith, however difficult to believe."

Those Who Come and Go.

"I'm the dad of Oregon's star football hero," is the modest introduction that Edward W. Bartlett of Estacada gave when he reached Portland yesterday to greet his son, "Ken" Bartlett, tackle in the football juggernaut of the University of Oregon, just back from the classic trouncing administered to the University of Washington at Seattle. "Dad" Bartlett never missed a football clash in the old days, when he rooted in trio with the sires of Bart Spellman and Johnny Beckett, also of the Oregon eleven. Spellman is now the Oregon coach, and Johnny Beckett is a lieutenant of marines. Their respective fathers have sort of lost interest in the game. But Bartlett persists, and avows that he is looking for another proud parent to keep him company on the side lines.

Brides have been left at the altar and swains have been jilted at the church door—but the Hotel Oregon hangs up a prize for a more original disaster than that which befell a newly-wedded couple who registered at that tavern on Saturday evening. Arriving early yesterday morning they continued their honeymoon jaunt, but they left behind them, for the delectation of the chambermaid—their marriage certificate. There it lay, on the bureau top, an engraved document bearing an embossed and labeled "wedding wreath," and testifying to the recent nuptials. Clerk R. E. Doyle is treasuring it for the rightful owners, and awaits communication from them. The groom is an Amity young man and the bride is from McMinnville, where they were wedded on Saturday afternoon.

Just six or eight years ago "for rent" signs were the principal decorations of Denver's residence and business sections, declares J. E. Moore of the Moore Lumber company of Denver, who arrived at the Multnomah last night and is spending several days in this city. "Today, Denver is one of the most prosperous cities in the west," said Mr. Moore. "The Great Western Sugar Refining company has headquarters at Denver and operates 20 beet sugar plants in Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming. Beet raisers are keeping the factories supplied to capacity. Each one of these plants turns out about 1,000,000 pounds of sugar in the season. It is almost impossible to rent a house today in Denver and the hotels are always filled."

The times march forward. Tother day the Hotel Oregon received its first room reservation ever forwarded by radio. It came from the U. S. S. Coaxet, a Portland-built ship, while that vessel was plowing the Pacific 2000 miles from the mainland, and was signed by E. F. Samuel, an insurance salesman of this city. "Reserve room Saturday night" was the urgent message that floated over the wild waves via wireless to North Head station. Mr. Samuels arrived yesterday morning—a trifle late. For the past two months he has been vacationing in China. Confronted with the suspicion, the insurance man earnestly denied that he had attempted to sell life insurance to those super-fatalists, the orientals.

W. J. McCormack of Buxton, partner in the Bennett-McCormack Construction company, registered at the Oregon yesterday. His firm is working on a sub-contract for the construction of 40 miles of logging railroad from Wilkesbarre, Or, via Banks and Buxton to Vernonia, where the line is to tap the Washington county timber holdings of the Eccles interests. The logging road has commercial pretensions of permanency, judging from its title. It is known as the Portland, Astoria & Pacific railroad. Sub-contractors are operating at every point of construction, and the road is speedily to be in readiness for operation.

"Southern Oregon is enjoying a season of exceptional prosperity," said Arthur L. Bramwell, formerly of the clerical staff of the Hotel Portland, who returned yesterday from a trip as representative of Armour & Co. "The fruit crop has been wonderful, the biggest they've ever had, and the prices correspond for once. Southern Oregon is perking up and reaping a genuine harvest after a number of lean years." Mr. Bramwell is the son of F. S. Bramwell, widely known financier of Grants Pass. His territory embraces the district from Roseburg, Or., to Dunsmuir, Cal.

"For 25 years I've kept my shop open at Newberg," quoth M. McDonald, village smith of the Yamhill county trading center, as he registered at the Imperial yesterday. "I haven't paid much attention to auto repairing, like lots of other blacksmiths. There's been all that I could do, and more, in the regular line—horseshoeing, tire-setting and the like. I worked three men besides myself all the last season. Yes, sir, I'm a blacksmith, and not an automobile tinker. Twenty-five years in the same location, and I can hammer away like blazes yet."

Oil importers receive from the far ports of the Pacific large consignments of their stock in trade, and it is a rapidly increasing volume in the import trade. William Orville Thomson of Seattle, who represents the firm of Rogers, Brown & Co., has been scouting around Portland for several days, conferring with Portland concerns that are interested in copra and other elements of trade that come out of the south seas and Asiatic countries.

Captain Harold Rook, commanding submarine H-4, and his brother, Captain Rook of the sixth division, Pershing's picked crew, came to Portland to visit their mother, Mrs. Ruth Rook, who is at the Hotel Washington. The sons were here for one evening. Both the young men were formerly residents of Walla Walla, Wash., and one is a graduate of the naval academy at Annapolis and the other of West Point.

P. R. Gregorie of Oregon is a guest at the Multnomah. Mr. Gregorie registers from Oregon presumably because he has large timber holdings throughout the state. But really he lives in the east, and is interested in the ownership of several large hotels—the Ponce de Leon, St. Augustine, Fla.; the Bellevue-Stratford, Philadelphia, as well as others.

Adjutant-General Stafrin, whose headquarters are at Salem, but whose home is at Dallas, registered at the Imperial yesterday. General Stafrin recently returned from an eastern trip, during which he attended a national assembly of adjutant-generals from the sister states of the union.

With a carload of cattle apiece for the Portland market the following trio of stockmen registered at the Imperial yesterday: S. S. Black of Ashwood, J. T. West and B. L. Forman of Wapinitia.

Mr. and Mrs. John Tobin of Helena, Mont., are among recent arrivals at the Portland hotel. The Tobins have a large and prosperous ranching property in the vicinity of Gilman, Mont.

L. Nichols of Prineville, vice-president of the Fairview Stock farm, arrived at the Imperial yesterday, a registrant and an enthusiast for the impending livestock show in Portland.

N. L. Boyd of the Polk County Itemizer is registered at the Hotel Washington.

OREGON'S BIRTH RATE IS LOW

No Danger of Overpopulation From Natural Causes, Says Writer.

PORTLAND, Oct. 31.—(To the Editor.)—Reading of birth rates in Europe, discussed by Sir R. Haggard in your news columns, led me to inquire as to the birth rate and death rate in Oregon. From the state board of health I learn that the birth rate here is very low, considerably lower for the last ten years than any year in France before the war, where the lowest level reached was 19 births a year per 1000 population. Our death rate is low also, but the death rate in this state is somewhat deceptive. The figure does not accurately reflect local vital conditions, because so many people in the past 15 years have come from other states who were past the dangerous period of infancy and far from old age. Consequently we do not know what the death rate of the state really is, considering Oregon as a self-perpetuating population unit.

For 1918 the birth rate in Oregon was 15.48 per thousand, the death rate 9.83; for 1917 the birth rate was 15.46, death rate 8.63—somewhat less than for 1918, owing to the epidemic last year. Take 1917 as a typical year, showing a net natural increase in the state's population of 6.83 per thousand, and we must conclude that our birth rate is extremely low. I have seen none quoted as lower anywhere else on earth. Oregon deserves a medal as the banner low birth rate state.

Neither is the net increase rate high, despite our remarkably low death rate. Contrast the 6.83 increase per thousand a year with the figures for Russia or Bulgaria before the war. The latter, for instance, had a birth rate of 40 per thousand a year, with a net increase of 18 per thousand a year over deaths. Russia had an even higher birth rate and somewhat higher net gain annually. Here are net gains for some other European states: Serbia, 16.3; Holland, 15.5; Prussia, 15.3; Denmark, 14.2; England, 12.2.

It has been calculated that if the population of the United States as a whole had increased by natural increment at a rate no more rapid than that of Oregon, we should not now have one-tenth our national population. The first United States census in 1790 showed a population of 3,929,214. At the Oregon rate of natural increase of 6.83 per thousand a year, our country at the last census of 1910, 120 years after 1790, would have had only 9,086,960, instead of actually over 90,000,000.

Here is an opportunity for a thesis in the sociology department of the University of Oregon or Reed college. Let some aspirant for the degree of Ph. D. make a detailed study of population figures and of birth rates and death rates in Oregon covering a period of years, together with an examination into biologic, climatic, economic and social causes and effects of these rates. Some highly significant correlations might be brought out. If competently and conscientiously made, such a study would be sure to prove interesting reading.

MALTHUSIAN.

YANKS WITH ALLIES ARE SOUGHT

Navy League Wants Names of Americans Who Fought in Other Armies.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Oct. 27.—(To the Editor.)—That justice may be done, that the dead may not be forgotten, the Navy league of the United States is striving to collect the names and service records of the Americans who left their country in the early days of the war to fight for the great cause in the armies and navies of the allies. There is no official list of these men. In the English army it is estimated there were 100,000 Americans, 65,000 in the Canadian, 200 in the French foreign legion, several hundred in the aviation service, besides hundreds of doctors and ambulance drivers. Shall we allow them to be lost and forgotten—their names omitted from the war histories and war memorials of their native states? Many of them endured the tortures of the trenches for four years and nobly kept up the American tradition.

We wish to include also the large number of eager men who, rejected by the United States on medical grounds or because they were too young or too old, were able, owing to less stringent regulations abroad, to fight in the ranks of the allies.

We ask the help of your readers in securing information.

L. S. M. ROBINSON,
Secretary of Department No. 6,
1519 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.

ROADS.

There are roads to the cities of men
to be finding,
And one may go up and another
go down,
And one may be straight and another
be winding—
Lord, which is the right road that
leads to the town?

One road or another the living are
trying,
One road through the shining and
one through the gloom,
And any road ends where a dead man
is lying—
Lord, which is the right road that
leads to the tomb?

O, hither and thither are many roads
wending;
On one or the other my journey
must be,
One way or the other beginning and
ending—
Lord, which is the right road that
leads unto Thee?

—SERGEANT CLAUDE WEIMER.
Vancouver Barracks.

Judisriction Over Islets.

PORTLAND, Nov. 1.—(To the Editor.)—Can you inform me as to the jurisdiction of the state or United States in regards to islands and rocks from three to five miles off the shore along the Oregon coast?

For instance, if the jurisdiction of the state reaches only three miles to sea could they convict a man for making illicit whiskey on islands or rocks more than three miles off shore, and what courts would he be tried in?

JNO. DOE.

"A state possesses the islets fringing its coast. A hold on them is essential to its peace and safety"—The Principles of International Law—Lawrence.

The question was raised in 1805, according to the authority quoted, and involved capture of an American ship by a British privateer within three miles of a chain of islets which were more than three miles from the main land. The British prize court held that the capture was made within American waters. The rule that has resulted from this decision has received general recognition according to this work on international law.

Illicit manufacture of whiskey is a crime under both state and federal laws.

Position as Census Taker.

NEWPORT, Or., Oct. 31.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly tell me if it is too late to apply for a position as census taker and if not, to whom should I apply? AGNES E. ASHLEY.

In your district it is not yet too late to apply for the work, although all places in this city are filled. Write to H. R. Crawford of Salem, giving precinct number and asking for an application blank.

With a Kick in It.

By L. L. D.

TAKING IT BY AND LARGE.

I am fond of toads—
They're so self-satisfied;
On rainy days they simply sit out
side
With blinking eyes and warty
dripping hide,
And seem to voice this motto—
"Let 'er ride!"

I am so fond of toads—
Loads, loads of times
I've made comparison of them with
folks.
I think the toad is libeled—
Missus X may be a toad,
As her dear friends assert,
But not the friendly mother toad I
know,
The bane of bugs, the urbane, gentle
one
That rears her family and accounts
it fun.
Well, let it go
At that—I'm fond of toads.

—MONTY.

* * *

Valor and Discretion.

"If the bolsheviki start anything around here I'm going to pack my gun."

"H—l! If anything like that happens I'm going to pack my grip!"

In Reply to W. H. P.

Peerless you are, and how my
thoughts will stray,
Ere ruefully I call them back
again;
Recalling those dead days so far
away,
Kindling anew love's old cold fire
of pain;
In some secluded haunt perhaps you
dwell,
Nobly aspiring though your heart
were fain
Simply to claim your Luce, and dearly
dwell.
Oh, Bill, farewell
Until we meet again
In Salem.

—YOUR BUGHOUSE BELLADONNA.

* * *

A Teem by Himself.

"The stellar hairback sat on the
sidelines teeming with rage."

* * *

The Fallen Leaf.

A courtesan leaf whirled down
To the sward at the verge of town;
Her dress was all crimson and gay
The crickets shrilled—"Decollete!"
She waltzed with the wind—
"She has sinned! She has sinned!"
Squeaked the dormouse just over
the way.
Poor leaf!
So gaudy and golden for grief!
Let them say what they will,
When November was chill,
You gladdened a dreary day!

—FRIAR TUCK.

* * *

It Felt That Way at Times.

Extract from a souvenir letter written November 11, 1918:

"I am writing in the recreation hut with a piano playing in my uniform."

* * *

Or Shall We Do It Twice?

We'd like to have you answer this:
When do we celebrate
The signing of the armistice?
Will it be on the date
Set by the allies' mandate
Or by the United Press?

* * *

We Appreciate the Warning.

"We deal with cattle, sheep and