Morning Oregonian

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AS POOR RICHARD SAYS.

"Industry," wrote Benjamin Franklin, in his Almanac a century and a half ago, "pays debts, while despair increases them." "Silks and satins, scarlets and velvets put out the kitchen fire. The artificial wants of mankind become more numerous than the natural; and, as poor Dick says, 'for one poor person there are a hundred indigent.'" Franklin has rightly been called the apostle of thrift in America. His birthday, January 17, is appropriately observed as Thrift day throughout the land. Wise spending, says the modern Poor Richard, is the basis for steady profits, and is neither to be confounded with extreme niggardliness nor reckless extravagance. Communities are prosperous and stable in proportion, not to sums they spend so much as to the value they give and receive for each dollar spent for food, clothing, rent, recreation and education. Work is the basis of production, and thrift is the embodiment of permanent as distinguished from ephemeral value.

No one ever knew better than Dr. Franklin the saving power of work. "God helps them that help themselves," said Poor Richard in 1733, borrowing the thought expressed by Herbert more than a century before. "Sloth, like rust, consumes faster than labor wears, while a used key is always bright." "Industry need not wish"; "He that lives on hope will die fasting"; "At the workingman's house, hunger looks in, but dares not enter." Our ancestors were not free from the vices of today, as the popularity of Poor Richard's maxims during the twenty-five years that Franklin conducted his Almanac indicates to us. It has been observed by Franklin's biographers that his witty, worldly-wise sayings were very influential in molding American character. It remains to be determined whether the present generation, needing as it does to be warned against the evil consequences of withdrawal from the production of useful things as much as against the results of ill-considered spending, will be as open to the admonition of experience.

Franklin was the first American to cry out against the folly of wearing one's self out in the effort to "keep up with the Joneses." "'Tis as truly folly for the poor to ape the rich," he said, "as for the frog to swell in order to equal the ox." "Pride that dines on vanity sups on contempt," as Poor Richard says, and in another place, "Pride breakfasted with plenty, dined with poverty and supped with infamy." And for those who laid all their woes to high taxes, he had this word:

> Friends and neighbors, the taxes are indeed very heavy, and if those laid on by the government were the only ones we had to pay, we might the more easily discharge them; but we have many others, and much more grievous to some of us. We are taxed twice as much by our idleness, three times as much by our pride and four times as much by our folly; and from these taxes the commissioners cannot deliver us by allowing an abatement. However, let us harken to good advice, and something may be done for us.

The creator of Poor Richard was no miser. None were so practical as he, or so ready to recognize the mutual obligations of neighbors. His whole philosophy of thrift revolved around the old-fashioned notion that industry and frugality were requisites of prosperity, and that the latter could not be obtained without them. He was not himself niggardly, as his many contributions to public enterprises showed. By constant practice of the cardinal virtues that he preached he obtained what was regarded a competence in his time, and this made his many philanthropies possible. His own thrift and frugality were inspired by the highest possible degree of enlightened unselfishness.

The other lesson of Dr. Franklin's life, the value of time, is worth study, too. "Leisure," he preached, "is time for doing something useful." His own career is the best evidence of the value of his maxim. No other American was so many-sided, or accomplished so much in so many fields. He laid the foundation for the Philadelphia library, which was the model of the public library system now in vogue throughout the country; he was a pioneer in the work to establish a public hospital; he broached the plan for an academy which subsequently developed into the University of Pennsylvania; and he devised, in connection with the threatened French and Indian wars, the plan of combining local independence with colonial union which if it had been followed might have avoided many of the causes which led to the Revolution. He invented the cook stove and made important contributions to physical science. He was deeply interested in and gave freely to every scheme of usefulness and philanthropy of his day. His voluminous writings, never the result of deliberate purpose of authorship, and his achievements in state craft and diplomacy are familiar to all school boys who have been well taught. His multitudinous services to his fellow citizens and to mankind in general were made possible only by the thrift and frugality—of time as well as of material things—that he preached incessantly.

It is 188 years since Poor Richard's Almanac was founded. The proverbs it contained, as the author himself has explained, embraced the wisdom of many ages and nations. These he reassembled in 1857 in a connected discourse which is credited with having met with universal approval on two continents. "It discouraged useless expenditure for superfluities, and some thought that it had its share of influence in producing that growing plenty of money which was observable for several years after its publication." It is pertinent to observe that those who are not irretrievably committed to an attitude of contempt for the old-fashioned virtues will find in the book a good deal of food for thought today.

RESULTS OF THE TEST.

The only policy offered as a substitute for returning the railroads to private operation under public regulation is continuance of public operation for two more years as a test during peace time. That policy is advocated as a preliminary to public ownership with operation by a soviet of the employes and managers, in which representatives of the public would merely sit in. At present the roads are run for the government by men who have not a dollar at stake, and they earn a deficit which the public pays. Under the Plumb plan substantially the same condition would prevail, with the difference that the employes would have an equal voice with the managers in control of affairs. Then we have no right to expect substantially different results.

Experience with the Pennsylvania railroad is a fair example of what these results have been and would be. In 1919 it employed 14 per cent more men to handle 11 per cent less traffic than in 1917, that is, it took 127 men in 1919 to do the work which 100 men did in 1917.

The financial result was that 84 per cent of gross income was expended on operation, and after taxes were paid there remained three-fourths of a cent out of every dollar of gross revenue. The government has guaranteed the railroad companies an income equal to the average of the three pre-war years, and it paid a big deficit represented by the difference between this return and that three fourths of 1 per cent.

There is no reason to expect that the Plumb soviet would show any better results. That plan contemplates paying for the roads with 4 per cent bonds. Unless the roads earned 4 per cent net, whatever sum they fell short would be the price paid by the people for the pleasure of owning the railroads and letting the soviet run them. This does not spell economy to a people whose minds are bent that way by having to pay a tax every time they turn around.

NATURE FAKING.

The hunter who comes home with a tale of how he took refuge from a grizzly in a tree, and how the bear climbed after him, is a nature fakir, pure and simple, as Enos A. Mills reminds hunters in the story of the "Adventures of a Nature Guide." Yet this curious misapprehension of the climbing abilities of the greatest of the Ursidae persists in many quarters, and is not always accounted for by mendacity. It seems to be a reasonable explanation that when a grizzly sets out in pursuit of a more or less inexperienced sportsman, the latter is not always in the attitude of a calm investigator. Things are not precisely what they seem when the normal positions of hunter and hunted are reversed.

It is the task of more than one generation to put end to nature faking. Colonel Roosevelt, if he were alive, would take delight in indorsing the work of Mr. Mills, who has recently become famous as a national park guide, who revealed the delightful possibilities of guiding in the wilderness as a profession for ambitious young men. The wilderness, says Mr. Mills, is really the safest place in the world for defenceless human beings. Not even the catamount, or puma, is dangerous. Colonel Roosevelt had already assured us on this point, but the statement will bear repetition. And the Bible to the contrary notwithstanding, "bears never eat human flesh." This is a reminder that the old-time hunters knew their Bible when they dubbed the grizzly "Old Ephraim." It was a deserved tribute to his boldness and sagacity. His scientific name of Ursus horribilis is a libel; the class in beginners' Latin will recognize in it the effort of an early naturalist to translate "grizzly" into the dead language employed by science.

A good many zoological "facts" still call for investigation. We are most disturbed by Mr. Mills' statement that the ostrich when pursued does not thrust its head into the sand. "It is possible," he says, "that a mentally deranged plume bearer may yet be discovered which will do this; but it has never been considered good form among the common run of ostriches." We have here the tragedy of a popular zoological superstition and a widely employed literary figure of speech being annihilated with a single stroke. Authors and political orators who are forehanded will set at once about the search for an equally forceful simile relating, as we have been led to believe, to an almost universal practice of the unelect.

SETTING WATERPOWER FREE.

Passage of the waterpower bill by the senate is practical assurance that final action will be taken at this session of congress. A bill substantially in the present form passed both senate and house at the last session, but opposition by the conservation fanatics held it in conference until the life of that congress ended. As the present session will extend into the summer and as the bill might be taken up again next December if no action should be taken at this session, the chances of a successful filibuster are slight.

The bill appears to be a good workable plan, giving full protection to the interests of the public while not making the terms of lease so stringent that capital could not be attracted. It shows scant respect for the rights of the western states to control their streams and thus puts them in an inferior position to the older states. The land involved will be exempt from state taxation, but lawyers hold that the leases and improvements will be taxable. As the states will be more interested in having cheap power, they will probably be more disposed to do anything which tends in that direction than to seek revenue through taxes which would add to the cost. Regulation of rates and service within each state will be in the hands of its utilities commission, and it will rest with those bodies to establish rates which will attract industry but will also attract capital for further power development.

The prospect that the ten-year embargo on power development will at last be lifted augurs well for the future of Oregon, for this state possesses a volume of power equal to any, and utilization of the vast power of the Columbia river would bring with it extension of the navigable length of that stream for hundreds of miles. As the state has abundant raw material, an ample supply of cheap power is the one other requisite of great industrial expansion. But release of waterpower from the clutch of the reservationists will not come too soon to give the west a good start in the race for world trade which begins this year.

MILK IN THE DIET.

A recent "milk survey," made in schools in Oregon, furnishes a partial answer to the suggestion made by a correspondent of The Oregonian that money now being spent by the dairymen's organization for advertising might better be saved and deducted from the price of milk, "since people already are fully informed as to the food value of milk." The survey indicates that not all people do appreciate the practically indispensable quality of milk in the dietary of the growing.

It was shown, for illustration, that in one school in Malheur county, 119 pupils of a total of 373 were receiving no milk; in a school in Multnomah county outside of Portland the proportion was eighty-four in 200; in one school in Marion county eighty-five out of a total of 204 received no milk, and in another in the same county thirty-three out of fifty-eight were similarly neglected. More than 30 per cent of the pupils in the grade schools in Astoria subsisted on a milkless diet. It was found that this condition prevailed in so-called "dairy" districts as well as in cities, and in communities by no means regarded as backward in general enlightenment. Lack of milk was not confined, either, to localities chiefly inhabited by the poor.

It is stated on the authority of men interested in the dairy industry that the expenditure for propaganda to encourage milk consumption in one district (Multnomah county) amounts to a fraction less than five one-hundredths of a cent a quart of milk now being sold. It will be conceded that this sum is not a potent factor, one way or the other, in the price of milk.

Dairymen are on solid ground in urging the value of their product as a food. Consumers have the right to expect, however, such economies as are the result of modern methods of production and distribution. Doubtless these will be brought about by natural processes in due time. But the point now to be emphasized is that we are mistaken if we assume that the people already know all there is to know about the high necessity of using some milk as food. The statistics of the survey in question show that quite the contrary is true.

THE RED PERIL.

The peril to civilization arising from bolshevist victories which have almost extinguished all opposition in Russia is not limited to Europe and Asia. If bolshevism shall devour Poland, Roumania and the Baltic states which have split off from Russia, it may sweep on through Germany and the Danubian states, gaining power as it advances until Great Britain, France, Italy and Spain cannot withstand it. If it shall overflow India, Afghanistan, Persia and Turkey, it may also extend eastward through China and Japan. The flood would then menace both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans in such volume that America would be forced to resist it.

This is the inevitable consequence of the allies' failure to attack and destroy the bolshevist menace when it was young and comparatively weak. The way from the south was blocked until Turkey surrendered on October 31, 1918, and the Baltic was closed by ice soon after the armistice with Germany was signed eleven days later, but approach from the Pacific had been open to American troops all through the preceding summer and fall, Black sea ports were open all winter and a landing could have been effected on the Baltic coast in the spring. Nothing was done to stamp out the plague in its infancy because some of the allies could not and others would not act effectively at that time. The principal reason for their inaction or ineffective action was that when the other nations were willing, President Wilson hung back.

The bolshevists had no sooner gained power than they began to flood the countries of the allies with the literature and agents of their propaganda, denouncing the war as a capitalists', war and inciting the workers to begin a class war. The effect was seen in strikes of British workers on a constantly larger scale and on any pretext, however flimsy, at the very crisis of the war, during those fateful months from March to August, 1918, when the decision hung in the balance. The same influence was behind some strikes in the United States during that year, when hindrance to war's prosecution was so obviously the effect that presumably it was the purpose of the instigators, though many of the strikers were mere dupes. Lenin proclaimed the purpose, which for years he had advocated in his writings, to begin a class war in all countries in order to effect a world-revolution, which should destroy every capitalist government and make the proletariat supreme, and to him every democratic nation was capitalist. He and Trotzky proclaimed the enmity of the soviet to the United States and the allies in July, 1918, and replied with insult and expressions of hostility to a message of greeting to the first soviet congress in Moscow.

The allies saw the danger then and they proposed to Mr. Wilson that they should intervene in force in support of the anti-bolshevist forces, but in a declaration from the state department issued August 3, 1918, the government rejected these proposals and said:

> Military intervention in Russia would be more likely to add to the present sad confusion there than to cure it, and would injure Russia rather than help her out of her distress. Such military intervention as has been most frequently proposed, even supposing it to be efficacious in its immediate object of delivering an attack upon Germany from the east, would in its (the government's) judgment be likely to turn out to be merely a method of making use of Russia than to be a method of serving her. Her people, if they profited by it at all, could not profit by it in time to deliver them from their present desperate difficulties, and their substance would meantime be used to maintain foreign armies, not to reconstitute their own or to feed their men, women and children. Military action is admissible in Russia now only to render such protection and help as is possible to the Czecho-Slovaks against the armed Austrian and German prisoners who are attacking them and to steady any efforts at self-government or self-defense in which the Russians themselves may be willing to accept assistance.

When hostilities against the central powers ceased, French and Greek troops were sent to the Black sea coast, but propaganda had so weakened their morale that some French regiments mutinied and their numbers were so small that they were driven back to their ships or into Roumania. The mixed forces at Archangel, Murmansk and Vladivostok were too weak to undertake an effective offensive, and nothing was accomplished on the lines laid down by Mr. Wilson. The operations, having been undertaken against Germany, now assumed the character of an undeclared war on the soviet, and were opposed by the British labor party, by the French and Italian socialists and by some radical American socialists as an attempt to crush the first workmen's government and as a stretch of executive power. In consequence the allies withdrew their troops, made vain attempts to bring the warring elements of Russia into conference, made secret peace overtures which they disowned when the facts became public, and limited their aid to the white armies to supply of war material and food. They had foolishly permitted the German army of Von der Goltz to remain in the Baltic provinces, and it treacherously attacked the Letts, Lithuanians and Esthonians, renewing the assault on Riga at an opportune time to accomplish defeat of Yudenitch's drive for Petrograd. That German army served as a line of communication by which German officers filtered into Russia to train red troops and German arms were conveyed to the soviet. Not until the mischief was done did the allies force the Germans to evacuate.

The consequence of this fatuous policy of ineffective intervention alternating with peace overtures is that all white armies have been destroyed, that bolshevism is supreme in European Russia and central Asia and sweeps resistlessly through Siberia. By a peculiar twist of its own theories, it has enlisted the Mohammedans of central Asia in its support, has formed alliances with Afghanistan, with Enver, king of the Kurds, with the Turkish nationalists and with the rebels of India, and has reached out for an arrangement with China. Behind Lenin and pulling his military strings are a body of German officers who hope to snatch power from his hands and to deliver exhausted Russia into the hands of Germany, to use it in completing the conquest of Asia. That done, they could laugh at a naval blockade, for not only would it be impracticable; it would be impotent, for all products of both temperate and tropic zones would be accessible by land.

Lenin now bends all his efforts to make peace with the allies, for he has wrecked Russia in order to rule it, and he needs time to restore and organize his conquests. But that is only preliminary to another spring at the throat of civilization. One of his commissars boasts that the soviet now has an invincible army of 3,000,000, men, and that peace would be only an armistice before a final war for world-revolution by the combined forces of the army and propaganda.

Let those Americans who believe that this nation should retire into its shell and not concern itself with the affairs of the rest of the world ponder over these things. Then they may realize that, for its own safety, this nation should have taken part on Friday in that first meeting of the council of the league of nations—a league at which Lenin scoffs. Then too President Wilson might realize how slight are his reasons for delaying American membership in the league by comparison with the weighty reasons for joining our strength with that of all other civilized nations to destroy this monster which threatens to set back civilization fifteen hundred years.

Chairman Hays struck at one cause of our troubles when he pointed with scorn at the man who takes no interest in politics. The very word democracy implies that every citizen should be a politician, to the extent of being informed on public affairs and voting accordingly. Indifference of many is largely due to the fact that politics is too much a matter of office-seeking and getting and too little a matter of rival principles of government.

Departmental theorists can tell why and how the prices of clothing should come down, finally sticking it on the retail dealers, who would be glad to get from under the pile if they could. It will be observed the dealers themselves are not overwhelmingly extravagant in wearing apparel.

Sir Oliver Lodge, the British scientist and exponent of spiritualism, says the next world may not be so different from this one. Well, let's hope at least that they don't have fish and game controversies.

Persons of weak minds are advised by Sir Oliver Lodge to keep away from ouija boards. He probably figures that the strong-minded ones will keep away from them without the advice.

Both sides in the fish and game controversy accuse Governor Olcott of "passing the buck." Before the governor ends his term he will have a liberal education in the game laws.

Attorney-General Palmer says clothing prices must come down. It will be remembered that he made a similar edict in regard to food prices, but nothing startling happened.

Cider has been officially declared an intoxicant when fermented. No doubt there will now be an added run on the cider market.

Old Harvard with a few centuries in its record is no prouder of its age than is Pacific university, observing its 71st birthday.

Roseburg would rather do without sugar than pay tribute to profiteers, and Roseburg has the nerve to do it.

Late revelations indicate that there wasn't any steal shortage in the shipbuilding industry during the war.

The south wind was welcome with its brisk showers. It beats the doctors for curing ills.

Only the sticky sweet cider is permissible now.

FOOTBALL AND NATIONAL UNITY

Games, Such as Oregon vs. Harvard, Develop Intersectional Interest.

Providence (R. I.) Journal.

According to Mr. Kipling, east is east and west is west, and never the twain shall meet; and that may be true in the sense that he intended. But the twain certainly met at Pasadena on New Year's day, when Harvard played the University of Oregon at football, and 35,000 spectators from all parts of the country flocked to witness the match.

There have been many objections raised to long athletic journeys of the sort the Harvard team was compelled to take in order to compete in the tournament of roses. And possibly an event of this sort does put a disproportionate emphasis on undergraduate rivalry. But on the other hand, it is worth a good deal for the people of the Atlantic seaboard to get through the medium of the game and its attendant incidents a new glimpse of the Pacific coast, and for the Pacific coast in return to hear "Fair Harvard" sung to the accompaniment of a lusty band in the Pasadena grandstand, to listen to the cheers of the Crimson adherents and to be brought into touch, if only for a day, with the athletic and academic life of the east.

How much did the east know about the University of Oregon before this game? Perhaps it does not know very much now. The fact is that we have been very provincial in this part of the country, just as the people in other parts have been. We know a good deal, here in New England, about Cambridge and New Haven, but practically nothing of the college towns of the far west, or the colleges themselves.

The University of Oregon was founded in 1876. It is a state institution, with a student attendance of 2000. Eugene, the seat of the university, was settled in 1854, and at the last census was the fourth city in size in the state. One gazetteer thus describes it:

"Eugene, a banking city, capital of Lane county, Oregon, on the Willamette river, at the head of steamboat navigation, and on the Southern Pacific railroad forty-five miles south of Albany. It has iron works and machine shops, tanneries and manufacturers of wagons, furniture, leather, woolens, excelsior, sash and doors, etc. It is the seat of the University of Oregon and is partly surrounded by an amphitheater of low mountains."

To most people in New England these facts are perhaps uninteresting. A good many of us flatter ourselves that we care only for the things "worth while" and remote college towns do not come within that category. But at Eugene a great host of young Americans are being prepared for their life work, as others are at Seattle, Portland, Berkeley, Palo Alto, Los Angeles and Claremont. And we are narrow-minded if we fail to develop a healthy interest in the higher education of that section of the country, even if it is 3000 miles away.

Every intersectional game like the one at Pasadena on Thursday helps to strengthen our spirit of national unity, to make us conscious that we are socially, industrially and politically bound to the people of the farthest states, and that, in spite of neighborhood prejudices and interests, what affects one part of the great republic affects every other.

PRICE CONTROL IS NOT PANACEA

Historian Is Quoted on Failure of Policy in Early England.

OREGON CITY, Or., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—The problems of today were those of yesterday, and will be those of tomorrow. The world as it grows older does not grow wiser.

The following extract is from Hume's history of England, published in 1818, and refers to an incident of the reign of Edward II, 1307 to 1327:

> The kingdom of England was afflicted with a grievous famine during several years of this reign. Perpetual rains and cold weather not only destroyed the harvest, but bred a mortality among the cattle, and raised every kind of food to an enormous price. The parliament in 1315 endeavored to fix more moderate rates to commodities; not sensible that such an attempt was impracticable, and that, were it possible to reduce the price of provisions by any other expedient than by introducing plenty, nothing could be more pernicious and destructive to the public. Where the produce of a year, for instance, fails so far short as to afford full subsistence only for nine months, the only expedient for making it last all the 12 is to raise the prices, to put the people on that means on short allowance, and oblige them to save their food till a more plentiful season. But, in reality, the increase of prices is a necessary consequence of scarcity; and laws, instead of preventing it, only aggravate the evil, by cramping and restraining commerce. The parliament, accordingly, in the ensuing year, repealed their ordinance, which they had found useless and burdensome.

Those people must, after all, have been wiser than we, if it only took them till "the ensuing year" to come to their senses. A. B. SMITH.

THE SNOB.

Oh, ignominious Thingumbob,
At work upon your modest job,
Take off your hat and bend your knob
And gaze with open, gaping gob,
For, passing in a motor by your door
You see—a snob!

Oh, ignominious Thingumbob,
You live among the common mob;
You eat your corn upon the cob;
Your kettle boils upon the hob,
But every day you live on earth give thanks
You're not a snob!

A creature that is but a daub
On nature's landscape—but the knob
To fashion's door—one who would rob
Life of its meaning—not one throb
Of honest love beats in that heart of stone—
That is a snob!

—MARY ALETHEA WOODWARD.

Meaning of Soviet.

DALLAS, Or., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—I will appreciate it greatly if you will indicate the correct pronunciation of and briefly define the much-used word "soviet." D. A. MACKENZIE.

Soviet is a Russian word, meaning council or a committee, and is applied particularly to councils of workmen's delegates in control of governmental affairs. It is pronounced as it is spelled.

Battle of Marengo.

PORLAND, Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me when the batle of Marengo took place, who were the contending parties (nations), who won the battle, and who were the rulers. TAG.

The battle of Marengo occurred near Alexandria, Italy, on June 14, 1800, between the French under Napoleon and the Austrians under General Melas. The Austrians were completely defeated.

February With Five Sundays.

PORTLAND, Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—To settle an argument please answer how long will it be before we have five Sundays again in the month of February. How long is it since we had five Sundays in February? A READER.

The next February containing five Sundays will be in 1948; the last preceding one was in 1889.

Those Who Come and Go.

While F. W. Lampkin, publisher of the East Oregonian at Pendleton, is not an infrequent visitor at the Benson, clerks there are now referring to him as a man of mystery. It seems that he took a jaunt down to Astoria, where his company recently took over the Evening Budget and returned to Portland Thursday. His ticket home was purchased and a berth reserved for that night, but just before the train was ready to leave the newspaperman cancelled the reservation and remained in the city over night. Hotel folks have been speculating upon the cause of the delicate blush which Mr. Lampkin took back to eastern Oregon with him last night.

The lumber industry was well represented yesterday on the Benson register. J. P. Keyes, manager of the Brooks-Scanlon plant at Bend was down on one of his periodical trips in the interest of the white and yellow pine. The mill with which he is connected is one of the two mammoth plants that caused Bend to put on city clothes. The mills even now employ more people than there are substantial dwellings for and not an insignificant part of the output goes into brand new temporary shanties.

When W. H. Stockman left his home in Wukwonago, Wis., all his friends advised him to avoid northern roads in coming west for fear his train would get snowed under. Twenty below zero weather in his own state and snow on the ground most of the time had convinced Mr. Stockman that it was a good season for a visit to California. He induced Mr. and Mrs. William Kingston and Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Schultz to come along with him and the entire party pulled up at the Seward last night. They will stop here before going south.

One glance at the register at the Portland is enough to convince one that a goodly proportion of Bend's population is to be found at the hotel. T. A. McCann, manager of the Shevlin-Hixon mill, one of the biggest lumber mills in the state, heads the list. Then there are George A. Jones, who has a dairy, and H. J. Overturf, who is secretary of the commercial club. Others who came in are R. D. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Blakley and Mr. and Mrs. L. O. Taylor.

Back from a month's trip to Kansas last night came Miss Henrietta McKaughan, who is registered at the Multnomah. Miss McKaughan, a local newspaperwoman, visited her old home in Edgerton and spent several days at the University of Kansas, of which she is a graduate. While at the latter place she was made an honorary member of Theta Sigma Phi, women's national journalism fraternity.

C. H. Underwood, exalted ruler of Klamath Falls lodge of Elks, and a prominent merchant of southeastern Oregon, is in Portland, awaiting the meeting of the Oregon State Elks' association at Salem Sunday. Mr. Underwood took a leading part in handling the Elks' state convention held in Klamath Falls last August, and will aid the Salem committee by giving them some "hunches" gained by experience.

Wilson S. Wiley, deputy district grand exalted ruler of the Order of Elks for Oregon south, arrived in Portland last night, after visiting Oregon City lodge, No. 1189. When not busily engaged in handling affairs of the antlered herd, Mr. Wiley practices law in Klamath Falls. He is registered at the Imperial.

H. L. Wieder, who sells automobiles accessories and works out of Kansas City, is a man of excellent judgment. In the first place he just got married and in the second place he decided to come to Portland and make his home here. With Mrs. Wieder he arrived yesterday at the Seward.

The lobby of the Seward yesterday afternoon was the gathering place for numerous friends of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Kenyon of Jetmore, Kan. The elderly couple are going south for the winter.

If C. M. Ravlin can't sell a prospective buyer a few carloads of apples, he immediately changes his tune and tries to dispose of a section of Hood River real estate. Mr. Ravlin is at the Benson with Truman Butler, vice-president of the Butler Banking company of that town.

Already Shriners from the east are sleuthing around Portland locating rooms for their delegations for the convention next June. J. Nelson of Trent, N. D., is one of these advance agents to be found at the Perkins. He is accompanied by his wife and daughter.

Seattle's motion-picture men turned out in force to take part in the opening of the Rivoli theater last night, and the Benson hotel housed a delegation of four. Those who came down for the event were Carl Stearn, Jack Weil, A. B. Knox and Hugh Reene.

H. F. McCormick of St. Helens is another of the timbermen at the Benson. He came to Portland to attend a business men's get-together and brought Mrs. McCormick with him.

Heppner was minus two of its merchants yesterday while Sam Ganger and F. J. Nicholson were in Portland. They were registered at the Perkins.

P. Sinnock, president of the Peninsula Iron works, has just returned from a short business trip to Seattle. He is back at his old headquarters in the Multnomah.

F. L. Stewart, the principal financier of Kelso, Wash., was at the Oregon yesterday. Mr. Stewart has the distinction of running a bank in his home town.

James Twohy, formerly of this city and now of Seattle, is at the Portland. Mr. Twohy is a railroad contractor.

Two Hood River orchardists at the Seward yesterday were L. E. Ireland and W. B. Dickerson.

A. C. Woodcock, Eugene attorney, was at the Oregon yesterday.

Widow's Right to Pension.

ST. HELENS, Or., Jan. 14.—(To the Editor).—I wish to know concerning the widows' pension law. A woman's husband, who was a civil war veteran, died and she remarried. Her second husband also died. Can she draw her pension as a widow of a civil war veteran? READER.

She can, by proper application to the pension commissioner at Washington, D. C. It would be well to have someone familiar with procedure make this application for her. The "widow's pension" law is a state law providing for aid to widows in Oregon having children under the age of 16 years.

Boiling Point of Water.

CONDON, Or., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—To settle an argument will you please tell me the temperature of boiling water at Leadville, Colo., which I believe is 10,200 feet above the sea? GEO. O. TAYLOR.

The boiling point of water at the sea level is 212. It is lowered one degree for each rise of about 550 feet in altitude.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

DISTRESSING NEWS.

(A movie actor has been arrested for complicity in a New York robbery.)

When the burglar only knew his crooked trade
And applied it in his bungling, burgling style,
We could view his operations undismayed,
And defy him with a sneering, jeering style.
For a burglar's but a burglar after all—
Just a dabbler in the simplest sorts of crime—
The dimensions of his intellect are small
And detectives could out-think him every time.

But when movie actors fall on evil days,
Prowling round with guns and jimmies every night,
Stealing through deserted streets and darkened ways,
It is time to view the future with affright.
I confess that I'd awaken with a start
And prepare, as best I could, to meet my doom
Any time that Mr. William Sureshot Hart
Loomed, at midnight in the doorway of my room.

If Doug Fairbanks sought to burglarize my flat,
I should wait him with a foolish, frightened grin
While my palpitating heart went pit-a-pat
For there'd never be a doubt, but he'd get in.
Should I catch Houdini going through my pants,
All in vain for help to hold him I might shout,
For there wouldn't be a shadow of a chance;
When he once got good and ready, he'd get out.

Burglars haven't made much trouble through the years
They are just a notch above the missing link,
They are never very high above the ears,
And a good successful criminal must think.
But if movie actors turn to lives of crime
When they find the bankroll's gone a little shy,
And go out for loot and plunder, it is time
That we kissed our cash a long and last goodby.

* * *

Even Financiers Nod.

The bankers that have bonded warehouse certificates in their vaults now wish they had put the booze there instead.

* * *

And Welcome.

If Great Britain really insists on that thirteen billion-dollar loan let's give it to her—in bonds of the Irish republic.

* * *

Too Much to Hope For.

We shouldn't worry any if some way could be found to make the world a little less safe for profiteers.

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No Senator Elected President.

PORTLAND, Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Although this government has been in existence for 130 years, no man has been chosen president who was at the time a member of the United States senate. Many have been aspirants, but none has been chosen. Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan and Benjamin Harrison had served in the senate before their election to the presidency, and Andrew Johnson served in the senate "before and after"—the only president to have that experience. James A. Garfield, while a member of the house, had been elected to the senate, but succeeded to the presidency on the day that he would have become a senator.

This is not written to discourage Senators Johnson and Poindexter, but if either of them is chosen president it will break a precedent that has stood for 130 years. T. T. GEER.

Descent of Property.

HALSEY, Or., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—What is the law regarding descent of property where a man with a family dies without making a will? What about money deposited in the bank in the husband's name? If the children get a share, who takes care of it for them? SUBSCRIBER.

All the property descends to the children subject to the widow's dower of a life interest in the income from one-half of the estate. The county court should be asked to appoint a guardian and administrator.

In Other Days.

Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 17, 1895.

Salem.—Without ostentation, Oregon's ninth governor, William P. Lord, was inaugurated yesterday, succeeding Sylvester Pennoyer.

One of the most important musical events in history of the city was the presentation of the sacred cantata "The Messiah," by the Apollo Choral society at the armory last night.

Versailles.—Felix Faure was elected president of France on the second ballot today, defeating Henri Brisson.

F. R. Wall, now on The Oregonian staff, has been awarded the first prize of $500 by the United States Investor, for the best essay on an American city.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 17, 1870.

Washington.—The legislatures of Ohio and Kansas today ratified the 15th amendment.

Mr. Thompson, boat builder, is constructing a number of boats to be used in fishing down the Columbia, as this business has developed greatly of late.

Captain J. H. Couch is dangerously ill at his home with pneumonia.

Night before last burglars entered the store of Kast & Cahalin and took several pairs of boots.

The Phantom Lady.

By Grace E. Hall.

There's a person who lives in my mirror
That never I've met elsewhere.
She views me with eyes unflinching
And studies me face to face;
Yet somehow I get no nearer,
Though I give her my courteous care,
While determinedly she confronts me
With a look that I can't efface.

She tells me with stunning candor
The story of vanquished years.
She traces the marks of sorrow
That the pencil of time has drawn;
Then I turn with a sigh to hand her
Excuse of pain and tears,
In lieu of the passing twelve-months—
But, lo! she has swiftly gone.

There's a soul in the eyes of this phantom
That peers at me straight and square,
I have questioned it just as frankly,
With a gaze that was just as straight;
It eludes me with subtle cunning,
Yet calls me from everywhere,
And though I would know it fully,
Forever I turn too late.

Go look in the polished surface
That always is lying near,
And study the stranger gazing
So tactlessly out at you;
She will tell you of joy or a sorrow,
Bring a smile or a sudden tear,
As you look on the shadow lady
Who eludes you a lifetime through.

Aid for Soldiers.

GOLDENDALE, Wash., Jan. 14.—(To the Editor.)—In regard to the educational bill making an allowance of $400 to be used only on attending some school or college in Oregon, allowing $25 per month until it is exhausted, there are many of us Oregon boys residing outside of the state who have finished our education or are working at some chosen trade or profession to provide for ourselves, our family or our parents. It would be interesting for us to know if there is any bill that provides anything for us. A REGULAR.

Oregon has not granted any bonus to soldiers of the late war except in the form of educational aid.

Homes for Aged.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Is there a home in Portland or near here for aged people? Where should I write for particulars? READER.

The principal old people's homes here are Altenheim, 2001 Division street; Mount St. Joseph's home for the aged, Thirtieth and East Stark streets; the old people's home, Thirty-second and Sandy boulevard; Patton home, 975 Michigan avenue, and the Woodmere old people's home, 7511 Sixty-fourth street. Any of these will supply you with information if you write or telephone.

Their Day's Work Is Done at Night

While the majority of city dwellers are off to the Land of Nod, in more or less silent slumber, all about them are hundreds of folks who are keeping the night watches for the safety and comfort of the sleepers. De Witt Harry, special feature contributor to The Sunday Oregonian, followed this fact through its many phases and has evolved an interesting and instructive story of the night workers of Portland, which appears in the Sunday issue. Though the ban against liquor banished the convivial night scenes and hectic life that once were common, not all of Portland slumbers after the sun has set. A good article on a topic that concerns everyone.

Brilliant Career of General Pershing.—The distinguished American commander, who led the Yankee hosts overseas, is Portland's guest today. In honor to Pershing and that those thousands who welcome him may know more of the man himself, and his earlier military career, the Sunday issue contains a page review of "Black Jack" Pershing's life, with many photographs.

The Little Woman With a Bib Job.—Household drudgery is no longer the province to which women are condemned for life servitude. Witness the case of Jane Carroll, a young business woman who is sole manager of a $20,000,000 corporation, and who has won her spurs in the field of commercial affairs as truly as Joan of Arc won hers on the stricken fields of France. There is a story in the Sunday paper of the inspiring success of Miss Carroll, whose industry and its reward point the way to broader work for her sex.

Fifty Thousand a Year Turned Down for an Ideal.—If one of the temples of Mammon along Wall street should send to you, on its heavy embossed letterhead, the offer of $50,000 a year, would you smile and shake your head as you held fast to the vision of a great principle and a great work, where the salary was but $5000? S. Earl Taylor, who organized the "Centenary World Rebuilding Programme," did that very thing. In the Sunday Oregonian appears a story of Mr. Taylor and the toil to which he has unselfishly dedicated himself.

Familiar Faces and Folks.—As a fillip to the day, open Sunday's paper and turn to the page whereon W. E. Hill, master illustrator, has drawn a number of people we all know—perhaps ourselves, as well—as