Morning Oregonian

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TO THE RELIEF OF EUROPE.

The gravity of the present condition of the nations which have been at war and the important part which the United States must take in restoring those nations to a normal state, financially, industrially and commercially, are forcibly stated in the address signed by leading bankers, economists, business men and statesmen of the several parties in the United States, Great Britain, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway, and is addressed to their several governments, to the reparations commission and to the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. The nations named are those whose people are in a position to extend aid to the nations which have been laid prostrate by the war, and chief of these is the United States. It is probably no exaggeration to say that the ability of this country in the respect named equals that of all the other nations named.

The signatories of the address view the plight of the war-ravaged countries as one which closely concerns the whole world. If other nations do not come to their relief and help them in curing the evils which are the legacy of the war, bankruptcy and anarchy will overrun Europe and will surely react on all other continents, producing industrial, commercial and financial disturbance, social unrest and perhaps revolution. With these evils so widespread in the wealthiest, most civilized and enlightened continent America could no more escape than it could escape the epidemic of influenza which began in Europe in the fall of 1918 and which in a few months spread throughout America, Asia and Africa. The evils mentioned are a species of disease, and the United States possesses the largest available supply of the cure.

The remedy is simple, but its application requires enormous financial power and high skill in adapting it to the circumstances of each distressed nation. It is to provide the means of putting the people to work, and to do this on such terms as to insure them good subsistence and to inspire hope that they will liquidate their debts and thus gain relief from the burden which the war has placed upon them. A nation whose nerves are shaken by war, which sees nothing but ruin around it, is in poor condition to begin the work of restoration in every field of endeavor—a work which would tax the powers of nations with unimpaired strength—unless the impetus of hope and encouragement comes from without in substantial form. Yet some with undaunted spirit have made a beginning, this being the more reason why others should go to their aid. No nation which attacks its herculean task with such courage as have France and Belgium in the last year can truly be called insolvent, for in such a case insolvency is rather a thing of the spirit than of tangible assets. Embarrassed business men of such character would be called "good moral risks" by bankers and insurance men.

The condition is wisely laid down that the nations which need help must first lay a solid foundation for reconstruction by putting their governments in a solvent state—by bringing their expenditures within their income. High prices and disordered international finance are mainly the result of currency inflation, which continues and will continue as long as national expenses exceed revenue. When expenses are reduced and income is increased until they balance, this inflation can be stopped, prices will stabilize and begin to decline and the cure will be well begun. The process is similar to that of squeezing the water out of the stock in reorganizing a corporation.

Commerce can be revived only by providing the people with the machinery with which to work and with the material on which to work, and then by opening markets to their products. Ordinarily this is a matter of short-term banking credit, but the unusual circumstances make it a matter of long-term bond credit. In order not to open a new source of inflation this credit must be supplied from accumulated capital or from savings of current income that are intended for investment. If the securities to be issued should be used to pay current expenses, as were many small liberty bonds, they would actually be inflated currency, which brings high prices and extravagance. For this reason also it will be essential that credit shall be given only for reconstruction of useful public works and private industries and for actual production. If an impression should get abroad that the proposed loans are "easy money" for speculators, prevailing evils would only be aggravated.

In the light of what these leaders in several fields of activity in the belligerent countries which suffered least and in the neutral countries which profited most in the war say of the imperative necessity that these countries should act, how mentally blind do those men appear who say that, having destroyed the German menace, the United States should now retire into its shell of isolation, for the troubles of Europe are no affair of ours. In truth we are called upon to rescue the peoples of central and western Europe from a condition which would make them willing recruits to the red army which gathers in the east. As in 1918 our army added to the well-nigh exhausted armies of the allies the strength needed to carry them over the edge to victory, so now our financial and industrial strength must lift both the allied and the enemy peoples from the prostration in which the war has left them. The summons has come to open a barrage fire which shall prevent the red drive from sweeping over both Europe and America.

A GREAT TRAGEDY AVERTED.

Governor Olcott has heard sympathetically the outcries of the anguished "independent" and democratic papers and politicians and has wielded his veto snickersnee on the straight-party ballot. We expected it. We share the governor's poignant anxiety about the democracy. The spectacle of a painful and final demise of a once-great political party was too much for the tender heart of the governor, and he came to the rescue. It is also too much for us. We are glad he did it.

So far as The Oregonian is concerned, it has all along been quite indifferent to the fate of the bill. It has been interested in it mainly because it has created such frantic excitement among the democrats. Evidently they fancied that they have a solemn mission to prevent by every conceivable means any republican from voting the ticket. They quite overlook the fact that the measure was at the same time an invitation to all democrats to do the same for the democratic ticket.

Of course, there is such a thing as a democratic ticket in Oregon—occasionally. Haven't the greatest minds of the democratic party devised the plan of putting out a full ticket in every county in the state? Don't they want it elected? Or do they purpose to continue the old game of putting it up to be knocked down, saving a candidate here and there, meanwhile invading the republican primary in hordes?

THE GOVERNOR'S VETOES.

The people of the state will not withhold from Governor Olcott commendation for his veto of the pork-barrel road measures passed at the recent legislative session; nor will they disapprove his action on most of the other vetoed bills. Some of them carried the emergency clause, on the transparent pretense that their passage was essential to the "immediate preservation of the public health, peace and safety." Others were trivial, or at least not urgent, and by no justifiable stretch of the facts could be placed in the category of imperative and vital legislation.

The Oregonian has heretofore said that the special session met public expectation, insofar as it acted upon the principal measures defined in the governor's proclamation. The responsibility for the session was upon the governor, and whether the emergency which he said confronted the state was adequate or not, the legislature had no alternative but to obey his summons. But it is accountable for its departure into the realm of miscellaneous legislation, and must accept judgment upon the record. Too many bills were jammed through without discussion or real knowledge of their contents; too much logrolling on road and other measures was practiced; too much weight was given to the appeal of this or that local, or sectional, or other interest, that something or other must be done to correct defects in present laws; too little thought was devoted to the question as to whether there was actual and present need for passage of any particular measure; too much time was surrendered to proposals which had no chance at all of favorable action.

The governor, having apparently recovered his balance, has done much to restore the legislative balance. No future extraordinary session of a legislature will spend a lot of time enacting measures which are not likely to get through the executive office.

WHAT THE FARMER BUYS.

Senator Capper of Kansas, who ought to know what the farmers of the country are doing, if anybody does, put his agents to work recently in 400 communities, with instructions to find out what the farmers are buying in this season of their prosperity. For prosperity it undoubtedly is, relatively speaking, with his estimate that the average cash income of farm families in the four middle western states is $2159, exclusive of home products consumed. He finds that they are large consumers of goods which increase their efficiency as farmers, as well as of luxuries, such as pianos, phonographs, jewelry and books. But the dominating feature of the return is the number of incubators, cream separators, manure spreaders, harvesters and milking machines which it includes, this being the order in which they appear on the list. Large purchases of automobiles are no longer regarded as a novelty, and the tractor long ago obtained a foothold in the farming regions. The data obtained by Senator Capper's agents he believes give an accurate picture of conditions prevailing in at least half a million farm homes in the states named.

It does not appear that the farmers are buying silk shirts on the installment plan, as it is reported that a good many people are doing in a certain large middle western city, but they have their own ideas about luxuries and do not propose to be without them. Music, for example, makes country life more tolerable, and will be regarded as a wise investment. So with books. But there is also a large and encouraging increase in the number of homes lighted by electricity, many of them with their own light plants, and of other accessories of the home. The farm housewife is not as badly neglected as she used to be, as in shown by the new rural market for washing machines, home canning outfits, and the like. "The ordinarily well-to-do farm woman," says Mr. Capper's paper, "spends not less than $100 for clothing yearly." Which, if it does not seem to the city woman to be much, is considerably more that was allowed her only a few years back.

If—and it seems reasonable—Mr. Capper's survey represents a good average of farm conditions, it would seem that the farmers are the one class who are not losing their heads with regard to the way they are spending their money. Perhaps this is because they have had too much experience in getting money in hard ways not to know the value of it. The farmer's idea of luxury seems not to be a silk shirt so much as a device for lightening his labor, which after all is a sensible way to look at luxuries. The automobile, as has been shown on numerous occasions, is a farm necessity and a measure of economy as well. The tractor and the milking machine are in the same category. The farmer's expenditures for useless gew-gaws, though he is as much entitled to indulge himself in these as is anybody else, are still relatively negligible. It is fair to conclude from this that if he continues the pace, while his city cousins continue their practice of reckless spending, he will some day become the real industrial power in the land.

NO PANIC, BUT PROMPT ACTION.

News of the reappearance in this country of influenza, attended by its classic pneumonia sequel, is an occasion for disquietude, but not for panic. The present reassuring feature of the epidemic is that, as Surgeon-General Blue says, the number of pneumonia cases developing is relatively small, and the death rate is low, indicating a mild type. Observation of the epidemic of a little more than a year ago, however, warrants the conclusion that it is well at least to be forearmed. The possibilities are too grave to justify fatuous complacency. The intensely infectious character of the malady has been proved by experience. Certainly no thoughtful citizen will wish to pass through the ordeal again.

The record of more than fifty cases an hour, reported from Chicago, with a total of more than 6000 cases now under care, and with 300 cases to which even temporary supervision could not be given by competent nurses, presents a sorrowful reminder of the tragic days of a few months ago. There is for the relatives of the victims small solace in comparative statistics. A "low" death rate is not fully gratifying unless this means a rate as low as it can be made by human agencies. It is obvious that something should be done, and done promptly, if possible, to forestall grave developments. The physicians who, Dr. Blue says, have been mobilized in every state as reserve officers in the health service constitute a consequential force only when in action. The public will be reassured by nothing less than the knowledge that they are definitely and effectively "on the job."

The city and state health authorities will perform a service by taking the public immediately and fully into their confidence. The people will like to know that these guardians of their health are watchful, and prepared for the emergency, if it shall arise. If it shall transpire that the epidemic is traveling westward, it will not be wise to wait until it has gained a foothold in Oregon, or in Portland, before taking any action. Suggestion already has been made that at least temporary isolation of incoming passengers be effected, in co-operation, as in the epidemic of poliomyelitis of a few years ago, with neighboring states and with the railroads. In order that this may be accomplished with a minimum of disturbance of travel and of inconvenience to passengers, the machinery of the health departments should be put in order. If there is to be quarantine, it ought not to be conducted on the principle of locking the stable door after the horse has been stolen.

Forewarned is forearmed. It is easier to prevent panic than to control it once it has gained headway. Sound optimism does not mean overconfidence. We have found that it is impracticable to enforce the wearing of "flu" masks, and that influenza vaccination has not been perfected to the point where it inspires general confidence. But the proved infectiousness of influenza, already alluded to, indicates that some form of isolation may be necessary. If this is decided on, the health officials must be ready to act—in time.

PREMATURE VOCATIONAL DECISION.

The danger of outlining too early in the life of a pupil a definite plan of education based on his supposed choice of a permanent vocation—a policy that would sacrifice breadth to the specialization theory and almost relegate general culture to the background on the plea of its non-utility—would seem to be indicated rather clearly in the report of a national committee on mathematical requirements which has recently completed its work. The report embodies the result of a questionnaire answered by more than 2000 freshmen in widely scattered institutions, of which the University of Oregon is one, and is summarized by Professor A. R. Crathorne of the University of Illinois in School and Society.

The summary gives eloquent testimony to the fact that a very considerable proportion of students change their minds, even after entering high school, as to what their life work shall be. In a good many instances the change is so distinct as to be almost revolutionary. In fewer instances it is less marked. But it is made reasonably plain that an important number of young men and young women fail to "find themselves" before entering college. The number of those who only think they know where their best field of usefulness or happiness lies is highly significant.

For example, if on the day the student entered high school he had been asked, "What do you expect to do as your life work?" and if after entering college the question had been repeated, the answers would have revealed that only 9.5 per cent would have been "undecided" in both instances, while 33.6 per cent would have been undecided at first but would have reached a decision meanwhile. In only 21.6 per cent of cases would a decision have been made and persisted in. In 22.8 per cent of cases an early choice would have been made, but radically amended, while 6.9 per cent would have deviated somewhat from the course originally planned. The remaining students, 5.7 per cent, would have made an early decision but would have revoked it meanwhile without forming a new one. It will be observed that of all those who thought they "had definite leanings toward some particular occupation," almost exactly half made a radical change before entering college. These would have been unnecessarily committed, perhaps, to occupations incompatible with their temperaments by too previous adoption of a narrowly limited pre-vocational course.

It is a mere platitude to say that youth is without maturity of judgment, but parents also are frequently guided by sentiment rather than by patent facts or by pure reason. The passing fancy of a boy for watching the wheels go around in a machine shop may be translated into aptitude for mechanics when it is only a kind of self-hypnotism. It is doubtful whether marked predilections are developed very early in life. Youths of both sexes are right in revising their decisions before it is too late. A good deal of so-called industrial unrest has been shown to be due to unfitness of individuals for their present employments who might have been contented enough if they had been better placed.

The largest sub-group of the major group of those who had made decisions is, as an illustration of the point, the most illuminating. One who on entering high school had concluded that he would be an architect is fitting himself in college to be a chemist. A former would-be lawyer has discovered that he would rather be an engineer. "Medicine" gives way to "business." We see here the folly of having kept these youths in their original paths. Less obviously it appears that the student with a bent for botany but who chose forestry, made his first decision too soon, but here too the advantages of a rather broad foundation will be noted. Nearly four times as many pupils change their minds radically as revise their judgments less sweepingly on the important subject of their life work.

It is of incidental interest that opportunity for college education comes to a good many young people unexpectedly. It would add a human touch to the naked statistics if we might know the details of the process by which it was brought about, as the questionnaire shows, that the 10.7 per cent who in their high school days did not expect to go to college, and the 2.5 per cent who "were sure of not going," did find themselves at last in the higher path. What awakening of dormant ambition, what realization of capacities not comprehended, what sacrifices were involved and what new characters were developed are underlying facts that it is not the province of mere figures to disclose. Yet it will be fair to assume that the hidden well springs were not plumbed always, or even often, by the utilitarian impulse. Glimpses of higher possibilities are more likely to have been obtained through the studies that the extreme vocationalists would have scorned. And there is an implied tribute to high school teachers as a whole in the disclosure that they succeeded in translating doubt into determination in so many as 273 cases out of the total of 2069 represented by the survey.

"All's well that ends well," and that refers to the case of the irate father who pursued his 16-year-old daughter and her husband because they eloped and she was too young, he thought, to marry. All is forgiven and the young people have more "pieces" for their scrapbook than ordinarily goes to much older couples.

Secretary Daniels is quoted as saying that in his seven years as secretary of the navy some rear-admiral every now and then has "broken out." Merely his delicate way of indicating, no doubt, that this was very rash of the rear-admirals.

All needed in that thrilling rescue of the boys in a boat adrift in the rapids of the Umpqua and saved by the trusty rope of Bert Lawrence was "Camera!" to put the deed before the people seeking something new.

It might be a good plan for people who have valuables and go away for an evening to own a bulldog and give him the run of the house. An Airedale would be better, knowing more and of deceptive appearance.

A total of 9200 Chicagoans are reported to have become converted in a 60-day evangelistic campaign. Any time a Chicagoan becomes converted it's a safe bet he has his fingers crossed.

The Denver attorney who manages to keep his family of five for $2334 a year does very well; but how about the man who gets a thousand a year less? He is the man to be heard.

The Oregon team that went to Pasadena probably is the first to receive legislative commendation. The people of Oregon are strong on good sports, amateur and professional.

It's up to some rival city to point out to Salem that she is violating a specific rule of the census bureau in counting babies born since January 1.

A big demand for foreign wives is reported from New York. There must be an impression abroad that foreign wives don't talk back.

Probably the burglars who took twenty-two women's dresses from an Oregon City store are stocking up for a "fire" sale somewhere.

By decision of Judge McCourt the dog law is legal and that should settle the fate of the canine not worth a dollar.

Clackamas county records disclose 426 divorce cases in the year. Oregon City is too handy to Portland in this respect.

Among the products of the south that the census will not mention is its enormous output of peanut politicians.

The rear seat on a motorcycle "built for two" is the danger place of the machine, but many risk it.

Guessing on population is good mental pastime, as thrilling as casting a ballot in a straw vote.

Weather conditions are too cold for snow and northeasterly winds are acceptable in consequence.

The McNutt murder case was a mystery until it "willed out," as do all of them in time.

If anybody from Chicago is to be quarantined, catch the burglars first.

Some coaches get more pay than professors, but look at what they do!

Many a victim of love at first sight wishes it had been second sight.

Emma Goldman talks of coming back. "Whoa, Emma!"

A "cop" who can catch the smallpox is going some.

BY PRODUCTS OF THE TIMES

When You Meet Your Wife on the Street Be Courteous, Judge's Advice.

A word of advice: Don't call your wife "kid" if you chance to meet her on the street. A friend of ours did, writes the New York correspondent of the Pittsburg Dispatch, and—is out $10 and has one beautifully decorated right eye.

"Oh, hello, kid," exclaimed our friend at the same time taking hold of wife's arm.

"Bang!" a hard fist landed in hubby's right eye and he did a somersault on the sidewalk. A nearby copper rushed to the scene and upon the word of the projector of the fist, arrested the innocent fellow, this despite the wife's protestations.

At the hearing our friend was justly indignant. "I spoke to my wife and this fellow hit me," pointing to the man of the fist.

"Yes, he did," contributed the wife; "he hit him hard; he knocked him down."

"What did you say when you met your wife?" asked the court.

"I said: 'Oh, hello, kid!'"

"And this man—pointing to the stranger—"hit you once in the eye?"

"Yes, he did, your honor."

"Well," replied the judge, "he was right. He didn't know you were not a masher. You're lucky he didn't hit you several times. And you're lucky I'm in a good humor this morning or I'd fine you $50 instead of the $10 I'm going to ask you to pay into the city treasury."

* * *

A Virginian, possibly not one of the F. F. V., has a notion apparently that the plumage of the crow might be marketable. This is what he writes to the New York Globe.

Near my town there is a crow roost in which there are hundreds of thousands, and I could say millions of crows. I have thought possibly that there could be sale obtaingd for the wings and feathers in case we were to inaugurate a plan to exterminate them.

You understand they are a great pest to the farmers and destroy many thousands of dollars' worth of crops each season, besides the many thousands of bushels of harvested corn they eat from the fields in the fall and winter months.

I thought possibly if we could find sale for the wings and tail feathers, with a small bounty that is given by the county, we could afford a campaign of extermination.

If the Virginian can substitute the crow for the egret and the tern on fine ladies' bonnets, good luck to him. He will have the support of nature lovers. Would any milliner like to be put in touch with him?

* * *

Should Calvin Coolidge carry off the grand old plum at Chicago he would not, during the campaign, talk himself out of the election. Garrulity is not his weakness. He is the closest-mouth of all the candidates. Ex-President Taft notes that Governor Coolidge, in considering whether he should include a particular sentence in an address, was heard to say as he ran his pen through it: "I don't remember to have been hurt by anything I didn't say."

A wise, though not original remark. "Of thy word unspoken thou art master; they spoken word is master of thee," is one of a dozen like proverbs. Plutarch quotes Simonides as saying that he never repented that he had held his tongue, but often that he had spoken. A hundred poets since have cribbed the idea. "Keep your mouth shut" is really classic advice and Coolidge is well-read in the classics.—New York Globe.

* * *

When time was called one morning recently on the trenches being built for new water mains at Winnemucca, Nev., all the Indians on the job sat down and waited until the contractor came along. "What's the matter; why aren't you fellows at work?" he asked. Then one of the Piutes explained that they wanted 50 cents more a day. They had made no demands, sent no committee to the boss nor anything, but just quit work and waited until the reason was asked. The job had to be rushed with all possible speed and the red men got the raise.

* * *

Looking over the assertment of "favorite sons," is it possible, the humble citizen asks himself, that all these fellows kid themselves into thinking they may yet live in the White House? Yes, every one of them. So, at least, says Charles Edward Russell (who has himself been a presidential candidate of a sort) in his political recollections, "These Shifting Scenes."

I have never yet met a man in public life, writes Mr. Russell, that did not see clearly that he was the ideal man for the presidency, and did not believe that in the course of time his superiority would be discovered by his admiring fellow-citizens. Alienists ought to pay more attention to this phase of insanity, for it is both widespread and curious and affords an entirely new view, I think, of the possibilities of the human mind of self-deception.

* * *

The origin of the title of Jane Cowl's new play, "Sailin' Through," is quite as fantastic as the play itself. It was suggested to the author, Allen Langdon Martin, by the verses of Arthur Penn's song, "Smilin' Through" (Witmark). The song has attracted great attention all over the country. The melody is a pleasing and haunting one. The words are simple and effective:

There's a little brown road windin' over the hill
To a little white cot by the sea;
There's a little green gate
At whose trellis I wait,
While two eyes o' blue
Come smilin' through,
At me!
There's a gray lock or two in the brown of the hair,
There's some silver in mine, too, I see;
But in all the long years
When the clouds brought their tears,
Those two eyes o' blue
Kept smilin' through
At me!

* * *

After a lifetime of observation Henry Watterson seems to see some faults in popular rule, for he says: "We would not have the votaries of despotism, of the rule of the aristocrat, the saber rattler, and the right divine of kings tell us so, albeit we are ready enough to concede the imperfections of universal suffrage, too often committing affairs of pith and moment, even of life and death, to the arbitrament of the mob, and at all times costing more in actual cash than royal establishments, crowns and scepters."

* * *

Mr. Borer (on being introduced to his adored one's mother)—Pardon me, Mrs. Marte, but have we not met before? Your face seems strangely familiar.

The lady (coldly)—Yes; I am the woman who stood up before you for an hour in a railway carriage the other day while you sat reading a paper.—Answers.

Those Who Come and Go.

"Millions of people have been taught to eat fish by the government who never before tried it. During the war the government sent notices everywhere saying: 'Eat fish and save meat. Fish feed themselves, as a result of this campaign of education, there is an increased market in the United States for fish says Christ Schmidt, cold storage packer of Astoria. Mr. Schmidt was elected by the legislature last week as a member of the state board of fish and game commissioners, being selected as one of the fish commissioners. For more than a score of years Mr. Schmidt has been in the packing business at Astoria. Once he ran for councilman and was defeated by two votes; there was a recount and he was elected by one vote, which shows the importance of everyone voting and indicates how lively contests are in Astoria. Reverting to the trade, Mr. Schmidt says that fish is on the non-essential list in Germany, and there is little market in northern Europe, but England is buying the fish from the Columbia river.

"One hundred new houses will be built in Enterprise this year, under the auspices of the commercial club," says J. L. Burnaugh, at the Imperial. "The commercial club has secured concessions from the lumber and hardware people so that with this inducement landowners will be inclined to build. We simply must have more houses to take care of the new people. Wallowa county has voted about $300,000 road bonds and next spring we will vote the new 6 per cent limit, which will give us a few hundred thousand dollars more for road work. We expect to have the state highway commission match this money with state and federal aid. We want the road from Enterprise built to the Idaho line, and across the line in Idaho the commercial club is working to have the section connecting at the Oregon line built. Idaho people in the panhandle district will thus have a more suitable route to reach Boise, the capital."

"Two 16-story buildings are being erected in Tacoma, so you can see that there is something doing in the City of Destiny," announced Nick Pierong, who is in Portland for a couple of days. "The shipyard in Tacoma has about 7000 men working and enough contracts to keep it in operation for the next several years. Of course, the closing of Camp Lewis, at American lake, had its effect on Tacoma, but the army brought a large number of new people into the town who opened little establishments, and they are still sticking, so I guess they are making a go of it."

Mr. Pierong was for seven years connected with Portland theaters in a managerial capacity and is still in the show game in Tacoma.

"We want to complete the belt-line road around the harbor from end to end; we want to buy the site for the naval base to give to the government; we want to complete another pier and we want to be in position to meet any emergency or opportunity that presents itself to develop our port," says B. F. Stone, president of the port of Astoria, who is at the Hotel Portland. Mr. Stone was particularly interested in the passage of the Northal bill in the special session, as under the provisions of this measure the port of Astoria commission would be empowered to carry into execution the programme of development which he outlined.

Most men would be satisfied to be president of one bank, but Captain J. W. Siemens of Klamath Falls is different. He is president of three—one at Klamath Falls, another at Moline, also in Klamath county, and the third is at Doris, Cal. The captain, who is not only a captain of finance but also a former army captain (regular), is in the city attending a conference of trust-company presidents.

"A two-mile tunnel is now being bored for the Teel project, which will be the making of Echo," states Carl Gilbert of Echo, who is in Portland on business. "This project includes 16,000 acres to be under water between Echo and Butter creek. The water supply comes from Camas creek. Work on the tunnel is proceeding from each end, and the entrances have been driven in about a thousand feet."

M. A. Chessman, who helps dictate the news policy of the Astoria Evening Budget, was in Portland yesterday to meet his wife and accompany her back to the Columbia river port. The newspaper man is one of the group for several years connected with the Pendleton East Oregonian, which recently added to its prestige by buying the evening paper in Astoria.

J. F. Gilpin, who was low bidder on the contract for a new bridge across Youngs bay, between Seaside and Astoria, is at the Hotel Oregon. Mr. Gilpin's bid was rejected and the state highway commission is readvertising and will open bids at the February meeting. At that time a delegation from Clatsop county will be in attendance to urge that the commission make an award.

C. A. Parks of Salem, who manages the water and gas company there, is registered at the Seward. Mr. Parks occupies a small office down near Mill creek, and his standing joke is, "When you are down my way, drop in." Mr. Parks is responsible for the kind of water that is served to legislators at the statehouse, and his bubble fountain was viciously bitten last week.

"People don't realize the possibilities of mining in Baker county and up that way in the Seven Devils district," asserts Julien A. Hurley of Vale. Although a lawyer by profession, Mr. Hurley is also interested in mining. He predicts that the mining industry in the Seven Devils district is only in its infancy.

N. H. Larson of Port Orford is at the Hotel Portland. The special session of the legislature memorialized congress to establish a life saving station at Port Orford, owing to the many wrecks in that vicinity, the latest being the Chanslor.

After residing in Bremerton for the past few years, Edward F. Tarr is on his way to Astoria to go into the drug business. He was at the Multnomah yesterday while on his way to the mouth of the Columbia, accompanied by his family.

R. J. Ginn, commissioner of Sherman county, and whose term expires next January, is in the city from Moro and will return tomorrow night. He is at the Perkins.

Clyde Huntley, former member of the legislature from Clackamas, and now a member of the state board of pharmacy, was in town from Oregon City yesterday.

Heppner visitors at the Multnomah are W. R. Irwin, who owns a large department store, and F. A. McMinamin, formerly a deputy county clerk in Multnomah county.

Warren P. Cressy, a dry goods merchant of South Bend, Wash., is at the Multnomah while giving orders to Portland wholesale houses.

Convoying a shipment of cattle to the yards in North Portland from Enterprise, C. H. Reavis is registered at the Perkins.

C. P. Van Houlette, manager of the telephone company at Eugene, is among the Multnomah arrivals.

DAIRY CO-OPERATION IS URGED

Plan Outlined for Breeding Up Herds by Community Effort.

ST. JOHNS, Or., Jan. 21.—(To the Editor.)—All dairymen and stock growers are hunting for a system that will insure them success. I have thought out a system which I believe will help and will increase the wealth of any farming community threefold if worked out in full.

We all know that a pure-bred cow will give more butterfat than a scrub. While grade cows are much better than scrubs, there are too many scrubs. When you have to cull out a cow you are so long in finding out what she is that you are out and injured. Hence, we should all seek the pure-bred cow.

The farmers of any community may organize an association, which I believe will insure the success and profit of each individual dairy enterprise in that community and which will be imitated throughout the United States. In this association you must help your neighbors who are not so well-to-do as you are to get a start. Why not, if in helping them you are helping yourself? This association is to handle all the bulls bought and sold. It is up to them to keep the blood pure—up to the standard. All bulls are to be sold out of the county. All heifer calves shall be sold in the community for not less than $100. All heifers are to be paid for within 30 days from the time they have the third calf. This is to take in every man that has land enough to keep a cow. This is to give a poor man a chance and to weed out all the scrub stock in the community. If a heifer dies before she has her third calf the debt is canceled.

Now, wait. You would sell ten scrub calves for $150 cash. You are selling ten pure-bred calves for not less than $1000. There is another way to look at it. If you lost one pure-bred calf you would lose as much as ten scrub calves, but a man who would look at a dairy enterprise in that light would be of little help.

There is not a farmer in the United States but would raise pure-bred stock if he could sell the bulls he raises for as much as he has to pay for the bulls he uses. There are a number of reasons why this cannot be done and we all know what they are. An enterprise of this kind will soon advertise itself. The newspapers and magazines have always been willing to help the farmers out. With the price hay and grain is selling for now it is not hard to see that the day of raising scrub stock has gone by. Under this system—this association—the man with a small farm would be given the chance to go into the dairy business and he would farm every acre for all there was in it. If he could raise a little more hay he could keep one more cow and he could make a couple hundred dollars more. He would be the kind of man who could pay his taxes.

An article in The Oregonian making a comparison based on a survey of 67 Illinois farms conveys its own lesson as to the value of pure-bred bulls. A total of 124 of these farms use pure-bred bulls. Their average yearly profit is $1162 per farm. Four hundred and sixty-six farms use grade bulls and have a yearly profit of $734 per farm, while 83 farms use scrub bulls and are operated at a yearly loss of $334 per farm.

HAL H. ALLARD.

COST OF BUILDING OWN HOME

Mills Should Work Full Time Until Demand Is Filled.

PORTLAND, Jan. 21.—(To the Editor.)—I am a native Oregonian, a Portland booster in every way and a staunch believer in "owning your own home." Knowing there are hundreds in Portland in my exact position, I want to see a campaign started for lower cost of construction before we make so much over "own your own home" campaigns.

I have been married 12 years and always owned my own home until one and a half years ago. We sold our small bungalow to build a larger and better home with out hard-earned savings. The contractor being a friend advised me to wait, as material at that time was very poor. We waited six months; material was still poor, plumbing had advanced $250, labor $850, lumber, concrete and shingles $650, making the house I planned to spend $5000 on cost nearly $2000 more, which I cannot afford.

I don't want to be a knocker, but when there are a million homes needed in America and several thousand in our own fair city, lumber should not be shipped to foreign countries until we have a surplus, nor should the mills close down when there is a shortage of cars to carry lumber east to keep the local market price up.

Keep the mills running night and day, employ all the men possible, which will lower the local market, force a reduction in plumbing by a city-owned shop at a small profit above cost, then see the houses that will be built, and Portland grown to an "own your own home" city second to none.

I, for one, will borrow money and build two. Help me start this sort of campaign with the funds that are being used for the present one, which can do no good with present prices. When construction is cheaper we won't need an "own your own home" campaign.

WATCHFUL WAITING WIFE.

Electric Shock in Bath Tub.

PORTLAND, Jan. 21.—(To the Editor.)—Is there enough electric current in the average house connection to make it dangerous to turn on a bathroom light while standing in a bath tub containing water?

MRS. R. M. H.

The average house current is 110 volts, which is not enough to hurt a normal person, but may be dangerous to one with a weak heart. A shock received while standing in a bath tub containing water is much more severe than one received while standing on a wooden floor for the reason that the current runs through the body and into the ground in the first instance through the water and pipes. If the wires and switches are properly insulated and have not become frayed or loosened there is no danger of receiving a shock from a switch.

Votes of Soldiers.

CARSON, Wash., Jan. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Have the regular soldiers of the United States army been allowed to vote during the last five years?—J. L. WILKINS.

Soldiers have never been deprived of citizenship by the fact of their enlistment, but laws frequently prevent them from acquiring residence in the place where they happen to be stationed. They have been entitled to full voting rights, however, at the place of their legal residence and some states by special legislation have provided for their casting their ballot by mail when absent from their legal homes on military duty.

Notice of Rent Increase.

PORTLAND, Jan. 21.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me how many days notice must be given to raise the rent on a private home?—E. R.

Twenty days.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

THE MAGIC CLOCK.

Sometimes when Bill gets out of bed
On winter mornings, he complains
Of buzzing noises in his head,
And various sorts of aches and pains.
There's something in the way he looks
That fills his mother with dismay,
And so she says, "Don't get your books;
You mustn't go to school today."

He doesn't look so very ill,
And yet he has no appetite,
And always we're alarmed when Bill
Don't yearn for food, by day or night
He sits, all huddled in a chair,
And sort of seems to droop and pine,
A little picture of despair,
Until he hears the clock strike nine.

The magic clock; the magic hour!
When little children are distressed,
Combined they wield a healing power
No doctor ever has possessed!
The dreaded bell has pealed its last;
The drooping child is well assured
That school-time now is safely passed
And lo! He suddenly is cured!

He hurries to the pantry shelf
His face with wakening health aglow,
The breakfast he denied himself
Is put where breakfasts ought to go.
And though such craft in one so small
His prudent mother must deplore,
She's rather thankful, after all,
For she's not worried any more!

* * *

Just in Time.

Cuba is getting a record price for her sugar, but she'll need a lot of money to buy the booze that will be demanded by American visitors.

* * *

A Little Puzzling.

Grasshoppers can be destroyed by gas, but how are we going to get them to Jackson day dinners and such?

* * *

All Mysterious.

Evidently Maeterlinck's lectures are about as hard for Americans to understand as his marital ethics or his plays.

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Where the Guardsmen Be.

By Grace E. Hall.

The vineyard was large and the workers few,
The call was sounded loud,
But the ears of the many conceived no note
Of meaning within the cry.
There was pressing work that each one might do,
And precious the time allowed.
But the rabble sought for the highway broad,
And gabbling loitered by.

Came then two men with an earnest zeal,
And the gate swung wide for both.
Their baskets soon were running o'er
With grapes that were satin-skinned.
One sought but the largest and the best—
His greed grew more and more,
While the other heeded his workman's oath,
And plucked 'til the vines were thinned.

One took his wage and his shining fruit,
And thankfully went his way;
His hands were clean and his spirit free—
He cheerily hummed a song.
But the other grumbled and asked for more
And stealthily strove to loot
The vines had were bending the trellis low
As he craftily went along.

He took great clusters when none could see,
Until he was forced to leave,
And he smiled with a cunning look of greed
At his basket's bulging rim.
But, lo! at the gate where the watchmen be;
No longer he could deceive;
They opened the dungeon doors full wide,
And bade him to enter in!

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 22, 1895.

Salem—President Simon yesterday introduced the new Portland charter bill in the senate. It proposes, among other things, a board of public works to be composed of H. W. Corbett, H. W. Scott, Donald Mackay, Rufus Mallory and D. M. McLauchlan.

Frank Mullen, a house painter, fell from a swinging scaffold at the Jacobs building, Third and Couch streets, and received injuries from which he soon died.

It was announced in one of the local churches Sunday that Dr. J. Hunter Wells is going to India as a missionary.

A sturgeon weighing 520 pounds was received in town yesterday from an old Indian named Jimmy John, who caught the monster at some point down the river.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 22, 1870.

City of Mexico—The revolution in the state of San Luis Potosi is increasing and the governors and members of the legislature are still held prisoners.

The Tualatin River Navigation & Manufacturing company has recently purchased of Mr. Teullinger that portion of his land claim embracing the townsite of Oswego for $26,000.

Readers are advised to begin preparation of their income returns, which are due March 1.

The new steamboat Mary Bell will go down to Astoria on her first trip today.

Delivery of Rural Mail.

PORTLAND, Jan. 21.—(To the Editor.)—We, among many others along the base line road are in a quandary as to what to do. Our mail boxes are suitably mounted on posts, securely set at the curb line, also at the margin of the road. The mail carrier refuses to deliver mail in the boxes unless the owners of such boxes shall first place them out into the road, a distance of 4 to 5 feet past the road limit. A bit of advice will be greatly appreciated. ANON.

The rural mail carriers are not obliged to deliver unless the boxes are placed close