Morning Oregonian

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(By Carrier.)

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DECIDE ON A MILITARY POLICY.

A good working plan of universal military training—not service—has been reported to the senate with the support of both republicans and democrats, but is already confronted with opposition from those two obstructionists in the house, Representatives Mondell and Mann, backed by all the forces of inertia which prior to 1917 confounded preparedness with militarism. The bill provides a regular army maintained by voluntary enlistment, a national guard of the United States recruited in the same manner, and organized reserves to be composed of men who have received compulsory training.

It is proposed that all qualified men on completing their eighteenth year shall, during any one of the next three years which they shall elect, be given four months' continuous training, shall then be assigned to a local unit of the organized reserves and shall remain members for five years, and shall during that period attend two annual maneuvers of not over two weeks each. Men may elect to take their training in the national guard, extending over a period of three years, but that force is to be limited to 425,000 men. The reserve army would be distributed about the country, officered by reserve officers and governed by regulations drawn by committees of officers, a majority of whom must have been officers in the great war.

That sounds like a perfectly feasible way of providing against another such emergency as that of 1917. It provides a moderate army of 210,000 professional soldiers for times of peace and for small military expeditions. It provides the national guard as a first reserve citizen army for emergencies. It establishes a second reserve of trained citizens who would be from 18 to 23 years old, and behind that it provides a great reservoir of trained citizens to be drawn on in case of extreme need. It is estimated that about 800,000 new men would come up for training each year. After the first five years the organized reserve would therefore consist of about 4,000,000 men. The only men who would be permanently withdrawn from civil life would be those in the regular army. The national guardsmen and the reserves would pursue their ordinary vocations except during the brief periods of training and maneuvers and except in time of a great war. A supply of arms, ammunition and equipment would be provided for the national guard and the reserves, training camps would be maintained, but they would entail no further annual expense except for the training period and maneuvers. At minimum cost the nation would be amply prepared for rapid expansion of its armed forces from the peace standard to the war standard.

This plan is opposed by the Mondell-Mann type of man on the plea of enormous expense, and they try to make this plea good by proposing to raise the soldiers' pay. As an alternative they propose a much larger regular army, to which they would attract recruits by the offer of high pay. The result would be a far smaller number of trained men at higher cost per man than the senate plan would provide, with no reserve of trained citizens to fall back upon.

The senate plan is called militarism by its critics. Which is militarism—a standing army of 500,000 highly paid professional soldiers serving for three years or a standing army of two-fifths that size backed by two reserves of citizen soldiers who would serve only in time of actual war? Militarism does not consist in training for four months citizens who return immediately to civil life; men cannot be militarized in so short a time. Men are militarized by two or three years' continuous service in an army of which the entire spirit and purpose is conquest.

Mr. Mondell says the senate plan would cost a billion dollars the first year. He arrives at that figure by assuming that the men would be highly paid while training, as he would pay the regulars. His plan seems to be to load down the scheme with heavy cost, and thus to condemn it. There is no more reason why young men should be paid while training for their duty as citizens than there is why boys and girls should be paid for going to school and college. Military training would be a part of their education, of great value to them as citizens and as a means of increasing their earnings, but which the nation would give them in consideration of their potential usefulness as soldiers.

Our old pacifist friend the New York Evening Post returns to its old pre-war confidence that everything would come out all right somehow or other in case of another war, even if we should not adopt universal training, by saying:

> That we really need compulsory training for the national defense can be argued only if we conjure up imaginary dangers and overlook the whole lesson of the last few years. We have a great army, just mustered out, which for some years will be ready to furnish numerous trained or partially trained reserves in an emergency. The success of the United States in raising a great army in a few months, drilling it, and sending it overseas to victory, shows that men have immensely overrated the necessity for the elaborate, laborious and costly drilling of huge masses of men.

We should be safe if we should have the same combination of favorable circumstances as in 1917—powerful allies to engage the enemy till we got into the field. If we alone had been fighting Germany then, we could not have expected that the enemy would have left us unmolested from April 6, when we declared war, to June 5, when we registered men for the draft, or to August 5, when we made the first draft, or to May 27, 1918, when our troops made their first small attack at Cantigny, or to July 1, 1918, when our first million men were in France. We have no reason to tempt fortune by assuming that it will favor us twice in the same way. Nor dare we rely on that "great army, just mustered out," for as years pass it will shrink, and without annual training of fresh levies, there will be nothing to take its place.

The question between the men who would have us profit by the lessons of the recent past by putting the nation in a perfect state of defense and the men who would have us relapse into the same condition of weakness which tempted the kaiser to attack should be fought out at this session of congress. The league of nations may render such an elaborate system unnecessary, but it is yet in embryo and we should be guided by the realities of the present, not by our hopes of the future. If those hopes should be fulfilled, we can easily change the programme to fit the new conditions.

HOW TO DO IT.

The Eugene Register is troubled about the new county judgeship. It says that the salary is low, the duties important, and the vexations many; and it makes an appeal for some citizen, whose epidermis is thick, intelligence high, character good, and concern for his own peace of mind and personal welfare negligible, to sacrifice himself on the altar of public need, and to run for the office.

We wish Lane county well in its quest for a man for a big job with little pay; but we are not hopeful. Or we might not be hopeful if the matter of salary alone deterred efficient men from taking public place. It does not; but other considerations do.

They are the troubles which constantly beset the official who deals with the public and who has important decisions to make. He serves always in the fierce light of publicity, and criticism is free and plentiful. Often it is deserved, and often it is mistaken and unjust; it is rarely discriminative, or appreciative, or helpful. When the public approves, it seldom makes its approval manifest, except at an election. In the interval the fault-finders are busy. They have no scruple about making themselves heard. It is about all any public officer hears during his incumbency. He must wait for his vindication till the end of his term, when he may try it again; and then he may or may not receive a favorable judgment. It is a chance he must take.

The Register knows, of course, that under the present beneficent electoral system all schemes of candidacy are self-elective. In other words the candidate must advertise that he wants a public job. There is no call, except from his own desires or needs. The convention is gone; the assembly is taboo. But there are ways to do it.

Let the Register wait until some favoring night, when the shades of darkness have settled upon Eugene, and then let it quietly summon a body of good citizens, with a command to meet at some obscure rendezvous. Let them then steal stealthily through the tree-shadowed streets to the home of the unsuspecting object of their worthy, but secret, designs. Let them seek entrance at the back door of his home, beyond the sight of any prying eyes. Let them then call the surprised tenant before them and invite him to announce himself for county judge. But let them adjure him, on penalty of righteous general wrath, not to let it be known that anybody but himself ever thought of nominating him for office.

That is the way to do it, under the present dispensation.

LENIN'S PLANS FOR 1920.

Since its victories over all its enemies the soviet government of Russia has made overtures for peace with the allies in all sorts of ways. It has offered to stop its revolutionary propaganda for overthrow of other governments provided they will cease attacks on it, will establish relations with it and will permit trade with it. When the Italian bolshevists had gained such power that the chamber of deputies declared for recognition of all de facto governments in Russia, including the soviet, and when they prepared to begin a revolution, Lenin sent them a message begging them to desist lest it interfere with his peace maneuvers.

That the policy of world-revolution is only deferred, not abandoned, is made clear by the following new year's greeting, which was sent to the world by the Moscow Wireless Press, controlled by the soviet government:

> 1919 was a year of victory for the working classes on the front and in the rear. It was a year of consolidation for the soviet authority. The Red army on the field of battle inflicted deadly decisive blows against counter-revolution. Under the mighty blows of the Red army the horde of Tsarist generals has melted away. With Red standards and a shout of victory we shall break into the new year of 1920.
>
> In 1920 we shall attain a victorious end to the civil war. In all Siberia, in the Ukraine, on the Don, in the Caucasus they desire the soviets. There will be soviets in Berlin, Washington, Paris and London. The soviet authority will be throughout the whole world.
>
> Long live the new proletarian victories.
> Long live the world revolution.
> Long live our Red leaders—Lenin and Trotsky.
>
> Long live the revolutionary year of 1920.

Lenin needs a breathing spell in which to consolidate his power, to complete the communist organization and to repair the wreck he has made of Russia. For the last purpose he needs foreign capital and brains, for he has killed off most of the men of ability and education in Russia. There were not too many of these, and under the czar Russia had been obliged to enlist the services of foreigners—mostly Germans, but with some British and Americans. He needs more of them, and there are men in America and the allied countries eager for the opportunities which Russia offers. Lenin plans to get their aid in making peace by offering rich concessions. He has already won the secret support of foreign holders of imperial government bonds by offering to assume the debts of former governments.

If the allies should accept these offers and make peace, the soviet would have allies in the person of the capitalists whom he would have favored. They would be inclined to oppose in their own country a policy hostile to the soviet, because it would endanger their new interests in Russia. Those interests would be a surety to Lenin against their opposing his schemes of world-revolution. The effort to bolshevize the world would not be abandoned; it would simply enter upon a new phase. Its goal would be establishment of soviets in Berlin, Washington, Paris and London as the new year greeting says and as Napoleon followed his victories by setting his brothers and his son-in-law on the thrones of Spain, Holland, Westphalia and Naples. Lenin is a sincere fanatic and could not abandon his plan of world-revolution without abandoning the principle to which he has devoted his life. He has been the directing power of the soviet and the prestige of victory has added to that power. There will be no world peace while he rules.

MAKING A DECISION.

The Oregonian has no thought of suggesting that the proposal to refer the new zoning ordinance to the people has behind it any scheme of evasion; yet it has the aspect of a plan by which the public is to be made responsible as a whole, taking the consequences upon itself.

The city commission is elected to represent the people, and to act for them; and it is not expected, nor desired, that it automatically suspend its function because any certain matter under consideration has great importance. That is exactly the time when the commission should rise to its responsibilities, and should, after careful investigation, make a decision.

Far be it from us to say that the people should be denied the privilege of passing on the zoning ordinance, or any other ordinance, if they desire. There is no evidence in this instance that they desire. It is a perplexing and difficult matter, and it is not easy to see or to say what is the solution without painstaking inquiry. It is the business of the commission to make that inquiry. If it then shrinks from action, because of the widespread interests involved, and insists on a referendum, let it be at least accompanied by a recommendation from the commission.

It is said that the neighborhood meetings called under the zoning scheme to determine the building policy of the various districts are poorly attended. If that is so, it is not a happy augury of a correct disposition of the ordinance under any referendum. The reason of the lack of interest is, probably, that the average taxpayer has confidence that no ordinance will be enacted which invades his rights. He passes it all up to the commission. Why should it be passed back to him?

FIXING A STRAW VOTE.

A straw vote, now being taken by a Portland democratic newspaper, the Evening Journal, is novel if nothing worse. On its face it is for the purpose of determining the preference of its readers for president. Analyzed, it has the appearance of being fixed to indicate a strong Oregon sentiment for a particular individual. Twelve names are on the newspaper's ballot, with no lines for writing in other names. But the straw voter is denied the privilege of voting for either Woodrow Wilson, William Jennings Bryan or William Howard Taft.

Mr. Taft is a favorite among republicans and is admired by democrats in Oregon. This is admitted by the Journal, but it eliminates him from the running with the statement, in effect, that nobody outside of Oregon wants him.

Mr. Wilson is eliminated because he is too much of a favorite and would therefore win the poll, but would probably not accept if nominated.

Mr. Bryan, another Oregon favorite—among the democrats—must not be voted for because he has said he is not a candidate.

In short the readers of our democratic contemporary are asked whom they would prefer for president if three of their favorites were out of consideration.

Now it is not necessary to take a poll of the readers of the Journal to determine whom they want for president if they can't have Taft, Wilson or Bryan. It is Hoover, of course. Every democrat who cares anything about the continuance of democrats in power recognizes the necessity of nominating a candidate for president who has not been politically identified with the present administration or the democratic party. And republicans who consistently read a democratic newspaper generally do its bidding. The newspaper that is conducting the straw vote is for Hoover. Straws, it may be admitted, show which way the wind blows, but on a calm day one can get behind a straw stack with a bellows and make quite a demonstration of wind from any direction.

But the unkind discrimination toward Mr. Bryan, in particular, moves us deeply. All the commoner did at the Jackson day banquet toward eliminating himself as a candidate was to say that he came asking for nothing, but speaking from gratitude rather than expectation. "You will therefore," he said, "not listen to me with the thought that you are listening to a candidate."

But at about the same time, in a telegram to the promoters of a Jackson day dinner in Portland, Mr. Hoover said: "I am not a candidate for the presidency and a campaign to that end from any party would be entirely wrongly directed."

Thus we have Bryan shyly saying, "Now, you stop pushing me," and Hoover declaring point blank, "I am not a candidate." Bryan fails to make the straw ballot and Hoover gets on. It ain't right. We call upon the Jackson club to do something about it.

AN ANTI-STRIKE LAW THAT WORKS.

Kansas lives up to its record by passing drastic laws to put an end to strikes. While congress shrinks from adopting the anti-strike section of the Cummins railroad bill, Kansas has passed a law which practically forbids strikes by providing that all disputes as to wages, hours and working conditions shall be adjusted by industrial courts with power to enforce their decisions. Unions must be incorporated, and their heads are held responsible for the acts of their members. The courts may also fix prices and regulate industrial management and in case of emergency arising from labor troubles or conspiracy to restrict output or limit prices, the state may take over the industry and operate it.

Kansas is in a good position to do these things, for it is almost exclusively a farming state, only 4 per cent of its population dependent on manufactures and mines, while the percentage is 13 for the whole country. Both employers and workmen opposed the bill, the latter in defense of the sacred right to strike, the former in defense of their right to run their business and in fear that many emergencies would be found to excuse state operation of industries, which would start an easy descent into socialism.

The law worked, however, the first time it was invoked. It became effective Saturday, January 24. On Monday, January 26, the miners of the Pittsburg coal district did not go to work, and the attorney-general sent an agent to inquire the cause and, if necessary, to prosecute the offenders. It proved that the miners simply took the usual Monday off after pay day, and all except seven were at work on the Tuesday. But what will become of the solidarity between labor unions and farmers, of which we used to hear so much? There is evident incompatibility between work from sun-up to sundown and work for a 44-hour week, and the only kind of class rule known to Kansas is the rule of the farming class.

WHISKY FOR INFLUENZA.

There is at least some ground for suspecting that the outcry in certain quarters that people are perishing from influenza because whisky is hard to get is not free from the taint of disingenuousness. Dr. Wiley has said that alcoholic liquors may be positively harmful, even to the point of being fatal, in such cases. The Chicago health department, headed by Dr. John Dill Robertson, thinks that whisky will kill influenza patients about as fast as anything can. There is a good deal of sound medical support for its declaration that intoxicants have caused more pneumonia than they have cured and physicians quite generally have recently been excluding them from their armamentarium.

No one who otherwise would have been saved is likely to die because of the enforcement of prohibition laws regardless of the influenza epidemic. The cases in which a little whisky might add to the patient's gratification, especially if he has been a non-abstainer, probably would be more than overbalanced, if it were universally accessible, by the number of patients who would rely on it to cure them, neglecting saner methods and sounder precautions. The old days in which it was so easy to lift down the bottle from the cupboard shelf were conducive to a good deal of tragic reliance on this sovereign "medicine," even in instances when a more obvious poison would have been more merciful. Whatever may be said for stimulants, their inexpert use in complicated heart conditions is to be condemned.

The good faith of some of those who still maintain that whisky is an indispensable medicine may not be questioned, whatever is said of their judgment; but it probably will be found on close examination that there are fewer physicians behind the movement than individuals who, for one reason or another, would like to knock a prop from under the 18th amendment to the constitution of the United States.

The federal census bureau has reason for the pride it takes in the facility with which its enumerators have employed every modern agency of transportation in making the count. It points out that airplanes have been used in reaching remote places in the everglades and islands of Florida, yachts and rowboats in various harbors all over the country, native canoes in Hawaii and the Philippines, mule teams in the deserts and snowshoes in the northern states and Alaska. About the only craft or vehicle to which resort has not been had is the submarine. The automobile, which was not employed at all in the census of 1900, has proved indispensable in this one, and has justified itself both on grounds of speed and economy, besides insuring a count the completeness of which the officials probably are justified in believing will surpass any ever made by any country in the world.

The expected European demand for American eggs did not develop and the storage egg drops in consequence. Just as well it did not. Great pity if Europe can eat American eggs and Americans go without!

The German cabinet says fatal consequences would ensue if the demands of the allies for extradition be allowed, and there's no doubt of it. That's what the world awaits—a few "fatalities."

Constantine has broken relations with his brother Chris, who has just married Bill Leeds' widow. Foolish king. He may need to borrow "a century" some day.

The president's idea on the treaty seems to be that Great Britain has no business making treaty concessions to safeguard the interests of the United States.

Grayson should take the president on a sea voyage and give him a chance to get well away from the troubles of Frank Myers, Earl Grey and others.

There would be a lot more milk bottles if the milk men could ever get over the habit of breaking them on the pavement for automobiles to run over.

If the people have opportunity of voting on the zoning plan, the general run of them may learn what it is, which few now understand at all.

An illiterate Austrian laboring on the Holland canal earned $5527 last year, and what, by the way, are they paying the professors in McGill over there?

With 8-cent carfare, 25-cent gasoline and shoes at $20 a pair, there's nothing left for a poor devil to do but go to heaven and learn to fly.

Some senators are "stalling" the Myers case, but it's safe to guess they lower the left eyelid when Chamberlain looks up.

Be it remembered that for one day at least there is no whisky news of sufficient value to deserve mention.

Great Britain, or its ambassador, butts into American politics at opportune time.

Possibly it hasn't occurred to Mr. Myers that the kaiser also declined to resign.

BY-PRODUCTS OF THE TIMES

Helen Taft Elaborates Her Ideas on Unionizing of Professors.

Helen Herron Taft, daughter of former President William Howard Taft and now acting president of Bryn Mawr college, stands by her recent speeches, in which she was quoted as saying she advocated a strike by professors, although she added her remarks were not intended to be wholly serious.

"I should not really like to see college professors use precisely the methods of labor unions," she said in a statement given out by the Bryn Mawr endowment committee, which is seeking an endowment of $2,000,000 to increase salaries of professors, "because the position of the teacher or professor is rather different from that of the laboring man.

"I believe, however, it would be better for college professors to unite to demand higher pay and even, perhaps as a body rather than that they should strike individually by leaving the profession."

Miss Taft explained that by an individual strike she meant that professors were resigning rapidly to enter business because they could not get large enough salaries in their profession. She cited the case of Dr. Virgil Prettyman, former head master of Horace Mann school in New York city, who has resigned that position to enter the business world.

* * *

The only real record of a "soldier vote" in an American presidential election—the only instance, that is, in which the soldiers' ballots were counted separately from the civilian ballots—was tabulated in the Lincoln-McClellan contest in 1864. Soldiers in 12 states who were permitted to vote in the field cast 116,887 ballots for Lincoln and 33,748 for McClellan, a ratio of more than three to one against the soldier candidate. In the same 12 states the civilian vote was: Lincoln, 1,072,282; McClellan, 874,671—a ratio of less than ten to eight.—The Home Sector.

* * *

Everything from aeroplanes to snowshoes is being used by the agents of Uncle Sam in taking the 1920 census of the United States. About the only modern method of transportation either on, over, or below land or water that has not been employed in enumerating Uncle Sam's nieces and nephews seems to be the submarine.

Aeroplanes have come in handy in enumerating the dwellers on the islands off the coast of Florida, yachts and rowboats have been used in the harbors of the country, native canoes have been in demand among the Hawaiian islands, "flivvers" are being used everywhere, the tried and trusty mule team has carried the census takers out on the desert regions and snowshoes have become the trusted aides of the census gatherers in the northern states and Alaska.

In the central part of New York state, near Oswego, a few days ago an enumerator making his rounds on snowshoes arrived at an isolated farm dwelling only to find that an able-bodied man was needed more than a census gatherer, as the man of the family had been sick in bed for several days and the farm animals were suffering for lack of food and water. The census man, like any good neighbor would, stopped long enough to do the chores, dig out paths through the deep snow and put things in shipshape order before continuing his journey.

* * *

A correspondent of the Washington Times relates his experience with the sugar shortage thus:

At one of the city's prominent cafeterias, when I called for coffee, the waiter asked: "Corn syrup or New Orleans?" as he reached for the handle of a ladle under the counter. "Molasses! Anything—so it's sweet," I answered, while he assured me that a fellow could grow to it if given time. Saturday night I was at dinner at Wardman Park inn, and after bringing in a pot of coffee the waiter said:

"I'll bring your sugar in a minute, sir."

"You still have some?" I said to the head waiter, who was speaking with me.

"Yes, in the safe," he said.

The waiter slid in a gold-band butter plate with a perforated paper wheel in the center, on which reposed a neat block of sugar, and I looked, for I did not know whether to put it in the cup or in my pocket as a souvenir.

* * *

"They say," remarked the portly man with several double chins on the back of his neck, "that the duke is over in the library."

"I wouldn't walk across the street to see him," said a shabby individual, helping himself to a cracker.

"He's no better than any other man," said the bar boy.

"I wouldn't look at him if they brought him in to me," announced an aggressive-looking character.

Now this was a remark rich in pictorial suggestion. It was eloquent with dramatic evocation. One instantly imagines the striking scene; the duke is dragged in; the aggressive-looking character is called upon to look at him; this he refuses to do.

"He breathes the same kind of air we do, don't he?" pointedly inquired the shabby individual.

"I guess that's right enough, too!" exclaimed the bar boy.—"Peeps at People" (Doran), by Robert Cortes Holliday.

* * *

Twenty-five years ago, when raccoon coats were selling at $10, many poorly paid workers possessed them, but in the short interval of time elapsed, they have risen in price to $1000 for a coat of matched skins.

With the coming of the motor car, the raccoon climbed socially and a coon coat became almost an indispensable part of the outfit of the motorist. By 1914 the coats had risen in price from $10 to $100 and $150, and this winter the same coats are easily being sold to dealers for $600.

Since it takes from 20 to 25 skins for a coat of this kind, with prime skins selling at $18 a piece and fur cutters demanding $100 a week, it is no wonder that prices are so high.

Author or Familiar Lines.

PORTLOND, Feb. 5.—(To the Editor.)—Please publish the name of the author of: "A little learning is a dangerous thing, etc."

JAMES A. WILSON.

Alexander Pope, in his "Essay on Criticism," wrote:

> A little learning is a dangerous thing;
> Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:
> These shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
> And drinking largely sobers us again.

Those Who Come and Go.

"We, and I mean the county court," says H. V. Alley of Nehalem, a Tillamook county commissioner, "have adopted the policy of locating a road where it belongs and, once the right location has been made, whatever is done on that road is of a permanent character. It is foolish for counties to be patching here and there, spending money on wrong grades and locations, for such money is thrown away. Get the right location and the big end of the road problem is solved." Mr. Alley says that this summer Tillamook county may start building a road from Seaview, along by Lake Myrtle, to the rock quarry. Mr. Alley wants to work both ways from the quarry, as this will simplify handling the rock work. The county has secured another big steam shovel and the dirt will be flying in the Nehalem country within a short time. Resumption of the new road work north from Bay City will soon start and it may get to Hobsonville this year.

"A contract has been let for grading and graveling 7½ miles between Sunnyside and Umapine, in Umatilla county," says Judge Marsh of Umatilla. "Sunnyside is on the paved highway between Pendleton and Walla Walla and Umapine, named after an old chief of the Umatilla Indians, is in the hay and fruit region. The contract is for $49,000. We plan to grade and gravel the 9½ miles between Havana and Helix, which is in the wheat country, and bids will soon be called for improving the 15 miles between Pendleton and Pilot Rock. We expect to see all these roads finished this year. The county is well provided with funds and the road programme is being pushed forward as rapidly as weather conditions will permit."

R. C. Bunnell, who is the judge of Klamath county, "the finest county in the world, sir," and C. F. Darley, who is the county engineer, are registered at the Hotel Oregon. Judge Bunnell says that the new courthouse, which was started about 1913, will probably be ready for occupancy next year. The judge says that the structure, which was intended to be the courthouse, isn't a courthouse, but is empty and locked up. This structure is one over which Klamath county voters waged a fight for several years and which, since its completion, has been unoccupied. Because of this particular building, Klamath has been called a county with three courthouses, a statement which the judge emphatically denies.

"It will be real hard work raising more money for roads in Deschutes county unless the people see something being done," asserts Judge William D. Barnes of Bend. He is particularly anxious to see work started on the road out of Bend toward Millican, which leads onward to Burns. The cinders which were placed on a section of The Dalles-California highway were too light to stand up when wet by snow, but the judge says that as the cinders dry out and are rolled they will make a good surface again this summer. The cinders are taken from a pile which was built up by a volcano when the Cascade range was in the process of formation.

"Harney county is at last getting ready to move forward and will be something more than a range for big cattle companies," announces R. L. Hass of Burns, one of the county commissioners. "Three directors and a board of commissioners have been elected for the Silvies river irrigation project, which will include about 125,000 acres. There will be farms and people where in the past there have been nothing but range and cattle," predicts Commissioner Hass. Never since he entered Harney county years ago have the prospects for its development looked so good.

Jay W. Dunn of Toledo, a commissioner of Lincoln county, registered at the Imperial, was not very well satisfied with his trip to Portland. The officials of Benton and Lincoln county had hoped to have the highway commission help out on the Alsea road, there being an agreement to that effect a year ago by the commissioners but Chairman S. Benson has changed his mind.

"As the irrigators will get busy in April, Union county wants to grade the highway between Union and Hot Lake as soon as possible," states W. J. Townley, commissioner of Union county. "Unless contracts are called for and the work put under way before irrigation starts in the spring, little can be done."

H. M. Farmer of Cloverdale, at the Imperial, is in one of the main cheese-making districts of Oregon. The dairymen want good roads to get their milk to the cheese factories, and as Mr. Farmer is a county commissioner, it is part of his job to see that the dairymen are satisfied.

Irvine C. Keeler, who publishes a weekly hotel periodical in California, arrived at the Multnomah yesterday. He says that he plans a page weekly devoted to Portland hotels, and will do the same thing for the inns of Seattle.

R. A. Booth, state highway commissioner, left last night for Chicago on a business trip and will go from there to Los Angeles to join Mrs. Booth.

Louis E. Bean of Eugene, attorney and legislator, stopped at the Imperial yesterday on his way east to try a case in a federal court in Ohio.

E. E. Cleaver of Pendleton, manager of the Cleaver Manufacturing company, is at the Multnomah. The company makes paints.

S. J. Simonson, president and manager of the Cascade Creamery company of Yakima, Wash., is at the Multnomah.

Royal P. Root, a rooter for the apples of Hood River, is at the Multnomah. At home he is an orchardist.

G. L. Dunning of Stanfield, a commissioner of Umatilla county, is registered at the Hotel Oregon.

D. W. Merrill of Albany is at the Multnomah. He is a dealer in timber lands.

Dairymen Not Drawn to New Party.

HILLSBORO, Or., Feb. 4.—(To the Editor.)—I have read with interest The Oregonian's account of the convention now meeting in Salem for the purpose of forming a land and labor party. From the vigor and unanimity with which the Dairymen's league recently turned down such a proposition, I do not fear that the farmers of our state will allow the wool to be pulled over their eyes to any great extent. In comment upon this subject I should like to quote a few sentences from a recent letter of a North Dakota friend, the wife of a prosperous farmer:

"Mr. C. has sold our bank stock and severed all connection with the bank where he has been an officer for nearly 18 years. He does not like the non-partisan politics of this state and got out while the getting was good. We feel that land is the only safe investment, but under this rule the taxes are more than doubled on our farms, while railroads, telephone and telegraph companies pay less taxes than they have for years. But I must not let myself get started on this subject, so will say no more."

MRS. E. E. WATTS,
Jersey Jewel Dairy Farm.

ARCHITECTURE VERSUS SCENERY

Works of Nature Lose More in Reproduction Than Those of Man.

PORTLAND, Feb. 5.—(To the Editor.)—I wish to take occasion to express an opinion of the recent alleged action of the superintendent of Portland city schools in regard to the controversy on the subject of architectural classics and famed reproductions versus photographs of Oregon scenery, to be hung in the city schools.

Is the statement attributed to him true, that one of the famous Grecian architraves is a "farce"? This architrave is embellished by the highest type of sculpture and ornament, and has proved its refinement of design through its adaptability, covering a parallel period of the present Christian world, by its constant use in architecture. The most cultured architects of the past and present find no better expression to cloak their architectural necessities in a mantle of beauty and refinement than some modification of the ancient orders of architecture.

The influence of this masterful architecture can be traced through the different periods of history and architecture, through the Marie Antoinette series of French architecture, the Romanesque and English colonial of both olden and modern days, the Georgian and New England colonial of this country, and the modern reproductions of classic architecture and style in which nearly all of our monumental buildings in this country and abroad are designed.

All lovers of nature enjoy and commend the wonderful scenery of Oregon and realize its natural advantages, as well as the appeal to the tourist, but reproductions of this same scenery lack the charm of the original, because of their flatness and lack of natural color, softened and blended by our wonderful atmospheric conditions, which give depth and absolute harmony of color through the purple haze of distance, that cannot be reproduced by photography, and, when reproduced by the artist's brush, his conception usually lacks intensity of detail, multiplicity of which makes for the natural grande ensemble.

It is not my intention in any way to depreciate the photographs of Oregon scenery, but feel that architecture is one of the world's greatest necessities, to aid in the development of refinement, art and culture, at the same time shape these accomplishments into real practical necessities, which will ultimately make America the most beautiful and picturesque country in the world, at the same time developing her industries and business, and raising working and living conditions to the standard that has long been pictured in the minds of the world's greatest philanthropists.

Is it not better to exhibit before the young mind works of masterful character, the expression and detail of which they may become accustomed to, and gradually cultivate the feeling of refinement for their future education and benefit?

LEWIS IRVINE THOMPSON.

PROF. BAILEY ON "DEMOCRACY"

Famous Horticultural Educator Also Illuminates Another Topic.

PORTLAND, Feb. 5.—(To the Editor.)—L. H. Bailey of New York state speaks here this week on horticultural topics. A well known authority in that specialty, Mr. Bailey has, I believe, in the east a reputation for effective thought, writing and speech not confined in range to the life of plants.

It is too bad, and our distinct loss, that we are not to hear Mr. Bailey upon another subject wherein he has shown power and clearness of insight, with precision and charm of expression. That happens to be a subject which vitally affects every one of us right now, holding every living issue in its folds and leaving the dead and spurious outside. It also happens to include a question too few Americans ask themselves, which rigidly demands an answer that none of us can give: "What is democracy"? Yet if we lose the road, goodby to goal. We shall get the same impartial hook of fate that downed the dismal crowd of phantom peoples strung along the line of time through the deserts of the past.

We may serve some future race, as they do ours, to "point a moral or adorn a tale" after we've "gone glimmering to the things that were;" but is it not rather our will and better ambition to win out and make the final touchdown in the world's great game?

In our public library, one day, I chanced across a modest little book looking quietly out, "half hidden from the eye," in a maze of more imposing leafage, and as lover of the violet claimed my find. The choice was justified, for it proved to be a masterpiece. It was Mr. Bailey's slender volume dealing with that question about something not so trite nor simple as we who have grown up in this great republic lazily regard it—What meaning has "democracy" for us? Do not all speak at once. Just what is it, and where? Incidentally, what is it not? Is there a touchstone that can test it, or a spear to pierce its counterfeit disguises?

I have known nothing like or equal to Mr. Bailey's handling of this matter, and so, with all due regard for horticultural values, I am sorry he does not talk to us now of our own more turbulent selves, who mould and are moulded in, grace and at times disgrace, the animal kingdom.

C. S. R.

Tax on Admission to Dance.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 4.—(To the Editor.) — (1) Is there any law that women compelled to pay 10 cents war tax to be admitted to a dance? Also is these a tax of 10 cents to spectators?

(2) To whom should a person write regarding soda fountains and public places that are faking in their war tax returns? READER.

(1) Dances, as well as other places of amusement, are classed as luxuries and the tax is assessed in proportion to the price of admission.

(2) Inquiries and reports should be addressed to the Collector of Internal Revenue, Customs House, Portland, who will supply you with more detailed information.

Early History of Virginia.

ESTACADA, Or., Feb. 4.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Is there a history of the early settlement of Virginia, and if there is, where could I get such a history?

(2) Does the bill that has just been passed providing a pension for all classes of Civil war veterans include the southern veterans, too.

SUBSCRIBER.

(1) There are numerous histories of the early settlement of Virginia, available in most public libraries. Write to the Oregon State library, Salem, if you are unable to consult reference library nearer home, and copy will be mailed to you.

(2) No national pension bill to include ex-confederates has been passed.

Flattening Her Out.

London Tit-Bits.

Mabel—"Oh, Nellie, I'm so glad to meet you. I haven't seen you for such a long time. Where are you boarding now"?

Nellie (loftily)—"I don't board. I am married, and have taken a flat."

Mabel—"You don't say so? What is his name?"

With a Kick in It.

By Linton L. Davies.

'TWAS EVER THUS.

There was a green worm,
A little green worm,
Who dwelt all alone
By the side of the berm—
'Neath a dandelion root
That mild little coot
Lay curled in a cute little squirm.

There was a brown wren,
A little brown wren,
Who kept open house
By the edge of the glen
By a thornapple tree
As snug as could be
He snoozed at a quarter to ten.

One day the green worm,
The little green worm,
He wandered too far
From the edge of the berm.
And the little brown wren
Who lives in the glen—
Says, "Yes, 'twas a tasty little worm!"

—BENVOLIO.

* * *

Example, League of Nations Text.

Dear L. L. D.: Here's one: Teacher—What are the three kinds of sentences? Schoolboy—Simple, complex and indeterminate.

—DONALD SUTHON.

* * *

Simple Procedure.

"Do you think I can get on the stage?"

"Yes, if you'll get a pass from the box office."

* * *

She Sleeps.

She sleeps. One careless arm upthrown
Is curved as Circe's was—and round her mouth
Lingers a smile as for some dear unknown
Who late has kissed her and straight headed south.
My lady sleeps.

—BILL.

* * *

What the Waitress Hears.

The spinster: "The menu, please."

The railroad man: "What's the schedule?"

The theater manager: "Got a programme?"

The contractor: "Shoot me a blueprint."

The ex-service lad: "Call the roll on the pies."

* * *

Another Democratic Administration.

Dear L. L. D.: The country is suffering from "flu," high prices, wood alcohol and social unrest.

What could be worse?

—MAJOR R.

* * *

Quick, Nurse, the Arnica!

"School Heads Split on Art Frieze," reports a headline in an evening newspaper.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of February 6, 1895.

The question of opening the dalles of the Columbia in some manner to commerce is before the legislature at Salem in two bills, one by Senator Raley and one by Representative Boothby.

The prevalence of scarlet fever, scarletina and diphtheria in this city has been the cause of renewed agitation concerning the present sanitary arrangements at the public schools.

News has been received that Dr. Arthur J. Brown, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, has been elected one of the corresponding secretaries of the Presbyterian board of foreign missions, with headquarters in New York.

The taking of the census for the state of Oregon has been started in some sections. According to the state laws this is one of the duties the assessors must perform every ten years.

WICKED REPORTER MISQUOTED

Teacher Not Guilty of Lapse of Grammar Commented Upon.

PORTLAND, Feb. 5.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian Saturday there is an article entitled "Grammar and Washing" in which the recommendation is made that the teacher who made the remark "If you were to take in washing, you would get $6 a day, as against we teachers' $5" would do better to take in washing herself than to teach, and so avoid any question of her grammar.

The writer fully agrees with The Oregonian. No teacher has any business teaching if the above quotation is a sample of her grammar. In this case "the wicked reporter put words in her mouth that she did not use" and never would use.

As it happens, the teacher quoted is not one of the regular teachers, but a special teacher. Her work has nothing to do with the teaching of grammar. Before coming west she taught her special subject in two eastern colleges and also in a state normal school. Her use of correct English was never questioned at any of these places.

The solicitude of The Oregonian in behalf of the school children is most praiseworthy. All will admit the necessity of their hearing only the very best of English. May I suggest that the same solicitude be shown toward the general public? A reporter who uses the