Morning Oregonian

ESTABLISHED BY HENRY L. PITTOCK.
Published by The Oregonian Publishing Co., 135 Sixth Street, Portland, Oregon.
C. A. MORDEN, Manager. E. B. PIPER, Editor.

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Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance.
(By Mail.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$8.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months	4.25
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
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Daily, without Sunday, six months	3.25
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.60
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Sunday, one year	5.00

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Daily, Sunday included, one year	9.00
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
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How to Remit—Send postoffice money order, express or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at owner's risk. Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—1 to 16 pages, 1 cent; 18 to 32 pages, 2 cents; 34 to 48 pages, 3 cents; 50 to 64 pages, 4 cents; 66 to 80 pages, 5 cents; 82 to 96 pages, 6 cents. Foreign postage, double rates.

Eastern Business Office—Verree & Conklin, Brunswick building, New York; Verree & Conklin, Steger building, Chicago; Verree & Conklin, Free Press building, Detroit, Mich. San Francisco representative, R. J. Bidwell.

DIVIDED LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.

In connection with the proposal to divide the legislative sessions in Oregon, now advocated by Senator Pierce, The Oregonian today presents two letters received several weeks ago relative to the working of a similar plan in California. Mr. Jordan, one of the writers, is secretary of state of California; Mr. McClatchy is editor of the Sacramento Bee, the leading newspaper in the California capital. Inquiries were addressed to these two men because they were deemed to have intimate knowledge of the success or failure of the system.

Notwithstanding that the letter from Mr. Jordan condemns the plan, and that of Mr. McClatchy points out defects therein and suggests possible remedies for them, the letters are not published with intent to forestall adoption of a similar plan in Oregon. They are printed for the information they contain and with the hope that if the divided legislative session shall be adopted in Oregon they will aid the framing of a more nearly perfect provision.

The Oregonian is fairly well convinced that Oregon has reached a state of development where a forty-day session does not give sufficient time for proper consideration of the multifarious issues bound to be presented to the legislative assembly. This conclusion has been reached notwithstanding a conviction obtained from observation of many legislatures, in Oregon and elsewhere, that they as a rule are procrastinating bodies. Despite unpleasant experience of preceding bodies, legislatures delay consideration until late in the session of the more important measures. That which is pure dilatoriness is thereafter often described as an ulterior purpose to "frame" laws against the people or to "put something over" on a body of tired lawmakers. Apparent cause for distrust is present, and legislatures come to be flippantly mentioned as infictions, necessary but deplorable.

But the fact does stand out that due to accumulation of work toward the close of the session many laws are passed without proper consideration and others are adopted without opportunity to be heard being given those whom such laws materially affect.

It is apparent that an ordinary extension of the legislative session will not overcome these defects in the process of lawmaking. Midnight legislation is enacted in states having longer sessions than that of Oregon. In Washington, where the legislature sits sixty days, the two houses consume a longer time in getting down to business than they do in Oregon, with the result that there is a similar congestion of work in the closing hours. Nor is it to be expected that the divided session plan will prevent the overcrowding of the final calendar. But it possesses the merit that it precludes by constitutional enactment the initiation of laws in the closing hours of the session. The public at least has opportunity to ascertain the general character and precise terms of measures that are to be considered in the second half of the session.

We are told that in California, where this opportunity is present, the people do not avail themselves of it. We do not know of any way of compelling the public to rise to its responsibilities. About all that can be done is to give it the opportunity. If it neglects that opportunity the public has at least shouldered more of the responsibility for unmeritorious legislation than now falls upon it.

The situation in Oregon is that a forty-day session, even though industriously and energetically employed, is not a session of sufficient length for transacting the business that normally comes before the legislature. A change to a sixty-day continuous session does not promise the full measure of relief. The divided session presents possibilities of betterment in lawmaking, and when the criticisms of it are analyzed they seem to be but those that may be directed in larger measure at the continuous session.

THE VANISHING HIRED MAN.

The New York State College of Agriculture reports as the result of a canvass of some thousands of farms of that state that the number of people living on them decreased by 3 per cent and the number of hired men decreased 17 per cent in 1919. If the ratio holds good throughout the state, it indicates that 35,000 men and boys quit farming to go into other occupations. There are already 24,000 abandoned farms in New York—abandoned because their owners found they could not make a living on them. The chance that they will ever be retenanted is small in view of the growing scarcity of farm help.

The western states have not reached the abandoned farm stage, but they are having a similar experience as to the disappearance of the hired man. This is one of the most alarming features of the agricultural situation. A certain number of farm owners can be counted on to remain in the industry, even though they earn little more than a living, because of certain compensations of the life—its so-called independence, its healthfulness and, above all, the sense of ownership. But the farmhand doubts that he is as independent in the country as in the city, where he works shorter hours and has greater opportunity for privacy, and the feeling of ownership, of course, is wholly lacking. And few farms are so adjusted that they can be operated at all seasons by the owner alone. In the average situation, hired men are as necessary as farm owners—and at the present rate of subsidence, there will be no more hired men in six years.

The city has been competing with the country for the man-power supply. But city folks as well as others need to eat. Of what value will any industry be to the country when the hired man's extermination brings famine on the land?

PREVENTION OF LYNCHING.

An interesting revelation of the revival of the old-time idea of devotion to duty is made in the debate now waxing warm in Kentucky over the sufficiency of a pending bill designed to prevent lynching. Both the leading political parties were committed in the campaign last fall to the enactment of a law empowering the governor of the state to remove a sheriff in whose jurisdiction a lynching occurred. Now the matter has come before the state legislature, where an effort is being made by some interests to emasculate it of its automatic features. It is significant that there is strong demand for a provision that upon establishment of the fact that a prisoner in the custody of an officer has been unlawfully killed a vacancy in the office shall be created without more ado.

It is now recalled that the governor of Kentucky a few days ago, on dispatching a force of soldiers to Lexington, told the adjutant-general in command that he "would not expect to see him alive if the mob should get the prisoner." It is the spirit of "with or upon it" with which the Roman mothers of old presented shields to their soldier sons. Better death than dishonor, with failure to perform a sworn duty among the specifications of dishonor, is the idea embodied in the automatic removal bill.

It will be said by some, of course, that the life of no degenerate prisoner is worth the little finger of a constable or a sheriff. But we surmise that tender regard for guilty criminals is farthest from the minds of those for whom newspapers like the Louisville Courier-Journal are spokesmen and who declare that "a peace officer who is alive after the lynching of a prisoner in his custody should be removed automatically and without the right of appeal." It is as if a division of troops ordered to storm an enemy redoubt should return intact and report that the task was impossible because the enemy outnumbered them and "had the drop." In practice it probably will be found that mobs will become automatically fewer where automatic removal laws are in effect.

TWO KINDS OF CONSISTENCY.

Apparently wearied by the hopeless effort to find a way to support President Wilson and Senator Chamberlain at the same time, the Pendleton East Oregonian turns for relief to an attempt to prove contradiction in The Oregonian's attitude at different stages of the treaty controversy. It is a charge which troubles The Oregonian very little. Let our single-track friend make the most of it. If true, it would not be important nor unprecedented in the record of newspapers or individuals nor of statesmen. Shall one's point of view not be altered to suit changed circumstances or to meet new facts? Shall one set out on a certain course and hold to it, though chaos rules and worlds are wrecked? Shall one say that he will have his way, no matter what the consequences to others? Shall he refuse to accommodate himself to situations which are otherwise insuperable? Shall he insist always on a whole loaf, or no loaf, and reject a 90 per cent loaf? It might be well enough if the welfare of only a single person, or nation, or even president, were concerned. But when one is in a great or small sense the custodian of the public interest, guardian of the world's peace, and trustee of humanity, he has no right to say that there will be no progress, no peace, except on absolute conditions laid down by him. Let us add that we refer here not to The Oregonian but to President Wilson.

Throughout the entire wearisome struggle, the one design and desire of The Oregonian has been to secure an early, just and durable peace. In the many phases through which the controversy has passed, that single end has been kept in view. Before the league covenant was adopted at Paris, we said that a peace treaty should be made first and that the league should be organized afterward. When the peace conference coupled the two, it was an accomplished fact and The Oregonian urged ratification of the treaty in the belief that early restoration of peace was more urgent than present amendment of any defects there might be in the covenant, confident also that the great power and prestige of the United States would enable it to maintain its rights in the league and to secure any amendments that proved desirable.

When the demand of many senators for reservations proved that ratification could not muster enough votes to win without reservations, The Oregonian urged a compromise on such reservations as would unite the necessary sixty-four votes without sending the treaty back to the peace conference. The president would not hear of such a compromise, and would consent to no reservations except such as would interpret the treaty as meaning what he said it meant.

Declaration from authoritative British and French sources that the allies would accept the Lodge reservations removed the objection that they would throw the treaty back into conference, and proved that early peace with the United States a member of the league could be obtained by their adoption. The allies were willing to accept us as a member of the league on our own terms. The main ground of Mr. Wilson's opposition to the Lodge reservations was destroyed. Enough democratic senators were ready to accept those reservations to insure ratification with them. They were restrained from voting in accord with that opinion only by Mr. Wilson and by his hold on them through party sentiment. By insisting on unconditional ratification he brings it about that we have no peace and are outside the league.

The Oregonian has been steadfast in its advocacy of the treaty which seems the best compromise that could be made at Paris and of a league which would be the best compromise that could be made among its friends in the senate and between the United States and the allies. That is the only possible way to peace and to American participation in making peace permanent. Mr. Wilson has been steadfast only in insisting that peace shall be made his way, that the league shall be his league as he framed it and wills it to be, the only alternative being that peace shall be indefinitely postponed and that the United States be not only isolated but estranged from the world which looks to it for leadership.

The result of Mr. Wilson's singular kind of consistency is that, though his end is peace and a league, we can have neither unless we take them in the manner and form in which he offers them. His way having proved impracticable, we have no peace and no league from this great champion of both.

What a changed aspect the world's affairs would have today if the president had performed his constitutional duty of seeking the advice and consent of the senate.

THE SPIRIT OF THE PIONEER.

The proposal to make marriage more attractive by government subsidy, made by certain British reformers and seriously indorsed in other quarters, is a reminder of the campaign conducted some years ago with the same underlying purpose by Ellen Key, the noted Swedish champion of the rights of women. Because other phases of Miss Key's doctrines brought a storm of opposition this was overlooked by most of her critics. But one of them, Horace J. Bridges, lecturer and writer on economic philosophy, paid his respects to the whole system in an essay that will appeal with especial force to the men and women of another day who were not always asking that a government work out their own destinies for them. For example, he said:

> It is astonishing how speedily the raising of social standards in this country has sapped the boasted spirit of the pioneer. Men and women whose grandparents were ready to defy hardships which were almost unimaginable are unwilling today to face the possibility of having to substitute the pipe for the cigar or to dispense with supernumerary garments. At a time when even artisans have at their command comforts and conveniences impossible to the European monarchs of a century ago, we find men and women afraid to marry, even where there is, practically speaking, no reasonable ground for fear that they ever will be in want of the necessaries of life. The removal of this fantastic nightmare and of the hypnosis begotten of it is at least as necessary as the reform of economic conditions.

Practically every news item that tells of the "golden wedding" anniversary of a couple living in this country, and more particularly in the western part of it, contains between its lines the story of two people who would have spurned the notion that they needed help from the state to set them up in life. There were hardships to be endured compared with which life of the present is a flowery bed of ease, but marriage was even then a quite popular institution. A young man with a job, and sometimes with only the prospect of one, and a young woman whose hope chest held little except homely but durable necessities felt themselves quite rich enough to make the venture. As almost any pioneer out this way can testify, these unions were as a rule as happy as they possibly could have been if they had been subsidized. We are almost prepared to say that they averaged better, in all the values worth counting, than those of the present day, which pessimists are constantly telling us are widely restrained by supercaution.

The spirit of the pioneer, of which the marriages of half a century ago were but a symbol, was the motive power behind a good many noteworthy achievements. It was not a spirit that regarded social conditions as incapable of improvement, or that refused to try to better them, but it was a kind of independence that accepted an individual share of responsibility and was ready to take the consequences. It will be suspected that the kind of people who want to be hired to marry will make about the poorest material we have, genetically speaking, out of which to create mothers and fathers for future generations.

AUTOMOBILES AND ROADS.

Everybody knows that a good part of China's economic troubles are due to lack of communication between one part of the country and another, and particularly to inadequate means of getting goods to market. Consequently those who would like to see the Chinese prosper in their own country and enjoy the benefits of occidental discovery and invention will read with interest the news sent by an attache of our consular service that the automobile is gaining a foothold in Peking, where there are now more Chinese owners of cars than in any other city of China. The passenger cars in that city, it is true, now number only 650, but it is a beginning. The true significance of the fact is that it is a new era of road building for China, no less than of ownership of automobiles.

China's longest modern highway is now in process of construction. When completed it will be 80 miles long and will extend from Peking to Tientsin. When it is remembered that China is the most populous country on the globe, and potentially one of the most wealthy, it will seem pitiful that it has taken three years to construct the first 15 miles of this highway, and that the mileage of passable motor roads in the vicinity to Peking is only about 51. Except for the foreign concessions and a very few other localities there are no roads worthy of the name in the entire country. More than 300,000,000 people depend on rivers for commercial transportation and on paths and trails for intervillage communication. In the large sense automobiling will be impossible in the republic until the good roads movement has penetrated the country.

We never were at the Chinese level of poor roads, although the first mail carrier who took a letter from New York to Boston required two weeks for the journey because of the bad condition of the trail, but it can hardly be said that we began to be enthusiastic about spending money for road improvements until the automobile became a part of our everyday life. But road development in the United States in the past decade and a half has been positively amazing, and it has been coincident with standardization of manufacturing methods and quantity production that have made the moderate-priced car possible. When practically all the people took to gasoline as their motive power roads became a necessity and a way was found to pay for them.

Ohio, whose per capita ownership of automobiles, 13.1, is not far from the average for the entire United States, now has one mile of passable roads (suitable for automobile travel) for each 60.9 of its population, and a mile of "improved roads" for each 168 of the population. If the people of China ever reach this proportionate stage of road improvement, as they will if the automobile becomes established among them, they will have 5,000,000 miles of passable roads, of which 2,000,000 will be well improved, instead of a few hundreds of miles, as at present. The extent to which western civilization, with especial reference to its scientific and economic aspects, will be facilitated in its march through the orient by this eventuality can be left to the imagination.

Road-building is one of the world's coming industries. It promises to engage the productive energies of men of many lands for a long time to come. It is one of the most conspicuous social developments of the time in which we live. The automobile must be credited with a large share in this achievement. There are few who would willingly return to the universal road conditions of even ten years ago.

The democratic national committee mourns over failure of congress to provide for improvement of rivers in the middle west by the lump sum rivers and harbors bill. It is discreetly silent about the creeks of the south, but it is safe to say that neglect of them is the real cause of its sorrow. Every democratic bill contained appropriations for twenty or thirty small streams in North Carolina, the home of Secretary Daniels, Representative Kitchin and other Bourbon leaders. Those streams may run dry for lack of irrigation by congress.

None can dispute the wisdom of Judge McCourt in sending to the penitentiary for four years or less an 18-year-old boy. The boy "never had a chance" and probably he never will with his record, but he will be out of the way of doing harm for a while at an age when his talents and instincts would incline him that way.

The aboriginal is slow to imbibe the white man's ideas, but he gets there in the end. Chief Yumsumkin of the Cayuses blew out the gas in Chicago and has gone to the happy hunting grounds. That trick in days agone belonged to Oregon democrats in touch with civilization and strange fixtures.

The Italian earthquake observer is on his way to Mexico to try out the inerviameter on that harried country. Poor fellow! He could have made the same experiments right at home with greater comfort and safety by jumping into the crater of Vesuvius.

If there is a member of the faculty at Corvallis engaged in nonpartisan league propaganda of any brand, he should be invited to depart in haste. Consider what might happen to a republican proselyting in the college, or a democrat.

A Portland murderer who escaped from Salem a year ago has been recaptured in Oklahoma, which shows the United States is not a very big part of a small world. The main lesson in the news is that the man is being brought back.

The town that has a cannery that puts up a pack worth $25,000 or more is a good place to locate in. That money is a sort of revolving fund handled by many before it leaves. One well-paying business attracts others.

Alex Donaldson saved the city last year nearly a hundred thousand dollars in his street-cleaning department and the wonder is why not a few more Alex Donaldsons for other departments of the city.

Governor Edwards of New Jersey is first in the straw vote for president conducted by the Portland News. We suggest Augustus Busch or ex-Mayor Harley of Astoria as a good running mate.

However, Oregon should worry at losing the ministry to Siam. The chief duties of that official appear to consist of sending home to collectors large quantities of Siamese postage stamps.

A "free gate" at the state fair is of doubtful value as an attraction. What is worth seeing is worth paying for, and Manager Lea can be depended upon to produce it.

Everybody should wear a tag today. Old folks are a charge upon the young. Ever note how the Chinese protect their old? Let the heathen teach the good lesson.

If it be true as reported that the principal of a high school objects to the noise made by a teacher when she blows her nose, he is altogether too esthetic for Oregon.

We trust that Banbridge Colby will not consider that his former status as a bull mooser gives him carte blanche to make diplomatic bulls.

Bryan refuses to file in North Dakota, as he is a receptive candidate and not an aggressive aspirant. Foxy old dark horse!

Possibly George H. Himes can recall other Februarys of just as pleasant weather, but the effort will strain him.

The high price of shoe leather does not appear to have interfered greatly with the profession of bootlegging.

However, there is no danger that poison olives will ever become as popular as wood alcohol.

The senate may be expected to confirm the nomination of Mr. Colby—with reservations.

Our idea of an unquenchable optimist is a man who takes up the trade of harnessmaker.

When all the old docks are torn out, how can the old-timer find his landmarks?

Any other gang but the railroaders would give a dance to celebrate going back.

NOT ALL THAT WAS EXPECED

California Legislative Plan Needs Changes to Give Best Results.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Feb. 27.—(To the Editor.)—This answers The Oregonian's letter asking for information as to our experience with the bifurcated plan of legislative session.

The plan as devised is an excellent one, and if carried out along the lines of the original intent would undoubtedly be productive of good results. Like many other things in our form of government, it depends upon the men who handle it and upon the sincerity with which the original idea is carried out. As a matter of fact, it has not been fairly operated, and it has not produced the results desired or possible, with us.

As planned, the bifurcated session occupies 30 days during which bills are introduced, then a recess of 30 days during which it was assumed that these bills would be given careful consideration in public discussion and possibly in committee deliberations, and finally, a session of 30 days during which no further bills could be introduced save by unanimous consent, the time being devoted entirely to consideration of, and action on, the bills already introduced.

As a matter of fact, bills were introduced in great number in the first 30 days; no attention whatever was paid to them during the recess, unless possibly in newspaper comment, and the members came back after their recess, played for part of the 30 days, and rushed bills through with little consideration during the last few days of the session. The session, by the way, could be continued indefinitely at the desire of the two houses, but the members were paid only for the 60 days.

The plan would give excellent results if by some plan the number of bills introduced in the first session were materially limited to bills of a general nature, worthy of consideration, and if during the recess consideration of these bills were forced by keeping committees in session, with their meetings open to the public.

In your letter you mention that Oregon's legislative sessions are for 40 days regular and 20 days or less special. If by special sessions you mean sessions called for special purposes by the governor, there could not occur in such special sessions under our law the jamming through of bills to which you refer, since such sessions are confined to consideration of such subjects as are included in the special call. For instance, a few months ago, a special session was called to consider the subject of the woman suffrage amendment; it met for one day, disposed of this subject, and adjourned.

The bifurcated session with us was inaugurated because it had become comparatively easy for certain interests to introduce bills late in the session, and rush them through before the public or those intimately concerned could learn anything about such bills. The bifurcated session, as you will see, will successfully prevent that, since during the 30 days recess all the bills introduced can be carefully scrutinized by those who find it desirable to watch legislation, lest they be injured.

I would say that the bifurcated session is a good plan if it is so safeguarded as to force its operation along the lines contemplated by the plan. V. S. McCLATCHY.

FIGURES TURN OUT ERRONEOUS

Newell Estimate of Traction Deficit too High, Says Mr. Hopson.

PORTLAND, Feb. 27.—(To the Editor.)—J. P. Newell contends I am "entirely mistaken" in my references to errors in a report prepared by him for the city commission on the street-car situation. The matter is not personal but of a very live public nature, or I would not trouble the Oregonian with this response.

The Newell report was commenced last year when July figures were the latest available. Subsequent events have proved some of Mr. Newell's conclusions based on these to be misleading. Unfortunately, these conclusions have been used by others in support of unreasonable claims, and it is only possible for the public to protect itself by refuting them. No reflection on the ability or integrity of Mr. Newell is conveyed by these acts of self-protection.

These conclusions in the Newell report which I have not hesitated to style "serious efforts," indicate a present operating deficit of $732,000 annually. Actually the 1919 deficit was only $136,484, a difference of nearly $600,000. Even if allowance be made for wage increases toward the end of 1919 there would still be a discrepancy of $234,000. This is against the public and very serious.

Again the Newell report states that 1919 traffic was only 6 per cent greater than 1913 traffic. Actually it was 13.7 per cent greater. A difference of 4,474,000 revenue passengers, equivalent to a revenue of $277,000 in a year. This also is against the public.

The report, moreover, goes on to show that under traffic conditions to be expected an 8-cent fare is essential, and that with the present fare continued in effect there will be an annual deficit of $1,000,000. In this conclusion the traffic increases of the past few years are ignored. These have averaged 12 per cent per annum. An estimate based on a reasonable business expectation will indicate that the $1,000,000 deficit is exaggerated by at least $700,000.

The first two of these are obvious errors in the light of recent facts. The third is a matter involving a degree of personal judgment, but apparently constitutes an omission of a very important element. All conclusions bear heavily against the public interest, and there is no other course than openly to combat them.

Mr. Newell is mistaken in stating these matters were not brought to the attention of the public service commission. I did so personally, with Mr. Newell sitting by and asking questions from time to time. They are all on record before the commission.

Mr. Newell says he did not advocate an 8-cent fare. This may be technically correct. No direct statement by him advocates an 8-cent fare or any other fare, but his report makes no other constructive solution of the problem than the imposition of that fare. If he did not advocate it he certainly disguised his intention so well that I doubt whether anyone reading the report had any other impression than that he did. It is gratifying, however, to note he is not advocating this impost, and my letter certainly has done good by bringing out this disclaimer from him.

E. G. HOPSON.

Ouija Message From Bryan.

PORTLAND, Feb. 27.—(To the Editor.)—The following was caught on our telepathic wireless yesterday:

W. J. B. to Hitchcock, senate chamber: "You're doing fine, old man; go to it. Old single-track is getting pretty cockey, but he was just right in firing that dub Lansing for his presumption in exercising the prerogative belonging solely to the president of the unterrified order, after I had resigned.

"And I am particularly gratified since I was responsible for securing him his residence in the White House. I must now obtain a vote of unqualified confidence and approval of his administration at the hands of the national convention of the great unwashed at San Francisco. More power to you." C. J. O. IRWIN.

Those Who Come and Go.

"Wild geese start south from Arlington, and Mayor Donnelly gave me that as another of his reasons why the John Day highway should come out to the Columbia highway at Arlington from Condon," says Ed E. Kiddle, state highway commissioner. These geese, declares Dr. Donnelly, come from somewhere in Alaska, cross British Columbia and mobilize at Arlington. From that point they fly to California and into Mexico and then on into South America. That is as much of their route as the doctor has been able to discover. Anyway, they come by hundreds of thousands, sometimes clouding the sun, and this has been going on since the days of the earliest inhabitant. There are good wheat fields across the Columbia river in Washington, but 20 geese land on the Oregon side to one that rests on the Washington shore. A few years ago the geese were so hungry that they became a nuisance and the legislature was appealed to by farmers who didn't want their immature crop to go south as ballast for wild geese. A professional sportsman went to Arlington last fall, studied the habits of the geese for a week and then went out and killed 50 in a day. This satisfied him.

Some doughboy sold the statute of liberty which has been on guard at the entrance of the Liberty Temple since that structure was built. The purchaser was E. O. Gentry, who registered at the Hotel Portland from Camas, Wash. Mr. Gentry was ambling around the Liberty Temple and stopped to admire the statue made of plaster. A former service man engaged Mr. Gentry in conversation with the result that the former soldier offered to sell the statue at a bargain and Mr. Gentry closed the deal on the spot. The Olson Transfer company received a letter of instructions from Mr. Gentry directing the concern to "take my statue of liberty from in front of Liberty Temple, and ship it to Fisher's landing." Mr. Gentry has been informed that the Morrison-street bridge, the Willamette river and the courthouse will be on the market at attractive prices the next time he visits Portland.

"Trees along the creeks and low ground were damaged by the cold weather, but on the higher ground they do not appear to have suffered," reports former County Judge Gunning of The Dalles. He heard of some old apple trees which were killed by the cold, but on the whole, there will be apples, peaches, cherries and apricots as usual in Wasco county. Judge Gunning looks for a water shortage, owing to the light snowfall during the winter, and this he considers will be a serious matter unless March and April produce rain in larger quantities than January and February have done.

They are referring to Bruce Dennis as an oil king these days, albeit he is still a newspaper publisher. It appears that Mr. Dennis has chipped in on a live one in a Kansas oil field, and if the enterprise works out as it now indicates, Mr. Dennis, as an oil man, will not care what Mr. Dnnis, as a publisher, has to pay for news print paper. Mr. Dennis is in town on business but doesn't get very far because nearly every man he meets is from Eastern Oregon or Portland and each one wants to stop, shake hands and try to talk politics.

R. J. Carsner, a stockman of Spray, Or., who is at the Imperial, is a prospective candidate for the legislature for Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties, to succeed James S. Stewart. Mr. Carsner visited the legislature during the special session and tried the chair which Reprsenetative Stewart used, to see if it was comfortable. The chair was a good fit, so Mr. Carsner began thinking more seriously of being a candidate.

One man who is doing his share in the movement to secure a greater forestry programme is E. J. Hanzlik, forest examiner from Seattle, who is passing a few days in the city conferring with the district forester. He has worked out a scheme for handling government and privately owned timber on a sustained annual yield basis and will try this out in the Snoqualmie forest, where he is stationed.

Arriving from a voyage to the orient, George E. Braher of the merchant marine is at the Hotel Washington, getting his land legs on. Things are booming in the orient and the towns patronized by Europeans are thriving. Paris or San Francisco in their best days, never had anything on Shanghai or Hongkong. China is still "wet."

Wallowa valley has a wonderful future, predicts A. C. Miller of Enterprise, who is at the Hotel Washington with Mrs. Miller. The valley is just getting started, he declares, and although Mr. Miller arrived there about 1884, he wishes he had landed there even earlier.

"Fortunately, I have sold off nearly all of my cattle and sheep," said Herb Anfell of Prineville, as he checked out of the Hotel Oregon for home. "I began last year and just about cleaned up. The fellows who held on and have been selling lately have been heavy losers."

James G. Horning of Corvallis is at the Hotel Washington. The Horning family are old settlers in that section and the father of James G. was a well-known wagonmaker in the days when it was one of the most essential industries in the Willamette valley.

From Little Blue, Mo., Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Frey are at the Hotel Portland as guests of Mrs. W. F. Tucker, who resides there permanently. Mrs. Tucker is the widow of Colonel Tucker, who, after retiring from the service, went to Mount Hood.

Hotel business in Nampa is just as good as the business is in Portland, according to E. H. Dewey, who runs a hotel in the Idaho town. Mr. Dewey is being cared for at the Hotel Portland, no matter who has to sleep on a cot.

E. O. McCoy, one of the colony of bankers at The Dalles, which is rapidly increasing, is an arrival at the Hotel Portland. Bankers will soon be more numerous in The Dalles than policemen or councilmen, if they already are not in a majority.

Recovering from a very serious operation, D. A. Broughel has left a local hospital and is registered at the Hotel Washington. He will return to his Walla Walla (Wash.) home in a few days, where he is connected with the O.-W. R. & N. company.

Rose Wilder Lane, magazine writer, came to the Hotel Portland yesterday. Miss Lane is a western literary product, who has had so many experiences that she decided to write 'em out for print, and they were accepted.

L. E. Bean passed through Portland yesterday on his way home from Washington, D. C., where he went to work for the big road programme with other representatives from Oregon.

E. J. Adams, former member of the highway commission, is at the Imperial. Mr. Adams is expected to be a candidate for the legislature from Lane county, running for the house.

A Legend.

By Grace E. Hall.

The legend is that once upon a time
A master had great need of tested men,
Who would not yield; with courage most sublime
That might not fail in service asked of them.
And so at last a test of strength he named
That should prove traits of character unguessed,
Declaring that one should be truly famed
Who won the honor medal from the rest.

"The night is dark," he said; "my garden lies
In shadows deep beneath the slumbering skies,
Ten thousand bushes flaunt their roses there;
A million roses need your earnest care.
Each petal must be plucked and laid away,
Rare perfume to emit another day.
The task is one of patience and of skill.
A prince's order I must promptly fill,
And if one rose be missing, he will know,
And to another garden quickly go."

Then fared the workers to the garden wide,
Each to his task assigned. The sunrise came,
The winds blew softly, 'til a gay breeze pried
A crimson Rambler rose from off its frame.
It whisked away and, carried swiftly on
By teasing gale, soon disappeared from view.
None marked its absence in the blushing dawn,
As sunbeams stooped to drink the crystal dew.

A faithful workman came to twisted stem,
Knew that a rose was gone—and what it meant;
Remembered what the master said to them
Ere they into the garden had been sent.
With thought intent upon the perfume rare,
He hurried forth the truant bloom to find;
He caught its fragrance on the morning air,
And satisfaction thrilled his humble mind.

In joy he bore it through the garden gate,
With eager care the petals laid away,
Mindful that each small atom had its weight,
And that mere trifles make up life each day.
Then lo! a gentle voice pronounced his name:
"Come forth! Obedience now shall be repaid.
Yours is the honor medal of true fame,
For character inherent you've displayed!" —GRACE E. HALL.

SYSTEM PROLONGS AGITATION.

Divided Session of Legislature Not in Favor in California.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 27.—(To the Editor.)—I have The Oregonian's inquiry in regard to the divided legislative sessions. I must say I don't favor the plan. We have found that it prolongs agitations, that it does not benefit as we expected. Even members of the legislature do not favor it. We find too, that the people do not ask for the bills; do not investigate as it was supposed they would. Again, too, the legislators (very few of them) take any interest in the measures introduced during the interim—only when they come back.

It has been seriously proposed by many to take action to do away with the divided sessions. I frankly say that I have heard no one approve of the plan—on the contrary, a great deal of criticism of the plan.

You will gain nothing, in my judgment, by introducing it in Oregon.

FRANK C. JORDAN,
Secretary of state.

Information on Mining Laws.

PORTLAND, Feb. 27.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me if the rule for locating and staking quartz and placer claims is the same in one state as another, and also advise me the lawful way to proceed in either case, as I am figuring on going prospecting in the spring. SUBSCRIBER.

The laws are the same in all states, for they are federal laws. Buy a few mineral location blanks at any good stationery store and inquire at United States land office, postoffice building, city, as to legal way to locate a claim.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

A BLOOMING SHAME!

It's reported in the trusty Sunday cables
That the little English children, bless their hearts,
Are enamored of the glamor of the substitute for grammar,
Which the trans-Atlantic movie-show imparts.
In the titles of the Fairbanks-Chaplin pictures,
There's a certain brutal punch and vulgar tang,
And the hapless little blighters (they're all cinema first-nighters)
Are becoming too adept in Yankee slang.

It is harmful to the adolescent Briton
To observe a giddy youth upon the screen,
Who bestows his hard-earned thick 'uns among females he calls chickens,
Over whom he says he's wild, instead of keen.
Little children quickly catch these horrid phrases,
Never thinking how debased it is and wrong,
When the lady with the poodle doesn't murmur, "Toodle-oodle!"
When she waves her hand at parting, but: "So long!"

How it pains the proud and proper British parent
When his son and heir, a toppy little chap,
Quarrelling with his brother Willie, rather than remark, "You silly!"
Substitutes the awful expletive, "You sap!"
How the British mother shudders in amazement
When her daughter, with disgusting Yankee pep,
Doesn't say, "My word, old topper, you will come a blooming cropper!"
But observes with blunt directness: "Watch yer step!"

And the elegant, soft-spoken British nursemaid,
How she suffers when the children in her care,
As they munch their morning kippers, speak of kids instead of nippers,
And, when meaning "Aw! Gawan!," say, "Get the air!"
We should really ask our motion-picture magnates
If they won't put more refinement in their game,
Introducing slang expressions in His Majesty's possessions,
Is a blighted, bally, blooming, bloody shame!"

* * *

Just Like Him.

Mr. Bryan has gone to Florida, probably to say, "Good-bye and God bless you," to the Demon, as it embarks for Havana.

* * *

Only of Statesmen.

Anyway, there is no shortage of candidates.

In Other Days.

Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, February 28, 1895.

It is said on good authority that Governor Lord proposes to appoint a new board of railroad commissioners, displacing the holdover members.

Corvallis—The school census here shows there are 352 females and 316 males, a total of 668.

The commission authorized by the legislature to act in the purchase of the Morrison-street bridge has organized with Solomon Hirsch as president and J. V. Beach as clerk. N. K. West is the third member.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, February 28, 1870.

Chicago—W. F. Story, editor-in-chief and one of the owners of the Times, was horsewhipped yesterday by Lydia Thompson and Pauline Markham of the Lydia Thompson troupe of players.

Washington—Mr. Corbett of the senate committee on commerce has introduced a bill to encourage the laying of a Pacific cable from Cape San Juan, Washington territory, to Japan and Asiatic Russia.

The ceremony of dedicating the Oddfellows' hall will take place tomorrow, with a big ball in the evening.

W. Dalton, clerk of school district No. 21, embracing East Portland, reports that there are 159 legal voters in the district. The total number of school children is 188, an increase of 47 over last year.

Footprints to Identify Babes Surpasses Wisdom of Solomon

From the time of Solomon, and no doubt long before that, the new mother and daddy have had their hearts wrung with anxiety as they have seen their little pink darling taken by the nurse and placed among a group of other new-born babes. What if the cradles should be changed around, the nurse become careless, someone play a practical joke? Modern science has risen to the occasion. The wisdom of Solomon has been replaced by—what? Footprints and fingerprints. The little pink toes are made to leave an indisputable record on the same sheet with the mother's thumb. Fond parents all over the country will welcome this latest gift of science, fully described in tomorrow's magazine section of The Sunday Oregonian.

Art Found in Oregon Woods.—Not with the brush, the pen or the instrument of music does the artist of Oregon wood labor, but with the saw and the plane. How inlaid chess boards, dainty chests, bowls and little figures are carved from the western forests is a story with the flavor of romance to it. This home industry, little known but wider in its scope than most would realize, is the subject of the latest article by DeWitt Harry. Out tomorrow, with illustrations.

Have War Weddings Failed?—He was in uniform. The romance of war clung around him. She was doing her little bit, too. They met, the brief courtship followed, marriage and then off to the front. But then came the armistice, civilian clothes, the return to the humdrum of daily life. There is an aftermath of tragedy for many of those who began the great adventure of married life during the war so blithely and ofttimes so thoughtlessly. The divorce courts are telling a story of divorces in numbers never before known. It's a problem demanding an exhaustive study. Helen Hester Hill of New York in a timely article tells what the problem is meaning to the metropolis.

Why Did You Fail to Vote?—In Czecho-Slovakia, new republic carved from the heart of Europe, both men and women must vote or they are summoned into court to answer why. This latest government, already establishing itself upon a stable foundation, is carrying out many interesting experiments in democratic legislation. A leading article on the subject, illustrated, is a feature of tomorrow's edition.

Do You Enjoy Cartoons?—If you do, and most of us do, don't wait long after securing tomorrow's big Sunday issue before turning to section 5, page 7. "Wilson, That's All," is its caption, a sidelight on the Lansing episode with the signature of J. N. Ding, and one of the New York artist's cleverest works. Other cartoons in the inimitable style of Briggs and Darling fill the page. Pictures and illustrations and articles of merit cram every section of Oregon's greatest newspaper tomorrow.

All the News of All the World

THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN