Morning Oregonian

ESTABLISHED BY HENRY L. PITTOCK.

Published by The Oregonian Publishing Co., 135 Sixth Street, Portland, Oregon.

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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
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Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
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Daily, without Sunday, six months	3.25
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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
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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.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

South Dakota is a typical farming state of the Middle West. It is representative of sentiment throughout a great region, politically the controlling section of the nation. As South Dakota goes, so likely will go many other states.

Leonard Wood carries the primaries in South Dakota, but is strongly pressed by Mr. Lowden. The outstanding fact as to Wood is that he has in South Dakota maintained the same leadership in the presidential race that he has consistently shown elsewhere. But by no means does it follow that Mr. Lowden is out of the race, though the loss of the state is more serious to him than it would have been to General Wood. He is strong in many other states, and is yet a formidable contender for the nomination.

The most significant fact about South Dakota is that Senator Johnson is relegated to third place. He represented in his candidacy outright opposition to the league of nations, and doubtless he crystallized behind him all the forces which stand for a policy of national isolation and which approve defeat of the treaty and covenant. There are other elements, too, which find in the radicalism, irreconcilability, and carefree political insurgency of Mr. Johnson a candidate who pleases them. Altogether they make a considerable force.

In a broad way Wood and Lowden made an appeal to the conservative members of the republican party and divided them. For the most part they are for a league of nations, and so far as it was an issue they accepted it by their votes against Johnson. Altogether they outnumber the Johnson following heavily; but in a free-for-all contest it was easily possible that Johnson might slip in between them. So is it possible in Oregon.

The result in South Dakota is practically to eliminate Johnson as a serious possibility and to leave Wood and Lowden as the leaders in the race. If Johnson had won South Dakota, the first state where he has really tested his strength, he might have proved so formidable that the pro-leaguers, represented by Wood and Lowden, would have found it necessary to combine their forces on one man. It has been shown, however, that they can divide their forces and still beat him. His star is likely to fade and his rivals are free to continue the contest with each other.

OUT-OF-DATE REMEDIES.

The financial letter of a Los Angeles bank supplements sound advice to produce more and spend less with concrete recommendations for restoration of our equilibrium that are startling. It proposes repeal of the Sherman anti-trust law as "a blight upon American progress," which "has rendered subterfuges a necessity" and under which "the nation could not function in war times"; repeal of the Adamson eight-hour law, as "vicious class legislation"; repeal of the Clayton act, "also class legislation"; repeal of the federal farm loan bank act, "also class legislation, passed to catch votes, vicious in principle"; "legislation out of office of the present interstate commerce commission, which has proved itself a partisan body."

The one thing to be admired about this Bourbon is his frankness. The Sherman law has not prevented formation of great business combinations, but it has prevented or dissolved the most vicious of them, has led others into paths where they are useful instead of harmful and has prevented trust-promoters from running wild, as they were apt to have done but for the policy inaugurated by Roosevelt. The Clayton act is a mixture of good and bad, regulating corporate abuses out of existence, but legalizing some evils of labor disturbance.

The farm loan act was designed to remove a recognized evil by initiating a co-operative loan system enabling farmers to mobilize their credit, which would gradually become their own property. It was needed as a public policy to stimulate agriculture and to check migration of the rural population to the cities. It has been perverted from the original plan by amendments which deprive farmers of their part in managing, and of hope of owning, farm loan banks. It should not be repealed, but again amended to carry out its original purpose.

The Adamson act was a vote-catching piece of politics, but subsequent events have established the eight-hour day and later wage increases have made its wage feature unimportant. The worst sin of the interstate commerce commission was a disposition to compromise with popular prejudice, but it has done a stupendous task fairly well and its judicial side will be strengthened by the cooling of public passion on the railroad question.

The Los Angeles banker is a survivor of those who advocated the extreme doctrine of laissez faire, of non-interference by the government with relations between citizens except when public safety is concerned. Such men fail to recognize that men combine their capital and numbers in such mass that co binatio — vitally affect the public safety. A compromise between individualism and paternalism has become essential to national self-preservation, and excludes total repeal of the laws to which he objects. The problem now is how to reconcile the broadest liberty of individuals, both alone and in combination, with the welfare of the whole nation, for the general welfare is now held to be the supreme consideration.

NOT COMIC.

The Oregonian will not refrain from expressing its pained surprise that the New York Times should refer to a revered and very popular political institution of Oregon as the "comic primary." It is not comic. It is serious, most serious business and nothing comic ever happens through its perfect workings. The people get exactly what they want, and occasionally some things which they never thought of wanting.

The Times is led to its jeering remarks by the spectacle of the contest among certain obscurities over the vice-presidential nomination in Oregon. A person from the remote middle west named Elwood Washington and another person from the same broad region named Samuel Adams—to say nothing of Dr. What's-his-name from Chicago—are offering themselves to the republican electorate of the state for the vice-presidency. The Times is not impressed by the claims of Washington and Adams that they are descendants of distinguished forbears. It says:

> Any person who describes himself or is described as a descendant of George Washington is necessarily comic. Everybody named Adams is a member of the Adams, as likewise of the older Adam's family. It would have been more refreshing to the sociologist or the student of human nature if Samuel Adams of Oregon had been described as a descendant of Sam Adams of Massachusetts, who left only female descendants; but perhaps such a reflection is mere carping and bile. The press agent of The Oregonian Samuel Adams is less romantic than that of Mr. Elwood Washington. Is it curious or is it natural that the nomination in the primary of candidates for president and vice-president should be regarded by so many persons not as a serious duty, but as an irresistible opportunity for a joke?

It is not our understanding that the present-day Samuel Adams illuminates the confines of Oregon by his permanent presence. We have forgotten where he hails from; but it is not from Oregon. All he wants from Oregon is to use the people of the state as a medium of personal notoriety.

SIX-CENT FARES? OR MORE?

A year or two ago, a candidate for the public utilities commission was elected on the slogan that a "6-cent fare is too much for a 5-cent ride." Doubtless it is; but a 6-cent fare is not too much for a 6-cent ride, nor a 10-cent fare for a 10-cent ride. If it costs 6 cents, or 8 cents, or 10 cents to give the service, it must be paid for. If 5 cents only is paid, the deficit must somehow be made up, either by an increase in fares, or by outright appropriation from the public or other moneys.

Over at Seattle they have found that a 5-cent ride costs more than a nickel, and that the deficit created by operation of the municipal railway is $500,000 or more per year. The public will pay the $500,000. Previously, the street railway company absorbed it; but it could not bear the burden indefinitely and sold out to the city for the sum of $15,000,000.

Portland has a 6-cent fare, but there is no longer serious dispute that a ride costs more than 6 cents. If the street railway company must pay the excess, it is obvious now to the most casual judgment that it will go into bankruptcy. Possibly such a disaster would not disconcert certain promoters of municipal ownership who have no investment in the company's securities to lose; but it cannot be contemplated with equanimity by the public. For it will be a genuine and very heavy public loss if it shall occur.

Now it is proposed that the public shall determine what shall be done about the street railways. It will help to a solution of the problem—one of the most vital in the existence of Portland—if it shall be understood that the cost of service—including operation, interest on investment, depreciation and all the other necessary factors of maintenance of a necessary public enterprise—must be paid in full, whether it is 5 cents or 8 cents or 10 cents for a single fare.

SPRING GARDENING.

It used to be a widely accepted notion in agricultural circles that "dear seed means cheap potatoes," and that in other respects prices for food commodities might be expected to respond to a law of averages in a period of years. This was based, of course, on the common practice of farmers of planting heavily in the succeeding year the crops that had proved profitable to their foresighted neighbors. As to commodities which depended on a local market, the rule almost invariably held good. The consumer was able in this way to alternate the benefits of low-priced food with the exactions of high prices in other seasons.

More recently it has not worked out that way. Potatoes, which serve as a good example because they are a staple, are easily grown, are sold chiefly in local markets and ought to respond quickly to impulse, have been dear for a number of years, despite the fact that they can be grown on a city lot as well as on a farm of a thousand acres, and require no more than ordinary knowledge of crop production. It is probably true that any man with a modicum of agricultural instinct, ordinary muscular strength and moderate patience can grow a potato crop. Given a well-spaded bit of ground, fair seed and determination not to let the weeds take possession of the plot, and potatoes will be the result. The same is true in varying measure of most of the commoner vegetables. This was shown by our experience with town-lot farming during the war. The so-called war gardens were on the whole a conspicuous success.

Now there is a quite general tendency to regard the emergency as over and the necessity for home gardening as having passed. But the householder with a family of youngsters who is confronted by the prevailing price of the meek and lowly "spud" is wishing that he had made better use of his time and surplus energy last summer. But about the time that he ought to be getting a lesson from his experience he will be overtaken by a strange apathy. There is no disguising the fact that the home garden is again on the decline. Yet there is no sound reason for believing that, as an economic proposition, it is now as much called for as it was during the war.

The secretary of the Indianapolis Patriotic Gardeners' association, which put Indianapolis in first place in the war garden movement three years ago, is quoted by the Indianapolis News as saying that he can see no reason to believe that vegetables will be any cheaper in 1920 than they were in 1919. He directed in one season the planting of more than 50,000 gardens, and he says that a man with a plot no larger than 8 by 10 feet is justified in making an effort to grow something for home consumption. A whole city lot, well tilled, is capable of making a noticeable reduction in the family grocery bill. The whole scheme has an excellent foundation and those who are now urging that the gardening movement be revived on a large scale are reasoning from sound premises. There is plenty of time beginning now, to make plans for home planting, and it ought not to be neglected.

NO FEAR OF PADDED VALUATION.

There seems to be needless alarm on the part of state railroad commissions lest the Interstate Commerce commission should adopt or seriously consider the investment accounts of the railroads in valuing the roads for rate-making purposes. The directions of the Esch-Cummins law are explicit that the commission must base rates on the actual value of the property as determined under the valuation law. The railroad companies' investment accounts may be used as evidence on their behalf, but rates are to be based on the present value of the roads as ascertained independently by the commission.

The worst obstacle to smooth operation of laws for regulation of railroads is the persistence of habits of thought which became obsolete when the principle of public regulation was established in law. Formerly railroads were public servants who denied that fact and who claimed the right to sell transportation at any price and on any terms they pleased, just as any merchant sells his goods. Because they grossly discriminated, they came to be regarded as public enemies. Because they were overcapitalized, their profits were often exorbitant and afforded a basis for speculation.

All of that relates to a past era; it is "old stuff." The law declares railroad companies to be public servants, treats them as such, and they have accepted the position. The law, through the commission, fixes rates and forbids and punishes discrimination and overcharges. The law says that rates shall be based, not on the amount of stock and bonds which a railroad company has issued, but on the present physical value of its property, as determined by detailed examination by the commission's engineers. The commission goes behind the paper evidences of the company's property, pushes them aside, and judges by the property itself.

As affairs now are, there is no further cause to regard railroad companies as public enemies, for they have accepted the position of public servants, and the law holds them to faithful service. In the interest of those whom they serve, it is necessary that they be paid such rates as will enable them to employ good, skilled men, to maintain their lines in good condition and to obtain capital for improvements and extensions, in order that they may serve the people well. The alternative to government ownership is no longer the condition which prevailed before public regulation was established. The choice is between operation through the companies as agents for the people and operation by the government directly. After two years' trial of the latter plan, congress has decided on the former, and there is no probability that the decision will be reversed.

GOVERNMENT SALARIES AND UNIONS.

The cry formerly was, "Let the office seek the man," but the difficulty with the government now is to make the office hold the man after it has found him. During the nine months ending January 31, sixty examiners in the patent office resigned to accept far better salaries in private employment. Three of them were principal examiners receiving $2740 a year. Two of these now receive $4500 a year from private employers. So it goes down the line to fourth assistant examiner. The patent office cannot get enough qualified men to fill their places, and the house has passed a bill raising salaries and also increasing fees sufficiently to cover the added expense and leave a good margin.

Unfortunately an effort to exercise business sense in a particular case instantly raises the question of increasing salaries generally. A bill to grant flat increases of $240, $360 or $480 a year to all federal employes according to their present salary is being pushed by the National Federation of Federal Employes, and Representative Blanton made it the occasion for an attack on the patent office bill. He read from the official organ of that organization a statement of the political methods to which it resorts in order to coerce congressmen into voting the bonus. The article says that "all employes in the government service will soon know just who are their friends or enemies in congress," because the federation "is busily engaged at present card indexing every representative in the capitol," that the "sentiment of congressmen on the legislative programme has been carefully followed," that the federation "will disseminate its voting information to every employe in the government service" and that it will also "sound out thoroughly each new aspirant to congress." It then makes this frank declaration:

> The national federation of federal employes is massing its full strength to procure a friendly congress. Not only will it blacklist certain members of congress but every effort will be made to have every employe in the government service exercise his full voting right.

Representative Madden having said that there are now in Washington 40,000 "useless, idle, unnecessary clerks," the opinion of Herbert D. Brown, chief of the bureau of efficiency, was asked. He replied that he could not estimate the number, but that investigation had disclosed "the fact that there are very many superfluous clerks in Washington," and that "it would be possible to reduce the number very greatly." He believed that affiliation with labor organizations "must of necessity result in a reduction of efficiency" and "has an unfortunate effect on the morale of the service." He held that there was even more reason for separating government employes than policemen and firemen from strike organizations, because "a strike of government workers might involve practically the entire force in the government service" and "would practically result in the suspension of all the functions of the federal government."

Loss to the government of the services of highly valuable technical employes and the simultaneous attempt of government employes in general to extort flat increases in salary by threats to blacklist congressmen are the result of a practice of congress the vices of which have been brought to light by conditions arising out of the war. Congress has preferred to authorize a large number of mediocre men and women at mediocre salaries rather than a smaller number of well-paid employes of high efficiency. It has deferred raising salaries to make them correspond with the higher cost of living, and has thus provoked federal employes to organize for the purpose of coercing it.

There is a simple way to deal with the difficulty, but it requires courage, business sense and elimination of politics. By retiring the old and inefficient on pension and by requiring a higher standard of efficiency for those who remain, congress would be able to pay as high salaries as could be obtained from private employers without increase of cost and probably at less ultimate cost. No such condition as exists in the patent office could then arise, and there would be no excuse for government employes to organize for the purpose of blacklisting congressmen.

The field for criticism of the administration is so wide that it was petty for Senators Smoot, Overman and Sherman to comment adversely on the mission of Miss Julia Lathrop, chief of the children's bureau, to Czecho-Slovakia. The Utah senator having read to the senate a letter calling this trip a junket, Senator Kenyon explained that that republic had asked the state department for Miss Lathrop's assistance in solving some of its problems affecting children. She received ninety days' leave of absence to go there entirely at her own expense on this fraternal mission of aid to a young republic which is struggling to its feet. Criticism of her action reacts on its makers.

Oregon women who think themselves beautiful are advised to hesitate about submitting their photographs to a professor in Berlin for places in a book of ethnology. The motive may be all right, but the intimation that photographs in the nude will be accepted is not wholesome. Besides, the idea is Prussian and therefore suspicious.

If there is danger of a shortage of potatoes in June, somebody must proceed to store them now. Portland's thousands of visitors at that time must not find us short of anything—not even the "spud," which can be served in fifty-seven ways.

A man was arrested yesterday armed with a horse pistol and blackjack and his other equipment comprised a bandanna handkerchief, sandbag, dagger and flashlight. Police think him a suspicious character. We wonder why.

Ghosts of his victims have worried a Salt Lake murderer into confession and police bureaus generally might add a department of ghostology with profit. Imagine what a few ghosts could do around Second and Oak.

In almost any other country Emma Goldman would long ago have faced a firing squad. Now she is said to be planning to aid a revolution in America, but more than likely working for a meal ticket.

Complementary to teaching the boys of Ockley Green school to cook, the girls should have a course in splitting wood and carrying it upstairs. There's no telling what may happen after marriage.

The "unwritten law," peculiarly American, will get into British India, where a missionary from this country killed an officer at a small post for reasons purely domestic.

Dayton, O., a special industry city, increased more than 30 per cent in population in ten years. Specializing in anything pays if the eggs in the basket are watched.

Toledo on the Cowlitz puts in the first bid for celebrating the Fourth on completion of the steel bridge. That's a good place for autoists to get acquainted with.

"It's no use to grumble and complain," sang James Whitcomb Riley long ago. These rains are intended to prevent people from making garden too early.

For a wonder, a man has been acquitted in federal court of the charge of operating a still. Generally, indictment there is the first step to prison.

We may have a Japanese incident of our own, originating in Crook county, a good place in which to settle the matter.

It is a little early to lay in next winter's fuel, but if the dealers can supply it buying now may mean a saving on coal.

That was not a Spartan father in Chicago who shot his son to keep him from "the gang." He was just a crazy parent.

Chicago chauffeurs keep pace with gasoline by demanding $2 more a day. The Chicago chauffeur is a swift fellow.

Are you eating plenty of cabbage and onions these days? Both are fine spring food, after a winter of full meat diet.

The bosses and sub-bosses of the civilian army of employes in the national capital must be purblind.

Even the fortune tellers are raising their prices. This seems to be a clear case of propheteering.

Russia needs 32,000,000,000 rubles gold to restore herself and she'll have to dig it up to get it.

The Dutch government has located the ex-crown prince on an island, and there he can run wild.

Stars and Starmakers.

By Leone Cass Baer.

"The Great Lover," in which Leo Ditrichstein starred several seasons ago and of which he was part author, will open in London Easter Monday. The English producers are Grossmith & Laurillard, and Arthur Bouchier will play the role created here by Mr. Ditrichstein. As a matter of fact, the original plan called for Mr. Ditrichstein's appearance in the play in London, but due to the phenomenal success of "The Purple Mask," in which he is now playing at the Booth theater, this proved to be out of the question. However, Mr. Ditrichstein has chosen many of the cast for the English production.

In this connection it may interest patrons of the Baker theater to learn that Lee Millar of that company received a telegraphic offer from Mr. Ditrichstein to be a member of the London company. Mr. Millar had been with Ditrichstein in other plays and had created a role in "The Great Lover." Because Mr. Millar did not want to go to London at this time he telegraphed a refusal of the offer to Mr. Ditrichstein.

* * *

Sarah Bernhardt, now in her 76th year, has cabled from Paris to the Keith booking office in New York her acceptance of a vaudeville engagement on our side, commencing in the fall. Madame Bernhardt has been continuously appearing in London and Paris and apparently thinks nothing of making another trip to America. Her engagement opens on October 18 and continues 20 weeks at a salary of $2500 a week.

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McIntyre and Heath are negotiating with the Keith offices for a summer engagement in vaudeville, asking $2500. Previously the largest salary they received was $2000.

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Bert Savoy of Savoy and Brennan, who come to us on the Orpheum, is wifeless now. A judge in Chicago has divorced him from Anna Kremper, his actress wife. Savoy's testimony was amusing, and among other accusations he charged Mrs. Savoy with wearing his stage wardrobe. Savoy, if you remember him, is a female impersonator and has several trunkfuls of feminine trappings.

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Phil Baker, who was here at the Orpheum last week with his accordion, had a breach of promise suit brought against him by a non-professional named Belle Bereford, dismissed in Chicago the other day.

* * *

Loretta Wilson, a youthful and talented Portlander, who has been in pictures in Los Angeles, in musical stock at the Alcazar and more recently in stock at Tacoma with the Allen stock company, has gone to Boise, Idaho, to play ingenue roles with Majestic stock there. This is the company in which Katharine Graham was playing leads when May Robson telegraphed her an offer to be her leading support in "Tish."

* * *

Miss Graham is receiving excellent notices everywhere "Tish" plays. This week the company is in Des Moines. When the tour ends in June in Chicago Miss Graham will go to New York for the summer, opening next fall again in Miss Robson's company.

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We shall see Marjorie Rambeau this season in "The Sign on the Door."

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Singer's Midgets are coming over the Orpheum next season.

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Josie Heather, the English comedienne, will leave New York in May to go to London to appear in a production.

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Harper Brothers are to issue a novelization of the Winchell Smith-Frank Bacon success, "Lightnin'."

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Beatrice Forbes-Robertson Hale, niece of Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, has filed in the New York county clerk's office summons in a suit for divorce against Swinburne Hale. The latter is an attorney and was a captain in the intelligence service of the general staff of the army. They were married in 1910 and are the parents of twins.

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Additions to the cast of "What's in a Name?" John Murray Anderson's new revue, are Herbert Williams and Hilda Wolfus, known in vaudeville as the team of Williams and Wolfus.

Williams is the Orpheum funster who wears his yellow shoes on the wrong feet, and gets 'em all tangled up with the piano stool. He is the lad who says, "Hark-hark!"

* * *

Georgette E. Cohan, daughter of George M. Cohan, has come back to this country "for an indefinite stay" on board the Adriatic for the first time in seven years. Miss Cohan left the United States in short skirts and with her hair down her back and she returned nearly a grown-up woman and a stage star as well. She played in "Peter Pan" in England and has just finished a season in "Mr. Pem Passes By" in London.

Miss Cohan was met on the pier by her father. She was afraid at first that they would not know her, as she had grown up, but she was mistaken on that part, for her father grabbed her in his arms as she came off the gangplank. The noted actor and playwright could not help exclaiming with admiration:

"She's some girl!"

"We've a number of good things for her," Mr. Cohan said after several photographers had taken pictures of father and daughter. It is rumored that her father is to write his best play for her to star in.

* * *

In Reading, Pennsylvania, Rev. L. Griswold Williams, pastor of the Universalist Church of Our Father, has shocked some of the more austere ministers of the city by reading sex plays from his pulpit on three successive Sunday nights.

Last Sunday he read "Damaged Goods." The church service, well advertised by the two former readings, was filled to the doors. Many people could not get inside. The other ministers, while viewing the effect in apparent silence, have discussed the matter at the weekly meetings of their association, where none but the clergy could gain admittance.

Mr. Williams, in his own defense, says he sees nothing so exceptional in reading a play instead of preaching a sermon on Sunday nights. "If the play teaches a lesson it does the same thing a sermon is supposed to do," he says. "The monks originated the play after it had been almost forgotten. They traveled to nearby towns during the dark ages and told their lesson by means of plays. They kept the play alive. So why shouldn't a clergyman today teach his lessons in the same way?"

Those Who Come and Go.

Two pioneer stockmen of Silver Lake are at the Imperial. One is A. B. Schroeder and the other T. J. LaBrie. He was a wild buckaroo when he first went into Lake county, was Mr. LaBrie, and because of his adventurous spirit, he undertook transporting treasure. In those days there were no banks nor express companies in Lake county, but Mr. LaBrie transported $9000 in gold in a strong box in a freight wagon from Roseburg. In 1885 he entered the stock game. Mr. Schroeder began pioneering in Lake county about 1882, when it was a real range country and before the farmers began moving in and everyone was a neighbor within 100 miles. Mr. Schroeder is now interested in making two blades of grass grow where none grew before. He has made and lost fortunes in the stock business and is now one of the main push behind the Silver Lake irrigation project. Accompanying Messrs. Schroeder and LaBrie is O. Osmundsen, a dry farming expert, who is on the irrigation board. Mr. Osmundsen is comparatively a newcomer, having been in Silver Lake only some ten years.

"There is a prospect of a resumption of the plan to build a railroad from Grants Pass to Crescent City, Cal.," says Frank Bramwell at the Hotel Oregon. "The line has been built out of Grants Pass about 14 miles and during the war progress stopped. Approval to carry on the project was received from everyone, including a promise from W. G. McAdoo, then railroad director, but when the time came Mr. McAdoo put the kibosh on it. There is a water grade that can be followed from Grants Pass to Crescent City and from there on the road can follow the coast, with San Francisco as the ultimate destination. Such a road would do away with hauling heavy freight trains over the Siskiyou mountains." Mr. Bramwell has been mentioned as a possible candidate for the state senate on the republican ticket from Josephine county. He is not expected to run, however, if the veteran solon, Dr. C. J. Smith, wants to be returned to Salem.

"When we were boys we used to say of some fellow that "he has a lot of brass." That is what a friend of his remarked yesterday of James Blair Cassell of San Francisco, who is at the Hotel Portland. The brass referred to is in the form of valves and fittings for steam engines and power plants and heavy machinery. Brass is almost as valuable as gold these days and the buyers of equipment and machinery for ships are seeking the manufacturers who can promptly fill their orders and in some cases it is about an even exchange of the money metals for the brass in manufactured form.

Once in a while someone comes to Portland from Gold Beach, in remote Curry county, and the latest to make the venture is A. V. Coughill. Although Gold Beach is the county seat, it is not incorporated; in fact there is not an incorporated town in the county. Gold Beach is situated on a beautiful strand, littered with driftwood, and nearby is the mouth of the Rogue river, which at the point where it enters the sea is only a few jumps wide, but through this narrow gap the famous steelhead salmon enter from the sea and make the Rogue one of the best streams for sportsmen in North America.

Think of a watch running 92 years and still keeping as good time as the day it was turned out by the maker. That is the sort of timepiece that H. W. Hamlin, of Underwood, Wash., carries. He was showing it at the Seward, where he is registered, returning home to the White Salmon country from a trip east. The watch was presented to one of his ancestors in 1822, on the occasion of the ancestor's graduation from West Point. The watch has been handed down from owner to owner and the proof that it is a good timepiece is the fact that it is running today without losing or gaining a second.

Geologists who have made the examination assert that one of the finest beds of coal in the west is near Powers, Coos county, the town E. J. Loney registers from at the Imperial. There are three layers of coal within six miles of Powers, and the lowest strata is the best. Also, near by, there is said to be a mountain of iron ore, although there is more question about the ore than about the coal. Some enthusiasts predict that with the iron ore and the coal, Coos Bay will some day become a second Pittsburg, but that happy time is so far in the future that the average citizen doesn't expect to see it.

"The only safe way to have a place to live in at La Grande is to buy a home," declares J. H. Peare, jeweler, who is on a trip to Portland.

"There is not only a scarcity of houses, but even a scarcity of rooms. Anyone who is renting a house is likely to have bad luck, for there is no telling when someone will come along and buy it and Mr. Renter will be out in the street. This condition, however, appears to prevail in every town. La Grande has always been a good and prosperous town and it is continuing to be in that happy state." Mr. Peare is one of the enthusiastic road boosters of Union county.

A. M. Standish, of The Dalles, accompanied by Mrs. Standish, is at the Imperial. Mr. Standish is awarding contracts for several buildings which are to be erected in Eastern Oregon, the plans for which he has recently completed. He reports business exceptionally good. Mrs. Standish is having a visit from her father, J. P. Conroy, of Colorado, where he is in the cattle business. Mr. Conroy drove to Portland by auto and reports the roads in satisfactory condition. Mr. Conroy contemplates locating east of the Cascades.

The people in the east and middle west who have holdings of Oregon timber are legion. Some of them are always bobbing up at the hotels in Portland and then get out into the forests to see how the trees are growing, or watching the general development of the lumber industry. One of these outside taxpayers is Frank Boutin, of Minneapolis, who is at the Multnomah.

Tourists in Southern California are going home about as fast as they can. A party of 15 men and women from various parts of Canada arrived at the Perkins yesterday, having spent the winter and a great deal of money in Los Angeles and vicinity.

Postmaster and owner of a general store at Warrenton, Or., is G. Clifford Barlow. Also he is a member of the executive board of the state chamber of commerce, and it is in this capacity that he is now in Portland and is registered at the Imperial.

High-power explosives are the particular fad of A. P. Van Gelder, who is at the Multnomah with Mrs. Van Gelder. He is the general superintendent for a concern which manufactures explosives. The couple is making a tour of the Pacific coast from Wilmington, Del.

Few people in Portland know that Seattle has a cut glass company, but it is a fact, nevertheless, and J. V. Prosser, manager and treasurer of the concern, is at the Multnomah.

SAYETH THE OREGON NEWSPAPER

Montesano Verdict Generally Condemned—Other Comment.

Baker Democrat.

The Montesano affair was a farce according to seeming universal opinion. The Armistice day murderers were either guilty or not guilty. There was no middle ground upon which to base the verdict rendered by the jury.

Much Law, Much Lawlessness.

Athena Press.

The Montesano verdict is just another reason why America, with so much law, has also so much lawlessness.

"Sop to Both Sides."

Union Republican.

The verdict is generally considered a "cowardly compromise," making goats of some of the accused men and freeing others. To the outsider it would appear that the men were either guilty of first-degree murder or nothing, and that all were in the same boat.

Can Happen—Mebbe So.

Tillamook Headlight.

The verdict in the Centralia I. W. W. case was disappointing and discouraging, and it goes to prove what is often said of trial by jury—one never knows what a jury will do. The trial of the men on the other charge for murder must be prosecuted with renewed vigor, for it is plain to most people who followed the evidence carefully that appeared in the newspapers that it was a case of premeditated murder and that is the only verdict that should have been brought in.

Jury Found Wanting.

Wheeler Reporter.

Held in contempt by the convicted, by the attorneys for both defense and prosecution, and by everyone else is the jury who by some strange line of reasoning compromised on the verdict in the recent I. W. W. case at Montesano, Wash. The defendants were either innocent or guilty of first-degree murder. The jury evidently thought them guilty, but either through fear or from some other motive, were afraid to face their plain duty.

Pointer to Reed.

Scio Tribune.

The Tribune is not as alarmist, but thinks our nation is too close to national danger to be at all comfortable. It is time to quit the mealy-mouth business and get sternly down to meet the crisis which undoubtedly is near. All organizations whose purpose is to destroy the government, are traitors. "The penalty of treason is death," says the G. A. R. ritual and it is our national duty to scotch this danger before it gathers force. The unjustified leniency of the Montesano verdict is a pointer we should heed.

"Fat Chance."

Sheridan Sun.

The trial just ended was for the murder of Grimm only and now they will have to defend themselves in the charges of the assassination of the others who fell on that fateful day. Let us hope justice will then be meted out to the guilty.

Question of Moral Guilt.

Marshfield Record.

If one, with malice, inspires another to shoot a particular individual we suppose that without doubt he could be convicted of murder. If with malice to organized society in general, and not to any individual, one inspires by speech or writing acts leading to injury to persons or property, or to the overthrow of lawful government, or contributes to a society avowedly promoting such purposes, he or she is morally guilty of whatever happens as a result. The question is as to how far one can go without committing a statutory crime.

Insult to Labor.

Corvallis Gazette-Times.

Labor unions are making no friends for themselves in their verdict of acquittal for the Centralia murderers. Organized labor constantly complains of the attempt to hook it up with I. W. W.ism, yet it never loses an opportunity to condone I. W. W.ism. This special labor jury was itself an insult to American institutions and the acquittal of these dastardly criminals by the labor jury is an insult to the intelligent majority of labor itself.

"You Can Never Tell."

Rainier Review.

The verdict is a compromise verdict, as most jury verdicts are. The old saying that "you can never tell what a jury will do" has been strongly reaffirmed by the Montesano jury, who, personally, are all good fellows and good citizens.

Has Weakened Labor.

Oregon City Enterprise.

The open-shop principle has progressed farther in Washington than in Oregon, but the battle for the American plan of dealing with labor is only just beginning to arrive in Oregon. The division in the ranks of organized labor between the radical and middle groups has weakened labor to a marked degree.

Hanging Necessary to Reform.

Estacada News.

In first degree murder, the writer is of the opinion that the safety of society and the reformation of the criminal are best secured by the infliction of capital punishment. The latter point may seem dubious, but he gives it advisedly, for he is convinced that however faulty human judgments may be, the Judge of all the earth will do right, and that divine justice regards the reformation of the criminal.

Voters Want to Know.

Union Republican.

There is a noticeable dearth of political announcements in Union county just at present, and the voter is anxious to know just who will be in the running, especially in the county. It is time for some of the candidates to say something.

Old-Fashioned View.

McMinnville Telephone Register.

The Telephone-Register believes in woman suffrage and their holding of minor offices, but doesn't look with pleasure on their seeking activities in political turmoil such as nominating conventions and like occasions for mingling in the rougher political movements, and questions greatly whether they will enjoy it. The thought is suggested by the ambitions of certain women in the state to get into the fray.

The Price of Lath.

Bend Bulletin.

It is a tribute to the right public policy of the Shevlin interests that shortly after they issued a statement to the lumber trade saying that the price of lath was indefensible the Weyerhaeuser interests put the price down.

Comforting to the Walker.

Corvallis Gazette-Times.

There are some compensations in not owning a motor car—you don't have to lose any sleep every time gasoline takes a jump upward.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

DOCTOR BROWN.

When children fell and broke their bones
Folks always sent for Doctor Jones,
When babies got the tummy ache,
Their parents called in Doctor Blake,
But not a family in town
Would ever send for Doctor Brown.

A little liquor now and then
Is relished by the best of men,
But Doctor Brown, alas, was not
Contented till he had a lot
And folks who fear they're going to die
Prefer to have their doctors dry.

But since that fatal July First,
The well-known date that outlawed thirst,
The gents who liked to have their fling
Would give old Doctor Brown a ring.
And to the druggists they would tote
Prescriptions that the Doctor wrote.

Doc Brown has got three big new cars,
He's smoking fifty-cent cigars,
And swarms of people who feel ill
Come daily to invoke his skill.
P. S.—Our moral indicates
That all things come to him who waits.

* * *

Little Time Left.

We trust the senate will do something definite before all its members go to Chicago and San Francisco to be nominated for president.

* * *

Just a Habit.

General Foch is now jumping through a hoop for exercise. It is no longer convenient for him to make Ludendorf do it.

* * *

Golly!

A New York boy of 15 says he needs $7500 a year from his father's estate. Has the price of cigarettes gone up as high as all that?

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Little Girl.

By Grace E. Hall.

Eighteen! You are a woman now,
Life's outward trails are calling you;
June weaves a rose-wreath for your brow,
All set with diamond-drops of dew.
The birds are trilling of the spring,
You pause a moment in delight,
Before you spread the fledgling wing,
And from the home nest take your flight.

The greatest gift of life—you came
And twined your fingers round my heart,
You kindled that most sacred flame,
Whose warmth shall nevermore depart;
And when the way is lone and drear
And shadows settle dark and few,
A whispered prayer shall calm your fear,
Breathed through the dusk of long ago.

Perchance another winsome maid
Shall smile into your eyes some day,
And you will tell of years that fade,
And how life gives—and takes away;
Perhaps her eyes shall sometimes hold
A look like mine, then you at last
Will compass all my love untold,
That speaks to you from out the past.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of March 25, 1895.

Kansas City.—Fire in the Reid packing plant last night did damage amounting to more than $1,000,000.

Ernest Wyss, an insane patient from Hay City, Tillamook county, en route to the asylum, while endeavoring to escape from his guards, fell from the Morrison-street bridge and was drowned.

United States engineers in a preliminary report on examination of the Tualatin river from its mouth to Hillsboro say that it is not worthy of improvement.

Fire last night did damage amounting to $20,000 to the Longshore Printing company, Front and Alder streets, John O'Conner and H. E. Battin & Co., commission firms.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of March 25, 1870.

Sacramento—A bill is pending in the legislature proposing to foster iron manufacture in this state by a bounty of $12 a ton.

The total amount paid to teachers in Marion county for the year was $15,329.22. The average monthly salary was $40.20.

Thomas Mountain has been appointed port warden at this port on application signed generally by leading business men.

Washington.—Statisticians of the department of agriculture show that in 1866 the average of wages for farm laborers was $26 a month without board, or $14.50 with board. Thirty years ago wages averaged $9.

Marriage License Requirements.

CAMAS, Wash., March 23.—(To the Editor.)—(1) To obtain a marriage license in Oregon or Washington is it absolutely necessary to have witnesses to swear to age, etc.?

(2) What must new arrivals do to obtain such licenses when they have no witnesses with them?

(3) When the parties are twice the required minimum age, are witnesses needed? JOHN A. SMITH.

(1) A witness is required in either state, but for full information concerning requirements in Washington write to the county clerk, Clarke county, at Vancouver. In Oregon one witness must accompany the person applying for the license and swear to the fact of residence of the bride in the state, that she is above legal age and that there is no known impediment to the marriage.