Morning Oregonian

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WHAT HE KNOWS ABOUT ECONOMY.

Nothing but total mental blindness to his own failures, utter incapacity to understand the motive of the people in taking the government out of the hands of his party, can account for the solemn exhortation to economy which President Wilson addressed to congress. For the conduct of Mr. Wilson during the war and more especially since the war shows that he does not know the real meaning of the word "economy" or does not know how to practice it. The principal work of the republican administration will be to uncover all the facts of the waste which has gone on and is still going on and, in order to stop it, to rip wide open the vast, disorganized machine by which it is perpetrated, to expose it to the people, to punish those who are criminally guilty, and to build a new machine. As much has been revealed, every day brings some new revelation indicating that it is but half of the whole truth. The people sensed the word, and made a clean sweep of the wasters.

When the United States intervened in the war, the people expected waste, for they knew that war was waste, that unpreparedness doubles waste, and that by their own act in re-electing Mr. Wilson they had approved unpreparedness. They knew that time was more essential than money in war, and that, in order to win, it is justifiable to double expenditure. But they saw unstinted expense accompanied by delay that well nigh proved fatal to success. Added billions should have brought added military efficiency — more guns, shell, airplanes, tanks at the front when the decisive struggle began. They saw the billions spent, but few of these weapons of American make at the front. They saw $1,200,000,000 spent on army camps to train troops, but only 300,000 Americans were in France when the Germans made their last bid for victory on March 21, 1918. They spent billions for ships, but much more than half of the troops were carried on allied ships. Congress gave the president unlimited power to reorganize the government for greater efficiency, but he added more boards with duplicated power to the existing inefficient organization, producing less result for more expense.

When the armistice was signed, the need of lavish expenditure ended. The people were disposed to call the money already wasted water over the wheel, if then a real beginning at economy was made. They wanted generous provision for demobilization of the army and for the care of the disabled and the families of the dead and permanently incapacitated, but they expected an early end to war expenditure. That work should have held equal place in the president's estimation with making a peace treaty. He gave it practically no attention, but went to Paris, leaving the spenders to go on spending; they did not know how to do anything else. The greatest opportunity to practice economy to good purpose was during the eight months between Armistice day and Mr. Wilson's final return from Paris, which practically closed the fiscal year 1919, but it was thrown away.

During those eight months the administration continued to build several army and aviation camps, which had become unnecessary. Work had just begun on a camp in Georgia, and the house military committee exacted a promise from Secretary Baker that it would be stopped, but after congress adjourned he resumed land purchases and building. Work was continued on a vast naval base at Norfolk, Va. Shipbuilding continued on only a slightly reduced scale on the Atlantic coast, though the unfavored Pacific coast suffered wholesale cancellations. These are but examples of general improvidence. In disposing of munition factories, from which the army and navy had derived little or no benefit, recklessly bad bargains were made. For example, the powder plant and material stored at Nitro, W. Va., cost over $70,000,000, but were sold for $8,551,000. On the other side of the account, the shipping board held out for prices for sale of ships that far exceeded their after-war value, and thus kept on the hands of the government an asset which steadily depreciated, its only apparent reason being reluctance to take a loss by charging the depreciation to the war. The war risk bureau was the only one where added expense was justified, but with an immense staff it continued in dire confusion, and claims made two years ago have not been settled. There was as great need of a general plan for getting back to a peace basis as there had been of a plan to get on a war basis, but the government ran at loose ends while its head was absent. His conduct of the war does not indicate that there would have been much improvement if he had stayed at home.

After the war had ended, the executive departments asked congress in December, 1918, for appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1920, exceeding $11,500,000,000. That was a democratic congress, but it cut these estimates deeply. A filibuster held over several appropriation bills for the new republican congress, which cut off almost another billion dollars and could have cut still more if it had been dealing with an administration that was willing to economize. As it was, the total appropriations for that fiscal year—a year of peace which began almost eight months after the war ended—were $3,848,738,332 less than the sum asked by departments.

Even for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921, which opened twenty months after hostilities ceased, the administration was unable to get back to a peace basis. It asked congress for $5,785,812,929. Exclusive of the postal and railroad services this was 516 per cent of the appropriations for 1916, and forty of the major items exceeded those for 1920 by an aggregate of $989,715,687. Congress reduced the total to $3,975,000,000.

Equally illustrative of the incapacity of the administration to retrench is the small decrease in number of government employment employes at Washington since the armistice. The number grew from 37,908 on April 1, 1917, to 117,454 on November 11, 1918, and had only shrunk to 96,266 on March 31, 1920, almost seventeen months later. There was a decrease of 19,518 in the war and navy departments, but this was partly offset by an actual increase in other departments. But when congress passed a law imposing some duty on a department, the head pleaded that he could not do it without still more money.

The head of such an administration does not know anything about economy, except to talk about it. One of the imperative duties of the Harding administration will be to learn where the money went, who got it and why he got it. Though no dishonesty may be proved against any high officials, when they run affairs so loosely, they throw the door wide open to thieves to steal millions. Evidence against the shipping board and regarding cantonments indicates that many billions were stolen. The people will not be satisfied unless the rascals, big and little, are brought to justice, and the parasites who hang on the public payroll are sent to their homes, mostly in the south.

NOT TO BE DRIVEN.

Somehow we are not surprised to find behind the new movement for a sinless Sunday the impeccable figure of the Reverend Clarence True Wilson. True, the National Reform association, whatever that is, has the great benevolence in hand; but Brother Wilson is co-operating, as might be expected. In an interview he is quoted as saying:

> I believe that instead of importing the continental Sunday we should use those morals and low ideals, we should replace our American Sabbath on its civic foundations. We need the Sabbath day for the sake of the men and women who tell, for the support of the family life of the republic, for the opportunity of the church. We should have Sunday rest laws made for man apart from the religious significance of their relation to God.

What the nation needs is to have the civic foundations of its morals and its religion made more firm, not for one, but for seven days, in the week. It may be doubted if the cause of the church is advanced by depriving the man of his golf, or his baseball, or of his automobile trip, or any other recreation on Sunday. But certainly it would be done if the church would offer him something that would lead, not drive, him away from his amusements. This the wise authorities of the church, in most of its denominations, see clearly; and they are not joining any effort to create a puritanical sabbath.

TOO MUCH INDIFFERENCE.

The tragic and needless death of Miss Maud Ferguson, a valuable and esteemed school teacher, brings again to public attention the increasing perils arising from reckless automobile driving. It may transpire that the motor car which ran down Miss Ferguson was not going at excessive speed, and that the driver was using what he deemed ordinary care. The night was dark, the streets wet and slippery, and the rain had made the usual blur on his wind shield. Yet it is true that any accident which might have been prevented should be classed as due to carelessness or recklessness.

Every automobilist knows the dangers of night-driving in the rain. The hazard is then vastly increased and there is no commensurate measure of caution on the part of the man at the wheel. If it be assumed that the accident which befell Miss Ferguson was attended by no exceptional circumstances, it is not too much to say that it might have happened to four out of five motorists in Portland on any rainy night, in any part of the residential district. Not one person who runs a car has failed to have the disconcerting experience of discovering in his course the unexpected apparition of a man or woman materialized with startling vividness from somewhere or nowhere out of the dark and the rain. He or she is usually seen in time, and a tragedy is avoided; but the happy outcome is as often due to luck, or to the agility of the pedestrian, as it is to the skill of the man in the speeding automobile.

The records of the census bureau disclose that in 1919 a total of 3808 persons were killed in the United States from automobile accidents. In New York alone the aggregate of fatalities reached 780, an increase of 89 over the previous year, and more than double the number in 1915. The death rate in the nation is 14.1 out of every 100,000 inhabitants.

These figures are appalling. The public reads them and virtuously resolves that something should be done. There is talk of one-way traffic, safety islands, danger signals, limitation of licenses for drivers, reduction of the speed limit, and the like. But very little is done. The reason probably is that nearly every person owns an automobile, or hopes to own one, and resents any real test of his ability as a chauffeur, or interference with his freedom to go where he pleases, whenever he pleases, and, in too many instances, as fast as he pleases. Occasional fines accomplish small results; the threat of jail deters few; actual incarceration for any offense with an automobile is almost unknown.

The time is at hand when the public must take a sensible view of traffic regulation. Few people countenance manslaughter; but that part of the public—a very great number—which is indifferent to the necessity of real anti-speed laws and their effective enforcement is nevertheless an accomplice before the fact in many preventable deaths.

By putting the financial screws on Greece, the allies have led that fickle people to take sober second thought about restoring their exiled king. Greece has borrowed much money from Britain and France, and will need much more if it is to retain and develop the new territory given it by the treaty of Sevres. If it should persist in its infatuation for Constantine, its only friends would be bankrupt Germany, Austria and Hungary, with the possible addition of Roumania among the allies, and it could get no loans from any of them. The allies have another string to their bow, for several treaties give them a voice in the affairs of Greece through guaranty of a constitutional government. By the treaty of Sevres they renounce these rights, but it has not yet been ratified, and they may revise it by cutting out the clause mentioned. Greece may yet prefer greatness under Venizelos to a shrunken, starved existence under Constantine.

IDEALISM AND FREE TOLLS.

The repeal of the Panama tolls legislation gave the American government a reputation for fair dealing and honesty, which it had not always enjoyed in foreign countries.—World's Work (New York).

No one knows why the free tolls act was repealed, except that President Wilson demanded it. He gave no reason, only that he wanted it done; and he wanted it done to guarantee the stability of our peaceful relations with some unnamed foreign power or powers. Affairs of "greater consequence and nearer moment" or some such Wilson phrase, was as near as he ever came to giving the source of the danger in international complications. Congress, under pressure, inspired by the White House panic, real or simulated, gave in to the great Wilsonian idea of internationalizing the Panama canal. The Wilson idealism comes high, in terms of dollars and cents.

There was idealism in the White House but practicalism in Great Britain. No idealism there, but just hardheaded commercialism. The real source of the demand to impose on American vessels tolls for use of an American canal, costing $400,000,000 of American money, was doubtless Canada. It wanted to use the great waterway on equal terms with American ships. It demanded aid from the imperial government and it was given. The dusty Hay-Pauncefote treaty was brought to light, and demand made on America to comply with its terms as Great Britain interpreted them—in its own interest. President Wilson yielded to Great Britain, and congress yielded to President Wilson; and Canadian and British ships are carrying freight through the canal which might, and would, otherwise go to American ships.

An idealism which dreams about what it can do for the benefit of the world stands little chance in conflict with the commercialism of a nation which knows what it wants for itself.

HOLD DOWN THE MEMBERSHIP.

The present congress or, failing action by it, the new congress, has an opportunity to prove its sincerity in promising to reduce government expenditure when it comes to make the new apportionment of members based on the census of 1920. Every census since the constitution became effective, with the exception of that of 1840, has been followed by an increase in the membership of the house of representatives until it has reached 435.

This is too large a membership for expeditious transaction of public business. It tends to concentrate actual control of business in the hands of a few leaders, and it limits the sense of responsibility of members both by that fact and by division among so many. It adds to expense of government without corresponding increase in service. Including salaries of secretary, clerk and stenographer, each representative costs $12,000 a year directly, besides the cost of stationery and of printing speeches and documents. It buries many members in a crowd, reducing them to the status of agents for their districts and of pliant party men. A smaller body is far more efficient, for each member's sense of responsibility is proportionately increased.

As the population of the country grows, either the number of members or the number represented by each member must be increased. Every state is reluctant to lose members, therefore congress has taken the easy way by adding more members from the states showing large increase of population. The people look to the new congress to abandon the easy way for the right way, though it involve loss of a few members by some states. The membership of the house should be decreased, at the very worst it should not be increased, in order that one item in cost of government may be reduced or held stationary and that the house may work effectively.

TOWNSHEND SEEKS VINDICATION.

The chickens of British war-blunderers are coming home to roost. General Charles Townshend, the hero of Kut el Amara and the man selected as the goat by the men guilty of the early disasters in Mesopotamia, has been elected to parliament from Wrekin. When he was nominated he had an invitation from General Wrangel to take command of one of the white armies in south Russia, and he said the alternative for him was between Wrekin and Wrangel. The cause of Wrangel is now irretrievably lost, and his election has given him the alternative.

The episode of the war in which Townshend was the leading figure was one of the most shameful for the Asquith cabinet. The British government called on that of India to supply troops and material for the campaign and continually enlarged the field of operations without contributing more than most meagre aid, after it had for years imposed the most rigid economy on the Indian government. It first aimed to occupy the port of Basra and vicinity, but it was lured on by easy success to penetrate farther into the country until after taking Kut Townshend was ordered to push on and take Bagdad with a worn and decimated army. The result was the defeat at Ctesiphon, the tragic retreat to Kut, the siege and final surrender of that place. Attempts at relief were bungled as badly as was the whole campaign. Transport was miserably deficient, being dependent on the Tigris river, the medical corps was weak and incompetent, and troops reached the front in driblets. The Turkish lines were impregnable and the only chance of relief was to outflank them with a superior force. But as troops arrived, they were wasted piecemeal on frontal attacks, a fine army was ruined, and Kut was lost.

A commission brought out the whole story of criminal folly and named high officers as guilty, among them being Lord Hardinge, viceroy of India, but none of them has been punished. If that had been done, responsibility would have been traced up to Asquith, then premier, and to Austen Chamberlain, then secretary for India and now chancellor of the exchequer. Influence was too strong. An attempt was made to fix responsibility on Townshend, but the worst that was said of him was that, when besieged, he sent misleading messages to the relieving army, and that is disputed.

Townshend may now demand that his record be cleared and that the blame be placed where it belongs. He will have a forum in the house of commons from which he can reach the whole British people and where he cannot be silenced. Asquith, who seems to imagine that the people have already forgotten his utter failure as a war premier, will be on the defensive, and Lloyd George will feel bound to stand by his colleague, Chamberlain.

Admiral Jellicoe, another war hero, is also under fire. There has been a lively controversy in the London Times on the question whether he showed undue caution at the battle of Jutland and should have followed up the German fleet and destroyed it, though he did lose more ships by torpedoes and mines. Men who are proud of British naval traditions are not pleased with the contrast between Jutland and Trafalgar.

CHRISTMAS TREES.

The estimate by federal forestry officials that between four and five million young evergreens are used annually as Christmas trees is accompanied, fortunately for the peace of mind of certain ultra-conservationists, by the statement that the practice of cutting them does not threaten our forests with extinction. It is the opinion of department officials that the custom is so old, so well grounded and so venerated that even if it were economically somewhat indefensible, its social aspects would outweigh its disadvantages. There is, however, little or no reason to suppose that the practice on the whole is incompatible with the welfare of the forests.

Nature's amazing fecundity is illustrated in her forests, in which millions of seedling trees in excess of the number necessary for maintenance of the species spring up annually. The superfluous members of the forest company in due course of time would fail in the struggle for existence. It is recognized by the department that Christmas trees cut in the vicinity of cities are taken from land that would never develop into commercial forests if let alone, but would be cleared in the ordinary course of farm and town improvements. For these reasons, the department is inclined to encourage the age-old custom.

A word of caution is spoken, however, against vandalism in tree cutting. The supply of Christmas trees, if not of commercial timber, will be conserved by care not to denude considerable spots in any one place and by treating the area from which trees are taken as a potential source of future supply. Trees ought to be cut in such a manner as not to injure those remaining, and precaution should be taken against leaving litter, to increase the fire hazard. With these rules in mind and with a little of the spirit of give-and-take such as ought to be easy to invoke around Christmas time, the Christmas tree ought to give joy perpetually.

Douglas fir is pre-eminently the Christmas tree of choice in the Pacific northwest because it is the predominating evergreen, but Englemann spruce and most of the pines are also utilized. The custom dates back to remote antiquity, and is so well established that it would justify a department in forestry of its own if there were no other way to cater to the wholesome purpose that it serves.

Portland next week will have the only large poultry and pet stock show in this region this winter. Secretary Whitmore says the exhibits will be free to the public. That is an innovation and assures record attendance. There is something about a "chicken show" that attracts not only the "cranks," but nearly all as well; everybody has an idea as to getting rich with hens and goes to a show to prove it to others who will listen.

The automobile is here to stay until the aeroplane succeeds it as the car did the bicycle. There will be accidents, with fatalities. Pedestrians have rights, but no right to take a chance; neither has a driver. The victim who is killed can say nothing; the driver who does the killing tells his one-sided story. Is a machine less dangerous than a gun?

Irregularities with women lead to death and lesser troubles. The country will be deluged with the details of the killing of Jake Hamon, politician of Oklahoma, to its fill. The few commandments that pertain still hold good.

Secretary Colby should be given what he asks to protect the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. This country is not given much to worshiping idols, but those sacred documents must be kept from harm.

Some fellows who carry a bottle of moonshine in the hip pocket may not know it was made from swill and may not care. The man who drinks moonshine has a thirst that passeth understanding.

Now it seems that Colonel House got $1000 a month for the period when he was one of the peace commissioners at Paris. No wonder he maintained a dignified silence.

The name Sandy road was in use when old citizens were barefoot boys. Calling it a boulevard was a concession to civic culture. Further change will be iconoclasm.

Governor Cox in a letter to the local Cox club blames human nature for his defeat. It certainly would have been contrary to human nature for him to win.

Test shows many high school girls at Hood River have defective teeth, but, pshaw! who up there eats the core and grinds the seeds.

Rains or showers, winds easterly or southerly, they are Portland's own, and who would have them otherwise?

After all, there's nothing like a baby for a Christmas present and the tree that blooms that way is blessed.

Constantine says he expects to sail for Athens this week. He'd better play safe and buy a return trip ticket.

Now that the war lords have been repealed it's really time to repeal the war laws.

Ants, well diggers and profligates are builders who begin at the top.

Comment on the weather is risky. Something may jar loose.

Stars and Starmakers.

By Leone Cass Baer.

THEDA BARA closed her show, "The Blue Flame," in Chicago two weeks ago and we saw it the closing night. Personally I wonder why she delayed the closing. She is very sad as an actress on the speaking stage and the play is a mess. She may make the play over into a film, or she announced that she may retire to private life and enjoy the fortune she has accumulated.

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Sophie Tucker continues to be the sensation in Chicago, and her devotees follow her from one big vaudeville house to the next to hear her new songs and see her new frocks. She has one capital new melody called "Learning," composed by herself and Jules Buffano, the piano player in her jazz band, and which is being whistled and hummed by everyone who hears Sophie sing it. Miss Tucker will not be out this way this season, and in May she resumes her engagement in Atlantic City. Next season she may go to London. She has been offered a big engagement there and may take it.

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Chic Barrymore, featured as a dancer and soloist in "Hello, Alexander," is in Chicago, with Sophie Tucker. Little Miss Barrymore, who is no kin to the others of the same name, left the McIntyre and Heath production in Los Angeles and hurried back to Chicago and her friend, Miss Tucker, who has made Miss Barrymore's career her especial care. Miss Tucker is writing a sketch, assembling new songs and music and fitting the clever Barrymore youngster out for vaudeville.

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Fritz Leiber, who used to play with Robert Manteil, is now out on his own. We saw him billed all over Chicago in Shakespearean repertoire, but didn't drop in to see how he does it. You can see Shakespeare almost any time, but the "Follies and the "Irenes" and the Winter Garden come all too infrequently in one's life. Ashton Stevens said of Lieber's Julius Caesar that it was "cheaply horrible and horribly cheap."

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We saw the "Honey Girl" in Chicago at Cohan's Grand. It is a revision of "Checkers" set to music, with that keen comedian Joe Keno featured. It is going on the road soon and "The Hottentot" will replace it.

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Saw Ethel Barrymore in her Zoe Akins' piece, "Declasse," at Powers' in her seventh week in Chicago. She is a tremendous favorite in Chicago and seats are sold out far ahead.

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Another of the George White "Scandals" is a big attraction in Chicago at the Colonial, also in its seventh week. It is the "1920" version with White himself a dancing hound starred with the clever little Ann Pennington.

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Jane Cowl is to have a theater built and named for her in Chicago—a Selwyn house. She is a great success there in 'Smilin' Through."

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"The Storm," one of the Langdon MacCormick spectacular productions, is having a big run in Chicago. It has a sort of a plot, enough to hang it together until the third act, which is the forest fire scene that has toplined on two occasions at the Orpheum. This is the play Katherine Graham appeared in when it received its first presentations in the east. Miss Graham, by the way, has arrived in Portland to spend the Christmas holidays with her parents, Captain and Mrs. A. B. Graham.

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Saw "Adam and Eve," a new Comstock & Gest production, in Chicago. Molly McIntyre, who brought us "Bunty Pulls the Strings," is playing Eva. Molly has made her brown hair a nice goldy gold.

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A youthful Portlander, Gladys Walton, has had a phenomenal rise from an extra girl in the Universal company in Hollywood. Miss Walton is a type like Mayo Methot and about the same age, 17. She has moved her mother from Portland to the land of her picture activities and now, with a Persian kitten, an Alaskan dog and a roadster, her family is complete. The day we were at Universal City Miss Walton was being made into a film, but between spells talked of her high school friends in Portland. She is one of the few who do not want to return here. She loves Los Angeles and her work too much, she says.

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"Listen, Lester," we saw in Los Angeles. It is a peachy nonsensical musical comedy, and will be here for the Christmas week.

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Another Lester play has just been made from the Cort show, "Jim Jam Jems." To avoid litigation with the hectic magazine of the same name the piece has been changed to "Hello, Lester."

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Arrangements are being made in San Francisco for May Yohe to be featured in a play, "Marrying Mary." May Yohe, you remember, was once Lady Hope and later married two or three other gents. The play is to be sponsored by John J. McArthur. Ned Doyle has been engaged to produce the show and Paul Ash will provide the music. It will have about 10 principals and a chorus of 12 girls.

The show will probably open the early part of December on the one-nighters before trying the larger cities.

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In Los Angeles, Edward Everett Horton, who used to play leads here, is making a wide circle of admirers. He is featured as leading man with the Wilkes stock players and his playing of character roles has atracted attention from motion picture people, who have ofered him positions at various times which he invariably refuses. He really prefers the speaking stage. Mr. Horton's mother and a younger brother are with him. They have a big car and an ever increasing list of friends, but they still love Portland and plan a vacation here next summer.

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Trixie Friganza is playing in Memphis, Tenn., but she has a new suit pending in San Francisco in the supreme court against Thomas Day, theatrical manager, for $2650, alleged due her for her part in "Poor Mamma," which was produced in San Francisco last year.

Those Who Come and Go.

"Idaho will have about $10,000,000 to spend for roads in 1921, but probably not more than half that amount can be used in the coming year," says W. C. Stone, who has arrived in Portland for the winter. Mr. Stone was readmaster for Bingham county and built 105 miles of grades and bridges, 136 miles of gravel road and eight of paving in one year. This past year, as contractor, he built 57 miles of grade and bridges, 14 miles of gravel and put in 168 bridges and culverts. In the coming year he is to build 12 miles of hard-surface. In Idaho, says Mr. Stone, efforts are being put forward to complete the north and south road, which runs from Lewiston to Weiser, and is intended to run from the Canadian line to the Lincoln highway. For 125 miles this road follows along the Weiser river and is highly scenic. All but about 30 miles of this highway has been constructed. Black top is the pavement used for surfacing in Idaho. The roads are paved 18 feet wide, with three-foot shoulders on each side. The roads are usually almost level, but in the mountain district the maximum is 5 per cent. With the $10,000,000 in sight, the road programme in Idaho is being prosecuted as vigorously as possible.

With 1000 chickens laying for him, John W. Minto left the farm yesterday and came to Portland to talk politics. Mr. Minto brought with him 90 dozen eggs and not one of the 1080 eggs was more than a few days old, he asserts. Once upon a time Mr. Minto was more familiar with yeggs than eggs, but that was when he was a policeman in Salem and Portland and when he was warden of the penitentiary. The evolution from yeggs to eggs came about naturally through the medium of hogs. Mr. Minto became a swineherd and was on the way to become a pork plutocrat until the bottom dropped out of the market and then he disposed of his squealers and invested in cacklers. The farm of Mr. Minto is only 12 miles outside of Portland, but he only gets into town about every two or three months.

To inspect the Oregon dairies and study the dairy laws of Oregon, J. J. Farrell, secretary of the Dairy Association of Minnesota, is in Portland and is registered at the Multnomah. If Oregon has anything that will help to better dairy conditions in Minnesota Mr. Farrell wants to know about it. "Oregon has the best dairy laws of any state that I am familiar with," said Mr. Farrell. "The Oregon laws protect the dairymen, the consumer and the middleman, so that all concerned are given fair treatment. The Oregon laws are not drastic nor unreasonable and they cover every point intelligently and from what I can learn, they are satisfactory to the producers."

About the maddest man in Portland yesterday was John C. Schulte of New York, a traveling salesman. Mr. Schulte was on a train where the porter of his car was too everlastingly obliging. The porter was so anxious to give service that he didn't want his passengers to handle their own baggage. When Mr. Schulte got off the train at the Union depot his suitcase was gone and the obliging porter, who had taken care of it, didn't know where he had placed it. The result of this outrage was that several local merchants had a chance to sell Mr. Schulte a new outfit yesterday afternoon. Mr. Schulte is at the Hotel Portland and still indignant.

Bringing a tale of woe, Jay Upton arrived at the Benson yesterday from Prineville. Mr. Upton says that there is plenty of hay in his district, but no cattle to eat it. The hay business, therefore, is suffering the same as the stock business. Mr. Upton is the newly elected state senator for Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath and Lake counties, succeeding the late Senator Baldwin. It is political gossip that Mr. Upton will be chairman of the senate committee on irrigation when the appointments are given out by the President-to-be Ritner.

All of the Schmidt boys are at the Imperial. The Schmidts have done much for Oregon, although they register from Olympia, Wash. The Schmidts, Frank T., Peter and Frederick, are in the loganberry juice business and have spent a fortune in advertising this strictly Oregon-made product. A year ago they spent about $90,000 telling the people of the United States the benefits to be derived from using loganberry juice in its varied forms.

State senator for Coos and Curry counties, member of the state fish commission, president of the state chamber of commerce, titles fall readily to Charles Hall of Marshfield, who is at the Benson. When the legislature meets Mr. Hall is expected to be on the banks committee and the committee on roads and highways. He may grab off the chairmanship of the latter committee.

Anyone with 70-odd acres in bearing fruit trees in Oregon is a fortunate individual. That is the happy state of F. J. Robinson of Dallas, who is in Portland on business. Mr. Robinson has a diversified orchard, specializing in walnuts, prunes, apples and pears. With the prices commanded by fruit this year, Mr. Robinson can be envied by the men whose money is in wheat and cattle.

Ivan G. Martin of Salem was in Portland attending to a divorce case yesterday, his business being that of a lawyer as well as a lawmaker. Mr. Martin has served repeatedly as a member of the legislature, acting as one of the delegation of Marion county, and he will act in that capacity again next month, when the law machine begins grinding at the state house.

W. D. Walters of Nehalem, Or., is at the Hotel Oregon with his family. Down at Nehalem and Wheeler now the people are talking about a proposition to dike 1200 acres, at a cost of about $125,000, which will provide homes for 200 families. Plans of the project have been drawn by engineers.

F. G. Barnes, member of the legislature of the state of Washington, is at the Imperial. He is registered from Kelso, and sometimes he registers from Trout Lake. The legislature of Washington is not as good as the legislature of Oregon because the former remains longer in session.

Once upon a time, C. W. Barrick was chief engineer at the penitentiary. Probably reasoning that the penitentiary was filled because of the mistakes of lawyers, Mr. Barrick became an attorney and is now located at Tillamook. He is registered at the Imperial.

One of the best-known druggists of The Dalles is M. Z. Donnell. He is at the Hotel Portland with Mrs. Donnell and came to town to attend the meeting of druggists, who went on record favoring the further elimination of liquor.

R. L. France, in the railroad business in San Francisco, is at the Hotel Portland. During the war Mr. France used to come to Portland and buy ties—the rialroad, not the neck variety.

Mrs. Charles Umbach of Lakeview, Or., is at the Imperial. Mrs. Umbach is the worthy grand matron of the order of Eastern Star, and is on a tour of inspection. Her husband is an attorney.

SYSTEM IS DECLARED PRACTICAL

Christian Scientists Willing to Compare Results With Medical Men.

PORTLAND, Dec. 8.—(To the Editor.)—A few days ago there appeared in The Oregonian under the headline "Christian Science Adherents Warned," an article from Los Angeles in which the district attorney of Los Angeles county was quoted as saying in a published letter:

> It is, of course, well known that parents suffering the fanaticisms and delusions resulting from the teachings of what is known as Christian Science or other cults allow their innocent children to languish and die of malignant and contagious diseases, feloniously refusing and neglecting to provide that medical aid and attendance required by the statutes of the state of California.

The district attorney, it seems to me, is undertaking overmuch if he attempts to prove his assertions and intimations. It sounds as though he were seeking the limelight by building up a straw man which he may later take the credit for knocking down. For he must surely be aware of what is now so well known and widely acknowledged, that Christian Scientists are both intelligent and law-abiding.

"Other cults" and other non-medical healing systems should not be confused with Christian Science as taught by its founder and discoverer, Mary Baker Eddy; for Christian Science stands alone, distinct from all other systems, as re-establishing the purely spiritual healing methods of Jesus Christ. As did he, Christian Science teaches absolute reliance upon God as the healer of both sickness and sin—"who healeth all thy diseases."—Ps. cii:3. If we judge it "by its fruits," the success of this method of healing by prayer, as taught in our denominational textbook, "Science and Health, With Key to the Scriptures," by Mrs. Eddy, fully justifies the assertion that it is proving itself to be the most effective and reliable curative system known to mankind, in innumerable instances restoring to perfect health after all other means have failed.

Christian Science is pre-eminently practical, as much in cases of contagious and malignant diseases as in other types, and when parents become convinced of this through personal experience, it is not unnatural they should want, and intelligently so, the same practical remedy for their children. Such parents give every evidence of loving their children and thoughtfully seeking their welfare quite as much as do Christians of other faiths.

If Christian Scientists fail to heal in every case, what is to be said of the practice of medicine? Disease and death are continually occurring under medical treatment, in spite of the best that physicians can do. Why not as reasonably accuse and threaten with prosecution those who adhere to the medical systems for "allowing their innocent children to languish and die," because they too have failed to get the desired results in all cases? The master gave sound advice when he said "Judge not, that ye be not judged."

THEODORE BURKHART.

COUNTIES CAN ENDURE NO MORE

Legislation for More Taxes Would Wreck Them on Limitation Reef.

TOLEDO, Or., Dec. 6.—(To the Editor.)—I am a reader of the Oregon Voter, and admire the thorough and forceful way in which all subjects are handled by that magazine. But I wish to take issue with it on the subject of "Getting Around the Tax Limitation," appearing November 27. In the closing sentence these words appear: "The only apparent remedy for this condition is legislative restraint." I am not quite sure if it is meant to amend or abolish the market roads law. "Restraint," as applied to a law, seems to me means to make it inoperative.

Under normal conditions the 6 per cent limitation amendment was all right, but conditions are not normal and will not be for some years to come. It has worked a great hardship on county funds. County courts have been up against a 100 per cent raise in material and labor, and could only make a 6 per cent raise in taxation. If the market roads law was intended as an evasion of the 6 per cent limitation, it was under all the conditions justified.

The funds provided by the market roads law were a godsend to most counties. The law seems to be giving general satisfaction. It provides a means of permanent improvement for roads of lesser importance under state supervision. The objectionable parts of the law as regards Multnomah county are apparent and could be remedied by amendment. At the same time amend the law so the counties and state can each vote 3 mills instead of one as at present. Also amend the law so the state treasurer will have to turn over to the various county treasurers their portions of this money at the earliest possible moment. This money is staying too long in Salem.

Anything the legislature does at the coming session will not relieve the counties from their serious financial condition for 1921. It can help, however, by not passing any legislation whatsoever that will increase our taxes. If this cannot be done, then it should provide for revenue from new sources to meet the added tax burden of new legislation. Absolutely the counties cannot stand any increase in taxes and still operate under the 6 per cent limitation law.

The market roads law was the one anchor to windward that kept the counties off the 6 per cent limitation reef. By all means save it.

JAY W. DUNN,
Commissioner Lincoln County.

FAIRNESS.

How about the one, my brother,
Who in harness works with you?
Do you, for his earnest efforts,
Aim to give him credit due?

You may wear the gilded trappings
And empowered to command,
May forget the silent factor
Working for you, heart and hand.

On another's aid relying—
Can you truthfully proclaim
To the world what you've accomplished
Without mentioning his name?

Clasp the hand that truly aids you,
Giving earnestness its due.
And the joy of honest sharing
Richly will compensate you.

—JANETTE MARTIN.

What Can Lonely Woman Do.

PORTLAND, Dec. 7.—(To the Editor.)—"A Woman's Plea to Santa" I read, and it struck home. I am a lonely widow because I have lost my mate. Like her, I would like a clean, home companion. I am a well-preserved woman, but the well-preserved men my age seem to be looking for chickens, and the others look as if they needed a nurse. One does not feel like nursing at my age, but if one could find a companion who had a little home, one would only be too glad to make that home attractive and homelike. A club for the lonely, I am afraid, would not do, for it would bring the undesirable. I dare not sign my name or my people would laugh at me.

WIDOW.

True Diplomacy.

"Did you ever try to convince a man that he is wrong?"

"Well, not exactly. I usually get him to believe that I am right, and let it go at that."—Judge.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

THE GOLFER'S DEFIANCE.

I have no quarrel with reform;
I know that it would ill behoove me
To gnash my teeth and rage and storm
At others' efforts to improve me.
When Mr. Volstead's law forbade
A further alcoholic diet,
I saved what little stuff I had
And only drank it on the quiet.

I'll not indulge in language blue
Or waste my time in futile croaking,
When in another year or two
I'm ordered to forego my smoking.
I'd not make trouble if I could
Because, as the reformers view it,
They pass these measures for my good
And, anyway, they're going to do it.

But if they take my golf away,
A pleasure I enjoy but ONE day,
(Because I have no time to play
Around the course except on Sunday),
Although I'm not a man to let
A casual vexation try me,
I'm going to try my darndest yet
To lay those smug old birds a stymie.

I don't need booze; I don't need smokes;
And though I rather hate to lose 'em,
I'll give 'em up, if better folks
Than I declare I mustn't use 'em.
I've been an easy man to drive—
Resembling much dumb driven cattle—
But just as long as I'm alive
I'll not quit golf without a battle.

* * *

It Makes a Difference.

Demand for some things must be slackening. Nowadays automobile salesmen almost smile at you when you go into one of their stores.

* * *

Far From the Madding Office Seekers.

It strikes us that Mr. Harding would have been wise to remain in Panama till his appointments were all announced.

* * *

Here to Stay.

The Volstead law will never be repealed. The bootleggers' lobby is already strong enough to prevent any such thing.

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John Burroughs' Nature Notes.

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

1. Is the blue heron easily seen?

2. What is the height of the Yosemite Falls?

3. Why do wild animals sometimes flee to man for protection?

Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

* * *

Answers to Previous Questions.

1. How do different birds seize and carry their prey?

One day I saw an eagle flying over with something like a rope dangling from its feet, probably a black snake. A bird carries its capture with the member by which it seizes it, which with birds of prey is the foot, and with other birds the beak. The kingfisher lives upon fish, and he always seizes them with his beak and swallows them head foremost.

* * *

2. Will coons try and wash their food even if no water is available?

Dallas Lore Sharp says that his tame coon would go through the motions of washing its food on the upturned bottom of its empty tub, and that it would try to wash its oysters in the straw on the floor of its cage. This habit doubtless had its origin in some past need or condition of life of the race of coons, and it persists after that need is gone.

* * *

3. What does a bee never learn from experience?

We marvel at what we call the wisdom of the hive bee, yet there is one thing she never learns from experience, and that is, that she is storing up honey for the use of man. Neither does she ever know when she has enough to carry her through the winter. Gather and store honey as long as there is any to be had is her motto, and in that rule she is safe.