# Morning Oregonian

ESTABLISHED BY HENRY L. PITTOCK.

Published by The Oregonian Publishing Co., 138 Sixth Street, Portland, Oregon.

C. A. MORDEN, Manager. B. B. PIPER, Editor.

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**Postage Rates**—1 to 16 pages, 1 cent; 18 to 22 pages, 2 cents; 24 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 rate.

**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.


## CAN DELEGATES BE TRUSTED?

Whether or not Senator Hiram Johnson could or would have been nominated for president last spring, if there had been a universal presidential primary, will be forever unknown. It is easy enough to believe, however, that neither Mr. Harding nor Mr. Cox would have had the slightest chance. Mr. Harding's name was offered in only a few primary states, and he made a poor showing; and Mr. Cox's main strength, outside of Ohio and Kentucky, was in those states which were under the ready control of the organization and were strangers to an effective primary system.

Senator Johnson, it will be recalled, swept the state of Michigan, and made a remarkable showing in Illinois. He was defeated by the narrowest possible margin in New Jersey; he ran a close second to General Wood in Indiana, and he developed an unexpected following in South Dakota. He carried California and Montana with a whoop and Oregon by a close vote. Yet he had altogether in the convention only about 100 votes, while General Wood had more than 300 and Governor Lowden nearly as many.

The inevitable result of the free primary for president will certainly be that the candidate having a plurality of the votes will be nominated, unless the convention system is also retained, or unless the device of a first, second and third choice is adopted. Mr. Bryan is for the latter method, as a protection against any one receiving a delegation from any state upon a mere plurality. He would not, so far as The Oregonian has seen, do away with the convention, nor would Senator Johnson. But under the Johnson plan, so far as is known by The Oregonian, the choice of the people in the primary of a state falls on the person receiving a plurality. In this way Johnson carried Oregon, and Wood carried most of the states which declared for him. It is quite certain that a delegation so instructed will go to a convention without enthusiasm for its nominal choice, without real loyalty, and without effectiveness. The unhappy experience of Senator Johnson, both with the Michigan and Oregon delegations, which deserted him, in whole or in part, at the first opportunity, should be a warning to him and to all that a primary which does not deliver to a candidate delegates who are for him will break down, and, where it is not an actual menace to him, it is a poor resource in a convention.

The convention system and the primary system are conflicting and confusing, so far as they have sought to develop a new scheme for nomination of a president. The usual plan is to elect delegates under instructions to vote for a certain candidate, with no option of an alternative choice, no matter what conditions arise. If the Oregon method, for example, were common in all the states, the result would be a packed convention, deprived of the authority to make a free selection, but explicitly commanded to do a certain thing—or, rather, many certain things, for different states would be pledged to different candidates. What then? Either a deadlock, or violation of faith by some or all of the delegates, who, to get a result, are forced to abandon their choice.

The only way to harmonize the primary with the convention is either to send uninstructed delegates, or to give the delegation express authority to decide when its obligations to its state have been discharged, and then to do something else, or merely to express a preference, which the delegation may in its discretion ignore if the circumstances warrant. Everything would thus rest on the good faith of the delegates with their constituents. Are they not to be trusted? There is an implication—a definite assumption—in unqualified instructions that they are not to be trusted. Yet what shall be said for a system which sends to a national convention a group of men who are pledged to take a certain course, yet who may have publicly proclaimed their desire to take another course and their purpose to do it, if and when possible? The state thus commits to its representatives a trust which they have indicated their unwillingness to fulfill and against which they have registered a previous protest. It is a challenge by the primary itself to their common sense and common honesty, and it is a test which should not be imposed on them.

One way to a solution is to make more flexible the pledge delegates are required to take: another is to relieve the delegation of all instruction unless a majority, and not a plurality, of the primary should express its preference for a certain presidential candidate. In any event it is certain that the absurd and mischief-producing practice of electing delegates who are committed to one interest, with directions to support another interest, should come to an end.

If there is to be a universal presidential primary, why a convention at all, unless it is to adopt a platform? But what is the good of a platform after a candidate has been chosen? If the primary is really to name the candidate, he will be his own platform. That is the way the primaries in the states have worked and it is what will happen in the nation at large, unless there is a sincere and practicable effort to adapt the primary to the convention. It can be done only by having a primary which chooses delegates and by having a convention which exercises a free mind and will in its actions.

## YOUR RIGHTS IN YOUR HOME.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated; and no warrant shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath and affirmation and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.

Not every citizen knows that the above clause guaranteeing the sanctity of his person and his home, has been for more than a hundred years a part of the bill of rights, the constitution of the United States. Not every one knows that it is repeated in the constitution of Oregon, in almost the same language.

Not every police officer knows it, or, if he knows, respects it. Two policeman not long since invaded the home of an Italian family in Portland, on the shabby excuse that they suspected the presence there of illicit liquor. They had no search warrant; they saw no evidence of crime at the moment, calling for their presence; they did it because they could. They found no liquor, illicit or otherwise; but, whether they discovered it or not, their action in the circumstances was indefensible and outrageous.

Every American citizen, every other person, having a home in this free United States, should know that the law will uphold him in defending it at any hazard, even to the death of the invader against uninvited or undesired entrance by any one who is not clearly able at the time to establish his right there. No one has a right within because he wears a uniform; he can enter only upon the authority of a search warrant properly issued by proper authority upon probable cause.

The American law is not for peeping toms or prying policemen. It is for the American family. The head of the American family will hardly be worthy of his constitutional endowment as a free citizen if he is not prepared to defend his home at any time at any cost against any intruder.

## CONSOLIDATE THE TERMINALS.

The controlling owners of the North Pacific Terminal company seem not to be aware of the fundamental change in the relations of railroads to each other and to the public which is effected by the Esch-Cummins law. The letter of President O'Brien to the public service commission takes for granted that the only things which his company has to consider are the rights and convenience of the roads owning stock in the terminal company, and their position as competitors of the Great Northern and Spokane, Portland & Seattle. The plain intent of the law now is that the public interest shall be paramount. For subordination of their separate property rights to this purpose the law gives railroads a valuable equivalent in what is tantamount to a pledge of a certain rate of income, to be paid by the public.

It is not necessary to assume in this controversy, and it is not assumed, that the Great Northern and North Bank roads are actuated solely by altruistic desire to benefit the public and that the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific are only selfish. Clearly use of the Grand Central station by the former roads would be to their financial benefit. In the main the controversy between the railroads is over division of the public's business, but the public by right, and now by law, has a say to the end that the best arrangement in the public's behalf, rather than in any railroad's individual behalf, shall be made.

It has not been stated by either railroad rival, so far as we are aware, that it is impracticable so to pool freight terminals now existing that the congestions that would be caused by common use of the passenger terminal, as described by Mr. O'Brien, would be obviated. That which the public is demanding is that the railroads enter upon a give and take agreement which will make for the general public convenience.

The public convenience demands that all passenger and freight terminals be consolidated for common use of all railroads entering the city. The interstate commerce commission has power to compel one railroad to grant use of its terminals by another road and to fix the rate of compensation and if either road is not satisfied, it may appeal to court. Under that power each party to the dispute can be compelled to grant the other use of its terminals. That being the case, they might as well consolidate without further ado, and failure of former negotiations is no valid reason for refusal. In case of disagreement on terms, the interstate commerce commission and the courts are open to them. While they are about it, the railroads should pool their property in Guild's lake and should acquire as much more as is needed for adequate freight terminals. The public necessity is so obvious that, if any of the roads lack the necessary capital, the interstate commission would make a loan from the fund established by congress for such purposes.

## NAVAL LESSONS OF THE WAR.

One effect of the war has been to supply new material for the controversy between the believers in the capital ship and those who believe that it has been put out of date by the submarine, the airplane and the mine. The general board of the navy still pins its faith to the capital ship, holding that every new weapon of offense against it has been met by adequate measures of defense, and it proposes a new three-year building programme of three battleships and one battle cruiser with a number of cruisers, submarines, destroyers and airplane carriers. The greatest authority on the other side of the case, Admiral Sir Percy Scott of the British navy, reiterates his former opinion.

Admiral Scott always insisted on the great part which the submarine would play, but attention was diverted from that vessel to the dreadnaught during the last few years before the war. The result was that Britain began the war with too few submarines, mostly of obsolete type, and with too few destroyers, which proved the most dangerous foe of the submarine. Germany was late in adopting the submarine, therefore had more formidable vessels, but the small number of them during the first year probably had an important influence on the outcome. It is not pleasant to speculate on what might have happened if Germany had had in 1914 as many submarines of the same radius of action and armament as it had in 1917 and if it had used them as ruthlessly. The capital ships might have forced the U boats to submerge on sight, but the latter might have cut the allied lines of communication and forced surrender before the allies could have built enough destroyers to overcome them.

In a recent speech Admiral Scott quoted the head of the construction department of the British admiralty as saying that he was building a battleship that could not be sunk by a torpedo, but Scott retorted that there was no limit to the size of the torpedo; half a ton of T. N. T. could be put in the torpedo head. He therefore maintained that the battleship was gone, and he was convinced that they would never get the battleship "in again."

The reply of British naval authorities who defend the battleship is to point to the flight of the German fleet from Jellicoe's fleet at Jutland and to its final surrender. But the same authorities explain Jellicoe's failure to destroy the German fleet by the necessity of his making a certain turn at night in order to avoid exposing his whole line to torpedo attack, and that turn gave the Germans the opportunity to evade him. They explain his failure to follow up the Germans by the risk of loss by entering the German minefields. Then they point to the final surrender of the German fleet in November, 1918, as a victory for the British fleet—the long deferred culmination of Jutland. It would be nearer the truth to say that the surrender was the result of victories on land won by the allied and American armies, made possible by the successful concentrated attack on the U boats.

It seems to be nearer the truth to say that the necessity of protection for capital ships by destroyers, aircraft and scout cruisers has been proved by the war, and that without these the battleship is useless. If battleships are built without an equivalent number of these other ships, the money is wasted. When building battleships, the United States should also build a due proportion of destroyers, cruisers, submarines, minelayers and auxiliaries, just as in organizing an army corps a certain proportion of each arm of the military service is provided.

## GUARDING THE TAX MONEY.

The bill for supervision of taxes in Multnomah county prepared by the Taxpayers league and sponsored by Representative Herbert Gordon is in line with recommendations made by the Multnomah tax supervising and conservation commission. The latter commission was appointed by the governor under authority of an act passed by the legislature of 1919. The object of the law was to secure supervision and co-ordination of tax-levying, but the commission, after it had engaged in the work, discovered that it was without authority or means to enforce any definite policy of its own and was by reason of the dates fixed for filing budgets and because of insufficiency of budget information unable to make a proper investigation.

The Gordon bill changes the date for filing budgets so that time will be given for thorough inspection before the time fixed for levying the taxes; it requires a systematic presentation of estimates containing certain comparisons with preceding years, and it places the tax-levying authority in one body instead of in the numerous ones that now work independently of each other.

The purpose of the bill is in accord with progress and conservation. Whatever it may lack in details, if anything, will undoubtedly appear under analysis and discussion. But it is but one step in the proposed march toward orderly administration of public finances.

A principle enforced in expenditure of state funds is almost wholly lacking in the method of expending funds in the lesser municipalities. A state appropriation may not legally be diverted to other uses. Money may be borrowed from one fund in instances to tide over a temporary deficiency in another but, for example, there is no authority which would permit $100,000 appropriated for an armory to be expended for an addition to the state penitentiary. The disbursing officials are likewise kept within appropriations by the secretary of state who is a controller of finance in that respect. Warrants in excess of an appropriation are denied issuance.

In state affairs it is recognized that involuntary expenditures may accrue. Some unforseen circumstance, such as a doubling in the cost of food and fuel may make it impossible to conduct a necessary state institution with the funds appropriated. An emergency board wholly separate from the disbursing authority exists and involuntary appropriations require its formal authorization.

In the lesser units of government money raised by taxation for one purpose is often diverted to an entirely different purpose by the disbursing authority which in such units, unlike the state, is also the tax-levying authority.

The budget in the lesser unit is similar to the legislative appropriation in its other effects upon the taxation. It is, or purports to be, the year's general appropriation bill for that unit. There is lesser need to anticipate involuntary expenditures because the budget is made up annually, while the legislature appropriates for two years. Application of the state restriction is necessary to economical government. There is need that disbursements be confined rigidly to the budget estimates, except that some provision may be required for emergencies or for due authorization of involuntary expenditures.

There is no apparent reason why the county auditor, who now functions only as a bookkeeper, should not be vested with authority similar to that of the secretary of state—with authority to check off disbursements against budget estimates, reject attempted overdrafts and guard against diversion of funds from the purpose for which they were specifically raised.

## INFLATED REPRESENTATION.

The house of representatives is unable to resist the demand of large states whose population grows slowly that their membership shall not be reduced. Therefore it proposes to increase the membership from those whose population has grown more rapidly rather than raise the number of people whom each member shall represent. In regard to the voting power of each state in the house, the result will be the same as if the population per member were increased, but the vanity of some states will escape the wound which would be inflicted by reduced membership.

Efficiency and economy, those well worn campaign words, give the people an interest in the matter. Notwithstanding the excessive amount of talking that is done by ninety-six senators, it remains true that enlargement of the membership of a legislative body beyond a certain number is made at the expense of both those virtues. Under proper rules business would be better and more expeditiously transacted by 300 members than by 483, the number proposed. With a large membership power is apt to fall into the hands of a few and the rest become little better than "me toos." Each member's sense of responsibility is diminished as the number of others with whom it is divided is increased, for his acts are hidden by the crowd. A person sufficiently interested has no difficulty in recalling whether a certain senator was among the "wilful twelve" who defeated armed neutrality in 1917, but if there had been four times as many senators, there would presumably have been a wilful forty-eight, each of whom would have found in number a degree of safety from public condemnation. The fewer representatives there are, the more work each one will do and the easier it will be to know whether he has done it well or ill.

There is also a considerable measure of economy in small membership. Each additional member means additional salary, not only for him, but for his clerk and stenographer, and additional expense for stationery, for printing public documents and speeches and for offices. The forty-eight additional members proposed may cost the nation $1,000,000 a year with worse results than the people have had from 435 members.

Some congressmen point to the 670 members of the British house of commons, but that is rather an example to avoid. Business there is almost exclusively in the hands of ministers and, though other members talk, they have little to do except vote with their party. Large membership causes such congestion of business by much talk and has made private members so conscious of their unimportance that grand committees have been formed and a movement is growing for a federal system with separate parliaments for England, Scotland and Wales as well as Ireland.

Opposition to reduction of a state's representation arises from a false impression that it lessens the state's influence by comparison with that of other states or injures its standing in some way. In fact the state is equally well represented whether it has ten among a smaller number or twelve among a larger number, provided the same ratio is maintained for all the states. It is better represented by the smaller number, for the weight of ten among a smaller number is greater than that of twelve among the larger number. Large membership is of a kind with inflated currency and watered stock; it is inflated representation.

If the practice of increasing membership of the house after each census should be continued, its absurdity would soon become plain. It is conceivable that in fifty years the population will double. On the proposed basis of apportionment the house would then have almost a thousand members. Before that point is reached the people may demand that the number of members be limited by the constitution in order that a session of the house may not resemble a mass meeting.

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Oregon wool growers want protection against dumping in the United States of the surplus war supply of wool by the allies and they should have it. One reason is that Europe needs that surplus worse than America. Another is that, if the surplus should be dumped in this country, many sheep would be slaughtered, the domestic supply would fall short, and the consumer would have to pay dearly later for having cheap wool at the present time.

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The Idaho man who "coughed" a lizard from his stomach, wherein it is alleged to have developed from an egg swallowed a year ago, must be built on lines different from those described in the school "Physiologies." It is a good snake story for Idaho.

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They're arguing now as to whether President-elect Harding should give an inaugural ball. It might be a good way to show the bureau chiefs at Washington that hereafter they must dance to his tune.

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When the farmers named that mustard "Jim Hill" they complimented the qualities of the great railway builder, although it costs them hundreds of thousands yearly to combat it.

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It would have been timely if a Plymouth Rock had been declared the best bird in the poultry show just closed; but since a Rhode Island Red took the honors it is pretty close.

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Bread is selling at 9 cents in Enterprise. They do not charge there for the freight on wheat to Portland and on the flour back; they grind their own.

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Attorney General Palmer rules that a man may make cider with a kick if he makes it at home. He should have thought of that before election.

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A Baptist clergyman of Chicago, resigning, says he has found as good christians outside the church as in. "Lo, Ben Adhem's name led all the rest!"

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Latest styles in women's hats call for trimmings of rubber berries and fruit. Why not be really fashionable and decorate with rubber tires?

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Meat prices may have dropped a triffle, but not enough to cause one to expect the butcher to throw in a soupbone and a chunk of suet.

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Palmer's latest ruling on cider will stimulate sales in presses for home use and kegs for containers, not to mention the apples.

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British Columbia is the Hornbrook of the Pacific coast. Quite an honor, to say nothing about the real convenience.

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Alaska Indians are native Americans and if they are starving it is government's duty to feed them.

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McCarthy must see trouble ahead to refuse at double money the presidency of the Coast league.

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A bonus at Christmas does not pay for loyalty. Merely it recognizes it.

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Feels like snow, but—hush! It might come to spoil a Christmas week.

## FACTS SHOULD GOVERN CHANGE

**Judge Cotliss Does Not Oppose Present Law if It Works Well.**

PORTLAND, Dec. 18.—(To the Editor.)—I do not wish to make a nuisance of myself by continuing the discussion of the teachers' tenure law. I promise that this will be my last offense. But it seems that some misunderstand my position on the subject.

The sole ground for my argument for a change was the assumption that under this law it was being found difficult to weed out incompetent teachers. But I am assured by those who ought to know that since this law has been in force teachers who are not deemed fit have been asked to resign and that as a rule they have surrendered without any contest, and that as a matter of fact the law does not operate to keep incompetent teachers upon the staff. I confess that I had reason to believe that the exact reverse was the case. It is obvious that it is not enough that a capable teacher is safe in her tenure. She ought to have reasonable ground for feeling safe. She can do far better work in that frame of mind than when laboring under the fear that she may be removed without cause. If the present law is needed to create that feeling of security and has that effect, then the mere fact that the board is the logical body to exercise control should not necessarily be decisive.

Information that I have received, and which seems reliable, indicates that because of past experience covering a good many years, there is a deep-seated apprehension on the part of the teachers that it is not safe to leave their fate in the hands of any school board, no matter what its personnel may be; and that there should be some judicial body to appeal to as a last resort. It is not wise to ignore this state of mind unless the law, which was enacted to quiet the fear of the teachers, as well as to protect them, does in fact operate to keep in our schools teachers who ought not to be there. I think, therefore, that the test should be whether the tenure law has this effect. I may have been wrong in believing that the law was producing this result. If I am wrong, then I would favor retaining this system, even though I felt that in the future the teachers would not need its protection, for it is the part of wise statesmanship to place the capable teacher in the atmosphere where she can go about her work with the feeling that she cannot be arbitrarily removed.

As the law has been in force for over three years, it ought to be possible to come to a conclusion whether its effect has been to impair the efficiency of the teaching staff in our public schools.

GUY C. H. CORLISS.

## CONSTANCY SOMEWHAT IN DOUBT

**Writer Recalls Divagation of Self-Proclaimed Rate Champion.**

PORTLAND, Dec. 18.—(To the Editor.)—It seems to me that there are a few facts concerning the matters leading up to the recent rate decision of the interstate commerce commission that should be straightened out in the minds of the public. A paper seems to lay flattering unction to its soul, and keeps repeating it, that it started the ball rolling, and because of its insistence in season and out of season, the authorities at Washington have come to their senses. Judging from what it says, it looks as though The Oregonian had been a mere onlooker.

But I remember that a few yedrs ago the same evening newspaper started a campaign (which for some reason it dropped later) for equal rates for Astoria that were current to Portland. In other words, it antagonized the very principle that has now been recognized — namely, that freight rates should be governed, partly at least, by the cost of service. It insisted that a trainload of freight from the east that came through Portland should be hauled to Astoria for nothing.

Later on the campaign was dropped by that paper, and another evening paper, located up Washington street, pursued the same phantom. It was as violent in its advocacy of the crazy notion as it is in its antagonism to bitulithic pavement and the doings of the game commission. So far it has had the decency not to claim that its little hatchet gave the city of Portland the advantage that it has recently gained.

Some 15 years ago the writer of this communication was favored by The Oregonian by its printing a letter that set forth my astonishment, as a newcomer to the state, that the railroads did not recognize the advantage we possessed of a water-grade haul. My astonishment has continued ever since.

It would seem perfectly proper that Astoria should have the benefit of the same rate as Puget sound possesses; but, considering the way Astoria voted on the question as to whether the Port of Portland and the dock commission of this city should be consolidated, I see no reason why we should worry over the measure of chagrin that our sister city by the sea feels in common with Seattle.

OBSERVER.

## ROAD REVENUE FROM GASOLINE

**Nominal Fee for License Plates and 5-Cent Gas Tax Proposed.**

PORTLAND, Dec. 18.—(To the Editor.)—I read in The Oregonian that Sam A. Kozer, secretary of state, had called a meeting yesterday of the secretaries of the state of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana or their representatives, to be held in Portland next Tuesday, for the purpose of discussing interstate automobile regulation.

As I understand it, Oregon now gets 1 cent a gallon on all sales of gasoline. Why not have the law changed to collect 5 cents a gallon and make the charge for auto license plates for gas burners $2.50?

For example, a car that makes 20 miles to the gallon and an average car owner will run his car about 3000 miles. In the year his 5-cent tax will cost him $15.00 and his license fee $2.50, or making the total $17.50. This 5-cent tax will catch the man that does not pay any tax at all as well as the fellow that runs auto trucks and auto buses 100,000 miles a year and tears up our roads.

Let the man who uses the roads help build them. Let not only these five states enact this law, but every state in the United States.

C. D. MOORE,
763 Kerby street.

**Side Lines in Tillamook.**

Tillamook Headlight.

It's none of our business, but somehow it don't look the proper thing to see business men playing cards in card rooms during business hours. Not that we are opposed to cards, but the bad example and the bad habit.

**Start Him on "Something Irish."**

Hermiston Herald.

Encourage your boy to whistle. Induce him to whistle a stirring tune every day of his life. Then he will carry his whistling to the grave, and the harps of the angels will be in harmony with his soul.

**Compliment for The Oregonian.**

Corvallis Gazette-Times.

The Oregonian is a cleaner, better and more reliable paper for refusing to prostitute its columns to the notoriety-seeking riff-raff. If it can't discuss the questions of the day itself, a newspaper should hire a new editor.

## Those Who Come and Go.

Anchorage and Juneau, in common with other cities in Alaska, are having a period of development different from the experience of the territory in the past. In former days the gold rush came and the north country received a great impetus that was not lasting, but now the real resources of the country are being developed, according to Charles E. Herron, owner of a newspaper there, who is at the Multnomah hotel.

"We have just completed a $250,000 coal washer and $500,000 dock in Anchorage," said Mr. Herron. "The coal supply around Anchorage is inexhaustible and it is of the best bituminous variety. We could supply Portland and vicinity with coal for many years to come at $10 a ton, which is cheaper than you can buy Idaho coal or any other as far as that is concerned. All we want is boats between Portland and Alaska points and we are hoping that this can soon be brought about. A large amount of money is on hand to develop the Matanooska coal fields for the navy department. The coal is now being used locally and by the navy. Anchorage is now a town of more than 5,000 inhabitants and if indications point correctly it should double its population in the next year. There is not a room to be had in a hotel or rooming house in town and even shacks are being fitted up to take care of the strangers. It is the headquarters of the Alaskan Engineering commission, which to date has spent $48,000,000 on railroads of Alaska. Colonel Frederic Mears of the commission is on his way to Washington now to explain to a congressional committee how the money is being spent and will turn in a comprehensive report."

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Just on the last lap of his lyceum tour under the Ellison-White management, Frederick Warde, the eminent dramatic actor, is resting at the Hotel Portland before resuming his journey to Los Angeles. Mr. Warde appeared at the auditorium Saturday night and has glowing words for the appreciation of Portland audiences. For over half a century Mr. Warde has been one of the foremost stars on the American stage and now has virtually retired from active life, only appearing on an occasional lecture tour. He manages to get a great deal of pleasure from his acting each year in an open-air drama staged at Los Angeles which he characterizes as the American Passion play.

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Holiday demands of the livestock market are proving the attraction that is drawing a goodly number of shippers from out of town points to the North Portland yards. Quite a few of these men are doing some of their Christmas shopping while they are in the city. The register of the Imperial hotel shows, among others, the following cattle shippers:

W. B. Hunter and W. S. Hunter of Lostine, Or.; F. B. McAlly, J. B. Hunter and H. H. Woods, Joseph, Or.; Rue Roulet, Elgin, Or.; A. L. Demaris, Milton, Or.; W. C. Jones, Grangeville, Idaho; Norman Elliott and A. P. Sullivan, Baker, Or.; W. F. Platt, Bales, Idaho; L. N. Church, Walla Walla, Wash.; Ronald C. Begg and E. O. Denham, John Day, Or.; J. L. Maxwell, Wallula, Or.; E. F. Ogan, Cambridge, Idaho; John Wortman, Enterprise, Idaho; James T. Jenkins, Bandon, Or.; J. L. Smith, Gus Schroeder, M. V. Schroeder, Coquille, Or.; G. I. Wade, H. E. Bull and Clyde Stricker, Summerville, Idaho.

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Armed with a big juniper-encased pencil J. Edward Larson of Bend was just prevented from disfiguring the Multnomah hotel register by Clerk Jonasson yesterday. Larson is a stockholder in the pencil mill at Bend that was formed about a year and a half ago to utilize some of the juniper wood in that country. It has proved a great success and now employs some 250 hands, according to Larson's glowing reports. Larson is the owner of the laundry at Bend and states that the hustling interior city is one of the cleanest in the state.

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The office of state bank examiner has no terrors for Frank C. Bramwell of Grants Pass. Mr. Bramwell has just been appointed to the office and is considered well qualified to attend to the many duties in connection with the position on account of his many years with the Grants Pass bank. He is stopping at the Oregon hotel for a few days.

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G. W. Houlding and E. O. Willard of London, England, are at the Multnomah and have been making a trip through the forests of Oregon gathering information which they intend to put in force in the vast forests of the British possessions in Burma and India which are at present undeveloped.

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The Columbia Ladies' Symphony orchestra, under the leadership of Mrs. Edith Knight, gave the third of their series of weekly concerts in the lobby of the Multnomah hotel last night. The public is patronizing these concerts in increasing numbers and the big room was well filled for this event.

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Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hill of Billings, Mont., are at the Hotel Portland. Mr. Hill, a brother of A. J. Hill of Portland, is the western Montana agent for the Warren Construction company.

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Tom A. McCann of the Shevlin-Hixon Lumber company of Bend is at the Hotel Portland. The pine timber of eastern Oregon is finding a ready market in the east and middle west, according to McCann, and the low point of the trade seems to have been passed.

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H. L. Hasbrouck, the Hood River jeweler, has his ornate signature on the Cornelius hotel register. He was formerly a resident of Pendleton, but has been in Hood River for many years.

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Thomas Lawson's son-in-law, Henry McCall, the Prineville stockman, is one of the guests at the Benson. McCall's father was Governor McCall of Massachusetts.

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A. T. McShane, who manages one of the busiest stores at Tillamook, is one of the guests at the Multnomah hotel.

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W. C. Van Emon, well known in southern Oregon legal circles and who practices law at Klamath Falls, has his name on the register at the Benson hotel.

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Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Allen of Astoria arrived at the Benson hotel yesterday afternoon for a visit of a few days.

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Helen McFall and Mrs. M. B. McFall of Oregon Agricultural college are spending a few days at the Multnomah hotel.

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Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ramp of Brooks, Or., are at the Oregon hotel. Mr. Ramp is one of the best-known merchants of the Willamette valley.

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The Rev. W. L. Hunsacker of Seattle will be in Portland for the next few days. He can be found at the Hotel Portland.

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Mr. and Mrs. Hugh R. Kirkpatrick of Lebanon are in Portland for a short visit and can be found at the Benson hotel.

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Mr. and Mrs. E. L. McLain of St. Louis arived at the Benson hotel last night at 7:30 o'clock.

## PUBLIC MARKET LIFE NOT EASY

**Vendors Fully Earn Profits; Mr. Bigelow's Figures Challenged.**

PORTLAND, Dec. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Why does Mr. Bigelow attack the public market? Prices at grocery and other retail mediums stand as high and higher with no complaint. The farmer who sells on the market makes no wonderful profit. He has the same losses from perishable stuff that any retailer has. Only the public is not used to considering a farmer's loss a real loss. What is the hardest loss—that of a merchant whose sack of onions sprouts, grows and rots at a cost to him of $1.50, or the sack of onions we raised at the following cost: Ploughing, disking, harrowing, dragging, seeding, cultivating, two or three weedings on your knees, thinning, rolling tops, pulling, sorting and sacking, hauling in, spreading on drying floors or racks, sacking again after topping some, hauling to town to the commission man or retailing to the grocer for the small sum of 150 pennies? Then if we retail these onions at the public market, there is expense of the trip equaling store rent and expenses. For the profit made, which Mr. Bigelow begrudges us, there are hours of cold feet, cold lunch, a hard day in all. If Mr. Bigelow will raise and retail, with no help from anyone else, just one sack of onions, I will abide by his decision after he has weeded on his knees in hot sun and sold and froze on the public market.

Take squashes, as quoted in the article. Dispose of a ton on Front street and admit what you were paid. I know what the wholesalers will pay you. Peddle that same ton on the public market and see if you have profiteered. Do you know how many days it will take you to sell 2000 pounds to realize that difference of $25? And yet the commission man expects to make part or most of it by turning the stuff over. At the grocery store those squashes retail more often at 4 and 5 cents than at 3. I have in mind the stores we sold them to all fall, and challenge your purchase in all parts of the city to back my statement.

Mr. Bigelow has juggled figures until he credits the public market farmer with retailing onions last November at 5 cents when he quotes them wholesale at $3.50 a sack of 50 pounds. Then he admits that onions retailing for 5 cents now are profiteered by Front street at 1½ cents. If 3½ cents must be profit to someone, who is entitled to it, the fellow who toiled for months for it and sells it under disagreeable conditions on Yamhill street, or the fellow who turns it over by the sack without even paying freight? Furthermore, the groceries are the only places where 5 cents has been the regular price. Onions were sold on the public market for much less at the date quoted. Don't come back with the plea of different grades. I will show you poor grades also at the grocer's.

During the time of the milk controversy I wanted to fight, but was not directly interested. This time my own toes have been squarely stepped on. If Mr. Bigelow will quote again, but use data of more recent date so the buyers and sellers at the market will remember actual facts from dealings, I will meet him in a more definite discussion. With the market and last year's paper files handy he needn't use November 12. Let him try December 12, and not wait until 1921 in which to do it. I happened to live in Portland last year, and as this family keeps accounts at all times, I know what I paid last year, and I know what I sell for this year.

At this time my husband is digging potatoes in the cold east wind in an effort to realize something from our 8½-cent seed. Therefore, I, his wife, who have shared in the farm curses, am writing, as should others who are all too slow to fight for their rights.

Route A. MRS. E. WALDOW.

## EARLIEST BAND IN CHEHALEM

**Distinction Is Claimed for Valley Organization of 1857.**

NEWBERG, Or., Dec. 18.—(To the Editor.)—I see there is a discussion going in The Oregonian about the pioneer bands of Oregon, and if you will kindly allow me space in your paper would say that the Chehalem valley band, organized by John Everest in 1857, was the first band in Oregon.

The members of this band were John Everest, leader, William C. Everest, Ruben Everest, Thomas H. Parrott, Samuel Parrott, John Parrot, William Jones, William Gregg and Martin Ramsey. The members of this band have all gone to their reward excepting John Parrott, who is still living near Dundee, Or.

If there is any one who knows of a band in Oregon before that date, 1857, I would like to hear about it.

JAMES PARROTT.

## DREAMERS.

If down in your heart you have dreamed of a plan
To better yourself, or your fellowman;
If you've builded up castles of airy delight
And have planned to stand always for good and the right;
And outside of your dreaming you've nothing to show
But the ashes of hopes that were lost long ago;
Then your dreaming is vain and you'll find at the end
You have buried the talents God gave you to spend.

Did dear old Columbus sit still when he dreamed
That the old world was round and not flat as it seemed?
No! He borrowed three rowboats and put out to sea
And discovered a new world for you and for me.
And so you will find of the man who succeeds
That he has had visions of what the world needs
And heedless of jeers from a world filled with scorn
He has labored alone till his dream-child was born.

For a dream is a voice from the angels above
Whispering a message to those whom they love;
Bidding them follow the pathway which beams
With honor for those who but follow their dreams.
If you are a dreamer, then start you today
By using your dreams in some practical way,
By giving the best that God gave you to spend
And fortune will smile on you always, my friend.

—VERNON WHITE.

## A WINTER FRIEND.

Give me the kiss of cold Winter's breath,
The cloud-swept blue of the pulsing sky,
When snowflakes have finished their play,
Give me the frozen fields that lie
Stabbed with the frost of a winter's night;
The woods that are armed with a secret might,
Give me a winter's day.

Give me a love as deep as the sky,
A faith as firm as the fields so bare;
A heart that is true to the end
A courage as keen as the winter air,
To breathe new life in the sluggish blood
With the iron strength of the leafless wood,
Give me a winter friend!

—MARY A. WOODWARD.

## More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

**IT CAN'T BE DONE.**

I look on men who make the law
In congress or the legislature,
With that grave reverence and awe
Consistent with my simple nature.
Yet I cannot forbear to smile
On overhearing intimations
That they propose to compass style
With statutory limitations.

High heels are bad for womankind—
Particularly for the fat ones—
And legislators seem inclined
To force 'em, therefore, to wear flat ones.
Tight lacing threatens 'em with woes
From which physicians cannot save 'em,
So legislators now propose
They take the shapes that nature gave 'em.

Alas! These hopes are but in vain
Their corsets still their waists will trim in;
Their gaits will emulate the crane
Despite the laws—for they are women.
Mere men, the statutes day by day
Will read, and cheerfully endeavor
To understand them and obey
As best they can—but women—never!

The cave man, hulking, hairy dub,
Thewed like a bull, and massive jointed,
Set out to rule them with a club
And all he got was disappointed.
Though frail and flower-like they seem,
Don't look upon 'em with compassion.
There's just one law they hold supreme
And give a darn for—that's the fashion.

* * *

**Too Deep for Tears.**

No music is melancholy enough to be set to "The Blue Law Blues."

* * *

**Not Such a Joke.**

Save those overalls you bought to bluff the profiteers. You may really need 'em before long.

* * *

**Pretty Tough.**

It begins to look as if the honest workingman would soon be forced to work four or five days a week.

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## John Burroughs' Nature Notes.

**Can You Answer These Questions?**

1. Of what species is the prairie fox?

2. What can nature offer to everyone?

3. Is the robin bothered by vermin?

Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

* * *

**Answers to Previous Questions.**

1. What makes a dog's sense of smell keen? The fact that any dry, hard surface is unfavorable to the hound suggests, in a measure, the explanation of the wonderful faculty that all dogs in a degree possess to track an animal by the scent of the foot alone. Examine the nose of a foxhound; how very moist and sensitive! Cause this moisture to try up, and the dog would be as powerless to track an animal as you are.

* * *

2. Should a wall be of uniform height?

When you build a field or a highway wall, do not make the top of it level across the little hollows; let it bend to uneven surfaces, let it look flexible and alive. A foundation wall, with its horizontal lines, looks stiff and formal, but a wall that undulates along like a live thing pleases the eye.

* * *

3. Is the Canadian white-throated sparraw musical while migrating?

The white-throated sparrow is decidedly musical in passing, both spring and fall. His sweet, wavering whistle is at times quite as full and perfect as when heard in June or July in the Canadian woods. It is much more numerous than the white-crowned, and its stay with us is more protracted, which may in a measure account for the greater frequency of its song.

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## In Other Days.

**Twenty Five Years Ago.**

From The Oregonian of December 20, 1895.

Minneapolis—Before his exec