

Morning Oregonian

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HUGHES POSITION ON THE LEAGUE. By choosing Charles E. Hughes for secretary of state President-elect Harding would give a pledge of his sincere purpose to bring the United States back to the republican platform.

Mr. Hughes will carry to conduct of foreign relations a more judicial mind, accustomed to state precisely what he means. On publication of the first draft of the covenant he expressed repugnance for its ambiguities.

When the legislature met in 1919 it had before it a budget estimating state requirements in the sum of \$1,297,214 in excess of visible revenues.

When Mr. Hughes is secretary of state, he will have the opportunity to repair the defects to which he pointed—to substitute the clarity and precision of the law for the ambiguity and obscurity of the diplomat.

Explicit provision as to the requirements of unanimity of decision. Suitable limits to the field of the league's inquiries and action, so as to leave no doubt that the internal concerns of states, such as immigration and tariff laws, are not embraced.

Providing that no foreign power shall hereafter acquire by conquest, purchase or in any other way any possession on the American continent or the islands adjacent thereto.

Providing that the settlement of purely American disputes shall be committed primarily to the American nations and that European nations shall not intervene unless requested to do so by the American nations.

war to preserve the territorial integrity of another state or in defense of liberty and self-determination should respond with readiness to that call of duty in the absence of the League.

The recent session of the league assembly gave many indications that, when Mr. Hughes moves to have representatives of other nations join him in revising the covenant and reconstructing the league on the lines proposed by Mr. Harding and himself, he will find them willing.

The fidelity of Mrs. Etheridge to her husband in his grave trouble—the first in her experience—is both admirable and commendable.

It may be natural that Mrs. Etheridge should think her erring husband the victim of a hostile social organization, a hunted and persecuted creature of circumstances.

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French mothers, too, are concerned with the welfare of their own babies and are likely to be hardened by the thought that if the war had terminated otherwise than it did, Germans would have ruthlessly held to the letter of their exactions.

The state of Oregon has been fortunate in commanding the public service of many good men of high capacity, who have devoted their time, talents and money to its welfare, to the detriment of their private interest.

It is a sad thing to die when one is in the prime of life, when one is in the height of one's powers; it is sadder only when one is in the height of one's powers.

There was no brilliancy about Mr. Kiddle, only steadiness, sureness, intelligence, kindness and helpfulness. He was a model type of southern American citizenship of which every community has its representative.

There was a sound core to the old educational philosophy which gave weight to the philosophy of the day. There was indeed some weight to them, but they did produce thinkers and most of the moral progress of the world has been led by men with disciplined minds.

The ex-kaiser is said to have twenty-four charwomen in his castle. He must have someone to kick out the way and probably the scrub-women enjoy the honor.

Thousands of Pullman employes have volunteered to accept lower wages, but that's not "George."

What's in a name? they ask. Well, under any other name the well-to-do wouldn't be so respectable.

Only one day more of leap year, which means that some of the girls will have to hurry.

By PRODUCTS OF THE PRESS. Cowboys Flee From Civilization to South America's Open Range. "Something coming," remarked a deputy in the office of the clerk of the United States district court, as the click of high-heeled, spurred boots rippled down the corridors of the federal building.

The noise stopped as three cowpunchers stood framed in the doorway. They were dressed in garb that only thoroughbred cowpunchers can wear with ease, and which movie actors cannot imitate.

"Ferd," the spokesman said, addressing Abe Vinick deputy, "what's the chance of getting 'out of the United States today?"

"Pretty fair, for getting out, but you'll have to wait a few days. Where do you want to go?" "South America."

The three cowpunchers, a trifle timid, entered. "What do you want to go for?" "Well, you see," explained Robert G. Rodgers, spokesman, "we're cowpunchers and we want to stay at it. There ain't none of that work here any more, since a certain party began floodin' the ranges with his motor trucks. Late years a puncher can't ride the range in a flivver while his pony rears at and loses his wind feedin' the corral. And then along comes prohibition and makes it no fun to get to town. The only excitement in the city is a pitcher show with actors tryin' to be cowboys. It's all gone dead here and we want to go south where they still ride the range with ponies."

The three men from the range country—they had spent years in the cattle country around Lodge Grass, Mont.—were being driven south by "civilization, which is supplying the ranchman with new implements, and robbing the cowman's life of its romance."—Kansas City Star.

Life on the island of Palmito del Verde, where 800 former Yakima valley residents are establishing a colony, is no longer the splendid Eden of a modern garden of Eden. The Yakimans left their certain they were going to find a 29th century Eden. Now many of them were getting discouraged and wish they were back in this valley, according to the letters received from them.

John Bell, senator for Lane and Linn counties, is in the Imperial. Senator Bell says that the committee appointed at the 1919 special session of the legislature to look into the question of office throughout the state will make a report next month.

These are busy days for Fred W. Williams, who is registered at the Hotel Oregon. Mr. Williams has been holding hearings as a public commissioner, on applications for increased rates for gas and telephones and now will come an application for increased rates for steam heat.

Those Who Come and Go. John Burroughs' Nature Notes. Can You Answer These Questions? 1. How does the pine tree shed its leaves?

2. Do crows eat corn in winter? 3. Is the gray squirrel distinctly American? Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

Answers to Previous Questions. 1. Will a severe winter destroy birds? A severe winter destroys a great many of our half-merry birds.

2. What is the crucial time in the farmer's year? Haying is the period of "storm and stress" in the farmer's year. To get the hay in, in good condition, and to have the rest of the year as a great matter. All the energies and resources of the farm are bent to this purpose.

3. Does the fox run easily? Judged by the eye alone, the fox is the lightest and most buoyant creature that runs on four legs.

How Orchard Was Converted to Religious Mind. PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—(To the Editor.)—I beg to congratulate you for space that another feature in connection with the history of the notorious Harry Orchard, the self-confessed murderer of Judge Governor, has been permitted a mild winter in the north.

How Does He Know? If we were Mr. Harding we couldn't help feeling a little critical when the reporters ask Boies Penrose who is going to be in the new cabinet. (Copyright, 1920, by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

Concentration. By Grace E. Hall. The million factors in our mental store. That leads with one purpose towards an end. Are like an army marching on before, Each with a common impulse; and they bend. With every ounce of force, their vital strength.

In Other Days. Twenty-Five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of December 31, 1895. Cottage Grove.—The Roseburg line was wrecked yesterday by running over a large store a mile north of Cottage Grove. The train, mail and express cars jumped the track, but no one was injured.

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