Morning Oregonian

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MEMORIAL ART.

No one who appreciates Theodore Roosevelt will believe that beauty and art had no place in the scheme of life as he comprehended it. The correspondent of The Oregonian who assumes that Colonel Roosevelt would deny the permanent value of a noble statue of a noteworthy figure in human affairs probably does him far less than justice. Utility is not the only, or even the principal, standard by which to judge the memorials which we erect in reverence for our dead, or in testimony that we have not forgotten and do not propose that future generations shall forget our debt to them. It is to be remembered, too, that memorials are of many kinds, suitable for many tastes. Of Roosevelt memorials bearing the stamp of material usefulness there will be no lack when all is done. A Roosevelt highway is only one example of those proposed.

Assumption that a statue is valueless because some statues are hideously molded begs the issue while it concedes the propriety of a truly noble figure executed by a master mind and hand. The "millions of dollars that have gone into ugly carvings of stone spheres and iron eagles and tablets which no one reads" embody at least the aspirations of people for a shrine, for a tangible symbol on which to concentrate, and in which stirring scenes and sterling men may be reincarnated. Is there, in all the memorial plan, to be no consideration for beauty for its own sake? There will be no general assent to any proposition to exclude it from our lives.

If it is admitted that art has its place in education, then the latter is enduringly served by a worthy memorial such as the equestrian statue of Roosevelt which Dr. Coe has conceived and which has incurred the correspondent's fault-finding. A good deal more is accomplished than some of the utilitarians are willing to admit by the noble figure of the soldier who stands in a public square in Portland to remind every passer-by of the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice that emboldened the Oregon volunteers who served their country in the Spanish-American war. It cost, we believe, something like $15,000. Could so relatively inconsiderable a sum have been put to a better educational use? We doubt it.

Even "drinking fountains for horses" are made ornate, or at least attempt is made to beautify them, by communities having respect for due proportion. We suppose that a thing of galvanized iron, or a rudely hollowed log, would equally serve the end of slaking an animal's thirst. Nothing that we do in the interest of esthetic appreciation is done in denial of the value of other forms of humanitarian endeavor. In a world of progress there is room for both.

The visitor to London who has seen the Trafalgar monument and who has not been profoundly impressed, as no memorial fund could have impressed him, by the historic lesson that it perpetually conveys, or the traveler to Washington or Boston who has stood unmoved before those unutilitarian shafts erected in honor of the Father of His Country and the patriots of Bunker Hill will not, we suspect, obtain much greater spiritual satisfaction from a tin drinking fountain or other form of useful memorial, nor is it likely that he will be inspired to greater personal sacrifices on account of the practical benevolences which these represent. The message of a noble monument is for those to whom it conveys an intimate and especial meaning—and the number of these in the aggregate is very large.

DISPERSION OF THE RUSSIANS.

A man who, like Admiral McCully, adopts an assortment of seven Russian orphans, is not an old bachelor by nature, though unblest by a wife. Love of children and sympathy for the forlorn may have lain dormant in his heart through all his years of solitude, but the tragedy he witnessed at Sevastopol caused those sentiments to gush forth. He returns with seven waifs—an old-fashioned family—and calls on his relatives for help in caring for them. He is the right kind of American and seaman.

That adopted McCully family is a symbol of the dispersion of the Russians, which is one of the outstanding facts of the war epoch. Since the revolution wave after wave of refugees has flowed to other countries until the total number may now reach millions. It comprises in the main the wealthy and the educated, the skilled in many crafts—all of those classes who escaped the bolshevist terrors except the few who serve the soviet in order to live. They have made London and Paris centers for repeated abortive efforts to rescue Russia, and each failure has added many thousands to the number of refugees. There are many in Constantinople, they are most numerous in the Balkan states and Poland, some are in France, England and Italy and some have come to America.

They cannot fail to influence the life of the countries to which they have fled, as have former dispersions. The effect of the dispersion of the Jews on social and political life has been incalculable. The flight of the Greeks to western Europe when the Turks captured Constantinople revived the study of Greek in western Europe and started the renaissance. The expulsion of the Moors and Jews from Spain marked the beginning of the decay of Spanish power. The flight of the French nobility during the first revolution cleared the way for peasant proprietorship, which is the chief source of French economic strength. It also spread knowledge of the French language in England, aiding that intimacy which grew until the traditional enemies became allies.

If Russia finally forms a government worthy of the name without the refugees, its character and the future history of the country will be profoundly influenced by their absence. If they should return and should again have a hand in directing its affairs, their experiences and observations in other lands will form a rich fund of knowledge for the guidance of the new Russia. What sort of ideas would the seven McCully children take with them if they should return after reaching manhood and womanhood in America?

MR. GORDON'S SEAT.

Judge Bingham of Salem, being a learned and sagacious jurist, is well aware of the clause of the state constitution (Section 11, Article IV) which provides that "each house (of the legislature), when assembled, shall choose its own officers, judge of the selection, qualifications and returns of its own members, determine its own rules of proceeding, and sit upon its own adjournments."

The plain meaning of this clause is that no courts, or other outside authority, may interfere in any way in the organization of a legislature, and seat or unseat any of its members. It is quite true that there is another paragraph in the same constitution (Section 8, Article IV) which provides that a member of the legislature shall be a citizen of the United States and shall have been for a year a resident of the county or district from which he is chosen. But if the Ahkoond of Swat, or Lloyd George, or Scarfaced Charlie should appear at the bar of the house or senate and claim a seat there, and he should be seated by the deliberate act of that body, which had satisfied itself as to his eligibility, it is difficult to see what anybody could do about it. Certainly no court would or could interfere.

The house at Salem will determine whether Mr. Herbert Gordon is entitled to membership. It will find that he was elected by the sovereign voters of Multnomah county last November, by vote of 47,839 over Leslie W. Murray, who got 25,087. This would seem to be a fairly clear verdict for Mr. Gordon—a decision that the electorate wanted him and did not want Mr. Murray. The place for Mr. Murray to make his contest is before the legislature. It would have been an impertinence for Judge Bingham to say that a question of Mr. Gordon's qualifications and eligibilitiy was any of his business and he did not say it. It was not less an impertinence for Mr. Murray to ask him to say it.

Our revered forefathers, in framing the constitution, federal and state, wisely provided for a separation of the executive, judicial and legislative branches. The reasons why they arranged that the executive and the judiciary should keep hands off are clear. A governor may not even fill a vacancy in a legislature, lest the way be thus left open for him to pack the co-ordinate branch with his creatures. There are not a few who question the right of a court to pass on the validity of any legislative act, but they do it.

ADDING TO THE FEDERAL MACHINE.

While talk about reducing the cost of government, the Corvallis Gazette-Times reminds us that efforts to increase the cost still continue and that congress seems powerless to resist them. It cites the example of the Sheppard-Towner maternity bill, which has just been passed by the senate. Its purpose enlists the sympathy of everybody, but it is one of those paternal measures that are proposed by those who believe that the government can and must do everything to promote human welfare.

As introduced, this bill established another addition to the multitude of boards and commissions which cumber Washington, but the senate imposed its duties on the children's bureau. It made an appropriation of $480,000 for the first year and larger appropriations for each subsequent year till a fixed annual sum of $4,000,000 was reached, but the sum was reduced to $1,480,000 a year. This sum is to be apportioned among the states in proportion to population, provided they appropriate an equal sum and establish a "state board of maternal and infant hygiene" or a corresponding division of the state board of health. The state boards may also be required to establish advisory committees. The duties of these boards are thus defined:

> The provision of instruction in the hygiene of maternity and infancy through public health nurses, consultation centers and other suitable methods, and the provision of medical and nursing care for mothers and infants at home or at a hospital when necessary, especially in remote areas.
>
> To provide popular nontechnical instruction on the subject of the hygiene of infancy, hygiene of maternity and related subjects.

The bill was introduced at the solicitation of about forty women's organizations, which secured indorsements of thirty state governors. Few senators dared oppose it, and the only one who spoke at length against it was Senator Thomas of Colorado, who paid for his independence on other matters with defeat for reelection last November. One of the first things that the newly enfranchised women need to learn about government is that when they want a piece of good work done, the least efficient and most expensive agency that they can employ is the federal government, for Mr. Thomas said of the bill:

> If it is to be administered by a government bureau, it is a failure, for if bureaucracy means anything, it means a decrease of efficiency and capacity and a substitution for both of a red-tape programme.

Every normal man and woman will agree that the purposes of this bill are good and ought to be accomplished. Yet every one who is familiar with the operations of the government should realize that it is the worst possible agency through which they can be accomplished. Care of women and children at maternity is properly a subject of education for physicians and nurses, then of mothers, which can be provided better through voluntary agency than by either the state or the nation. Care of the poor and ignorant mothers is the function of the local community, for it involves personal attention and interest which a bureau official is incapable of properly giving or directing.

The plan of federal grants conditional on equal appropriations by the states is especially vicious, for it tempts the states to branch out into fields which they can occupy only less inefficiently than the federal machine. It is the means of federal encroachment on the power of the states, tying them up with its red tape, binding them to a degree of uniformity which impairs their originality and initiative and adding a state bureaucracy to that at Washington.

NOT HYPERCRITICAL.

The valued Weston Leader, which The Oregonian is happy to regard as one of the brighter lights of the state press, complains of the "continual attacks on President Wilson" by The Oregonian since election, and says there is no warrant for its repeated references "in scornful terms" to the policy of "watchful waiting" in Mexico. The Wilson policy toward Mexico, says our grieved friend, "has assuredly justified itself."

The Oregonian vigorously dissents from the Weston view that it has continually attacked President Wilson since the November deluge, but it freely concedes that it has not desisted from its criticism of the mistaken and injurious Wilson policies. Why should it desist? Has defeat made them sacrosanct? Or should persistence in their support by a president facing several months of superfluous tenure be assigned to the whimsies of a disappointed and discredited statesmanship? What The Oregonian wants, and has sought to do, is to aid the nation in its desire, to go the right way and to do so it must know the wrong way. That is all.

As to Mexico, something also is to be said. It is likely enough the truth that Mexico sobered down when it saw that it was to deal with a sterner hand in America. But whether that is so or not, it is not easy to see how "watchful waiting" will restore to life 500 murdered Americans in Mexico or give its proper value to $500,000,000 lost American investments.

BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ALASKA.

Circumstances are propitious for rapid general development of Alaska during the next few years. Within two years the railroad should be completed from Seward to Fairbanks, where it will connect with steamboat lines on the Tanana and Yukon rivers. Construction of highways will make many remote districts accessible by motor transport. Coal mines are already in operation, and under the new leasing law many more will be developed, providing fuel at greatly reduced cost. About half a million acres of land have been staked for oil, and the geological survey says "there is very good prospect of developing producing wells in Alaska."

The way will thus be open for mining on a far larger and more permanent scale than has hitherto been possible. About two thirds of the gold so far produced from Alaska has come from placers and, with the exception of low grade mines near the coast, only the bonanza lode mines have been worked. Development of the lower grade mines has been retarded by what the geological survey calls "the long interdict on the use of the mineral fuels of Alaska." Scarcity and high cost of labor during and since the war have had the same effect. Coal will become available in larger quantities by the time the railroad is completed, and the slowing down of industry in the United States will lead workmen to go north at reasonable wages. The report of the geological survey makes this encouraging forecast:

> Alaska contains enormous potential reserves of gold and other minerals. The depression of the mining industry is only temporary; a change for the better will come when general economic conditions become more normal, and water and land transportation are cheaper and better. A lowering of freight rates, the completion of the government railroad and the building of a large mileage of wagon roads are needed to quicken the now stagnant mining industry.

Portland should delay no longer to take a share of the trade with Alaska, which will assume large proportions within a few years. Extension of agriculture will follow mining, as it did in all the mining states, and reindeer meat may soon be exported. Portland will be a good market for Alaska coal, which would make return cargoes for steamers. One of the duties imposed on the shipping board by the Jones law is to establish steamship lines to connect with the government railroad, and the claims of Portland should be pressed, while merchants and feul dealers work up business to provide cargoes.

ARISTOPIAN FINANCE.

Henry Arthur Jones, British dramatist, pokes fun slyly in an essay in the current World's Work at the extravagant use of words and phrases that cannot clearly be defined by the user. The article takes the form of a letter to the British chancellor of the exchequer in which the writer relates the substance of a conversation with one Professor Sophologos, who holds the position of chief corrector of wrong opinions in the national university of Aristopia. Mr. Jones says that Professor Sophologos has lately arrived in England to study present conditions in order to learn what to avoid in molding the policy of his countrymen.

Unrestricted use, says Professor Sophologos, of such phrases as "self-determination," "equality of opportunity," "making the world safe for democracy" and a hundred other ready ferments muddles the brain with abstract words and cant phrases. The satirist contends in pretended sincerity that these are useful because they spare their users the exertion of distinguishing between words and facts. He proceeds:

> I said that we were spending seventy-three millions this year with the express design of teaching all our population to discuss social philosophy, and thus obviate the necessity for manual labor. I contended that this vast expenditure on popular education was justified by the results, inasmuch as we had in England today ten working men who could handle a social problem to every one who could handle his tools. I added that we could not expect to enjoy all the blessings of untrammeled democracy without submitting to a trifling disadvantage, such as not getting our houses built and not having any fires in winter.

But they do these things differently in Aristopia, where noble words which stand for great realities are permitted to no tongue except that of the man who can show that he reverences the exact and august principles for which they stand. The one word "equality," judged by this standard, has been made to realize a sum "sufficient to defray the electric illumination of every street and highway"; while the tax on "liberty" supplied the government with the means of warming every home in the kingdom.

> For instance, a man was recently heard to pronounce the word "equality." He was instantly hailed before a magistrate . . . and was asked to explain what he meant. It came out that his idea of "equality" was contained in the following formula—that punctually at a quarter to eight every morning the state should deliver to every man, woman and child a quarter of a pound of prime Wiltshire bacon, perfectly fried and sizzling hot; a large pat of the very best fresh butter, and a free admission ticket to the reserved stalls at the cinema. He was fined fifty pounds.

Another, who was using the word "liberty," said that in any commonwealth worth living in every citizen should have the right to choose his own job, to decide how many hours he would work, and to fix his own rate of wages, while if his rights in this respect were infringed he should be empowered to call off all other workers from their jobs and keep them off until the matter was settled to his own satisfaction. He was fined five hundred pounds and forbidden to use words of more than one syllable for five years.

The perennial and insatiable thirst for spurious verbiage, about which Mr. Jones complains, is not, of course, confined to the British isles. There is ground for more than suspicion that the dramatist is striking at others than his own countrymen over the shoulders of the British chancellor. "A world safe for democracy," for example, is not an alien mintage, and "liberty" has been widely confounded with license in a good many countries, particularly since the war. Nor is reckless employment of catch phrases the peculiar failing of politicians alone. It is observable in education, as with "cultural advantages," "disciplinary studies," and the like; in organized charity, where "uplift" and "welfare" are more used than understood, and in religion, where a thousand phrases lifted bodily from the sacred writings serve no other purpose than to keep denominations apart. Mr. Jones himself believes that the humanities have not escaped this contamination. In a postscript to the chancellor in which he offers aid in preparing a list of suitable words and phrases and in arranging a tariff on them, he expressed hope that a heavy fine will be imposed on "art" and "artistic."

Assurance given by delegates to the National Music Teachers' convention at Chicago that the American people are losing their fondness for jazz would be more comforting than it is if we were certain that this passing manifestation of fondness for mere noise will be succeeded, as the music teachers' association believe it will be, by appreciation of music of a better kind. Yet Paderewski was quoted some years ago as saying that there is in America a foundation for sound musical taste in some of our simpler melodies, and there is in all parts of the country visible indication that semi-classical concerts, given at popular prices, are attracting increasing crowds. Taste for good music as well as for good literature is less apt to be a matter of instinct than of education among people in the mass, and the road to higher things would seem to lie through better opportunity to learn about them. Yet the music teachers will not be too much discouraged, we hope, if they discover that the advance from jazz to real music is not to be made in a day.

General Jackson, if he were alive, and Addison Bennett, who is very much so, might observe the same anniversary today, for Mr. Bennett is 76 years years old—o-l-d, not young, as some who are dodging the drapery of the couch like to say it—and proud of the fact that he has lived in much of this great country before settling down to grow up.

Considering field and equipment, the "boys" who run the Albany Democrat did remarkably well with their annual number Sunday. It did not follow beaten lines; it just told of the possibilities of succeeding in Albany and Linn county. It was just right.

Those navy aviators who drifted into the Canadian wilds descended just in time to avoid destruction in James bay because they heard the barking of a dog caught in a beaver trap. And then they neglected to tell us whether they rescued the dog.

Wilhelm says he was kept in the dark by his generals. If he had kept himself in the front, risking a puncture rather than saving his imperial hide, where a monarch belonged, he would not have been in the dark. The ex-kaiser is "talking crazy."

Senator LaFollette's portrait, removed while the war was on, has been restored to its place in the office of the governor of Wisconsin. But Wisconsin has yet to be restored to its former place among the states.

"So and so has none of the earmarks of a champion boxer," remarks a writer on the sporting page. If cauliflower ears are all the poor lad needs he should be able to remedy the lack in short order.

Government experts at Washington are puzzled over what kind of weather to predict for the rest of the winter. They'd better play safe and predict fair weather next summer.

Weddings by telephone have becom common enough and now a Chicago judge has granted a divorce by long distance. No wonder the phone company wants to raise its rates.

With five broom factories here, Portland nevertheless buys 75 per cent of its brooms from the outside. Just about time to sweep out the imported sweepers.

The reckless autoist who slammed through and injured a woman while homeward bound and gave false name and residence was fined $250. But what is a fine?

A Portland minister has been called to Salem, which is reversing the process. Yet serving in Portland is a sort of post-graduate effect.

No one desires Mr. Etheridge to testify to anything but the facts. But the public wishes the facts, and all the facts.

Oregon may be awarded another member in the national house of representatives. We're moving up in the world.

Oregon has had the high water and now comes the hades of cleaning up.

Votes of 3 to 2 in the city council show a healthy condition in that body.

The "talkative burglar" will be caught soon. He has a woman partner.

Etheridge is going to talk, but will he say anything?

MARRIED MAKE BEST EMPLOYES

Most Employed Wives, Too Are Working for Family Necessities.

PORTLAND, Jan. 7.—(To the Editor.)—I note the recent discussions concerning the employment of married and single women and the thought came to me that few really know the inside of others' affairs.

No doubt there are married women working and spending their earnings extravagantly and selfishly, but I believe an instance of this kind to be the exception rather than the rule. Every one knows that the period of "high cost of living" we have been and are still passing through has made existence complicated. Many married men have fairly staggered under the strain of keeping a family going. Children must be kept in school, rents paid or their equivalent in high taxes or both. The loyal wife, seeing the burden growing too heavy for one to carry along has gone forth to aid, saving a man from nervous exhaustion perhaps and worthily assisting in rearing the family. I know of many such instances and instances where sons and daughters are enabled to obtain higher education because of such mothers. Surely these workers are to be commended and granted equal privileges with single women who, I note, too, are often extravagant in dress and habits, many of them drawing salaries which would provide for a whole family.

Single women need not want for employment, there are many homes calling for domestic assistance and offering to pay $50 and $75 per month, with board included and time off, but it is impossible to get such aid. Custom or false pride has decreed that housework is a disgraceful occupation and girls will stand wearily behind counters accepting a wage that spells bare existence rather than aid in a home.

The married woman fills her place well and does her home work too. Recently I heard a manager in a large store remark that she did not know what she would do without the married women; they were her standbys. I, too, have noticed when I have had several working under my supervision that the married women were the best workers; they were more thorough and dependable. The girls think and talk a good deal about the new clothes they are going to buy, the parties and shows they are going to, and while matrimonial questions are settled for the married woman, they are usually uppermost in the single woman's mind.

I repeat that we know not the depths of individual affairs well enough to judge such matters fairly since all earnest workers are entitled to a chance and I am sure there are many worthy women workers, both married and single. OBSERVER.

CONGRESS BECOMING UNWIELDY

McArthur's Inaugural and Membership Changes Approved.

PORTLAND, Jan. 7.—(To the Editor.)—I notice that The Oregonian speaks very favorably of the resolution introduced by Representative McArthur for changing the date of inaugurating a president after his election.

The idea is so obviously good that I hardly think any sensible man will oppose it. It has been suggested many times in the past, but until now no effort has been made to realize it.

Another idea suggested by Mr. McArthur last summer, when he was a candidate, is still more important. That is the reduction of the membership of congress, the house especially. Anyone who has had any legislative experience knows how unwieldy and perplexing a large body is. The history of congress has been one of wrangling and delay.

When Postmaster General Wannamaker urged congress to provide for a parcel-post law, it took congress 20 years of wrangling to enact it. The pure food and drug law hung fire about that long, and congress was so dilatory about providing a good banking system that it gave rise and fall to the greenback party, the populist party and the silver party, and kept the people drifting from one party to the other.

If we had an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of two representatives and one senator from each state, we would have the most efficient legislative body in the world, and the most progressive. The president and the courts could easily checkmate any haste or indiscretion of the legislative body.

Another important consideration is the enormous expense of keeping a lot of "rubber stamps" in congress, with all the clerks and perquisites of office, and the expense of all of the useless literature they load the mails with to add to the necessary burdens of taxation.

If Mr. McArthur will introduce a resolution providing for changing a congressional mob into a legislative body, and urge its passage, I will agree to vote for him next time he runs for congress if I am alive. If congress won't yield to this idea, there is but one other way to bring it to pass. The united demand of the newspapers of the country would accomplish it. J. B. WRIGHT,
1131 Hawthorne Avenue.

NO ONE CAN READ MEN'S SOULS

"Great Change" in Criminal Not Alone Cause for Setting Him Free.

KIONA, Wash., Jan. 6.—(To the Editor.)—The false sentimentality manifest in the demand made on the authorities for the pardon of some of our noted criminals, has reached a state when all lovers of the highest well-being of human society and the honor of the law, should file a final protest. It is no favor to the criminal to turn him loose on human society, giving him opportunity to repeat his life of crime. But, in The Oregonian, a writer is pleading for one of the most cold-blooded criminals of modern times because he professes "regeneration."

It is most sincerely hoped that the regeneration of Orchard is a fact; but who knows it to be so? Unfortunately, we cannot see the inner life of our friends, nor that of our foes. Suppose it to be true that this man who planned for weeks and even months, lying in wait for his victim, as nothing but a brute thirsting for blood would have done, or a human who was possessed of the most depraved nature, and devoid of all human feeling could have thought of doing, should be granted his freedom. Would he prove himself proof against the temptation to repeat the crimes of the "old life"?

No man ever gets so holy that temptation may not lead him astray; especially the man who has gone down to the very lowest level of crime. Society ought to demand first the most absolute proof of the genuine change of character and secondly, that he is so well established in the purpose of right living that there would be no return to the "old life." If such men have passed into that "great change," it would appear to the writer that they would be glad to hide away from strong temptation to go back to the "old life."

Then the pardon of a self-confessed criminal of the most cruel character is, in the last analysis, setting aside the object of the law, and the decision of the courts, which is not revenge nor punishment for its own sake, but for the protection of human society, and the control of that class of men who do not control themselves. Safety first. Pleasure last. If such men are held to the full requirement of the law, others will not be so ready to dip their hands in human blood.
J. L. RHOADS.

Those Who Come and Go.

"Wheat men will try to get together in Portland next Tuesday to see what can be done about forming a pool, so I guess I will remain over," announced Walter M. Pierce, who arrived in the city yesterday from Corvallis, where he attended a meeting of the board of regents. "The idea of the wheat men is to get together and so control the wheat that it will be fed out to the market as the demand requires. It will not mean an attempt to corner the market nor bull the market, but just to give the growers a better break than they have been getting. The idea is somewhat on the order of fruitgrowers' associations, and organizations of that character. In Washington growers have got together and have a pool of about 10,000,000 bushels of wheat, I am informed, and they are willing and anxious to come into Oregon and operate. For one, I am in favor of Oregon growers attending to this enterprise themselves without calling on outsiders. Of course, it is a big undertaking and I don't know whether we can work it out, but it is worth trying." Mr. Pierce will not ornament the state senate this year. He was roped out by Bruce Dennis after a rip-snorting campaign through Union and Wallow counties in which the opponents handled each other without gloves. However, Mr. Pierce confesses that he may visit Salem as an innocent bystander before the session ends.

Oil has been struck by Captain J. W. Siemens of Klamath Falls, near Merrill. The captain, a regular army man, who decided to cast his lot in Klamath after he had been stationed there as a soldier, arrived at the Imperial yesterday, bringing news of the strike. "The well," explained the captain, "is down 1995 feet. We have been getting oil of all sorts, some like kerosene. The well is spouting gas and there is now water in the bore. On advice of experts, we have ceased operations for the time being, for fear that we may break through the shell which covers the reservoir of oil. There have been reports that the nature of the country is such that no oil can be found there, but we have found it. Oil sand has been brought up and chemists have tested it and found that it is good. We have not only got gas and have smelled oil, but we have actually got oil. In due time we will break through and get our gusher." The experiment of Captain Siemens has been watched with keen interest in the vicinity of Medford, and a search for oil has been renewed with the reports from Klamath. A delegation of Medford people met Captain Siemens at the train in Medford to get encouragement for their own plans. The captain says that two rigs are now on their way to Klamath and will start drilling in the near future. Thus far the finding of oil has not caused any transfer of land.

"Jimmy" Donegan, who hasn't been in Portland since he came down to electioneer against the Malheur lake measure, otherwise known as the Roosevelt bird refuge bill, breezed in from Burns with legislators from that section. Mr. Donegan is headed for Salem where he will probably be the chief clerk of the enrolling committee, a position he held down in the 1919 session. There is no one better known in Harney county than Jimmy Donegan—not even Bill Hanley—and so he has the indorsements of about everyone in that section of the country for a position in the land office at Burns. During the war, when drives were the usual thing, Mr. Donegan was identified with all that were held in Harney county. He had to traverse the county so frequently for subscriptions and contributions that he got to know even the jackrabbits by their first names.

Only one democratic voice will be raised in the senate when the legislature meets and that will be the stentorian tones of Senator Strayer of Baker. When Senator Strayer has anything to say he walks in front of his desk, which is in the first row, glares at the colleagues whom he is opposing, and whangs away at them eloquently, logically and viciously. Senator Strayer arrived in Portland yesterday and is at the Imperial. Before the session adjourns he will probably have to put up a strong fight to prevent Baker county having Grant county wished onto it as a senatorial district. Baker, alone, is slightly democratic, which gives Senator Strayer a chance for his political life, but if Grant is added, then there will be just enough republicans in Grant county to control the election of a joint senator.

Some day The Dalles-California highway will pass through North Junction, Or., if the two railroads up the Deschutes canyon decide to get together and abandon one track, in which event the grade will be available for state highway purposes. J. C. McCarty, at the Perkins, is hoping that such a thing will happen and the highway commission has it listed as a tentative route, but there is no immediate prospect of the railroad systems entering such an agreement, albeit they talked that way last year. Mrs. McCarty is also in town from North Junction with her husband.

Two farmers elected to the legislature are Herbert Egbert and Albert S. Roberts. They comprise the delegation in the house for Wasco and Hood River and their farms are across the line from each other. Mr. Roberts served years ago in the house and had his eye-teeth cut, legislatively speaking, in 1899. Mr. Roberts says that in his section the grain sack has been abolished and wheat is now handled in bulk. He declares that lugging sacks of wheat has made the young men of the wheatlands old before their time. The two representatives were milling around the hotel lobbies yesterday.

With snow frozen in the mountains and a prospect of more to come, Harney county people are assured of a good irrigation season this year. Captain A. W. Gowan of Burns, former member of the state senate, is in Portland to attend the irrigation congress. He is also an applicant for a position in the land office at Burns and is incidentally building a few political fences to that end while in the city.

Dr. J. W. Morrow, democratic national committeeman for Oregon, returned home yesterday from a sojourn at Paso Robles springs, Cal. The doctor returned in time to attend the statewide conference of democrats and the special meeting of the state central committee, which will be held today.

B. W. Tillstone of Beulah is an arrival at the Imperial. Beulah is on the north fork of the Malheur river. The nearest shipping point for Beulah, which is on the road to Burns, is Juntura. Around Beulah are a number of warm springs, which some day may be commercialized. There is a fine stock country in that vicinity.

Frank Porter, still a trifle lame as a result of being gored by a bull a couple of years ago, was circulating among his fellow members of the state senate in Portland yesterday.

Frank I. Bevins, a stockman whose postoffice is Gates, Or., is registered at the Perkins.

John O. Bozarth, treasurer of the funds of Bay City, is registered at the Multnomah.

John Burroughs' Nature Notes.

Can You Answer These Questions?

1. Are young birds born with their eyes closed, like kittens?

2. How often should the water in an aquarium be changed?

3. How does hard wood differ from soft wood?

Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

* * *

Answers to Previous Questions.

1. What is a shooting star?

Shooting stars are meteors, thought to be tiny bits of matter, cherry size or smaller, which have been traveling for ages in space, but traveling in regular paths, or orbits, around the sun. At certain points in space their orbits cross the earth's orbit, and the meteor brushes violently against the earth's atmosphere. This friction heats the meteor till it becomes incandescent and visible, burning out in a few seconds.

* * *

2. What makes bulbs grow in pebbles, without any dirt?

Bulbs put out new leaves and blossoms largely as a result of absorbing water, which combines with the food stored in the bulb during the previous season's growth. This is why bulbs often grow well in water in specially shaped glass holders, in wet moss, in wet gravel or in pebbles used simply to support the bulb in a shallow bowl of water.

* * *

3. Is the red bird's name really the Kentucky cardinal?

The so-called red bird is really the cardinal grosbeak, getting its name from the vestments of a cardinal and from its large, heavy beak. It is also called the Virginia nightingale. The "Kentucky" style of its name is said to be due to James Lane Allen's book, "A Kentucky Cardinal."

SUCCESSFUL AS HAND FISHERMAN

Correspondent Avers He Has Caught Smelt Without Appliances.

PORTLAND, Jan. 7.—(To the Editor.)—In an editorial, "Fish as They Are," regarding the wildcat's experience as given in the Saturday Evening Post, you say that "to catch smelt with the hand is pretty difficult if not impossible."

Just a personal experience: Last spring I spent some time on the Washington side of the river off from the Cascades. One day I was told by one of the residents that the smelt were running up the Columbia. He said that he was going to try to catch a few and asked if I wished to go. He took a gunny sack to use as a net and another in which to carry the fish.

He cut a forked stick, to which he affixed one of the sacks for a net. While he was preparing the net I took a number of smelt from the river with my hands. This was a little way below the Cascade rapids. The current is swift, and to avoid the eddies the smelt hug the shore. In the narrow passes between boulders and rocks three or four might be taken in the hand at a time. When the run was on it would have been easy for a person to take by hand all that an individual, a family or an automobile party would want to eat at a sitting. The preparation of such a meal by an automobile party would be a pleasing reminiscence for later days.

This is a feature that Columbia boosters are not exploiting. Perhaps it is as well, though, as smelt are transients that do not announce the day of their arrival or departure. Tourists might come expecting to find them waiting to be caught and be disappointed. It is quite possible to catch smelt by hand in the Columbia if the smelt are there. PICES.

No Curtesy in Insurance.

PORTLAND, Jan. 7.—(To the Editor.)—A woman makes her insurance payable upon her death to a friend. Can her husband claim a curtesy right on it? SUBSCRIBER.

No.

Mortgage and Statute of Limitations.

PORTLAND, Jan. 7.—(To the Editor.)—How long does a mortgage run in Oregon before it is outlawed? SUBSCRIBER.

Ten years.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

PERFECTLY NATURAL.

Police Commissioner Enright of New York city accounted for the crime wave just before Christmas by the assertion that crooks were stealing to get money to give presents to their families and friends.

If Bertram the Burglar should come
to your house,
Sneak into your bedroom by stealth
In the dead of the night, and thereafter take flight
And also your visible wealth;
Should you get excited and call the police
To capture him? Heaven forbid!
Your money he blew for a present or two
For holiday gifts to his kid.

When, climbing the hill to your lowly thatched cot,
A sandbag is bent o'er your head,
And you find, with the dawn, that your pocketbook's gone
And the person who took it has fled,
Don't think with despite of the bandit who plied
That pillow of sand on your dome.
He needed your cash for a holiday splash
For the wife and the kiddies at home.

If Light-fingered Lawrence should go through your clothes
And depart with your watch and your pin,
It will only be fair to endeavor to bear
Your loss with a jovial grin.
For crooks are but human, as other men are;
They like to distribute good cheer,
And they have to be deft in the practice of theft
Whenever glad Yuletide is near.

* * *

Good Judgment.

Why should the senators object to Mr. Harding's choice of a fictionist for a secretary? How sore they'd get if later on they were told just why the president didn't want to talk to them!

* * *

Still Surviving.

As far as we can learn Argentina's withdrawal hasn't busted up the league.

* * *

Hardly Worth It.

Apparently the only way to make Jack Dempsey stop fighting is to start another war.

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In Other Days.

Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 8, 1896.

Havana, Cuba—The country seems to have been abandoned to the insurgent army and people are fleeing in great numbers to this city.

The estimated amount of revenue to be raised this year for expenses of the state will be about $783,000.

John A. Riley, division superintendent of the Bradstreet company, will leave for Los Angeles tonight, where he will establish new headquarters. He is accompanied by Mrs. Riley.

Ten cases of scarlet fever and two of diptheria have been reported to the health officer since January 4, about half of the cases having developed in the schools, which recently resumed session.

One Just as Good Is Found.

Edinburgh Scotsman.

A Scottish woman had had much trouble with her gardeners. She could not find one who was capable of keeping sober.

She appealed to her brother, who promised to do his best to help her. At last he announced that he had found just the man she needed.

"I'll only ask ye one question, James," said his sister. "Is he a teetotaler?"

"Weel," said James, deliberately, "he's no just what ye'd ca' a teetotaler, but he's a mon ye canna fill."

Nationality and Pronunciation.

PORTLAND, Jan. 7.—(To the Editor.) — Please give me the correct pronunciation of the name "Muriel." Also what nationality is Sir Harry Lauder? MRS. E. F. HARMON.

1. Accent first syllable.
2. Scotchman.

Just Five Cents for World News and Superior Magazine Features

From coast to coast The Oregonian is known as one of the foremost American papers. Its daily issues are accurate reflections of events at home and abroad—promptly printed. But its Sunday issues are more than this. Not only are they compilations of all the news, local and foreign, but in addition they comprise such offerings of information and special features as are customarily found only in the best magazines. The Sunday Oregonian is both newspaper and magazine, carefully edited, contributing to the real reading of the day. It is five cents—the most tremendous bargain ever offered the individual reader or the family circle.

Twelfth Annual Automobile Show Section—Just tribute to the importance of the automotive industry is the Twelfth Annual Automobile Show, to be held in this city from January 10 to 15. Recognizing the importance of this mid-winter festival of the motor vehicle, the Sunday issue presents a complete section devoted to the impending show and to the industry generally. With handsomely colored title page and scenic views, with full 16 pages of gasoline gossip, the special show section is a most attractive and interesting feature.

Public Guards Against Fake Advertising—Long years ago the rough and ready vigilance committees of the west passed into romance. But Portland today has a committee no less vigilant, though not so sanguinary and spectacular, which stands between the unscrupulous advertiser and the family purse. In this city it is dangerous business to advertise as "all wool" certain goods that are not of such weave, or to summon the public to sales that do not keep their printed pledges. The organization that performs this invaluable service is the Better Business Bureau of the Portland Ad Club. Read De Witt Harry's interesting illustrated Sunday narrative of the local crusade against fake advertising.

Home Port of "Man o' War."—There have been other turfs and other racers, well beloved, but on any turf in history the greatest race horse of them all, "Man o' War," would have displayed his nimble heels to the field. In the Sunday issue, with illustrations of the famous speedster and his home, Joseph W. Appelgate tells an intimate and sympathetic