Morning Oregonian

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MAKING UP HARDING'S MIND.

No one is privileged to say to President-elect Harding who may or may not be in his cabinet. But, by inference and attitude, not a few persons are saying it. Just what effect the great amount of pulling, hauling and shoving by friends or enemies of various eligibles or possibilities is having on Mr. Harding is unknown. It may have none at all. But it has been assumed, probably erroneously, that it is having a great deal of effect.

The reporters, who are in close touch with the politicians, elect or reject a new cabinet official every day. It is not a bad guess that the rising and falling of the fortunes of the candidates reflects their popularity, or lack of it, with the politicians and the reporters, rather than with Mr. Harding.

Once they all agreed that Mr. Hoover was a probability, and some thought he was a certainty. Then the Hoover movement sagged, with the growth of the opposition, until he was almost unanimously counted out. Now suddenly they have selected Mr. Hoover again, this time for the secretaryship of commerce.

It cannot be long now until it must be known what is to be done by Mr. Harding about Hoover. It is but fair to assume that the uncertainty does not arise out of the condition of Mr. Harding's mind, but of everybody else's.

The peculiar aspect of the Hoover candidacy—if it is to be called a candidacy—is that the decision by Mr. Harding must be for Mr. Hoover or against him. It is different with the others. If Mr. Hughes is named for secretary of state, there is no implication that he did not want, or would not have, Mr. Root, Mr. Knox, Dr. Hill, or any other. If he selects ex-Senator Weeks for the war department, or Lowden for the navy, or Mellon for the treasury, or Wallace for agriculture, it will be because he has thought that a cabinet—a combination of the best minds—could be constructed out of these men, and not necessarily because there were definite and compelling reasons why certain others should not be chosen.

But for Hoover there is no alternative. Mr. Harding will either take Hoover or he will not take him. It will mean that the president does or does not want Hoover as his official adviser. It will not solve the problem as to Hoover to give him a job to reconstruct and co-ordinate various government departments. Hoover is not hunting a job, and the country is not anxious merely to give him one. What the nation at large desires is that Mr. Hoover have a voice in the new administration, be a factor in determining its policies, and an agency in carrying them out.

It will not do merely to put Hoover to work for Mr. Harding. What is wanted is for Mr. Harding to invite Mr. Hoover both to work and counsel with him, and to speak to him and with him for the people.

7 P. M. OR 5 A. M.?

Victor Murdock, former representative in congress from Kansas, offers a thought-provoking contribution to the philosophy of getting ahead in the world in an article on "The Hour of Fate." Mr. Murdock discusses the subject from the point of view of the young man between fifteen and twenty-five and concludes that 7 P. M. is the "springboard from which most men leap to success or fall off to failure." Varying the metaphor somewhat, he concludes that it is also the fork in the road, one of which leads to character and the other to the lack of it.

The logic of the Murdock argument is convincing. To a majority of men, he says, the hour of 7 in the evening marks the end of work and the beginning of leisure, and it is the hour when a man makes a choice of the kind of leisure he is going to have. "If he turns to the leisure that means improvement to his mind, his body and his soul, he wins; if he turns to the pleasure-feeding frivolities he loses." We do not need to be reminded that genius is 99 per cent hard work; the definition in various paraphrases has done excellent service in its day. Nor that a vast deal depends on how men dispose of their time. The winner is always the man who employs his time advantageously, whether it be in study, or in recreation that to the loafer would look like work, or in building up and conserving his health and strength.

The claims of another fateful hour, however, claim consideration. A good deal may depend on what a young man decides on doing at, say, about 5 A. M. At this also fateful hour, when the dew is on the rose and the morning breezes blow refreshingly from beyond the verdured hills, he is confronted with the choice between springing briskly into his morning tub and thereafter hustling out in search of the early worm, and turning over lazily for just one more snooze, which, once the habit is upon him, may easily be indefinitely prolonged. Almost any hard-working genius will tell him that the morning hours are the hours for getting things done. Thomas A. Edison, and Napoleon and the Duke of Wellington were early risers, and Columbus got up with the dawn. It is impossible to imagine these men wasting their lives in bed, or, having formed the work habit in the early morning, find it very unnecessary to ponder long over the use they would put their evenings to. The question what to do with leisure is likely to answer itself when a good day's work is done.

There are, between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five, as Mr. Murdock reminds us, 3130 week-day 7 P. Ms. But 7 P. M. has nothing on 5 A. M., statistically speaking. We would not deprecate the value of decision reached after a day's work is done, but we would point out that procrastination is the thief of time, as the copy book used to remind us. In the race for preferment the young man who makes up his mind to be up and doing at 5 A. M. has a good fourteen hours' start over his 7 P. M. brother. And there are, in the 3130 week days of the youthful calendar, some 43,820 such working hours. These having been advantageously employed, as has been suggested, the remainder of the young man's problem ought to present no difficulties.

JUDGE LANDIS AND HIS JOB.

The scandal of Judge Landis' employment as baseball pooh-bah does not consist so much in the fact that he is associated with a "trust" as in his private service in any capacity for remuneration for a very large annual salary.

What would be said and thought, for example, if Judge Gilbert, or Judge Bean, or Judge Wolverton should undertake for hire as an avocation to manage a public utility, or a private monopoly, or even an ordinary business concern of large dimensions at a great salary, or any salary? It is unthinkable that they would do it. It should be unthinkable that any federal judge would cheapen himself and soil the judicial ermine by doing it.

Judge Landis has achieved for himself a unique notoriety as a grand-stander. His censure of certain bankers because they did not pay more than $90 per month to a nineteen-year-old youth in a country town, with the practical acquittal of the clerk of blame for his embezzlement, is a good illustration. His $25,000,000 fine of the Standard Oil company is another. His record has many such instances.

It is mere commonplace to say that a federal judge, or any judge, owes it to the nation or the state to separate himself from all ties, or entanglements, or engagements which would tend to embarrass him in the administration of justice, or give rise even to the thought of it in the most suspicious mind.

Judge Landis is taking $42,500 a year to help Judge Landis, not baseball. Because of that fact, he has disqualified himself as a judge.

A HOUSE PROVOKED.

It will be admitted, we think, that reasonable effort has been made in the legislature to find a compromise that would satisfy those who would restore the Portland school board to its rightful dignity and control over the schools, and those who would continue to deprive it of authority to dismiss teachers who care to resist dismissal. But the very competent lobby working in behalf of the teachers' organization has resisted every compromise. It has rejected the proposal that the board be given power to dismiss only by vote of four out of five members. It has even rejected a referendum to the voters.

It is, therefore, worth the guess that the measure now presented in the house comes forth with a trifle of impatience on the part of members who have watched the unproductive proceedings in the senate. The final proposal in that body that a commission be appointed to investigate and report to the next legislature provokes impatience. Investigate what? Investigate how? The facts are already clearly established. The principals, who are charged with every-day observance of teaching efficiency, endorse through their organized body a change in the law. Could any sort of a commission find out anything that the principals have not found out? The investigation scheme fools nobody. It is an awkward attempt at graceful escape from responsibility.

It cannot be charged that the house measure, even though its introduction signifies revolt against the lobby, ignores the rights of the teachers. It adds two members—well known women—to the school board and requires the vote of five of the seven members to dismiss without the right of appeal. If four—a simple majority—vote to dismiss, the teacher may appeal to a commission as at present constituted. Clearly no opportunity is given the board for arbitrary action.

Here we have a bill that has for its sponsors ten of the Multnomah members of the house—all but three of the county's delegation. It is a pretty sizable revolt. Let us hope that it is all that it signifies—that it is a determined movement to settle the issue, as it ought to be settled.

THE RETARDED STAR OF EMPIRE.

The center of population of the United States continues to move westward, but at a decreasing rate. The estimate of the census bureau that it has progressed 9.8 miles in this direction since 1910 represents the smallest gain for the west as a whole since the first census was taken, in 1790. In that year the population center was situated twenty-three miles east of Baltimore. By the next census, in 1800, it had moved to a point eighteen miles west of Baltimore.

Thereafter the movement was rapidly accelerated. During the last decade of the life of Daniel Boone, who died in 1820, it moved from a point forty miles northwest of Washington, D. C., to a point sixteen miles north of Woodstock, Va., fifty miles in all. Land hunger was the power behind the trend away from the seaboard then. Americans were mainly an agricultural people, and immigration of a character that was later to add greatly to the industrial population of the larger cities had not set in. Thereafter the movement continued steadily in the same direction. In the decade of the forties it was stimulated by adjustment of the northwestern boundary question and the fifties reaped the result of the gold rush to California. The period of heaviest proportionate westward movement was that between 1850 and 1860, when the border states began to loom large in national politics and the Oregon country was receiving its first important accessions. The population center moved eighty miles in that decade, and forty-four in the next, the latter period including the civil war. The dull times of the early nineties were reflected in the smallest change reported in any decennial period previous to the one just recorded by the census bureau.

There is close association between checking of the westward drift and increasing proportion of city dwellers in the population as a whole. Failure to devise a satisfactory method of distributing immigrants on their arrival at Atlantic ports is also responsible for the relative congestion of the east. Yet westerners may be able to console themselves with the thought that it is quality, rather than quantity, of population that counts.

PROVED.

The public may be a trifle uncertain as to just what the Portland Ad club proved by its great midwinter excursion to Clatsop beach; but it need not be in any sort of doubt. It demonstrated conclusively once again that the Ad club is made up of game sports. We should like to find a less slangful characterization; but it eludes us. Game sports is correct, anyway.

The original idea was that the world should be made to know that an Oregon beach is a winter resort. Boreas, who plays no favorites—he doesn't play at all, with game sports or any other kind—intervened with a snow shower—not a storm, of course, for the snow never storms in Oregon. It just trickles. It was the first of the winter—at least the first any true Ad Clubber will admit to have happened. It was almost two inches deep. To adventurers less intrepid than the Adders it might be a dreadful experience. As it was, it was turned into a grand lark.

Once upon time the Ad men gathered in mass formation on the streets of Portland in midwinter with straw hats on their heads. With commendable zeal, with sad lack of discretion, they planned to tell the world that Portland in January is really a summer resort which had Santa Barbara faded and the Bermudas backed off the map. There was then also a very unhappy hyperborean intervention; and Straw-hat day passed shiveringly into history.

But this time the Great Thought became a fact. Clatsop beach—every Oregon beach and Washington beach—is a winter resort. The rigors of the season are mild there, bathing is possible for those who like that sort of thing, the beaches are available for bonfires or clams or vacationists, and the man or woman who cannot enjoy himself in comfort, outdoors, would be dissatisfied and miserable in Paradise.

MANY ANGLES OF THE TARIFF.

Tariff revision will be found a more complex problem than ever when congress undertakes it. Before the war it was complex enough to make leigslators rack their brains. The old puzzles remain in more involved form, and to them are added others that were not dreamed of then.

At that time we talked of a tariff equal to the difference between American and foreign cost of production. That sounds simple, but there is often as much difference in cost of production between two foreign countries as there is between either of them and the United States. Which country's cost should be taken as a guide or should we strike an average of the principal competing countries and should we leave out of consideration those which competed slightly, though they might grow to importance?

That question has been complicated by radical changes in cost abroad during the last seven years and by the rapid changes which are now taking place. Exchange is low, but rises and falls rapidly. Loss of many skilled workmen, loss of efficiency through labor's discontent and revolutionary agitation, high taxes—all these have raised costs in Europe. On the other hand, adoption of American machinery and standardized quantity production have lowered costs. The great liberated energy of emancipated peoples like the Czechs and Poles, letting loose energy which has been restrained by oppression, may also prove a factor.

We have been awakened by the war to the fact that maintenance at home of certain industries is essential to national defense. Few gave thought to the fact that we were dependent on Germany for dyes, many chemicals, potash, optical glass, surgical instruments, photographic paper. The war informed us that without a dye industry we lacked material for explosives and could wear few colored clothes. Chemicals and potash are also essential to explosives, as are nitrates, for which we had relied on the diminishing supply of Chile—a reminder that in order to fight at all we must command the sea until we could develop home production if an alert enemy should give us time. The government had to buy or borrow field glasses and nautical glasses in order that the growing navy and merchant marine might be navigated and that army officers might not be hopelessly handicapped, and the optical glass industry had to be hastily improved in order that guns might have sights and that airmen might see to great distances. There was a famine of surgical instruments, and they had to be standardized for quantity production by machinery. Photography is necessary to air reconnaissance and to many other war activities, but we made little or no photographic paper and that industry had to spring into sudden life.

Whatever may be decided about the size of the army and navy and about compulsory training, the people are determined that never again will they be dependent on a possible enemy for these essentials of their defense. Then domestic production of such commodities must be fostered, that it may not only live but may grow as our needs grow. But that raises danger of great monopolies, or combinations of a few manufacturers in each line, which would charge extortionate prices under threat to shut down and leave the nation defenseless at some vital point. Britain has met that difficulty as to dyes by accompanying an import tariff with a system of licensing imports by which the executive could block dumping by Germany in order to kill off competitors and could hold down domestic prices to a reasonable level.

Formerly the purpose of a republican tariff was to hold imports in check, and congress could legislate to this end without giving much attention to our export trade, for it consisted almost entirely of commodities that other nations must have and could get in adequate quantity nowhere else. But our productive capacity has far outgrown our domestic needs and we must sell the surplus abroad in order to keep our industries employed. If we place high duties on other nations' products, they will retaliate against our exports. They are more inclined to protection than ever, for they rely on industrial expansion for recovery from effects of war. Further, there is a large annual balance of trade in our favor, whereas the balance was formerly against us, and it can be paid in goods only, for all except a few neutral nations are too poor to pay in any other form. If congress should set about drawing a protective tariff bill in the old way, it would legislate to prevent our debtors from paying their debts and would involve us in a furious tariff war.

Nor can we act on the tariff without regard to the German reparation indemnity. In order that the allies may pay us, Germany must pay them, and Germany cannot pay except by exporting goods in great quantities. In the course of world trade, these goods, or much of them, will come to us directly. If we exclude them by a high tariff, we shall obstruct sale of American materials out of which Germany will make them and shall obstruct collection of our claims. Yet the German government assists a drive for recovery of foreign trade that has been captured by the United States and the Allies. Its ratio of taxation and rates on government railroads are far below those of France and Britain and foreign trade is subsidized, enabling manufacturers to undersell other nations, and in consequence of this policy and of the placing of discharged army officers on the government payroll, the budget shows a huge deficit and the government makes the bankrupt's plea that it cannot pay.

In order to protect themselves against the dishonest device by which Germany seeks to defeat them in trade competition and to elude its war obligations, the allies demand a 12½ per cent duty on German exports, to be paid into the reparation fund. German manufacturers combine to dump goods on foreign markets at cut prices until foreign competitors are driven out of business, and their government bears half the cost. In order to beat these German tricks, our tariff-makers must find a way to protect our industries, especially those necessary to war, and to prevent dumping and deadly competition, yet must take the export duty into account and must leave Germany a wide enough field for trade with this country in order that it may pay its debts.

It will be evident that the Utopia of the free trader, where each country produced that which it produced cheapest and best and sold it everywhere without tariffs to pay, has vanished. It is equally evident that the old methods of the protectionist are out of date. Congress must continually steer so that in avoiding Scylla on the one side it does not crash on Charybdis on the other hand. Economic conditions change so often and so much that the rigid schedules of a congress-made tariff would probably be obsolete before it became law. In order to meet those changes, especially to counteract dumping, it seems necessary to delegate power to vary duties to a tariff commission, as Canada does to the privy council and as other countries do to other executive bodies. Probably most of our duties will hereafter be levied under reciprocity treaties, by which nations trade for entrance to each other's markets. Certainly we are so entangled with other nations by foreign trade, shipping, war debts and reparation claims that we cannot tear ourselves apart.

Professor James Dryden will leave Oregon for scenes of greater activities, but Oregon will have first place in his heart, for within its bounds he has done great work with the hen. He made poultry husbandry at the Oregon Agricultural college the standard of the nation because he produced results, not the least of which was an egg a day to the hen.

The Bryan who more than a half century ago planted in Georgia what is now the largest apple tree in the country is not the great commoner, for this one is about to celebrate his eightieth birthday. There still is opportunity for "our Mr. Bryan" to do something that will put him in the news notes early in the next century.

A Klamath Indian has been indicted for striking his wife on the head with a clawhammer. You've got to lift your hat to the wife of the 1921 aboriginal who can drag her man three or four hundred miles into a federal court for a family row. She's some heap squaw and heap skookum, too.

Harney wants a strip of Malheur county to build thereon a road around a mountain and the county judges fixed it. The legislature settled the matter. There is a hint to that part of Clackamas that wants to get into Multnomah, only something heavier than a hint must drop.

"As drunk as a lord" was exemplified here when a man asserting he was "Lord Cotton" was picked up in an intoxicated condition in an automobile.

No court was handy to forbid the mayor of Raymond from preventing Smith to talk Saturday night and Smith did not talk.

When a man's head is empty and not an idea in it, he still can talk of war between the two big English-speaking nations.

They seem just to be finding out that Oregon-grown spinach possesses the vitamines needed for baby's growth.

Generally Baker is first to announce a Fourth of July celebration, but this year Riddle claims the date.

It was "Remember the Maine!" until greater happenings, but we remember the Maine just the same.

Landis was wrong in turning loose an embezzler. Out here he would be sentenced and paroled.

This is indeed the winter of our discontent and the only winter we have.

The four-day week is not a dream of railroad men in Eugene.

BY-PRODUCTS OF THE PRESS

Mate Is Drink, Confection or Cigarette, Says Sponsor.

Jose Custodio Alves de Lima, Brazil consular inspector for Central North America and Asia, who is passing the winter in Syracuse, N. Y., is deeply interested in the findings of Stephen M. Hoye of New York, as pertains to greater use for mate, which has been produced in South America for 350 years, says the Syracuse Post-Standard. Mr. de Lima and Mr. Hoye discussed the matter at some length in New York a few days ago.

Mate, it appears, is best known as a tea. Mr. Hoye says that it would take $1,000,000 worth of propaganda to make it a popular drink with the 100,000,000 people of this country, were an attempt made to put it on the market in the form of a tea leaf.

This being the case, Mr. Hoye has set upon another solution of the future consumption of mate. He makes a beverage approaching in appearance Bass' ale or Guiness' stout, and also a tablet which can be placed in a cup and made acceptable as a beverage by pouring on hot water. The product is also used as a confection and for cigarettes. The mate cigarette, it is said, possesses little nicotine. It is much cheaper than American grown tobacco. Another use which can be made of mate, according to Mr. Hoye's deductions, is a food product for animals.

Mate comes from a shrub and grows in South America without care. Such being the case the raw material can be obtained at a low price. The leaves are from six to eight inches in length and the growth is greatest in the semi-tropical zone of South America. Mr. De Lima says that the cowboys drink mate freely out of a cuia (big bowl) down in Rio Grande de Sol, and Argentina and Chile import 700,000 bags annually from Brazil. He believes the way is paved now to bring it to the United States.

* * *

Skirts may reach 12 inches above the ground, but waists must be cut not lower than five inches in the back and five inches low in the front.

That is the ideal dress for a woman, according to the Rev. C. P. Harry, a Philadelphia Lutheran minister, who was the irst to answer the questionnaire sent out by the "dress reform committee," asking for the opinions of 1100 Philadelphians on what should and should not be worn by women, judging from a moral viewpoint.

The preacher objects to the sleeveless gown, but concedes the silk stocking. The diaphanous or peek-a-boo waist is taboo and also the tight-fitting garment which shows the wearer's form.

In answer to the question, "Do you believe the gowns worn by women (this includes girls) of today are harmful morally?" the Rev. A. J. Arkin, rector of St. George's Protestant Episcopal church, says:

"There are other causes for immorality. Not women's dresses but men's minds and hearts are back of immorality. If dress is cause for immorality, then there is no reason why regulation should be restricted to women only."

"Do you believe the extreme in dress is worn by women to attract masculine attention?" the questionnaire reads.

"Yes, and naturally so. But man must use his will," replies Mr. Arkin. Then he concedes that perhaps women's opportunities for marriage might be affected by the question of dress.

* * *

Duncan Nicol, for half a century owner of the Bank Exchange, or, better, "Pisco John's" resort of wanderers of the seven seas and of San Franciscans, is not asleep in the lap of a bygone age. Not by a jugful of Pisco punch. For Duncan Nicol is taking a course at the automotive school of the Young Men's Christian association.

Pages might be written of the life of Duncan Nicol and if the history of "Pisco John's," and at every line someone in San Francisco, or Singapore, or Paris, would bob up and say: "Why, I was there that night." Step into the foyer of the Hotel Cecil in London and inquire in a loud voice the location of "Pisco John's," and from a dozen throats will come the reply: "Southeast corner of Montgomery and Washington streets, San Francisco, America."

That is the kind of a place Duncan Nicol ran.

The Bank Exchange opened in the '50s and in the '70s came Duncan Nicol penniless and lonely, a boy from Glasgow, Scotland. He was not long penniless or lonely, for Duncan Nicol possesses your true Scotch canniness, and he is a man among men. He took over the Bank Exchange and the great men of the day became his friends. The discussion of a $1,000,000 mine purchase over the drinks at the Bank Exchange was as nonchalant as the discussion of a crepe de chine purchase over the modern strawberry sundae.

Then came the Pisco punch. Duncan Nicol cannot remember when he invented the Pisco punch. Duncan Nicol knows what is in Pisco punch besides Pisco brandy from Peru—no one else does.

The Bank Exchange became the resort of the gentle and the elite of San Francisco and of the world. Because Duncan Nicol would permit no taint of rowdyism to become attached to his place, it became a privileged house where women might drink at the bar. At one time the famous painting "Samson and Delilah" hung over the bar of the Bank Exchange. It was purchased by M. H. de Young and today it hangs in the De Young memorial museum in Golden Gate park.

At length came prohibition, and with its coming passed "Pisco John's." But Duncan Nicol is anything but a memory. Although he is 70 years old, he is a living fact. When prohibition came he went with Mrs. Nicol to Scotland to visit the scenes of his boyhood.

"Ah, but even there," he says, "prohibition is on the way. It is a changed world."—San Francisco Chronicle.

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According to statistics issued by the British air ministry, a foreign trade amounting to over £1,000,000 (normally $5,000,000) has been transacted by British commercial aeroplane service since its inception in August, 1919. Exports by air routes from Great Britain totaled £344,876, while imports amounted to £685,054. The figures are to the end of November, 1920. The trade is with the continent and the bulk of the imports were from France.

Those Who Come and Go.

Another of the thousands of complimentary remarks about the Columbia river highway was made yesterday by a man who saw its wonders for the first time. He is G. A. Booth, now retired, one of the east's "big business men." He is a Buffalo resident now, who is touring the United States, purely for pleasure, with H. W. Allen, also of Buffalo. "Your highway is marvelous," said Mr. Booth yesterday afternoon at the Multnomah. "I can well imagine what it must be like in summer time on a clearer day. I have traveled a great deal, but I have never seen anything to compare to it. I just can't say too much about it. I enjoyed the trip thoroughly. I'd rather not have to talk about business after seeing such a wonder as that. I have found on my trip west that business conditions in general are much the same in all parts of the country. Of course, many large plants have closed and business is rather tight, but I think that within the next few months conditions will be more nearly normal." Mr. Booth and Mr. Allen will leave this morning for California and return by way of the south to Chicago and then go home.

"The preaching of the day is not reaching the average young man and woman," said O. F. Jacobi of the Moody Bible institute of Chicago yesterday at the Seward. "Many of them are in strange towns, away from home influences. They are looking for something more solid than is given them in the average pulpit. They find it in the teachings of the Bible. The tendency of the times is for people to wander about rather aimlessly, often forgetting the teachings they learned at home. Every night I see many young people on the streets apparently with no definite place to go. Although outwardly these and many older men and women, successful business men, do not care anything about religion, inwardly they are looking for something to which to anchor. They are looking for support." Mr. Jacobi has been making his home in Seattle for seven years, where he has had a class of 265 boys from the ages of 17 to 23 each Sunday. This is the largest class of its kind on the Pacific coast.

J. S. Hansell, whose headquarters are at Portland and Seattle, will leave this morning for Bay City, Texas, by way of Denver. He is interested in leases in an oil field in Texas. This county borders on the gulf of Mexico. Mr. Hansell plans to start operations on a large scale on a lease adjoining a field now being developed by the Southern Pacific Railway company and also adjoining property of the Gulf Sulphur company. This property is situated, he says, in gusher territory. "We are hoping for the best, but we can't tell just how things will turn out," he said yesterday at the Oregon. Mr. Hansell plans to return to Portland in about three months, after the development work has reached a satisfactory stage.

Forest supervisors from Oregon and Washington are here this week for a seven-day conference to discuss problems of interest in their work. Registered at the Multnomah, where the meetings are being held, are N. F. McDuff of Eugene of the Cascade national forest, L. B. Pager of Republic, Wash.; John C. Kuhns of Walla Walla, Wash., Umatilla forest; Vernon V. Harpham of Prineville, Or., Ochocho forest; C. C. Reid, Republic, Wash., Colville forest, and E. H. McDaniels, Grants Pass, Or., Siskiyou forest. This is the first time that so large a conference has been held. The former plan was to have sectional conferences.

The man who is responsible for starting Oregon's first annual prune week was in Portland yesterday at the Imperial. He is O. H. Kurtz of Salem, a prune grower, who first got the idea of interesting all of Oregon and the United States as well in one of the state's standard products. Mr. Kurtz believes thoroughly in prunes and tells his friends about their value whenever he gets a chance.

Colonel E. J. M. Nash, special representative in the United States of the Royal Mail Steam Packet line of London, England, is in Portland to look over the shipping situation. He will inspect the freight field here and Portland's municipal terminals. With him is Assistant Manager F. M. Volk of the Holland-American line. They are at the Benson.

Edward B. Dorsey of White Salmon, Wash., was at the Oregon yesterday with his wife and daughter. They are returning from a trip to Long Beach, Cal. Mr. Dorsey says he is so accustomed to sunshine by now that he forgets to take his overcoat when he leaves the hotel for a brief walk in Oregon's mist.

R. Jacobs of San Francisco, who formerly made Portland his home, was here yesterday from San Francisco at the Imperial. He is looking after his property interests in this city, as is his custom on his semi-annual visits. He lived in McMinnville for nearly 20 years and has many friends in the state.

Prominent members of the Knights of Columbus who were at the Portland over the week-end were F. W. Horskey and W. Eagles of Albany, W. O. Barrett, former state commander of the order, also an Albany citizen, was at the Portland yesterday. Mr. Barrett is a hardware and implement dealer.

J. F. Ives, general manager of the Stimson Mill & Lumber company at Seattle, is here on a business trip. He reports that he expects the lumber business to open up considerably in the next two or three months. He is registered at the Multnomah.

Eight residents of Wenatchee, Wash., motored to Portland yesterday in three separate parties. All are at the Seward. They are Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Canby, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Cox, D. M. Taylor, H. F. Morgan, Gorge H. Farvell and A. D. Farvell.

Two prominent Hood River residents at the Seward are E. O. Blancher and O. B. Nye. Mr. Blancher is president of the First National bank in Hood River and Mr. Nye is one of the officers of the apple growers' association.

Colonel F. H. Lawton, U. S. A., who has been inspecting camps and schools in the west, left the Perkins yesterday for California. His headquarters are in Washington, D. C.

G. F. Comstock of San Francisco, building engineer, who has had charge of the construction of several Portland structures, is in Portland for a few days at the Oregon.

The Stanford university basketball team left the Multnomah yesterday on its way north to play Washington State college at Pullman today.

Receipt for Rent.

PORTLAND, Feb. 14.—(To the Editor.)—If a receipt for room rent reads from the 1st to the 15th, what date and hour would the rent become due? Is there such a thing as room rent coming due at 12 o'clock at night?

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

If your rent is paid to the 15th of the month, your term expires on the 14th at midnight. The new term begins, accordingly, at the same time.

INDEBTEDNESS 55 YEARS OLD

One City Bond Issue Now Outstanding Has Ancient History.

PORTLAND, Feb. 14.—(To the Editor.)—A short news item in yesterday's Sunday Oregonian reminded Portland taxpayers that they are still paying interest on bonds issued to pay for the original Morrison street bridge, which was demolished in 1904, and that for nearly 30 years they have been paying interest on bonds issued by the former city of East Portland in 1891 for the construction of a light plant.

While the foregoing bonds and other bonds have been a charge on the taxpayers for interest for many years and will ultimately be a redemption charge, they are not the oldest issues upon which interest is being paid. This honor belongs to the item of $56,500 appearing at the top of the city's financial statement of September 15, 1920. These bonds were issued May 1, 1903 for the purpose of redeeming outstanding bonds. They bear 4 per cent interest and will be due May 1, 1928. The history of these bonds can be traced back to 1866.

In May, 1866, the city council, by ordinance authorized the standing committee on river improvement to make a loan of not more than $40,000 for five years at 12 per cent or less for the purpose of improving the Willamette river. Under this authority bonds to the amount of $20,000, bearing 10 per cent, were issued for five years.

In May, 1871, the council, under an authority to issue $80,000 of ten year, 10 per cent bonds for the purpose of purchasing a public park, erecting a police building and retiring the river bonds of 1866, actually sold $56,500 of ten year, 10 per cent bonds. Out of the proceeds of this sale the $20,000 of river bonds issued in 1866 were redeemed.

In 1881 the $56,500 bonds were reissued for 10 years at 6 per cent, and in 1891 for another ten years at the same rate. When the bonds fell due in 1901 the holders of them allowed them to run two years longer. Had the city made a new issue to redeem them it would have had to pay 6 per cent under the charter then in force. Therefore, it waited until the charter of 1903 went into effect, when it issued $56,500 bonds payable in 1928 and called in the old bonds.

When the $56,500 is paid off in 1928, one part, amounting to $20,000, will have been a charge on the taxpayers of Portland for 62 years, and another part $36,500 for 57 years. It is interesting to review the cost of this financial transaction. The following tabulated statement gives the figures:

Interest on $20,000, May 1, 1866, to May 1, 1871, five years at 10 per cent	$ 10,000
Interest on $56,500, May 1, 1871, to May 1, 1881, 10 years at 10 per cent	56,500
Interest on $56,500, May 1, 1881, to May 1, 1891, 10 years at 6 per cent	33,900
Interest on $56,500, May 1, 1891, to May 1, 1903, 12 years at 6 per cent	40,680
Interest on $56,500, May 1, 1903, to May 1, 1928, 25 years at 4 per cent	56,500
Payment of principal May 1, 1928	56,500
Total	$254,080

If we deduct the $10,000 interest on the river bonds of 1866, it will be seen that the refunding and other bonds amounting to $56,500 issued May 1, 1871, will have cost the taxpayers when they are finally redeemed on May 1, 1928, the sum of $244,080, or nearly four and one-half times their original face.

Nothing said above is intended as a reflection upon or a criticism of the city administration. All the issues and reissues above outlined were made years before the city created its present sinking funds. The facts stated merely illustrate the point that when bonds are issued they must be finally paid some time, even after most of two-thirds of a century has elapsed.

HENRY E. REED.

PROPERTY HEAVILY BURDENED

Mounting Taxes and Increased Utility Rates Discussed.

PORTLAND, Feb. 14.—(To the Editor.)—We taxpayers are glad to hear the support of The Oregonian. With an increase in taxes of 85 per cent from the high line of last year covering the district around Oak Grove I have no idea we are different from any others. Collectors, when you ask why the increase, remark: "You vote money for everything and it has to be raised as asked. If you do not stop somewhere you will go bankrupt."

Many are out of employment and the returns from property are coming down. Why should we listen to public officials, who are very anxious for positions at primary times? There are numerous candidates then, but as soon as elected they see need of an increase in salary and office expense. Why do so many office holders show no concern as to expenditure of public funds? They seem to look at it as they would a river they needed water from—that the amount is unlimited?

Our public service commission was elected to represent the people, but that they have never done. Have just allowed an increase in gas rates that amounts to 100 per cent or over on heating gas to the average householder. (The gas company will acknowledge it if pinned down). But your bill will show it. This increase is allowed on a declining labor market and a heavy decline in fuel oil.

This same state commission has virtually promised an increase in phone rates (after two heavy raises) in face of a falling labor and material market. Probably the telephone company, like the gas company, will be out with a prospectus showing what a good thing its bonds and stocks are, as they earn several times the interest charges. We who pay the phone and gas rates do not see the reason for allowing a rate that is several times the interest charges. It looks to us as if one interest charge on capital, expense of business which is deducted, and a small earning on business, are enough in these times when everybody is burdened.

TAXPAYER AND USER.

Published Tariff Prevails.

OAK GROVE, Or., Feb. 14.—(To the Editor.)—A man shipped a quantity of freight and prepaid the amount required. There was nothing said of any further charges when the goods were called for, but after about four months the agent at this end of the line began writing letters, saying there is a small balance due and threatens to collect. It looks to me like a bluff. Can extra charges be collected after goods have been released and the owner has the bill?

A. C.

Freight rates for interstate hauls are fixed by the interstate commerce commission and for intrastate hauls by the public service commission. These rates are inflexible and a mistake by the agent does not excuse full payment. You are liable for the full amount of the authorized schedule and can be sued for the balance.

Wife's Dower in Property.

BEAR CREEK, Or., Feb. 14.—(To the Editor.)—Is the wife entitled to dower after the husband has deeded her one-half of his property, if nine months after she deserts their children?

R. A.

She is entitled to dower in the property still possessed by the husband, unless separated by decree of divorce.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

A QUANDARY.

"Save up your pennies," said the ad,
"The business situation
Is rapidly becoming bad.
And thrift must save the nation."
And so we rationed our cigars
And other costly follies,
Refrained from buying motor cars
And rode to work on trolleys.
The ridicule of friends we braved
By wearing rubber collars,
And 'n a little while we saved
Five hundred thousand dollars.

Another ad gave this advice:
"Spend Money! Do Not Hoard It!
Thrift Costs Us All Too High a Price!
The country can't afford it!"
So rather than have business crash
To utter ruination,
We saw that all our hoarded cash
Was put in circulation.
On luxuries our coin we blew
Here, there and over yonder,
Till not a solitary sou
Was left for us to squander.

And now another ad makes known
The shortage of production
And bares the fact that thrift alone
Can save us from destruction.
To save our cash in large amount
Its serious advice is,
For only men with bank accounts
Can pass the coming crisis.
But as for us, too well, alas,
The second ad we trusted
The coming crisis we can't pass
For we're already busted.

* * *

Always Busy.

Some lawyers show you how to pay your income tax, but the lawyers most in demand just now are those who can show you how not to pay it.

* * *

Abundance of Work.

One reason why unemployment has not hit New York so very hard is that there are so many jobs to be had on graft investigating committees.

* * *

As Usual.

It looks as if Henry Ford in his attack on the Jews is only going to make another flivver.

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John Burroughs' Nature Notes.

Can You Answer These Questions?

1. Are sparrows useful things around a farm?

2. Where do honey bees get the wax to build their combs from?

3. I have heard that rabbits, when in fear, or in signaling, use a whistling sound. Is this true or false?

Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

* * *

Answers to Previous Questions.

1. How long can a bird maintain itself on the wing without alighting for rest?

The albatross is a good example of great endurance in flight. The wing spread of the wandering albatross is from 12 to 14 feet across, which gives the bird a sailing surface sufficient to keep it in the air with comparatively little muscular effort, for hours, or even for days without once alighting. The frigate bird, or man-o'-war bird as it is called, is another wonderful aeronaut whose spread of wings and tail keep it sailing aloft for hours. The common swift flies all day without alighting till nightfall, when it takes to a chimney.

* * *

2. When are the flower buds of the blossoming dogwood formed?

The new buds are formed in summer, remaining closed through the winter, and opening in springtime. In the south they open around March, but in the north not until May.

* * *

3. What can be done to stop hiccoughs in a dog that has them apparently as a result of distemper?

Prescriptions for domestic animals, at a long distance, are