

Morning Oregonian

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DO WE LEARN BY EXPERIENCE? There is on the statute books of Oregon a law requiring that all gasoline sold within the state shall meet certain quality standards.

There is no doubt that the present law is not being enforced. It is suspended by common consent. It became necessary to resort to the procedure, which is to be avoided whenever possible.

Now an effort is being made to repeal the undesired and unworkable statute, on the theory that a law that is not to be enforced, ought not to remain on the books.

It will be time to experiment with better means of enforcement. The tests when the plan of leaving the field open to competitive dealing has failed, and it has been shown more-over that the country's supply of crudes is sufficient to meet the demand.

A WAY TO MAKE WAR HUMANE. Poison gas was considered the scene of barbarism when the Germans used it for the first time in the war, but a member of congress who detests war now pronounces its use "one of the most humane methods of fighting."

According to him, "the United States is in a position to use more gas and more deadly gas than all of the other nations in the world combined."

But it was brought out that poison gas was not so deadly after all. The horror was caused by the perfidy of Germany in violating the Hague treaty by its use against nations which kept faith and which trusted to Germany's doing likewise.

As the aim in battle is to disable the enemy's soldiers for further fighting, it is especially to kill them, it is not the most humane in the world.

Sleeping gas might be sent over the line in waves or discharged from shells, and might send the enemy into profound repose. It would then be a sleeping gas, and not a sleeping man.

This might prove not to be as visionary as it seems. The Germans used gas that made men weep, sneeze and itch. Why should not Americans find a gas that puts men to sleep but not that they know of?

ENDORSED BY THE PEOPLE. Endorsements of Senator Chamberlain for appointment on the shipping board are likely to have more weight with President-elect Harding because they come from a number of bodies fairly representative of the people of Oregon.

It is not to be expected that Mr. Harding will pay much attention to the recommendation of a rival candidate made privately by a single member of the company, which is controlled by and therefore is especially interested in a particular port.

REGULATION WITHIN REASON. There is before the city council for consideration an ordinance prohibiting the obstruction of the foyers of public places by persons standing or by the installation of ropes, chains and the like.

LURED ON TO WASTE MILLIONS. From the action of the senate in appropriating \$10,000,000 to continue work on the Muscle shoals dam on the Tennessee river, it is evident that President-elect Harding did not expect to give effect to his policy of "more business in government and less government in business."

PRESCRIPTIONS IN ENGLISH. Whether the interesting practice, affected by some physicians, of writing "I. O. P. C." instead of "I. O. P. C." would be to the patient is to the medicine three times a day, after meals, and whether the calligraphic symbols, "M. et sig." and their ilk, ought to be banished forever from prescriptions is a question which has been the most question with physicians themselves.

People for countless generations have survived and thriven without aid of legislation for their welfare. The world is being well cared for. Much of the object is to create jobs for workers.

THE SACRIFICED OF THE PRESS. One great difficulty in the study of astronomy is to comprehend the immensity of the distances and sizes involved, says John Candee Dean in the Indianapolis News.

Those Who Come and Go. A pioneer of two great mining camps of Oregon in the early days, Jacksonville and Canyon City, is John Barrack of Fairbanks, Alaska, who is at the Portland. Mr. Barrack, who is 81 years young, is very much interested in life and is planning to return to Alaska.

NO POLICY OF ISOLATION. There is small comfort for those people who hope to see Mr. Harding lead the United States into a position of isolation among nations and of hostility to Great Britain in the letter which he wrote to John A. Stewart, chairman of the board of governors of the Sulgrave Institute.

A LINK IN THE STORY OF THE WAR. One by one the missing links in the story of the war are discovered. The latest is the manner in which the French gained the information which shaped the plans for the first battle of the Marne as a victory for the allies to which the defeat of Germany can be traced.

THE CITY OF MORE IS EXHIBITING A progressive and civic spirit in the matter of civic improvement that is worthy of the highest praise.

BERT L. BROWN AND KENNETH WRIGHT were rabbit hunting near White Bear lake. They took a ferret in a gunny sack. The ferret's duty was to drive the rabbits out of their winter quarters.

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