Morning Oregonian

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WORK FOR MR. HUGHES.

Having accepted President-elect Harding's promised appointment as secretary of state, Charles E. Hughes has before him a greater number of more important tasks than any other member of the future cabinet. His labor will be nothing short of stupendous, made so by the two years' delay in deciding the relationship of the United States with the rest of the world and by the complications which that delay has produced.

First will come peace with Germany, bound up with which will be the degree to which this country is to co-operate with the allies in enforcing disarmament and payment of reparation by Germany.

Peace with Austria must follow, and will raise the question whether this country shall endorse the allies' veto on union with Germany and to what degree it shall aid the rehabilitation of that helpless nation.

Separate peace must be made with Hungary, and it will be necessary to decide whether we shall interfere so far with its internal affairs as to forbid restoration of the Hapsburgs, which Herbert Hoover warned the peace conference would be a firebrand setting central Europe aflame with war.

Simultaneously doubtless will be taken up preliminary negotiations for American membership in an association of nations, either by abandonment of the existing league and substitution of a new one or by revision of the Versailles covenant. An effort will probably be made to complete an agreement with the principal powers in time for submission to the league assembly next fall.

Involved with these matters will be settlement of the allies' debt to the United States and to one another, with which the part to be played by the United States in economic reconstruction of Europe is connected.

The United States must decide whether to recognize the soviet government and what precautions should be taken against its revolutionary propaganda.

Demands from the Pacific coast will call for early action on Japanese immigration, for Mr. Harding knows that if exclusion is not arranged through diplomacy by the federal government, more states will act and will thereby complicate the problem and render action by him imperative.

Mexico's call for recognition of President Obregon must be answered. The answer will hinge on the agreement that Obregon is willing to make for compensation for injury done to Americans in the past ten years and for security to lives and property of Americans in Mexico in future.

A dispute with Britain about exemption of American ships from Panama canal tolls may be avoided by diplomacy. Otherwise the promised law to that effect may lead either to arbitration at The Hague or to perhaps the first international lawsuit before the proposed world court.

Certain politicians in Haiti and Santo Domingo are pleading for withdrawal of American troops and for restoration of full independence to those so-called republics. It will fall to Mr. Hughes to consider whether they are more capable of self-government than they were six years ago and, if so, what shall be our future relations with them.

All in all, Mr. Hughes will be a fairly busy man during the next four years. He has the opportunity to make a brilliant success as a statesman. Hitherto his only failure has been as candidate for president, so the omens favor success.

THE NEW TRAFFIC ROUTE.

Diversion of trans-Pacific traffic destined for the Atlantic coast from the all-rail route via Chicago to the rail-and-water route via New Orleans or Galveston is a development from the liberation of ships from railroad control and from the recent advance in railroad rates. In the days when gulf shipping lines were few and were subsidiary to railroads, some kind of agreement would have prevented them from joining the western railroads in making rates which would divert traffic from the central and eastern lines. There are now plenty of ships, they are free from railroad control and they make rates which get the traffic, while railroads are not free to change rates without justifying their action to the Interstate Commerce commission.

Adoption of the new route has probably been encouraged by the policy of the eastern railroads in refusing to reduce import and export rates for their part of the transcontinental haul. As this traffic passes through two zones, the eastern roads must take as a basis 35 per cent advance on the rates existing prior to August 26, but if the haul is entirely within the eastern zone the basis is 40 per cent advance on the old rates. On goods carried by the rail-and-gulf route they get the entire haul between the Atlantic coast and points in the eastern zone. The loss of traffic falls on the roads between Billings and Kansas City in the west and the interior terminals of the eastern roads.

There is an opening also for competition of the rail-and-gulf route with steamers running between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts by the Panama canal. With the shorter rail haul from the Pacific coast to the gulf by comparison with the haul across the continent and with the economy in freight by using the water line and the saving in time on the whole trip, it may prove more economical to use this route than the canal route.

Another of those natural routes of traffic to which the merchant marine law refers is coming into use, and the high cost of transportation leads shippers to seek them with growing diligence. That fact prompts railroad men to study the same subject closely with a view of adjusting their rates and through traffic connections to them. If they should not, they might discover that, while their rate tariffs gave them a net return of 6 per cent, it was only on paper, as the traffic that was to produce it had faded away.

A MARE'S NEST.

The teachers' tenure law, it is now asserted, will be invalid because not passed by the house in a proper manner. As might be expected, this alarm is raised by opponents of the bill.

But it appears that the defect, if there is a defect, was the failure to observe a mere rule of the house requiring that a bill shall be printed and placed on the members' desks at least three days before passage. Let it be emphasized that this is a house rule, not a constitutional requirement. The supreme court of Oregon has held:

> Courts in Oregon will not question the enactment of an enrolled legislative bill, properly signed and filed, except to ascertain whether the records of the legislative bodies show that the constitutional requirements have not been fulfilled; and unless it affirmatively appears that the mandatory provisions of the constitution have been disregarded the law will be sustained.

It is not charged that any mandatory requirement of the constitution has been disregarded. If courts took judicial knowledge of rules of convenience and procedure voluntarily adopted by house and senate, and considered faithful adherence to them a condition precedent to the legal enactment of laws, courts would spend most of their time searching behind the records and many laws would fail because some trifling formality had not been observed.

The tenure law has passed. It is well to abandon foolish pretense and make the best of it.

AN AFFAIR FOR THE NATION.

Sound judgment was exercised by the Oregon senate in rejecting the bill which forbids aliens disqualified for citizenship to own or lease land in Oregon. The bill was aimed at the Japanese and was designed to prevent their settlement in this state, when in fact questions of immigration are solely within federal jurisdiction.

The only plausible excuse for action by the state would be that a pressing emergency existed and that neglect or refusal of the government to act made it advisable for the state to goad the president into action. That excuse is not valid at the present time. Japanese are not coming in such numbers as to create a menace. President Harding has given a public pledge to pursue a policy in harmony with the wishes of the sponsors of the bill, and the leaders of congress are pledged to legislate on immigration at the extra session in accord with that policy. Oregon should rely on the new administration to live up to those promises, and should give it reasonable time to make good before acting independently.

In the present situation of this nation and of the world at large, it becomes us all, in connection with affairs of both the state and the nation, to avoid friction and to cultivate good will so far as is possible without injury to our interests. In the present instance this can be done by trusting to the methods of diplomacy and to federal legislation on which the president-elect will be in accord with congress. There is no question that the end sought by the house bill is to be desired; the only question is by what road that end shall be reached. The decision is, so far as Oregon is concerned, that the federal road is better.

GIVING THE INDIAN HIS RIGHTS.

Tuberculosis is increasing among the Indians. It may be that abandonment of the tepee is largely responsible for this. It is pretty well known that the properly constructed tepee is hygienically nearly ideal. It is not a mere affair of poles covered with skins, but has provision for circulation of fresh air that is superior to that of a good many modern dwelling houses and it obviates drafts. When Lo was persuaded to move into a modern house he did not thereby prolong his life, although in other respects modern hygiene has done something for him. He is now protected against epidemics, like those which exterminated some of the early tribes on the Pacific coast, and by discontinuing the use of the death-dealing "sweat-house" he may have gained as much as he lost when he gave up the tepee, but this result might have been accomplished as well without forcing him prematurely to rely on his own resources in other ways.

Economic independence is the white man's dream, not, however, valued as highly or understood in the same sense by the Indian. When the early fur traders appeared in the Mandan villages a little before the time of Lewis and Clark's sojourn there, they found the tribesmen too prosperous after their own manner to be beguiled with offers of trade for beaver skins. They had all they wanted and saw no reason why they should go trapping at the behest of new masters. This represented the height of economic independence, and no Indian so situated would have changed places with any paleface millionaire. Now the Indian, to be self-sustaining according to the white man's definition, must toil methodically, and lay something by for the proverbial rainy day, and accumulate property that a few generations ago would only have furnished a motive for a potlatch.

A point that friends of the Indians seek to emphasize is that in their efforts to impose new conditions on their former wards the whites may not have taken sufficient account of desires of the Indians themselves. Safeguards have been withdrawn without compensating substitutes. The average Indian has not yet fully absorbed the commercial spirit of the white man; he is apt to be prudent only in small matters of trade and wholly incapable in larger affairs. It is contended that he is mostly no match for a crafty and greedy white man in a business transaction, and falls easily a prey to swindlers. It is easier to lecture an Indian on the advantages of thrift than it is to make a competent business man out of him. Indians who have accumulated large property have usually been favored by especial circumstances, such as discovery of oil on their lands, and they are the exception to the rule. It is possible that the Indian contribution to liberty loan funds during the war may have created a false impression, by omitting consideration for the greater number who bought no bonds and in the nature of their capacities for commerce and thrift never will be able to buy them.

The bill pending in congress to confer citizenship on Indians offers an inestimable privilege, from the viewpoint of white American citizens, but it is worth while inquiring whether "every Indian born within the territorial limits of the United States" will be as well served by the measure as he would be by more gradual withdrawal of protection against the wiles of his civilized brethren. Not all whites, of course, are conspiring to swindle Lo, but only a few are enough. Carrying with it the right to dispose of his property as he sees fit, citizenship may be quite the reverse of a boon to him.

WHAT IS A CAPITALIST?

When the air is full of denunciations of capital and capitalism by those who aver that all things are the product of labor alone and who whoop it up for some form of socialism and the dictatorship of the proletariat, much interest attaches to a discussion in the London Times of the question: "What is a capitalist?" The question was asked by Sir Robert W. Perks, who wrote that a foreman on some work in which he was interested was "much worried because his fellow-workmen called him 'a damned capitalist,'" and the foreman asked: "How much money is a working man allowed to save before he can be called such a thing?"

That brought to the front H. M. Hyndman, veteran leader of British socialists, who swept aside as unworthy of notice the foreman's assumption that capital is the savings of labor or, as political economists define it, stored up labor. He said that "a capitalist, economically speaking, is a person who directly or indirectly employs workers and pays them wages in order to make profit out of their labor." This turned discussion to the question: "What is capital?" General Ian Hamilton said Mr. Hyndman's definition of a capitalist "won't quite fit," for, he said:

> I own a farm; I directly employ exservice men there and pay them wages; I hope to make profit out of their labor. But what sort of hope? Just the same sort of hope as I have of playing a golden harp and singing amongst the angels.

Then came Arthur H. Balfour with a distinction between capital and other forms of wealth. He said that when capital is fixed in the form of houses, machinery, tools or anything that cannot be consumed, "all that a man can do is to transfer the use of his capital to another in exchange for consumable goods." The workman who called his foreman "a damned capitalist" "would be astonished to be told that he, as the possessor of the tools of his trade and the furniture of his house, was also a capitalist." He maintains that "only by the use of capital by labor can goods be produced which will pay wages" and he concludes:

> The worker and the capitalist or the controller of capital each gets a profit, called wages for the one, profit for the other, out of the use of capital.

To the same general effect Sir George S. Gibb defined a capitalist as "a person who saves and in consideration of interest, either fixed or variable (profit), uses his savings to employ labor on production by paying wages before the product can be realized or enter into consumption." Without capital there could be "no employment except to the small extent that barter could provide, and even then a worker must have enough capital to maintain himself until the goods can be finished and exchanged for the necessaries of life." J. B. Sturgis said that "a capitalist does not make his profit 'out of' but 'with the assistance of' the labor of his employes," while "the third element of successful production is management.

"Common sense" contends that "a workman's capital is his health" and that when he joins a sick benefit society which has a reserve fund he becomes interested in capital. If he insures his life in a company with sound assets, "he at once becomes a capitalist"; also when he joins a building and loan society. Another writer holds that the term "capitalist" applies to "everybody who has saved and who uses his savings; both to the owner of a factory and to the widow or workman who has bought a war saving certificate."

Mr. Hyndman returned to the charge again by saying that savings came from "profit realized and added to the capital already invested," and that such capital "was accumulated in the first instance from piracy, conquest, conveyance, usury and commerce." He said that "the profit or surplus value now being saved" arises not from wages advanced to the workman but from labor-power advanced to the capitalist, the product being placed at the latter's disposal on credit." He disposed of the argument that every person who saves is a capitalist by saying that "a wage-earner has far less chance of becoming a capitalist in any real sense than ever before, owing to the immensely larger scale upon which capitalist enterprises are now conducted" and that, even if a workman could save $10 a week it would take him fifty years to save $25,000.

A reply came from Mr. Balfour to the effect that industry is controlled, not by the individual capitalist but by brains, and he reduced to an absurdity the denial that capital is the result of saving by saying:

> If the product of every day's work were consumed and none of it saved or turned into capital, man would start each day naked, with nothing but the air to breathe, the earth to stand upon and water to drink.

It could hardly be said that a capitalist is "a pirate or a thief," for "every workingman is nowadays a capitalist."

Next, "an old working man" showed that by saving $10 a week for fifty years at compound interest a man would accumulate $100,000, not $25,000, and he said: "I know, for I have tried it." He had been working for fifty-five years, and he added:

> Such success as I have achieved has not been accomplished by working the smallest possible number of hours nor by producing the smallest possible value in the hours I work.

Discussions such as this are needed for socialists have had too much of their own way. Their case is founded on the assertion that original capital, acquired by various forms of robbery, is used to accumulate more capital out of part of the product of labor which it does not earn. This theory is more readily accepted because capital is now gathered in great blocks by corporations, which people see as units. Yet those corporations are themselves proof that that capital is the savings of labor, for their stock is held in comparatively small blocks by men and women who have invested their savings.

It is doubtless true that much of the capital existing before the present era of great industries and great corporations was the fruit of robbery, yet men worked and saved in former times, and their heirs should not be confounded with the robbers. How is the distinction to be drawn? Further, if there is to be wholesale confiscation of capital because part of it was stolen, according to our present conception of right and wrong, how is any person to know that at some future time some new definition will not be made the ground of a new confiscation? With the incentive to save withdrawn, society might gradually revert to the condition where no part of the product of labor would be saved from one day to the next, and a man would rise each morning naked with nothing but the air to breathe, the earth to stand on and water to drink. Then men would have to begin again on the principle that security in possession of what a man saves from one day to the next is essential to the first step in progress of civilization, which, after all, is the underlying principle of the much denounced system of capitalism.

Discovery within a week of thirty-five cases of typhus on ships arriving in the port of New York emphasizes the need of inspection of immigrants in the ports of embarkation, a service which some European nations seem either unwilling or unable to perform, but which ought to be made a condition precedent to permission to enter the United States. The menace of typhus is not imaginary, and the possibility of controlling it by sufficiently drastic precautions was proved by the fact that in returning the entire American expeditionary forces from the infested districts not a single case was permitted to slip through. Americans cannot say that they were not warned, for Henry P. Davidson of the Red Cross has repeatedly called attention to conditions in southern Europe and health officials in the United States have supplemented his statement with other facts, also undisputable. It would be better to suspend immigration altogether than to permit this post-war scourge to gain a foothold in the country.

The legislature is to be commended for having made reasonable provisions for the Oregon National Guard both through an adequate support appropriation and the enactment of a new military code that takes the Guard out of the reach of politics. The legislature of 1911 took the service out of politics and the results were shown in the two mobilizations that have occurred since that time. During the war period the military code was changed to meet home guard contingencies but now that the nation has fallen back upon the National Guard as its main reliance in case of a national emergency, the service must be raised to the highest possible standards. From a state point of view, the National Guard is to be regarded, too, as a payroll industry which yields in payroll disbursements from the government among the various communities having Guard units a total yearly sum aggregating two dollars for every dollar that the state is required to expend.

A tour of the outskirts shows much early garden work on hand. The man who plants peas on Washington's birthday and potatoes on St. Patrick's day usually has something good to eat ahead of his neighbors who do not.

Pittsburg women have formed a pistol club for defense against burglars. Of course, if one of them happened to hit her husband by mistake any jury would hold that it served him right for coming home so late.

An Ohio judge has had "ankle curtains" built in front of the jury box in his courtroom for the protection of women voters. Judging from current styles the suggestion certainly didn't come from the women jurors.

A plumbing contractor was called to testify in a recent graft investigation in New York and seventeen paragraphers to date have been impressed by the fact that he did so without first going back for his tools.

An osteopathic expert declares that kings and cabbages "are identical and made of the same substance." Despite this assurance, we'll lay our bets on the superior brain power of the cabbage.

The lunatic who shot Patrolman Nolan has gone back where he belongs and a decent idea of the meaning of "safety first" requires that he be kept there.

Luther Burbank's latest achievement is beardless barley. The world may now live in hope of some day seeing a whiskerless bolshevik.

Marion growers, who live in the center of the small-fruit industry, have set the season's price a little high but within reason.

The most popular system of boulevards that can be devised will give everybody a front lot. Otherwise it cannot be popular.

Much good a course in pottery will do at Corvallis. A course in boiling something in the pottery is more to the point.

Dispatches say that Caruso ate a dish of oatmeal with evident relish. He must be a very sick man indeed.

Lloyd George's man won in a parliamentary election in Wales, naturally. Wales is loyal if anything.

Members defend the Oregon system knowing they never could be elected otherwise.

If all the prunes were not cleaned up, do not stop eating them.

A long, long winter will come to an end March 4.

BY-PRODUCTS OF THE PRESS

Snakes Good Mousers, But Too Chummy for Neighbor's Liking.

Arthur Alley, who is operating a placer prospect on Teepee creek, in northern Humboldt county, is an angry man because a neighbor has killed his two snakes, which he kept for mousers instead of a cat.

Alley had had the snakes two or three years, and they were quite tame. On numerous occasions when some prospector, range rider or other wayfarer would stop at Alley's camp and be invited to eat a meal or stay all night, guests have been terrorized by the reptiles.

One day a range rider, sitting at the table, looked past Alley, who sat opposite him. The rider looked hard, and suddenly pulled his gun. Alley knew instantly what his guest intended to shoot at and at the same time he grabbed for the gun, and as he stared to explain he realized how near he had come to being shot.

The reptiles slept under the bed the greater part of the daytime, but were allowed the liberty of the house, and at night they sallied forth in quest of mice. Alley says the snakes are not poisonous, and that they are more valuable as mousers than a cat.

The pets strayed over to a neighbor's recently and, being used to a house, crawled in and made themselves at home. When the owner of the house found them he killed them. He advises Alley to keep a cat hereafter.—Sacramento Bee.

* * *

Greenwich Village has a new poet, says Raymond G. Carroll in his New York letter. His name is Praxiteles Smith and he has bangs and wears horn-rimmed glasses and, gosh, but he's soulful. He first appeared in the favor of the short-haired circles when he wrote his "To a Mad Raindrop," which adorned the menu of the Whistling Cow. Now it is announced that he is to start a new magazine to be called "The Great Light!" He will feed starved brains with pedantic nutriment.

* * *

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" is holding the boards at the Clunie theater in Sacramento, Cal., and the company, recruited from old "Tom Players," in the parlance of the theater, is meeting with a great reception. This type of show has taken a place along with the negro minstrel in lasting drawing power and the Sacramento papers tell of the daily street parades when Liza, Simon Legree and the bloodhounds make the circuit of the city streets.

* * *

Dave Anderson, Petaluma, Cal., chicken rancher, has a trained Airedale whose performance exceeds the famous exploits of the cleverest sheep dogs, says the San Francisco Bulletin.

When Dave discovers one of his egg layers straying from the home place up the road he whistles up his chicken hound, "Dash," and simply gives the following order:

"Go get 'em, Dash."

A streak of brown up the road or into the adjacent field and "Dash" has the stray down with one paw on it, while he obtains a safe but secure jaw hold on its two wings. Then he trots back into the chicken yard with the fowl and deposits it, unharmed, in its pen.

"Dash" is also an egg hound. If one of Anderson's chickens lays an egg under the barn or in some other out-of-the-way place, "Dash" smells out the white sphere, scoops it up carefully in his mouth and runs with it to his master.

* * *

Arnold Pope of Boston tells of a recent amusing incident at the musical show "Sally" which was not on the programme. He said: "When in New York there is nothing that stirs the emotions like the unexpected appearance of a favorite son. The curtain had gone up when suddenly Calvin Coolidge, vice-president-elect, entered the lower right-hand box. His clean-cut look and friendly nod thrilled a number of Massachusetts men in the front of the orchestra. They became quite agitated. So much so that one of them accidentally uncorked a flask carried on the hip. Instantly the atmosphere became surcharged with a dark-brown 100-proof aroma.

"It was agonizing to sit there in the knowledge of the waste. Leon Errol, who was singing and dancing, got one whiff and he quit his lines. He walked to the edge of the footlights, and, searching the first rows with his eyes, lifted an angry finger and remarked: 'One of you chaps down there ought to get 20 years.' It brought down the front of the house, even 'our Cal' joining in the gales of laughter."

* * *

Mrs. J. R. Forbes, the well-known woman traveler, who lately returned to England after wandering for several months from Moscow to Syria, tells a story of her discovery of a tribe of women who live underground. They are to be found in the caves of the Tripoli mountains and come up, says Mrs. Forbes, only once in the course of their lives. That is when they marry and change their abode for that of their husband. Being continually in their underground caves, a remarkable change takes place in their appearance. They become very white in the face, and their eyes become dark and brilliant. As they grow older they are seized with a passion for dyeing their hair with henna. In the daylight these women are almost blind; in fact, they stagger about as though under the influence of drink. Their houses are spacious enough for them to keep all their livestock underground, including their camels.—London Opinion.

* * *

Tom T. Bennett, who is in the legislature at Salem, has an opportunity to do something of infinite value for Coos county, says the Bandon Western World. He can undo a bit of unintentional harm brought about by his grandfather, the late Lord Bennett, who founded Bandon.

Lord Bennett had visions of transplanting from his native town, Bandon, Ireland, a bit of scenery that should be a constant reminder of the land of his youth, so he brought from Old Erin the evergreen Irish furze and planted around his home place overlooking the sea, a hedge. Only too well did his plans succeed. The hedge has since disappeared, but not the Irish furze. So adaptable to the propagation of this plant was the local soil that it has spread and spread until now it has become a serious menace.

It is only right and proper that those suffering from the handiwork of that beloved old gentleman, whose heritage they now enjoy, should look to his grandson for relief.

Those Who Come and Go.

Utilization of the lignite coal of Oregon and Washington in the manufacture of high-grade briquettes is now contemplated by the Centralia Briquetting company, according to its representative R. F. Brown, well-known mining man of the coast, who registered yesterday at the Seward. The company now has its Centralia plant operating for trial purposes and expects to have machinery installed for commercial manufacture by April 1. As soon as the Centralia plant is in operation the company expects to begin work at Marshfield on a plant to utilize coal from the lignite mines located there. A patented chemical binder is utilized in the manufacture of the briquettes in place of the asphalt or tar binder commonly used. The formula utilizes a large quantity of sulphite waste from paper mills and is largely confined to waste products, according to Mr. Brown. Plans for Marshfield include the erection of a plant that will utilize the product of several mines in that region. Ocean transportation opens an extensive market for the Oregon plant, and, according to present plans, the output will be handled almost entirely by water transportation. Future plans, according to Mr. Brown, include the perfecting of a process to remove byproducts of the lignite coal in the manufacture of carbonized briquettes suitable for use in smelter purposes. This angle of the industry will have direct bearing on the exploitation of the iron deposits of Columbia county and other commercial deposits of iron in Oregon and Washington, according to Mr. Brown.

"The present business depression which has caused merchants practically to cease buying in quantities in almost every line has developed a golden opportunity for Oregon and Washington manufacturers if they will grasp it now," declared Emil Marx of Seattle, veteran traveling man of Oregon and Washington yesterday. The peculiar conditions which have practically brought about the severing of business connections of years standing between northwest merchants and eastern manufacturers presents an inviting opening for local manufacturers to introduce their goods. Trade connections once established are practically permanent, Mr. Marx says, so long as the products are of standard quality and attractive price. Although merchants are buying in limited quantities now, the local manufacturers can secure their share of the trade if they will go after it, Mr. Marx declares. The local manufacturer that will put his goods on the shelves of merchants in Oregon and Washington now and build up a demand among consumers by judicious advertising will find when normal times return that he has an established trade in the two states of untold value to him. Mr. Marx at present is handling surplus army contract lines among the jobbers and wholesalers throughout the northwest. He has covered the Oregon territory with one line or another for the past 20 years or more. He came to Portland last week to attend the funeral of his brother, Daniel Marx, formerly of Marx and Jorgensen, a resident of Portland for the past 45 years. Mr. Marx is a native of Alsace. During his stay in the city he is registered at the Oregon.

"The Grants Pass district has experienced the best mining season in years, and everyone is expecting to make a good cleanup," said Dr. W. H. Flanagan, well-known physician of that city, yesterday. Other lines, aside from the lumber industry, have likewise been active, according to Dr. Flanagan. Real estate, especially ranch property, has been in demand, and much selling and trading has been taking place during the past few months. New people have been arriving to locate in the district and business conditions in general have shown a hopeful trend, Dr. Flanagan thinks. Fruit prospects for the coming year are good in practically every line so far as crops are concerned if prices and market conditions adjust themselves by the time the season is at hand. Building in Grants Pass, in common with other places throughout the state, has not yet assumed the proportions that conditions warrant. Dr. Flanagan is registered at the Imperial.

Reorganization of the work of the Archaeological Institute of America throughout the northwest is the object of Professor Louis F. Anderson of Walla Walla, who arrived in Portland with Mrs. Anderson Saturday. Mr. Anderson is vice-president of Whitman college and Professor of Greek. He is secretary of the Archaeological society there and has recently been elected district secretary of the national organization. Mr. Anderson will assist in the reorganization of the Portland Archaeological society while here. He is also arranging for lectures to be held here by leading men of the country. Dr. Charles Peabody, director of the Peabody museum, Harvard university, will appear before the local society on March 9. Professor Joseph Clarke Hoppin, formerly of Bryn Mawr college, will lecture here on March 18. Mr. Anderson will visit Seattle, Vancouver and Victoria, B. C., Tacoma and Spokane in the interests of the institute before returning to Walla Walla. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are at the Benson.

J. A. Talbot of San Francisco and W. B. Simpson of Chicago spent Saturday and Sunday in Portland on a tour of the northwest, in which they are visiting business connections. Mr. Talbot is president of the Southwestern Shipbuilding company, Schaw-Batcher Pipe works and the Western Pipe & Steel company. He is also a prominent San Francisco clubman. Mr. Simpson is president of A. M. Castle & Co. of Chicago and A. M. Castle & Co. of Washington. He is a member of the Chicago Athletic club. Both men were greatly impressed with the Columbia highway scenery. They left yesterday for San Francisco.

George O. Knowles of Cottage Grove, senior member of the hardware firm of Knowles & Graver of that city, spent the week-end in Portland. Mr. Knowles is active in civic affairs in his home town and has had a prominent part in development projects there. He was instrumental in securing a cannery for Cottage Grove a few years ago and is an officer and stockholder in the concern.

C. T. Barr of Astoria, former secretary of the Chamber of Commerce there, is registered at the Imperial. Mr. Barr recently accepted the position of secretary with the Pendleton chamber of commerce. He expects to move to Pendleton with his family in a few days.

Business conditions in Hillsboro are promising, despite the present general condition of trade everywhere, according to M. D. Weil of the Weil department store yesterday. Mr. Weil is registered at the Oregon on a week-end buying trip.

R. A. Booth of Eugene, chairman of the state highway commission, spent the week end in Portland. Mr. Booth is accompanied by Mrs. Booth. They are registered at the Imperial.

Filing of Tax Return.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I inherited a house worth $1600 from which I receive $120 a year in rent. My salary is $1600 a year. I have had three dependents. I am a single man. Do I have to make an income tax return?

A SUBSCRIBER.

You are required to make a return.

H. C. L. VERSUS SYBIL THE GOAT

Old Hi Wins Out in Animated Contest for Supremacy.

PORTLAND, Feb. 20.—(To the Editor.)—My neighbor has a milk goat. He bought her with the avowed purpose of butting the H. C. of L. into the shadowy past, figuratively speaking of course. But the goat has not landed yet and old Hi is romping around there something awful. I have been watching the fight as a biased referee, hoping that H. C. of L. thing was going to get properly slammed so I could do likewise with another goat. And if I did I wanted to get used to a goats cunning ways and try if possible to love one. Folks say I am an affectionate man but my love for a goat has not dethroned my reason. I am still cool and calculating and I calculate I don't want a goat. The trouble with a goat is they don't ponder enough on the milk business. Now a cow is different. I have seen a cow stand and think by the hour, her noble sweep of brow puckered in thought, her eyes nearly closed in extreme concentration and her jaws slowly but surely working on the milk business. Now a goat spends all her time looking for human sympathy and companionship.

There's the rub, a goat is too mushy. I like being loved as well as anyone. I can assimilate great gobs of love, but I like some let up in its application. One does not want it following one about in the shape of a yellow eyed goat with a bleating of furtive feeling to have a goat making playful demonstrations directly in the rear. I don't care how well disposed a goat may be or what excellent family connections a goat may have, that inherent curse is apt to crop out when you least expect it. I can imagine a tempting surface in jumping range as tantalizing to a goat as moonshine to the semi-reformed drunkard.

My neighbor says that privacy on his place is all since Sybil has come to live with them. He said he was taking a bath one day and going through antics reminiscent of his boyhood days in the old swimming hole Playful antics that would straightway put him in the catagory of the feeble minded if he had been seen by other eyes. But he knew he was alone. He said he was just trying to see if he could still put his heel on the back of his neck (He weighs 240 and is short) when a whiskered face appeared at the window. Of course he did not know for a moment it was only Sybil with a toe hold on the downspout but he said the shock and the attempt to seek cover were very genuine and very disconcerting.

He said his wife was putting the finishing touches on a custard pie one day, crimping the edge with a hairpin or whatever they crimp the edges with, when she saw a pair of yellow eyes surmounted by horns glaring at her. His satanic majesty himself would have been gratified by the result. My neighbor says when a woman is thoroughly frightened, she screams, the gum is swallowed, a squirm squirms up her spine and her hands fly in the air. All this is done simultaneously. All this was successfully accomplished in this case, leaving the pie wholly abandoned in mid air. A custard pie left to its own devices in mid air is a fearful thing. My neighbor says that when he came to the rescue his wife was also a fearful thing. He said a bath, a shampoo and complete change of clothing removed all that droppy and jaundiced appearance, while three weeks in a quiet nook at $75 per week completely restored her poise.

WILLIAM VAN GROOS.

MASTER PLUMBERS DOUBT STORY

But They Will Expel Member If Job Profiteering Is Proved.

PORTLAND, Feb. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Several weeks ago a letter was published in The Oregonian signed "A. Hint," in which the writer stated in substance that a charge was made by a local plumber of a sum in excess of $200 for moving a sink from one part of a certain dwelling to another, the reasonable value of which was $10, and that upon objection to the bill the owner was subjected to a threat of a lien against his $8000 residence; that a prominent attorney of the city was consulted, who informed the owner he had little recourse but to pay the bill.

The Portland Master Plumbers' association seriously questions the truth of the story and submits this letter for publication with the hope that whoever wrote the letter will give to this association his name and address. The Portland Master Plumbers' association can deal only with its own members, but they embrace practically all the master plumbers of this city, and if any member has been guilty of conduct which may even approximate that of which "A. Hint" charges, this association will see that redress is made to the person who has been unfairly dealt with, and the guilty member kicked out of our association.

The statement that any person engaged in business, or otherwise, would make a charge of over $200 for services or wares which were of no greater value than $10 and that a prominent or any other kind of a lawyer would advise the debtor that he had better pay the claim is so palpably false that little thought possibly was given to the statement, but that does not abate our desire to learn who "A. Hint" is and see that the public gets the truth concerning the matter, be it favorable or unfavorable to this association or otherwise.

PORTLAND MASTER PLUMBERS' ASSOCIATION,
Room 201 Worcester Bldg., City.

INCIDENT NOT IN GOOD TASTE

Japanese Would Scratch Out Part of Play at Local Theater.

PORTLAND, Feb. 19.—(To the Editor.)—I was one of visitors to the Lyric last night and glad to say that I enjoyed the play wonderfully.

However, I call your attention to the fact that the following article which I would like to scratch out entirely from the writing or play in future, as long as these two nations are a good friendship.

"We declared the war with Japan" was announced by a telegram in their play as a part of the acts. I, of course, realize that it is only the play, but such descriptions should not be performed, and at same time, do not at all welcomed by at least such Portlanders as Messrs. Wheelwright and Callan, and the Governor Olcott as well, for they are the utmost lovers and respect the liberty, the justice, and the world-peace—Moreover especially "Greater Portland"—business with Japan.

Submitting these for your information, as I consider The Oregonian is always standing still at the justice.

Sincerely trusting that such a simple article will, however, interest you to insert on your paper so that the public enable to take notice of what one of the aliens nations said about it.

A NIPPONESE.

Right to Own Property.

VADER, Wash., Feb. 19.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Can a man with a dishonorable discharge from the United State army be a legal property holder in this country? (2) Can he be deported if born in America? (3) Which is correct, Tijuana or Tia Juana, Mexico?

JOHN MARTIN.

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. The common spelling is Tia Juana.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

THE MARTYRS.

With private and personal business
Our statesmen are always engrossed;
They don't give a cuss for the pomp and the fuss
That go with a cabinet post.
They haven't the money; they haven't the time,
They cry, with a heart-breaking sob,
And then, with a sacrifice, high and sublime,
They gallantly go on the job.

Take Jones, who receives as a lawyer
Ten thousand or so for a case;
Just look what he'd lose if he dig not refuse
To serve in a cabinet place!
Against all such honors he firmly is set
And sternly refuses to swerve,
But take it from us, and get down a good bet,
That Jones—if he's asked to—will serve.

And Brown—though his friends have insisted
That no one can possibly be
So thoroughly fit in an arm-chair to sit
And help Mr. Harding as he,
Declares that he cannot afford to accept—
In fact he declines in advance—
And yet for a fortnight he hardly has slept
For fear that he'll not get the chance.

In praise of American statesmen
There always is this to be said,
They don't want to shine in the statesmancraft line;
They'd rather live private instead.
But while they will tell all the world how they hate
To toil in a cabinet chair,
Though the cost be as great as they frequently state
When the call comes along, they are there.

* * *

Not the Only Invalid.

Turkey may be the sick man of Europe, but we notice that the 285,000 bottles of champagne that were exported from France last year were sent to America for medicinal purposes.

* * *

A Queer Lapse.

A Louisiana sheriff forgot to hang a man on the day he was sentenced to die, and the man, curiously enough, neglected to mention the matter.

* * *

A Really Christian Nation.

England is willing to forgive her debtors if Uncle Sam will forgive her debts.

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John Burroughs' Nature Notes.

Can You Answer These Questions?

1. Is there any scientific collection of disease germs?
2. What weather sign may foretell the character of a coming winter storm?
3. Can quail be raised like domestic fowl?

Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

* * *

Answers to Previous Questions.

1. Is the humming bird of any use?

Because of its feeding habits, the humming bird is not only ornamental, but serviceable in a practical way. In hunting among the blossoms for nectar and tiny insects—for it needs both kinds of food—the hummer checks a good many gnats, little spiders, etc., and at the same time carries pollen from flower to flower, in this way bringing about cross fertilization just as bees do.

* * *

2. Will a chipmunk experiment with new kinds of food?

My chipmunk knows several foods at sight, but peach pits, hickory nuts, dried sweet corn, he at first passed by, and peanuts I could not tempt him to touch at all. He was at first indifferent to rice, but finding it toothsome, began to stuff his pockets with it. Amid the rice I scattered puffed wheat. This he repeatedly chipped into, but finding it unsubstantial, he quickly dropped it. He also stripped choke cherries of their skins and pulp and filled his pockets with the pits.

* * *

3. How can a beaver move a log from the place where it is cut to the site of a dam?

The beaver's instinct for engineering is nowhere better shown than in his methods of moving trees from their natural sites to any appointed spot. If the tree stands near water it is cut to fall into the pond, stream or