

Morning Oregonian
ESTABLISHED BY HENRY L. FITCOCK
Published by The Oregonian Publishing Co.
135 Sixth Street, Portland, Oregon.
C. A. MORSE, Editor. E. B. PIPER, Manager.

resources and privileges of the average American is not found in magazine fiction alone. It is common to the talk of the successful and to the ambitious appraisal of the climber, and it constitutes a charge of ignorance against those who should know better—a great deal better. The average American of today is, relatively speaking, the average American of yesterday, and in the wisdom of providence he will be much the same tomorrow. A trifle more prosperous, perhaps, finding it a little easier to wrest a living from the world, but always the sound and reliable backbone of our national life. His club is the home, or a strip in the street or steers an auto that needs overhauling. But when folk, educated ones, depict him as one of fortune's misused favorites they are hitting wide of the mark.

of stern justice, by which the criminal nation should be deprived of all the territory it had stolen and all the loot it had taken and should repair all the injury it had done, to the limit of its ability, without whining about revenge and slavery. The American people still cling to the desire for a peace of justice, by which the guilty shall not escape, and for a league which they can join, without leaving as to the obligations that it imposes.

A SUREFIT OF REGULATION. The regulations with which the waterpower commission has tied up development are an outgrowth of that steady extension of federal control which has prevailed during the last two decades, especially in the field of public utility. The idea in the official mind has further been to reach the government arm further out to cover more business and more details of business, so that no man might move without consent of some bureau or office of the government. There would be a corps of officials inspecting, regulating and supervising all a man's activities.

THE LISTENING POST. Mystery, Love's Trysts, Despair and Tragedy Found on Street. GEN: At night rumsquore edud Hushutehtel Rursquareoomum -29. Joe. Deep stuff, evidently in complicated code, Gen's and Joe's identity a mystery. The above cryptic message may mask deep villainy or merely be an innocent flirtation. It was called at random from the appointment book at Lippman, 515 So. Fifth street door, where shoppers make their dates.

Those Who Come and Go. Astoria is proud of its dock facilities, which have been proclaimed by engineers as second to none on the Pacific coast. B. F. Stone, president of the port of Astoria, who has been largely instrumental in the construction of the terminals, is assured of the port's future. "We have built for the future," said Mr. Stone at the Multnomah, "and I am certain that the Columbia river shipping district will eventually be the largest on the coast and we of Astoria have built to take care of that commerce. The third unit of our pier system is completed. This pier runs 1950 feet into the bay and is built of piling and concrete on a sand foundation. A covered concrete shed, 160 by 150 feet long, offers cargo protection and is so constructed that it will last almost indefinitely. Our facilities are ready for all business when it comes."

More Truth Than Poetry. By James J. Montague. Trouble. The cat is on the pantry shelf. With eyes that bulge with fright. The Alford cup has hid himself. Somewhere far out of sight. The little kids their lesson learn. And neither romp nor sport. For father's income is fast ebbing. Was forty dollars short.

Coming to It. This isn't the millennium of course, and the railroads admit that their present financial condition is prohibitive. We advocate that nothing exceeds lux excess. There Must Have Been an Overstake. Now that we come to think of it, where is that woman who was going to be appointed a cabinet member? (Copyright, 1921, by Holt Rinehart & Co., Inc.) Burroughs Nature Club Notes. Can You Answer These Questions? 1. Do moles have any natural enemies to keep them in check? 2. What is the object of inoculating a soil? 3. Are the humming birds found in different parts of the world alike? Answers in tomorrow's nature notes. Answers to Previous Questions. 1. Why are negroes black? This is hardly a fair nature question. Negroes are dark just as other living dark things are dark because of the color of the pigment of their skin. The color of the skin of a race like Mongolians is yellow in complexion, or the native American Indian copper color, or the southern European olive complexion, or the Anglo Saxons white. Nature gave them their color, but we don't know how or what for. 2. What enables the tree toad (Hyla versicolor) to change color? The toad's color change in nature is not always explicable. The tree toad or tree frog, as it is also called, is not the only batrachian to show to such a degree of color change. The object is protection by thus blending with the background. In the chameleon, for example, the color change is a matter of fear causes the color to change blue. The tree toad, which has a great variety of color, or sometimes green, brown, gray, bright green—requires about an hour for the difference in color to become noticeable. In the case of the tree frog, the change in color takes even longer sometimes the dark bands across its arms and legs and the star shaped spot on its back, which the tree frog usually shows, are generally a good imitation of the toad's background. The most familiar example of a gallinule is the barn fowl. Hens, turkeys, geese, partridges, etc., come under this head. They have rather stout, heavy bodies as a class and comparatively short wings. The color of the feathers varies in length, though they can fly quickly in spurts, as we see in the quail. They nest on the ground usually, and are very tame. Some of them have feet adapted to scratching for food. Our gallinule birds are all dull neutral tinted, but in the wild, their plumage is brilliant beyond words to point. (Copyright, 1921, by Houghton Mifflin Co.) In Other Days. Twenty-five Years Ago. From the Oregonian of April 1, 1896. Cape Town.—War clouds are hovering over southern Africa and the Boers are arming themselves. It is said that British prestige has been shaken and Germany is blamed for it. The battleship Oregon is now completed, and the question of making her a suitable present on behalf of the state is before the public. Superintendent Beach was yesterday called before an informal committee on street cleaning and sprinkling. He had been made to the street cleaning force. The second year for which engineers will be required to take out licenses begins today. Certificates to the number of 341 have been issued. Fifty Years Ago. From The Oregonian of April 1, 1871. Washington.—Unverifiable news reports are to the effect that the chief questions now before congress are: Shall we get San Domingo? Shall Grant or Sumner be the republican nominee in 1872? Shall a republican or a democrat be elected? The city plaza of Salem is now being improved and beautified. City licenses are due today and must be paid on or before the 19th. At no time in the past five years has there been so much building going on in the city. The number of school children in Union county is 474. Signatures on Lease. MERRILL, Or., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—Please advise me if a person wants to lease his land to an oil company or any other company. It is necessary that both husband and wife sign it or only one party. F. Z. Address of Humorist. KENT, Or., March 30.—(To the Editor.)—Can you publish the address of Irvin S. Cobb and his manager? —READER. Irvin S. Cobb, "Rebel Ridge," Oswego, N. Y. We have no information as to a manager. Marrying the Wrong Woman. Youkers (N. Y.) Stateman. Flatbush—Do you think a man profits by his mistakes? Ben Hurst—Not if he marries the wrong woman he doesn't.

TAKE IT TO THE PEOPLE.

The plan of the civic clubs to hold down taxes for the next three years sounds interesting. It is proposed to make an appeal to the various tax-paying bodies to pledge themselves to permit no further advances. It is a modest enough request, yet the public will recall that a storm of protest arose from the city hall and the courthouse when the legislature proposed a limitation upon the power of the city to increase the sky was the limit. But the tax-payer commission is now a fact; and it may be hoped that the city hall and the courthouse are in a more docile humor. After all, there is nothing to be gained by the demand that taxes be not increased. It may be well to remind the civic organizations that the city hall and the courthouse do not contain all the tax-paying institutions of the city. Why not approach them? For example: Levies of taxes due to legislative appropriations in 1919 were \$3,202,685; in 1920, \$3,394,847. Small increase. Levies of taxes voted by the people in 1919 were \$1,175,523; in 1920, \$6,938,258. Some increase. If the people will not agree to hold down taxes, how are they to be held down?

NOT WORTH THE RISK.

The question whether the United States should make a trade agreement with the soviet government of Russia resolves itself into this: Should a business man deal with one who openly avows that he will not be bound by any contract that he may enter into to break it, and that he will do his utmost to destroy the other man's business by the foul, underhand means of intrigue and revolutionary conspiracy? Those are the principles of action toward other nations upon which the soviet has acted. It is said that the soviet has renounced its plan of world-revolution together with some of the principles of communism, as evidenced by the "peaceful" behavior of its agents in trade relations that the soviet government has not the intention of intervening in the internal affairs of America. That is a most deceptive assurance. The soviet government is still in Germany, and its third international, which conducts world-wide revolutionary propaganda with funds supplied by the soviet republic. It matters not that the effort to overthrow this republic is made by the means of a contemptible slacker—and it is the only instance of the kind self-interest of the United States is apparent. "We will get Bergdoll, if it is humanly possible," is the assurance credited to Secretary of War Weeks. Why the qualification?

PAYING UP TIME.

A peculiar set of circumstances attended the recent session of Governor Hart at Washington. It is proposed that the governor be recalled because he advocated and approved the poll tax. The poll tax was adopted because general property taxation was being reduced. If the governor shall recall the poll tax will still stand. To the load of now excessive taxation will be added probably \$200,000 for the expenses of the recall election. It seems that the recall has two functions. One of them is the getting rid of grossly inefficient or dishonest officials, the other is the gratification of resentment because the officials have not done as they should. If the governor is recalled, the latter was never the intended function of the recall but in numerous instances of its application it has done that and nothing more. But the Washington movement is no more than a flurry. It is a big task to obtain 100,000 signatures to petitions, and the issue, although the poll tax in principle is generally objectionable, will not without a very heavy body of signatures. The recall owner in Seattle now pays \$4 in taxes to the Portland property owner's \$3. Here we groan and protest over high taxes, create tax supervision commissions and other commissions to discover new taxes to be levied on the taxpayer. In both states a considerable portion of high taxation has been imposed by direct vote of the people. Apparently the public has assumed that tax sources are inexhaustible. If the people of Washington are wise they will discover their mistake—admit discovery that ability to pay taxes on real property has a limit. It will not help any to spend more public money to punish the one whose sole offense was that he drove the lesson home in a painful but nevertheless effective way.

STILL TRUE TO THEIR PRINCIPLES.

In an effort to explain President Wilson's failure to hold his own with the allies at Paris and to secure ratification of his treaty at Washington the London Nation says: The storm of war passion which seized the world in 1914 has not yet been robbed. Mr. Wilson of any strong popular support for his healing principles. To say that the world is now a source at Paris. America has no right to upbraid Europe for having been misled by the other representative than Wilson, was eager for a peace of revenge. So far as the phrase "healing principles" refers to a league or association of nations to preserve peace and promote disarmament, the American people were not robbed of them by the "storm of war passion." The experience of the war extended and solidified sentiment in favor of a league. Mr. Wilson attempted to capitalize that sentiment by making the league, as his particular handiwork, precede or accompany the peace treaty. The difference of opinion between him and his opponents was on that point and on the terms that the league should take. The round robin of the republican senators declared for a league, but urged that it be formed after peace was made. The criticism then made on Mr. Wilson's policy was that, in order to secure the government's consent in the treaty, he sacrificed the independent position from which he might have blocked the efforts of the allies to include some conditions that were unjust. Notwithstanding these blemishes, however, the treaty of Versailles is not on the whole "a bad peace," though it would have been better if Mr. Wilson had not thrown away the opportunity to dominate the conference. Lenin's recent speeches which led the soviet to restore the right of private trading and of capital in private enterprise have been construed by some as renunciation of communism, but his fanatic adherence to his doctrine—his severest critics bear witness to his sincerity—implies that rather he is moved by temporary expediency, indeed by dire necessity. He confesses that the world revolution which was to have saved bolshevism will come slowly

THE BOXING COMMISSION IS OVERLOOKING SOME GOOD MATERIAL AROUND THE CITY HALL.

The boxing commission is overlooking some good material around the city hall. The local gas company sees the commission and goes it one better. "April showers bring May flowers" ran the old line.

THE LOCAL GAS COMPANY SEES THE COMMISSION AND GOES IT ONE BETTER.

"April showers bring May flowers" ran the old line.