Morning Oregonian

ESTABLISHED BY HENRY L. PITTOCK.

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C. A. MORDEN, Manager. E. B. PIPER, Editor.

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THE PLAIN MEANING OF WORDS.

Senator Borah regards the moral obligation of article II of the Pacific treaty as compelling the use of force as did article X of the league. Let us compare the two articles. Article II of the Pacific treaty reads:

"If the said rights are threatened by the aggressive action of any other power, the high contracting parties shall communicate with one another fully and frankly in order to arrive at an understanding as to the most efficient measures to be taken, jointly and separately, to meet the exigencies of the particular situation."

Article X of the league covenant reads:

"The members of the league undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the leagues. In case of any such aggression or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression, the council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled."

The Pacific treaty binds the four signatories to respect one another's island territory in the Pacific ocean; the league covenant binds all the members to respect "AND PRESERVE" the integrity and independence of ALL members against aggression, there being over forty members in all parts of the world.

In case of aggression from outside the four powers, the Pacific treaty only binds them "to communicate in order to arrive at an understanding;" the league covenant gives the council power to "advise upon the means" to preserve any member from aggression. That is, the nine members represented on the council may decide for all the members. The French word "aviser," which is translated "advise," means much more; it rather conveys the idea, "consult and decide."

By the Pacific treaty the four powers agree only to talk, and each is free to do no more or as much more as they at the time agree upon; by the covenant the members agree to do whatever the council deems necessary to "preserve," war being clearly in view as a possibility.

There is absolutely nothing in the Pacific treaty "compelling the use of force." A man need not be either a lawyer or a senator to realize that. He need only understand the English language and possess common sense unwarped by prejudice.

ANOTHER PROVERBIAL ANSWER.

In aeronautics two somewhat distressing uncertainties have heightened the hazard and retarded progress. A plane, it is trite to observe, is singularly helpless when it falters and falls in mid-air. It has nowhere to go save down. An inflated dirigible is a paragon of safety until some mishap kindles the malicious gas in its envelope and sends it whirling in flames to earth. It was so with the great super-airship that America bought from Great Britain. It has been so with many airships and many planes, until we turn with shuddering from the fearful toll that science has taken in its new pursuit. Yet confidently it may be said that the day will come when planes will somehow be safeguarded from such a fate, and with equal confidence it may be asserted that the dirigible already has solved its problem. It found its answer in helium.

Helium is one of the mysteries, though we deal casually with it and turn it to our tasks. It is as essentially baffling as the strange ray that Kipling devised, with literary privilege, for the great aircraft of his great story, "With the Night Mail." Men named it from the sun, the Greek word "helios," and knew it only as a queer gaseous element not to be found terrestrially. Yet it was found and turned to practical advantage, even as many an apparently valueless scientific discovery before it. For helium gas is non-inflammable and non-explosive, and its availability seems intended by destiny for the development of aeronautics. The new navy dirigible, the C-7, inflated with helium, passed over the capital at Washington a few days ago, while the international delegates of disarmament were in session. Air Vice-Admiral Higgins, of the British empire, watched the sure flight of the airship.

"Very interesting," said he. "America, I understand, is the sole possessor of a supply of helium."

It is the belief of science that helium is the final product of the disintegration of radium—but science is meek in this assumption and admits that it is at best but theoretical. The story of its discovery is fraught with scientific romance and began with a solar eclipse in 1868, when an astronomer detected in the spectrum of the solar chromosphere a brilliant yellow line. It was recognized that this phenomenon heralded the existence of a previously unknown element, and to it was given the apt name of helium. Then came, a score of years later, the announcement that the unique spectrum of helium had been observed in experiments with lavas from Vesuvius, but it was not until the gas itself was isolated from argon, a gaseous constituent of the atmosphere, that the terrestrial existence of helium was credited. It is now known to exist not only in the atmosphere, but in certain natural gases of the American continent, and in brazerite, uraninite, fergusonite and other minerals. Whether it ever will be extracted from the atmosphere, where its volume is as one to 250,000, remains for science to solve. The present supply, that which expanded the dirigible C-7, is derived from gas wells in Texas. The percentage of helium existing in natural gas has, in the instance of a Kansas gas well, been fixed at 1.84.

Near Fort Worth, Texas, the navy operates a helium production plant capable of inflating four large dirigibles each week. This supply, it is estimated, will be exhausted in twenty years, because of the gradual escapement of the gas, but will furnish a century's reserve if capped and conserved. Congress has been importuned to provide for the purchase and conservation of helium resources, and doubtless will act in its own good time. There is in the national possession of this very potent gas a commercial possibility, through the development of aeronautics, that challenges the imagination. As for war, and here the cautious will knock on wood, its possibilities are prophetic of victory.

WHAT IS A BOLSHEVIST?

A Portland clergyman ventures to support by the authority of his high office and supposed learning the statement that Wells (H. G.) is a journalist, a historian, a novelist, a philosopher, a preacher, a prophet, a socialist, and an internationalist, but no bolshevist.

That he is some of these things, there is ample and very pleasant testimony; that he is a historian is agreed, except by practically all historians; that he is a socialist, he himself affirms; that he is an internationalist, he will not deny, if he may make his own definition of a utopian internationalism; that he is not a bolshevist he says himself. But his writings contradict him. They are the best testimony.

A distinct and incontrovertible revelation of Wells is his Russian letters which he wrote after a two-weeks trip to that unhappy land, and after an interview of one and one-half hours with the matchless and unmatchable Lenin—"beloved leader of all that is energetic in Russia today," (to quote Wells). The bolshevist leaders generally he has described as "far-seeing statesmen," "shining clear," "profoundly wise," "intimately acquainted with social and economic questions, and indeed with almost everything that matters in real politics," while Balfour and Lord Robert Cecil he regards as "pretentious bluffers," and other British statesmen as "ignorant and limited men." As to Russia itself he found "hunger, want, but order." The entire tenor and temper of Well's Russian correspondence is of sympathy for and approval of the professed aims of bolshevism, qualified only by a pathetic description of the people's woes, which he blames in part, directly and otherwise, by implication upon the enemies of Russia—viz: the allies.

"Your condition," says Wells in a letter to a starving Russian novelist, "is deplorable, but at least you have the satisfaction of knowing that you have abolished private property." Confiscation of individual possessions is the first and fundamental principle of bolshevism. Wells is for it. Certainly he is a bolshevist. So is anyone a bolshevist who insists on taking the entire social order apart on the insane venture that he may be able to put it together again in new and untried combinations.

STILL WE WONDER AT CRIME.

A jury is unable to agree as to the guilt of Roy Gardner, so it is fortunate, from the point of view of society, that the bandit already has hanging over him a prison term which it is to be presumed he will yet be required to serve. Yet, on second thought, we need not be too sure of that. A region capable of producing a jury which will mull over the question of the legal responsibility of a man like Gardner for a heinous crime may well be counted on to discover other ways to aid him in cheating the law.

New Jersey has just been experiencing the effect of a mistaken policy of leniency to dangerous criminals. The New York Herald tells of the case of Louis Lively, convicted of the murder of a seven-year-old girl. His conviction, the celerity of which is the reverse of a reflection on Jersey justice, does not tell the whole story, however. Lively has been a thorn in the flesh of the law-abiding for a long time.

His criminal career began with incendiarism when he was barely twelve years old. Sent to a reform school, where he was treated as a minor offender and no particular attention was given to the peculiar features of his case, he escaped after a time and resumed his incendiaristic operations. Again returned to the reformatory, he was "farmed out" after a short time, when he took advantage of his liberty to attack a young woman, murderously assault his employer's son and steal money and other property. Despite this record, when he was returned to prison for these crimes he was shortly paroled, and a year or so later, convicted of parole violation and carrying concealed weapons, he was sentenced to another term and paroled once more. Two years later he committed a murder in Philadelphia, escaped with a three-year sentence and was paroled another time. In less than a year he had murdered a child and for this he has been sentenced to execution. At least two lives might have been saved if he had been treated from the outset as the interests of society instead of considerations of mawkish sentimentality required.

The man O'Connor, whose sensational escape from a Chicago jail on Sunday momentarily holds a central position in the criminal news, had a record for evil that must have been long known to the authorities. Here seems to be another case in which early leniency was clearly misplaced. All three—Gardner, Lively and O'Connor—to say nothing of other hosts, are examples of the existence of the incorrigible criminal tendency, in the intelligent treatment of which the ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.

More "statistics" recently published by the census bureau, this time bearing upon the status of illiteracy in Missouri, furnish a text for comment upon the total inadequacy of the ordinarily reliable census returns in a matter of this kind. What is meant by "illiteracy" is open to doubt, and the methods of census takers are not calculated to obtain accurate results. Consequently, without meaning to disparage the excellent state of Missouri, we may well question the figures which show that the percentage of illiteracy has been reduced to 3 per cent, from 4.3 per cent ten years ago. The literacy or otherwise of the inhabitant for census purposes may be measured by his own reply to the question asked him, and all who have the faintest glimmer of understanding of course will claim to be literate. The draft examinations showed how different it is when the individual is required actually to read and write. Nevertheless there is encouragement in the relative improvement shown. The figures at least indicate that fewer people are willing to admit themselves illiterate than ten years ago, and when the sense of pride is aroused a great deal more may be counted on.

ADVICE TO MOTOR DODGERS.

A nervous pedestrian asks that motor car turning signals be explained in order that he may know which way to jump when he sees a hand put forth from an approaching car.

It is easy enough to tell what the signal ought to mean, for the method of indicating a turn or stop is prescribed by law. But the number of drivers who understand the statutory provision seems to be equivalent to the number of super-intelligentzia who grasp the Einstein theory of relativity.

In nearly all cars the driver sits on the left and signals are given from that side. An arm entended level, according to law, announces a turn to the left; an arm raised above the level a turn to the right; an arm lowered below the level announces a stop.

But in practice, if you see an arm extended, you can count on one of five things, no matter what its elevation: The car is going to turn to the left; it is going to turn to the right; it is going to stop; the driver is flicking the ashes off a cigar; or the driver is one of those individuals who gesticulate when they talk.

The pedestrian is unwise if he relies on the gestures of the driver of an automobile. Motorists traveling behind are not in his predicament. All they have to do when an arm is extended is to clamp on the brakes and they are safe. The pedestrian is in another and less fortunate position. The best advice is: "Don't dodge, but scowl at every automobile driver. Perhaps he will think you have a pull with the police and will not run over you."

SET THE WORLD'S INTEREST FIRST.

As the day for another reparation payment by Germany approaches, it is looked for with a sort of dread by all who consider the economic condition of Germany in its relation to the world. To make the payment the German government gathers into its hands private credits of German citizens abroad and pays for them with notes. It makes up any deficiency by issue of new currency. These operations cause further depreciation of German currency, greater abroad than at home, which helps German exporters to increase their trade and thus profit by the insolvency of their government. By lowering the purchasing power of money in far greater ratio than wages increase, depreciation of the mark provokes discontent among workmen and further weakens an already weak government. Behind a surface show of prosperity, Germany sinks deeper in the slough of bankruptcy, and every reparation payment is a push downward.

The American people must recognize that the condition of Germany is the affair of the world, of the United States no less than of other countries. The greatest industrial nation of the continent of Europe cannot sink without dragging other nations with it, for it is one of the vital parts of the world's commercial machine. It has thrown out of joint the buying and selling not only between itself and other nations but among those other nations themselves. It reacts not only on the countries surrounding it but on distant countries. It is largely responsible for two million unemployed in Great Britain and, what most directly concerns us, for the more millions of unemployed and for the low price of farm products in the United States. To find the cause of cheap cotton in the south, of idle copper mines at Butte, we must look in Germany first. If we should remove those causes in Germany, they would automatically disappear in other countries through favorable reaction from Germany. The effect of the economic ruin of Russia has been bad, but that of the chaotic condition of Germany has been many times worse.

Doubtless it is true that the German people are mainly responsible for their troubles, not only through having made the war but through their conduct since the war. In a moment of crushing defeat they suddenly turned from a monarchist to a republican form of government, and are still about evenly divided in opinion between the two. The republicans rule in form but only to a limited degree in fact, for the monarchists obey only so far as they choose, and the republicans are not strong enough to compel obedience. The republicans try to fulfil treaty obligation to pay reparations and to disarm, but are naturally reluctant, and the monarchists evade disarmament in all manner of ways, and force upon the government expenditures but successfully oppose taxes necessary to meet them. All that is done to fulfill these treaty obligations is done under pressure from without, in fear of further military occupation.

In order to be effective, this pressure from the allies should be constant in pursuance of a consistent, practicable policy upon which they are united. But they are not united. France, burning with a just sense of intolerable wrong, insists that reparations be paid, and, in fear of new invasion, demands that the disarmament clauses be observed to the letter, for France is determined to hold Germany down. Great Britain has nothing to fear, but wants to revive the great trade it formerly had with Germany, therefore wants to lift Germany up. Italy also has no further cause for fear, but wants to revive Germany, both as a market and as a source of capital for Italian industry. These countries have worked at cross purposes, and by so doing have tempted Germany to travel the road to ruin by encouraging belief that they can not agree on severe measures.

Dissociation of the United States from the allies in their dealing with Germany has accentuated these differences among the allies and has tempted Germany to take advantage of them. This country has no claim for reparation and has no fear of invasion, but it has a deep interest in the economic restoration of Europe, therefore of Germany in particular, and in preservation of world peace. It has this interest in common with the whole world. Under the separate treaty of Berlin it has the right to compel disarmament and payment of reparations. The manner in which it shall exercise that right should be governed by the interest of this country, which coincides with that of the world at large. By associating itself with the allies in the work, the United States should be able to bring the views of Great Britain and France into harmony with one another and with those of the world at large, also with the ability of Germany to comply with their demands. It can convince Germany that further attempt at evasion is useless, but that the manner in which it shall fulfill the terms will be regulated by Germany's capacity and by the necessity to the world of Germany's restoration to economic health.

Further cash payments by Germany might wisely be suspended for two years in order to give it opportunity to put its finances in order, but on the strict condition that during that period revenue is increased and expenditure decreased to the point where the two items not only balance but leave a margin for payment at least of interest on reparation beginning with the third year, and that issue of paper currency stop; also that Germany submit to a certain degree of financial control by the United States and the allies. An exception might be made of the reparation in kind to be made to France under the Loucheur-Rathenau agreement, since devastation of the French war area placed France at a disadvantage as compared with Germany and the allies. Great Britain's claim is mainly for destroyed ships and could well be deferred for two years, as there is now a surplus of ships. Italy's claim for reparation in Venetia is as strong as that of France and should have preference for payment in kind. Germany has no moral claim to abatement of the total sum to be paid, but has a right to know the total, to a limit of time long enough to make extinction of the debt practicable, and to graduation of installments, increasing as prosperity returns and grows.

American policy should be founded on the conviction that the economic restoration of Germany is of far greater present importance to the world, including France, than any reparation payments that Germany may be able to make before that restoration is complete. Though there is no reason to expect such a situation to arise, if a choice had to be made between Germany's recovery and the wiping out of the entire reparation debt, the latter alternative would be preferable from a strictly economic viewpoint. Consideration of policy and public morals would forbid, for that choice would be tantamount to condonation of the crime of 1914 and would be a direct temptation to Germany or some other nation to repeat the offense. Even at the cost of some economic disturbance to the world at large, Germany should be compelled to pay, if only for the moral effect, but the amount, manner and time of payment should be regulated with regard to the welfare of the world not solely with a view to satisfaction of the claims of the nations which Germany has wronged or of punishment of Germany.

There may be no prospect of getting the delegates out of the Washington conference before Christmas, but they are confident of getting out before the new year comes in, for they are engaging steamer passage for New Year's eve. But if Senators Borah, Reed and La Follette have their way, the treaties will not be out of the senate by the Fourth of July.

Sometimes it seems the best in his class is taken. Riley Richards, "trouble shooter," who was fatally injured Saturday, was best known in the business district where he had for a dozen years been called in repeatedly when the "boards" were out of order. His quiet dignity well befitted his efficiency.

By moving its headquarters to Portland the Northwest Wheat-Growers association shows that it has discovered the wheat market of the Pacific coast.

After the disarmament programme is adopted the youngsters will no doubt be willing to accept toy plows in lieu of toy battleships for Christmas.

Hope Spokane people do not think we are just chaffing 'em with that story that wheat growers' headquarters are to be removed to Portland.

The real reason why Puget Sound cities are objecting to publication of bank clearings must be that Portland has the largest clearings.

What the peace conference probably would like to know now is whether California will ratify that four-power treaty.

Sometimes Portland has a slide, but she lies mostly as nature laid her out, with a little trimming by the hand of man.

It is pleasant occupation for an otherwise idle mind to contemplate the Christmas chicken before it is hatched.

Raw material in 5000-ton cargoes is coming for one Portland industry. By and by that kind of news will be common.

The only way to make sure of hanging murderers like Tommy O'Connor is to hang them quickly.

Minnesota farmers favor a reduction in the 1922 corn crop, which is the best news for prohibition yet.

The treasury department wants more revenue cutters. The people want more expense cutters.

So far no one has succeeded in applying Einstein's theory of relativity to the price of eggs.

However, it's better for Mexico to have one volcano in eruption than the whole country.

Babies are about the only suitable Christmas presents that are not advertised.

The four-play treaty must be all right. LaFollette says he will fight it.

Red pepper seems to be the mob substitute for poison gas.

Time to begin talking turkey again.

BY-PRODUCTS OF THE PRESS

"Boy From Ponape" Served America in World War.

Found: Among 105,708,771 residents of the United States, the "Boy From Ponape," only American from that tiny island of the Carolines.

In the National Geographic magazine Junius B. Wood relates how, on a tour of Yap and other Pacific islands now under Japanese mandate, he visited Ponape and was approached by a native who inquired about a Ponape boy who had 'gone to the United States. The boy's name, the native said, was Uriel Hadley.

"There was no Uriel among my memory of many Hadleys, and his face fell in disappointment," Mr. Wood wrote. "He could not understand that anybody could live in America and not know the 'Boy From Ponape.'"

Sequel: A few days ago the editor of the magazine received the following letter:

"I have read with much interest your December magazine. It is of special interest to me because I am Uriel Hadley, 'a Ponape boy' referred to on page 526. I left Ponape 15 years ago next January with the last American missionaries.

"I have not heard from my people since the beginning of the world war. Have sent registered letters requesting return receipt, but have never heard from them. I enlisted in the United States army at the opening of the war and served until its close. My people may think I 'went west.'"

Information from Franklin, Ind., is that Uriel Hadley now is a successful photographer there. The missionary who brought him to America was the Rev. Thomas Gray, now a minister at Franklin.

* * *

Grandmother wanted to have the biggest and whitest washing on the line before the neighbors had theirs out; to make the best soap, jellies, bread and pies; to have the reputation of keeping the cleanest house in town; to be well married early in life; to have a large family of well-behaved children, and to have her friends think a recipe must be good if she used it.

Mother wanted to be cultured and refined and to do the proper thing at all times; to be well married rather late in life; to have two or three well-dressed children; to be able to hire and keep a good maid; to be dressed in good taste, and to have her friends think a word was spelled or pronounced correctly in her way.

Daughter of today wants to live in the most exclusive apartment house in the city; to be able to drive her own car; to have a chow, a Pekingese or a Persian cat; to be married and divorced a time or two; to have her friends think her gown the latest fashion or she would not be wearing it; to have girls ask her what kind of powder and rouge she uses, and to make men turn around.—Katherine Newby, in Judge.

* * *

A famous financier recently observed in the New York Sun that 5:03 o'clock in the afternoon for most persons is the most important part of the whole day.

"The ninth hour and not the eleventh," he said, "is the hour of destiny. At three minutes after 5 your day's work is done. You are about to use or squander four or five precious hours of your own time. All day you have been working for somebody else. Shortly after 5 o'clock you are called upon to make an important decision for yourself.

"At 5:03 o'clock three out of every ten persons are hurrying to the telephone to make a 'date' for the evening. Probably four are getting listlessly into their wrap for the journey home to a wasted evening.

"The remaining three—well, look out for them. Some of them are working overtime on their jobs. For the company? Well, perhaps, but primarily for themselves and their future. Others are planning a busy evening at some night school.

"Check up on yourself at three minutes after 5."

* * *

A factory at New Orleans has commenced operations in the manufacture of wall board from sugar cane after the sugar has been extracted, according to the Mississippi Valley Lumberman. Their waste material called "bagasse," is fibrous and lends itself to the purpose well.

The material is taken direct from the rollers of the sugar mills, baled and sent to the manufacturing plant. Here it goes through a simple process and rolls out of the finishing end of the machinery a 12-foot board, three-quarters of an inch thick and any length up to 900 feet.

Once the baled bagasse is unloaded from the freight cars that carry it to the plant, it is not touched by human hands until it rolls out a finished product ready to be cut into standard lengths, bundled and shipped.

In its manufacture the makers claim that it is so mixed with chemicals as to make the individual fibers, as well as the complete board, permanently waterproof, and it can therefore be used as an outside board as well as for inside work. A box built of it will hold water indefinitely. Heretofore the material used in its manufacture has been burned as of no value.

* * *

Up-to-the-minute ladies who smoke may be interested in learning that Dr. William Brady, medical writer, says that smoking tends to make the hair fall out, due to loss of oxygen, and adds: "As a general rule the cigaret-smoking woman has poor hair, if she has her own hair at all." Please tell this to the ladies.

A more important point is the established fact that tobacco is present in the blood of an unborn child of a woman who smokes. Dr. Mjoen, the eugenist of Norway, says that in the case of a drinking mother "chemical analysis has shown that the child and the mother have exactly the same amount of alcohol in the blood." It is obvious that the same thing is true of tobacco. No woman wants her baby to begin to smoke before it is born.—Capper's Weekly.

* * *

Propaganda has turned sentiment against the park bench unemployed in New York, says a recent news letter. The public has suddenly realized that the ambitious man, temporarily out of employment, is not spending his time loafing on a park bench. He is out hunting work. Newspapers have dwelt upon this so persistently that lunches and fruits are not being carried to park bench loafers at all these days.

Those Who Come and Go.

Tales of Folks at the Hotels.

When Al Norblad was a youngster in Chicago he attended a meeting one night which was addressed by a member of congress. Then and there the ambition was born to sit some day in congress and help make the laws of the country. From that day to this the ambition has been smoldering in the back of Mr. Norblad's head, although he knows more about congressmen now than he did then and there is not the glamour surrounding a member that his boyhood imagination pictured. Just the same, Mr. Norblad may some day take a chance on running for representative in the first congressional district. At present he is a member of the state senate for Clatsop county, and made his main fight in the regular session last winter to abolish purse seines. This law is now in the courts on a question of constitutionality and Senator Norblad would like to see a decision before the special session meets. If the decision declares the purse seine law unconstitutional, the senator predicts that the fishing in the Columbia river will be devastated even more than at present. Should the decision come before the special session convenes and the law is knocked out, Mr. Norblad wants to introdduce another which will be air-tight.

"Three sawmills in our town are now operating and one of them is also working at night," reports Sherman Miles, banker of St Helens, who is at the Benson. "The lumber business has been dead, so that the renewed activity makes things look pretty lively." Mr. Miles is on his way to look after a farm he has near Eugene and when that inspection is over he will head for Salem where he will represent the constituency of Columbia county in the lower house. Mr. Miles is one of the two democrats who are members of the lower branch of the legislature and was elected in a strong republican county. He may have a bill legalizing school districts to assist in paying for the transportation of children. There are about 70 districts in the state which are now paying money for such transportation and there is question as to whether such expenditure is constitutional.

"If 'Pop' Gates, mayor of Medford, decides to be a candidate for governor in the republican primaries he will have the solid backing of Jackson county," predicts Ben Sheldon, representative of that county. Mr. Sheldon is in town getting information on several subjects. For instance, he is listening to the papers at the convention of county judges and county commissioners; he is to meet with the state highway commission relative to work on the Crater lake highway; he has been consulting with members of the special committee appointed by Governor Olcott to suggest regulations for the state highways, and he has been sounding sentiment relative to the 1925 exposition and the various plans for financing that undertaking. By the end of the week, Mr. Sheldon expects to have enough information under his hat to enable him to meet the special session with a brave heart.

"The state and county tax for Wheeler county is 21 mills," declares R. J. Carsner of Spray, where he is the proprietor of the Three-Bar ranch. Mr. Carsner, representing the 28th representatives district, consisting of Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties, was born in Canyon City, Grant county, and has been in the livestock business all of his life. As a member of the legislature he has never introduced a bill, which is a somewhat unique distinction. For the special session he will not offer a measure. Mr. Carsner, who has arrived among the first lawmakers to look over the situation, favors a short special session, the shorter the better, but he doesn't want the job incomplete. Measures to be considered he wants properly disposed of.

"Yamhill county is the center of the taxpayers' league just now," explained W. T. Vinton of McMinnville, who is in the city on legal business. "There is a big meeting there today with a number of prominent speakers discussing taxation." Mr. Vinton is a member of the state senate and was formerly president of that body. He will be present when the roll is called next Monday morning at 10 o'clock with the hope that the session is ended in a week or less. However, the senator says that he will not sign any pledge to limit consideration to only those subjects which the governor enumerated in the call, as something of an emergency character may come up to command action.

Among the many ways of raising funds for the Red Cross was a golf game, devised by S. L. Sanders, registered at the Multnomah from New York. Having played in several national tournaments he conceived the idea of putting on an exhibition game with three others and in 141 days he played 140 games in as many different cities, the admission fee being $1 a person. Sometimes as a special feature the game would be started by driving the ball off the crystal of a watch.

Lumber business continues good at Port Orford, Or., because of the demand in Japan for the Port Orford cedar, which is said to be practically the same species as was used by Solomon when he built the temple. N. H. Larson, lumberman of Port Orford, is at the Hotel Portland, his mission here being to meet with the highway commission during the week to advocate further improvement and development of the coast highway through Curry county.

Charles A. Brand, formerly a representative for Douglas county in the legislature, is at the Hotel Portland. Mr. Brand is a member of the commission appointed by Governor Olcott to investigate the tax situation in Oregon and see what can be done in the way of finding new sources of revenue. This committee may have something to offer in the way of a report for the special session next week.

J. O. Goldthwaite, one of the leading lumbermen of Klamath county, is at the Hotel Portland, registered from Chiloquin. The town of Chiloquin is supported by the lumber industry and when the market is good many carloads are shipped out, going into California. The community has reached the stage where it wants a new school building and has voted a bond issue to meet the cost.

C. H. Knowles, formerly in the roadmaster's department in Multnomah county, but now in the concrete pipe business at Bend, is in the city. Mr. Knowles is here as a witness in the pending suit over the Vista house on Crown point.

L. W. Glaser, formerly a member of the city council at Astoria and more recently a sergeant of police in the city by the sea, is in Portland, having been drawn as a member of the federal jury.

R. M. Jennings, manager and treasurer of the Douglas County Light & Power company, arrived at the Hotel Portland last night from Roseburg.

J. D. Weed, an attorney of Condon, is in the city. Mrs. Weed is in a local hospital.

Burroughs Nature Club.

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Can You Answer These Questions?

1. What bird has its windpipe on the back of its neck?
2. What is the difference between a mouse and a rat?
3. Do oysters grow on the Pacific coast?

Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

* * *

Answers to Previous Questions.

1. Do fishes have lungs?

No, the gills are the organs for exchanging oxygen (from water) for carbonic acid gas from the body. These gases are exchanged through the delicate tissues of the tiny veins with which the gills are treated. But some fishes do have an inner organ called the "swim bladder," filled with gas. As the fish seeks different levels in the water, and thus encounters different degrees of specific gravity, the swim bladder gas is constantly adjusted to meet different degrees of pressure.

* * *

2. Do birds perspire like mammals?

No, they are not provided with sweat glands, and besides that, their coats are too dense to allow any free circulation of air to evaporate moisture given off from the body. Birds breathe very rapidly, air passing not only into the lungs, but through the lungs into the air-sacs in their bones, and any surplus heat is easily carried off by this internal circulation of air.

* * *

3. Why do people wink their eyes?

The eye itself is a very delicate structure that must be kept perfectly clean and bright, if it is to receive perfect images to be photographed onto the brain. The motion of the eyelids stimulates the tear glands just enough to release a little moisture which the act of winking spreads over the eye-ball, cleansing it and keeping it sensitive.

PLEA OF PRECEDENT IS SHAM!

Tumulty's "Tumid Trumpery" About War Partisanship Answered.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 12.—(To the Editor.)—After reading the Tumulty articles one is inclined to wonder why a great newspaper like The Oregonian should waste so much of its space in publishing such silly, slushy, sycophantish slobberings. If I might suggest a name for his book I would submit the "Palaverings of a Parasite," or the "Snivellings of a Snuffler."

As a large portion of the articles so far published seem to be a collection of letters of advice from Tumulty to Wilson, one is led to wonder what might have happened at Paris had not this wonderful fountain of wisdom been at Wilson's disposal.

In the 34th chapter, printed December 4, Mr. Tumulty, in defending Wilson's appeal to the country for a democratic congress, says a precedent for this appeal was set by Lincoln in 1864, also by McKinley in 1898. What were the political conditions under which Lincoln appealed to the country?

On August 27, 1864, in their national convention in Chicago, the democrats nominated George B. McClellan for president and declared in their platform that the war was a failure, that the constitution had been violated under the plea of military necessity and that hostilities should immediately cease. So we see that when Lincoln made a plea for a republican victory it was a plea to save the union from the efforts of the democratic party to disrupt it.

The conditions in 1898 were somewhat similar. In that year a measure authorizing the issue of $600,000,000 in bonds to finance the Spanish-American war activities of our government was passed. In the senate only seven out of 34 democrats voted for it, and in the house only six out of 139 democrats could cast aside party lines to support the president with necessary funds.

One of these six was Amos J. Cummings of New York. On May 3, 1898, Champ Clark said, turning to Cummings:

If it were not for my personal affection for the gentleman from New York, I would inaugurate a movement among the democrats and the other end of the capitol to read out of the democratic party, by name, every man who voted for the bond bill the other day. Genuine democrats do not propose that such action shall be charged to them.

In the lower house Jim Ham Lewis, then a member from the state of Washington, saw an opportunity to advertise himself, and after a bitter tirade against the democratic members who had voted to uphold and to support the American army in the field, wound up as follows:

On this side of the house there arises now and then, as did my friend from New York, the distinguished and honorable gentleman, Amos J. Cummings, who advised this assembly that he "put his country before his party," and under his leadership certain gentlemen on this floor, calling themselves democrats, found it agreeable to support the measure (the war bond issue). For myself, I am tired of this constant prating cry of patriotism, which is ever invoked on the floor of this house every time there is an attempt to commit a constitutional wrong. I say that with the true democrat there can be no such cry as my country before my party.

Mr. Tumulty is either extremely ignorant of the history of his party or he places a very low estimate on the intelligence or memory of the American people.

In any event let us pray that the publication of Tumulty's tumid trumpery will soon end.

JAMES A. HOOD.

Tumulty Articles Appreciated.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 13.—(To the Editor.)—It is to be hoped that Mrs. O. H. Wilson, whose communication appeared in The Oregonian, isn't imbued with the idea that she is expressing the sentiments of the public at large when she refers to the Tumulty articles running serially in The Oregonian as "disgusting."

The name and memory of Woodrow Wilson will live in the days to come, while those of his traducers have sunk into oblivion. The term "disgusting" I have always associated with such things as gila monsters, rattlesnakes, etc., but not to the efforts of a former president of the United States. I would advise, inasmuch as the lady in question finds the articles "disgusting" that there are other features in The Oregonian besides the offensive Tumulty articles for public consumption—the automobile section of the Sunday's issue, for instance, or the comic section.

A VOLUNTEER OF '98.

Church Connections of Presidents.

FREEWATER, Or., Dec. 12.—(To the Editor)—What were the religious denominations to which our presidents belonged from Washington to the present time? E. F. B.

Washington, Madison, Monroe, Harrison, Tyler, Taylor, Pierce and Arthur were Episcopalians; John Adams, J. Q. Adams, Fillmore and Taft were Unitarians; Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Lincoln, Cleveland, Benj. Harrison and Wilson were Presbyterians; Grant, Hayes and McKinley were Methodists; Van Buren and Roosevelt, Reformed Dutch; Garfield, Disciples; Jefferson was a believer but not a sectarian; Johnson was a believer but not a church member, his wife a Methodist; Mr. Harding is a Baptist.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

A CHRISTMAS LETTER.

(From an income taxpayer.)

Dear Uncle Sam, enclosed please find
A check—a small one, it is true,
For I am quite a bit behind
With coal and gas and meat bills due.
A deal of sacrifice it takes
For me to send a check at all,
So please remember that it makes
The fourth I've sent you since last fall.

I trust this sum will serve your need.
You're loose with cash, you must admit—
A reckless squanderer—indeed,
I can't guess what you do with it.
In fact I think I ought to say
That this enclosure's going to be
The last that I intend to pay,
No matter how you badger me.

But when this season comes around,
When every soul with joy is fraught,
And peace and happiness abound,
I can not think an unkind thought.
The holidays when sweet bells chime,
When mistletoe hangs from the ceilings,
And children laugh, is not the time
To hurt a poor old Uncle's feelings.

So take it as my Christmas gift;
Although it's more than I can spare,
I hope that it will help to lift
The load you always seem to bear.
I hope it cheers your weary lot;
And so I'm sending it today,
For well I know if I do not,
That you will take it anyway.

* * *

Con Amore.

Mr. H. G. Wells has written so much history that he now feels that he ought to begin making a little of it.

* * *

Too Bad We Can't.

If we could only make the government believe in Santa Claus, perhaps it would hang up its stocking for that last income tax installment.

* * *

An Added Joy.

One reason Christmas is so merry is because by that time we have eaten the last of the Thanksgiving turkey.

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Trust Betrayed.

By Grace E. Hall.

There's a name that is never spoken
As my friends I am counting o'er,
Though my heart gives a silent token
Of remembrance, forevermore,
For the names that I speak in passing
Are of friends who come through my door.

We builded of thoughts that we cherished,
Of dreams that were sweet and fine,
A friendship that since has perished,
Though it seemed to me near divine,
And always I pause and ponder
And ask if the fault were mine.

I walk with these friends who linger,
And pass through my open door,
But grief lays an icy finger
Forever and evermore
On the name that burns in memory
With the pain of an open sore.

There is naught that ever bruises
A heart when its trust is won,
Like the faith that a friend abuses,
And throws back maimed, to one;
And the heart may learn, through aching,
With faith to soon be done.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From the Oregonian of December 14, 1896.

Washington.—The death of Maceo, Cuban leader, has aroused keen interest here and many offers of assistance have been extended the islanders. There is also talk of sending troops.

Portlanders are being afforded the opportunity of seeing and having explained the workings of a first-class X-ray apparatus for the paltry sum of 15 cents. Unlike several forerunners, this is not a fake.

It has become necessary to place screens along the Bull Run canal to prevent leaves, sticks and other debris from getting into and clogging the water pipes in the city.

A treaty of general arbitration between the United States and England covering existing differences is about completed and ready for signature.

Fifty Years Ago.

From the Oregonian of December 14, 1871.

London.—Latest reports on the condition of the Prince of Wales are very grave. A special meeting of the principal heirs has been called.

There have been 5000 deaths from smallpox in London during the last season and at least 100,000 maimed, disfigured or crippled by the disease.

New York.—Seven deaths and 32 new cases of smallpox have been reported here since last Saturday.

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CUT

3000 Pupils Affected by Ruling and Legislature Urged to Act.

RAINIER, Or., Dec. 12.—(To the Editor.)—In regard to the matter of bills being considered at the coming special session of the legislature there seems to be a concerted effort to shut off all legislation except the proposed 1925 fair and highway legislation. Parties who advocate this programme are certainly not informed as to some of the real needs of Oregon and are shutting their eyes to everything except the one great idea.

There is one