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APPROACHING THE MILLENNIUM. Do the people of this and the other countries concerned fully appreciate the tremendous significance of this announcement from Washington?

Great Britain, the United States and Japan are in full accord as to principles which should govern the future of the world.

This is a complete reversal of policy on the matter which most profoundly affects the future of the human race—the probability and extent of war.

The guiding principle on which these three great powers are now in full accord is that no one of them shall be strong enough at sea to make such an attack on another that each shall be strong enough for defense, but not for offense.

Then the effect is that naval war will be practically abolished. So will be armed invasion to which control of the sea and landing on another nation's coast are necessary.

Thus begins realization of the dream which has haunted mankind for centuries. Many have been the treaties by which nations have combined to make war, but none have voluntarily agreed to reduce their armaments so far that they would be powerless for attack.

By the Washington agreement the thoughts of nations are turned from preparation for war to preservation of peace. The number of people engaged in making war and in making warlike implements will grow less, and the influences working for peace will grow stronger.

The increase in the percentage of homes in the United States which are mortgaged, from 15 per cent in 1910 to 54.4 in 1920, also

requires analysis to enable us to arrive at a conclusion. Apartment-house living is responsible, in all probability, for the difference, which is a question apart from home ownership, while it is well known that large numbers of business men carry mortgages from choice.

DISTURBING THE PEOPLE. A natural inference from the governor's call to legislators is that our lawmakers will be asked to hurriedly slip into Salem and rush through the Portland session of the legislature.

Let us understand our indignant contemporary a little better. Does it insist that the sovereign people, under the referendum, should not be permitted to pass upon the proposed \$5,000,000 appropriation to the extent of municipal bonds?

THE OPERATION OF SEATTLE'S STREET RAILWAY SYSTEM is, of course, strictly its own business. If the meddlers and muddlers, who contrived to work up a general enthusiasm for the proposed \$15,000,000 purchase of the system to be made by the city, are satisfied with themselves, and if the public is satisfied with them—why, that is also Seattle's business.

Now, as Seattle contemplates going from a 1-2-3 cent fare to a 1-3 cent fare in the hope of reviving declining traffic. That is interesting, too—and audacious. If it succeeds, it will be a powerful inducement for others to do the same; if it fails, the others will do better than ever what not to do.

When Seattle studies the figures, it does not get much encouragement for the 6-cent idea. Traffic dropped about 10 per cent under a 1-3 cent fare; about one-third in volume from the peak totals of August, 1919, under a 5-cent fare.

EVOLUTION OF THE HARDING IDEA. The United States has joined three other nations in an association to keep peace on the Pacific ocean. There is in near prospect an association in which the United States will join eight other nations to maintain the peace of the Pacific.

The Pan-American Union is an association on the same lines, for it watches over the common interests of all American nations.

It may be asked: What would then become of the league of nations? Conceivably, as the Harding idea took form, the league might be transformed on the lines described and the United States might become the leading member of an organization that would be open to none of the objections that have been raised to the league.

that nations are loath to interfere with affairs for no other reason than that they are members of the league, their own interests not being affected.

Mr. Harding has in the normal way gone about the work of organizing the world to substitute the reign of justice and law for the reign of force. He knew that such a structure could not be built in a night in a form that would endure.

THE VALUE OF A TREE, particularly when it has attained beauty by long years of growth, is impressed upon all observers recurrently after each wind or ice storm, such as that which visited the city at the end of this winter.

It takes a generation, however, to grow a fine shade tree, and tree-planting is not common, even in Oregon, that we can look upon the slightest impairment of them with equanimity.

Orchardists, spurred by commercial considerations, in a good many states have adopted measures as a part of the routine of fruit growing which tend to prevent the loss of trees. A substantial supporting framework of wire, constructed umbrella-fashion, has been found effective in the protection of trees on a large scale in some fruit-growing districts.

THE MERCHANT MARINE AS AN ASSET. President Harding's interest in an American merchant marine testifies to the fact that it does not concern the people of the seaboard alone.

The president is prepared to maintain the proposition that maintenance of the merchant marine should be entrusted to private enterprise, but that it is so essential to the safety of the nation that whatever aid is necessary to insure its maintenance.

Roy Gardner being safely back in the penitentiary and the conference delegates about ready to wind up their work, the wise advocates may have the floor.

Man is prone to joke at the use of consonants in the Welsh tongue, but try spelling your name in the original Irish if you want something puzzling.

grain growers thus being reminded of their common interest with Pacific ports in ships.

When the United States intervened in the war we found a bridge of ships necessary to victory, and our coasts rang with the din of government shipbuilding for war purposes.

THE SPECIAL SESSION should end in a week, declares E. V. Carter, banker of Ashland, at the Imperial. Mr. Carter is a respondent in Jackson county.

When people are prosperous they eat more bread and eggs and butter, according to a waxy paper, representing a waxy paper company, who is registered at the Multnomah.

Up-to-the-second is this city romance. She a telephone operator domiciled in an apartment house across the street from her employer.

That would be a just basis for Mr. Harding's proposal to award to ship owners. He would annul no treaties in order to compensate ship owners with preferential duties, but would frankly and directly pay them what it was worth to the nation.

When do you read your newspaper? Circulation experts figure that the average paper has five readers. Sometimes the usefulness of a newspaper is not ended for months after publication.

John C. Davis, lumberman of Coos Bay, is among the arrivals at the Benson. John C. Kendall, an attorney from the bay, is also at the Benson.

Man makes clear and cold weather to make him sleep lively. It puts roses on the cheeks of the Christmas shopper, too.

THE LISTENING POST. By DeWitt Barry. THERE are lots of folks who never eat trape, and others who get ill even at the mention of raw oysters.

Now a squid is a mollusk, strange as it may seem, a miniature devilfish except that the squid has ten tentacles, where the soft, snake-like body of the family is endowed with but eight. Likely there are those who read this who would squirm with horror at the thought of eating a devilfish, but squids meet with no such objection on the public market.

EDITOR INGALLS OF CORVALLIS, promptly wired the following comments: CORVALLIS, Or., Dec. 14.—Corvallis business men are running around the street in a daze, carrying a copy of the Oregonian in their hands, because of an item printed in that paper.

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THOSE WHO COME AND GO. Tales of Folks at the Hotels. About one-third of the Skyline scenic road will be built by a year from this date.

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BURROUGHS NATURE CLUB. Copyright, Houghton-Mifflin Co. Answers to Previous Questions. 1. Does the goose turn her eggs during incubating time?

Answers in tomorrow's Nature Notes. Answers to Previous Questions. 1. Do bob-whites or quail feed on bugs, or grain or seeds to their liking or pleasure?

Answers to Previous Questions. 1. Do bats and whales suckle their young? Yes, both are mammals, warm-blooded, and their young are naturally suckled by their mothers.

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MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY. By James J. Montague. The poet has it pretty soft; He writes a paltry, trifling verse on a grain field or a garden croft.

Business Hour. Since right and wrong enforcement the local judges are trying more cases every day.

Absolutely Solid. Prominent among the blocs in congress are the concrete blocs.

Farewell. By Grace E. Hall. The spring shall come again, and yet with all its witchery of bud and bloom.

In Other Days. Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of December 16, 1871.

On completion of the railroad to Hillsboro, which will be accomplished next week, that town plans to celebrate by tendering a banquet to Mr. Holladay and other guests.

WRITER'S VIEW FOUND STRANGE. Feeling of Discontent With Tumulty Article Not Understood. PORTLAND, Dec. 15.—(To the Editor.)—A correspondent whose letter appears in The Oregonian December 8 comments adversely on the Tumulty article.

Word Wanted From Eve. PORTLAND, Dec. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Eve's appeal to Santa Claus a year ago undoubtedly struck a responsive chord in many hearts.

Mother Gives a Hint. London Passing Show. Daughter—He's frightfully attractive. Mother—I can't see. Daughter—Good heavens, do you mean to say you can't see that big yellow car?