

Morning Oregonian

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Mr. Marshall Grenfell warns us are common enough to justify reiteration on occasions like this. It would be thought that the experiences of the past should have taught their lessons, but there are always some who ignore them. The custom of putting candles in windows even now prevails in some quarters, and paper is all too commonly employed in decorating Christmas trees. It is well to remind the fathers of children that smoking is dangerous, that fir trees are apt to be highly inflammable, especially if they have been cut for some time, and that the waste paper and excelsior that surround them are so inflammable that they should be kept around a house. The underwriters, who sacrifice no worthwhile sentiment in their endeavor to increase the joy of Christmas by making it wholly safe, have, however, the real sense and far short of that.

NO AMNESTY. President Harding will celebrate the gracious Christmas season by issuing pardons to a number of persons imprisoned for violation of various laws. Not a great while ago an similarly unusual phenomenon would have been hailed as a portent of calamity. The spirit of investigation slowly but certainly pushes back the frontier of fear, scientific explanation banishes dread, reason supplants superstition and new and unexpected visitations only stimulate curiosity where a century or so ago they might have disturbed the entire current of human events.

ENTITLED TO CONSIDERATION. Thirty-six members of the House at Helena have, it is reported, entered into a solemn compact, one with another, to prevent submission to a bill in 1925 upon a referendum in their present form—leaving a stand by \$3,000,000, if they are voted by which they refuse to consider the proposal on its merits—they will have defeated the fair enterprise.

TIME TO TAKE STOCK. There is timeliness in the resolution presented to the legislature by Senator Dennis, particularly in its portion which calls for a financial survey of the state. Oregon has been going ahead with a mad dash of rapidity in the lending of its credit. Some of the obligations are similar to those incurred by the city of Portland wherein it stands guarantor for improvement bonds. The city must appear to make good in large sums of money. Is the state on a safe ground?

MOONLIGHT SCHOOLS. The month anniversary of the establishment of the first so-called "moonlight" schools comes as a reminder of the potency of sentiment in giving vitality to an idea. The moonlight schools are also significant in the beginning of the movement in the United States to educate illiterate adults. Prior to ten years ago no state had undertaken the work, which now is an important part of the national educational program.

THE TREASURE OF THE BROTHER. Probably it is the discovery that the Brother Jonathan carried 364 barrels of whisky that has stimulated new effort to raise that old wreck from the sea bottom of Crescent City rather than her over-estimated store of gold. The story of enormous wealth in coin which were supposed to have gone down with the ship in 1865 were pretty well exploded half a century ago. Yet such is the vitality of every treasure tale that it survives as an official legend. More attempts have been made to salvage the Brother Jonathan, in all probability, than have been put forth to recover any other vessel ever lost on the Pacific coast.

SANTA CLAUS IN ASBESTOS. To the list of Christmas "don'ts" which Fire Marshal Grenfell has compiled may with propriety be added another, which relates to the garments worn by Santa Claus on the festive occasion which we are about to celebrate with many lights. It is better of course that there should be no candles on the festive tree, and that nothing but electric lights should be used, but even then it is wise to redouble our precautions against fire. The cotton wools of Santa Claus have caused untold fatalities in times gone by. The Santa Claus garb, which is commonly of highly inflammable material, is almost as dangerous as his snowy beard. Wherefore, since the spirit of Christmas seems to demand its Santa Claus, a National Board of Fire Underwriters has a practical suggestion to make.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotels. While Portland residents shivered and complained at the cold weather yesterday, one visitor in the city spent the day in perfect comfort, even in the wind that seemed to sting to most citizens. The comfortable and uncompromising visitor was L. M. Roberts of Calgary, Alberta, at the Benson. "I suppose it does seem chilly to Portland people today," said Mr. Roberts. "You are not used to such weather and consequently are not prepared for it. 'We are accustomed to seeing the thermometer register 24 degrees below zero in Calgary, and sometimes it gets really cold. By that I mean weather at 45 degrees below zero. Although the thermometer shows that the weather is colder in Calgary than here, it doesn't feel so cold.' Business is somewhat slow in Calgary now, but great improvement is expected in the spring. Mr. Roberts is a personal friend of Dr. C. S. Mahood, Inspector of Police Richardson and Sergeant Sam Waugh of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

BY-PRODUCTS OF THE PRESS. Observant Woman Detects Suspicious Food. A. C. (Barney) Barneoff, Portland traveling man who makes eastern Oregon at stated intervals, told the following rather good story while in Heppner on his latest trip, according to the Herald.

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During the steamboat days on the Missouri, an old German named Schaefer kept a saloon and billiard hall on the last of the boats, then an outfitting point for wagon trains to Oregon and Santa Fe, relates Capper's Weekly. In those days every billiard hall had a player representing the "house" and when anyone wanted to play a game of billiards "on the house," Schaefer's billiardist was his young son Jake. When the boy was so small they had to stand him on a chair to use the cue, he was able to defeat the average "crack" player, and of course, his skill increased with his years.

START THE IRRIGATORS RIGHT. Much should be done to advance irrigation through the plan of the Oregon irrigation congress to give its attention to placing settlers on land to which water has been conveyed and helping them through the first difficult years. The state now carries the enterprise through this initial effort to find those who are interested on the investment as well as cost of maintenance depends on the men who cultivate the land and raise crops on it. The work of construction must be followed by systematic effort to find those men and set them going as farmers. They make the project a self-supporting, going concern.

THE WOMAN PAYS CLUB OF NEW YORK meets weekly at the Algonquin, according to the Atlanta Constitution. The members consist of women who write for the magazines and newspapers. Each meeting day is a luncheon and two men are invited. The poor dubs are usually speechless with fright with so many brilliant and charming women around.

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Can You Answer These Questions? 1. Do they have yellow fever in the old world? 2. Are baby opossums born in the pouch of the mother? 3. Does the Baltimore Oriole ever sing as late as August in Connecticut?

Answers to Previous Questions. 1. Where can I find a good book on whales? The best books are pretty technical. But in a well equipped public library you might get F. W. True's "Whalebone Whales of the North Atlantic." Smithsonian Institution publication. It has splendid pictures, particularly of the bones. Sammons' "Marine Mammals and American Whale Fishing" is another standard. There is a pretty comprehensive section in volume V of the Riverside Natural History, on whales.

3. Will poison kill sparrows? If so, what poison is best, and how administered? Strychnine is recommended by Farmer's Bulletin 433 as the most satisfactory poison tested. One-eighth ounce pulverized strychnine, mixed with one-half cup of fine starch or wheat flour slightly moistened with cold water. Dissolve strychnine in the hot water, then stir and stir until mixture is thick. Pour this poisoned starch over a quart of wheat, stirring thoroughly till every kernel is coated. The birds will eat the wheat and die in small lots. Dangerous to leave around. Sparrow traps are preferable.

WAR TOYS ARE HELD HARMFUL. Parents Urged Not to Give Presents That Arouse Thoughts of Slaying. PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—The conference at Washington is of the most vital importance to everyone old enough to understand the tremendous issues involved, and everyone should be asking: "What can I do to help to avoid war?" The most awful crime in the world is the one that causes such suffering, pain and death. It is thinking. Four this poisoned starch over a quart of wheat, stirring thoroughly till every kernel is coated. The birds will eat the wheat and die in small lots. Dangerous to leave around. Sparrow traps are preferable.

THE LITTLE OAK CHAIR. By Grace E. Hall. There's a little black mound on the hillside today, That was not there a short year ago. And a little oak chair in the closet must stay. When the others are placed in a row: And a little checked apron that she used to wear. In a little blue room that is empty and cold. There is standing a little white bed. And a little tin mirror, with flowers of gold. Seems waiting to frame a dark picture of her, who has passed away. In a low wooden cradle beside of the wall. Unlatched, lies a treasure—her battered rag doll. There's a twisted red tan on a nail by the door. And a great hat that has buttons but no three. Though their owner will need them. They hold the old place tenderly. And a bit of scarf, with the needles awry. Is the last of her basket of knitting laid by. Oh, the berries will gleam on the holly, blood red. And prayers will be mumbled and fast. As little feet scamper swiftly to bed. The waiting of weary mouths past. The stockings will hang by the grate. But a little black mound will be under the snow. And the seats will be placed by the board Christmas day— But the little oak chair in the closet must stay.

IN OTHER DAYS. Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of December 21, 1904. Superintendent Quinn of the street cleaning department is pleased with the results of his scheme of working prisoners from the city jail. The return of Frank Bacon and his crew, who had been arrested for the capacity of Cordary's theater last night. The Secretary of State Olney has assured the Spanish minister at Washington that President Cleveland would recognize the independence of Cuba. Mrs. Jennie Moore, who says she was with Bell Bros. circus for nine years and that she has trapped clear across the continent to see her children, says she saw the railroad yards yesterday as insane. Fifty Years Ago. From The Oregonian of December 21, 1911. Captain Semmes of the United States navy now on trial at the Brooklyn navy-yard on charges of almost incredible cruelty to the men in his command. Agitation has been started to provide the city with a fire alarm system which will give the factory the fire when the bell is sounded. The recent weather has had the good effect of having noticeably reduced the number of hangers-on around the street corners. The government is conducting an interesting and important series of experiments on the strength of steam boilers, under the supervision of States engineer, New York harbor. Ship Sinks to Bottom. WOODLAND, Wash. Dec. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Will a steel ship that is built from the keel to the bottom of the sea, or will it sink to a certain depth and remain buoyant? I also claim that the Titanic and the Lusitania sank to the bottom, and such cases would sink to the bottom of any known depth in the sea. We could appreciate a detailed explanation. Thank you. A STUDENT. A ship that sinks always sinks to the bottom of the sea, and the force of gravitation is not appreciably diminished at any ocean depth, and for further reason that the specific gravity of water is less than that of the material of which a ship is constructed, regardless of the depth of water. American's National Anthem. ROY, OR, Dec. 19.—(To the Editor.)—To settle a dispute will you kindly advise me what the stanza number is? J. A. MOORE. By common acceptance it is the "Star-Spangled Banner."

SEARCH WITHOUT WARRANT ILLEGAL. ILLWACO, Wash. Dec. 19.—(To the Editor.)—We understand that the resident deputy sheriff is in the habit of making a search of the houses of the Astoria and Long Beach ferry, at McDowns on the Washington side, and there he searches persons and premises for liquor, having search warrants against any particular person, unless possibly he has a "John Doe" warrant procured from a justice of the peace and applicable to anybody. We understand that the federal court of both states here is interested against such a practice and that Judge Wolvertson and Bean have both held that no search and seizure can be made without a warrant regularly obtained and directed against some particular person and that "John Doe" warrants in such cases are void. Kindly answer this. ILLWACO.

FEDERAL COURTS HAVE HELD AND THE STATUTES PROVIDE THAT WARRANTS FOR PARTICULAR PARTIES. The average traveler sleeping car is either too hot or too cold. It is often difficult to keep the cars warmly heated, and in some cases they are so cold that the passengers are made to suffer. The railroad companies are making every effort to keep passengers comfortable during the winter months. According to W. Ballou of La Grande, a well-known railroad man in the employ of the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company, Mr. Ballou is at the Oregon.

VALUABLE MINERAL DEPOSITS ARE NUMBERED among the many natural resources of Idaho. A. P. Ramstedt and John H. Worms of Wallace, who are interested in the big Hercules lead and lead mine, are Portland visitors. They are registered at the Portland.

ED W. COLE, cattleman of Haines, Cr., joined the ranks of the stockmen at the Imperial yesterday. C. McC. Johnson, lumberman of Reedport, Or., is registered at the Imperial.

J. W. MALONEY, a leading banker of Pendleton, is at the New Perkins. J. M. Pigz of Dayville, Or., is at the Imperial.

IN WARSAW A shoe shine costs 2000 rubles. That is what they must mean by the Polish proverb, says Life.