Morning Oregonian

ESTABLISHED BY HENRY L. PITTOCK.
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FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING.

The Oregonian has a letter today from Pendleton, bearing on the relationship of Multnomah county to eastern Oregon, which appears to call for a brief review of the record. If Multnomah and Umatilla counties have worked in harmonious relationships in the past, the reason is undoubtedly to be found in the advantage of both. We have no illusions on that subject, and doubtless our Pendleton friend has none. Yet, in view of the fact that the proposed fair legislation has had the unhappy effect of reviving old prejudices, and creating new misunderstandings, which have taken the form of attacks on Portland from various directions and on equally various grounds, it is right that Portland's position be measured for whatever it is worth.

Let us take the one matter of the attitude of Multnomah county in various affairs of state concern which have gone to the people through the referendum. It is there that Multnomah makes its best showing, for it has with great consistency fallen in line with proposals that were of special importance to the state, or to certain other communities than Portland. There is no instance, so far as we can recall, where any measure affecting the material interests of any section has been vetoed by the vote of Multnomah. Let us have the record, and see what our critical friends can do with it:

In 1908 on a referendum of a legislative act increasing the appropriation for the state university, Multnomah county gave a large enough favorable majority to offset a negative majority in the state at large. The bill was carried by Multnomah's vote.

In 1910 Multnomah county, with one-third of the state vote, gave 6600 of the 8600 favorable majority for the eastern Oregon hospital for the insane, at Pendleton.

In 1910 Multnomah county approved the bill establishing a state normal at Weston, but the bill was defeated by the state at large.

In the same year it contributed less than 300 of the 10,000 adverse majority against the Ashland normal school.

In 1910 it contributed 6000 of the 10,000 favorable majority to the Monmouth normal school measure.

In the special referendum election in 1912, it contributed 8400 of the 16,000 favorable majority for the referended university building repair fund.

In the same election it contributed nearly 7000 of the 10,000 favorable majority for the referended university building fund.

In 1914 Multnomah county approved the bill re-establishing a state normal at Ashland but an adverse vote in the state at large defeated the measure. In the same year it approved the bill re-establishing the normal school at Weston, but the bill failed by the adverse vote of other counties.

In 1916 Multnomah county gave a favorable vote to the Pendleton normal school measure, but it was defeated by other counties.

In 1916 Multnomah county gave a favorable majority of more than 7000 to the state rural credits measure.

In 1917 the favorable majority of Multnomah county overcame the adverse vote of the state at large on the first highway building programme; this despite the fact that while Multnomah county contributes more than one-third of the state highway cost it receives nothing from the fund. The action of Multnomah county started an enterprise, the enlargement of which has on more than one occasion since then received the enthusiastic endorsement of the entire people at the polls.

In 1918 (during the war) Multnomah gave its first distinctive majority against creation of additional normal schools. The adverse vote in this county was only 1208, but the measure was beaten by a majority of more than 16,000.

In 1919, with one third of the vote of the state, Multnomah county contributed 6000 of the 8000 majority accorded the measure to guarantee interest on irrigation district bonds.

In 1919 Multnomah county gave the Roosevelt Highway proposal a majority of more than 12,000. It carried by a total majority of 27,000.

In the same year this county voted by a majority of more than 7000 to tax itself for market roads, the bill providing that a large share of this county's revenues therefrom be expended in other counties.

It is important—it is vital—to the welfare of the state as a whole that the metropolis and the state at large be in accord on the larger interests of the commonwealth. A sound basis for concert of action is mutual understanding. In that spirit, this brief offering of the record is made.

Salem is a quiet, neighborly city, where everybody knows everybody and each tries to know nothing but good of the other. So what matter if "a prominent citizen" in confinement for possessing something "on the hip" is released by a chief of police to attend to important business, if he returns to his cell on time? Murderers and robbers have been furloughed from higher institutions to attend funerals of grandmothers or other female relatives upon occasion.

FISH OF ONE; FOWL OF THE OTHER.

The drab dullness of the post-holiday season alone is our excuse for noting the newest outbreak of our cantankerous contemporary, the Eugene Guard. Here it is:

> It is funny to have Senator Lodge, the editor of The Oregonian and others, who held up world peace for two years and defeated the only tangible plan for prevention of war ever suggested, abuse those who are opposed to an alliance between this country and Japan because they fear the cause of peace will be injured. A great many Americans are very much opposed, and honestly so, to guaranteeing, by force of arms if necessary, Japanese supremacy in the orient and throughout the islands of the Pacific.

Among the Americans opposed to any guaranty, by force of arms or any other way, of Japanese supremacy in the orient and the islands of the Pacific is The Oregonian. Will the Guard quote a single paragraph, or line, or sentence, or syllable from the proposed four-power pact that would "guarantee by force of arms, if necessary," Japanese supremacy anywhere?

It must be said in candor that the autonomy of Japan and of every other signatory to the Versailles treaty was to be preserved against external aggression (see article X); and papers like the Guard accepted the commitment of America to an extensive and complicated programme to preserve against external aggression—by force of arms if necessary—the national boundaries of nearly fifty nations, including Japan. Now they whine and squeal about foreign entanglements, the yellow peril, the Japanese invasion and the like, when four of the great powers agree to 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"—viz. aggressive action of any other power.

Let it be noted that the essence of this agreement is that the four powers will "communicate with one another fully and frankly." If there is any implication that in honor binds them to act together, it certainly contains no guaranty to preserve by force of arms, if necessary, Japanese supremacy in the orient and the islands of the Pacific.

But let us assume that it does. On what ground can one who swallowed Article X, hook, bait, sinker and pole, in the Versailles treaty, refuse to accept Article II in the four-power pact? The explanation is that the one was President Wilson's plan, the other is President Harding's.

WILL MORE OF US TRAVEL?

Repeal of the 8 per cent tax on passenger fares may soon give us an opportunity to judge of the accuracy with which Vice-President Edward Chambers, of the Santa Fe railroad, judges the effect of advances or reductions in rates on traffic. Testifying before the interstate commerce commission, he said:

> It is our judgment that the present level of passenger fares is not unreasonable, and that a reduction in the present basis would not stimulate traffic to the extent that the possible increase in travel would offset the losses in revenue that would result from the present charges.

That opinion is flatly contrary to the well-recognized principle that the cheaper a commodity is, the more people buy it, which surely must apply to transportation as well as other commodities in general use. When a man contemplates a trip, he will more readily take it if it costs $10 instead of $10.80, especially if his funds are limited, as many people's are nowadays. The principle of small profits and large returns must apply to railroad travel as to other things.

When passenger fares are reduced, as is very likely before this year ends, it will be necessary for railroads to stimulate travel in order that by selling more tickets they may compensate for the smaller profit on each ticket. Then the railroads will advertise how much cheaper a trip is than was formerly the case, and Mr. Chambers' eyes will glow with satisfaction when he sees cars loaded full. Then he will find it very convenient to forget what he told the interstate commission.

THE WORLD'S OUTLOOK ON THE NEW YEAR.

This year seems destined to be one of reorganization and reconstruction in the world's affairs, in which the United States is deeply interested and will hold a dominant position.

Before January ends the Washington conference will result in treaties for limitation of navies, for restoration, at least in large part, of the independence and integrity of China, for definite establishment in practice as well as theory of the open door policy in that country, and probably for withdrawal of Japanese troops from Siberia.

Before the conference at Washington ends another will have begun at Cannes, in which the United States may join the allies in revising reparation terms with Germany, and may arrange to fund the allies' debt to this country in conjunction with adjustment of their debts to one another. This will involve pressure on Germany to make its government not only financially self-supporting but able to make payments; on France to moderate its demands and to act with the other powers, not independently, and on arrangements for financial help to other European states on the strict condition that they make their revenue and expenses balance and stop issuing wildcat money. These are essentials to revival of industry and commerce for this as well as other countries.

At Cannes the allies may attempt a new treaty with Turkey which will end the war with Greece—the only war remaining from the world war—and will restore the unity that France broke by making a separate treaty with Mustapha Kemal's government.

The transformation in Russia that began a year ago is likely to continue at much accelerated speed. Famine which the soviet is helpless to combat alone, has driven it to abandon communism almost entirely, to permit foreign relief under foreign control, to admit foreign capital and to abandon world revolution as its aim. Though Lenin and his red oligarchy are determined to rule, whether under a communist or capitalist system, the people may not submit to a tyranny that was imposed by terrorism after they recover enough freedom of action and enough physical energy to overthrow it. Whatever the political development in Russia, freedom to buy and sell will increase production and revive foreign trade, with a stimulating effect on the industry of this and European countries.

The prospect is that within the year the Irish Free State will become a fact, and that there will be stopped a source of disturbance, of which the effects reach far beyond Ireland. But the world will not yet be at peace. Egypt still demands independence, and there is passive rebellion in India for the same purpose. Portugal is in a state of chronic anarchy, and armed intervention by mandate from the league has been suggested. China has several rival governments, no one of which is able to overcome the others, and has intermittent civil war.

Great progress in restoration of peace, order and prosperity may be expected in 1922, but only the most sanguine will expect that this turbulent old world will settle down to rest before the year ends.

ODD JOBS HELP.

Out of a multitude of measures adopted by the people of various cities of more than 20,000 inhabitants which have been reached by President Harding's conference on unemployment, a few impress us as being eminently practical. These are uniformly characterized by organized effort to create jobs in quarters where not much thought had been previously given to the subject, by personal contact between members of committees and potential employers, and by emphasis on the fact that even the small jobs, if there are enough of them, are worth considering.

Dallas, Texas, for illustration, has taken a church census of its 190,000 inhabitants, in the course of which each householder was asked to furnish some special odd job, painting, gardening, carpentry, cleaning, and the like, and records were kept of the replies. The result was that a large amount of work was obtained for the needy.

Chicago made a double canvass. The fire department ordered a general clean-up of all combustible material and refuse, which served the purpose both of reducing the fire hazard and making a considerable number of small jobs, while the Woman's City club has divided the city into districts, each in charge of a chairman, whose assistants are making a house-to-house canvass with a purpose similar to that of the Dallas campaign.

Rockford, Ill., has a committee in each ward, with sub-committees which have established personal touch with every citizen. The Rockford effort is reported to have been particularly successful.

Atlanta, Georgia, has a club of five hundred citizens, each of whom is pledged to build a dwelling to be rented at a reasonable figure, thus killing two birds with a single stone by relieving unemployment and the housing situation at the same time.

So-called "large employers" are solicited in many towns to increase their payrolls whenever it appears that men can be utilized even without much profit, and these larger establishments have quite generally responded. There remains, however, a considerable residue of unemployment to whom odd jobs would be a boon. There are perhaps few householders who could not discover a job or two that needs doing, and who, if they realized the aggregate importance of little things, would be willing to make some work. A few days' employment thus created at this particular time by each citizen would in all probability relieve a critical situation and aid immeasurably in tiding over the period until industry is generally resumed.

We surmise that there is not so much unwillingness among the people to help in this matter as there is want of appreciation of the part that small jobs are going to play in the crisis and a general spirit of waiting for someone else to take the initiative. A well-considered and thorough personal canvass by an active and patriotic committee might conceivably develop surprising results.

THE EMBRACING IVY.

A goodly number of fond human memories cling to the ivy, as its vines to the wall. Botanists call it by an ugly name and reproachful, but parasite though it is, men have loved it and shall continue to appraise it fondly, with its gentle ministry to old walls, old dwellings. Against this traditional sentiment have been turned of late the reproaches of practical folk in England—of all places—who indict the storied English ivy as an insidious foe to the structures that harbor the vine. Magdalen college, Oxford, finds itself the center of a staid but persistent vortex of criticism, with the Times serving as a forum for controversy.

The oddity of this quarrel is that the claims of either faction—those who defend the ivy and those who condemn it—constitute a direct and particular denial of either contention. Thus it is discovered that whereas Edward Warren has for some years been consecrating his life to the elimination of the vine, holding that the stones of Magdalen must crumble unless they be stripped, a certain R. T. Gunther, no less pledged to his purpose, vows that the removal is not only a sacrilege of tradition, but that architectural ruin must follow.

"Ivy is a terrible foe to architecture," asserts the one. "Its acid secretions destroy the mortar of the joints, reducing it to incohesive sand. Its fibres and tendrils push their way between the joints, bursting ancient mouldings and shattering carvings, steadily disintegrating the work of man's hands, while it smothers proportions and beauties."

"The wall face," retorts the other, "which has been kept dry for longer than living man can remember, is now exposed to the rain and humidity of the Oxford climate. Frost will complete the disintegration of the surface, rendering expensive repairs necessary in the future. Old members of the college know the services which plants, properly kept, can render to old buildings."

Old members would know how much the ivy means and shrink to see profane hands laid upon it in the name of the practical. They would not like to see its green and comely embrace removed from walls that had known that clasp before the young iconoclasts were born, or their fathers, for that matter. Yet it is well for the good of their cause that they summon the stout argument of service to the support of sentiment. If it can be proved that ivy shields the stone and prolongs its years, then the upstarts are confounded, as they should be.

Aside from that, must we measure service always by the yard-stick and the hour-glass? Vine-clad castles and abbeys and old dwellings would seem to have the knack of enduring for longer than any man's tenure on life, or for longer than the lives of many men. So intimately has the ivy clothed them and hidden or softened the brigandage of time that it has become a part of the structure itself. To strip it off would but be to reveal ruin and sadness, saved by no kindly touch of nature from the stark aspect of death. Though it be granted that a vestment of ivy shortens the life of the stone it graces, it were well to remember that we are dealing with centuries. Counting the gain of all those decades, the gladness with which men have gazed upon the lovely parasite, the eyes that have turned to it and received rest, it is fair to assume that we owe the ivy some trifling debt and that it has more than repaid its tavern toll.

After all, the assault upon ivy is much ado about nothing. Implous hands may have their way and tear it from the walls of Magdalen college, carrying their crusade wherever the vine lifts its eager leaves to the coping. The years will amend. Other hands will plant it and other folk, given to sentimental commonsense—for there is such a blend—will guard it tenderly and find the sight of it most soothing and satisfactory.

THE STORY OF POLISH MARKS.

The man who sent $250 to his brother in Poland and received $12 back after his money had been converted into Polish marks and had in vain sought the lost brother for two years may console himself with the thought that it might have been worse. When the $250 reached Poland it was changed into about 12,500 marks, so the dollar was then worth about 50 marks. At the end of September, 1921, the mark reached its lowest point, 7000 to the dollar. At that rate the 12,500 marks were worth $1.78. The money must have been returned before the rapid fall which began in June.

If the American brother who sent the money had been willing to back his confidence on the economic recovery of Poland he might cut his loss materially. Since September Poland has won valuable territory by the Silesian award, which brings within its own borders much coal and other commodities that formerly figured as imports from Germany and thus helped to depress the Polish mark. The Polish diet is working on a bill greatly increasing taxes, which is expected to go far toward balancing the budget. In consequence the value of the mark doubled between the end of September and the middle of December.

Excess of imports over exports has been a factor in depreciation of Polish currency, causing a demand for foreign in excess of Polish money. Until recently imports were several times exports in value, but there has been a marked change during the last few months. The grain crop was so much larger than in 1920 that imports of American wheat have stopped and there is a surplus of 200,000 tons for export. Exports of lumber have increased materially and the government has lifted the embargo on exports of oil. But even a balance between exports and imports could not offset the great increase of paper currency. The amount in circulation grew from 100,000,000,000 marks on July 1, 1921, to 207,000,000,000 on November 30. At the September rate of exchange those 107 new billions were worth only between fifteen and sixteen million dollars.

The manner in which Poland has begun to climb painfully up the hill to solvency is typical of what all central and eastern European countries must do. The hardest part of the journey is the start and it is slow and painful, but each step is easier than the preceding one. The man who expected a quick profit by speculating in foreign exchange is doomed to disappointment, but if he is willing to make it a slow investment by waiting for the recovery of nations that are basically sound in physique and character he should win something, though probably no more than he could have earned in some productive enterprise.

The safety first organization of an eastern railroad recently set a watch on one of the most dangerous crossings along the line and proceeded to check the actions of approaching motorists. It was then discovered that the average speed of all cars, including those which observed due precautions, was thirty miles an hour and that the lowest was nineteen miles. Few stopped before crossing the track and many did not look to see whether the way was clear. The numbers of the cars were noted and friendly letters were sent to the owners earnestly requesting them "to approach all crossings with car under control and look in both directions before crossing the tracks." The method commends itself as less provocative of friction than arresting men and fining them, but it may be wondered whether any conceivable plan will be effective. The grade crossing peril is one of the best-advertised occurrences in the world, and the number of these accidents in 1921 showed an increase over 1920.

Grain and flour exports from the port of Boston decreased about 80 per cent last year. Still, she has her codfish and can do a good import business in sugar as well as rum, if she can get it by.

The man who makes good whisky in Great Britain has been made a peer, and James M. Barrie is given the order of merit. Honors lie easy over there.

Chicago doctors issued 2,189,000 liquor prescriptions last year, which hardly jibes with Chicago's claim of being the healthiest city in the country.

Dilatory autoists are being given a few days of grace in getting licenses, which is a kindly act, but something may break any day.

There is a pent-up Utica in York state with a temperature of 27 below. Being ice-cutting time, she needs that weather.

Each colored gentleman who aspires to challenge Dempsey should wear a horseshoe in his mitt next time.

Landis started the easy jobs at big pay, but Hays is flirting with something twice as good.

The Listening Post.

By DeWitt Harry.

HOTEL lobby loungers present a difficult problem. Not only the male with his drooping cigarette and his counterpart gnawing a strong cigar, but the women as well. Just a few weeks ago the management of one of the large hostelries in the city had to call in the police to relieve them of a persistent and non-paying guest who held down a well-upholstered chair all night.

In one of the marble lobbies on a busy street nearly all the chairs have been removed, for it was found that loafing was restricted to a great extent by discomfort. Most of these places have their house detectives, but even they have found it impossible to keep objectionable characters away.

There are numbers of regular lobby attendants well known to hotel staffs, for many men find their club and social life there. While it is not the intention of the hotels to run free clubs, they cannot help a certain amount of this, and they do not desire to offend any who might have possible business there or to drive away friends of patrons or cause ill-feeling. These many considerations help to create a very delicate situation.

Then as additional complications are the women flirts. There are a number of these who play the hotels regularly, like to pose in the lobbies and attract attention, and some are far from averse to making chance acquaintances. In the handling of the woman lobby pest the hotel managers have an exceedingly hard task, for they must exercise every care to see that there is no insult offered. Damage suits have not been unknown from this cause, and for this reason a new hotel is planning a small lobby without any chairs.

* * *

What do you read?

A sweet-faced grandmotherly creature occupied a seat in the reading room at the public library. She was reading Karl Marx. Watch the crowds in the circulating room. Many of the people taking books home refuse to run true to form.

Here comes a great, rough creature, flannel shirt open at the neck, face unshaven, clad in overalls, with greasy hat under his arm. He draws "Old Pottery and Porcelain."

Right behind him comes the woman bent on improving her mind. She takes four books home each week in dutiful order. Of course she may not be able to understand much of their contents, but they make a splendid showing on the living room table between the book racks.

Sitting in a quiet corner is a well-dressed man, a professional or business success, judging from his clothes and appearance. He should be reading a treatise on lumber or some trade digest or business journal. Let's peek at the volume. "Bab—A Sub-Deb!"

An old man with faded umbrella, muffler and rubbers asks the page for a rhyming dictionary. A large woman, weighing in the neighborhood of 230 pounds, is feverishly reading a book on mountain climbing. Wearing his derby hat is a small brown Japanese student carrying a great thesaurus.

And in the magazine room—the types, the poorly-clad men evidently down on their luck saturating themselves in romance while they bask in comfort. In the reference room is a totally different class of patrons. In the children's department, tense little faces are upraised as the children take in the fascinating tale the "story lady" is relating.

* * *

Most superstitions veil their birth in vague antiquity. We all have our pet aversions. Many a woman will not wear opals. Ask her and she says they are "unlucky" and when pressed for an explanation the chances are that it will be the logical feminine one, "because."

Admittedly the opal is one of the most beautiful of semi-precious stones. Its variegated colors have no equal and some of the well-cut stones take high rank in fine world collections. So far as is known no curse has ever been laid on the opal that can be verified, and well authenticated instances of dire disaster attending its wear are difficult of proof.

A local lapidary who bears an excellent reputation at his craft, and who has made a study of stones and their attendant legends, lays the unlucky opal superstition at the door of the stone-cutters themselves. An opal in matrix is a difficult thing to handle. The crude stone comes imbedded in hard rock and their form is fragmentary and odd. In addition to this the opal is a mass of tiny fractures and its structure thus presents a difficult task for the workman.

Under old-time shop rules workmen were forced to stand a portion of the losses through breakage of materials. In this manner, as the opal presented many chances for loss, the opal made many enemies. The local stone cutter thinks that most of the superstition against opals came from careful fostering of this belief by the lapidaries themselves.

* * *

A family were having a great deal of difficulty in getting a lawn started in one of the newer residence districts. The house, on a corner, sat on a level with the street. In old days a short-cut path led across the lot occupied by the new house. Usage had made this path a neighborhood convenience, and small boys found it difficult to break the chains of habit. All this leads to the discovery of the paragon of politeness.

"I don't want to catch you running across my lawn again," the lady of the house warned a seven-year-old.

"I beg your pardon, ma'm, but I never run across your lawn."

"Why I saw you," exclaimed the woman.

The boy lifted his hat as he delivered his last polite and pleasant remark and turned to leave—"I beg your pardon, ma'm, you're a liar, ma'm."

* * *

In an old curiosity shop a few days ago a second-hand store littered up with unassorted junk, the writer discovered a real antique, a foot-scraper. Remember them? Before the streets were paved no home was complete without the scraper on the front steps and the "welcome" doormat. It was not considered good etiquette then to enter any house without scraping the mud from your feet. Possibly people are not as particular as they used to be, but those scrapers served a mighty good purpose.

Those Who Come and Go.

Tales of Folks at the Hotels.

In 1846 the father of George Finley came to Oregon. This was three years before the gold rush to California. The elder Finley established the first flour mill in Oregon south of Oregon City and he had customers as far away as Jacksonville, which in those day was a rip-snorting gold camp as wild and as picturesque as anything that the gold diggings of California could produce. George Finley was in town yesterday from his home at Crawfordsville, Linn county. He says the old-timers of Linn county are being "written up" and that these personal sketches are to be filed with the Oregon Historical society so that they will be available for future historians. While here Mr. Finley wanted Jefferson Myers to jot down some data for the historical compilation.

"We shipped our last cranberries last week and there are no more to be had from Pacific coast cranberry growers until next fall," said S. A. Moore, secretary and manager of the Columbia River Cranberry Growers' association, of Ilwaco, Wash. "Our crops have been good this year, and on account of the shortage in the eastern crop our prices have been very satisfactory during the entire season. Growers are well pleased with the results, particularly those who marketed through the Pacific cranberry exchange. The cranberry industry has emerged from the infant and experimental class and is now the real thing." The association of which Mr. Moore is manager operates a large acreage and packing plant. Mr. and Mrs. Moore are registered at the Hotel Portland.

"The automobile tire business is good and will steadily improve, because the automobile is here to stay. Cars are becoming more plentiful each year and, of course, that means a constantly widening market for tires," states Walter J. Gray, tire man from Mansfield, O., at the Multnomah. "It has come to the point where the general merchandise stores in the country places carry a stock of tires. Farmers come in to trade and among other requirements are shoes for their cars. The cross-roads merchant of today is right on the job to supply the demand."

"During the recent tie-up caused by snow in the Deschutes canyon and the Columbia river gorge there was scarcely even a light frost south of Madras and the roads were dusty. We were not isolated—it was the outside world that was," declares Fred N. Wallace, president of the Oregon irrigation congress, who is in the city and is registered at the Imperial. Mr. Wallace, one of the best-known citizens of central Oregon, is being mentioned as a possible candidate for representative from the district composed of Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook, Lake and Klamath counties.

In the clothing line business has not been as good as the dealers would have liked in Idaho, and particularly in Boise. The reason for this is that there has been an open winter, decidedly mild in character, so that the people have not had to invest in a lot of nice, heavy, warm clothes, J. G. H. Graveley of Boise, where he is a commission merchant, is among the Idaho arrivals at the Multnomah.

The Pacific Northwest representative of one of the best-known shirt and collar concerns in America is at the Benson and has decided to make Portland his headquarters in the future rather than Seattle. He explains that business declined so in the Puget sound country that he can do better by locating in Portland and working the Willamette valley.

"Few people realize that one of the biggest military plants in the state is at Corvallis. I refer to the Oregon Agricultural college," explains W. R. Reid, secretary of the commercial club at Corvallis. "Twenty men can be commissioned each year into the regular army from the college. This makes it a sort of miniature West Point."

Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Knox of Fossil are here while Mrs. Knox has her eyes treated. Mr. Knox, 70 years of age, and doesn't look it, is an old-timer in the Fossil country, where he is a large land owner and has cattle and sheep. He has been raising hogs as a sideline, but discovered the past year that this side-line was his main line in so far as cash profits were concerned.

Some of the finest storms that ever broke against the precipitous cliffs of Neah-kah-nie mountain were on exhibition this winter and the patrons of the big tavern nearby had what might be considered ring-side seats at the show. S. G. Reed, manager of the tavern, has arrived at the Multnomah, registering from Nehalem, Or.

Walter Meacham, ex-secretary of the Commercial club at Baker is in town attending the State Chamber of Commerce meeting. During the special session of the legislature Mr. Meacham bombarded eastern Oregon legislators with telegrams urging them to oppose the 1925 exposition measures.

"Men who bought sheep recently are going to make money, for the prices will continue to rise," is the optimistic view taken by R. A. Boman of Boise at the Multnomah. "The men who bought sheep a year or two ago, when the prices were sky-high, however, are still in the financial doldrums."

With two carloads of steers, John Paimers came to town from Fossil and is at the Perkins. He received 6½ cents a pound and isn't overenthused by the price since he discovered what the consumers have to pay for beef in the retail butcher shops of Portland.

Wilford Allen of Grants Pass, where he is connected with the irrigation project a few miles south of the town, is in the city talking to fellow irrigators, like James Kyle of Stanfield and Fred N. Wallace of Tumalo.

Charles Berkley, manager of the Hay Creek company, one of the big land and cattle companies east of the Cascades, is in the city conferring with the directors of the corporation.

S. K. Sykes and A. R. Marsh, registered at the Benson from Roseburg, made the trip to see the boxing fiasco at Milwaukie when the main event was over in less than three minutes.

Sam Brown of Gervais, Or., in the heart of the French prairie country, is in the city. He is interested in a drainage project for the valley.

L. E. Bean, speaker of the house of representatives, is at the Imperial. Mr. Bean is here as a delegate to the State Chamber of Commerce conference.

William F. Gratke and L. D. Drake newspaper men of Astoria, are registered at the Hotel Oregon.

J. W. Lillie, formerly sheriff of Gilliam county, is in Portland for a few days.

Maybe Her Mother Was.

Everybody.

Lucy heard her mother and some callers discussing a neighbor's rug. She quietly slipped out of the room, rang the neighbor's door bell, and asked to see the new rug.

After looking at it for some time, she solemnly said, "Well, it doesn't make me sick."

Burroughs Nature Club.

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Can You Answer These Questions?

1. How many muskrats are there to a litter?

2. I have a mud turtle. Should I keep it in water a good deal of the time?

3. Please describe the linnet, over-common in parts of California. A recent question in your notes makes me think the bird therein described was a linnet, and not the sparrow suggested as reply.

(Answers in tomorrow's Nature Notes.)

* * *

Answers to Previous Questions.

1. Do mosquitoes of both sexes bite?

No, only the female is a blood sucker. The male lives on plant juices. But the male yellow fever mosquito, Stegomyia, will settle on man. Its object, however, is to imbibe perspiration, not to suck blood.

* * *

2. Are black bass, or any of our scale game fishes, infested with worms under the skin along the back during the months of July and August?

We cannot say positively not, but skin parasites are not the rule with fishes. The alimentary tract is commonly the area infested—mouth, stomach and intestines. The small-mouthed bass, however, has a skin parasite, one of the Trematode. The butterfish has a flesh worm, in exception to the rule, and this parasite is said not to hurt the edibility of the fish. Many fishes carry crustacea on the fins and outer parts of the body.

* * *

3. My canary's claws are constantly troublesome, getting too long. Is there anything to do but cut them?

In nature birds' claws wear off gradually from hopping on rough bark, stones, etc. Of course, this is missed in a cage. A sheet of rough sandpaper in the bottom of the cage will help; or try putting in a good-sized piece of bark to scratch on. Present difficulty may be helped by filing the claws frequently.

Blackbirds.

By Grace E. Hall.

I heard a blackbird chorus
In a tall and leaf-bare tree,
On a day when winds were moaning
Of the winter's tragedy;
And the colored songsters' rapture
Was a symphony to me.

They sang of flight untrammeled,
Through space when skies were fair,
They sang of lacy tree tops
When spring was everywhere;
They sang of baby fledglings—
And joy was in the air.

Their song was rife with fredeom,
Each singer strained his throat,
As, on a bare bough swinging,
He trilled his given note;
And wild and true that music—
That masters never wrote.

But greater than the music,
Far clearer than the lay,
Was something that they taught me
Before they winged away:
That I should sing my sweetest
When skies are drear and gray!

YOUNG MEN WANT TO BE RUSHED

Modest Middle-Class Girls Have Dull Time in Portland, Says One.

PORTLAND, Jan. 2.—(To the Editor.)—Since Eve's problem has apparently been settled through the medium of The Oregonian, I am wondering if there won't be some solution of mine, too? I am not, as Eve, asking for "a husband, a little home and some chickens," but I am asking for an answer to the following questions:

Is it true—as has often been said—that Portland men have a reputation for being poor mixers? That Portland is the worst place on the coast to have a good time socially? That the girl who is a good "spooner" and who rushes the men will be popular, while the one who doesn't will be unseen and unnoticed?

Perhaps these questions may sound foolish, but what if you were a girl of good family, fairly attractive and wanted a pal—but were forced to stay home and watch the others play? Sounds like some old "lemon" who wants to be popular and can't. Then there are many in my same class—and Portland certainly isn't noted for the abundance of such.

It is not such a difficult problem for the shop girl—it is easy for her to meet men of her own class—through community service clubs and through street acquaintances, for there is not so much reserve, there is an absence of social conventions. The society girl attends many social functions where there are countless opportunities for meeting people.

But what about the girl of the so-called middle class? She seems to be in a class by herself. She does not belong in the shop-girl class; neither is she in society. Where has she the opportunity of meeting the right kind of men? I have heard numberless remarks along this line by college girls who are capable, attractive and accomplished. Doubtless the question will be raised that if these girls are attractive why aren't they having a good time? Generally, they don't have the chance of meeting people; they aren't consistent "spooners" and, what is more, they aren't continually rushing a man by calling him up every other night and making a date.

After an absence of nearly three years I have returned to Portland only to find that the majority of my friends have scattered. How will new ones be made? Join some of the community clubs, you say. Most of them are made up of either the extremely young set, the younger married or the older people. Then, too, you can't go around by yourself, neither do you want to decorate the wall. What is the solution?

In many of the larger cities clubs are being organized to deal with this problem, to see that those girls who can present the proper qualifications meet the right kind of professional and business men.

I have finally come to the conclusion that Portland men prefer the new type of girl who does the rushing herself. Or are there those who do admire the old-fashioned girl who wants a good time but in the right way and under the right circumstances? MARY SIT-BY-THE-FIRE.

Instruction in Wireless Telegraphy.

SILVERTON, Or., Jan. 2.—(To the Editor.)—I am interested in amateur wireless and would like to know where I could obtain any information at reasonable cost.

DAILY READER.

The radio department of the Oregon Institute of technology, Y. M. C. A., Portland, furnishes instruction at a low rate of tuition and will be glad to furnish you with information about the course. The department would also put you in touch with the Amateur Radio Operators' association and advise you regarding the merits of a number of magazines published in the interest of wireless telegraphy.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

NOT SO ATTRACTIVE.

In the days when a king of a Balkan domain
Lived the life we ascribe to one Reilly,
When people delightedly basked in his reign
And valued their potentate highly
When he dwelt in a palace where care was unknown
And woe not allowed to intrude there,
You will find that he clung to his little old throne
As if he were actually glued there.

When one day he sickened, and presently died,
And it fell that another was needed,
There always were plenty of princes outside
All ready to rule the way he did.
And on every train that was bound to the town
Came nobles of unquestioned merit,
All willing and eager to beg for the crown
And establish their fitness to wear it.

Today, though the throne has been vacant a year—
A throne that men once would have died for—
And want-ads sent out through the land far and near,
It hasn't been even applied for.
All the princes they've offered it over there
Have haughtily muttered "No thankee!"
And so the Albanians, quite in despair,
Have hurriedly sent for a Yankee.

All Yankees supposedly long for a throne
With a fierce and incurable mania.
They yearn for a sceptre and crown of their own,
Although they are both in Albania.
We don't want to pose, in this sapient song
As a sceptic, a scorner or scoffer,
But we feel that this throne has been vacant so long
That there must be some string to the offer!

* * *

Too Drastic.

Certain members of the house will never approve of an anti-lynching bill which does not at least provide for a brief open season.

* * *

Curious Phenomenon.

False teeth cost more than formerly, yet they are not a bit falser than those bought 20 years ago.

* * *

Educational.

The discussions about the open door have taught a lot of our fellow citizens that there is something in China besides laundries.

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In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 4, 1897.

Salem.—Although the fee system is flagrantly abused and responsible for extravagance that meets with the general condemnation of all but its beneficiaries, the legislature will be asked to perpetuate it.

Work will be begun this morning by Wolfe & Zwicker on the two torpedo boats which they have contracted to build for the government.

The representatives of the several hop-buying firms who have in the past made Salem their headquarters have moved to this city.

A. Richley, the well-known builder and architect, speaking of the plan of the new federal building soon to be erected in Portland, expressed himself as not very favorably impressed with the design.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 4, 1872.

A deep ravine on First street above Hall, which was filled up last year, has been partly washed out by recent rains.

Frank Warren, who has been for a long time connected with Wells, Fargo & Co. in this city, has severed connections and gone over diagonally to the Ladd & Tilton bank.

At the council meeting last night a petition was received asking permission for cows to run at large back of Eighteenth street and between D and Jefferson.

ROUND-UP ASKS NO TAX HELP

Mr. Ritner Replies to Proposal to Retaliate on Pendleton.

PENDLETON, Or., Jan. 2.—(To the Editor.)—A man who designates himself as "Fair Play" had published in The Oregonian last Friday a letter proposing a boycott on the Pendleton Round-Up on account of the opposition of eastern Oregon to being taxed for the 1925 fair. I would like to call this gentleman's attention as well as the attention of Portland people in general to the fact that the Pendleton Round-Up has not and never will ask the state to levy a tax to support the Pendleton show.

I would also call the attention of the gentleman to the fact that a boycott sometimes acts as a two-edged sword and sometimes as a boomerang. Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane and Salt Lake have some very live wholesale houses who would be mighty glad to get the business of the Pendleton merchants should the wholesalers of Portland refuse (?) to accept our business.

The "active and influential citizen" who prefers to make his criticisms from behind the shelter of the name "Fair Play" insinuates that the sagebrushers do not know what the name means. Be that as it may, but we do have the courage to sign our real names to communications which we send to newspapers.

ROY W. RITNER.

WHAT HELP HAS CITY GIVEN?

Correspondent Does Not Recall Portland Aid to Outside Enterprises.

PENDLETON, Or., Jan. 2.—(To the Editor.)—I am one of that numerous class who live outside of Portland, but who are not unfriendly to Portland. Yet I am bound to say that I consider it no friendly act on Portland's part for it to try to