Morning Oregonian

ESTABLISHED BY HENRY L. PITTOCK.

Published by The Oregonian Publishing Co., 135 Sixth Street, Portland, Oregon.

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

The Oregonian is a member of the Associated Press. The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper and also the local news published herein. All rights of publication of special dispatches herein are also reserved.

Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance.
(By Mail.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$8.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months	4.25
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	6.00
Daily, without Sunday, six months	3.25
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.90
Weekly, one year	1.50
Sunday, one year	2.50

(By Carrier.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	9.00
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	7.80
Daily, without Sunday, three months	1.95
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.65

How to Remit—Send postoffice money order, express or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at owner's risk. Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—1 to 16 pages, 1 cent; 18 to 32 pages, 2 cents; 34 to 48 pages, 3 cents; 50 to 64 pages, 4 cents; 66 to 80 pages, 5 cents; 82 to 96 pages, 6 cents. Foreign postage double rate.

Eastern Business Office—Verree & Conklin, 200 Madison avenue, New York; Verree & Conklin, Steger building, Chicago; Verree & Conklin, Free Press building, Detroit, Mich.; Verree & Conklin, Monadnock building, San Francisco, Cal.

IT IS THE RAILROADS' MOVE.

Business having taken a slight upward turn, any decrease in cost of production, consequently in prices, would have a decidedly tonic effect, and attention has naturally turned to cost of transportation for a good part of this decrease. Hence the inquiry that is being conducted by the interstate commerce commission. By reducing rates on farm products, the railroads have yielded to the logic of the argument that if rates are so high that the farmer cannot ship corn and get any return he will not ship, he cannot buy and the railroad loses revenue both ways. Many cars lie idle and are a great body of capital earning no return. The road and terminals, not being operated to capacity, earn far less than their possible revenue. The railroads in the aggregate earn less than the standard return fixed by congress for the two years ending March 1, 1922, and aimed at when the commission made the general advances. Having failed to earn that return at the advanced rates and being obviously unable to attempt it by raising rates still higher, admitting also that the traffic will bear no heavier burden, why do not the railroads exhaust every expedient to earn a higher net income at a lower scale of rates?

We all know that higher cost of labor and material has raised cost of operation to a figure which limits the degree to which rates can be reduced, and that reduction in those items would only open the way to lower rates, but any suggestion of that kind opens one of those endless discussions in which managers and employes say to each other: "You come down first." Managers say: "We can't come down because our cost of living is high. Reduce wages, then we will reduce rates, and your cost of living will come down because ours will be lower." The employes retort: "Reduce rates, then prices will fall and we will accept lower wages, but we cannot live on less during the time the reduction would take to get around to us." This resembles the old knife-and-scissors argument between a man and his wife, which ended in his drowning her, she going down with her fingers crossed to signify "Scissors." If the railroads should move first by reducing rates to a basis at which traffic would move, load all cars, put their entire plant in operation and then fell short of a fair return on their investment, at the same time causing prices to fall, they would have an irresistible case for wage reductions and the public would back them.

But there are other ways in which the railroads might reduce their expenses and thus open the way to reduce rates and actually increase net income. The transportation act prescribes rates which will yield a fair return "under honest, efficient and economical management." That implies that the commission must inquire into the whole scheme of management to determine whether it is "honest, efficient and economical." The human operating machine of the various railroads has existed for many years, has grown larger with consolidations and has been free from searching analysis such as has shown up the defects and waste of the government. So great a machine tends to degenerate into a bureaucracy, to become "set in its ways," to follow precedent senselessly long after it has become obsolete, and the longer such a machine remains undisturbed the more "set" it becomes. When a hint of this kind is thrown out, railroad officials become indignantly agitated. They are at great pains to prove that Henry Ford has done nothing remarkable with his little railroad, and they tell with pride how far the American railroad system excels that of any European country in efficiency. But the question now is not whether it is more efficient than any foreign system but how much more efficient it might be made.

Walker D. Hines mentioned a few points which should be pondered and acted upon. High cost of labor and material should prompt search for means of getting larger results from a given amount of them. An industrial revolutionist like Mr. Ford might be able to show how trains could be moved through terminals faster, how cars could be loaded and unloaded more economically, how tariffs could be simplified so that a high school boy could find a rate whereas now a tariff expert must wade through hundreds of pages. An efficiency expert with full swing might rattle many dry bones.

All this is very much to the point, for the railroads have transportation to sell, and they cannot sell it unless the people can sell the goods to be carried. Take the case of lumber, as an example. For months after the rate increase in August, 1920, the transcontinental roads refused to adjust the new rates from the Pacific coast to a competitive basis with those from the south and finally made grudging reductions which still gave the south a decided advantage in middle western and eastern markets. Cost of production in the two regions is approximately the same, but in every competitive market the south's margin of profit is from $1 to $7 per thousand feet higher than that of the Pacific coast. Difference in rates is the sole explanation. Freight is so high a proportion of the delivered price of Pacific coast lumber that, when prices fall, it is sold at a loss while southern pine still brings a profit. Reports of comparative movements of cars from the Douglas and yellow pine regions show that under present rates there has been a great decrease in that of Douglas fir and a considerable increase in that of yellow pine between points where there is no water competition. The loss of lumber traffic by railroads to water lines has been enormous, and it promises to be permanent, for facilities exist to make it so.

In fact, wherever possible the people are learning to do without the railroads. Water traffic between the coasts has attained great volume and is growing, taking much long-haul traffic formerly carried across the continent. Trucks take much short-haul traffic that can be hauled on paved highways. Cargoes of agricultural machinery from Chicago go on barges down the Mississippi river and come by ship from gulf ports to Portland, the railroads getting only the short haul from this port to the interior. If the people should form a fixed habit of doing without railroads in the most densely peopled parts of the country, as they learned to do without stage coaches a century ago, the railroads will be in a sad plight. They are already in a fight for existence as a transportation system able to hold its own in competition with other systems.

OLD STRAW.

Once George Sylvester Vierick, greatest of American-born propagandists, called his paper the Fatherland, then Vierick's Weekly, and now the American Monthly. But it is the same old Fatherland. Lately the "American" Monthly had an article on the late lamented kaiser and his letters to Von Hindenburg, which is reprinted in the local German weekly, and the quality of which may be judged by the following paragraph:

> To men and women capable of reason, capable of weighing proved facts, there never has been any doubt that the war was carefully plotted by the triple entente and precipitated later the purpose of destroying the German empire, which, by the purely peaceable means of commercial superiority, was becoming the foremost nation in the world, saving only our own United States. But the legend of Germany's guilt was an absolute necessity to the intriguing statesmen of the allies and those who inherited . . . to force the American people into the war.

Just when France, the spoiled child of the family of nations, is by its active assertion of the new principle of Frankreich Ueber Alles straining its relations with its recent allies and associates, along comes the never-die and never-learn Germanized hyphenates to tell the world how some other—any other—than Germany began the war. Over in Germany, they still speak of Germany's undefeated army.

Gross, offensive, and insulting German propaganda before the entrance of America into the war had a large part in alienating American sympathy from Germany. It can be done again.

WHAT IS PUBLIC SERVICE?

The proposed Woodrow Wilson Foundation will have served a high and useful purpose if it does no more than stimulate thought upon the nature of that public service which most deserves the plaudits of the people. The purpose of the drive lately begun to raise a fund of a million dollars or more is to provide the material for a series of rewards, roughly comparable to the Nobel prizes, to be bestowed upon "the individual or group that has rendered within a specified period meritorious service to democracy, public welfare, liberal thought or peace through justice." A declaration so inclusive was destined from the outset to provoke discussion.

A questionnaire sent out to the heads of sixty-two colleges and other representative citizens already has elicited a variety of opinion. The president of the university of Michigan, for example, submitted it to a convention of deans, who were unable to agree upon any single form of service more conspicuous than all others and so embodied their views in a set of four suggestions. One is that the prize be awarded to the person in an elective office, federal or state, "who is judged for his constructive policies and wisdom of method to have rendered distinguished public service." Another would give the prize to the judge who in performance of his duty has shown himself to be most wise and courageous. A third would reward the editor of the daily newspaper who has similarly served most conspicuously; a fourth would reserve the award for the "author in the field of social and political sciences who is judged for his writings to have rendered a public service." The proposals in question are submitted with the understanding that any or all of them may be employed.

The president of the College of the City of New York, who may have been influenced by the course of recent events in the metropolis, places greatest emphasis upon the service of elected officials "who withstand popular clamor and strong political pressure and serve the public in a large way at personal sacrifice." The president of New York university thinks that the most important problem is the promotion of good understanding among the diverse elements of our own population. The president of Brown university would recognize the efforts of business men who are actually solving social problems and working out practical plans of cooperation with the employes of their own plants. Another college president would devote the fund to the reward of men and women who are doing obscure but vital research work in municipal and scientific matters.

In any or all the fields suggested, and in others yet to be proposed, it undoubtedly would be desirable that progress should be recorded. The day of days will not have dawned, however, until the prize shall have come to be esteemed for the distinction which it implies, without reference to its pecuniary value. To inculcate the idea of service is the first task which will confront the new foundation; the dimensions of the respective awards and the particular nature of achievement which they are intended to commemorate will be, after all, a matter for secondary consideration.

The habitual criminal, unhappily for the law-abiding, is often alert and wide awake, as Warden Henry Wolfer of Minnesota once said. He is migratory, and while traveling from state to state he learns about laws and prison management, selects for his operations the states in which sentimentality is most prevalent, and because of his wide experience frequently gets off with lighter sentence than does the accidental criminal. "When the fact can be mathematically demonstrated that a man is unreformable," said Wolfer, "what a travesty on justice to turn him loose!" The point is that the parole is still a test of honor, and that without some sense of honor the criminal is irreclaimable. Even experience with prisons does not deter the congenitally criminal. Casual punishment as a deterrent in his case has been vastly overrated. Since this is true the protection of society demands that he be treated in the spirit in which he views his own social obligations, and that he be permanently restrained.

WHAT ABOUT THE CONSUMERS?

Mr. Corey of the public service commission, writes to his home paper in Baker an objection to the proposed water competitive rates at ocean terminals on the ground that such rates will put out of business Baker's newly acquired jobbing houses and permit commodities to be delivered to Willamette valley consumers cheaper than to Baker consumers.

The rates, if established, will not affect the present all-rail rate which Baker jobbers pay on the goods they distribute. If it puts them out of business it will be only because the retailers in the Baker country can buy cheaper elsewhere. And if retailers can buy cheaper elsewhere the consumers also in the Baker country will pay less than they do now for the things they buy.

One would think, from the reports that have come out of eastern Oregon of the plight of producers of cattle, sheep, grain and hay, that a rate scheme that reduced their cost of living would be welcome, even though Willamette valley producers of other commodities did receive a little greater reduction in living costs.

The genius has not yet arisen who can so overcome natural obstacles that consumers and producers everywhere shall be on an equality. But if one succeeded in doing it we fancy that he would be decidedly unpopular in many communities.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

It was given to only one American to sign four great documents which may be said to represent the foundation of the present liberties of the nation—the Declaration of Independence, the treaty of alliance with France, the treaty of peace with England and the constitution of the United States. The man who possesses this peculiar distinction is Benjamin Franklin, the two hundred and sixteenth anniversary of whose birth occurs today. This coretation of incidents is suggestive of the high place that Franklin attained in the confidence of his countrymen, of the diversified nature of the services which he performed for them, of the amazing varsatility of his genius and the fertility of his resources, of his enormous capacity for toil.

In his long and busy life Franklin was a leading participant in more events of greater moment than most men have been privileged only to observe. He not only saw the beginnings of the struggle for independence and its fruition, but he may have done more than any other man to make success possible. He was a witness of the first expansion of the new republic to the west. He was the author of the present plan of government which gives us a congress consisting of a senate with two members for each state and a house with a membership based on the population of the states, and he was the steadfast opponent of the plan, at first proposed, of basing the suffrage on ownership of land. In many respects he was far in advance of his time, as is illustrated by his opposition to slavery when the constitution was framed.

The great social value of Franklin's work was due in large part to the circumstance that he was a self-made man, a commoner, and a firm believer in the capacity of the people to work out their own salvation. In an era in which the divine right theory had been abandoned only as to kings, but persisted as to a privileged group roughly classified as the aristocracy, he embodied the idea that leadership was founded on the genius of merit alone. His homely wisdom, his peculiar and intimate understanding of the problems of the people, derived from his own early struggles and associations, obtained for him an influence that could have been exerted by no other man. His thrift maxims, which were but incidental to his life work, were nevertheless a noteworthy contribution to the economic literature of a time when the great need of the people was sobriety, sanity and, above all, common sense. But their value was enhanced by the circumstance that they emanated from one who was also a scholar, a scientist, a statesman and a successful man of affairs whose every attainment was the product of his own unaided efforts. In Franklin the people saw such a man as any American might become who was willing to pay the price of success. It is difficult to overestimate in the perspective of his history the great value of his precepts, or of the example which he set.

It is timely on the birthday of Franklin to review some of the events in which he was the pioneer. The organization which he called the "Junto," organized by him in Philadelphia and described interestingly in his autobiography, was one of the first neighborhood debating societies ever formed and the forerunner of the civic forums and associations of their type which now are a powerful educational factor in civil government. He laid the foundation for the modern police and fire protection systems. He started an academy, in pursuance of his idea that education ought to be popularized, which subsequently became a great university. He devised the firs public hospital. He invented the modern stove and declined a patent for it, "from a principle," he said, "which has ever weighed with me on such occasions, namely, that as we enjoy great advantages from the inventions of others, we should be glad of an opportunity to serve others by any invention of ours, which we should do freely and generously." He also invented a mangle for pressing linen, a clock that showed the hours, minutes and seconds, a pair of spectacles for his own use which could be used equally well for reading and for seeing at a distance, and many other handy and useful things. His early experiments in the field of physics are valued by scientists to this day. His curiosity and his desire to be of service were boundless, as was illustrated when he took the sprouting twig from a broken willow basket in which some foreign goods had been imported, and planted it, so laying the foundation, it is said, for the willow basket industry in America.

No service was menial in Franklin's eyes. The great range of his achievements makes each of them the more remarkable. It is, of course, difficult to appraise in a few words the secret of his leadership, but the keynotes of his character will probably be found in the twin virtues of integrity and industry. In such a busy life as his there was room for no insincerity, and his distaste for ostentation was a part of his integrity, to which allusion is made. It is interesting to recall that he was deeply influenced by an early and relatively trivial incident in his life, as other men sometimes have been. He used to quote the words of Cotton Mather, spoken to him when he was but a boy. Leaving the minister's home one day, Franklin struck his head upon a beam. "Stoop," said Mather. "You are young and have the world before you; stoop as you go through it and you will avoid many hard bumps." "I often think of it," said Franklin himself, "when I see pride mortified, and misfortunes brought upon people by their carrying their heads too high." In the genuineness of Franklin, his willingness both to strive and to give, his submergence of self-interest, and his perservering capacity for labor will be found the material for a constructive lesson for the day.

FARMERS AND THE RESERVE BOARD.

There should be little difficulty in bringing the agricultural bloc in congress into accord with President Harding on the composition of the federal reserve board. The president objects to being required to name any member as the representative of any particular interest. The farmers' interest should be made secure by the presence on the board of men who know their financial needs and who will see that in the administration of the banking system, those needs have due consideration.

It is the body through which the government exercises supervision over the banking system and the banking system is the instrument through which credit is granted and currency issued for all the people. The board therefore should be fairly representative of all the people, but that does not require that certain members shall care for the special interest of the farmers, certain others for that of the manufacturers, others for that of the railroads, others for that of the mining industry, and so on. In selecting men to watch over the banking system of the nation, the president would naturally seek men well informed on all phases of national industry. In so doing he would surely name one or more who knew well the special conditions and needs of so great an industry as agriculture. That would be very different from appointing particular men to act on the board for their particular industry. The latter plan would convert the board into a body where the several interests would each see that they "got theirs" and would lead to political wrangles or log-rolling compromises. Under such circumstances sound banking would be apt to go by the board.

The events of the last year and a half should have convinced every thinking man that there is no conflict of interest between agriculture and any other industry, for it has proved that all share the farmer's adversity or prosperity. His adversity has spread to every other occupation, and we must look to his recovery for the return of substantial prosperity to all. Financial measures to help him to his feet can certainly be reconciled with sound banking and they can be expected from a board that reflects all occupations, for all realize that they must rise together if they are to rise at all.

But rest assured that nothing Henry Ford may do in his forthcoming campaign "to readjust the basis of American money" will be calculated to make the Ford millions worth any less than they are at present.

The state board of health objects to porters brushing patrons while in the aisle, alleging possible contamination through dust set in motion. Somebody must devise a hand-size vacumm cleaner for "George."

That sea captain who says he saw an iceberg in the tropical seas near the Hawaiian islands must have had his telescope pointed at a good, cold highball glass.

Movie interests have insured the life of Will Hays for $2,000,000, at which rate he will be worth a good deal more to them dead than alive.

The parking of corsets, which many supposed idle rumor, has been given a standing by one fraternity's inhibition.

There is hope for the sinner who was able to stand in a slippery place yesterday. The good man generally flopped.

When a woman speaks of a "stunning" gown, she evidently is thinking of the effect on her husband's purse.

Proposal to elect by direct vote ought to pull the crown of thorns and cross of gold out of the brine barrel.

Was that the first faint sound at the Wilson home Sunday where soon shall roll a roar? Where's Tumulty?

Find a new name for the "silver thaw." Portland will be losing its morale at thought of another.

A word to old fellows of 50 and upward: Wait until the car stops on a sleety day.

The slippery day is the trolley company's harvest time.

The Listening Post.

By DeWitt Harry.

MEN who smoke pipes of generous dimensions take some little comfort from the recent reduction of a cent or so in tobacco prices. Cut-rate stores have even gone the corner dealers better and have sliced, in some instances, about 40 per cent. But the bolshevist smoker will have none of them—he is importing his tobacco.

Advertised brands of prepared tobaccos cost around 16 cents a package up to a few days ago. This same package sold for 10 cents a few years ago. The tobacco-grower's plaint is similar to that of the hide dealer, that leather is worth but a few cents a pound, yet shoes sell for many dollars.

Packages of standard pipe tobaccos sell for 13 cents now instead of 16 cents, though some dealers yet hold to the high price. Some cut-rate specials for the same tobacco are as low as 9 cents a can. A package of tobacco has a net weight of approximately 1¾ ounces, or nine packages to a pound, selling for $1.44 under the old and $1.17 under the new rate. The grower says he gets but 4 cents a pound for his product.

Of late a number of inveterate smokers have been dealing direct with the tobacco raisers. They get 10 and 12 pounds of tobacco for $1, it coming in two flour sacks, both being well filled. They report it fine stuff for the pipe and cigarettes. Twelve pounds of tobacco would make 108 packages of tobacco weighing 1¾ ounces.

* * *

Charge accounts present an easy means for dishonesty. Thieves frequently victimize department stores by taking advantage of the carelessness of patrons. The simplicity of getting merchandise by this means also presents tempting opportunities to those in temporary need or who desire things beyond their means. The public does not hear half the real story of thefts by this means.

In the east patrons with charge accounts sometimes are given metal discs for identification. This system is not in vogue here, but credit cusomers are expected to know their account numbers so as to expedite transactions and guard against fraud. Salespeople take great care not to call these numbers so that bystanders may overhear, yet the abuse of the charge account causes many thousands of dollars of loss annually.

A recent rule in one of the big store here is that the number of the charge account is not to go on the first or original sales slip, the one that is given the customer with the purchase. It has been found that many customers throw away these sales slips, and the unscrupulous pick them up and take advantage of the information. Therefore the clerks raise the first sheets of their sale-books and only write in the account number on the second and other slips that stay in the store, thus guarding the customer against loss and the store as well.

* * *

The tale is told of a local basketball promoter who handles a team from South Portland. The members were mostly recruited from the newsboy population, but they proved that they could play a sterling brand of basketball, and in some college games have come off on the big end of the score. In any event, last season they had their first game under amateur athletic rules. Prior to then they had just been playing any one. However, this time they were to meet boys who belonged to the Athletic union and played under its rules, so they were forced to join.

The manager received the membership cards before the game and notified all his men that from then on they were Simon-pure amateurs, and their new cards made a great hit. The next day a rival manager of a tough team on the east side issued a "defi" to the newsboy manager, only to meet with this counter:

"Gwan, what kind of a bunch you fellows got? We can't play youse scabs. We belong to the basketball union. Youse get a union card to show that youse knows the game and then we'll talk."

And the poor rival manager slunk away, crushed.

* * *

The new city directory is out, and the usual crop of statistics as to the number of Smiths and Johnsons appearing is overdue. Let's steal a march and do some investigating ourselves along the line of the Perkins, the Zanders, the Gumps, the Saps, and the rest of the popular newspaper people. There are lots of Perkinses, Pas and Maws and Pollys and Maggies, and all in the book; also the Saps are well away. One of the Sap families, it might even have a little Cicero, has a father who makes baskets.

There are Zanders, nearly a dozen of them, and among the lot is sure to be a "widow," but there is no Uncle Bim Gump—only one who is a policeman. Rather an oddity is presented by the Blitzes. The head of the family is vice-president of a millinery company and at the same time president of a brewery and must frequently hear his name when people ask for near-beer.

* * *

Embroidery is getting to be a simple matter. A street peddler is making a cleanup with a patent needle. This man is a deft manipulator, and if the women do as well they should be pleased. He takes his tool and with the most intricate design pushes it through and through and in record time has the silk in the foundation cloth. His needle has a patent prong for leaving the silk on the opposite side when in operation, saving the shoving of the needle through from side to side.

* * *

If people would but notice they would realize that there is a great change going on in the business section of the city. Several buildings are being remodeled and numbers of small specialty shops are entering the field. One section of the city above Broadway is beginning to be recognized as a center for the specialists, but they are taking possession of stores in all parts of the business center.

* * *

The woman who a few days ago, as she described her "electric gas heater," reminds one of the ambulance man in France who wrote home of the brassard he wore, calling it a "white red cross."

Those Who Come and Go.

Tales of Folks at the Hotels.

With a flannel shirt and the look of a cowpuncher, Dr. A. K. Downs is in town from his ranch on the Ochoco in Crook county. A couple of years ago Dr. Downs abandoned the four walls of his office and went into the great outdoors and now he is a cattleman. Before leaving Portland the doctor was one of the most ardent sportsmen in the city and was one of the group who were dissatisfied with the way trout and pheasants were being propagated by the state fish and game commission. The doctor is just as interested in game now as he ever was, but confesses that there are not many fish in the Ochoco. Discussing things in Crook county, Dr. Downs says that the American Legion and business men of Prineville are opposed to farmers in the irrigation project wanting to lease their holdings to Japanese. The farmers, it said, wanted to lease to the Asiatics on a basis of $15 an acre for three or five years, the Japanese to pay the water tax and other taxes in addition to the rental. Dr. Downs doesn't like the statement of the farmers that the Japanese can make the farms pay better than Americans and he declares that the first train that brings Japanese farmers into Crook county is going to take him out of the county, if the train can get up steam.

"Speaking of pony express riders," observed Miles Lee, for 40 years in eastern Oregon, and a sheep man, "Charley Becker of Westfall, Malheur county, is not only the last survivor living in Oregon, but one of the few remaining ones in the United States. Charley is 84 years old and stands as straight as an arrow. He used to ride opposite Buffalo Bill, when both were express riders, and whenever Buffalo Bill Cody came to Oregon with his wild west show he always had Charley as his guest for several days." Mr. Lee has a celebrated fishpond on his Wingville ranch, seven miles out of Baker, and while he insists that there are 3000 or 4000 trout in it, so far as known no one has ever caught any, nor have any fish been found in the pond when it has been drained.

About 1,250,000 pounds of wool are in one of the municipal terminals in Portland harbor. This is idaho wool, which was shipped here as more convenient than sending it overland to Boston. Crawford Moore, president of the First National bank of Boise, and Scott Anderson, a wool grower and director in the bank, and Harry Coon, a prominent wool grower of southern Idaho, are all registered at the Hotel Portland. They are here as a committee representing the owners of the mountain of wool in the terminal warehouse. The presence of the wool and the pending sale yesterday occupied the conversation of every sheepman who was in town, and there appeared to be a score or two of men in the wool industry.

More beef is being fed in Baker county than has been the case for several years," says William Pollman of Baker, at the Imperial. "Lambs on feed have been sold for the east. The winter has been mild and easy for the livestock. We have lots of hay, about 60 per cent of which has been sold, leaving 40 per cent on hand and the price for hay is bad. There is a fair profit for the men who feed for beef and mutton for the first time in two years—there has been no profit in cattle for three years. The past year 4000 head of stock has been imported into Baker county from Idaho. The cattle market is showing signs of improvement, and it is the same with sheep."

Twenty years ago Chris Barch left Portland and now he has returned and was ambling around the unfamiliar streets in the downtown district. Where there used to be a Chinese washhouse the Imperial now stands. Entering, Mr. Barch looked around and recognized Harry Hamilton, one of the few men who did not look strange. In these score of years Mr. Barch has been in the Klondike—was there during the days of excitement and gold—and latterly he as been located in Calgary. He explained that he came to Portland just to see what changes have taken place, and he felt like Rip Van Winkle.

From Albany to Ontario, Or., there is an old wagon road, one of the oldest in the state. The road was built by a company in exchange for a land grant. Across the Cascade mountains the old road uses Hogg pass, and it crosses the Deschutes near Lower Bridge, not far from the town of Terrebonne, where there is quite an industry in exporting chalk. Frank Johnson, manager of the wagon road company, is in Portland for a few days from his home at Prineville. He says that although the original roadbed has been shifted in many places by counties taking it over, he has driven in an automobile over most of the road between Ontario and Albany.

All there is he is and what he ain't isn't, at Prospect, for James E. Grieve is the proprietor of the Prospect hotel and also the postmaster and owner of the general store. During the tourist season the strangers hurry along the road to Crater lake so as to be in time for the dinner bell at Prospect. There is now under programme further development of the road near Prospect this year and, in the circumstances, there is no stronger advocate for a completion of the highway to the lake than is the postmaster of Prospect. Mr. and Mrs. Grieve are at the Multnomah.

"Japanese are great investors in life insurance," says Thomas Quinn, an insurance agent of Prineville, on a business trip to Portland. "They know that insurance is a good thing and they take on all that they can carry, but they will only do business with an agent of their own nationality. They are not opposed to insuring in American companies, but a Japanese agent must have them sign on the dotted line."

Paved roads are all right for the tourist except when they are coated with a thin layer of ice, then watch out, according to R. A. Baker, superintendent of the Hammond Lumber company, who, with his wife, is registered at the Multnomah. Mr. Baker, motoring from Salem to Portland yesterday, had all the thrills he cared for in driving his car over the icy road.

S. C. Barton of Roseburg, formerly in the forest service, which he abandoned to take up the business of handling insurance, is a Portland visitor, being one of the army of agents who have been drifting into the city in the past two weeks from all points in the northwest.

Fred J. Palmer is a long way from home. Mr. Palmer is the mayor of Jordan Valley town in Malheur county, not far from the Idaho state line.

Professors H. C. Seymour and L. J. Allen are registered at the Multnomah from the Oregon Agricultural college.

Ben C. Holt a business man of Spokane, is registered at the Hotel Portland with Mrs. Holt.

J. E. Van Duzen, a wool grower of Emmett, Idaho, is at the Hotel Portland.

Burroughs Nature Club.

Copyright, Houghton-Mifflin Co.

Can You Answer These Questions?

1. Do baby humming-birds hatch with long bills like their parents?
2. What part of a bird's skeleton is the wish-bone?
3. What do muskrats feed on?

Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

* * *

Answers to Previous Questions.

1. Why is the breast-bone bigger in some birds than in others?

It varies according as the bird needs small or large surface on which to attach wing muscles. The human sternum or breast-bone is flat, and in birds which no longer fly, like the ostrich, the sternum is flat, too. But where wing muscles need a wall to spring from, the sternum begins to show a ridge, or keel. The greater the wing power, the higher the keel supporting the wing muscles.

* * *

2. What sort of creatures prey on oyster beds?

The oyster's worst enemy is a kind of mollusc that can bore through the shell and suck out the soft body. Star fishes and crabs are also dreaded visitors on the oyster bottoms.

* * *

3. What animal wears the fur called fisher?

The animal itself is called fisher, (mustela canadensis), and is simply a big American marten, now rare, owing to the coveted coat. It is savage and will attack both small mammals and larger ones like raccoons, skunks and porcupines. The name "fisher" is said to come from the creature's old-time habit of stealing fish bait from traps.

HOW CONGRESSMEN MAY PLEASE

Mr. Wright Discerns Desire for Much Stronger Immigration Laws.

ALBANY, Or., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—If Senator McNary would energetically work to the successful accomplishment of a congressional enactment prohibiting any immigration to the United States for a period of 30 years he would deserve the thanks of many who are in favor of such a law.

If he would fight forever to prohibit all Chinese, Japanese, Turks, Hindoos, and all other foreigners of Mongoloid or Negroid parentage from coming to the United States, and providing for exporting all such persons now here who are not citizens of the United States back to the countries of their nativity and pass a federal law forbidding marriage of whites with colored races, he would assist in preserving the white or Anglo Saxon race in this country, which race is in danger of elimination by mixture with inferior races. Surely, we should be as particular in preserving the one great white race as we are in preserving the purity of our livestock.

Nearly all that is best in the civilization of the world is the outgrowth of the white race, and it is highly imperative that we preserve the supremacy of that race. The white or Anglo Saxon race founded our republic and created our federal constitution, and it can always be preserved if we maintain its supremacy.

If Senator Stanfield would always bear in mind that what we want is to stop the legislative branch from passing laws favorable to any one class or interest, and make all laws in accordance with the old rule of equal rights for all persons but special privileges for no one, he will receive our thanks.

If Congressmen Hawley, McArthur and Sinnot will join in actively assisting the senators in passing the legislation above referred to, it will sustain our present good government and the purity of our race, and it will be an actual protection to the white men and those citizens in this country who depend upon their manual labor to live.

Citizens demand protection as against cheap colored and foreign labor, and the only way to help them is to pass the laws above mentioned. If our present senators and representatives refuse or any longer neglect this important legislation, they should be kept at home and others who will pass such greatly needed laws be sent to Washington in their places.

GEORGE WILLIAM WRIGHT.

Bombardment of Shimonoseki.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 16.—1. In The Oregonian in Saturday's issue there appears a biography of the late ex-Premier Okuma of Japan, which refers to the bombardment of Shimonoseki by the combined fleets of Great Britain, the United States and Holland. Please tell me what the trouble was then, as it is absolutely new to me.

2. In order to settle an argument will you tell me please, whether Senator Newberry is occupying his senatorial seat, or simply drawing his salary, staying away? R. C.

1. Shimonoseki was bombarded in September, 1864, in consequence of the action of the daimyo of Chosu, in whose territory the town lay, in attempting to keep foreigners away by repeatedly firing on foreign ships that passed his batteries on the coast. The United States steamer Pembroke was fired on in June, 1863, and a United States warship attacked the batteries and destroyed two ships in retaliation. The combined squadron of the powers later brought the daimyo to terms, and forced him to agree to abstain from future hostilities. The shogun was obliged to pay an indemnity of $3,000,000, of which the United States received $785,000.

2. Senator Newberry is occupying his seat. He did not, however, participate in senate proceedings during the period in which the criminal charge against him was pending in the courts.

Red Hair and Vampires.

PORTLAND, Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—The aspersion cast on red-haired girls in regard to parting "the simp and his money," printed in The Oregonian, leads me to ask this question:

Why the popular belief that a red-haired girl is so much more clever in that respect than a girl of blond or brunette complexion?

I sincerely hope you will find space for this query, also any answers. It seems to me just as sensible a topic as many discussed in your columns.

A RED-HEAD.

There is a popular belief that red-haired women are energetic, persistent, quick-witted and attractive to men. Such talents when directed to the arts of the vampire ought to produce an expert, though there is no implication that red-haired women are more prone to become "vamps" than others. However, we know of no scientific support for the belief that color of hair reveals mental qualities or disposition.

Original Sin Defined.

Houston (Texas) Post.

Mr. Goodsole—Can any child here tell me what is meant by original sin? Ah, yes, you, James.

Little Jimmie—My ma says it's the cussedness a kid inherits from his pa."

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

LINES BY A CYNIC.

Joseph J. Jones, when he hunted a mate,
Wasn't thinking of culture or looks.
He wanted a partner, plain faced and sedate,
Who was up on the cookery books.
So he married a lady who swung a mean broom,
And could build a mince pie a la mode;
And he fancied her housework his life would illume
Till they came to the end of the road.

But the lady grew weary of saucepan and range
As soon as the knot had been tied.
She sought out her earliest chum of a change,
And let all her cookery slide.
She learned to mix cocktails, play bridge half the night,
Crashed in with the neighborhood swells,
Found jazzing a rapturous dream of delight,
And got all her meals at hotels.

Simeon Smith had a taste for romance;
He wanted to spend all his days
With a lovely young lady who knew how to dance,
And could talk about pictures and plays.
"I won't have a wife who's a slatternly drudge,
Devoted to housework," said he,
And he wedded a maid who was famed for her fudge,
And a bear at an afternoon tea.

You probably think that this lady turned out
As a shark at the serving of meals,
Who wouldn't have dancing or cocktails about,
And never kicked up her young heels.
But that's where you're wrong; through her whole married life,
The fair creature toiled not nor span;
She made an expensive, luxurious wife,
Which all women will do—if they can.

* * *

Doubly Serviceable.

Gas is to be used exclusively hereafter in making war, as it is now used exclusively in making peace.

* * *

Blighted Ambition.

The trouble with De Valera is that his fellow countrymen won't elect him president now that there's something to be president of.

* * *

He'll Know.

As soon as Northcliffe returns, we'll find out what is the matter with all the governments of the earth.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 17, 1897.

Salem.—A Sunday session of the house of representatives will be held today. The deadlock is still in force.

Bombay.—Plague and famine are stalking arm-in-arm through India and thousands are dead in the densely populated areas.

New York.—The spread of Tolstoism among the educated and professional classes of Russia has led to a spirited crusade against the Tolstois.

President-elect McKinley has come in for a great deal of chaffing over the American-made suit which he is to wear at his inauguration.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of January 17, 1872.

One of the Siamese twins is reported lying at the point of death and arrangements have been made to separate the living brother from the dead body.

The year's revenue from the Alaska postoffice was $76.

The steamer Emma Hayward will leave this morning for the purpose of prospecting the Columbia river toward the Cascades.

After being mourned for a week as dead, George Palmeteer yesterday surprised his grief-stricken family by stepping ashore from the Oregon City boat, perfectly alive and in good health.

HOT STUFF FROM A DIE-HARD

Yes, There Are People Who Think Germany Is Wholly Blameless.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 14.—(To the Editor.)—The first editorial under January 14 in The Oregonian is no doubt the work of your brains! Payment of Allies' Debt," every American must say that the allies must pay their debt. An Anglo-maniac only could argue as you have done. Who told you that Germany is to be held in truth responsible for the war? Every statesman in Europe and every sound minded American knows well that the fact is entirely divergent from that view point. Poincare of France, Fisher of England, Bernard Shaw and hundreds of fair minded English man, say it is a lie to make such a statement. In his neutrality proclamation your friend and arch-enemy of mankind, Wilson, spoke differently.

What right have you to give us the pabulum of your insignificant mind as facts, especially when you know that the truth is not in you. A democracy of the French type, which your friend Wilson, called the most militaristic, and England's policies in India, Egypt, and in the recent past in Ireland, constitute a queer democracy, and our democracy under Wilson, your friend, was but a red shirt before a mad bull.

Caligula, Nero and Domitian had a higher concept of democracy than yours must be to judge from your editorial. You certainly cannot change the truth into error, and lies into truth. The fact remains that Germany wanted no war and was not responsible for the outbreak of the war. A READER.

Old Egg Problem.

PORTLAND, Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—In order to settle an argument kindly answer the following question: "If a hen and a half lays an egg and a half in a day and a half, how many eggs will six hens lay in seven days?" H. C. DETJE.

If your discussion is of mathematics devoid of issues pertaining to natural phenomena, the answer to this ancient catch problem is that one hen lays at the rate of two-thirds of an egg a day and that six such hens would lay 28 eggs in seven days.

Ratification of Treaty of Peace.

MULTNOMAH, Or., Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Could you inform me what month, and what day of the month in 1921 the United States senate ratified the peace treaty between the United States and Germany? E. L. DAVIS.

The joint resolution of peace passed the house June 30, 1921; passed the senate July 1 and was signed by the president July 2. The formal treaty of peace with Germany was ratified by the senate October 18.