

Morning Oregonian

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Give! There starts this day a short but vigorous campaign in Portland to fill the Community Chest.

It is to encompass in one campaign all the drives that are ordinarily held to raise funds for charity, benevolence and public welfare.

The advantages of the community chest plan are several... it reduces the number of collections and collections to a minimum.

The main wire has been covered into an express wire... "stripping" process, whereby the Associated Press stations in all of the smaller cities along the Pacific coast have been transferred to a central office in Portland.

No newspaper in the United States in the world now receives a fuller or better Associated Press report than does The Oregonian.

PORTLAND THE BEST MARKET. If any further proof were needed that Portland grain merchants do not make exorbitant profits at the expense of farmers in the interior, as has been charged by Public Service Commissioner Corey, it is furnished by Ernest Reiner, a visiting grain merchant whose letter is published in another column.

When all costs of transportation and handling and the differences in value of different kinds of wheat are taken into account, Oregon farmers get as high a price for their land as they could get in any market, and the Portland exporter operates on as small a margin as is possible if he is to remain in business.

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General concern. It is no theme for jest. Let us see if, from the evidence at hand, it is true that college athletics have a superficial but significant ascendancy over mere scholarship.

It is true that we know, as by rote, the names of those who have distinguished themselves and dear old Siwash in feats of hardihood—baseball, football, foot-racing, pole vaulting, and all the rest. It is true that, where is discussed the matter of sport today is an important and momentous, and worth doing well. Doubtless Mrs. Moloney's sister cooks and brother chefs regard the \$25,000 bequest as a stroke of good fortune. It is not. It is merely the logical climax to a successful, though humble, career.

INSPIRATION. Longfellow had not seen Minnehaha falls when he wrote that masterpiece which is the poem, "Hiawatha." Yet it was said by those who had that the model was his accuracy of description. Literature is replete with identical phenomena. A century ago Thomas Moore wrote "Lalla Rookh," an eastern romance in verse. It brought him wealth and fame. The poet never had visited the orient, his visualization was achieved by reading alone, but of his poem the critic said that its descriptive beauty was faithful and amazing. Do not these instances combine to confound the materialist?

In 1852, so the story runs, a young photographer from Chicago visited the falls of Minnehaha to make a picture. "Selecting that from the upper side where the bluff makes a turn and where the looking westward is the best, with the gorge in the foreground." Chained by the scenic wonder of his theme, the photographer took not one picture but twenty. Fortunately for American literature, one of these views was the one that he had in mind. Longfellow. From it, and it alone, grew the concept of an heroic poem. The astounded photographer received by mail a copy of "Hiawatha," inscribed "Mr. A. Hester, 40 Compartment of the Author, January, 1856."

What, then, is inspiration? It is doubtful if any save the most venturesome would attempt the definition. Certainly it does not appear to proceed always from direct contact with material objects, though it may, and this leads us back to the beginning. Inspiration seems of the mind and a spirit, outwardly expressed, dependent upon little if any stimulus, and capable by its own force of creating a new world of ideas, yet there is sound reason for believing that there cannot be as had in that respect as they used to be. The Sunday dinner of olden times was largely the result of conditions under which there had little or no time to enjoy their food and lived on the plainest fare. With the advent of the shorter workday and the increase of leisure there was also a better dinner table. The Sunday dinner, however, has declined in favor. Yet the physician is probably right in intimating that men eat too much anyway, and it may be well for our health to heed what he says.

PROMISING TAX CHANGES. Two important tentative recommendations by the state tax investigation commission look to establishment of an income tax and the centralization of present tax assessments under a state official. Both proposals would tend toward an equalization of taxation if it be assumed, and we believe it may be, that it is not the purpose of the commission to devise methods or modes of taxation which would bring greater revenues than we now have, but rather to reach property that now escapes and relieve property now fully taxed of a corresponding injustice.

Naturally the owner of \$1000 at low interest withholds information concerning it from the assessor. The legal tax on a 7 per cent mortgage for the year is \$70.00. The interest and the mortgage also is driven into hiding. The right or wrong of sequestration of this form of property and the right or wrong committed by the assessor in not diligently seeking it out need not be discussed. Discussion of the morals of the circumstance has been entered into without avail not only in Oregon but in probably every state in the union.

Intangibles have been reached in Oregon by putting a much lower tax levy against them than against general property. They have thus been induced to come out of hiding, and revenues from such sources have thus been vastly increased. In the case of the mortgage when attempt was made to place the full levy against them. On the other hand, in the neighboring state of Washington money and credits have been placed on the tax exempt list. In Oregon the constitutional amendment, after several defeats, was finally adopted which permits the levying of different rates upon different classes of property. It was done for the purpose, it is understood, to give the plan of placing a low levy against money and credits, but the purpose was never carried out.

While an income tax would reach money and credits it would impose a comparatively light burden upon them. A 2 per cent income tax on a 7 per cent mortgage for \$1000 would be 40 or the equivalent of a general property tax of 1.4 mills as contrasted with the present general property tax of upwards of 40 mills. The income tax would be more simple and more equitable than the classification tax on this form of property for its burden would automatically be graduated according to the interest rate of the security.

But the income tax is not recommended over its application to money and credits. It would tax many who now have no property, tangible or intangible, yet have comfortable salaries and partake of the well-merited government. Presumably, as before stated, if the income tax is adopted, it will be for the purpose of relieving tangible property of an amount equivalent to the yield of the income tax. Certainly the problem does not concern the raising of more money for governmental expenses but concerns a better and more even distribution of the present cost of government. The income tax should be considered with solely that thought in mind. Property now taxed is assessed in a haphazard way under the system of leaving valuation policies to thirty-six county assessors and thirty-six county boards of equalization. Values fixed for tax purposes on timber lands, farm lands, grazing lands, livestock and other property vary widely among the counties. As an illustration, the assessment policy in one county may give the farmer some relief at the expense of the adjoining timber owner; in another county the policy may favor the timber owner at the expense of the farmer. Although the law requires that property be assessed at its actual value, it is not done.

The state, however, has an equalization method which is a rough and fairly accurate way puts all county valuations on a common level for the purpose of determining how much each county as a unit shall contribute to the cost of the state government, amount so determined are then certified to the various counties and are there levied according to the county board's valuation, not according to the valuations as equalized by the state board. The result is that the farmer who pays a lighter state tax than the owner of a farm of the same actual value in another county where other property is more heavily taxed, is assessed at the expense of the farmer.

The present system of assessing property is more of a growth than a well-considered plan. The system was started, then built upon as its inequalities developed, but inequalities have not all been disposed of. The commission's tentative recommendation would abolish the present system and rebuild it from the ground up. It would dispense with county assessors and establish a state assessor with the intent of attaining a single state-wide equalization for all purposes and doing away with thirty-six separate equalizations for county purposes and the superimposed state equalization for state purposes.

The success of the government's efforts to develop a wheat capable of being brought to maturity well within the Arctic circle is another reminder of the remarkable success achieved in recent years in plant breeding and also a justification of Vilhjalmur Stefansson's prediction that the northern frontier eventually will be a long way from its present location. A report received by the department of agriculture from the agricultural station at Fairbanks states that a crop of 3500 bushels of wheat was produced in the summer of 1921 north of Fairbanks and that it is being ground into wheat near where it was produced. The wheat was developed from Siberian stock and brings nearer the time when Alaskan agriculture will be equal to the task of making the territory self-supporting. In principle the process by which the wheat has been obtained is precisely similar to that by which corn was bred that would ripen in Oregon.

The latest styles in men's coats have plenty under the arms to give members of the motorist a great call for them from motorists who drive with one hand free.

Strange as it may seem, the drop in the price of eggs in New York is likely to make it harder than ever for young playwrights to pay their income tax.

A New Yorker of middle age has just married his mother-in-law. In the absence of facts, it is safe to presume she is an artist with corned beef hash and hot cakes.

Some sharp has discovered that women are broader heads in proportion to stature than men. Soldier with sense, too, generally.

If prohibition is good for a more or less prosperous country like the United States, how much better for impoverished Poland?

Idaho democrats are forgetting the days of Swensen and Rusemberg in seeking candidates for governor.

These chest soliters are doing it for love of the cause and pride in the city. Give them a welcome.

When Mount Hood sends up real smoke we will have an earth-quake and two for accomplishment.

It's going to be hard for the American navy to get accustomed to the new definition for "scrap."

That comet discovered off the Cape of Good Hope is near the sliding-off point already.

Ever see anything nicer than crisp new banknote, except perhaps two of them?

There will be some noise today, but the money makes it tomorrow. When in doubt, make it a little more.

HOW PASSENGERS CAN HELP. Mutual Thoughtfulness in Rush Hours on Street Cars Suggested. PORTLAND, Jan. 29.—(To the Editor.)—Have you ever noticed the space unnecessarily occupied by certain persons seated in a street car by spreading themselves out and not closing the space between themselves and the person sitting next? Sometimes they turn half around in order to gaze out of the window, thereby taking space enough for two, while a number of others are standing in the car. Again a thoughtless individual (we mean them, not the car) will sit in his pocket and sit with his hands in his pockets and sit with his hands in his pockets and sit with his hands in his pockets.

Perhaps it would not be asking too much of our hard-worked conductors to require that the space between each passenger and again publicly suggest that the conductors should make a better spirit of camaraderie in this respect.

Every street car in our town is a population of 3000, it is a humber.

Harry M. Coon of Boise, one of the leading wool men of Idaho, left yesterday for his home after having spent ten days in Portland, having been in charge of the big sale of the wool pool organized by the wool growers of Idaho.

Dr. Mark Hayer of Dallas is one of the pioneer dentists of Polk county. Now he is as well known as a prune grower as he has been as a dentist. A number of years ago Dr. Hayer purchased a small tract of land near Polk station and set it in prunes. The public, through the grape, became convinced that a "prune a day keeps the undertaker away" and the prunes were sold.

A Warren Gould of Mount Angel, Or., who is at the Multnomah hotel, will lead to more economy and rubber saving in the manufacture of tires. He has been through the east showing the best of the world's rubber factories. This rock is found in great quantities near Mount Angel. By grinding it into fine particles it can be used for the manufacture of tires.

To see ice cream made by the new process invented by F. M. Martin of Spokane, one is reminded of a real snow storm. The ice cream particles fall from the top of the can and float down a metal trough through cold air and a propeller pushes them into cans, where they are made ready for delivery.

The California lumber market is picking up to a great extent and the manufacturers of Oregon are to be congratulated. According to the Oregon Lumber Association, the lumber trade in Oregon is registered at the Portland hotel. He is here looking over the situation and presenting his interests.

I wish you were a pure-blood stock raiser. I declared my intention of the Imperial hotel yesterday when F. R. Beals of Tillamook displayed a check for \$23,000, which is part payment for a bunch of pure-blood stock to the Carnation Milk company. Mr. Beals is one of the best-known pure-blood stock raisers in Oregon.

Lumber conditions are improving throughout the state, according to George M. Cornwall, who after a trip through southern Oregon and other sections has returned to Portland. He states that there is a great deal of activity in the lumber trade at Cottage Grove and other places where lumber is a principal industry.

R. D. Cooper of Alesca, Or., is in Portland and is spending a few days at the Imperial hotel. Mr. Cooper is a registered member of the Oregon fishermen in his section of the state. "There's no place like the Alesca country when it comes to fish and game," he declared yesterday.

With a carload of cattle for the local markets, W. K. McCormack of Deschutes came to Portland yesterday. He is registered at the Imperial hotel. He says that Portlanders have a hard time of it in the winter season. The weather. He comes from a district where the temperature has been hovering below zero for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan P. Bagnell of Spokane are guests at the Portland hotel. Mr. Bagnell is a mining man with large holdings in the Couer d'Alene district. With Mrs. Bagnell, he is on his way to California to spend a few weeks of the winter season.

"Rube Traube, New York city," is a registered member of the Oregon fishermen in his section of the state. "There's no place like the Alesca country when it comes to fish and game," he declared yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Josling, newlyweds of Shedd, Or., are at the Imperial hotel. They were married ten days ago and are spending their honeymoon here.

R. E. Klepper, brother of William Klepper, owner of the Beavers, and Milton R. Klepper, attorney, is registered at the Imperial hotel.

George A. Mansfield, head of the state farm bureau, is registered at the Imperial hotel. Mr. Mansfield lives in Medford.

George H. McMoran, one of the leading dry goods men of Eugene, is registered at the Imperial hotel.

Mrs. W. T. Hielph, wife of one of the leading merchants of Astoria, is spending a few days in Portland and is registered at the Oregon.

D. H. Bomhoff, one of the leading citizens of Woodburn, is registered at the Oregon.

Election of Pope. MONMOUTH, Or., Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Please reply by the procedure that will follow by the sacred college of cardinals in electing a pope to succeed the late Pope Benedict XV. STUDENT.

The pope is elected by the cardinals of whom there are 60. The conclave is set for February 2. No cardinal may leave until a pope has been elected, but delayed cardinals may be admitted. A two-thirds vote is required to elect. The cardinals usually choose one of their own number, but this is not obligatory. Election is by ballot.

World War Veterans' State Aid Commission, Salem, Or. You are entitled to a credit for all the time you served in the army up to a period of 19 months. For additional information address the United States Land Office, Portland, Or.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotels.

It seems mighty good to be back in Portland again, declared Charles Z. Seelig of Wallace, Idaho, as he registered at the Portland hotel yesterday. Mr. Seelig lived in Portland for a number of years and then went to Wallace, where he now heads the C. Z. Seelig company, wholesalers of condensed milk. He has been somewhat slack in the Couer d'Alene mining districts for the past year due to low metal prices, and some of the big producers have closed down. However, there is a bright outlook for the future and we are feeling a revival of business already.

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SEARCH FOR 17 CENTS IS VAIN. Visiting Grain Merchant Can't Find Fat Profit for Local Wheat Buyers. PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—I have read with much interest the most forceful and intelligent letter of Judge A. S. Bennett. I am not directly concerned in the controversy, as I am general manager of the Chesapeake Export company of New York and only here on a visit. My company exported about 40 per cent of all the wheat which moved through the port of Galveston, Texas, in the last crop year and about 35 per cent of all the wheat exported through the port of Galveston. You will, therefore, admit that I have reason to contend that I know something about the grain export business. It is really pitiful to see papers like the Baker Herald discuss matters and make accusations based on figures which they do not know anything about. I contend and am ready to prove that, outside of perhaps the few packing houses, there is no trade in the world which is being worked on such an infinitesimally small margin per unit and per cent as the grain export business. I am also ready to furnish the proof that on January 26, and for weeks prior to that date, the Oregon farmer was paid fully to 1 cent per bushel more than wheat could be sold for in the Liverpool or any other international market. I would also furnish you with the proof showing that Argentine wheat, testing 64 pounds to the imperial bushel, was being sold during the early part of this week in Liverpool at a price equivalent to \$1.03 per bushel, f. o. b. steamer. Portland or Seattle, whereas the same grade of wheat was being sold in Seattle and Portland at least \$1.10 for wheat of not fully the same quality. Today, at this writing, No. 2 hard winter wheat is offered at 4 cents over the Chicago May option, or 45 cents. It is well known that New Orleans, to which has been added 15 cents per hundredweight or 9 cents per bushel ocean rate, is only a cent or two higher than the price of wheat in Liverpool. In order to bring this price back to a parity with Portland, you have to deduct 35 shillings, present ocean rate from Portland to Liverpool, at rate of 19 1/2 cents a bushel. Furthermore, you have to deduct 2 1/2 per cent based on the price of wheat in Seattle, as the ocean insurance from Pacific coast is almost twice as high as from Gulf or Atlantic ports, making the price \$1.09 f. o. b. Portland in bulk. The charges to put grain on board steamer in Portland are roughly 2 1/2 cents per bushel, therefore the price bid in Portland and Seattle for wheat, as anyone can see for himself, much higher than the world's value for middle western wheat exported via New Orleans and Galveston. In fact, it has been impossible for manufacturers of flour to order five weeks to sell to Europe without on the basis of the bid prices of the exchanges in Seattle and Portland, the exchange in Liverpool. Therefore, how can one construe that the Oregon farmer is getting the price of the same wheat beyond me. I believe, if a state investigation would take the pains to look at the books of any of the Puget sound or other mills which do have grain, it would be astonished to find that the sales made in the last few weeks show a clean loss for each and every transaction. Prior to the sale made and bought on the basis of the bid prices published daily by the exchanges in Portland and Seattle, the figures furnished your publication by an exporter on one specific date, show that the price of wheat was only 1 cent per bushel below the price obtained abroad, and considering the average cost of the grain export business, the transaction shows a loss to the exporter. Anybody who can show me not 17 cents, not 7 cents, not 2 or 3 cents per bushel profit between present European values and bid prices in Portland or Seattle can get a big portion of my money. ERNEST REINER, General Manager Chesapeake Export Company, New York City.

JURY SERVICE FOR UNEMPLOYED. Writer Suggest Selection from Those Who Are in Need of Work. PORTLAND, Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—In view of the fact that no jury was made in regard to women serving on the jury, that "women are busy as well as men" and have excuses for not serving, and that the public is giving work to the unemployed, and cartons have been published showing what jobs would mean to families where little children are cold and hungry. Why are the jurors not selected from the ranks of unemployed men? Why are the unemployed men not selected to serve on the jury? Why are the unemployed men not selected to serve on the jury? Why are the unemployed men not selected to serve on the jury?

Wireless Code and Instructions. PORTLAND, Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Please state the present national wireless code in the state of Oregon, or if there is no code, please state the code which can be set up in one's back yard. O. R. E.

Lincoln's Favorite Lines. BEND, Or., Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Would it be too much to request that you publish Lincoln's favorite poem, "On why should the spirit of mortal be proud?" by William Knott? It is the name of the poet. W. D. GILSON.

More Truth Than Poetry. By James J. Montague. In dear Paris, years ago, When dancers produced a show, And carping scribbles Penned diatribes 'Gainst the dancing actors, Next morning seat their cards around, And asked the right To meet and fight. Today an actor cannot start A duel to defend his art. Around the raps Of critics' heads, Around his savage dander, He's not permitted to run through The writer of a harsh review, But may assault him with his right His righteous rage By bringing suit for slander. In consequence the critics' stuff In Paris is becoming rough, Full well they wot They can't be shot. For getting mean or funny, And if the actor should resort For satisfaction to a court, It will not frighten him. The men who write— They haven't any money!

Burroughs Nature Club. Copyright, Houghton-Mifflin Co. CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS? 1. How do crabs propagate? 2. What is the name of the spider which spins a web that is found sometimes among goldens? 3. Please tell me about the habits of the albatross. Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

Answers to Previous Questions. 1. Do fish have eyelids? Not usually, though the eye is protected by a transparent layer of skin, which is continuous with the skin of the body. Fish are thought to be near-sighted usually, with not very good vision, though some species have good vision. 2. How do oysters stick to their surfaces? They don't stick, in the sense that they have of themselves any adhesive power. The shells are fairly heavy and tend to sink to the bottom anyway; but often they are additionally fastened down by adhesive threads left on the shells by preying mussels, which do have glands that secrete "byssus threads." A mussel throws out these filaments as it progresses, and break away constantly from them, throwing out new ones. A cut showing byssus threads is in some unpublished dictionaries.

Twenty-Five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of January 26, 1897. Owing to the increased demands upon the county board of charity due to the severing of the annual subscriptions should be continued.

Fifty Years Ago. From The Oregonian of January 26, 1872. Yesterday articles of incorporation for the "Portland and Washington Electric Traction Company" were filed in the office of the county clerk, and with the secretary of state.

President Grant has appointed four women since he has been in the White House to the highest grade of positions with salaries at \$4000 per annum.

Two Baldwin passenger locomotives have arrived at Kalama by the first vessel that has space.

The new mail route from Portland to Tillamook will be opened today and a mail will leave this city at 5 A. M.

Voting for President. SILVERTON, Or., Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—It is right to say we vote for the president in his name and that we have the right to elect our own candidates, or that we vote for electors to vote for the president? We thought both meant the same. Do they have the right to have the president's name on the ballot? H. K.

We vote for electors to vote for president. Electors are only under a moral obligation to vote for the convention nominee of their party. The name of each candidate for president appears on the ballot in this state, but in a place opposite the name of the elector. It is there merely as a means of clearly identifying party electors.

Lincoln's Favorite Lines. BEND, Or., Jan. 28.—(To the Editor.)—Would it be too much to request that you publish Lincoln's favorite poem, "On why should the spirit of mortal be proud?" by William Knott? It is the name of the poet. W. D. GILSON.

More Truth Than Poetry. By James J. Montague. In dear Paris, years ago, When dancers produced a show, And carping scribbles Penned diatribes 'Gainst the dancing actors, Next morning seat their cards around, And asked the right To meet and fight. Today an actor cannot start A duel to defend his art. Around the raps Of critics' heads, Around his savage dander, He's not permitted to run through The writer of a harsh review, But may assault him with his right His righteous rage By bringing suit for slander. In consequence the critics' stuff In Paris is becoming rough, Full well they wot They can't be shot. For getting mean or funny, And if the actor should resort For satisfaction to a court, It will not frighten him. The men who write— They haven't any money!

Burroughs Nature Club. Copyright, Houghton-Mifflin Co. CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS? 1. How do crabs propagate? 2. What is the name of the spider which spins a web that is found sometimes among goldens? 3. Please tell me about the habits of the albatross. Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

Answers to Previous Questions. 1. Do fish have eyelids? Not usually, though the eye is protected by a transparent layer of skin, which is continuous with the skin of the body. Fish are thought to be near-sighted usually, with not very good vision, though some species have good vision. 2. How do oysters stick to their surfaces? They don't stick, in the sense that they have of themselves any adhesive power. The shells are fairly heavy and tend to sink to the bottom anyway; but often they are additionally fastened down by adhesive threads left on the shells by preying mussels, which do have glands that secrete "byssus threads." A mussel throws out these filaments as it progresses, and break away constantly from them, throwing out new ones. A cut showing byssus threads is in some unpublished dictionaries.

Twenty-Five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of January 26, 1897. Owing to the increased demands upon the county board of charity due to the severing of the annual subscriptions should be continued.

Fifty Years Ago. From The Oregonian of January 26, 1872. Yesterday articles of incorporation for the "Portland and Washington Electric Traction Company" were filed in the office of the county clerk, and with the secretary of state.

President Grant has appointed four women since he has been in the White House to the highest grade of positions with salaries at \$4000 per annum.

Two Baldwin passenger locomotives have arrived at Kalama by the first vessel that has space.

The new mail route from Portland to Tillamook will be opened today and a mail will leave this city at 5 A. M.