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ing the rail differential and passing losses in part to the ship-owners. The differences in prices cited by the farm bureau of Springfield, Ill., comparison is again made between milling wheat at Chicago and export wheat at Portland. If the comparison were made between milling wheat at both places, a very different result would be reached and would explain why eastern Oregon farmers do not ship to Chicago. If there is anything in this situation that calls for the investigation of the farm bureau of Springfield, Ill., the investigation by the national department of agriculture will require something more than bare suspicion on which to found an investigation, just as the interstate commerce commission will certainly determine the justice of the competitive rate application on something more than somebody's gassy suspicion that the reduction would not be paid on to the consumer.

THE WORM IS TURNING. News comes from Florida that the once-crowded hotels at famous pleasure resorts have been all but deserted during the past winter. One hotel of 600 rooms had an average occupancy of only 10 per cent during the month in which northerners who can afford to travel like to go south. Another hotel with accommodations for 500 had only 30 per cent occupancy. It is still remembered that the Atlantic City hotel long ago lost an important national convention because of the rapacity of its bonanzas. The sledding is getting increasingly hard for the pleasure seekers.

GROUND AND LOFTY RATE TUMBLING. Having witnessed with some distress how the hills across of official activity often grow into great oaks of bureaucracy, we express the hope that the correspondence course now emanating from the Public Service Commissioner Corey on wheat prices, intermediate rates and the like is not the forerunner of a request for legislative appropriation to continue it with more vigor. From another source we learn that the public service commission is overwhelmed with work. In the telephone rate case it has before it 135 separate exhibits and a transcript of 5909 typewritten pages. While in the midst of its study of this stupendous record a special session of the legislature gave the commission new jurisdiction over high-way transportation and it is to devote much time to preparation of regulations. It is with apprehension, therefore, that one observes the voluminous letter-writing of one of the commission's members. Two additional indictments against the telephone rate case still pending. How can the correspondence department and the other duties be looked after without more money.

MARRIAGE STILL POPULAR. We are able to extract a grain of comfort, notwithstanding the statistics of divorce, from the bulletin issued by the census bureau that of a total of 53,900,431 males in the country over the age of 15 years, 21,849,266 have been married at least once, while 1,758,308 are widowers and 255,254 are single by reason of having been divorced. The proportion of married to single is as 59.2 to 40.8 per cent. The encouraging feature of the figures lies in the comparison with ten years ago. In 1910 there were only 55.8 married men in the hundred. The gain of more than four in the hundred, which is a gain of nearly 8 per cent in the number of married, indicates at least that marriage is not being so much wrecked by the storms that occasionally beset it. The figures lose some of their value from the fact that all males over the age of 15 are included, and it is known that the age at which men marry is advancing steadily, but they show that the married constitute a very large proportion—a working majority, indeed—of the entire population.

WHICH IS THE GREATER GOOD? A movement to add Diamond Lake and the surrounding mountains to the national park is being investigated. The question whether or not the natural resources of the mountains of the west can be reconciled with preservation and enjoyment of their natural beauties and opportunities for recreation, it is proposed to add 21,000 acres around Diamond Lake to the 160,000 acres now in Crater Lake park in order that the former area may be preserved as a national park. The question is raised that this disposition of the lake would be a barrier to its use as a storage reservoir and to the development of hydro-electric power at its outlet and on the Umpqua river, which is possible under the present water power law. This objection is fortified by the successful opposition to construction of storage dams for irrigation in Yellowstone park. Diamond Lake is in a national forest and is therefore subject to all the rules made for those areas. The district is used primarily for preservation of forests, the people hunt, fish and camp there, cattle and sheep graze there and ripe berries may be cut as the forest service directs. Under proper regulations summer homes may be built there. The forest service builds roads and trails and protects the country from fire. The fishing, which is controlled by the state game and fish commission, which would keep the lake stocked with fish and would prevent ruthless slaughter of deer, is under the national park. The Diamond Lake country would be closed to the hunter and fisherman and would depend on specific annual appropriations by congress for roads and trails. The Diamond Lake area is a national park, the Diamond Lake country would be closed to the hunter and fisherman and would depend on specific annual appropriations by congress for roads and trails.

and transmission lines so offensive to the eyes of a nature-lover that they must be forever banished from regions where he would feast his soul on scenery. The man who said "To my mind, smokesacks are the most beautiful scenery in the world" had there been aesthetically blind, but a potential 25,000 horsepower can be harnessed. It is considered, and the upper Umpqua river to serve a large part of western Oregon and to be fed into a trunk power line extending from north to south through Washington, Oregon and California. Electric smokesacks and a pole-line—those easily utilized works of man—to obstruct on his sight in his mountain haunts in order that electricity might bring light and power to the broad, fair and beautiful Cascade and Coast ranges, and with the industry, prosperity, clear air and an unobscured prospect? The greatest good to the greatest number dictates that Diamond Lake and the surrounding mountains be preserved as a national park, that natural beauty yield something to utility, in order that western Oregon may enjoy these blessings.

ACCEPTING THE EINSTEIN CHALLENGE. Professor Spencer Jones, assistant to the royal astronomer at Greenwich Observatory, who has just started for Christmas Island in the hope of supplementing the observations made in Brazil two years ago during an eclipse of the sun concerning the Einstein theory of relativity, goes in the capacity also as an acceptor of the Swiss astronomer's challenge. Some of Einstein's discoveries have already been accepted by astronomers as explanatory of phenomena which they had previously been unable to account for, but they are not generally accepted as a whole. Some of Einstein's discoveries have already been accepted by astronomers as explanatory of phenomena which they had previously been unable to account for, but they are not generally accepted as a whole.

THE CHICAGO GRAND OPERA COMPANY. The Chicago Grand Opera company is planning to give a series of concerts in the city. The company is planning to give a series of concerts in the city. The company is planning to give a series of concerts in the city.

THE CONFIDENCE WITH WHICH THE BRITISH NAVY AUTHORITY... The confidence with which the British navy authority... The confidence with which the British navy authority...

THE KRUPPS HAVE SWITCHED FROM ARMAMENT AND MUNITIONS MAKING TO OPERATING DISTILLERIES. The Krupps have switched from armament and munitions making to operating distilleries. The Krupps have switched from armament and munitions making to operating distilleries.

UNEMPLOYED FIGHT COMPETITION FOR JOBS IN THE BAY AREA. Unemployed fight competition for jobs in the bay area. Unemployed fight competition for jobs in the bay area.

THE GRAY-RICHMOND GROUP. The Gray-Richmond group... The Gray-Richmond group... The Gray-Richmond group...

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The Listening Post. By DeWitt Harry. THE fiddler's hands were calloused and stiff, evidently hardened by manual labor. His fingers were blunt, not the tapering, nimble digits one is led to associate with the artist. As he grasped the neck of his instrument he gave a gasp, for he seemed the larger by contrast, and the arm that wielded the delicate bow would have been more at home with an ax. Likely he worked during the day in a garage for grease stains showed plainly and black deposits outlined his finger nails. The piano pouncer must have been a carpenter, for his ever-ready hands kept up a tattoo on the keys impossible except for one who was used to striking hard blows continuously. The saxophone player might have worked in a pool room, for he wore his instrument in somewhat the same manner as the tough kid wears his cigarette. The trap expert was undoubtedly a boiler-worker with a long acquaintance with noise-making things, for his fingers were calloused and stiff.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotel. F. I. Davidson, orchardist of the Hood River country, is at the Hotel Oregon. A chinook struck that section Saturday night, and it is reported on the ice and snow which have been in evidence since last November. The chinook is a wind blowing from the north, running, or flowing, high in the air and gradually comes down. Cows are a good indicator of a chinook. When cows leave their barns and huddle under the hills it is almost a certainty that the snow will be gone by the time they make the hills. The chinook leaves the hills, with everything looking serene and come to the barn, it is a safe bet that a storm is coming. Horses, apparently, are not weather-wise like the cows.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotel. The "zephyr" silk which was used in the war as a covering for the wings of aeroplanes is being manufactured in the hood river country. The silk was bought in immense quantities by the government and has been taken over by salvage concerns. As there isn't much demand for aeroplane wings that now, the material is being manufactured in hood river. It is of such light weight that a large tent weighs but a few pounds. The silk is being manufactured by B. S. Tobias of Seattle, registered at the Multnomah, is one of the men who acquired the quantity of raw material. Mr. Tobias has a chain of 13 army supply stores throughout the country.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotel. Passing through Portland yesterday was a man who had been a manufacturer of La Grande, Or. Mr. Hackman has a brother-in-law whom he has never seen. The relative arrived from the east a few days ago and went to Seattle. He advised Mr. Hackman that he would go to La Grande if he could find a way to get there. Mr. Tobias has a chain of 13 army supply stores throughout the country.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotel. They are lambing some in the vicinity of Lexington, Or., where C. N. Fridley registers from at the Imperial. This year the Morrow county woolmen have agreed to pay agents a head and board, or its equivalent, to the shearers. This price was reduced to a conference between the wool growers and John McClinton, head of the sheep shearers' union. The union is said to be a sort of fraternal organization intended to promote efficiency and maintain harmony between the shearers and the owners.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotel. Within a few weeks the long controversy between the Hood river state highway commission will be over. The commission will be over. The commission will be over.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotel. Possibly by the end of the year Fred Krusow will have a good highway available between his town of Grass Valley and the Columbia river highway at Biggs. The highway commission plan to improve the Sherman highway between Moro and Biggs, which is the worst section in the state. This developed, traffic originating at Grass Valley will be well provided for. Mr. Krusow is registered at the Hotel Oregon.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotel. Maybe J. L. Sprinkle, registered at the Hotel Oregon, is the mild, bawdy weather with him. Mr. Sprinkle is from Chinook, Mont. From the days of the early days of Chinook, he has been in the warm wind which comes along and melts the snow has been known as a chinook, taking its name from a tribe of Indians. Mr. Sprinkle is interested in the Carver railroad, which ambles out into Clackamas county.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotel. With the temperature moderating, S. A. Anderson, plumber of Astoria, concluded he would be safe for him to run to Portland for a day or two, and he is at the Imperial. With many weeks of the winter, the Portland business has not been so bad in eastern Oregon. There was a new fall of snow at La Grande, but the Portland mercury in the bulb is rising.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Lynn W. Smith of Gold Hill, Or., are at the Perkins. For 10 or 12 years Mr. Smith was a stockholder and cashier in the Gold Hill bank. The group are Archie McPherson and G. Vanderhoof of Antelope, Or., and R. Hunter and family and Mr. and Mrs. Vanderhoof of Tacoma, Wash.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotel. W. H. Foster of New York, in the Gray-Richmond group, arrived at the hotel yesterday. Other grain men at the hotel are C. V. Essinger and B. G. McLeod, both of Chicago.

Those Who Come and Go. Tales of Folks at the Hotel. F. Barker, salmon packer of Astoria, has checked out of the hotel. He is attending a meeting here of packers, when the situation was gone over in detail.

Burroughs Nature Club. Copyright, Houghton-Mifflin Co. Can You Answer These Questions? 1. What is a horned toad? 2. What animal would its tooth I enclose? 3. How are the common blue jays we have down south harmful, and should they be killed? Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

Answers to Previous Questions. 1. I was surprised to see you print the statement—in giving a list of poisonous snakes of the south—that the king snake is venomous. This is contrary to my experience. We are glad to print this comment. On getting it we hunted up our original penciled notes on the letter asking for names of southern venomous snakes, and the short list was correctly ended "and copperheads." A typing mistake turned this "king snake." The king snake is a constrictor in its eating habit, crushing, not poisoning its prey. It is harmless to man, and it is a very useful rodent, taking many small rodents for prey.

Answers to Previous Questions. 2. Was the Star of Bethlehem a real star? A real astronomical occurrence of some sort, without doubt, but exactly what it was, and how it came to be so, has been supposed to have been a comet; a comet came into visibility; a conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn and Mars; a conjunction of the planets in the heavens; or possibly really a star newly visible. Astronomers, however, do not consider this any one of these explanations, but the probable account of the star's leading travelers from the east.

Answers to Previous Questions. 3. What is a Gonus, or Gooona, a sea bird? We printed this question in October, replying that we could not find any word approaching it. It does not appear in our edition of Webster's unabridged, or in the index of the many volumes in our technology we examined. But accidentally we come upon it in the text of Bailey's Handbook of the Birds of the United States, and the word is applied by fishermen to the blackfooted albatross, found off the Pacific coast from southern California to Alaska.

ALL READY FOR INVESTIGATION. But Mr. Corey Again Becomes Involved in Wheat Figures. SALEM, Or., Feb. 4.—(To the Editor.)—I am pleased to accept the Oregonian's suggestion of January 23 that a public inquiry be had, by an Oregonian, into the wheat situation over the matters involved in our discussion. I suggest that the inquiry be held before the United States department of agriculture and that the investigation be broadened so as to cover the question of discounts and the question of the marketing of wheat. The investigation should be held in the United States, as well as in Oregon, and the results should be made public. I am sure that the government will be requested to explain why it restricted imports.

Rule in Auction Bridge. EUGENE, Or., Feb. 5.—(To the Editor.)—A and C are playing B and D in auction bridge. A deals a heart, B passes, C passes, D passes. A redoubles. B passes, C passes, D passes. A claims he does not have the right to change the bid and that the redoubled heart bid must be played. The right of C or D to change the bid is changed? E. D. PAINE.

Why Called "Leap Year"? PRINEVILLE, Or., Feb. 5.—(To the Editor.)—Why was leap year so called? Also, does it come every four years? A. CONSTANT READER.

Sentence Poetically Worded. PORTLAND, Feb. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me whether or not the underscored words in the following sentence are used correctly: "The officers of the company are John Jones, James Brown and Henry Adams, all of whose address is Portland, Oregon." PUZZLED.

Arrival of Steamer. MEDFORD, Or., Feb. 5.—(To the Editor.)—Please print the nationality of the Oriflamme arrived in Portland from San Francisco, Oregon, A. S. McLEOD.

Nationality of Two. SHERBORN, Or., Feb. 5.—(To the Editor.)—Please print the nationality of J. P. Morgan and John D. Rockefeller. A SUBSCRIBER.

Both are native born American citizens. A SUBSCRIBER.

More Truth Than Poetry. By James J. Montague. We know the villain's going to swipe The lovely lillain lady, We know that persons of his type Are never so low and so shabby. We know the evil deeds he's planned And yet the hero clasps his hand And trusts him, ah, abolutely.

We know there's poison in the cup, We see the villain pour it; The hero can't drink it, alas! And thanks the accursed for it. And when the doctors pull him through, He says: "What keeps you up so late? How could a friend so tried and true, Commit so sad a blunder?"

China is the oldest nation in the world, which is probably why the other nations insist on running her affairs for her. To Be Expected. The price of butter and eggs increased because of the cold spell in the north. It is probable that the price will be put them in cold storage to keep them from freezing.

In Other Days. Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of February 7, 1897. "Flenna," an unconfirmed report has been received here of the massacre of 1300 Christians in the villages of the island of Crete.

The city of Pendleton has decided to get along with one night watchman for a while. Silk made from wood by a new method in this country, and manufactured in this country, and the conditions are now being made to build a factory.

A New York grand jury has found that one John Tammany stole one day by the late Tammany ring was \$6,000,000. The Stockton Republican says editorially: "San Francisco is a city of practical sinners. Queer village."

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