Morning Oregonian

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(By Carrier.)

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FOR SPEEDIER JUSTICE.

Increase of the federal judicial forces by the creation of twenty-four new district judgeships is promptly subjected to partisan and otherwise prejudiced criticism as a "pork-barrel" procedure; a useless increase of the taxpayers' burden, not necessary because of any condition of business in the existing courts, and designed solely to strengthen the party in power by so much of an enlarged distribution of patronage.

Criticism of this kind, broadcast exclusively from sources whence it would be idle to expect anything else, reaches only to the fact that here are twenty-four more judicial offices to be filled by presidential appointment, and gives no recognition to the conditions and circumstances by which the national administration and congress have been convinced of the necessity of a somewhat larger judicial body. The new courts will be officered according to the best judgment of the president and counsellors, and no doubt with some advice from present justices who have had intimate experience with the need of such relief as is now promised. Senators and representatives whose constituencies are within the circuits from which the new judges are to be named may or may not be consulted. In any case, the chance is very slight of the appointment of any judge who is personally unfit or whose preferment may be attributed entirely to party service.

Even in the most severe spasms of passionate partisanship credit should occasionally be given for sincerity of purpose when measures for public relief are proposed and adopted. In the matter of these new judgeships, for example, it needs but casual inquiry in almost every judicial district of the United States to discover a state of congestion that is unjust, vexatious and costly to everyone whose business brings him within the jurisdiction of the federal courts. The thought of "making things easier" for the judges is not the first or by any means the only consideration. But in the clearing of court calendars and the expedition of the processes of litigation many thousands of citizens are deeply concerned. A judicial blockade—and the situation has amounted to that in some districts—is a serious handicap on business, and the burden is carried, not so much by the court as by the many who must come to court for adjudication of their affairs.

Chief Justice Taft, whose labors to remedy the defects of the judicial machinery began long before he assumed his present high office, has been an advocate of such an increase in the number of federal judges as would give the required relief, under conditions making the whole judicial force more effective by reason of some degree of mobility. The measure which has been adopted looks toward fulfillment of these purposes. The courts of the new judges are not to be fixed courts; these judges will be subject to assignment by the senior circuit judge to any district where they may be needed within that circuit, or called to service in the districts embraced within other circuits by the chief justice of the supreme court.

This will be, in a way, an application of the presiding judge system already in effect in the courts of many states. Chief Justice Taft remarks that "this executive principle of using all the judicial force economically and at points where most needed should be adopted in every state, and when adopted will offer a remedy to a great deal of the injustice by delay that now exists."

The chief justice does not exonerate bar and bench from their share of responsibility for unsatisfactory legal procedure. Lawyer members of state legislatures, he observes, use very little of the power in their hands to perfect the machinery for the administration of justice; and he has only words of condemnation for judges who fail of their duty through indifference or laziness. "Judges are men," he says, "and are not so keenly charged with the duty of constant labor that the stimulus of an annual inquiry into what they are doing may not be helpful." The newly adopted measure provides for such an inquiry at an annual meeting of the chief justice and the senior judges from the nine circuits into which the country is divided.

It is quite true, as stated by those who stand ready and eager to criticise every act of the present administration and congress, that twenty-four additional judicial offices have been created to be filled by presidential appointment. But those inclined to criticise would do well first to inform themselves of the present need of relief, not so much by the courts as by those who seek justice of the courts; and, next, of the manner in which the new law proposes to give that relief. "While the judges of our courts have their faults," says Chief Justice Taft, "they may rightly excuse themselves in a large degree on the ground that the fault lies with the legislative power which does not provide adequate machinery for the prompt and satisfactory dispatch of business."

Delay is the most important factor in the inadequacy of the administration of justice. It works always for the man with the longest purse; always in favor of the rich as against the poorer litigant. The new measure, the new plan for speedy relief where it is most needed, is designed to be corrective of delay, and there is no reason to doubt that men will be named as the new judges who will function in accord with the spirit as well as the letter of law by which their work has been laid out for them.

ONE GOOD IN LATE SPRING.

Conditions so far in the season of 1922 are in favor of another big fruit crop from the orchards of the Pacific northwest. With a good yield and good prices last year, the fruit growers of this region, generally speaking, had little or nothing to complain of, though here and there, of course, occurred instances of "hard luck" or loss through other causes. But the fruit industry, as a whole, is prosperous, and everyone engaged in it is looking forward to a continuance of prosperity.

Most folks—city dwellers in particular—have been bemoaning the backwardness of spring. Not so the horticulturists. The pessimistic prediction that "spring will never come" has no place in their calculations. Placing some degree of reliance on the hitherto unbroken procession of the seasons, they know by experience that any reasonable delay on the part of spring gives insurance against damage and assurance of better harvests. Trees and bushes are given a little longer time for rest, and winter weather will have opportunity to work itself to a finish, so that when blossoming begins there will be very much less danger of tearing rain storms or untimely frosts.

Oregon, Washington and Idaho furnished a huge proportion of all the fruit marketed in the United States last year. This was due, to some extent, to failure or partial failure of crops in other fruit-growing sections of the country, which made the northwest harvest bulk larger in comparison with the whole. But failures elsewhere are not necessary to the success of the northwest fruit industry. The superiority of the products; the care that is shown in selection and packing; the almost absolute certainty that the fruit will be received in first-class condition anywhere in the world—these are the points that make for the steady progress and increasing prosperity of the fruit industry of this region. A backward spring, if it be not altogether too backward, is regarded by the growers as propitious in the implication that when at length it comes it will come to stay.

COMPENSATIONS OF EIGHT HOUR DAY.

The eight-hour work day is fairly well established in the lumber mills of the northwest, and the industry as a whole does not look with any degree of approbation on the occasional attempt of individual millmen to stretch the day to ten hours or more. This attempt, it is said, has thus far been limited to a few of the smaller mills in the Puget sound country, and there is no likelihood that it will become general. But its trouble-breeding possibilities are viewed with some apprehensiveness.

Northwest lumbermen have found, in actual practice, that they can operate their mills on the eight-hour day and produce almost as much lumber as by working longer hours. Production records, taken over any considerable period of operation, are said to disclose total outputs that are large as would have been possible in similar periods if subject to interruptions. The longer day was the cause or the pretext for many labor troubles—a genuine cause of dissatisfaction to a large number of honest workmen, and a pretext for disturbance by every agitator who happened to come along. The eight-hour day has measurably relieved dissatisfaction and deprived the agitator of one of his best points in argument for discord.

The day-by-day output of the mills in eight hours cannot well be as large as it was, or as it would be, in ten hours. Judged merely by the measurement of physical capacity, it is not possible for the same man to do as much work in eight as he can do in ten hours. But appraisal of the situation must include the advantage of having men at work under comparatively satisfactory conditions which can scarcely fail to induce some increase of efficiency even among the laggard and unwilling. Two hours cannot be cut off a working day without some sacrifice in the volume of that day's production, but the cut from ten to eight hours has not meant a sacrifice of 20 per cent, as the millmen once feared that it might.

The greater advantage of the eight-hour day in the northwest lumber industry, however, has been found in its assurance of continuity of operation. Eliminating one big reason for labor discontent, and to that degree checking the chance of strike, the shorter day permits the millmen to look ahead and plan for the future with greater certainty, while his quantity production is all the more sure to be equal to his needs in the long run.

AMERICA MOST TRUSTED.

Probably the refusal of the United States to take part in a conference, the chief object of which is to establish commerce between soviet Russia and the rest of Europe, will have more influence in inducing the bolshevists to accept the principles on which alone commerce with Russia can be restored than will all that can be done at Genoa. The United States neither asks nor wants anything from Russia in the way of territory or concessions. Its one offense in the eyes of the bolshevists is that it is capitalist and does not tolerate communist propaganda. But when famine and plague struck down the people of the Volga valley America undertook to feed the hungry and heal the sick, and has done more than all other nations combined, not interfering in any way with political affairs. It has won the gratitude of the Russian people, who have seen the contrast between it and bolshevist rapacity, brutality and inefficiency.

Though the nations of western Europe name the same conditions of commercial intercourse with Russia as have been stated by Secretary Hughes on behalf of the United States, they cannot conceal an anxiety which is absent from the American attitude. Great Britain wants Russian trade to provide work for 2,000,000 unemployed and wants to recover possession of the great industries in Russia which were formerly operated by British capital, one corporation alone having employed 250,000 men in the time of the empire. Germany wants to sell goods in Russia and to exploit its untouched resources in order both to control its commerce and to direct its policy. France wants Russia reconstructed in order that it may collect interest on the imperial debt. Italy and all the states of central and southeastern Europe are eager for Russian markets, and many want Russian raw material.

American commerce with Russia was comparatively slight before the war, and, though American investments had begun, they were inconsiderable by comparison with those of Germany and Great Britain. Now all neighboring nations have incurred the hatred or distrust of the Moscow government on other grounds than differences in economic principles. It may easily prove that, when the Moscow chiefs resolve that their great communist experiment has failed, they will rather surrender to the United States than to the combined nations of Europe, and will invite American guidance in rebuilding the economic structure that they have wrecked.

THE CALL TO THE WOBBLIES.

Responding to the call of "Big Bill" Haywood, their long-absent leader, sixty-eight members of the Industrial Workers of the World have taken their departure from America, bound for Russia, there, maybe, to find places in a social and economic structure that is much more to their liking.

The number of this first contingent is not particularly encouraging to lovers of a general exodus. It is said to be the vanguard of a force of 6000 I. W. W., who have made up their minds to go, but who are waiting, for one reason or another, for later sailing dates. Big Bill has called for a much larger number; his messages have brought word, in effect, that no land on earth promises better picking than Russia. But even an organized 6000 would be a small force for so large and populous a country; not enough of a force to put over the I. W. W. programme of industrial reconstruction even on a suffering and despairing people.

It is barely possible, of course, that the motive of the movement may not be entirely unselfish. Big Bill's messages have told of huge concessions obtained from the Lenin government, and he has asked for the help of a lot of the boys in a great co-operative scheme of development of Russian timber and mineral resources. It has never been made quite clear whether this scheme was to be in the interest of Russia or of Big Bill and the boys. That, perhaps, is what the I. W. W. vanguard is going to find out.

America in general may well wish them luck, if it cares to show so much lack of sympathy for the Russians. Since the time of the discovery accredited to Christopher Columbus this is probably the first eastbound trans-Atlantic pilgrimage in quest of a land of greater promise. The tremendous movement, for many generations, has been hitherward. Millions have found in America what they sought to find, or have been content to accept what they found as being as near to what they sought as anything could be this side of the millennium or heaven.

But the I. W. W. admit to no degree of satisfaction whatsoever. They have been gravely disappointed by the shortcomings of all American forms of government, all industrial practices, all social customs, and they have been much chagrined by the failure of a sufficient majority of the American people to make over all these things to conform with I. W. W. specifications. Possibly they turn to Russia with hope renewed, meantime reassured that Big Bill has the means of taking care of them until they get going good.

LIFE AFTER DEATH.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in America on what he pleasantly designates as a "raid" on the skeptical attitude of the people of this country toward what is commonly denominated as "spiritualism," tempers the spirit of controversy with the statement that the movement which he represents, "far from being antagonistic to religion, is destined to vivify religion, which has been decaying and becoming a mere formality." The promise of immortality is not new, nor has it required the impetus of spiritualistic propaganda to make it a potent influence over the conduct of men. The scriptures teem with it; the mission of the Savior to "deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage," the definite pledge of life everlasting repeated over and over again—these are well understood by all who accept the divine writings as their guide and in whom faith is strong. In this particular Sir Arthur brings no novel message. It can be said, indeed, that belief in immortality, in life after death, now rules the world. Few even of so-called atheists exclude it utterly from the cloisters of their minds; the agnostic at least hopes that it may be true, and hope is very close to belief here as in other instances; the passionate longing for a continuous existence seems so natural that we are at no loss to account for the nearly universal running of this common thread through dogma and popular belief.

Sir Arthur has before him a task of greater magnitude if he hopes to produce that which the scientists call proof that the personality of the individual persists in the world beyond, and if he intends to show that communication can be established between dwellers in these two spheres. There is not perhaps as much skepticism with reference to the immortality of the soul as the irreligious think there is, but there is a growing tendency to demand a scientific explanation for every reasonably provable fact. The world is in a serious mood and undoubtedly inclines a receptive ear toward that which only a few years ago it would have rejected almost without a second thought, but it also, as in no other period of its history, demands that all the evidence shall be weighed.

"We have brought forward definite proofs of immortality," wrote Sir Arthur on another occasion a few years ago, "and have established religion upon a basis of fact instead of faith, so that the poor groping human soul may have a provable foundation upon which to build." Here the issue has been drawn, and it is here that the protagonist will be expected to make good. It is remembered that Sir Oliver Lodge, with a similar message and a not dissimilar promise, failed to make more than a few converts, though he brought the prestige of eminence in other scientific fields to the task. Having issued a challenge to skepticism, it is plain that the way to silence it is to produce the proofs. "I have studied for sixty years," said the scientist, Camille Flammarion, "and today if you put the question, 'Do you believe in spirits?' I answer, 'I do not know.'"

Flammarion, it will be noted, does not deny, nor does he affirm; he finds, however, that autosuggestion has played so important a part in most of the so-called psychic phenomena that he has inquired into as to render all of them, if not open to suspicion, at least subject to further investigation. "I do not believe in one single spiritualistic phenomenon," said Professor Charles Richet, who holds that it is unnecessary to go to the world beyond for an explanation of occurrences which may be the product of natural laws which we but imperfectly understand. It is the scientists with their demand for proof that it will be necessary for Sir Arthur to convince if he would beat back the barriers of doubt; the orthodox believer still has his faith, which, in its way, is as strong as Sir Arthur's own.

The distinction lies, as has been suggested, between belief in immortality and belief in the manifestations which are grouped under the general classification of spiritualism. The profound influence of the will to believe, so clearly exemplified by Sir Arthur himself, in which individual emotional prejudice obscures in varying degree the weakness of evidence, is and has been an obstacle to the removal of doubts. Faith in the future, belief that the soul of man was not meant to dwell for a brief and unsatisfactory space amid inclement surroundings and then vanish into nothingness, profound confidence in the ultimate beneficence of the divine plan—these persist and religion holds its own. But the peculiar difference between the old religion and that which goes by the name of spiritualism lies in the affirmation of certain phenomena, chief among which is communication with those who have gone before. Here again the "will to believe" has been a mighty influence. To the old faith in a future existence has been added hope that we may indeed be within speaking distance of the beloved dead.

There is no doubt that Sir Arthur who is no charlatan, believes sincerely that he has many times spoken with his son, Kingsley, as he says that he has done. His belief is nevertheless no stronger than was that of Sir Oliver Lodge, who did not present evidence that would have convinced an inquiring scientific mind. There are few who would not like to believe, or who are not ready to believe, that death is as Sir Arthur says it is—a change so slight at first "that those who have passed into the next existence are hard to convince that they are dead." A modern theology, no longer insistent as of old on a place of eternal torment for the damned, is prepared to meet Sir Arthur more than half way in his proposition that the unsavory individual does not go to hell, but instead "to a sort of hospital," where he must remain until he has accomplished his regeneration by his own voluntary acts. All this comports with the sense of justice that is inherent in us; it seems fair that it should be so, and even probable that it may be true; but it is, after all, but another example of the will to believe in operation upon a very mundane consciousness, unless there is better proof than has heretofore been adduced that it is indubitably the thing that does come to pass.

We are reassured by Sir Arthur's explanation that "high spirits do not descend upon earth in order to tell fortunes, or to advise upon business matters," which at the outset excludes a lot of quacks and mountebanks who exist to prey upon the griefs of the bereaved. It disposes, too, of a vast brigade of table-tippers and tambourine players who gather in dark rooms to obtain vague and cryptic messages from souls on the other side of the mystic veil. But, shorn of these phases and reduced to a speculative philosophy, the message that Sir Arthur brings would seem to contain nothing that has not in substance been already written. The promise of life eternal is not a novelty. Only the means of communication with those from whom we would wish to hear is new—and it is upon this point that Sir Arthur's audiences will anxiously await the proof he promises them.

One part of President Harding's policy of "more business in government" should be systematic development of waterways by continuous work. Expenditures should be concentrated on a few projects at a time, and should be pushed until they are completed. The interstate commerce commission should be given power to establish a proper relation between rail and water rates and should enforce making of through rates by rail and water combined. That is necessary to the making of a transportation system, at which we have barely begun.

There should not be controversy over the kissing of Mary Garden by governor and mayor. These excellent officials—gentlemen, too, it hardly need be stated—felt they had a duty to perform. Both were acts of bravery, in contemplation of going home and telling, as is the habit of a good husband. Miss Garden has not complained. Why anybody else? Humph!

John D. Jr. says he admires "the old gent" mostly for putting all his eggs into one basket, and as Pud'n'head Wilson was made to say, "watching that basket." There is (accent) a lot of advice in that.

It will be well for people not registered, and those not registered rightfully, to attend to this matter at once. The right to vote will have a value next month—not financial, but conscientious.

The loss of a grain warehouse worth $50,000 at Elgin will be but temporary check to that little city. Elgin is a business community of the right sort.

The peach and plum buds are breaking their hearts to bloom and tell the apples and pears it's near blossoming time for them.

Sixty of Bill Hayward's 6000 that are going to revolutionize work in Russia sailed Saturday. Hand their hats to the rest quickly.

The Listening Post.

By DeWitt Harry.

THE following "gleanings" rife with intense news value were sent in by a country correspondent. It was thought best to suppress the name of the town.

"Gerald Dwight is with Brush's department store. Mr. Brush reports that Mr. Dwight is a great success as head floor walker. The ladies' wearing apparel counter has showed an increase in sales.

"Miss Blake, our embryo school marm, recently entertained Fred Hole with an evening of dominoes.

"Miss Josie Brush has bewitched the male sector with her new spring bonnet.

Bloom's department store recently received a shipment of California yellow turnips. Many of our best families enjoyed them.

"Several have inquired who Miss Mabel Burns' new flame is. She has been known to call him Shorty.

"Lawrence Mitchell recently polished his saxophone. It has improved the tone greatly.

"The meat market recently installed an adding machine which produces ultra-fine weinies."

* * *

From Ole to the Mare.

Val, Ole Oleson lak to say
Yust line or two abote de vay
Mare Baker cleaning Chinatown,
An taring dos har iron doors down.
Ay tal you, Yeorge, das bane gude stuff,
Ay hope dat you skol treat dem rough;
Ef yaller man vant shoot damsalf,
Or smoking dope up on a shalf,
Or having gude big gambling game,
By Yee, it time dey sholder blame.
Ay lak not much de vay dey sall
Dis dope das sending folks to hal,
An making vomen ban dar slaves,
Till dope skol drop dem in der graves.
Ef China boy ban vishing stay
In des har gude ol U. S. A.,
Ay tank dey better feeling claw
Of big iron hand ve calling law.
Gude dose of yail for Chinaman
Ban stuff for stop dar play fan-tan,
An bullets gude for des har tong
To put dem var dey skol belong.
So, Yeorge, as long as you ban mare,
Ay hope you give dem hal of scare,
An rip dar doors and tables down,
An making Portland Spotless Town.

—OLE OLESON.

* * *

The girl, anyhow we are certain that it must be a girl, who writes with green ink, has once again contributed to the column. Most readers will remember her last effort at the time when the Chicago Grand Opera company arrived. Here's the one that came yesterday morning:

"Passers-by the Benson hotel Saturday afternoon were startled by lusty wailings which came from the the interior of a curtained and deserted flivver.

"'Ahuh,' quoth Stealthy Steve, the six-eyed sleuth. 'Another che-lid abandoned.'

"But he was wrong. Investigation proved that Mary's favorite pet still follows her—even though she now travels in a flivver."

* * *

On the last day of the tax-paying rush in the sheriff's office the crowd was notably slender. In commenting on it Sheriff Hurlburt did not feel alarmed, or figure that there would be a shortage of collections. His explanation mirrors changing conditions:

"In years past we used to handle the greater portion of our collections in cash. In the past few years there has been a great financial change apparent. People are beginning to study out their finances and take advantage of banking accommodation. The banks are responsible for a great deal of this, for they have carried on a campaign of education with the result that many new accounts have been opened. The result is easily seen here, people no longer come and stand in line to hand over their money—they mail in their checks."

* * *

In order that a canary should sing at its best a varied diet is essential. The little bird should not only have certain seeds, but an occasional slice of apple or a bit of spinach as a reward. Being shut up as they are canaries miss all that diet they could obtain were they in the open and for this reason feed stores offer a composition called manna, said to contain the essential seeds and roughage that would be eaten by the bird if it were in the open. Canaries should only be allowed this manna in their cages for a short time daily, and soon begin to comprehend that they must make the best of time and eat fast. Indeed some of the wiser birds get busy as soon as the manna comes and tear pieces of it loose, letting the stuff fall on the floor where they can get it at their leisure.

* * *

The implied compliment in taking teacher an apple or a flower is deep and lasting. Few youngsters fail to make their teacher a sort of hallowed heroine. There is a great thought in every bouquet or little present.

A little girl in a northeast school nearly had her tender young heart broken to tiny bits yesterday. She got permission from mother to take a few daffodils and hyacinths to her teacher. The teacher already had a nice potted plant on her desk, and when the cut flowers were presented she carelessly brushed them aside, with the remark, "I don't want them; I have some," thereby ruining an ideal of a childish heart.

* * *

Portland's spring washing season has started again. One of the big downtown buildings has a crew busily engaged in cleaning the marble front of the structure and a pure white streak shows through the grime, giving promise of the real beauty of the building that lies underneath. This city is one of the few in the country that prides itself on the cleanliness of its face, that gives its business houses a laundrying each year. Some buildings have already been cleaned.

* * *

Warm days and the sap begins to run. Hedges and shade trees already show signs of breaking out their foliage for the year and those persons afflicted with the wander-lust feel the pull of the road. Freight trains once more bring in their allotment of tourists and the jungles along the railway tracks are again filled with life. The 'boes are moving, their winter hibernation is finished and they are on their ever persistent search for pastures new.

Home Secret Is Bared.

Judge.

"Why don't you treat your wife a little better?"

"I tried it for a while, and she got so suspicious I could hardly live with her."

Those Who Come and Go.

Tales of Folks at the Hotels.

A vouyager militaire is Dr. J. H. Rosenberg of Prineville, registered at the Imperial. A vouyager militaire is a member of the "40-8" society, composed of former service men. It is the playground of the American Legion and gets the name from the boxcars which the A. E. F. had to use in France, the sign on the boxcars reading that the car had a capacity for eight horses or 40 men. Dr. Rosenberg is health officer of Prineville and has been head of the state organization of Elks and he is also a member of the Irrigators, the alfalfa organization of Crook county which corresponds with the Royal Rosarians of Portland, only instead of wearing white suits like the Rosarians, the Irrigators dress up in bib-overalls and a hayseed hat. "Sheep are looking fine, cattle looking fine, business getting better, but oh, the winter we have had," explained the doctor. "I've been in Crook county 22 years and it is the most drawn-out winter that I have experienced. The grass hasn't started yet. The other day we had a snow storm. I was over to George Russell's ranch last week and plenty of snow could be seen from there. Also the other night there was a film of ice on the river and the milkman told me that the milk in his cans froze solid—and it has to be pretty cold to freeze milk. But things are improving and new settlers are coming in on the irrigation project and there will be a world of water in the big reservoir."

"I'd like to sit once more as a delegate to a good, old-fashioned nominating convention," observed Henry Taylor, one of the pioneers of Umatilla county. "The direct primary has not worked out as well as the people who advocated it supposed it would. The convention system brought out pretty good men and it kept the party organizations intact and gave the partisans something to work for and to look forward to." Mr. Taylor, who is a democrat, was one of the first men to plow under the bunchgrass in Umatilla county and plant wheat. He bought a man's right to 160 acres and a log cabin and some poles for fencing for $300 years ago and that was his start as a wheat farmer. Now he has between 900 and 1000 acres, half of which is used for wheat every year while the other half rests.

"City people cannot appreciate the condition of the farmers," declared D. M. Ward, former, who registers at the Hotel Oregon from Heppner and whose place is near Eight-Mile. "Just because a farmer uses an automobile does not mean he is prosperous, for some farmers have no more business having a car than have a good many city people. The farmer, when he was getting a high price for his wheat and high prices for cattle and sheep, was spending his money freely in the towns, but you don't see many farmers coming to town these days, because money is scarce with them. However, things are commencing to look up and the worst phase appears to have passed."

J. H. Beckley and wife, who have been passing the winter in Portland, have left for Crook county, where Mr. Beckley has been buying young steers for his Klamath county ranch, located at Fort Klamath in the Wood river valley, which he contends is the paradise of the world. These Crook county cattle will be trailed south to the Beckley ranch as soon as the roads are open. Mr. Beckley is the owner of one of the largest and best cattle ranches in the Wood river valley, where he spends his summers, the Beckley winters, as a rule, being devoted to California. This winter he preferred the Oregon rains to the California brand.

To edit for the last time the titles in the Irving S. Cobb motion pictures of the author's hunt in central Oregon, A. Whisnant of Bend is in town. The film, says Mr. Whisnant, is practically a scenario of the Cobb article on his Oregon hunt in the May issue of the Cosmopolitan magazine. In the article is a sketch of Bill Vandevert, one of the guides, who lives between Bend and La Pine, and of various other chaps who were in the Cobb camp. In a couple of weeks "Whiz" says that he expects the film to be ready for release.

C. W. Farnsworth, who lives near Rhea's siding, on Willow creek, is at the Hotel Oregon. The highway commission is now considering locating the northwestern end of the Oregon-Washington highway from Rhea's siding westward to a connection with the John Day highway, a couple of miles south of Arlington. The cost of right of way down Willow creek from Rhea's siding to Heppner Junction, at the Columbia River highway is said to be prohibitive and for this reason the commission is figuring on shifting the route.

Game conditions in the southern part of the state are good and fishing in the Rogue river is about back to normal, due to agreements with the commercial fishermen to keep seine and set nets out of the river, according to Bert Anderson of Medford, registered at the Multnomah. Mr. Anderson is a member of the game commission and is in the city to attend the monthly meeting.

There is plenty of enthusiasm for the proposed Columbia basin irrigation project, according to Frank S. Spofford. He is the assistant supervisor of survey of the United States and is registered at the Multnomah. When the Columbia basin prbject is completed, says Mr. Spofford, it will include 2,000,000 acres and will mean much to Portland, as the project will support several thousand families.

Millard T. Hartson, collector of customs for the Puget Sound district, was in the city yesterday visiting with George U. Piper, collector of the Portland district. Mr. Hartson was formerly postmaster at Spokane and was collector of internal revenue for Washington when Taft was president.

From Louisville, Ky., comes Dr. A. T. McCormack to attend the meeting of health officers in Portland. The doctor is a member of the Kentucky state board of health.

Sam Litch, formerly a county commissioner for Wallowa county, is in town to have a heart-to-heart talk with a surgeon.

B. F. McCullough and J. C. Templeton, stockmen of Echo, Or., are registered at the Hotel Oregon.

A real estate dealer of Corvallis is Harvey Mechlin, who is at the Multnomah.

M. G. Reed, a produce dealer of Albany, is among the arrivals at the Multnomah.

Location of Masonic Home.

JUNCTION CITY, Or., April 8.—(To the Editor.)—Where is the new Masonic home located, and how far out of town is it? Will you give the name and address of the superintendent or manager?

MRS. L. F. A.

The new Masonic and Eastern Star home is located between Cornelius and Forest Grove. Can be reached by automobile road, about 22 miles from Portland, or by Southern Pacific and Oregon Electric lines. Joe Roark is superintendent of the institution.

Burroughs Nature Club.

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Can You Answer These Questions?

1. Why do some birds walk and others hop?

2. Do snakes move forward by a zig-zag motion?

3. How do guinea pigs get their name?

Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

* * *

Answers to Previous Questions.

1. Do toads go back to the pond where they were hatched the spring following their birth?

No, it is thought they do not go back until they are ready to mate, and this does not occur until the toad is from three to four years old.

* * *

2. Please identify the cocoons sent as specimens, found on willow water oak. Is it harmful to garden vegetables, cotton, or corn?

Identified as Telea Polyphemus, winged form of which will make a handsome moth, 5-6 inches across, varying from yellow to deep cream or even tan, with whitish band bordered with red or rose across base of wings. Has a clear eyespot on each side, and grows to three inches. Caterpillar feeds on shade and fruit trees and if too numerous may defoliate them. Not harmful to garden truck.

* * *

3. We have been troubled with a large red bird (I think a woodpecker) that picks holes in the cornice in our house. We can't use firearms. What shall I do to get rid of him?

Undoubtedly the red-shafted flicker. Forbush, in "Useful Birds and Their Protection," suggests supplying boxes as a counter-attraction where flickers persist in boring into walls, steeples, cornices, etc. If this peaceful remedy fails, we believe peppering the bird with tiny shot from a gun would be quickest. Poison bait could be used, but this is always risky. You might try swabbing the cornice with coal oil, which would not harm the wood and might make it very disagreeable to the bird. Flickers are very useful and should generally be protected.

NOT BENEDICT ARNOLD TO GOD

Christian Science Is Defended Against Charges of Evangelist.

PORTLAND, April 10.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian of April 7 is reported a sermon by Evangelist Anderson, in which he scores pacifists of the church for their inactivity in "the battle for God against sin."

Sin is, indeed, not a trifling matter, and I can agree with him when he says "every time we sin we make ourselves traitors to God and a soldier fighting in the devil's army." But when he mentions Christian Science as "'a Benedict Arnold to God'" I must take issue with him. It is very evident that Dr. Anderson has an altogether wrong idea of Christian Science, for the charge he makes is not at all true, and his remark does Christian Science great injustice.

To which side Christian Science gives allegiance is indicated by the statement found in "Science and Health, With Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, on page 450. "The Christian Scientist is enlisted to lessen evil, disease and death"; and that is surely fighting on the right side. Christian Science honors God in the highest degree, refusing to serve or acknowledge any claim of power or being apart from him, and giving proof of its loyalty and fidelity by its works. The first commandment, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me," is the favorite text of Christian Science, which insists there is none other but he, as the Bible declares, and consequently Christian Science teaches strict obedience and sole allegiance to this one and only true God. Surely that cannot be treason.

The sinner makes a reality of sin, and so becomes its victim. So long as he indulges in sin he suffers from it and is, indeed, found "fighting in the devil's army." But Christian Science exposes the true nature and character of sin, teaching that it is unreal in the sense that God never made it, hence that it can be destroyed and the sinner reformed by demonstrating the truth about it, proving its unreality through repentance and reformation. It is only as we cease to sin, cease to indulge in it, that we are able to see sin as unreal and understand the allness of God, good.

This teaching does not by any means "lull the people to sleep by telling them there is no enemy," as Dr. Anderson says, but on the contrary it uncovers the deceptiveness of sin, arousing the sinner to repent and forsake his sin, and thus work out his own salvation.

THEODORE BURKHART.

Auto License and Non-Resident.

ST. HELENS, Or., April 10.—(To the Editor.)—1. In the latter part of February I bought an automobile paying $50 down, with the understanding that the balance was to be paid by March 10, or otherwise said $50 would be forfeited. On March 10 I appeared at said person's place of business, but he had moved and left no address, so I was unable to locate him. Could I recover the $50 if I located the person who made out the receipt?

2. I am working here temporarily and have a Washington license on my car. I would like to know how long I would be permitted to operate my car here before I would be forced to get an Oregon license? X.

1. The circumstance does not give either party grounds for claiming forfeiture of contract.

2. The time is not specified as regards non-residents, but usually a period of at least 60 days is granted. If you have become a resident of the state you are required to obtain a license at once.

Farm Purchase Money Loans.

PORTLAND, April 10.—(To the Editor.)—Can you tell me if there is any way that a person can borrow money from a bank to buy a ranch and will it take a mortgage on the ranch as security? Or can a person get a loan from the government for the same purpose? A READER.

We know no place where you can borrow the full purchase price of a farm. The state has a loan system under which 50 per cent of the purchase price can be borrowed by giving a first mortgage. If interested, write to State Land board, Salem, Or. The government also has a farm loan system concerning which write to Federal Land bank, Spokane, Wash.

Principles of Parties.

OREGON CITY, Or., April 9.—(To the Editor.)—Please give the principles of the republican, democratic and socialist parties.

LYDIA DELKER.

The subject cannot be adequately discussed in an answer in this column. Send a request to the state library, Salem, Or., for the loan of reference material on the subject.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

MODERN EFFICIENCY.

When Reuben used to come to town
A stranger, suave and bland,
Would sedulously track him down
And grasp him by the hand.

And did old Reuben see the sights
And games that were forbid,
And spend long, entertaining nights
In playing them? He did.

And did he wake some chilly dawn,
In some strange cheerless place
To find his roll of money gone?
That also was the case.

Today, when Reuben comes to town,
Before he's here a day,
Some dog-faced stranger knocks him down
And takes his roll away.

Abrupter than the former style
This modern form of crime,
But it has got it beat a mile
In point of saving time.

Far less of time's remorseless flight
Need Reuben reckon now—
He's on the farm the following night
To polish up the plow.

Which seems to show that even those
Whose trade is doing wrong
Are always up upon their toes
And hustling right along!

* * *

Still Pestering Us.

The rule that the way to get rid of men is to lend them money doesn't work in the case of the Mexicans.

* * *

Crossing the Bar.

To the majority of Americans, the word "schooner" used to mean a receptacle for the conveyance of an intoxicant, and of late it has come to mean the same thing.

* * *

Not All Beer and Skittles.

Movie stars are widely envied, but they seem to have their trials every little while.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of April 11, 1897.

Berlin.—Another great shifting of the political chessboard of Europe is imminent. An alliance is forming between Russia, Germany and Austria to the exclusion of France and Italy. England's policy on the eastern question is the prime motive.

London.—Short of an actual declaration of war the situation between Turkey and Greece could not possibly be graver than it is.

The advent of Fanny Davenport in "Gismonda" at the Marquam Grand next week will be an event of rare prominence in the theatrical world of the city.

Copies of a new song, "Scenes That Are Brightest," have appeared on local music shop shelves.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of April 11, 1872.

Washington.—The operations of the department of justice are likely to stop unless the senate passes the deficiency bill at once, as the funds are all gone.

An ordinance to provide for lighting the city clock was laid over at the council meeting last night.

The population of Josephine county is increasing rapidly on account of the expected coming of the "iron horse."

The county commissioners at their last meeting revised and redistributed the five precincts of Portland and the three of east Portland.

Telescope Dimensions Doubtful.

DAYTON, Or., April 9.—(To the Editor.)—Our science class is very much interested in the inclosed clipping, and I would like you to give me the full particulars. We have heard that the biggest telescope is ten feet in diameter and that no larger telescope could be made.

LUCILE LOVETT.

The clipping states that a telescope is being constructed at Stamford, Conn., which will have a lens 50 feet in diameter, magnify 25,000,000 times, and show the moon as if only six feet away.

There is no telescope in existence having an object glass greater than 100 inches in diameter. This is at Victoria, B. C.

As the magnifying power of an object glass is 100 diameters to the inch, this would magnify 10,000 times. The tube of this telescope is about 42 feet in length.

The writer in the clipping may have made an error in his figures. Unless a new principle in optics has been discovered, a telescope 50 feet in the diameter of its object glass would magnify 50,000 diameters, not 25,000,000, as in the clipping mentioned.

This power would not bring the moon within less than 80 miles of the person at the eyeglass, and this great power would be possibly at the expense of clearness.

In practical observations astronomers prefer a magnifying power of from 1000 to 4000 diameters, as any power beyond this limit is seldom clear.

For further information, write to Alvin Clark, Stamford, Conn.

Pronunciation of Operas.

OSTRANDER, Wash., April 9.—(To the Editor.)—1. What are the correct pronunciations of "Monna Vanna," "Thais," "