Morning Oregonian

ESTABLISHED BY HENRY L. PITTOCK.
Published by The Oregonian Publishing Co.
125 Sixth Street, Portland, Oregon.
C. A. MORDEN, Manager. E. B. PIPER, Editor.

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Subscription Rates—Invariably in Advance.
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Daily, Sunday included, one year	$8.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months	4.25
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	6.00
Daily, without Sunday, six months	3.25
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.60
Sunday, one year	2.50

(By Carrier.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$9.00
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	7.50
Daily, without Sunday, three months	1.95
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.65

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

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

Eastern Business Office—Verre & Conklin, 500 Madison avenue, New York; Verree & Conklin, Steger building, Chicago; Verree & Conklin, Free Press building, Detroit, Mich.; Verree & Conklin, Monadnock building, San Francisco, Cal.

EVILS EXCHANGED FOR EVILS.

When the people of Oregon voted to adopt the direct primary method of nominating party candidates, they did not intend to abolish the representative system in conducting party affairs. If that had been their intention, they would have gone on to abolish the legislature and they would have joined other states in proposing to abolish congress, for both are representative bodies. They became so incensed at certain evils that had grown up in the convention system of nominations that in their haste to cure those evils they swept away that system itself, because the evils had made conventions unrepresentative.

The evils were not the product of the convention, but of the manner in which delegates had been elected. Parties were regarded as voluntary associations of citizens, free to conduct their affairs in their own way. Their customs grew up before the secret ballot was adopted, so they had open voting for delegates. The men who kept the organization going naturally had much influence and took control of primaries and precinct caucuses, naming the men who should conduct the voting and count the votes. If the rank and file, which paid little attention to politics between elections, wanted other delegates and other candidates than those favored by the men in control of the organization, they found themselves at a disadvantage. Election boards uncontrolled by law but controlled by the organization could count out their men. Bribery and intimidation were often practiced, being promoted by open voting. Almost a small revolution was necessary to elect delegates against the will of the men composing the organization. Discouraged by failure and disgusted with the methods that prevailed, a steadily growing number of citizens withdrew from participation in party affairs, and these were left to the organization, leaders of which often degenerated into bosses.

These evils were the result of the manner in which conventions were constituted. Great reform in general elections was effected by the secret ballot, and it suggested the means of improving methods of nomination. In 1901 a law was passed establishing methods of conducting party primaries for election of delegates to conventions. Voting was secret, and election boards were appointed by the city or county, were sworn officers of the law and were amenable to the law for acts of bribery, fraud or other misdeeds. The pimaries in Portland of 1902 and 1904 were held under that law, and they resulted in genuinely representative conventions. But in 1904 the people were stampeded into adoption of the primary for direct nomination of candidates as distinguished from the primary for election of delegates to a nominating convention. Not content with reforming conventions, the people abolished them.

That the present system has produced new evils no less than those which accompanied the convention system is now generally agreed. There are undisputed merits in a direct primary conducted under legal safeguards. Conventions preseve to paties the representative principle which is the foundation of our form of government. The problem is to avoid both the evils which formerly existed in the convention system and those which are now recognized as inherent in the primary system as now established by law, while restoring representative government in party affairs. This can be accomplished by repealing the present ban on party conventions and the provisions for direct nominations except when one candidate has a majority of all votes, and by then applying the primary system to election of delegates to conventions.

By reviving the representative system in nominating candidates and officers of parties and in adopting platforms, we should restore party integrity and the responsibility of parties for the candidates they name and for the conduct of officials elected by their efforts. With these principles we should restore reasonable discipline in parties, the lack of which is apparent in congress.

The statement of President Smith of Berea college, Kentucky, that the principal cause of poverty and crime among the mountaineers is isolation can be taken with reserve as to crime, in view of the historical fact that the period of minimum crime in Oregon was coincident with the time when it was most completely cut off from the outer world, but it will hardly be gainsaid that isolation tends to foster poverty under modern conditions. The people whom Berea is trying to teach are handicapped by their archaic methods of production, they are unable to compete with communities with whom they ought to be in a position to exchange goods, and by comparison with others they are desperately poor, though they may not be worse off than the average American was just after the revolution. The appeal of Berea's president is a reminder that equality is relative and only to be maintained by constant struggle to prevent the laggards from falling too far behind.

THE ONLY WAY.

Fire fighting is one thing that does not lend itself to the referendum. It is utterly impracticable for firemen to meet while a building burns and debate the question of how best to subdue the flames. There is only one practicable way to conduct a fire department and that is to have a competent chief, supported by his superiors in the city administration and accepted by the members of the fire department as the disciplinary, order-giving executive.

Commissioner Bigelow had but one course before him which he could properly pursue in view of the complete breakdown of the charges filed against Chief Young. That was to affirm his confidence in the chief and discipline his detractors in another department. He has affirmed his confidence by extending the authority of the fire chief to the department where the trouble was brewed and he has disciplined the trouble brewers.

We are confident that the well-being of the fire department has been promoted. There will, or should be, less running to the commissioner with complaints that ought to be dealt with by the fire chief. The authority of the chief is made broader and more secure; his responsibility more definite. It is up to him to maintain the efficiency of both fire department and fire prevention bureau so far as intelligent direction by himself and insistence on willingness and obedience by those under him can do it. Chief Young is responsible to Commissioner Bigelow in these particulars and Commissioner Bigelow is responsible to the people for the efficiency of Chief Young. It is the only way in which the department can be successfully conducted.

ARTS OF LONG AGO.

A lesson not commonly taught by modern science is that notwithstanding our acquisition of new arts and crafts and our constantly increasing knowledge of natural phenomena there are still a number of secrets that were held by the ancients that it is beyond the capacity of modern men to solve. The recent addition to a London museum of a gruesome specimen of the work of embalmers who labored some hundreds if not thousands of years ago is a reminder that a good deal of the artisanship of so-called primitive peoples is still unapproachable and that many of the processes which were comparatively common then are now not only unknown but undiscoverable.

The specimen in question is a human head from Ecuador, which scientists have pronounced genuine, which has been reduced to the size of a small orange and notwithstanding its shrinkage has retained its original form practically in perfection. It is insufficiently accounted for by reference to the mummifying art of the Egyptians, whose civilization was probably far in advance of any that the ancient people of the western continent attained, but it is a reminder that another of the collateral arts of Egypt has never been rediscovered. Another British museum has acquired a wrapping from a mummy believed to be 6000 years old which consists of a linen of such exquisite fineness that the most delicate fabric that Belfast can produce is coarse by comparison.

The famous Portland vase, the bronze Mercury of Epirus and other ancient works of craftsmanship are but of two of many others which serve a high moral purpose as a check upon the cocksureness of the present age. For that matter, the secret of the construction of the pyramids is as deeply hidden as it ever was. The cubic contents of the greatest of the pyramids is equal to 7,000,000 tons, sufficient to build a city of 22,000 houses of ordinary size. But the method by which the materials of the pyramids were transported, and in particular the foundation stones, which are thirty feet long and five feet high and five feet wide, in a time when modern power facilities were unknown, is as far from being understood as it was when research first began.

In our own country the secrets of the artisanship of the mound builders, who are not known to have had blast furnaces but who fabricated metal objects which required enormously intense heat to reduce the metals of which they were made, still defy detection. These present an almost exact parallel to certain Roman bronzes found in England, which were made in a period when charcoal is believed to have been the only fuel known by the people. The recent revival of antiquarian research promises to unearth a specimen of a lost art to match each new discovery of the present age.

THE NEW WATCH DOG OF THE TREASURY.

Director Dawes has neatly turned an attempt to deprive the administration of credit for any economy under the budget system against the man who made it.

When the budget bureau asked for deficiency appropriations of over $130,000,000 Representative Byrns, a democrat, offered a resolution stating that President Harding claimed to have saved $136,000,000, asking why this saving could not be transferred to meet the deficiencies, and requesting the president to tell how the savings had been made.

General Dawes, replying to the president's request for this information, shows that during the present fiscal year savings on expenditure over which the president has control will exceed a quarter of a billion dollars. Down to March 31 the departments had saved by reserve from their appropriations almost $136,000,000, but he shows that this sum is not available for expenditure under new deficiencies appropriations, for money not spent is not necessarily in hand. He shows that a large proportion of the deficiency appropriations consists of sums cut out of the budget bureau's estimates which congress afterward found necessary, while congress also made further large appropriations in excess of budget estimates. He thus reduces the amount by which deficiency appropriations may possibly exceed the budget estimates made last December to a little over $43,000,000, which is "more than offset by reductions in expenditures under other appropriations."

Any question as to the reality of the effort to save money is answered by the detailed statement of the sum which each department undertook to save. They agreed to reserve sums which total $112,512,628 and during the year they have added to this reserve a net total of $23,430,436. These sums will remain at the disposal of the department until the end of the year, when the balance remaining, which may be still larger, will leave the treasury so much richer than it would otherwise have been.

Illustrating the economy effected by close co-ordination between departments is a detailed statement of supplies purchased by one department from another which would have been bought in the open market under the former practice of conducting each department as a distinct business organization. For example, the emeregncy fleet corporation sold a great variety of goods to all branches of the government. If sold to the public at forced sale these goods would have brought $216,742, so they were sold at that valuation. If purchased in the open market at their fair value, they would have cost $492,596. Thus the departments which bought them saved $275,854 and the fleet corporation lost nothing. The total of economies thus effected runs into many millions.

The budget bureau has been in operation less than a year and it could only influence expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30 after appropriations had been made. What it has done is a foretaste of what it will do in holding down expense from the initiation of estimates onward. It is the watchdog of the treasury.

NEED OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

Few will dispute the statement made by ex-Governor Brumbaugh of Pennsylvania, in a recent number of World's Work, that there is a general relationship between physical and mental efficiency. This is likely to be proved true by wide observation, notwithstanding that some exceptional individuals have performed remarkable intellectual feats under the handicap of partial or complete invalidism. Mr. Brumbaugh, who is by profession an educator and who is writing in support of the federal measure to aid the states in promoting physical training in the schools, believes that the value of the system has been sufficiently demonstrated by results which he observed while superintendent of schools of Philadelphia. "Here," he says, "during the first year in which it was adopted, an increase of 9 per cent in the intellectual average of 230,000 children was reported."

This is easily credible, nor does the thought that already there are a superfluity of federal agencies engaged in supervising activities that formerly were left to private individuals and more recently have been regarded as functions of the states make it less true that both individuals and the states have failed to obtain the results that advocates of the system believe would flow from federal direction and co-operation. The draft board statistics of the late war showed an unexpectedly low state of physical efficiency for the country as a whole, a condition that was all the more surprising because Americans had always plumed themselves on being more than commonly fit. It was the draft that gave new impetus to the movement for physical training in the schools, by showing that some millions of young men are growing up in ignorance of the laws of hygiene. The people of the United States are only partly committed to healthful outdoor sports; larger numbers neglect to take proper exercise and a large proportion are the victims of minor disabilities which could be easily removed if they were known.

As Mr. Brumbaugh points out, physical education as it is understood today is not a mere dumb-bell drill, nor is it a process for training professional gymnasts or strong men. Its primary purpose is to give normal children the sort of training that will enable them to avoid the acquisition of physical defects. Definite recognition that provision of abundant opportunity for wholesome recreation under proper supervision may be an effective counteractant of juvenile delinquency also has increased the interest of humanitarians in this aspect of the question. The system which its advocates hope to establish, however, is somewhat more comprehensive than a mere programme of sports or play would be. It would include education concerning the growth and use of the body and in right habits of eating, sleeping, clothing and personal sanitation. These purposes are set forth in detail in bills now pending in congress. "The modern tendency," says Mr. Brumbaugh, "is not to give this instruction in the dry method of the old-time physiology, with emphasis upon learning the number of bones in the body, the course of the circulation and similar lessons. Children are taught nowadays that a lunch composed of baked beans, milk and cheese does not furnish a well-balanced diet. . . . The plan of administration proposed in the physical education bill before congress recognizes the responsibility of each state to administer the programme, but provides that the educational and health agencies of the federal government shall co-operate with the states."

The proposed measure is interesting, too, because it is the first example of two government bureaus attempting to co-ordinate their activities for the public benefit. It also in all probability embodies the idea that if the states do not act on their own account the federal government will be even more strongly urged to do so. Mr. Brumbaugh says that only thirteen of the states now require and promote physical education, that only eight have compulsory education and that five have paysical education laws which are as yet only slightly effective. Twenty-eight of the forty-eight states have laws which in some degree relate to the subject, but many of them take little practical interest in the subject. Twenty states have no physical education laws of any kind.

Universal recognition by the colleges of the necessity for establishing physical as well as mental standards, and for the promotion either of athletic or collegiate sports in some form, has been arrived at by the same process which has now induced educators to take up the problem for the schools as a whole. The large body of young men and women who do not reach college in all probability require physical training as much as those who do. There is evidence in any event of widespread desire to apply the lesson of the war to the uses of peace. The tragedy in the disclosure that more than one-third of the young men summoned by the draft were physically unfit for service was only half told by those figures. Mr. Brumbaugh draws an even more thought-provoking conclusion in the statement that "in our lack of physical fitness we were equally unprepared for the peace that we sought so long to retain."

NEW PLAN TO ABSORB IMMIGRANTS.

The feature of the immigration bill introduced by Senator Shortridge which will commend it to most people is that it requires immigrants themselves to provide funds with which to defray the cost of their instruction as preparation for citizenship. The bill contains much more, for it is a general codification of the immigration laws and it removes several serious defects and anachronisms.

The senator proposes that each alien be required to enroll and pay a fee of $24 a year, these funds to go into a special state school fund for establishment and maintenance of citizenship schools. The naturalization bureau, which he would change to the bureau of citizenship, would prepare text books, to be supplied free, and the courses would consist of American history, American civics and the common school branches. Attendance would not be compulsory, but it would be difficult to obtain citizenship without the instruction thus provided and as soon as an immigrant became a citizen he would cease to pay the fee. An applicant for citizenship would be required not merely to speak English, as under the present law, but to "speak, read and write the English language understandingly." He must also have greater knowledge of American history and form of government than is at present demanded. Minors between 18 and 21 must enroll and pay a fee of $10 a year. Wives might be registered by their husbands, but would pay no fee unless gainfully employed.

Regulation of immigration at the source is proposed by a provision that immigrants register with the American consul abroad before starting and to state their destination in this country. The registrar in that city would be notified of their arrival and would demand that they register.

The citizenship law would be brought into harmony with the new status of women by doing away with the present law which gives automatic citizenship to women whose husbands become naturalized, but it permits an American woman who marries an alien to retain her citizenship. Children born abroad to an American woman may secure citizenship by registering at an American consulate on reaching the age of 21.

A complete census of aliens resident in the United States would result from this bill. It should prove an effective means of moral compulsion to qualify for citizenship by education and then to become naturalized, especially as the penalty for refusal to enroll is deportation or an additional fee of $2 for each month of delinquency. Education is the best solvent for undigested masses of alien population. A foreigner ignorant of the language of the country is naturally reluctant to wander from settlements of his own people, but when he has learned English he is apt to overcome this feeling, to venture forth, mingle with the general population and thus acquire Americanism by association as well as from schools. The annual tax will goad him to qualify for citizenship, both by its exaction and by the annual reminder that he is a stranger in a strange land, but has the opportunity of escaping the tax and becoming a citizen in one act.

The body proud to call itself the "Klick" is typically democratic in its estimation of women. Despite the law of it, the members do not give womah the right of candidacy. Its antipathy toward medical men is temporary under factional defeat; but women—make them stay at home and cook and raise babies. Yet just before election day they will shout for help of the woman voter—typically democratic in that, too.

A prominent Portland man uses a most fitting term for plan or project in which he has little or no faith—"a great bunko game." That might be applied to the tender solicitude for the welfare of the state manifested by democratic newspapers when they refer to an incumbent seeking renomination in a republican primary. Know any?

Polygamous-minded men may find comfort in the statement of the psycho-analyst that a man can love two women at the same time; but if they try it they better would hide the fact of either woman from the other.

Some genius has devised a means of sending pictures by radio. Nevertheless it will be a good many centuries before other folks can enjoy the scenery of the Columbia river highway without coming to see it.

There are Portland people who have been "going" to Al G. Barnes' circus since his first trip this way with the delightful little dog and pony show and the older they get the worse the habit.

So many mothers find it necessary to bring the babes in arms to town to see the parade that the Order of Grandpas taken to the show by little fellows is being backnumbered.

"Scientists to seek Nebraska fossils," said a headline. Why waste the time of the expedition in Nebraska when exhibit A has migrated to Florida!

Another man with defective hearing has been killed by a fast train. Despite example, men with this affliction are most obstinate to warning.

The guards in charge of Abe Evans, due for the gallows, display a pernicious activity in preventing Abe's premature departure.

When radio develops visual as well as present aural possibilities the circus will have charms for the bedridden.

Among other evidences of increasing prosperity, the bootleggers all report that business is picking up.

Auto-suggestion to most persons means a hint to be selecting the 1923 model.

The Listening Post.

By DeWitt Harry.

ON CIRCUS day big cities seem to relax and step back to their childish days. The glamor of the metropolis the hurry and bustle is hushed while the population throws off years and takes on childish roles once more. Stenos and clerks cluster in the windows, messenger boys forget their errands, staid business men get as close to the parades as they can and help children to the best places. Hard-faced old bankers have even been known to listen to the ballyhoo tones of the calliope during the course of their arguments over the renewal of a note.

From miles around the suburban dwellers flock in. It's something like "fair day" in some ways. Bright dashes of color betray the Indian strain in some of them. Yesterday one woman walked down Broadway garbed in a loose-belted cerise gown girdled with a wide gold embroidered belt and a brilliant crimson cloak flying with the winds. Her costume was crowned by one of the reddest turbans that ever invaded the city and right in the center of the hat, giving a real barbarous note to the getup, was a huge crescent with a large brilliant. (Some description for mere man.)

Yet, at that, she did not have anything on the old gent of about 60, soft, furry, cream-toned hat cocked at a jaunty angle, long cigarette holder held with a rakish droop, chamois gloves with wide black stitching, tan button shoes, white spats and a lavender colored suit and yellow tie. The woman could be spotted for a stranger, the man for a regular, both types and oddities proving that the sights are not all in the country or vice versa.

* * *

A correspondent in a local weekly takes Julius Meier severely to task for an alleged intent to import a couple of pagodas. After rehearsing the sad history of the Scotch broom and the hold it has obtained on the coastline about Coos county, the writer goes on to arraign the public-spirited resident of the state who brought in the first sparrow and to scorify the importer of the dandelion. Recalling the experience that Oregon has had with these other innovations, this alarmed resident visualizes a state 20 years hence covered with pagodas. It serves to once again bring to mind the resolution offered in the city of New York council by one of the ward representatives some years ago. This alert representative took exception to a series of appropriations for gondolas for Central park and suggested "that a male and female gondola be purchased, let nature take its course and stop this waste of the people's money."

* * *

"I met with a peculiar kind of citizen yesterday," writes Charles O. Olsen of Oswego, "and the experience moved me to the picturing of an extinct (almost) species of bird that used to infest the jungles of Oregon in the old days.

The Side-Hill Chaw.

"The darnedest bird I ever saw
Was a bird they called the side-hill chaw;
It hadn't a wing and it didn't sing.
And it couldn't walk straight—it walked in a ring—
'Round and 'round the same mountain top,
With the funniest kind of a foolish hop
That made me laugh—though I ought to have cried—
For the leg it had on the downhill side
Was twice as long as its uphill mate,
Which gave it a rollicking, comical gait.

"P. S.—It must have been tough—to be born that way—
To hop round in a ring till your dying day,
And never be able to turn at all,
'Cause if you did, you'd surely fall,
'Count of the way your legs were made
To fit the slant of a side-hill grade."

CHARLES O. OLSEN.

* * *

One circus incident that will stand out occurrred Sunday as the show moved on the lot when a certain business man escorted three of his neighborhood children to see the sights. Nearby was a poor old horse, one that had evidently seen many a better day. The old fellow was peacefully cropping grass and could hardly stand up, he was so weak.

"What's that horse for?" came the first childish inquiry.

"Lion feed," the heartless human brute assured the children. "They have to have fresh meat for the lions, so they feed them old horses like that one."

If ever a man was scorched by the fire of youthful scorn this one should have been. Of all the indignation in the world it would be difficult to imagine stronger or more vitriolic stuff than that the children looked and voiced. The kids trembled in fear at the mention of the lions and other savage beasts, but they just could not make themselves believe that men would be so cruel as to feed a nice old horse like that to lions. While the statement was likely a little exaggerated, the fact exists that lions do get meat and that some animal has to furnish the necessary food.

* * *

Intense rivalry exists between fraternal organizations that have adopted animals for trade-marks. A couple of weeks ago one of these societies began to raffle off an automobile on the streets, selling chances by means of uniformed members of their drill team, both male and female. Not to be outdone in this firce competition the opponents have now made their appearance in a similar role. It might be said that they saw the first bunch and went them one better, raised the ante, for the second car seems to have much more red paint and wire wheels and all that stuff, while the first one was just an ordinary car.

* * *

Mrs. Jared Moore of Seaside went out on the beach to search for clams, according to the Signal. She noticed a silver gleam in the surf and on investigation found a big chinook salmon floundering in the shallow water. With her clam shovel she managed to push the fish up high and dry and when she got it home it weighed 18 pounds.

Those Who Come and Go.

Tales of Folks at the Hotels.

No wonder Editor George K. Aiken of the Argus at Ontario, Or., is wearing a smile. Conditions in Malheur county are so improved that the newspaper publisher is happy. "There will be a 2,000,000-pound wool clip in Malheur county this year," says Mr. Aiken, who is in Portland, "and it is practically all sold now at prices ranging from 30 cents to 35 cents, which means more than $600,000 in the county. We will ship 1500 carloads of spuds and a few hundred carloads of lettuce. And then there is the lamb situation. February and March lambs in Malheur are selling at 10 cents a pound for June delivery and the buyers are not cutting, but taking everything. In Harney county the lambs are selling at 9 cents a pound for September delivery and no cutting. There is no hay left, all having been consumed during the winter. Bankers and stockmen say that hay will be bringing $10 a ton, and be hard to get at that. The alfalfa farmers in our section will not raise much hay, as the weevil has been doing damage, just as it has been in parts of Idaho. Over in southern Idaho 70 per cent of the wool has been contracted for at prices running from 27 cents to 33 cents."

Road matters are moving along in Malheur county, according to Gilbert W. Dean, one of the commissioners of that county, who is here to attend the state highway commission today. The market road into Jordan valley is being pushed as fast as possible. Two miles of road are under contract and bids are now asked for six more miles and a survey is planned from the point where the work stopped last year to the end of the road. When this road is finished it will keep much of the trade of Jordan valley in Oregon which now goes to Idaho. Mr. Dean is here to ask the highway commission for work between Vale and Ontario and to finish the John Day highway in Malheur county from Unity to Cow valley, which will wind up that highway. The commission will also be requested to survey and locate the section of the Central Oregon highway between Burrell ranch and Harper. Malheur county has some money to spend on this highway, but does not want to use the funds until the commission has designated the proper place to spend it.

Hopping between Medford and Camas valley, William Stone has been very busy of late. He hurried into Portland yesterday and began preparing to bid on some of the road work to be let by the highway commission today. Mr. Stone has the contract for 8½ miles from Medford toward Eagle Point, on the Crater Lake road, and will be running gravel next week. Two miles of the job are now graded. On the Camas mountain job, a section of the Coos Bay-Roseburg highway, 6.6 miles of the clearing has been finished, with two miles more to do. A mile and a half of grading has been finished. Three weeks ago there were seven inches of snow on the mountain, and while the weather is warmer now than it is in Portland, the weather has held back the work considerably.

Many have been the improvements in the great packing houses where hams are prepared for the market. Wonderful machinery has been invented to take the place of laborers, but the hickory stick and sawdust still give flavor and color to the ham as in the days of old when early settlers in New England discovered that hickory wood supplied the flavor when used in the smokehouse. J. H. Deering, northwestern manager of Morrell & Co. registered at the Multnomah, says that is why his firm is glad to get even hickory shavings from mills where ax handles are turned out in order to get the right flavor. Sawdust from such mills need never be dumped into the river or used to make steam in boilers, as it has a higher calling.

Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Wilson of Chicago, who are registered at the Multnomah, state that they are the first touring party this season to come over the northern route from the east by way of the Yellowstone trail to Missoula, Mont. At the latter place they detoured to Sand Point, Idaho, as the pass over the mountains was closed by snow. From Spokane to Portland they found the roads in excellent condition and made Portland from Dayton, Wash., in one day. "This is our seventh trip west by auto and we find a big change in the roads since our first trip," said Mr. Wilson. "We are also converts to the closed car and had more comfort in our coupe this trip than we ever had in a touring car."

"This is one of the finest times in the year to travel," says Sidney Stearn, who is at the Multnomah from Cleveland, O., "and we have enjoyed motoring from California over the fine roads, and especially through Oregon. It is a wonderful sight to pass through the valley around Medford and Ashland, as the orchards are in bloom." Mr. Stearn is out on a vacation trip and now that he has caught trout in Oregon he is anxious to try his luck for salmon at Oregon City.

After a couple of days in Portland confabbing together and with friends, Roy W. Ritner, president of the state senate and, by virtue of that office, heir apparent to the governor, and Jay Upton, senator for a flock of counties, checked out of the Benson and have returned home. Mr. Ritner is a wheat grower of Umatilla county and Mr. Upton, although a lawyer, likes to refer to himself as a dairyman.

Carl A. Johnson of Bend is at the Hotel Portland. There is no resident of Bend who is not an optimist and a firm believer in his town, which is one reason why Bend has been moving along rapidly and has made remarkable gains in population as compared with other Oregon communities.

Major and Mrs. Charles Steinhauser, who have an apple orchard in upper Hood river valley, are registered at the Benson. The snow was so deep this winter that it was an easy matter to stand on the crust and prune the fruit trees, said Major Steinhauser.

L. L. Lewis, salesmanager for the Booth-Kelly Lumber company at Eugene, is at the Hotel Portland.

J. D. Hoge, owner of the Hoge building in Seatle, Wash., is among the arrivals at the Benson.

Score One for English.

Philippines Herald.

For the first time in the history of the Philippines a political campaign will be carried on in English this coming election by Juan B. Alegre, who is running for senator for the sixth district, comprising the Bikol province.

"I will make my appeal directly to the people through the English language," Allegre stated yesterday to a Herald representative. "I will deliver all my speeches in English."

The reason why Allgre has decided to use the English language in the coming campaign is his belief that the Bikol region has advanced so much in public education that those who have been educated in the public schools will now control the political situation of the district.

"I will not speak Bikol; neither Spanish," Allegre continued. "I have told Governor Wood about this and he was very much pleased with my decision."

Burroughs Nature Club.

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Can You Answer These Questions?

1. How do toads drink?

2. Where did the potato come from?

3. Why do roosters always crow between 11 and 12 every night?

Answers in tomorrow's nature notes.

* * *

Answers to Previous Questions.

1. At what season are young minks born, and is there more than one litter.

In April, either in a burrow or hollow of a log or stump. One litter. Young are tiny, blind like kittens. In captivity the litter has been known to number as high as ten kits, but five to six is the natural family.

* * *

2. Does the ostrich have any note?

Yes, a loud one, somewhat resembling the voice of the lion, in spite of the fact that the ostrich has an imperfectly developed syrinx, or set of vocal rings. The explorer Livingston noted that the voice of the lion and that of the ostrich were easily confused in the wilderness.

* * *

I have a fern which this winter has been infested with a small black fly. I find lots of little white insects in the plate on which the fern stands. What are they, and what is the remedy?

Probably the "fly" is the winged male of one of the aphids that infest many indoor plants. The smaller light-colored creatures may be the grub or immature form that keeps hatching out. Impossible to identify without a specimen. A slow but good way to treat is to use either soapsuds or nicotine solution, with a camel's hair brush, and patiently swab off the insects. Be sure to examine the under sides of the leaves.

LAW VIOLATION IS INDICATED

Mr. Finley Condemns Buick Stunt. Manager Denies Speed Charge.

JENNINGS LODGE, Or., May 7.—(To the Editor.)—I wish to protest against the boasted and open violation of the state highway laws as published in the public press. On May 2 Claude McGee, manager of the Howard Auto company, accompanied by Mrs. Z. Kathleen Ayres, drove a Buick coupe from San Francisco to Portland in 22 hours and 43 minutes, ending, as the article states, by "dashing up to the Howard Auto company quarters in Portland."

The account, if true, spread broadcast through the country, states that all records between San Francisco and Portland were shattered. To anyone who has driven from San Francisco to Portland, it will be easily understood that in the brief period of less than one day and one night all records for the violation of state and county laws, town and city ordinances, have been smashed to smithereens. It was one prolonged spree of crime, menacing thousands of law-abiding tourists and citizens from the Bay City to Portland.

There is evidently a certain tendency on the part of the Howard Auto company handling Buick cars to encourage open violation of state laws in the hope of building up trade by showing that a Buick is better than a Franklin, Hudson or any other car. If a Buick manager is allowed openly to violate the highway laws, as is self-evident, in going 724.1 in 22 hours and 43 minutes, there is no reason why all salesmen should not be allowed to turn the public highways into a speed course.

Why is it necessary for any automobile company to countenance and encourage the violation of traffic laws? The tendency to make speed records on state and country roads should be openly condemned because it is a menace to public safety. Suppose the agent for the Winchester Arms company should encourage his salesmen to take a shot at some citizen in the hope of proving that his is the best shooting rifle on the market. Suppose tomorrow the agent for the Remington should go out and shoot a deer in violation of the state law. It would not be countenanced by either the public or any sportsmen's organization. There are many organizations interested in the public welfare. There are many newspapers and many other publications favorable to "safety first" on the highways. There are many officers of county and city government who are hired to enforce the laws. If this public account of smashing the records from San Francisco to Portland is true, something should be done to prevent another incident of this kind.

WILLIAM L. FINLEY.

According to Mr. McGee, the car did not travel at an excessive rate, and he also insists that long-distance records cannot be lowered ordinarily by spurts of high speed. The record was made by maintaining a consistent average speed, without stops, except for a few minutes each, for fuel and oil. The average speed for this trip was about 32 miles an hour. California law permits 35, while arrests are not ordinarily made under 40 miles. It is asserted that the record was broken by keeping constantly a pace no greater than the average tourist travels part of the time without molestation by traffic officers.

PRIMARY FOR DELEGATES ONLY

Regulation Would Provide Against Boss-Ruled Conventions.

PORTLAND, May 8.—(To the Editor.)—If we must have a primary election let it be held for the purpose of electing delegates from each precinct or other subdivision of the state, to nominating conventions of the parties wishing to participate.

Let these primaries be held under sanction of law, duly guarded against fraudulent voting such as is practiced under the present primary system, democrats and others falsely registering as republicans, or vice versa.

Delegates elected at these primaries would then represent their parties and would make their nominations with the certainty of condemnation by the public at the polls if such nominees were not fit and proper men.

Should anybody be aggrieved at the result of the conventions let the way be made open for them to get upon the ballot without the costly and cumbersome method indicated in your editorial May 6.

Such a plan would provide against a boss-ruled convention, and would extinguish the unfit, self-seeking, self-nominated candidates who appear in every primary to the disgust of the plain, ordinary voter.

J. W. CAMPBELL,
1573 East Fifteenth Street.

What Her Home Lacks.

Judge.

Small Mary returned again and again to the swing on the public playground. At last the supervisor remarked:

"I guess you don't have a chance to swing at home, do you, Mary?"

"Oh, yes! I have a chance, but I haven't any swing."

Facts About a Position.

Judge.

"You said you'd never get on the water wagon."

"Gosh, man, I've got a job on it!"

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

POPE WAS RIGHT.

We hold with Alexander Pope,
Who frequently expressed
The thought that man has little hope
Of being wholly blessed.
When we believe at last that all
Our wishes are fulfilled,
Mischance is certain to befall,
And lo, the beans are spilled.

For instance, we have yearned to own
And wear upon our tie
A rare and radiant precious stone
To catch the public's eye.
We meant to sport it on Broadway,
And fondly pictured how
The girls would gaze at it and say,
"Ain't that the cat's me-ow?"

But years of poverty ensued
While all our earnings went
To meet the cost of clothes and food
And pay the monthly rent.
Our spirits fell with each advance,
Despair sat on our brow;
Alas, there seemed but little chance
To buy the bauble now!

Then lo! the cost of living fell,
A tidy sum we saved,
And hastened city-ward pell-mell
To get the stone we craved.

* * * * * * *

We still are wearing sorrow's crown
And wormwood fills our cup,
While living costs were going down
The cost of stones went up!

* * *

Accounting for Absentees.

The reason that the Turks and Greeks were absent from Genoa was that they couldn't quite make up their minds to interrupt such an enjoyable war.

* * *

Before It Is Too Late.

Isn't it about time that the editors and the flappers declared an armistice?

* * *

Not Playing Fair.

Mr. Hays says that the movies don't want to reform the people, which is mean of them, considering the number of people who want to reform the movies.

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In Other Days.

Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of May 9, 1897.

The Umatilla reef lightship, No. 67, was launched from the ways of Steffen's yard yesterday afternoon.

Marcus Wolf was acquitted of the charge of arson yesterday morning.

A mass meeting of wheelmen will be held in the courthouse Tuesday afternoon.

Athens.—Greece is evacuating the island of Crete; the Turks have entered and burned Velestino.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of May 9, 1872.

New York.—The arrival of immigrants in New York since January 1 exceed by 20,000 those of last year.

Plans for the Willamette river bridge were submitted to city council yesterday by the officials of the Portland, Dalles & Salt Lake Railroad company.

Ingersol, Canada.—Two men were burned to death and the entire business portion of the town destroyed by fire last night.

Mexico City, Mexico.—A high official says: "It is the universal opinion that Diaz is dead, and that the report of his being at sea with Calicas is untrue."

HOW INDIANS ONCE TOOK SMELT

Nails in Canoe Paddles Impaled Fish, Recalls Captain Gray.

PASCO, Wash., May 7.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian's editorial, "Marvel of the Smelt," reminds me of the first runs of smelt in the Cowlitz river. The Indians drove sharp pointed nails through thin paddles, and as they forced their canoes upstream through the school, or rather stream, of smelt would soon fill their canoes by shaking the smelt from the nails in their paddles.

I have not been on the Cowlitz for many years, but understand that the smelt runs on that river do not compare with the runs of the '60s, when steamboats did not run above Monticello or Freeport—they now run to Kelso. Did steamboats on the Cowlitz or log booms at its mouth check its smelt runs? If so your Sandy river runs are safe, as steamboats cannot disturb them.

We used to know when the smelt were in the Columbia by the number of seagulls that followed the schools.

Another thought: Is there not a danger of "overpopulation" of smelt if their taking is restricted? Hundreds of millions of eggs are deposited every year. Will the few thousands of fish captured relieve a congestion that would drive the smelt to some other stream? You are in error in saying the smelt is properly called a candle fish. The candle fish is only taken in salt waters like Puget sound, and takes its name from the fact that when it is dried its mouth opens wide and makes a base to support the greasy bones that stand upright. A lighted match touched to the tail of the dried fish makes a perfect candle. The flesh of the candle fish is far inferior to the smelt.

The Columbia seems to be the only river that has the two distinct varieties of the best of fish, salmon and smelt.

The Yukon river salmon is larger and compares in flavor with our Columbia river variety, but there are no smelt to compare with the genuine Columbia river variety, which seek the Cowlitz, Kalama, Sandy and other small streams every spring to spawn.

W. P. GRAY.

Date of Recall Election.

OREGON CITY, Or., May 7.—(To the Editor.)—(1) What are the initials of United States Senator McNary and where would a letter reach him at this time? How should it be addressed? (2) When does the public vote to fill the offices of the public service commissioners recently recalled and about when will the results be known? Also, when will the successful candidate actually take office. Would thank you if you would answer these questions in your Tuesday morning issue. I remain yours truly,

C. O. S.

1. Hon. Charles L. McNary, senate office building, Washington, D. C.

2. The recall election is on the day of the primaries, May 19. The result will be known unofficially probably the next day. Successful recall candidates will take office as soon as the result is officially announced.

Shakespeare Study Club.

PORTLAND, May 8.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly state where the Shakespeare society or dramatic club in Portland is located.

A SUBSCRIBER.

The Portland Shakespeare Study club—president, Mrs. R. E. Jones, 39 Laurelhurst avenue. Tabor 4303.