Morning Oregonian

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

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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
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Daily, Sunday included, one year	$9.00
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
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Daily, without Sunday, three months	1.95
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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.

REVERSING RAILROAD POLICY.

If the Interstate commerce commission should sustain the findings of Examiner Disque in the transcontinental rate case, it would reverse all the precedents that it has established in construing the long-and-short-haul clause, and its sole justification in law would be the fact that congress in the transportation act of 1920 slightly strengthened the limit on exceptions to enforcement of that clause by adding the proviso that water-competitive rates must be "reasonably compensatory"—a rule which the commission says it had already followed. This is the general conclusion formed after reading the brief of attorneys for the Portland Traffic & Transportation association, taking exception to the examiner's findings.

The citation of errors found in the examiner's report shows that in his analysis of the case he at first traveled the straight track marked by law, precedent in application of the law, and sound reason. At the point where one expected him to steam into the terminus with the conclusion that the railroads should be permitted to make rates competitive with those of water lines, he switched off on a branch line, which wandered away from law, facts and logical deduction therefrom and meandered through the broad and misty fields of wide administrative discretion that has no warrant in law, of the disadvantage to be suffered by one section from recognition of the natural advantages of another section, even of psychology, which forbids him to cast an inland shipper into the melancholy following on loss of a rate case.

In his wanderings he forgot that the transportation act affirms the policy of congress to be that rail and water systems should be fostered as competitors in their full vigor, and he assumed the function of the commission to be to protect water lines from railroad competition, even to the point of prohibiting the latter, though there is no warrant in law for any such assumption. He assumed that the commission should protect inland points from the effect of their natural disadvantage in not being accessible to water lines by depriving other points of the benefit naturally arising from their being on those lines.

The dissection of Mr. Disque's argument by the attorneys shows his errors to arise from adoption of false premises. He regards seaports and the interior country behind them as distinct units of transportation territory having conflicting interests. In fact each port and its adjacent interior country constitute a single such unit, and their interests are common and reciprocal. The port thrives by serving the interior, and the interior prospers by using the port. The benefits of water competition do not end at the coast; they extend inland in decreasing ratio as distance increases. A port cannot develop to its full possibilities if the interior remains undeveloped. Development of the interior is stimulated by the existence of the port to which natural transportation routes lead, and it makes progress in proportion to the improvement and use of the port's natural advantages, and of the routes leading to it. In order to form a sound conclusion, the commission will need to ignore the question whether the mercantile business of the interior shall be in the hands of inland or coast jobbers and to view the transportation problem of each port and its back country as a whole.

It is strange that Mr. Disque should have gone astray in this particular, for his findings were made just when there is a great awakening among the people of the middle states to their interest in water transportation. Representatives of the whole belt of states between the Allegheny and the Rocky mountains have contended before the joint committee of congress that in considering the ship subsidy bill for development of the smaller ports, and for the first time in history they are ready to support a ship subsidy subject to this condition. Thus the interior realizes that it has a common interest with the ports in water competition. It sees a port and its back country as a transportation unit, thus establishing the basis for a clear understanding of the relation between rail and water lines as competing systems, each in its own way serving the entire unit. Having this conception, the people of the interior will not welcome removal of the spur of railroad competition from water lines, which may, by establishing conference rates, restrict competition among themselves. This is not the way to bring transportation down to the lowest level and thus to help manufacturers in the interior to export their goods in competition with those of other countries, nor is it the way to cut a cent from grain freight and add it to the farm price.

The conclusion drawn by the examiner from the most recent laws on the subject, that "congress seems to have thus indicated that the commission shall at least feel free to divert traffic from rail to water lines," is contrary to the purpose of the whole series of interstate commerce laws. This was to preserve and regulate competition among railroads and between them and ships. Under the Disque theory the interstate commission would cease to be a merely regulative body, holding the railroads to observance of principles and rules laid down in the law; it would become vested with unlimited discretion to dictate arbitrarily, according to its own view of policy, the management of railroads and the division of traffic between railroads and ships. The brief well says that under the theory quoted:

> The routing of traffic by shippers, carriers, or others interested, at their option, will be done only through the grace of the commission and not because of any inherent right in the shipper. If this pronouncement states the law correctly, then under usual conditions, in the due course of business, if the commission deems it in the public interest that water carriers should be encouraged, that one port should handle the business rather than another, the commission has power to take the business from one railroad and give it to another, to say what port it shall move through, or to take it from rail and divert it to water.

The findings are founded on belief in a complete reversal of policy on the part of congress. That policy compelled railroads to compete with one another; it built the Panama canal in order to stimulate water competition and it forbade railroads to control ships operating through the canal in order that this competition might be actual; in the transportation act it enounced the policy of continuing both rail and water transportation in full vigor. It is now asserted that congress intended to prevent railroads from competing with water lines. Here is an inexplicable contradiction between the whole tenor of more than thirty years' legislation and the Disque interpretation of it.

CHEAP AND UNWARRANTED.

Oregon had statewide, bone-dry prohibition before adoption of the federal amendment and before enactment of the Volstead act. By constitutional inhibition and by strict enforcement statute the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor in Oregon were ended by Oregon on its own account. The state constitutional inhibition and the enforcement statute still exist.

Modification of the Volstead act to permit the sale of light wines and beer would have no effect whatever on Oregon's right to decide for itself whether it would permit their sale. It would not repeal, or modify, or change in any particular the existing state constitution or the state bone-dry law.

Repeal even of the federal prohibition amendment would not affect Oregon laws on the subject of prohibition. In itself it would not discourage or minimize the bootlegging in Oregon which is presented as an excuse for modification or repeal of federal prohibition. Oregon would remain bone dry until the people of Oregon determined upon a change, and there is no indication of a widespread desire for such a change.

Nomination by one political party of a candidate for congress pledged to a modification of the Volstead act would provide no relief whatever for Oregon tipplers. In the present campaign it would signify nothing in the world but that a division in one party over several issues unrelated to prohibition had been taken advantage of and that a plurality consisting but a minority of one political party had gone on record against bone-dry prohibition.

Injection of prohibition into the Portland congressional campaign is an unwarranted, unwelcome, inexcusable and cheap political intrusion into the issues of the election.

OLD WAYS IN EDUCATION.

President Suzallo of the University of Washington is probably right in saying that "the monotony of the old education forced inattention," as a result of which we had a selective school, but there is some question as to how far we ought to go in the opposite direction in our effort to correct the mistakes of the past. By and large, the schools undoubtedly are improving, as most institutions do that are lighted by the lamp of experience and motivated by sincere desire for improvement. The little red schoolhouse was the best school that we had in its day, it served a high purpose well, it is not disparaging of it to say that it has been vastly improved upon in many respects. Indeed, to admit otherwise would be to confess that as a people we are incapable of learning anything as we go along.

In two important particulars public education has gone forward by leaps and bounds since about the time of the civil war. It is more inclusive, as the result of aroused sentiment for education and of compulsory attendance laws. It is in the hands of vastly better trained men and women than it used to be, for professional training for teachers has been practically a matter of less than half a century. The little red schoolhouse struggled along with a staff the most of whom had less than what would be termed a grade school education now. Not very much was known of the science of pedagogy and psychology was unheard of in connection with ordinary affairs. The rural teacher, frequently a youth in his or her teens, was restricted to imparting "information," of greater or less value, because that was the popular conception of education then. The notion that it was part of the function of the teacher to develop the natural faculties of the pupil, to teach him how to think for himself, did not then widely prevail.

Yet there was one thing to the credit of the little red schoolhouse that is not to be despised, and that was that it was very apt to be extremely thorough so far as it went. Fifty years ago, when children were required to bound the counties of Oregon, to draw maps of the remote countries of the world, to parse and to spell, and when the multiplication table was so insistently imparted and so often reviewed that it stayed by the pupil through all his natural life, something more was achieved than the mere acquisition of facts, which we are now inclined to despise. There was character-building of a kind in the old method, for the adage that if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well has a wide application and not a few old-timers who are not hopeless pessimists think that the modern student does not get as much of that spirit as his grandfather did. Pupils got their lessons without adventitious aids, and what they knew they knew. If there was drudgery, that too was not without its compensations by way of preparation for a life that is not all beer and skittles with most of us. And those who did attend the little red schoolhouse were deeply in earnest—there is no doubt about that.

The point is not that we want the little red schoolhouse with its only semi-competent teachers back again, or that we should not adopt every new idea that promises to serve the purpose of fitting our youngsters better for life's struggle, but that we ought not to discount too greatly some of the sound principles that were developed there. Reforms are apt to go in waves, pendulums swing as much too far in one direction as in the other, excesses are to be guarded against as ultra-conservatism is. The little red schoolhouse on the whole turned out a pretty good product in spite of its admitted defects—and mainly because it compelled the pupil to work for what he got and taught the value of thoroughness in little things.

ABOUT THE WAR GRAFTERS.

Why was it that a republican, not a democratic, congressman called Attorney-General Daugherty to account for not earlier prosecuting men guilty of fraud in war contracts? If Mr. Daugherty has been derelict, it was a fine opportunity for the democrats to score off him for campaign purposes. Why their silence?

The attorney-general has confirmed the prevailing suspicion that there were frauds. There were rascals among the munition contractors, but they were Wilson's rascals, not Harding's, to the extent that their crimes were committed under Wilson's administration. Probably most of them were democrats, as men of that party would get the best opportunity, but graft is strictly non-partisan, and there were surely some republicans among them. To indict them is a ticklish job for any attorney-general, republican or democrat.

Though the democrats are doubtless anxious that some of the war grafters be indicted, they must fear that Mr. Daugherty will proceed against men of their own party, and, worse still, prove his charges. They must also hope that he will proceed against some prominent republicans and at least even up matters. But nothing would please them more than to have him accuse some distinguished democrat and fail to make good. Then they would have a martyr wearing the martyr's crown of thorns to trot around the country next fall. Until Mr. Daugherty explodes his mine, there will be fierce conflict of emotions in the democratic breast.

KEEPING THE PLEDGE.

President Harding's quiet preparation to co-operate with other nations in economic reconstruction of Europe is the occasion for this taunt by the Eugene Guard:

> Here is an administration elected by a great majority on the pledge to keep out of foreign affairs, laying the ground work for getting in with both feet.

Far from being pledged to "keep out of foreign affairs," the administration is bound by this pledge, contained in the republican platform on which Mr. Harding was elected:

> The republican party stands for agreement among the nations to preserve the peace of the world. We believe that such an international association must be based upon international justice and must provide methods which shall maintain the rule of public right by the development of law and the decision of impartial courts, and which shall secure instant and general international conference whenever peace shall be threatened by any political action, and that the nations pledged to do and insist upon what is just and fair may exercise their influence and power for the prevention of war.

The Washington conference is a conspicuous example of fulfilment of this pledge. It has removed the threat of war in the far east, and has ended the naval armament race. When the way is open for another conference to consider those interests which the United States has in common with Europe, distinct from affairs which are strictly European, Mr. Harding stands ready to participate. Nor will he be deterred by the opposition of those senators whose slogan is, "Stay out of Europe," for the ratification of the Washington treaties showed their influence to be negligible.

Referring to President Wilson and his fight for the league covenant, the Guard says:

> The people placed in the presidential chair one of the members of the senate who aided in defeating the league of nations.

Mr. Harding did not vote against ratification of the treaty which included the league covenant. He voted for ratification with the reservations which were said by ex-President Taft, a stalwart champion of the league, to leave it 90 per cent good. It was defeated by a combination of two bands of irreconcilables—those republicans and democrats who were opposed to any league, and those democrats who stood pat for the league as Mr. Wilson framed it. Not till the league by the action of these two factions had become the subject of hopeless political conflict did Mr. Harding cast it aside. He has made a most auspicious start to bring the United States into an association of nations, and he is still working on that line.

The success with which Mr. Harding consummated the work of the Washington conference is largely due to his making it the achievement of both parties, acting in co-operation. Mr. Wilson's failure was due to his attempt to make formation of the league and conclusion of the peace treaties the work of his party alone. This contrast should be a hint to our neighbor not to make foreign affairs a subject of party controversy.

MAKING LABOR UNIONS RESPONSIBLE.

When questioned about the remedy for violation of contracts by labor unions, President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, told the Lockwood committee, investigating the New York building trades, that labor unions would not submit to regulation by law. He is quoted as having no remedy to suggest and as saying that the labor movement is "a rough struggle of the workers to find their way out," and that we must be patient. This was in reference to charges that building trade unions had signed contracts for fixed wages, but that, after jobs were started, they enforced advances; also that some contractors procured immunity from wage increases by bribing labor leaders.

Mr. Gompers' present attitude is consistent with the persistent opposition of labor leaders to any suggestion that labor unions be required to incorporate as a condition of recognition by employers. Yet so long as unions are not legally liable for performance of their contracts, they cannot be held to the same degree of responsibility as employers, who are incorporated and have large property holdings. The defense is made that labor contracts could not in practice be enforced when large numbers of union members refused to fulfil them by striking. As to strikes of any magnitude, public sympathy usually decides whether a strike shall be won or lost, and it would not go with men who struck in open violation of a contract that had been upheld as valid by the courts.

The distinction is drawn that employers' associations deal in commodities, while labor unions deal with labor, and that labor is not a commodity, being made up of human beings and the activity of their minds and bodies. But churches have to do with the spiritual part of man and they do not object to incorporation, though contending with all the forces of evil. Fraternal societies render brotherly help to their members, but they incorporate. They derive substantial advantages from the corporation laws, which are equally open to labor unions.

By refusing to assume legal responsibility corresponding with the rights that they exercise, labor unions put weapons in the armory of their enemies. The case for the open shop or for refusal to employ any union men at all is made stronger by unions' refusal to place themselves on an equality with employers as to judicial enforcement of contracts. An incorporated union which made and lived up to a contract to supply only faithful, competent workmen for a stipulated term at agreed wages and which voluntarily assumed legal liability for performance or breaking of the contract by any of its members would commend itself to some employers who refuse to deal with a loosely organized union which does not hold its members to their obligations. That is to be inferred from the fact that the oldest, strongest unions, those with which large numbers of employers have made collective bargains for many years, are those which have held their members to their contracts, which have accepted adverse arbitration awards and have fought outlaw strikes. These have a standing to which others that cherish the right to be irresponsible cannot attain. The incorporated union would have the means to free itself from the taint of bribery by its officials, of violence and intimidation by its members, and thus to gain a degree of public confidence which the old, carefully managed unions have acquired in the course of long years.

Discussion of the "breakdown" of the English language may well be left to the ultra-purists while its use by the people of the world continues to grow. We are less concerned with the theories of German professors that the changes it is undergoing are signs of degeneration than with the obvious fact that it is constantly proving itself "more serviceable, more labor-saving and a more direct instrument of thought," as Sir Henry Newbolt of London says it is. We probably gain more than we lose by not having an academy of final arbitration for words, as the French have, and in the end the new words that creep in and survive do so because they fill some obvious need. Even slang has its uses, though there are forms of it that we condemn. The final effect is to produce a form of speech that because of its very fluidity seems destined to prevail over those which, more conservatively managed, fail to meet the needs of an ever progressive world.

With consumption of manufactured goods in this country exceeding production, as Harvard economists say it is, an export market is a matter of more or less academic interest. Yet permanent prosperity demands an outlet for future surplus, and there will be a surplus when all hands are employed.

The Great Northern railway has announced that it will meet jitney stage-line competition out of Spokane by putting into service four gasoline motor cars that will outjitney the jitneys. And after all, isn't that the real railroad answer to the challenge of the stages?

Something good can be said even for the longshoremen's strike. It keeps the traffic police so busy on the waterfront that a motorist can park his car downtown for hours without being tagged.

A general election is one of the few luxuries in which Oregon can indulge that the people are willing to pay for. As they want to learn results quickly, the count should be hastened everywhere.

The United States is to make a $5,000,000 loan to Liberia. We presume a cold winter is expected and that the purpose of the loan is to enable the Liberians to buy stovepipe hats.

The season is certainly devastating to the profits of the makers of straw hat cleaners. It begins to look as if one furbishing would last through all the summer that is likely to be left.

One big business man blames the universal use of automobiles for the high cost of living. Don't know about that, but it certainly has added to the cost of dying.

Tradition requires that fashionable weddings shall be contracted at "high noon," but any old hour does well enough when the judge says, "Divorce granted."

Down here, where there is rain "to burn," it sounds odd to hear a complaint of lack of rain in Josephine county at this time of year.

Long ago John H. Cradlebaugh wrote of this as "the land where the dreams come true," and it is, sometimes even political dreams.

Gifford Pinchot seems to have confined his forestry practice in late years mainly to conservation of himself as political timber.

Fining a man for eating a crane would seem like unnecessary punishment if a crane is anything like as tough as it looks.

Oregon is in pretty deep on its good roads programme, but that's one expenditure worth every cent of it.

Lloyd George can come nearer to hoping his way successfully out of a crisis than any man in world politics.

The Listening Post.

By DeWitt Harry.

UNHERALDED and unsung are many of the good deeds accomplished in Portland, and, but for a well-wishing friend, the great service that Leonard Christofero rendered his home city would never be known. Christofero had lived in Portland for 28 years, ever since he left a little Italian village near Rome, and he has grown to love his adopted city with a devotion rare even among those native-born. Portland means so much to Christofero that he would do everything possible for her sake.

A famous priest from Christofero's former home, a man learned and with an enviable reputation as an author, came to the United States to visit and write a book about us. In the course of his travels he reached Portland, drenched with winter rains, a city where he knew no one. Dispirited, uninterested, the author was about to leave the city with a very unfavorable impression, without having had an opportunity to see her commerce, her unmatched scenery, her industries or beauties. Christofero heard the circumstances, and though he works for a small wage, he managed to get a few days' leave from his job and with a couple of other Italian friends from the same district that the priest lived hired an automobile and took the author in charge.

They took the priest out on the highway, they feasted and feted him, they showed him the attentions proper to a man of his standing and learning, they unfolded before his astonished eyes such scenic delights as could not help but move even the most passive of mankind and then they told him the matchless tale of Portland's progress. The result was that the visitor lengthened his stay from two to four days and now has written from Italy that he met with the best reception of his entire trip at Portland.

Instead of a paragraph telling of rain and damp there will be an entire chapter in the forthcoming book that traveler will write for his Italian public and Portland will have the most enviable reputation of any city in the United States. All because one of her adopted sons thought enough of his home to devote a little of his own time and money to seeing that she was not done a wrong. Men like Christofero are the reasons why cities like Portland progress.

* * *

President Odd Names Club—We know of lots of gals up here who wish to be enrolled in your ODD NAMES GAL-LERY, fr instance:

Iva Orville Stocking of Lyle, Wash., wishes to get in the swim.

Will Swett of Grand Dalles says an optimist is a man who uses a one-way ticket to his town and just misses the last ferry for The Dalles.

BILBATES.

Secy. White Salmon Stuffed Club. And another local man is placed in nomination by Dewey L. Carpenter. Carpenter says no club of this sort could be complete without Lynn C. Doyle, who is a lubricant salesman.

* * *

As advertising experts are ever in search for the novel and new, this little bit is herewith tendered for what it may be worth. The first inkling that such a state of affairs existed came from the Wheeler Reporter when that sheet exposed one Henry Haak for his skill in advertising his special line of business. It appears that Haak is a timber operator and in order that all who met him might know his calling he is said to have purchased a sack of sawdust, that he kept at home, and sprinkled on his clothing for the benefit of those he met during the day.

This little stunt likely could be turned to excellent use by others. Why not a hairdresser with several long, golden hairs on his lapel? Or a baker with a quart of flour on his shoulders? Or the restaurant owner with soup samples on the vest?

Likely some men have already stumbled on this method of personal advertisement, but it would seem to open vistas of possibilities.

* * *

"It was just such a day as this," said the old fisherman, as he lit his corn-cob pipe and moved nearer the stove. "There was a warm drizzly rain falling, with a light wind from the south, a most favorable day to fish. It was down on the south fork along in the late '90s that I made the big catch."

"How many did you get?" I asked as I moved my chair closer, so as not to miss any of the story.

"Well, it was no use to try to count them," said the old fisherman, as he refilled his pipe. "I was raking hay down on a big meadow near the river, when a big school of salmon trout came up, so I just drove back and forth across the river and raked them out, you could see piles of fish for miles on both sides of the river."

"That sure must of been some big school of fish," I remarked.

"Well, that was the most fish I ever seen," he said as he tilted back in his chair and crossed his legs. "They had to put new piers under all the bridges on the river, those fish had completely worn them off where they rubbed them coming up the river."

"Were there are very big ones?" I asked.

"Well, yes," drolled the old man, "some of the farmers along the river used the back bones of the largest ones to stake their beans on."

"I suppose the ribs formed a ladder to gather the beans with," I said.

"Yes, that's right," said the old man as he plodded off down the hill.

BROWN HACKLE.

* * *

Almost everyone likes popcorn, and nearly everyone eats it and finds no discomfort in the fact. However, three girls a few days ago were nearly induced to swear off for life. They went to a movie about noontime, when the place was very quiet and just a few people in attendance. One of the trio had purchased an ample supply of crackerjack, and they sat and munched and looked, and were having a thoroughly enjoyable time. Finally they noticed that several people who had been sitting nearby had moved away and then the reason dawned on them.

Ever hear a horse grinding grain with his teeth when hungry? Well, the noise the three girls made in that quiet theater must have been something like that made by a strong-jawed horse before a well-filled manger after a hard day's toil.

Those Who Come and Go.

Tales of Folks at the Hotels.

Ben Dorris, popular war veteran of Eugene, has attacked a new problem. When he came home from the war, disabled to the point where he could no longer pursue his work as a railroad man, he started farming. He is now an authority on the growing of filberts and is known as the "filbert king" of Lane county. His new problem is that of raising artichokes. He believes that there is a big field for artichoke growing in the state and is trying out the vegetable on a commercial scale. He also believes that Oregon is not paying enough attention to asparagus growing. "An acre of ground well cared for will net an asparagus grower $200 a year," he said at the Portland hotel yesterday. "It is one of the most reliable crops I know of." Dorris is one of the most active men in the American Legion in the state. He is regarded as the leader of the legion in Lane county. "When a man makes a dollar out of the soil that is a new dollar," continued Dorris. "I get out on the farm and grow filberts, asparagus and other fruits and vegetables. When I sell them in the markets and convert them into dollars I am making new money and putting it into circulation. A fellow knows he's really doing something when he is growing things."

"We've got two railroads built into our timber, and we've got the finest body of standing timber in the world," said S. G. Irvin of Newport at the Imperial yesterday. "The railroads will bring out the timber and the sawmills will do the rest and, as we are getting a fine harbor, there is every reason to predict that Lincoln county has a great future of prosperity. Some day the Roosevelt highway will be the great traffic road along the coast into California, as it will be free from snow in the winter and travel can avoid the Siskiyous, which have snow. We are very interested in having the Roosevelt highway completed and are hoping that the federal government will soon make generous appropriations for the construction of this road." Mr. Irvin has been a resident of Newport for more than 30 years. He is now on his way east to attend a convention.

"I've been buying a dress for my wife as a sort of peace offering," confessed an eastern Oregon man at the Hotel Portland. "I came away from home in a hurry and have been gone longer than I expected. You see, if a husband stays away from home one night he gets 'Hail, Columbia' when he shows up the next morning, but if he remains away a week the anger of his wife has cooled down and she is tickled to death to see him come home. That's the policy I am working now. Got a message from my wife the other day that was a hummer, so I've been remaining in town waiting for the storm to blow over. Today I bought a dress—I hope it fits her, for I had to guess at the size—and I'm taking it home as a sort of souvenir."

Talk about roads in Oregon and speed and things of that sort! Clarence Underwood of Klamath Falls arrived in Portland Wednesday night. He had left Klamath Falls at 4:30 o'clock Wednesday morning. According to the story going the rounds in the hotel lobbies, Mr. Underwood made the run of 350 miles in a day. So far as known, this is the best running time that has ever been made between Klamath Falls and Portland and it probably is one of the longest day's runs in the state.

J. S. Dellinger, newspaper publisher of Astoria and enthusiastic grower of cranberries, is in Portland and registered at the Imperial. Mr. Dellinger is one of the several candidates running for the republican nomination for state senator of Clatsop county. The contest for the nomination is quite keen.

C. L. Lieuallen, one of the state traffic officers in the eastern Oregon district, is registered at the Imperial. He came here to attend the state highway commission meeting and make a report on the use of highways in that district by tractors and other farm equipment.

Dr. W. T. Williamson left yesterday for California to read a paper on nervous diseases at the California state society meeting at Yosemite. Thence he will attend meetings of the trustees of the American Medical association at St. Louis and also the scientific convention of the American Medical association.

Pacific avenue in Tacoma, the widest street in the city and one which is a real show street, is to have a new pavement. That is, the bricks which have done service for years are to be covered with bitumin. Ernest Dolge, a lumberman from Tacoma, is at the Hotel Portland.

William E. Coman and wife are at the Hotel Portland. Mr. Coman is general agent for the Northern Pacific in the northwest, with headquarters at Seattle.

Robert B. Allen of Seattle, with the West Coast Lumbermen's association, is at the Hotel Portland while attending a meeting of lumbermen in this city.

C. S. Winser, manager of the Simpson estate, is at the Benson from North Bend. Mr. Winser is one of the boosters for the new North Bend hotel and is also interested in banking.

Speaking of Olcotts, Ben and Chauncey are both registered at the Hotel Portland. The governor of Oregon and the celebrated slinger met each other.

J. Fred Larson, formerly of Portland but now one of the active citizens of Astoria, is registered at the Multnomah.

Dr. R. E. Lee Steiner and wife and Secretary of State Kozer and wife arrived at the Hotel Portland yesterday from Salem.

W. H. Preston, sales manager of the North Bend Mill & Lumber company is among the arrivals at the Benson.

M. R. Colby, a contractor of Seattle is at the Hotel Portland.

City Election in Portland.

PORTLAND, May 11.—(To the Editor.)—When is city primary, or how are city officers elected? When is city election, and how many officers have we to vote for? Whose term expires?? SUBSCRIBER.

Election of city officers in Portland is non-partisan. There is no primary election, but candidates get on the general election ballot by petition and are chosen by the preferential system. There are only five elective offices—mayor, four commissioners and auditor. We elect an auditor and two commissioners in November. The commissioners whose terms expire are Commissioners Pier and Bigelow.

Date of Earthquake and Fire.

PORTLAND, May 11.—(To the Editor.)—Please give the date of the San Francisco earthquake and fire, as I am trying to trace something of much importance to me. MRS. M. M. WATSON

The San Francisco earthquake and fire occurred on April 18, 1906.

Burroughs Nature Club.

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Can You Answer These Questions?

1. Is there a plant or tree that catches and consumes mammals or even people?

2. Why do parrots have such hooked bills if they are not birds of prey?

3. What should rabbits eat?

Answers in Tomorrow's Nature Notes.

* * *

Answers to Previous Questions.

1. Are the rings of growth at the top of a trunk of a tree fewer in number than at the base?

Yes, the annual layers of new growth lap one over the other like a nest of truncated cones, with more layers at the bottom, or old part of the trunk which has had time to accumulate them.

2. What is a mongoose?

It is one of the cat-like viverrine animals, to which civet-cats belong, and comes from India, where it is found both in wild state, and domesticated. Greatly valued in India as a snake and rat killer. In 1872 the mongoose was introduced into Jamaica and later into Porto Rico and Hawaii. Though beneficial in killing pests, it proved troublesome in exterminating ground birds and attacking poultry. The law finally forbade its importation.

* * *

3. Is the heron the same as a crane, only called differently?

No, they belong to different families, though often confused. Cranes, Gruidae, are usually larger, have close plumage, partly naked head and long but blunt-tipped bill. Nest in marshes or lonely plains, and have down-covered young that run about soon after hatching, though fed by the parents for a time. Herons, Ardeidae, have soft plumage and some have nuptial plumes. Bills long and sharp-pointed. Commonly nest in trees, in colonies, and have helpless young cared for by the parents for some time.

WHERE LINCOLN MYTH STARTED

Denunciation of Prohibition Disproved and Untruth Traced to Source.

The Union Signal.

The effort of the opponents of prohibition to convince the people that Abraham Lincoln, were he living, would line up with them in their campaign against the eighteenth amendment, is pathetic. In a circular sent out by the association throughout the country they give the following statement as purporting to have been used by Abraham Lincoln:

"Prohibition will work great injury to the cause of temperance. It is a species of intemperance within itself for it goes beyond the bounds of reason, in that it attempts to control men's appetites by legislation and makes a crime of things that are not crimes. A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles on which our government was founded. I have always been found laboring to protect the weaker from the stronger and I never can give my consent to such a law as you propose to enact."

Investigation as to the authenticity of this statement was made years ago by Rev. Duncan C. Milner of Chicago. He sent copies of it to John Hay and J. G. Nicolay, Lincoln's great biographers, who collected and edited his complete works. They replied that they had never found anything to warrant the statement and referred to Mr. Lincoln's great temperance speech in 1842 as giving his real sentiments. Officials of the liquor societies were asked where the quotation was to be found but none of them could tell of any edition of Lincoln's speeches where it appeared. At last, however, the false statement seems to have been traced to its source. The Rev. Duncan C. Milner, in an open letter dated March 26, 1922, published in the Chicago Tribune, tells its history as follows:

"It made its first public appearance in an anti-saloon campaign in Atlanta, Ga., in 1887. A circular was issued, addressed to the negroes and appealing to them in the name of their emancipator. The handbills were headed in large letters, 'For Liberty: Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation.' Underneath was a picture of a negro kissing Lincoln's hand, which was striking off his shackles, and then the professed quotation. A few days ago Dr. Sam Small, the noted evangelist and lecturer, told me that he was in the Atlanta campaign in 1887, that the man who invented this false message confessed the fact to him. Mr. Small says he is ready to make his affidavit to this statement. This might settle the question."

This disclosure of the origin of the false statement, used so widely by the liquor interests, ought to be given extended publicity.

THE DOUBLE STANDARD.

Aye, stone the woman—let the man go free!
Draw back your garments lest perchance they touch
Hers as she passes by, but to him
Put forth a willing hand to clasp with his
That led her to destruction and disgrace,
Shut up from her the sacred ways of toil,
That she no more may gain an honest meal;
But open to him all honorable paths
Where he may win distinction. Give to him
Pressed-down, heaped-up and running over
Measures full of life's sweetest joys.
Pass her, O maiden, with disdainful face,
If she puts forth a poor, polluted palm;
But lay thy hand in his on bridal day,
And swear to cling to him with wifely love
And tender reverence. Trust him who led
A sister woman to this fearful fate!

Aye, stone the woman—let the man go free!
Let one soul suffer for the guilt of two—
It is the doctrine of a hurried world
Too out of breath for holding balances
Where nice distinctions and injustices
Are calmly weighed. But, ah, how will it be
On that strange day of final fire and flame,
When men shall wither with a mystic fear,
And all shall stand before the one true judge?
Shall sex make then a difference in sin?
Shall he, the searcher of the hidden heart,
In his eternal and divine decree
Condemn the woman and forgive the man?

—MARIAN D. MERRY.

Birthplace of Candidate.

FOREST GROVE, Or., May 10.—(To the Editor.)—Please advise where A. W. Norblad, candidate for nomination for congressman, first district, was born and of what nationality he is. SUBSCRIBER.

Mr. Norblad was born in Sweden and came to this country with his parents when an infant.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

A CHANCE FOR COMPOSERS.

Opera, fitted with phonograph
scores, is soon to be put on the film.
When movies are given to music
And opera's sung on the screen,
When the baritones croon an appropriate tune
As they work in a hair-raising scene,
There'll be need of more modern composers
To harmonize pictures and score—
A good lively bunch that will furnish the punch
For the thrills that the people adore.

The dear little child, for example,
When he's thrown from a passenger train,
Should fold his frail hands o'er his heart when he lands
And warble a plaintive refrain—
A piteous song, but forgiving,
To prove that, though shocked by the fall
And dented a bit by the rock that he hit,
His feelings aren't wounded at all.

The villain who poisons the hero
Should fade from the film with a song,
With deep organ notes to show how he gloats
Over deeds that are dreadfully wrong.
The hero would be more heroic
And knock 'em all dead, if he sang
A red-blooded lay while he stood there at bay
And shot up the Mexican gang.

Not even the late Richard Wagner
Could write, in his noisiest time,
A score that would fit in the wild western kit
That is one savage carnage of crime.
He writes pretty rough-housing music,
But it isn't half peppy enough,
For the opera-screen—if you know what I mean—
We have got to have livelier stuff!

* * *

A Terrific Demand.

This country is increasing its chemical output, but not half fast enough to meet the needs of the bootleggers.

* * *

Father Gave Him His.

Young John D. says it is difficult to dispose of large sums of money. That is because he never had occasion to buy any oil stock.

* * *

Of Course.

New York easily placed a $45,000,000 bond issue. Burglars and bootleggers find it to their interest to support the city government.

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I Must Go Down.

By Grace E. Hall.

I must go down into the depths of me
To find myself.
The surface of my being is a mask I wear,
Because it is the rule,
And from behind it I can scan the other masks
And find rare entertainment in the quest of other selves,
Playing at hide-and-seek with me—
As I with them.

It would be most alarming to confront
A naked soul,
Stripped of all pretense, with no faint effort to conceal
Its actual thoughts, desires and bitterness—
Scorn, envy, malice, venom—
All that blends
Into each life, however fine it be—
For even in the best of mortal stuff
Are traces of ingredients that
We much deplore.

So, lest the friction be indeed too great
Between these human atoms, moved
By self-made greeds,
We wear our masks for safety, knowing well
That as we are, we merit little love.
And, being all love-hungry, then must show
The sweetest surface that we each
May know.

But when I would acquaint myself with self
I dig deep in my heart to find its core:
Look frankly at its tendencies and faults,
Its pettiness, perhaps its callousness
To others' struggles—whate'er, indeed, is there;
And having been abashed, dismayed
And humbled quite,
By what I find, then do I strive to pray—
In wordless uplift of the soul-thing in my breast—
For grace to wear the ugly traits away,
And e'en behind my mask, be sweet and fine.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of May 12, 1897.

Athens—The end of the Greek-Turk war is in sight with the Greek government accepting the offer of European powers for mediation.

Washington—O. N. Denny of Oregon, who has the backing of the Oregon delegation for the Chinese mission, called upon the president today.

The body of Judge L. L. McArthur, who died at Walla Walla Monday, reached here yesterday. Funeral services will be held this afternoon.

Articles of incorporation, a constitution and by-laws were adopted by the United Wheelmen's association yesterday.

GRANT GREAT AS STATESMAN

Achievements as President Enumerated by Dr. Hindley.

UNIVERSITY PARK, May 11.—(To the Editor.)—In the tribute given U. S. Grant by speakers and the press, inspired by the centennial, the emphasis has been placed upon Grant, soldier, and but little has been said—in some instances, nothing at all—about Grant, the statesman. Indeed, many think Grant as a president was a failure. Not so. Although Grant began his presidency as he commanded an army, he soon saw that a nation and an army are quite different and that as a statesman he must take a large counsel from others.

Real achievements mark the terms of President Grant. The outstanding features of his two terms of administration were the settlement of our difficulties with Great Britain by arbitration, the reorganization of states which had been in revolt, a brave stand for sound money, the inauguration of a humane Indian policy, and the sending on into the future the principles of our civil service.

Take the adjustment of the rebellious states to the orbits from which they struggled and we see that was a greater accomplishment than what happened at Appamatox. Grant made Lincoln with his sword but united a new nation out of used-up fragments left by revolt. B. I. HOADLEY.

Date of Easter in 1903.

PORTLAND, May 11.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me in what month and what day of the month was Easter of 1903? SUBSCRIBER.

Easter fell on April 12, 1903.