Morning Oregonian

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KEEPING UP THE BARS.

In signing the immigration bill which extends for two years from June 30 next the 3 per cent limit on immigration President Harding has not only given assurance that the bars will be kept up against a further influx of foreigners that the country is poorly prepared to absorb, but he has settled a controversy that threatened to embarrass us in our foreign relations. The bill in its present form provides a practicable method for restricting immigration in a manner that can hardly give offense; amendments which had been proposed and badly worked-out theories propounded by its opponents gave promise of trouble and would not have been a solution of our present problem in the end.

One of the suggestions made by Mrs. Lillian Russell Moore on her return to this country from a tour of inspection of the emigrant ports of Europe was that a commission be created, consisting of certain bureau and department officials, with power to fix quotas from time to time, in accordance with the needs of the country and its probable capacity for absorbing particular classes of immigrants into the population. A similar plan, offered by an organization of business men, proposed the admission of aliens only "who will make desirable citizens, at such times and in such numbers as will tend to contribute to our economic growth, prosperity and social welfare." This body proposed the creation of a commission similar to that suggested by Mrs. Moore, the genius of the scheme being that the quotas of different national and racial groups should be varied from time to time, within a specified maximum for all groups. In theory the idea was sound; in practice there is reason to suppose that it would have opened a veritable Pandora's box of trouble for our government.

The result which has been accomplished by re-enactment of the present law is that sufficiently generous provision has been made for the reuniting of families, some of whose members have previously obtained admission to the United States, which is conceded to be desirable in order to promote the contentment of those now here and to foster a sense of permanency of residence which would not obtain if families were divided. The 3 per cent rule also leaves a margin to spare for special cases and obviates certain hardships which we would like to avoid. The number who will be admitted on the other hand will not constitute a grave menace to our own industrial situation during the present period of unemployment. It will give us an opportunity to perfect arrangements for the assimilation of foreigners, which are sadly in need of repair, and it will reduce injustice to the minimum. On the whole, while it may deny opportunity to a few worthy and oppressed aliens, its advantages will greatly outweigh any disadvantages that may accrue.

The counter proposals to which allusion has been made would have precipitated an issue of grave moment as to our impartiality in the treatment of other peoples. It is a well-established principle that nations have the right to exclude foreigners from their shores, yet the most favored nation clause is jealously guarded in practice and bears with great force upon the imponderable issue of national pride. The admission of aliens is so general, says an authority on international law, that the exclusion of foreigners of particular nationalities or of a particular religious faith would be regarded as an unfriendly act. Any law for their exclusion must therefore be general in its terms, and this has been accomplished by the provision that a definite percentage of the number of alien-born of a given nationality already in the country shall be admitted, and no more. Fortunately, as was calculated by the framers of the existing law, this gives us a preponderance of immigrants of the classes that we have come to regard as most assimilable and it is perhaps as near to the ideal as we may hope to attain.

The right of exclusion, in which no nationality is discriminated against, on account of disease, or pauperism, or probable inability to become self-supporting, is preserved in the law. This gives to bureau officials a substantial margin within which to administer the statute to the advantage of the country, and is about as far as we are prepared to go in granting power to an administrative branch of government. However, the immigration bureau automatically becomes a highly important department. It can lawfully station agents at ports of debarkation and there insist on certain standards of fitness, within the law, which will forestall congestion at our home ports.

Nor is there anything to prevent congress from providing further measures for the distribution of arriving aliens. A policy which would result in landing a certain proportion of them in other ports than New York would measurably simplify our domestic problems. But this should be preceded by the creation of better facilities than now exist for the Americanization of newcomers and for a check on the tendency to grouping by nationalities, which has so largely contributed to the failure of the so-called melting pot.

TIME TO CHANGE.

In a period of fourteen months—from January 6, 1919, to March 15, 1920—State Treasurer Hoff purchased from Morris Bros. Inc., bond dealers, bonds for which he paid out of the industrial accident fund $1,172,223.13 On the transactions covered by this amount the bond house profited $84,076.09.

On one sale of bonds to the state, involving only $100,000, the bond house profited $16,000.

There was no good reason why the state treasurer should in many of these transactions have patronized a middleman. He could have bought Oregon securities direct and saved the exorbitant profits paid to the bond dealers.

To the bond dealers the business with the state treasurer was so profitable that it gave one deputy in the office of the state treasurer more than $800. Subsequent dealings with another deputy were of a suspicious character.

Information now comes to The Oregonian from a reliable source that the industrial accident commission on January 1 of this year, wrote off from its securities the sum of $100,000 and stated that it was done on account of poor bonds bought at a price above their value by the present treasurer.

An inefficiency on the part of a state officer which enables a deputy to graft and deprives state funds of their full benefit to the purpose for which they were set aside is not to be countenanced. There should be a change in the office of state treasurer and the primary election offers the opportunity to secure it.

LET US WAIT AND SEE.

Because it gives The Oregonian an opportunity to say again that its news columns are free and its editorial opinions are its own, the following from The Dalles Chronicle is reprinted:

> First The Oregonian condemned Beveridge as a candidate for the republican senatorial nomination in Indiana and then, when he was given such an overwhelming majority in the primaries this week, describes him, in its headlines at least, as being "close to Harding ideal."
> Having intimated previously that Indiana's leading progressive was a party pariah and sore-spot in the eyes of the administration, The Oregonian's laudatory article about Beveridge was anything but consistent.

With the exception that The Oregonian did not condemn Beveridge, did not refer to him as a pariah or sore spot, and did not later describe him as being "close to the Harding ideal," the foregoing is correct enough.

Following a survey of the Indiana contest, on the day of election there, wherein the positions of Senator New and ex-Senator Beveridge were contrasted, and wherein it was said that "Beveridge is by far the most brilliant and attractive figure, New the safer," The Oregonian printed a telegraphic letter from Mark Sullivan in which it was prophesied that Senator Beveridge would be found to be in large policies in harmony with the Harding administration, because Harding and Beveridge stand for the same ideals.

Let us hope that Mr. Sullivan is right. He usually is. That is the reason The Oregonian prints his letters. But, right or wrong, they are Mr. Sullivan's views, not The Oregonian's. They present always an independent, informed, interesting and authoritative view of public men and public affairs, and they serve to confirm other judgments, or to correct them, as the case may be.

It may be proper to add, in view of the record, that if it shall be found hereafter that Mr. Beveridge will work in harmony with President Harding, a miracle will have happened.

DEVELOPING THE GERM THEORY.

Announcement from Moscow of the isolation of the germ of typhus fever marks a further important step toward control of a disease that has claimed more victims and visited greater devastation upon the human race than all the wars in history. The reported discovery is the work of Dr. N. Kritch, a woman physician, whose experiments were conducted under the direction of Professor Parakin of the Moscow Biological Institute. It was made possible by American assistance, however, and not by the aid of the bolshevist government, under whose regime scientific research has been able to make no progress. The particular significance of the news lies in the promise it holds out for the development of a curative serum. The communicable nature of typhus and the necessity for strict quarantine against it and also the fact that its carrier is a body parasite have long been well known.

Indeed, Dr. Kritch has but added another stone to the vast monument of evidence that certain germs are the most malignant enemies with which the race has to contend. Yet it is only forty-one years this month since the germ theory was first publicly demonstrated by its foremost exponent so convincingly that thoughtful scientists have ever since accepted it as a practical basis for epidemic suppression. Louis Pasteur's first announcement that he had found the germ cause of splenic fever or anthrax in cattle a highly virulent disease when transmitted to humans, was received with general skepticism. The ensuing controversy was marked by personal vilification and abuse. The outcome was a challenge issued by the reactionaries, the acceptance of which by Pasteur in May, 1881, still constitutes one of the most memorable events in the history of war on plagues.

Under the terms of the contest each of twenty-five sheep were inoculated with a vaccine of Pasteur's making and twenty-five others were not inoculated, the entire band being vaccinated some days later with violent cultures of anthrax bacilli. Pasteur predicted that the vaccinated sheep would recover and that the others would die, which was precisely what came to pass. Moreover, the bodies of those which died were buried in a plot surrounded by a paling within which ten other sheep were confined, to test Pasteur's theory that earthworms were responsible for bringing to the surface the germs of the disease recovered from the buried bodies. Here, too, the accuracy of his theory was proved. No more dramatic incident has occurred in scientific history, unless we except the death of Dr. Jesse W. Lazear in Cuba, a sacrifice to science in an effort to ascertain the method of transmission of yellow fever.

The discovery reported from Moscow lacks some of the force of a pioneer achievement but its significance cannot easily be overestimated. Dr. Kritch's success in growing and reproducing the typhus germ outside of the human body, which her coworkers predict will be followed by the development of a suitable serum in due course of time, means in all probability that this scourge will soon be relegated to the typhoid class. The latter disease, which caused more deaths than bullets in the Spanish war, has been robbed of its terrors as the direct result of the principle which Pasteur established in May, 1881. No deaths from this cause occurred in our navy during the world war, and there were few in all the land armies which had opportunity to immunize their soldiers against it. Mortality, in fact, was confined to the armies of the smaller nations in central Europe in which precautionary measures were ignored.

STRAINING AFTER PERFECTION.

The old question whether politics should have any influence whatever in appointment of postmasters is raised again by the National Civil Service Reform league. It acknowledges that President Harding has made a decided advance on the methods of President Wilson, but it is still driving for perfection. Mr. Wilson ordered that all vacancies occurring through death, removal or resignation be filled by appointment of one among the three who stood highest in an examination of candidates. Mr. Harding applies this rule to all appointments, but when a republican endorsed by a republican congressman or other republican leader is among the first three, he gets the appointment. The league objects that "within the highest three eligibles political patronage is still controlling." It recommends that the highest man on the list be appointed, that presidential postmasterships be added to the classified civil service and that congressional endorsements be prohibited.

This is the controversy that comes anew with the advent of every new administration, especially when control of the government passes from one party to the other. With almost every new administration more offices have been fortified against the spoilsmen by adding new categories to the classified service, but usually this has been done after a president has filled the offices with men of his own party and has been denounced by his opponents for resort to a hypocritical device to prevent his successor from turning "the rascals out" in case the opposition party should win the next election. These protests are inspired by objection to being deprived of the means to reward the faithful, which is the euphemism of each party for those whom the other party used to call rascals.

When in order to stop this game the league proposes that politics should have nothing to do with the case, it offers a counsel of perfection that cannot be followed in practical politics. When three persons are proved by examination to be qualified for postmaster and when a republican is appointed from among those three, politics come as near to perfection as is possible. The people get a competent official, and a man or woman who has worked for triumph of party principles has received a reward. The league could hardly expect the republicans to give the jobs to democrats when it knows well that democrats would not give them to republicans.

The most forcible criticism that has been made of strictly partisan appointments is that the congressman who makes the selection gains ten enemies to every friend that he holds. The examination system gives him some relief, for it cuts the ratio down to two enemies for one friend at the worst, while if there should be a political opponent among the three, the ratio is one to one. That is mortifying enough, for the chief aim of politicians is to make friends without thereby making enemies. If the league's counsel of perfection should be adopted, they would make no enemies by distribution of patronage, but they would make no friends. It seems impossible to realize the ideals of both the league and the politicians. Somebody will be disappointed, and we suspect it will be the league for many years hence.

COMBAT THE SOCIALIST DELUSION.

Socialism still has its adherents, still is an aggressive force in every country, not even excepting China. Though carried to its illogical conclusion and proved a monstrous fallacy in Russia, it retains its hold on minds so easily gullible that they accept without question the bolshevist explanations of its failure—the blockade by bourgeois governments which is a pure invention, and the civil war, which caused no more destruction than that from which France quickly recovered after the first revolution. How does socialism retain its hold in the face of proof by most tragic experiment that it is false, destructive and brings most misery to the proletariat whom it professes to benefit?

Socialists, though misguided, are in earnest, they are well organized and they work unceasingly. They have a theory that ostensibly sets up a high ideal of justice and equality, of human perfection. They have a rich field for recruits among the lazy, ignorant, inefficient, who always seek some person or thing other than themselves on which to blame their failure in life. They glibly attribute to "capitalism" the inevitable defects and injustices that mar all human institutions. They pass over as incidents of "the class struggle" the outright murder of almost two million persons, the death by famine and disease of many millions more, the ruin of a great nation and the despotic rule of five persons which mark the triumph of their theory in Russia. Intense prejudice closes the minds of their dupes to the truth, for all that tends to discredit the cult is called "capitalist lies."

In order that socialism may make fewer converts and that it may be driven from the minds of the honestly deluded, it should be constantly fought in organized fashion with at least some of its own weapons. The converse of socialism is individualism, but comparatively few know it as a definite principle, and the great majority of people, as the New York Independent says, "while not socialists, take no stand against socialism, think (rightly enough) that 'there is a good deal to be said for socialism.' By their indifference and their failure to grasp the fact that two opposing principles are involved, they "give the socialists the advantage of playing the role of high-minded idealists, leaving to us that of sordid worldlings." We need men who will band themselves together, saying, as Herbert Hoover says: "I am an individualist—an unashamed individualist—a proud individualist," and who will propagate their ideal as founded on natural law and the character of man, as the motive power of human progress.

Individualism is peculiarly at home in America, for it is Americanism. It led the colonists across the Atlantic to found new states and cities. It caused them to establish an independent republic, that they might give free play to their energies. It caused them to push their way across the continent in search of gold, to make farms, build railroads and cities. The pioneer was the typical individualist, asking no odds of any man. In fact socialism is a foreign import, brought here by those who fled from the restrictions placed on their hopes and ambitions by the system of class distinction and privilege that rules the old world, and most of its converts have been made among immigrants born under that system. It is an exotic in a country which knows no classes and where opportunity is open to all who see and seize it. Native converts to this alien cult have been men who were too incompetent or too lazy to succeed but too vain to acknowedge the truth to themselves, or those who are naturally inclined to revolutionary agitation or those who are attracted by the superficial beauties of the Marxian Utopia—the academic dreamers who form schemes for an imaginary world of unselfish, perfect men, ignoring man's inherent selfishness and imperfections.

Individualism can best combat socialism by organized effort to spread conviction of its merits among the indifferent who compose the great majority of the population. It can tear the beautiful cloak of idealism from the socialist creed and show that in practice the theory is an opiate to personal effort, ambition and initiative by robbing men of the incentive of personal gain, comfort and fame. By making individualism a positive, aggressive, political force, those who believe in it can prevent the adoption of schemes by which we have been sliding down to socialism. They can properly concede that modern invention has enabled communities to render some forms of service which were formerly left to private enterprise. They can check the extremes to which greed leads men who, by exercising their rights beyond reason, make recruits for the party which would deprive them of those rights.

The time is ripe for a successful movement of this kind. Russia is a horrible example of the fruits of socialism when freed from obstruction to its full realization. The heavy taxes of which our own people complain are in part the result of socialist experiments that have been tried by emotional executives and legislators. By tracing the cost of these experiments to their source, individualists can gain public attention and open men's minds to their own principle.

The Sanity League of America, an organization campaigning for beer and light wines, in some of its literature speaks of its membership as made up of "100 per cent Americans." Probably a misprint. One hundred proof Americans would be more like it.

Clarke county democrats will hold a convention tomorrow to elect delegates to a state platform convention and Oregonians with happy memories can motor over and see "how the old thing works."

The only excuse for a driver who speeds past a loading or unloading car is inability to control, and he should be deprived of a license when he leaves jail.

Why can't the government ever arrange to take a census around election time? By counting all the candidates Portland would be certain to pass Seattle.

A teacher with bobbed hair is held unfit in New York, while one with rather short skirts is upheld in California. All depends on the viewpoint.

The kaiser is said to be devoting all his time nowadays to the study of religion. Probably getting ready to declare the Bible a scrap of paper.

The Philadelphia fair people seeking a manager are overlooking John Barrett of Oregon, a man with a grasp on two countinents.

Old-time republican workers are getting into this campaign with a noise like the snort of a warhorse, a democratic animal.

The purse seiner, outlawed, purposes to work outside the three-mile limit, but may drift in to his discomfiture.

A bee farmer up Nisqually way is charged with moonshining, a grand way to work off surplus honey.

Now they can combine the rose festival with the Fourth of July and make it a real celebration.

New York city, having exhausted the three dimensions, talks of attaining the fourth seaward.

The California orange crop will be half short, but something just as good grows in Oregon.

Mayor Baker must stop the disorder on the waterfront. In fact, he can and will.

Perhaps all McCredie needed was transplanting. He has his winning streak with him.

These "off again, on again" encumber court business, but there is no relief.

With closing of the polls in a week, a measure of sanity will be restored.

The disorderly striker knows but one deterrent—the policeman's club.

Order today the flowers and the candy for "Mother."

Another week of "agony" and a rest for months.

Pound a pan! The Beavers won a game.

SYSTEM DEBASES WORKMANSHIP

Employes' Efficiency Reduced Under Public Official Contractors.

PORTLAND, Or., May 12.—(To the Editor.)—We read with great interest The Oregonian's contribution to the cause of private ownership of hydro-electric plants May 1, and in this connection ask the privilege to raise the question as to whether or not your extended opportunity for observation would not lead you to the same conclusions that you reach in this study, in a consideration of the quite prevalent practice of the public official doing public construction work.

Do not the same four elements that are urged in favor of public ownership apply with equal if not greater force when applied to public construction done by the public official?

When a rigid comparison is made between the high-salaried and highly efficient employes of the private contractor and the class of men the lower pay of the public service is able to attract on a political basis, the claim that better men and better and more work is turned out by the public official contractor does not appear well founded. And when it comes to a comparison of the mechanics—the workmen themselves—it is a notorious fact that a season in the employ of the public official contractor will ru'n a good man, slow him down, take the pep out of h'm, destroy his initiative and play the devil with him generally, so that he will not be again employed by the private contractor if he can be avoided. His only hope of continued employment is to stick on public work or go where he is not known.

A carpenter cannot work for the city on one job and for a private contractor on the next, and so on back and forth as the work comes up, as is the case as between private contractors as a practice. A painter may not paint school buildings for the school board during the summer season, when their work is done, and when laid off in the fall go back and pick up his old job with the master painter where he dropped it for the public work, unless shortness of help compels that he be taken back. This is not because there is any ill will engendered, but because the workman has deteriorated. This is a well-known fact, that the public official contractor is a debaser of labor and does an irreparable injury to the workers.

The public official has no argument, or real results, that justify him in taking over the business that naturally and logically and for the best interests of the community belongs to the private citizens engaged in that particular line. Actually, one is almost driven to the conclusion after careful study of the matter that the motif is political rather than industrial.

O. G. HUGHSON,
Secretary Associated General Contractors of Portland.

Duties of County Commissioner.

CORBETT, Or., May 11.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Where and at what time may a taxpayer find the county commissioners? (2) Do they have an office in the courthouse? (3) What pay do they draw? Do they get paid by the month or by the day? (4) Do they ever look after county roads outside of city limits?

SUBSCRIBER AND TAXPAYER.

1. Though the three county commissioners have desks in the suite in county courthouse entered through room 200, their office hours are very irregular. They can more often be found in the offices of their private businesses. Usually all three commissioners are present between 9 and 11 A. M. on Mondays and Wednesdays, when regular meetings are held.

2. Each commissioner receives $3000 a year in salary from the county and $600 a year from the earnings of the interstate bridge, for they are ex-officio interstate bridge commissioners.

3. County roads outside the city limits are supposed to be their special province.

ISHMAEL.

"The wilderness wind without, is wild,
Open! Spirit! and let me in!
I am your brother, your father's child,
I am the child of sin;
The child of murder, and purpose fell;
I am your brother, Ishmael!"

"Open, Spirit! I strive without,
Open! and let me taste your cheer!
I am weary of song, and revel, and rout,
Weary of grief and fear!
You are lying where love and mercy dwell,
Open the gate! I am Ishmael!"

"Open, Spirit! Your house is swept
And decked for an unsought guest;
The place of repentance is yet unwept,
And I hunger for your rest.
Come, spirit of peace, and swift dispel
The curse of your brother Ishmael!"

"Ishmael! go where the darkness waits,
Where the winds are sighing to hold you fast;
I have fastened my door, and barred my gates;
I have turned my face from the past.
For spirit and flesh must say 'farewell';
Seek the house of death, oh Ishmael!"

—MARY ALETHEA WOODWARD.

Small Claims Court.

PORTLAND, May 12.—(To the Editor.)—1. I wish to know if there is a court or department of the city government which collects small amounts or adjusts wrongs for poor people, such as failure to pay a small board bill, free of cost. If not, how would one proceed to obtain justice at small cost?

2. Do the employes of Henry Ford's plant receive the same pay with the five-day week as they received with a six-day week, or is it reduced one-sixth? SUBSCRIBER.

1. Litigation involving small amounts can be brought at a cost not to exceed 75 cents in the "small claims court." For details concerning its operation see Frank Manning, clerk of the district court, third floor, courthouse, Fifth and Salmon streets.

2. Mr. Ford's employes are paid by the day. They receive five days' pay for five days' work.

Methodists Grateful for Publicity.

PORTLAND, May 12.—(To the Editor.)—As chairman of the publicity committee for the Methodist crusade, I want to thank you for the way in which The Oregonian has given publicity to the meetings.

We appreciate greatly the attitude of The Oregonian to our work in general as well as in this particular case. In all of my experience I do not know of any meeting of the kind that has ever received such large publicity from the standpoint of the newspapers as this meeting has.

I felt that we owed it to you to bring to you this formal word of encouragement and appreciation.

A. L. HOWARTH.

Marriage of Divorced Person.

PORTLAND, May 12.—(To the Editor.)—Is it necessary for a divorced person to have a certified copy of divorce papers in order to marry? C. R.

Not unless such proof is demanded by the person performing the ceremony.

Those Who Come and Go.

Tales of Folks at the Hotels.

Having traveled 400 miles in central Oregon, Dr. W. H. Lytle says that there has been considerable loss among the horses of the range. "It was a case of the survival of the fattest," observed the state veterinarian, at the Imperial yesterday. "The horses were doing pretty well until January, when a frost came along which withered the grass and only the fat ones managed to live through the hard period following. It is estimated that about 10 or 15 per cent of the range horses died during the winter. These were the yearlings and the old horses. There was no loss in cattle, but some loss was reported among sheep, but the sheep losses were confined to the old ewes. There is a man in central Oregon who has contracted to buy 500 range horses at $25 a head and these are to be gathered up when the animals are fat, but when a range horse is fat he is pretty difficult to capture."

For the first time since he has been in town when there was a meeting of the state highway commission, James S. Stewart of Corvallis, failed to put in an appearance and ask the commission for aid on some road. Mr. Stewart was at the Perkins while the members of the commission were holding hearings and letting contracts, but the Corvallis road booster was too busy with other matters to attend. A few weeks ago there was a strong demand for Mr. Stewart to be a candidate for the state senate from Polk and Benton counties and he filed his announcement with the secretary of state, but on the very last day he withdrew, owing to ill-health. When Mr. Stewart pulled out, the friends of A. J. Johnson of Corvallis jumped into an automobile and rushed to Salem and filed Johnson's announcement.

Dr. Fred Vincent, manager of the power plant at Pendleton, arrived in Portland, having driven down by machine from the eastern Oregon metropolis. Dr. Vincent's juice comes over 40 miles of wire from the plant at Walla Walla, Wash., although there is a steam plant in Pendleton. The doctor, who has a reputation in Pendleton for being strong for statistics, says that the roads between the round-up town and the Rose City are in first-class condition. The doctor is one of the active members of the taxpayers' league, which was organized in Umatilla county about six months ago for the purpose of holding down taxes.

R. G. Hard arrived at the Hotel Oregon yesterday from Gold Beach, at the mouth of the Rogue River. There is a good run of fish in the Rogue this season and there are great takings of steelhead eggs for the hatcheries in the upper reaches of the river. Some day some enterprising and adventurous motion picture company will undertake to film a story with scenes along the Rogue and when they do they will have "locations" which cannot be surpassed for wildness on the Pacific coast.

Sam Crouch, who is in the hardware business at Roseburg, is among the arrivals at the Hotel Portland. Mr. Crouch says he is in town buying more goods for his establishment and incidentally mentions that Roseburg is picking up and things are looking prosperous. Already the municipal automobile camp is being used by tourists on the Pacific highway, which is one of the certain signs that spring has arrived.

C. Scheubel of Oregon City, who has been preparing a measure to equalize the tax burden of the state, said measure to be placed on the November ballot through the initiative, was in Portland yesterday conferring with Charles E. Spence on the matter. Mr. Scheubel leaves for Des Moines, Iowa, "where the tall corn grows," tomorrow.

F. J. Goodnough, years ago in the hotel business at Salem, is an arrival at the Perkins, looking around Washington street and comparing the traffic with Court and Commercial streets at home. Mr. Goodnough is convinced that Salem is a better place for automobiles than Portland because Salem has streets so wide that they could take care of the traffic on Fifth avenue, New York.

Just as Al Kader temple of Shriners is going to Baker to stage a ceremonial and put a bunch of neophites over the hot sands, George Huntington Currey, editor of the Herald of that city, escaped and came to Portland. Mr. Currey is here to take a last survey of the political situation before the primary campaign closes. He is registered at the Imperial.

The national livestock exchange is to meet in the east in a few days and H. H. Cofoid, who will be a delegate from the yards of North Portland, will leave for the meeting tomorrow. The general situation of the livestock producers will be discussed at the convention.

"Shorty" Feller is in from the ranch near Arlington and is at the Perkins. He is known in that section as "Shorty" and he has heard his real front name so infrequently that he never even thinks of using it, so he registers as "Shorty."

Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Stahl, tourists from Rotterdam, Holland, arrived at the Benson yesterday. They are making a tour of the Pacific coast and comparing conditions and customs here with those in Holland.

M. J. Findlayson, a sheepman of the Antelope country, is among the arrivals at the Perkins, coming to town on one of his occasional business trips.

William G. Hare, state senator for Washington county, is in Portland on legal business.

B. W. Dyer of the United States bureau of mines, is registered at the Imperial.

S. G. Shotwell, contractor from Hermiston, Or., is at the Perkins.

CANDIDATES ARE QUESTIONED

Aspirants for County Commissioner Quizzed on Gas and Bridge Rake-off.

PORTLAND, May 12.—(To the Editor.)—Please publish this open letter to Dow Walker, A. A. Muck, Ralph Hoyt, Rufus Holman, W. L. Lightner, Robert Sawyer, J. H. Rankin.

In discussing with a bunch of taxpayers the other day, the candidates for county commissioner, it was the unanimous decision of all present, that they would not vote for any candidate for county commissioner unless he was willing to buy his own gasoline and tires for his private car, and also refuse to take the $50 per month graft from the interstate bridge.

The undersigned was requested to ascertain from the candidates what their attitude is on these matters. Kindly answer through the Oregonian. E. A. FEARING.

Refusal to Testify.

CHEHALIS, Wash., May 12.—(To the Editor.)—What is the penalty if a person refuses to take oath and testify when summoned to court as a material witness? MISSOURIAN.

Refusal to testify may be punished as a contempt of court either by fine or jail sentence.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

THE POWER OF MEMORY.

The burglar was not always bad,
Nor swift to club and shoot;
He did not practice as a lad
His criminal pursuit.
Before to follow wicked ways,
He foolishly decided,
He feared a teacher's piercing gaze
The same as you and I did.

To youthful memories he clings
The while his trade he plies.
The thought of school and teacher brings
The moisture to his eyes.
His mind moves back across the years
And often he will start,
Responsive to the self-same fears
That smote his childish heart.

A burglar came the other night
To rob a furnished flat,
Where 'neath a soft and rosy light
A lady teacher sat.
She did not scream and leave the place,
Or give a frightened cry,
But fixed upon the burglar's face
A stern, reproving eye.

He dropped his jimmy on a chair;
His face went ashen gray,
And cowed by that familiar stare,
He slowly slunk away.
For burglars, quite like you and me,
Although behaving ill,
At times, when moved by memory,
Are little children still.

* * *

Explained.

According to London Punch the inhabitants of Genoa were forbidden to expose their washing during the conference. The clothes lines were probably all reserved for the dirty linen of the powers represented there.

* * *

Coming Back.

Genoa has regained some of the publicity Christopher Columbus gave the place by leaving it.

* * *

Modest Ambition.

All that Germany and Russia ask of the other powers is to leave them alone till they are in a position to lick the world.

Burroughs Nature Club.

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Can You Answer These Questions?

1. What color are grebes' eggs?
2. Do spiders eat other insects beside flies?
3. Are weeds useful?

Answers in tomorrow's Nature Notes.

* * *

Answers to Previous Questions.

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

We believe this question probably came from somebody's vague memory of the sundew genus, Drosera. These plants have a sticky secretion which attracts and holds fast small insects, which the plant consumes.

* * *

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

In a wild state parrots live in holes in trees, and often do some carpenter work with the bill. In some regions they dig grubs from tree bark; and some parrots feed partly on bulbs, insects' eggs, etc., dug from the ground. Some students believe the parrot originally ate flesh, as in captivity they will occasionally take flesh. If this was a natural habit, the hooked bill would be needed to tear up the prey.

* * *

3. What should rabbits eat?

Their staple food is hay—particularly when largely clover—oats and greens. Green food should never be wet or wilted. Lettuce, celery, some cabbage, turnip, carrots, beets, etc., with dandelion, plantain, fresh grass occasionally. Some mash made of prepared meal can be given. Rabbits need clean drinking water all the time. Young people interested in rabbit raising will get good hints from Crandall's "Pets and How to Care for Them," or from the United States department of agriculture bulletin 784, "Rabbit Growing to Supplement the Meat Supply."

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of May 13, 1897.

Elijah Corbett, elder and only living brother of United States Senator H. W. Corbett, died last night at his home, 675 Sixth street.

Constantinople.—Turkey, will accede to the demands of the European powers for an armistice.

Washington—The senate foreign relations comittee has decided to act cautiously in all matters relating to Cuba.

Fort Missoula, Mont. — Lieutenant James A. Moss of the 25th Infantry, U. S. A., will test the availability of the bicycle for the army by leading 20 soldiers in a cross country journey to St. Louis.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of May 13, 1872.

Chicago—General Butler predicts that Greeley will be nominated on the first ballot by a large majority at the Philadelphia convention.

Madrid—Government officials announce that the Carlists are surrendering in large numbers to the loyalist forces and that the insurrection is over.

The Republican county convention for Multnomah county was held in the courthouse Saturday.

Jacksonville—United States Attorney-General Williams leaves for Douglas county tomorrow.

Letter Writer Admits Mistake.

CASCADE LOCKS, Or., May 11.—(To the Editor.)—The facts about the fishing license episode published over my name in The Oregonian are fictitious.

I was informed by the Stevenson clerk that the non-residence license fee was $2.50, but was not informed that this was for a county license only, the state license being $10. I naturally took it for granted that we were getting the worst of it without any further investigation.

I guess the only way an Oregonian gets soaked is by the Oregon mist.

P. BOGARDUS.

Count of Cribbage Hand.

ASTORIA, Or., May 12.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly give the count of the following cribbage hand: A queen and four fives. SUBSCRIBER.

The queen with each of the five counts four fifteen-twos, or eight; the fives give four fifteen-twos, or eight; the fives counted as six pairs, twelve; total, 28.

Plural of Brother-in-Law.

REDMOND, Or., May 11.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly tell me which is right, "brothers-in-law" or "brothers-in-laws"? MARGERY C. YOUNG.

Brothers-in-law.

How Inside Burglars Get the Booty

Crook who made away with thousands by building up reputation as an honest butler tells some of the tricks of the trade in this article which will appear in The Sunday Oregonian.

Sample Ballots of the Election

These and a list of polling places will be given for the benefit of the voters in tomorrow's paper.

The Passing of Kincaid Field

Interesting incidents in the history of this famous athletic ground at Oregon related.

Another Margot Asquith Article

Further sidelights by this famous Englishwoman on her recent trip through America.

In the Magazine

Eyes Declared the Weapons of Vamp

Men are not led astray by bare legs or freak dresses, says psychologist.

To Seek Lost Sahara Tribes

Young Lady Mills to brave desert dangers in romantic quest of long-lost race.

Ghost-making Is a Business

Permanent spook ready for work costs but $6, says proprietor of new industry.

Pretty Girls Catch Rats

Two maids who make their living by making war on those animals shown in illustrated section.

Reading Public in Cartoons

Another of those interesting series of sketches by W. E. Hill, treating of types in humorous way.

"Love and Learn" Fiction Feature

If your soul spectrum happens to be overshot with blue try this lively humorous yarn of college life.

Logger's Life Vastly Changed

Hard-boiled days of yore vanish like magic, says article on life of lumberjack by DeWitt Harry.

Other Features

Rose Festival to Be Best Ever

Plans for Portland's flower fete related in article illustrated with photos of Queen Harriet and her ladies in waiting.

Mother's Day to Be Observed

Plans of city churches for celebration include special music and decorations.

Bellingham Festival Attracts Visitors

One hundred decorated floats and 50 automobiles compete in tulip fete.

Vancouver Elks Entertain by Radio

All the latest news in the world of wireless related in the regular Sunday radio department.

New Sport Togs for the Summer

The fashion department gives the latest mode from New York and Paris on the question of dress.

Baseball and Business News

Features for all the family from the box scores of the big games to the stock and bond quotations and from society and women's clubs to movie gossip are to be found in The Sunday Oregonian, the paper for the whole family.

All the News of All the World Found in The Sunday Oregonian.

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