

A DAY IN THE PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

MOST POPULAR RESORT IN PORTLAND WHEN THE SUN SHINES WARM

A MORE thoroughly popular institution than the Portland Public baths, in the present warm season, would be hard to find. Those who reap the greatest benefit from them are the boys, several hundreds and some times thousands of whom make use of them daily, and their parents are relieved from anxiety over the life of their children and are free from fear of drowning. Boys, men, women and girls all have their time in the bath-house, and there are days when both sexes may come together, and at no time is the patronage slack. Those who have the movement in hand are Edward Holman, president; L. Samuel, vice-president; Julius Meier, secretary, and Robert Livingston, treasurer. They have had a hard time to get the bath-house ready for the public, but they feel that the way it has been received is ample compensation for their trouble.

W. L. Murray and his wife have the bath-house in charge, with Ed Wertheimer as their assistant. They are eager to please their patrons, and every one speaks well of the courtesies received. Mr. Murray gives his whole time to teaching the patrons to swim, and to preventing accidents, and is a very able man in his place. In several instances has his quick and able work prevented venturesome youths from drowning. As a swimming teacher he has great success. Often boys come who are afraid to go into the water, and before the day is over they are able to swim across the tank without help. There are many people who learn to swim in this way who would probably never be able to swim, and the great advantage of being a good swimmer is illustrated nearly every day by the example of some unfortunate person who has lost his life on account of neglecting this important accomplishment. Mr. Murray estimates that at least 100 boys have learned to swim since the swimming tank was opened, and a very great number who could but paddle a little have become good swimmers.

In order thoroughly to appreciate the public baths and to realize how many people they accommodate it would be necessary to spend a day in the bath-house. Last Thursday was a typical day—warm, but not so hot as to draw the great crowds of some of the hotter days—an average day of the week, when the boys were given their morning and afternoon turn, and the girls and women their evenings in the tank.

The bath was opened at 9 o'clock, and at this early hour there were already some 40 or 50 boys waiting to be let in. As soon as the gates were opened they commenced to swarm into the house and prepare for their plunge. Mr. Murray was at his post, ever ready to correct the boys in their methods of swimming and to assist those to learn who had not already passed that stage. The crowd continued to grow until about noon, when the gong sounded for the final plunge. There were nearly 200 boys in all in the tank at once, and it would not seem that a great number more could swim in the place. In the afternoon, however, it was demonstrated that several times this number could swim in the tank, and do some very good swimming at that.

The gates do not open in the afternoon until 1:30, but before 1 o'clock the boys had begun to assemble about the approach, awaiting the time that they would be let in. At 1:30 Mr. Murray appeared at the gate, and, opening it just enough to let one in at a time, and bracing himself for the rush, said, "Come on, boys." The bath is free to those who have their own suits and towels, but a fee of 5 cents is charged those who need these equipments. At the gate each boy is made to show his tickets or his 5 cents before he is admitted, in order to avoid any confusion after they are inside. In the afternoon there were about 500 or 600 boys in the tank, and it was an interesting sight to watch them. Their teacher was around among them, giving to each his share of attention. One boy would be noticed who could nearly swim, but who was too timid to venture out into the deep water. "Come here, my boy," Mr. Murray would call out, and, picking up a long pole which he has there for the purpose, would take the boy out into the deep water and



MID-AFTERNOON SCENE AT THE FREE SWIMMING BATHS.

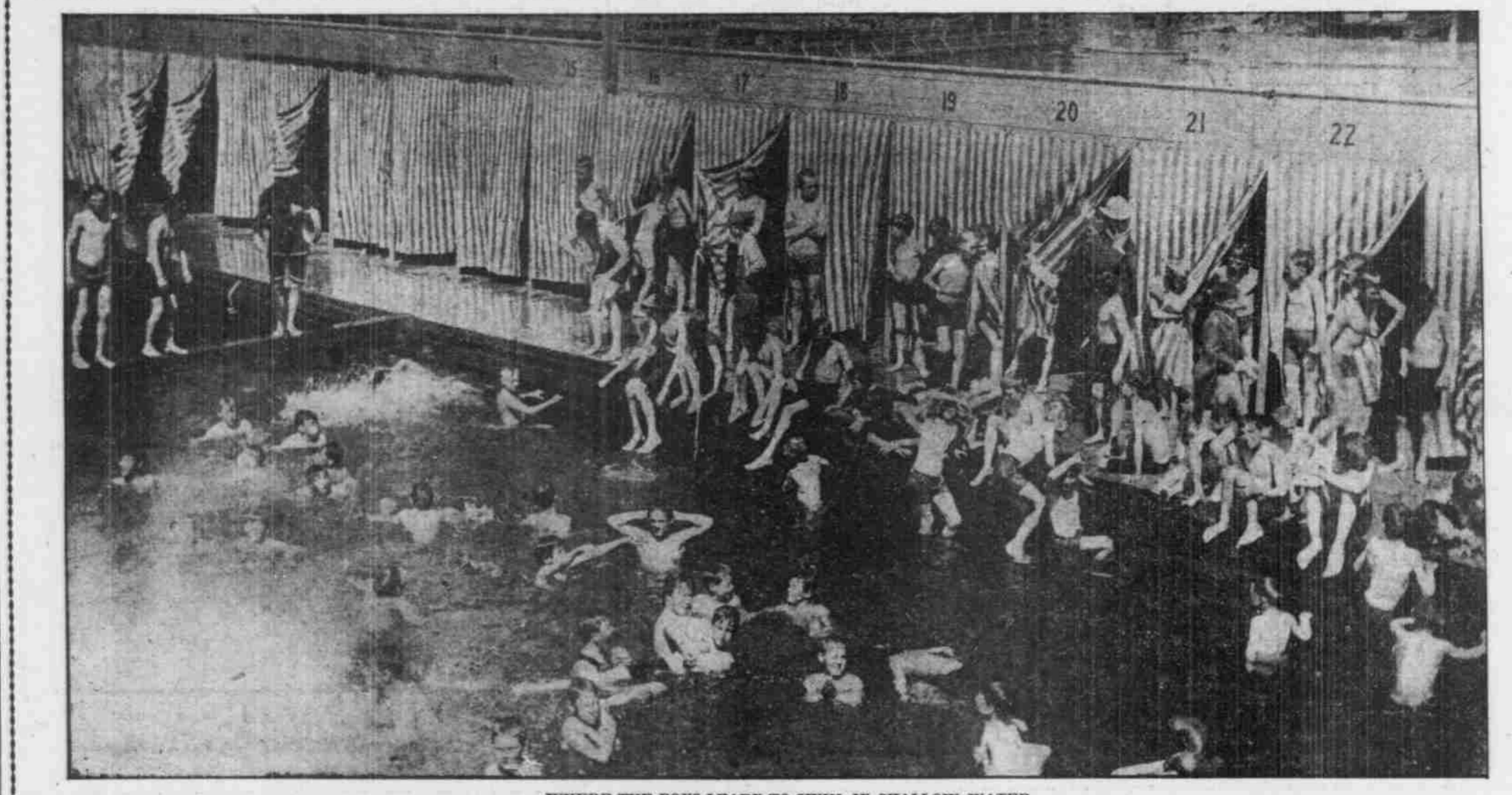
hold the pole ready where the boy could reach it if he needed it, and would tell him to try to swim across the tank. In nearly every case this assurance that he

would not sink was all that the boy needed, and within a short time he would be swimming about as bravely as any. Shortly before the close of the boys'

period the necessity of a man being allowed on guard was demonstrated. One bold youngster, who overestimated his swimming powers, had ventured beyond

his depth and was not able to keep himself afloat. He went down and began to struggle. Quick as a flash the instructor saw him, and, slipping off his shoes, which

were loose for the purpose, plunged in beside him and brought him to the shore. When asked if such incidents as this were of frequent occurrence, he replied: "I



WHERE THE BOYS LEARN TO SWIM IN SHALLOW WATER.

have had several occasions to jump in after poor swimmers since I have been here, and I always hold myself in readiness for such occurrences. Only the other day I had to jump in after a full-grown man, and was just in time to save him from drowning. There is no danger, however, for I can always get in before they are in any danger other than giving them a little fright."

A trolley has been stretched across the tank, and with a belt around the boy's waist he is instructed as to the proper strokes to take, and is soon taught to swim. Another useful device that is much used here, and which the instructor says is of great value in teaching them to swim, are the water wings. These are two air sacks that are attached by a belt which goes across the swimmer's breast, and with these he can float about and have no fear of sinking.

At 3:30 the boys were sent out, and the rest of the afternoon was given up to the women. They seemed to take great interest in the sport. At least 400 women and girls were in the tank at one time, and a great many more than that made use of the bath during the afternoon. The girls are more venturesome than the boys, and Mr. Murray was kept on his mettle preventing them from getting in too deep water. Among the women there are but very few who can swim, but they seem eager to learn, and it is thought that there will soon be many who can swim as well as the boys.

When asked regarding the value of such a swimming tank in the city Mr. Murray said: "The value cannot be overestimated. There are many who can swim, but who have such a very poor form that they would never be good swimmers unless they were corrected. There are also a large number who cannot swim. I think that I have taught at least 100 to swim since I have been here. We give the boys a chance every morning and afternoon, so that there is no need for them going in the river, and their parents are spared the worry over their being in danger."

Edward Holman, president of the Board of Directors, said: "Portland has needed a free swimming bath for a long time, and this one is proving to be a thorough success. The only trouble is that it is not big enough. We will make arrangements to add to it, however, and next year will have twice as much room. The plan of having a time when the men and women can go together was tried for the first time Wednesday night, and will be a thorough success."

The bath-house is free for the use of the public at all times, except when the men and women are allowed to go together, and at those times an admission of 25 cents is charged. To the boys who have not their own towels and tight 5 cent rent is charged, and they are furnished with them. Men are charged 10 cents for tight and towels, and when a complete bathing suit is needed the price is 25 cents. The following time-card is now in use:

Boys—Week days, 9 to 12 A. M. and 1:30 to 3:30 P. M.; Sundays, 9 to 12 A. M.
Men—Saturdays, 7 to 8:30 P. M.; Sundays, 2 to 5 P. M.
Women—Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 P. M.
Women and girls—Mondays and Thursdays, 2:30 to 6 P. M.
Men and women—Wednesdays, 7 to 8:30 P. M.; 25 cents.

A general admission fee of 25 cents charged men on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 3:30 to 6 P. M.; Monday, Thursdays and Fridays from 7 to 8:30 P. M.

For several days during the last week the swimming suits gave out, so large was the attendance at the baths, and many who came to enjoy themselves for an hour or so were forced to forego their anticipated pleasure. After much work on the part of the directors, plenty of new suits were secured, so that all that come can be accommodated with the proper wearing apparel, and Mr. Holman wants it distinctly understood that all will be provided for. Several boys have been arrested for bathing in the river without suits, with the result that that dangerous practice has been nearly suppressed, most of the boys now attending the baths.

MR. DOOLEY'S LETTER

"**W**HAT'S goin' on this week in th' pa-apers?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"Everything," said Mr. Dooley. "It's been a turblynt week. I can hardly sleep in th' night thinkin' in th' dolla's iv people. Th' Campinly in at Venice has fallen down. 'Twas built in 1694 be th' Bezan-tin an' raystored in 1802 be th' Dogs. It fell down because th' foundations was weak, because th' wind blew, because th' beautiful figure iv th' golden angel on top iv it was 15 feet high. It will be rebuilt or maybe not. Th' King iv Italy has given 23,000,000,000 liars to put it up again an' s'ivral ladins' American architects have offered to do th' job, makin' an office buildin' iv it. Th' Campinly was iv th' proudest monyments iv Italy an' was used as a bell-tower at times, an' at other times as a granary where anny 'carnal an' compare it with th' gran' 'carnal an' compare it with th' Erie, th' Panama an' th' ch'inalage iv the same name.

"Th' King iv England is better. He's off in his yacht. So ar-re Laking, Treves Smith, Barlow, Jones, Casey, Lister, thank Hlven! A hard life is science. He will go on with th' cavarnation as soon as th' basting threads is taken out. Th' Hon'rabl Joseph Choate is raycoverin' more slowly. He still sobs occa'nally in his sleep an' has ordered all th' under-servants to have their vermiform appendices rayremoved as a token o' sympathy fr th' stricken nation. Th' Hon'rabl Whitehall Reid is havin' a cast iv his knee breeches made which will be exhibited in New York durin' th' comin' Winter.

"Me frind J. Pierpont Morgan has been takin' dinner with th' Impor William. It is understood he will present him to th' Methropolytan Museum iv Art. There are said to be worse there.

"Lord Salisbury has thrup up his job. Lord Salisbury was iv th' grandest an' most successful statesmen iv modern times. He never did anything. He succeeded be his nevew, Mlster Balfour, if I got th' name right, who has done less. It is expected that Mlster Balfour will have a good time. On rayceivin' in th' congratulatory iv his colleague, Mlster Chamberlain, he bought himself a rayveller an' took out a policy on his life.

up to tell him there was a burglar in th' house. Th' foolish woman. They're always burglars in th' house. That's what burglars are for, an' houses. Instead iv argyin' th' plint in a loud voice, coughin' an' givin' th' burglar a chance to have with dignity, this man got up an' was kilt. Now th' pa-apers with th' assistance iv th' officers iv th' law has discovered that th' lady took a boat ride with a gentleman frind in th' Summer iv sixty-two, that she was quarreled with her husband about th' price iv a hat, that iv her lower teeth is plugged, that she wears a switch an' that she weeps when she sees her childer. They're a moral in this. It's ayether don't make a man up out iv a sound sleep, or don't get iv bed till ye see to, or don't bother a burglar when ye see he's busy, or kill th' iditor. I don't know which it is.

"William Jennings Bryan is readin' me frind Grover Cleveland out iv th' party. He's usin' th' Commoner to read him out. That's a sure way.

"Mary McLane has been in town. I didn't see her, she place not bein' a ray-sort fr th' young an' yearnin' an' especially me duckin' all lthry ladies iv whatever sex. Mary McLane is th' author iv a book called 'Whin I Am Older I'll Know Better.' Ye ought to read it, Hlnessy.

"Th' Newport season is opened with gr-rat gavyet, an' th' aim iv rayturnin' husbands is much more sure.

"Gin'ral Bragg, fr'm up in Wisconsin, has been gettin' into trouble with our haughty allies, th' Cublans, he writin' home to his wife that ye might as well try to make a whistle out iv a pig's tail as a dactin man out iv a Cuban. Gin'ral Bragg will be bounced, an' he ought to be. He don't belong in pollytics. His place is iditor iv a losin' newspaper.

"Gov'nor Taft has been in Rome showin' in th' world how successful, straight-forward, downright, outspoken, manly, frank, in ounces to th' pound American business dealings can be again' th' worn-out di-plomacy iv th' papal court. Whin last heard fr'm, this astoot an' able man, backed up by th' advice iv Ellhoo Root iv York State, was makin' his way tow'rd Manila on foot an' s'ivral members iv th' college iv cardinals was heard to regret that American statesmen were so thin

they couldn't find anything to fit thim in his trunk.

"Cholera is ragin' in th' Ph'lippeens vice Gin'ral Jake Smith, raymoved.

"Th' stock market is boomin' an' business has become so dull elsewhere that some iv th' best-known outside operators ar're obliged to increase th' depth iv th' gold coastin' on th' brick to nearly an inch.

"Th' capital iv th' nation has raymoved to Eyesther Bay, a city on th' north shore iv Long Island, with a population iv three milliyon clams, an' a number iv enosquitos with planoia attachments an' steel rama. There day be day th' head iv th' Nation thansacts th' Nation's business as follows: 4 A. M., a plunge into th' salt sea; at 5 A. M. a swim iv twenty miles; 6 A. M., horseback ride, th' President instructin' his two sons, aged 3 an' 4 raypectively, to jump th' first Methodist Church without knockin' off th' shingles; 6 A. M., wrestles with a thrafned grizzly bear; seven A. M., breakfast; 8 A. M., Indian clubs; 9 A. M., boxes with Sharkey; 10 A. M., bates th' tennis champion; 11 A. M., rayceives a band iv Rough Riders an' personally supervises th' standin' iv th' ambulance to look after th' injured in th' village; noon, dinner with Sharkey, Oscar Featherstone, th' champion roller-skater iv Harvard, '98, Professor McGue, th' archyologist, Lord Dum de Dum, Mike Kehoe, Immanuel Kant Gumbo, th' navyro poet, Horrible Hank th' bad lande scout, Sinitor Lodge, Lucy Emerson Tick, th' writer on female suffrage; 4:30 in-the-eye, th' chief iv th' Ogallas; Gin'ral Powell Clayton, th' Mexican mine expert; four Rough Riders with their spurs on, th' Ambassador iv France an' th' Cinqvoasi family, juglers. Th' conversation we learn fr'm iv th' guests who's our sportin' editor was, jilined in be th' President an' dealt with art, boxin', lithrachoor, horse-breakin', science, shootin', pollytics, how to kill a mountain line, di-plomacy, hobblin', poetry, th' pivot blow, rayform, an' th' campaign in Cuba. Whin our rayporter was driven off th' premises be was iv th' Rough Riders, th' head iv th' Nation was tacin' Lord Dum de Dum an' Sirety Hay how to do a handspring an' th' other guests was scattered about th' lawn, boxin' rasslin', swingin' on th' thra-pese, ridin' th' buckin' bronco an' shootin' in th' negro pote fr th' dhrinks-in

short, enjyin' an' ideel day in th' counthry.

"An' that's all th' news," said Mr. Dooley. "There ye ar-re jus' as if ye cud read. That's all that's happened. Ain't I good newspaper? Not a dull line in me. Slnid in ye'er small ads."

"Sure, all that's no news," said Mr. Hennessy discontentedly. "Hain't there anything happened? Hain't anny wan been—been kilt?"

"There ye ar-re," said Mr. Dooley. "Be news ye mane misfortune. I suppose nev'er ivry wan does. What's wan man's news is another man's troubles. In these hot days I'd like to see a pa-aper with maxthin' in it but affectionate wives an' loyal husbands an' prosp'rous, smillin' people an' money in th' bank an' th' three day. That's what I'm lookin' fr in th' hot weather."

"Th' newspapers have got to print what happens," said Mr. Hennessy.

"No," said Mr. Dooley. "they've got to print what's different. Whinver they print to put headlines on happiness, content, varchue an' charity, I'll know things is goin' as wrong with this country as I think they ar-re ivry naytional campaign."

I Remember, I Remember.

I remember, I remember,
The house where I was born,
The little window where the sun
Came peepin' in at morn;
I never came a wink too soon,
I've brought too long a day,
But now, I often wish the night
Had borne my breath away.

I remember, I remember,
The roses red and white,
The violets and the lily-cups,
Those flowers made of light;
The lilacs where the robin built,
And where my brother set
The laburnum on his birthday—
The tree is living yet!

I remember, I remember,
Where I was used to swing,
And thought the air must rush as fresh
To swallows on the wing;
My spirit flew in feathers then,
And where my brother set
The fever of my brow.

I remember, I remember,
The fir trees dark and high;
I used to think their slender tops
Were close against the sky;
It was childish ignorance,
But now I'm farther off from heaven
Than when I was a boy.

—Thomas Hood.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LETTERS asking for general information will be answered in these columns. They should be written on one side of the paper, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, however. All letters without the name of the writer go to the waste-basket.

Bridges at Portland.
Please give the dates of completion of the bridges spanning the Willamette River in Portland.

The Morrison-street bridge was the first across the Willamette River in Portland, and it was first opened for traffic April 13, 1852. The steel bridge of the O. R. & N. Co. was opened for railroad traffic late in 1858, but it was several months after that that the approaches to the upper story were complete for use. The Madison-street bridge was completed early in the year 1861, and the Burnside-street bridge was first opened for public traffic July 4, 1864. The only one of these bridges built by public funds is the Burnside-street bridge. The Morrison and Madison-street bridges were built by private corporations and acquired by the city through the Bridge Commission, the latter in 1861 and the former in 1863, and both were subsequently forced on the county. The steel bridge is still owned by the railroad company, but the upper deck is leased to the county. Besides the bridges the only way of crossing the river is by means of the Albana ferry, which is owned and operated by Multnomah County.

Qualification of School Directors.
The residents of School District No. 49 would like to know whether a non-taxpayer is qualified to act as School Director.

That depends. In a school district of the third class it is not required of a Director that he should be a taxpayer. In a district of the first or second class the Directors must be taxpayers. As to whether a Director elected in a third-class district, who is not a taxpayer, may serve out his term though it run into a period when the district shall have become second class, there has been no decision in this state.

Revenue Stamps on Deeds.
A sells B land. B files deed without revenue stamps being affixed. Is the title invalidated, and which is liable to a fine, the deed being signed in June, 1902?

A deed executed since March, 1891, need not bear any revenue stamp unless the consideration exceeded \$2500. If executed and delivered last June and the consideration was more than \$2500, internal revenue stamp is required, without which it is not good evidence of title. There is no

direct fine imposed, but, of course, it is to the interest of the grantee to have an instrument that is legal evidence of title, as he is the loser through any imperfection in the deed through any revenue stamps can be affixed any time before the instrument is offered for record. If recorded without stamps the omission can be remedied by application to the Collector of Internal Revenue within a year after recording.

The Transvaal.
I desire information in regard to the Transvaal and Orange Free State, in South Africa.

1. What are the conditions for cattle-raising? Is it a good country in matter of range?
2. Can a person homestead land the same as in this country? If so, how much can a person file upon?
If the answers to these questions are too lengthy could you give me the address of some official, British or otherwise, or some responsible party where I could get information in regard to the above.

The Transvaal.
The Transvaal is said to be a good grazing country, with conditions favorable for livestock industry.

2. There is no homestead law applicable to the Transvaal. If any inducements to settlement are offered they should be ascertained by application to Secretary Joseph Chamberlain, British Colonial Office, London, England.

June, '94 Flood.
Was the flood at its height during the thunder and lightning storm of 1894. Please give dates.

The thunder storm referred to occurred on June 2. The river on that day stood at 21.1 feet. The river reached its highest stage, 23 feet, on June 7, 1894.

When Congress Was Democratic.
How many times have the House and Senate of the United States been Democratic since 1860, and what years? A. R.

The House of Representatives was Democratic in 1875-77, 1877-79, 1879-81, 1883-85, 1885-87, 1887-89, 1891-93, and 1893-95. The Senate was Democratic in 1852-61, 1877-79, 1879-81, 1881-83 and 1893-95.

Medford, South and West.
What town is represented in the excellent cut of Grand Lake, published in last Sunday's Oregonian, and how does the cut "face"?

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