

FIRST RABBIT HAT IS MR. SINNOTT'S

Maker Testing Western Pelt Promises Headgear From Samples Offered.

PROCESS IS DESCRIBED

Smithsonian Institution in Bulletin Just Issued Tells of Method of Manufacture That Will Be Employed With New Fur.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Jan. 29.—Within a month Representative Sinnett, of Oregon, expects to be wearing a fine felt hat made largely from the fur of Oregon jackrabbits.

Through Representatives Edmonds, of Pennsylvania, the consignment of Oregon jackrabbit pelts received by Mr. Sinnett has been turned over to a Philadelphia factory, which manufactures high-grade felt hats. With the pelts went Mr. Sinnett's head measurement.

The manufacturer has written Mr. Sinnett acknowledging the fur, saying they will be thoroughly tested and promising him the first hat made from them. If the Oregon jackrabbit fur proves suitable for hat manufacture, Mr. Sinnett is prepared to place the manufacture in touch with various of his constituents who will find a market for a product they have heretofore regarded as worthless.

Bulletin Describes Manufacture. By coincidence, while Mr. Sinnett is having experiments made with Oregon jackrabbit fur, the Smithsonian Institution has published a bulletin describing the process by which felt hats are made. The story is especially timely in Oregon, and is as follows:

"In the manufacture of one of the most popular kinds of American hats the fur of North American beaver, South American nutria, Saxony hare and English and Scotch coney are used. When the pelts of these animals are received at the factory they are first washed with white oil soap, after which the long, coarse hairs are removed since they would tend to make the felt too rough.

"The skins are then treated with nitrate of mercury, a process known as 'scurrying' which gives the fur its 'felting properties,' making it knit together when hot water and pressure are applied.

Skins and Fur Separated. "The skins are then brushed by a machine which removes all the dust and other foreign substances.

"Having been brushed the skin next goes to a cutting machine, where it is being shaved off. From this machine the fur is carried away on a belt or apron, on which it lies complete, just as it was in the pelt and it is hard to realize that the skin below has actually been removed.

"This is to facilitate the work of the sorters, who select from the belt as it passes them, just the parts desired for various grades of hats. The sorting is done by color and quality, each sorter selecting a different part, such as the side, belly or back, suitable for a particular grade of hat.

Seasoning Process Is Given. "Although now cleaned, scurried, and sorted, the fur is by no means ready for use; it has to be seasoned, just like lumber, and it is estimated that the Oregonian manufacturers have \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000 worth of fur seasoning in storage.

"When the fur is properly seasoned, it is mixed in certain proportions to produce the desired texture and color and from here on the work is not done mechanically but by hand, being made up a question of art and skill. After various portions of different kinds of fur have been selected, the actual mixing is done by a machine which blows them into a certain position until the blending is perfectly even.

"A certain amount of fur is then weighed out, according to the weight of the hat to be made, and blown upon a copper cone perforated with many thousand tiny holes, so that it looks like a sieve.

Material Sticks to Cone. "The cone is about three feet in height and as wide at the base. An exhaust fan operates inside and below the cone so that the air passes through the openings, but the fine particles of fur stick and cover the whole surface.

"The cone holding the film of fur is enclosed in a snugly fitting jacket and lowered into a vat of boiling water. This develops the felting properties of the fur, the particles of which mat and lock together, enabling the thin delicate film of wet fur to be lifted from the cone.

"The resulting cone of fur is a very delicate embryo hat, except as to size, in that respect it might be the hat for a giant. A bundle of about 12 of these large forms is rolled in a wet condition until the fibres knit together slightly, giving the hats hardness and strength.

Hot Water Treatment Used. "Then they are put into a sizzling kettle, where they are shrunk in hot water, beaten, and manipulated until they are between 10 and 14 inches in diameter. Each hat is then stretched, pulled and blocked with the aid of hot water until it takes the form of a regular hat with crown and brim.

"If the hat is to be a soft one, it has only to be placed on a block and finished with fine sand paper, which gives it a velvety appearance. The outside band and the sweat-band are then added, after which the brim is curled.

"Stiff hats, or derbys, are saturated with a solution of shellac before they are blocked. They are then put into an oven until they become pliable, when they are blocked. The shellac gives pressure on a mould which shapes and curls them at one operation. Following which they are lined and trimmed."

Y. W. C. A. EVENTS PLANNED

Corvallis Organization Preparing to Take Part in Semi-Centennial.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Jan. 29.—(Special.)—The Young Women's Christian Association at the Oregon Agricultural College is preparing extensive programmes for events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the organization of the Y. W. C. A.

The celebration will be held next month in connection with a world-wide commemoration of the anniversary. Plans for a pageant in which 170 women will be participants are being completed. Miss Alberta Cavendar, of Portland, is chairman of a committee of 28 to represent the various districts of the organization.



DEMOLISHED CRIBS SHOWN IN FOREGROUND.

BRIDGE LOSS FACED

Builders Unable to Protect Parts Exposed.

PIER CRIBBING DISPLACED

Effort to Drive Protecting Piles Falls and If Cofferdams Are Moved by Breaking Ice Jams Work Must Be Done Over.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 29.—(Special.)—Ice in the Columbia River, formed during the last few days, may postpone the final completion of the bridge, but to what extent cannot be estimated.

The Pacific Bridge Company probably will pay several thousand dollars on account of the storm in time lost, damage to the bridge, and the cost of bringing the big pile driver from the Oregon side to the middle of the river today and drive piling above the partially completed piers and out in booms to shear off the big fields of floating ice, but the ice was thicker and is growing worse, so the piling could not be driven.

The crib for Pier No. 2 has been partially overturned in the river and pushed down stream by the action of the ice. The hole for this crib, which weighs 100 tons, has been dug, and if piling can be driven in the river and a line attached, it is believed the crib can be pulled back into place.

The dredger Titan yesterday attempted to work around Pier No. 2, but was compelled to stop by the heavy ice. It is a yet so serious damage has been done to the bridge work or any of the piers in process of construction, but the greatest danger will be when the ice breaks higher up, and it is feared the cofferdams, which are on top of three of the piers, to keep them dry inside so that men can work there, may be displaced. If this should happen they could not be replaced, and that portion of the pier, now built, would have to be destroyed to make place for a new pier.

The weather does not make so much difference to Porter Bros. and McCready & Willard, who are assembling the spans, as their work is on shore, but the weather has been too cold for the men to work on top of the spans that are now being assembled. It is thought, however, that four spans will be completed ready to be floated out the latter part of February.

And the residents of Vancouver are saying "Next year we won't care whether the ferry runs or not."

PROFESSIONAL LINE DRAWN

J. G. Anderson Withdraws From Trade to Save Amateur Standing.

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"This adjustment is most satisfactory," as it will keep Anderson in the amateur ranks.

LUMBER MANAGER QUILTS

Simpson Company Loses A. K. Arkley, Who Leaves for New Post.

NORTH BEND, Or., Jan. 29.—(Special.)—The resignation of A. K. Arkley, for nine months manager of the Simpson Lumber Company, was accepted today, to take effect at once, C. S. Winsor, of North Bend, being installed in his place as temporary manager.

LODGES INSTALL OFFICERS

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EUGENICS IS ON LIST

Big Week for Farmers Opens at La Grande Tomorrow.

RANGE OF SUBJECTS WIDE

Good Roads Addresses and Demonstrations Friday Expected to Attract Largest Gathering, as Subject Is Pertinent.

LA GRANDE, Or., Jan. 29.—(Special.)—Farmers, homemakers, women's clubs and mothers with problems of eugenics and home management to be solved will be in La Grande Monday for the opening of the farmers' and homemakers' week which is to be conducted by Oregon Agricultural College and Government agents and experts.

The first day will be devoted primarily to registration, but throughout the week several events of special interest are announced. On the same day a eugenics test will be conducted for babies of Eastern Oregon. Mrs. A. Bayly, of Portland, will spend three days here at the week-end, at which time she will bring to La Grande a number of babies of Eastern Oregon. Mrs. A. Bayly, of Portland, will spend three days here at the week-end, at which time she will bring to La Grande a number of babies of Eastern Oregon.

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WRECK ESCAPE NARRATED

Girl Recalls How First Slide Turned Car Over and Next Buried Her.

CASHMERE, Wash., Jan. 29.—(Special.)—Howard Murdock left Thursday for Bellingham to bring home his sister, Miss Fern Murdock, who had a thrilling experience in the train wreck last Saturday morning at Cores. Miss Murdock suffered seven lacerations, an artery being cut in her arm. She will be unable to go on with her studies on account of the nervous shock.

In her description of her miraculous escape she tells of the slide striking the car, overturning and crushing it in. At this stage of the disaster Miss Murdock broke through the double window fell into a hollow place and rolled down the embankment. Another slide following the first one completely buried her, but not so deep but what she worked her way out.

GO-TO-CHURCH MOVE ON

Kelso Denominations Unite to Get Big Congregations in February.

KELSO, Wash., Jan. 29.—All the churches of Kelso have united in a "Go-to-Church" campaign to run during February. During the month all these organizations will co-operate for concerted church-going by members and non-members. The best of feeling exists among the various denominations in this place, and the campaign is expected to secure good results.

Tomorrow night a union service of the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Christian churches will be held in the Presbyterian Church with the pastors of all four churches participating and telling "why we should go to church." Preceding the church meeting the young people's societies of the four churches will hold a union meeting at the Presbyterian Church.

WILL R. KING VISITS HOME

Reclamation Service Counsel Comes Back on Private Business.

ONTARIO, Or., Jan. 29.—(Special.)—Will R. King, chief counsel of the Reclamation Service, is visiting friends in Ontario, his former home.

He arrived on an early morning train today, and went up to Vale to attend to private business matters. He returned this evening and has an appointment with a committee of the Ontario Commercial Club. He will be here two or three days.

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IDAHO DEMOCRATS DON'T KNOW WHERE GOVERNOR STANDS.
Captain Davis Attacks Newspapers.
Candidacy of Guy Martin, Progressive, Not Opposed.

ROSEBURG MAN CANDIDATE
Land Office Receiver Seeks to Be Democratic Delegate.
ROSEBURG, Or., Jan. 29.—(Special.)—R. R. Turner, receiver of the local United States Land Office, today announced that he would be a candidate for delegate to the Democratic National Convention to be held at St. Louis, in June. Mr. Turner is a native of Virginia, and was educated at Washington and Lee University at Lexington.

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300 Pairs of Ladies' Gun Metal and Patent Vamp Button and Lace Shoes, with gray and fawn cloth tops, to clean up, at a pair... **\$2.95**
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