

The Oregonian

Entered at Portland (Oregon) Postoffice as second-class matter. Subscription rates: Daily, Sunday included, one year \$5.00...

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JAN. 13, 1917.

GUIDING YOUTHFUL READERS.

Actual experience of the librarian of the Chicago Public Library shows how extensive are the possibilities of wise guidance of the reading taste of the young.

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The experiment showed, as will appear from a list of books, each of which was read by a number of boys, that adventure universally appeals to youth.

Other books on the list bear out the theory that it is adventure the boys are after. "With Kit Carson in the Rockies," "The Lone Star Ranger" and "The Wild West" were all toward the top.

It is becoming quite clearly a duty in the selection of reading for youth to recognize certain well-established principles, chief of which is the one demonstrated by the Chicago experiment.

The responsibility resting upon the librarian who undertakes a work of this kind is made plain by the experience to which reference has been made.

and "Sir Nigel." It was possible to "set a fashion" in reading in that circle and to attain a really valuable result.

MEREELY ACADEMIC DISCUSSION.

In these topsy-turvy times one may easily lose his bearings, so it may be regarded as perfectly proper to rise to a question of personal privilege as they would say the Legislature.

What? A pledge, an ante-election pledge, in these topsy-turvy times of political consecration to lofty ideals of personal and official conduct? Can such things be done?

But of course we are discussing generalities. It would enlighten us greatly if our neighbor, the Telegram, would descend to details.

STRANGER THAN FICTION.

A contemporary quotes a Senator at Salem as saying that the stenographer employed by the president of the Senate two years ago drew extra pay from the state for taking care of the president's baby while he and his wife attended a ball.

STOOPING SHOULDERS.

The fact that American physical standards have been declining for several decades has been generally recognized and remedies innumerable have been presented by the physiologists.

The picture of a few trim athletes in some struggle watched by thousands of effete youths on the sidelines is incidentally interesting. The value to the Nation of getting the men from the sidelines into the game has been urged by educators the country over.

Some recent statistics on American physical standards emphasize the necessity of doing something. Of the cadets selected for West Point—and they represent the physical best of the land—only one per cent have to be eliminated for physical unfitness for the profession of arms.

soon as the American people come to see universal training in the true light we shall have universal training.

MR. ROCKEFELLER GIVES A PARK.

In the further effort to divest himself of some of the millions that he cannot take with him when he dies, John D. Rockefeller has given to the city of New York land for a park of fifty-seven acres at the upper end of Manhattan Island.

The new park, however, is more than ordinarily important because it gives to public use a veritable Acropolis, and forever takes from private ownership one of the sites in all the great city more suitable for a great public building, such, for example, as a National Academy of Design.

The fact is, however, that a vast proportion of the benighted residents of Gotham do not know what to do with outdoor advantages when they have them.

The chief interest in the Louisiana decision lies in the summary and effect of the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States and several of the minor Federal courts in the familiar case of Theodore Roosevelt against the owners of the board of the Inland Empire.

THE MOST IMPUDENT RAID OF ALL.

The most audacious attempt to loot the National Treasury for private profit is the flood reclamation bill which the Southerners in control of Congress have forced through the House and have caused to be reported favorably to the Senate.

It would lead to the anomalous proposition that many separate offenses might be committed in the same jurisdiction, by what Daniel D. Moore called "the use of the same instrument."

It is a far cry from the old legal principle, fostered by tyrants in the days when the growing power of the State was the occasion for alarm of the enemies of freedom, that the "greater the truth the greater the service to the public, if it be in proper cause and from proper motives."

THE ELUSIVE GEORGE SHAW.

George Bernard Shaw, he of the crimson whiskers and unkind way of saying things about everyone and everything, has announced that he will keep his name out of its passport application on the golden shores of America.

funds for improving their trafficless roads or to drain their flooded lands.

The West has every reason for supporting the Newlands plan and for breaking away from the political alliance which the South endeavors to use in carrying out its raid.

It is in carrying out its raid, the West will break away from the Southern pork grabbers and will get behind Mr. Newlands, it may obtain for itself the great benefits of his policy and obtain for the South all that that section is entitled to, but no more.

MULTIPLIABLE LABEL.

The New York Times reports the termination of a highly illuminating libel case in the state of Louisiana.

The basis of the multiplied proceedings was doubtless the forty separate copies of the newspaper were regularly circulated in the little town, and that publication in each paper constituted a separate offense.

WHERE HAVE THEY BEEN?

In view of the published record, it is difficult to fathom the petulance of President Baker, of the Anti-Saloon League, over The Oregonian's wholly impersonal reference to advocates of search and seizure in prohibition legislation.

DISAPPROVAL OF MINISTER VOPICKA.

German action in disapproving the presence of our Minister, Vopicka, as the representative of the United States in Roumania, was to have been expected in view of two facts.

The kind of red tape that prevents sending a message to the German army officers lost in the desert is vexing, one would think, even to a bureau chief himself.

THE AMSTERDAM HANDELSBLAD FINDS.

The Amsterdam Handelsblad finds that the notes on both sides have serious faults, thus qualifying in every sense as a real neutral.

on believing he is a regular devil in his own home town, where, by the way, he probably attracts far less attention than a limping doughboy from the trenches of Planiers.

It is given to few men to rise so completely above the promptings of vanity. It has been preached since Adam that familiarity breeds contempt, that no man can be a hero to his valet.

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THE PROPOSAL FOR FEDERAL CONTROL.

The proposal for Federal control of all railroads does not include abolition of state commissions, as Public Utility Commissioner Corey seems to suppose.

It is considered unquestionable at the office of the Attorney-General that the proposed act will contain a provision making it unlawful for anyone to have liquor in his possession.

THE RUSSIAN CRUISER.

A \$4,000,000 cruiser was sent to pull a stranded mosquito-boat off a dangerous beach. It was a proper cruiser in ashore, for a tug. Now the cruiser is ashore, wrecked.

THE BONE-DRY BILL.

The bone-dry bill is not to be put through with unseemly haste, but it is inevitable, and it is inevitable that some unfortunate soul who waited long to send for that final shipment.

The fact that a man can even mention peace in the belligerent countries is in the present war without honor, and we are nearer to it than we were two years and a half ago.

THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

The Pennsylvania Legislature has been asked to repeal a thousand useless laws. Why limit the number?

belligerents. In fighting with Germany and Austria they are taking the side of a force they long have resisted, and as against Russia they are in the position of fighting their own racial kin.

It is therefore only natural, considering all the circumstances of the case, that Mr. Vopicka should find himself in a different situation, now that the conquest of Roumania by the central powers has been so nearly accomplished.

Formation of a "working combination" between the birds and the children of the country is asserted by the secretary of the Audubon Society to have resulted in a happy result.

THE BILLS.

What a world of legislation all the lengthy session fills! As the birds sprinkle, sprinkle from a thousand sources light.

One of the most surprising achievements of the motion-picture men in recent months has been adaptation of the "movie" camera to the work of the microscopist, as a result of which the New York Zoological Society recently was able to exhibit at its annual meeting a series of motion pictures of minute marine and freshwater life.

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MARCHING SONG OF THE SOLENS.

(To be sung while marching to victory against the Demon Rum.) Bone-dry, bone-dry's what the voter's askin' for.

Cleams Through the Mist

By Deana Collins. The harp—that-ohce-through—Tara's—halls. Nor Homer's bloom'n' lyre, Are what the situation calls.

Lycurguses and Solons wise, Napoleonic, great, In fact set now arise And they do legislate.

See the basketful of bills— Senate bills! What a world of legislation all the lengthy session fills!

And the people—ah, the people, Neatly the Capitoline steeple On the job, For the hobby that they lobby, Till with accents weak and sobby, While the teardrops large and gobby Downward slob.

Get plumb sick, sick, sick, Of the bills that come so quick, Till we're 'most too daaed to kick At ever; 'Till they break our hours of leisure Saying, "Introduce this measure With the rest of all your bills; Of your bills, bills, bills, bills, Bills, bills, bills; Slip this little thing of mine by in your bills."

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Too Much Reform in Spelling.

Mr. Curran and Mr. McManus spent the Saturday half holiday in a frantic pursuit. Among the objects examined was a fine new public building. The feature of this building that appealed most strongly to Mr. Curran was an inscription cut into a huge stone.