

LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER

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TOLEDO.....OREGON

Peary reports ice ten feet thick. But he does not say he is cutting much.

One of the most remarkable things in the world is the way a furnace will draw on a hot day.

It would be a lucky thing if night riders caused no more havoc than is wrought by Balkan armies.

Doubtless it surprises Harry Thaw to note the warm, gushing sympathy the public is not manifesting for him.

Why do some persons complain of hard times and high prices when they can buy a good automobile for only \$1,500?

It is said that chewing gum will cure sea-sickness. We do not know who said it. Probably the man who manufactures the gum.

A Philadelphia man who inherited \$250,000 ten years ago has died penniless. He moved to New York after getting the money.

Prof. Starr of Chicago says the Filipinos are not lazy. All the same they seem ready to accept almost any office that is offered them.

Harry Thaw found going insane quite convenient, but it annoys him greatly to think of having to remain insane for an indefinite period.

Mrs. Langtry won \$100,000 on a horse race a few days ago. Her friends should earnestly advise her to cash in now and quit following the races.

The night riders have been active recently, but the college hazers can still point with pride to the fact that they are beating all others in producing cripples.

Some men seem not to care how much trouble they leave behind them when they pass on to that other shore. Three widows are claiming the estate of a Boston man.

A Maine hunter shot a man whom he mistook for a squirrel. Being mistaken for a deer is bad enough, but being mistaken for a squirrel is certainly adding insult to injury.

China asks a helping hand, declares Li Sun Ling, the Hong Kong editor. Anyone who has attempted to master chop sticks with only two hands will realize that China should have a third.

A boy 7 years old was sent to jail for two days because he told lies. Had the lawyer been keen, the boy might have been acquitted on the ground that he was merely practicing for a political career.

The roads in the United States, Syria and Australia belong in the same class, according to a speaker at the recent good roads convention in Buffalo. Some of them are good and some are bad. He also says that roads in the Fiji Islands are better, as a whole, than those here, and he does not speak without experience.

The earnest reformers who have been trying to arouse public opinion to the necessity for establishing uniform divorce laws have not yet been able to remove all the obstacles in the way of the proposed reform. But they will do a great work if this agitation results in shutting down the divorce mills of some States, where marriage seems to be regarded as a joke, and not as an institution which ought to be strengthened and safeguarded at every point.

Uncle Sam has struck a blow at a class of professional men peculiar to Washington. An order has been issued prohibiting United States government clerks swelling their incomes by practicing medicine or filling teeth on the side. It has for a long time been a common practice for department clerks to attend night colleges, and, after securing diplomas, practice professions after office hours. These so-called "sundown" doctors, dentists, lawyers, architects, etc., were able materially to increase their incomes. Protests were made by regular members of various professions, complaining of the unfair competition of the "sundowners," who cut prices. This has resulted in an order prohibiting clerks from engaging in any outside business that requires their personal attention while in government employ.

On both sides of the Atlantic the new patent law which has gone into effect in Great Britain, after the expiration of the year of grace, is regarded as of great industrial and commercial importance. Stripped of details, the new law provides that henceforth all foreign patents in Great Britain

may be revoked, after a reasonable time, unless the patented article is manufactured or the patented process operated in the United Kingdom to an adequate extent. It will be seen at once that this change is most radical. Heretofore the manufacturer, let us say, of an American harvesting-machine, has been allowed to make it in the United States and send it over and sell it in England. His English patents protected him from British competitors, and the wages he paid in his factory were paid to Americans. Hereafter, unless he would lose his patent, he must build another factory in Great Britain, and there make a portion of his product. The inference is, of course, that the wages in that factory will go to Englishmen. It is not difficult to see and sympathize with the British point of view. A patent is, of course, a legalized monopoly. The number of patents annually granted by Great Britain to foreigners is somewhat greater than the number of those granted to British citizens. Each patent not only confers a benefit on the owner of it, but by virtue of its being a monopoly it deprives others of that benefit. Moreover, many patents in America are used only as clubs. They are not operated, but serve merely to hold a special field away from competitors. Both France and Germany protect their citizens from this evil. In France a patent must be worked in two years, and in Germany in three years. It has seemed reasonable to Englishmen that their own people should share more largely than they have done in the benefits which patents confer. The importance of the change may be judged by the estimate of the head of a prominent firm of British ship-builders that one hundred and twenty-five million dollars will be invested in Great Britain for the manufacture of articles heretofore made abroad. About eight thousand patents come under the new law.

According to the Washington Post the call for fiction in the public libraries of the capital has fallen off 65 per cent. The newspaper says that this decrease has been noted in many other cities. Novel reading has gone through a great period of dissipation. It looked for a time as if public libraries were endowed and maintained for no other purpose than to supply fiction, the greater part of it worse than useless. It was discouraging to those who wished to see a marked improvement in the average of intellectuality because of the spread of libraries. But the tide has turned and heaven be praised for that. The quality of the greater part of the fiction which has been coming from the presses of the publishers in the last few years has been markedly inferior. Novel readers became Chamberized, MacGrathicized and McCutchedonated until life, itself, to many, was a cross between a cake walk and a scene in the boudoir of her grace, the Princess of Wurttemberg, or other. A lot of the stuff which was advertised as historical—always clever in any case—had about as much history in it as one of Grimm's. And the rest of it was the froth of soapbark and wind which druggists sell in glasses. If there is a reaction it is a thing to be blessed. Reading fiction of the type which usually wears a red binding is often very restful. If one cannot be amused by the characters there is at least amusement in wondering at the author who could write such drivel. But continued absorption of modern fiction has the effect of eating too much candy. It is bound to sicken in time. A demand for material more serious is in line with the more serious thought of Americans. Nearly every one is coming to have special interest along certain lines and there is a need of literature which delivers information succinctly and clearly. The public libraries must supply the more expensive and elaborate works which readers cannot themselves afford to purchase. When the bottom drops out of the Harold School of Fiction, there will be still room for the good and worthy style of novel—more room, perhaps. Then the libraries can use the discarded for the purpose nature intended them—starting the furnace fires.

Strategy.

"I thought your bank wasn't going to give any vacation this year?"
"It didn't intend to," replied the assistant cashier, brown from a long outing, "but I put on an anxious look and pattered over my books so long they insisted on my taking a rest."
"So they could expert your accounts?"
"Sure. And they found them in such elegant shape that when I struck for a raise they had to give it."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Happiness.

"Some folks' idea of happiness," said Uncle Eben, "is to hab so much money dat dey'd have to work fohteen hours a day for de res' o' der lives to keep 'count of it."—Washington Star.

When a man asks your advice, he always tells you just how he expects you to do it.



The calendar year of 1908 will be memorable as the most disastrous twelve months in history in point of the destructiveness of forest fires in the United States. It is estimated that in ordinary years the average annual loss through forest fires in this country is not less than \$50,000,000, but, great as is this havoc under what might be termed normal conditions, it appears almost insignificant by comparison with the record-breaking waste of the present period, when the aggregate loss will probably amount to several times the usual \$50,000,000. For a considerable interval this autumn, when the forest fires have been at their height, the flames were doing damage to the amount of \$1,000,000 a day.

The principle cause of this epidemic of forest fires has been found, of course, in the drought which has been general throughout the country; but there have been other adverse conditions which have contributed to the menacing situation. Indeed, as an expert on forestry recently pointed out, it has seemed as though every imaginable unfavorable condition has been present this year to help along the deadly and destructive work. Deadly—because, in addition to the loss of property, there has been an appalling loss of life in connection with this year's fires.

Even in an ordinary year it is estimated that not less than sixty-five lives are included in the toll exacted by forest fires during the twelve months, and this year in the case of the human sacrifice, as with the loss of material things, the average has been greatly exceeded. Moreover, there will be a sequel to this year's fires that will not appear in connection with any of the statistics of loss at first hand from forest fires. As readers of the newspapers have had good cause to realize, the fires this year have not been confined, as is often the case, largely to the densely wooded and sparsely populated districts, laying waste towns of considerable size and driving great numbers of people from their homes. As a result of the suffering and exposure thus entailed there will probably be much invalidism and many deaths that, not being immediately attributable to the forest fires, will not be included in the statistics that will constitute the chronicle of this year's fire record.

Climatic Conditions Unfavorable.

Another unusual feature of the forest fires of 1908 is found in the wide range of territory visited by the flames. In the Maine woods and in the Adirondacks of Northern New York; throughout the State of Pennsylvania; in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin and other territory adjacent to the Great Lakes the forest fires raged simultaneously, and even on the Pacific Coast the menace has been present, threatening among other things the destruction of one of the finest groves of the prized big trees. Moreover, the forest fires this year have been unusually difficult to conquer, and in many instances the owners of magnificent private forests or hunting preserves provided with the best private fire-fighting systems have found themselves unable to cope with the rapidly traveling flames and have been obliged to appeal to near-by municipalities for aid.

The season's unparalleled record has given the country an unpleasant object lesson as to what may happen any year and has aroused everybody concerned to a realization of the need of some better system of fighting and preventing this immense yearly loss. Not only have private individuals and corporations owning timber lands been stirred to action by the spectacle of the past few weeks, but the United States Government has inaugurated a country-wide campaign that it is believed will point a way to prevent many forest fires and to control those that, despite precautions, gain a start.

As a first step the national Government has had one of the most efficient employees of its forest service, Mr. Raymond W. Pullman, traveling over the burned areas in the Northwest and elsewhere, and not only gathering detailed

statistics that will be of value in urging congressional action on the subject, but also taking notes as to the physical characteristics of the fires and all details that might lead to a better understanding of this destructive element and the best means to circumvent it.

At the same time the national authorities have detailed an expert on forestry, Mr. Paul G. Redington, to make an investigation of the whole broad subject of forest fires and to devise ways and means for an improvement of conditions in the future. In speaking of the line of action to be taken by the government in enlisting co-operation for the common cause Forester Redington said recently: "What is wanted is an organized effort on the part of the government, the states, corporations and individuals. There should be adequate fire laws in every State where any forests are located. These laws should provide for the appointment of fire wardens, who should have authority and the power to enforce such, and to call upon the services of citizens in fighting forest fires which occur. The law should provide a penalty to be imposed upon any man who refuses to give his services in time of need."

It is realized that the railroads through their spark-emitting locomotives constitute one of the chief sources of forest fires and consequently one of the first moves which has been made by Uncle Sam in the present undertaking was to invite the railroads to make common cause with the federal government against forest fire menace. There have been prepared articles of agreement for a co-operative working arrangement between the government and those railroads whose lines traverse the national forests in the West, and this is believed to be but a beginning of a better understanding between some of the parties most concerned. Without the unselfish aid of corporations the United States government will have uphill work in its crusade against the forest fire menace.

The Forest Patrol.

When it comes down to systematic methods of fighting forest fires, the subject does not, happily, present a wholly unexplored field. For some years past the United States government has been rapidly developing an efficient patrol and fire-fighting system on its own forests, and, inasmuch as Uncle Sam now controls about one-fourth of the forest area in the United States, it can be seen that the national authorities have had an excellent practice ground on which to try out their theories on a large scale. The realization brought by the forest fires of 1908 of the crying need for organized effort in fighting forest fires throughout the entire country, comes just at a time when the government has its own system practically perfected, and there is no doubt that this will be used as a model that will be copied by State and county authorities, corporations and private individuals, who are owners of extensive timber lands.

Under the forest patrol system maintained by the United States government on its own land a ranger or guard travels on foot or on horseback over the district of which he has charge at regular intervals and keeps a careful lookout for any fires that may have started since his preceding patrol. This nomadic fire warden makes especially frequent trips along the wagon roads, trails or other frequented routes of travel through the forest and not only keeps his eyes open for incipient fires, but cautions all persons who may be traveling through the forest to be sure that any fires that they may light are fully extinguished before the camp ground is abandoned.

The arteries of travel through the forest are also extensively posted or placarded with printed notices warning hunters, campers and the traveling public in general against the dangers of starting fires except when absolutely necessary, or abandoning a camp site while the embers of the camp fire are still aglow. Not only do the forest rangers, or government patrolmen, pace their "beats" through the forest, but every now and then each of these guards climbs to commanding elevations or lookout points within his district to survey the whole situation, and, if the existence of a fire is discovered, the ranger either puts it out himself, if he is able, or, if the flames are too formidable for his unaided effort, he summons the assistance of other rangers.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

THE TIBETAN EXPLORER.

Dr. Sven Hedin's second journey of exploration in Tibet is likely to prove of the greatest value. So much material has the doctor collected, indeed, that he has stated it will be three or four years before he has worked up all the information gained regarding tracts hitherto unknown to the Western world. During a considerable part of his journey the explorer went disguised as a common Ladakhi, his hands and face darkened with paint. When strangers were met he drove the baggage animals and sheep, as the inferior servant of the apparent head of the caravan, and was known as "Haji



SVEN HEDIN, ALIAS "HAJI BABA."

Baba." On several occasions the real business of the party was suspected by the Tibetans, and the doctor had several narrow escapes.

HE WAS A SCIENTIFIC RUBE.

Know More than the Expert When It Came to Local Conditions.

"We were sitting around the stove in the bar of the little hotel in a Maine town," writes an electrical salesman in the Electrical Review, "when the electric lights flickered and went out.

"From the darkness came a solemn voice that said:

"Electric lights all out, b'gosh, and yet it ain't blowin' hard, either. Somethin's happened to the dynamo, maybe."

"I had been selling electrical supplies to the little lighting companies for several months, but I had never heard this particular idea expressed before.

"I laughed long and loud and was all the more amused when no one joined me.

"After they had lighted a big kerosene lamp I proceeded to explain to the crowd that incandescent lamps can't be blown out by the wind. When I had finished, the old rube who had commented on the lights said:

"Look here, young man, if you knew a little somethin' about local conditions and about your own business, you'd know that the wires in this township are hung up slack on the poles in some places and that they get to slatting in a good stiff breeze. When they do, there's a short circuit that puts the line out of business!"

Caught the General.

One of the regular army officers tells a story of how the old stringent army regulations once went against General Scott. One wet afternoon that soldier was caught in the rain in Washington. He was in full uniform and was well known, so, no cab being near, he borrowed an umbrella. Arriving at his hotel, an underofficer approached him and calmly remarked:

"General, you will consider yourself under arrest for eight days for carrying an umbrella while in full uniform."

No Terrors for Him.

"Sir," exclaimed the Rev. X. Horta, "I'm surprised to hear you swearing at the heat. What will you do in the next world, where there's not a drop of water to moisten your parched—"

"Hub!" grunted the fat man. "Are you sure there's no water there?"

"Positive."
"Ah, then there's no humidity; that's what knocks me. I can stand the heat."
—Philadelphia Press.

His Solitude.

"Is it a fact that your mother-in-law threw herself out of the third story window and you did nothing to restrain her?"

"Excuse me, I went to the first story to catch her, but she had already passed."
—Diavolo Rosa.

When a barber shop porter shines a barber's shoes, does he get paid for it? Or does he do it as a professional courtesy?