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You men who do not like to wear rubbers, they are comfortable, have heavy soles, practically water-proof. Aside from comfort, they furnish you the best health insurance you can buy.

Heavy Fibre or Double Leather Soles, prices

\$6.50, \$7.00, \$7.50

SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR RAILROAD SERVICE.

The Boot Shop
ASHLAND, OREGON

SPECIAL COURSE GIVEN TO FARMERS

Corvallis, Ore., Dec. 31.—Many of Oregon's most successful farmers have found that a course in methods in their special lines immediately following Farmers' Week is the best possible means of enabling them to put into effect the plans inspired by attendance at Farmers' Week. Hence they remain for a four weeks' course in personal instruction. This short course begins at O. A. C. this year on Monday, January 7, and runs till Saturday, February 2.

The use of farm tractors and stationary engines is recognized as one of the most effective means of solving the labor shortage problem. So important is this use in increasing the grain acreage of Oregon 50 per cent, as required by the Food Administration, that Umatilla farmers have been running their tractors night and day. To aid those who are taking up the work to get the best out of their machines, the tractor school has been provided.

Eighteen different makes of engines, small and great, are now on the road to the college to be used in Farmers' Week and winter short course work. Farmers taking the course will operate them under expert direction, learning how to han-

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a full and complete line of accessories, Tires, Oils, Grease, Batteries and anything for the automobile. We have several used cars to select from at low prices.

Come in and look over our new stock.

**Overland Millner
Company**

die, care for and repair the various makes. They will also have an opportunity to learn the merits of the different tractors and purchase accordingly.

A line of shop work in metal and wood will go with this course, enabling farmers to make such simple repairs as babbiting, sharpening, welding and mortising. A man of average skill taking the course will be able to handle his machine with best results at least expense.

The other courses in special farming will be equally complete and timely.

Miser dollars are slacker dollars; misspent dollars are traitor dollars; well-spent dollars are patriotic dollars. What kind of dollars have you?

Congestion in Washington forced a congressman to occupy an attic room. Cheer up—some of our presidents had only a log cabin.

Plaza Barber Shop
"On the Plaza"

Guaranteed shaves or whiskers refunded

J. A. Yeo, Prop.

S. P. President Issues Statement

William Sprule, president of the Southern Pacific Company, issued the following statement anent the government control of the railroads of the nation:

"The president's proclamation, taking control of the railroads, states the method and purpose as clearly as it can be done, in my estimation.

"When you ask for my opinion of the effect upon the public service, I can simply point out to you that the action of the president has been taken through the secretary of war, on the one hand, and through the secretary of the treasury, for financial and administrative purposes, on the other hand. Thus are combined the purposes of war, of industry and of finance.

"There can be no question that the highest motives actuate the president. Let us not forget that the center of the target at which the nation is aiming is war. If we will keep our minds fixed upon that as the center we will have a better measure of what is taking place. This is well stated in Section 80 of the 'Selective Service Regulations' issued by the secretary of war, to govern the selection and organization of the army.

"It should be evident to everybody that it is the intention of the government not to impede industry and its carriage, but to facilitate it, that the utmost facilities of the railroads may be put to the public use and the business of the country gain in dispatch. The plans of the president are so broad and stated in such clear terms that there should be no doubt of the intention.

"As to the financial aspects, the financing suggested for the roads needing it leads inevitably to the secretary of the treasury. Such financing must be done under his auspices and approval, which can be accomplished directly when it is the secretary of the treasury himself who has his hand upon the operation and conduct of the railroad systems of the country.

"The railroads' war board has been an important step forward in the direction which was reached by Friday noon. The board has given an impulse to unity of aim and pur-

pose on the part of the railroads which it is hard to overestimate. Reliance can be placed upon the continuing desire of the railroads to do their part toward the winning of the war, whatever may be the duration of this deplorable struggle for human rights so ardently championed by the president, behind whom we all stand."

'Reaching for the Moon' at Vining

Douglas Fairbanks in "Reaching for the Moon" will be presented at the Vining January 9 and 10.

The amazing popularity of Douglas Fairbanks, the silent drama's athletic purveyor of sunshine, is once more evidenced at the theatres, his latest Artercraft production, "Reaching for the Moon," drawing immense crowds.

From poverty and obscurity to a royal throne is a far jump for an American youth. And when the pretender to the throne objects to his occupancy and hires assassins to remove the new monarch, who is a determined and athletic young man, there is apt to be considerable excitement. This is one of the threads of "Reaching for the Moon," which teems with sensational incidents and laughable comedy.

In staging this photoplay Artercraft has gone to extreme limits, and the popular Fairbanks must have experienced a strenuous time, for in some of the scenes he is handled very roughly. The locale of the story is Europe and America, and the magnificent settings, gorgeous costumes and strong supporting cast make this one of the most costly offerings Artercraft has yet issued from its studios.

Fairbanks is noted for his athletic prowess, and in his latest play he engages in terrific combat. In staging these fights it is necessary to secure the services of men of considerable strength to oppose the strenuous Douglas, who carries a knockout punch in either hand and wrestles like a professional. In "Reaching for the Moon" a band of Italian conspirators attempts to assassinate Fairbanks, and in the ensuing conflict the furnishings of a palace are completely wrecked. To play the

role of the leader of this band "Bull" Montana, the well-known Italian wrestler, was selected, and the scene bristles with realism.

SUPPOSED PLATINUM DEPOSITS A FAKE

The present shortage of platinum and the consequent greatly increased price of the metal bid fair to result in a considerable increase in the domestic production of platinum during the coming year. At the same time, while legitimate miners are increasing their production and to some extent relieving the country's shortage, other persons are using the interest aroused by the present nation-wide search for the metal to make extravagant claims for utterly worthless deposits, and some honest prospectors are led by false assays, made by inefficient or venal assayers, to believe mistakenly that they have valuable platinum deposits. Reports of platinum in some mythical combination—"volatile platinum" or "colloidal platinum"—should be regarded as sufficient evidence of the incompetence or dishonesty of the assayer.

During the season of 1917 the geologists of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, spent much time in visiting platinum deposits that proved to be worthless. A notable example is seen in the supposed platinumiferous sands of the Deschutes river, near Terrebonne, Ore., which were examined by H. G. Ferguson in October, 1917. Claims have been staked for several miles along the Deschutes and Crooked rivers, and as certain volcanic sands along these rivers had been said to contain large percentages of gold and rare metals, particularly metals of the platinum group, Mr. Ferguson visited the localities at which the sands were obtained and took samples for test and analysis.

The material collected, which is exposed in the canyon of the Deschutes river north of Low Bridge in section 15, township 14 south, range 12 east, consists of loosely cemented dark volcanic sand and conglomerate interbedded with basalt and volcanic tuff. The black basaltic sand is supposed to have the richest content of gold and platinum, but neither in panning the material in the field nor in the chemical tests made by the Geological Survey could any trace of platinum or other metals of the platinum group be found. Neither was any gold found in the concentrates, and it is concluded that material of this type is very unlikely to contain workable amounts of gold.

In conclusion, the Geological Survey desires to warn prospectors and investors against accepting at their face value any statements in regard to platinum-bearing ores and sands that do not show native platinum when panned. Such material should always be sent to assayers whose reputation is above reproach.

Colonel House is giving evidence of having associated with the French people. He has broken his customary silence long enough to assure a reporter who interviewed him that the American mission was a success.

Certain gentlemen in congress who during the last session were extremely pugnacious in asserting their right to oppose all war measures now are as meek as lambs. Can it be they have heard a voice from home?



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Bargains

in SWEATERS, SHOES, etc

—ONE LOT gray, wool mixed Sweater Coats in small sizes, 32, 34 and 36, at each..... **\$1.50**

—ONE LOT "Roughneck" Sweater Coats in all sizes, colors maroon and gray, each..... **\$2.00**

—ONE LOT oxford gray, cotton Jersey Sweaters, in all sizes, at each..... **\$1.50**

—ONE LOT large and small sizes of odds' and ends in Shoes, real bargains, at pair..... **\$1.95**

Men's Wear Exclusively

MITCHELL & WHITTLE

"The Men's Store"

Annual Report of Park Commission

The Annual report of the Ashland Park Commission was presented and read to the council Friday night at their regular adjourned meeting. The report makes mention that \$500 has been expended in the purchase of trees and shrubs during the year and that more than 3,200 native trees and over 650 native shrubs were dug and transplanted in the park. Over 3,000 ferns of different varieties were planted. The gross revenue produced from the sales of cups from the mineral water fountains amounted to over \$600. The receipts and disbursements are shown as follows:

Receipts.	
Tax collections.....	\$4,228.25
Chautauqua park fund.....	300.00
Cup sales (gross).....	620.05
Gas sales (gross).....	228.45
Plant sales.....	14.10
Wood sales (gross).....	68.25
Old building sold.....	15.00
Old tools sold.....	6.00
Rose Bros' concession.....	90.00
Bank interest.....	10.14
Loan of city.....	250.00
Settlement with city for bill of 1916.....	776.24
Total received.....	\$6,606.69
Balance January 1, 1917.....	471.69
Total.....	\$7,078.17

Disbursements.	
General payroll.....	\$3,440.57
Playgrounds.....	125.00
Trees, plants, seeds and fertilizers.....	481.51
Tools and repairs.....	266.93
Equipment and permanent improvements.....	85.11
Electric light and supplies.....	67.79
State accident insurance.....	89.79
Printing and office expense.....	59.75
Band concerts.....	100.00
Electric wiring, flags and illumination (July 4).....	151.09
Total for maintenance, improvement and entertainment.....	4,867.54
Add cost of cups, etc.....	110.11
Add cost of gas.....	84.25
Add cost of sawing wood.....	10.50
Add payment notes and interest to city.....	764.88
Add transfer checks with city for 1917 settlement.....	776.24
Total.....	\$6,613.52
Balance Dec. 31, 1917.....	464.65
Total.....	\$7,078.17

Uncle Sam now has two million soldiers. No wonder the kaiser is in a hurry to finish his argument.

Germany is feeding old newspapers to its cows—evidently trying to produce a new type of print burden.

Lord Lansdowne's peace plea discloses the decline of nobility—also the weakness of his lordship's head.

Talk is cheap. So is dynamite, and look at the damage it did to Halifax.

Shasta Likely to Be Discontinued

As a result of conferences at San Francisco between administrative and executive chiefs of the Southern Pacific system Wednesday, important announcements are expected to be made of radical changes in passenger train services in all directions, in pursuance of plans to put the country's transportation lines on a war-like basis. Common use of terminals, speeding up of freight trains, prompt loading and unloading of cars under military supervision, routing traffic over shortest lines, and other measures of efficiency and economy are among the subjects to receive consideration.

In view of the fact that reservations on the Shasta limited train will not be accepted for use after Saturday, the assumption is that this train will be taken off the end of this week. Railway men believe that this action is but one of several to reduce the volume of travel, and by consolidation of trains make it possible to take care of the public's demands while permitting movement of more freight trains.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC GOOD IN PAST YEAR

Passenger traffic on the Pacific coast for 1917 is equal to if not a little ahead of the record mark of 1915, the exposition year, according to Charles S. Fee, passenger traffic manager of the Southern Pacific Company, who has just returned from a general tour.

This condition, says Fee, is due to the industrial activity brought about by the war, the troops that were moved on regular trains, and the friends and members of the families of the soldiers and sailors.

Indications are that there will be the usual influx of winter tourists to California, and particularly from Canada, during the winter. While the people of the United States and Canada realize that the first business of their nations is the war, they also realize that to properly carry on the war the business of the countries must be along the usual channels as far as possible, and they do not look upon their yearly visits to California during the winter in the nature of a junket, but believe that by getting away from the rigors of their severe winters, and spending them in California, they will be better able for the balance of the year to fulfill extra burdens upon everybody by the war.

Lord Lansdowne's peace plea discloses the decline of nobility—also the weakness of his lordship's head.

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J. P. Dodge & Sons

Undertakers

Lady Assistant
Deputy County Coroner
State Licensed Embalmer

Coat With Emplacements of Fur-Fabric



Coats, coat suits and frocks, with collars and cuffs of fur or fur-fabrics and emplacements like them on the skirt are among the season's noteworthy and handsome offerings. On separate long coats and on coats with coat suits the collars and cuffs are attached to the garments, but on frocks to be worn indoors as well as out, the collar and cuffs may be detachable. Collars are nearly always of the convertible variety on all coats.

A handsome coat of taupe wool velours is shown in the picture, finished with fur-fabric in the same color. It is full and straight-hanging, with a handsome half girdle of the material that extends from the side seams to the front. Here its two long ends, bordered with the fur-fabric are looped over. There are three large covered buttons at the front of the coat and one on the collar, all covered with the same furlike material.

These marvelously woven and dyed materials have established themselves as a permanent feature of each new season's production of fabrics. When they are made to imitate natural skins the resemblance is so close that it is almost impossible to tell the difference. It takes a "close-up" view and the tes-

timony of touch to tell woven broad-tail or seal or mole plush from these furs. They are at their best when used in the manner illustrated, either on coats or suits or frocks.

Now that everyone is practicing economy and prolonging the usefulness of garments by remodeling them, these fur-fabrics have proven themselves the best of aids. They help to change the appearance of made-over clothes so completely that there is no recognizing original suit or frock that is enriched by them—and their durability means a long-time lease on life for such garments.

Entire coats of fur-fabrics are very warm and hardly suited to the milder climates of the South, but scarfs and muffs, or collars and cuffs on fashionable coatings worn with muffs to match them, make an ideal coat for any latitude. In the North a sweater worn under a coat of this kind makes it as warm as a fur coat and the cloth coat trimmed with fur-fabric. At least the equal of an entire coat of the fabric, in elegance and in rich appearance.

Julia B. Borden