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**THE WEATHER**

Oregon, Washington, and Idaho—Fair.

**ZEPPELIN.**

It begins to look as if Count Zeppelin is to figure among the great men of the century; as if he will master the deep problems of aerial navigation and put forward the practical thing that shall stand for the initial solution and demonstration of transportation of people and cargoes for commercial ends.

For long years, for close upon half a century, he has been a devoted student of the science, meeting failure after failure with calmness and resolution, forging ahead slowly, yet surely, to the one aim and end; subjecting his purse and person to the inexorable demands of the situation, with a bravery essentially fine and now, promisingly, sure.

The people of today have become so intimate with marvels, so inured to change and the extremes of change that they half fail to appreciate the tremendous things that are being wrought about them, and take the wonderful access with a dispassionate serenity approaching actual indifference. But this is not to be construed as apathy; they are very much alive to the successes of the day and appreciate them profoundly, but are so familiar with the long-drawn failures and the consequent coaching they get in the public prints, on the art, or science, or industrial scheme, that they grow neutral to everything save the culminating triumph.

The world awaits the development of this great science with eager and hopeful interest. It should revolutionize the land and sea systems of travel and transport and relieve the strain and congestion with all their attendant rigors of rates and discomfort, and develop new avenues of competition that should contribute to the abatement of the cost of living. Count Zeppelin ought to live to realize handsomely upon the splendid ardor and ingenuity he has given to the noble craft.

**JACKSON REID.**

The childish brain of Portland's infant murderer is charged with a conception of the real significance and horror of the deed he has done and his budding life is wrought and warped to lines of misery and despair unbearable even by the harder faculty of the adult. It is pitifully sad, but we doubt if the burden is much greater than that borne by those who mourn the dead man. The whole affair is infinitely troublesome to all concerned, not excepting the officers of the law, because of the extraordinary elements injected by reason the extreme youth of the slayer. The problem of properly disposing of the case with equal justice to all sets up exactions that must be met all along the line of procedure and calls for exceeding care on the part of the administrators of the law, woe, incidentally, must conserve the best interests of society.

The case at bar raises the issue of supplying the juvenile court with an adequate prison of its own. It is against all public policy to send this child to the penitentiary to be reared with the scum of barred humanity; we should see to it that the juvenile administration is equipped with something beside a court and code, a penal resort on a par with the provisions surrounding the detection and treatment of childish criminals, and this by the earliest legislative action to be had. So far as the juvenile court work has been carried on at Portland, it is proven efficacious and admirable in many ways, and may be perfected by arranging for the adequate incarceration of the delinquent youngsters under a regimen proportioned to the

inspiration that created that especial jurisdiction. It is unescapable; and the sooner it is brought about, the less trouble and anxiety its officers will have in the future.

**FRUIT FRAUDS.**

Astoria lies at a tangent from all sources of supply, including the fruit orchards of the coast, and is helpless against the impositions thrust upon her by the wholesalers patronized by her merchants. Through those merchants alone, for the time being, is any relief to come. As a body they can demand better grades of fruit, even if they cannot summon courage to charge any higher prices for it. They owe something to the patrons who makes and maintain their businesses, and we have the right to better treatment in this particular.

Clatsop needs more fruit orchards of her own to counteract the rank prescription now prevailing, and that takes time; we have only the merchants to look to, and the appeal should not be in vain. Fruit famine were a better expedient to use perhaps; but fruit at this season has its temptations, keen and strong, and few there are who can resist the purchase of the commodity, even if it is not of the proper quality. We therefore invoke the friendly concern of the men here who deal in this stuff to see to it that we get something beside the green or past-ripe goods now handled; and if this cannot be done, then we move for a communal strike against the retail purchase of any fruit whatever, save that which may come to us fresh and wholesome by any other agency whatever. We are entitled to better goods and cheaper prices in a commodity that is richly profuse all over the Pacific Coast.

"Think," says an aeronaut, "of transportation through the free, pure air; the realm of absolute liberty; no tricks, no franchises." Is this Arcadian sure that the trust, the toll-gate and the constable will be kept out of the atmospheric domain?

An order for \$100,000 worth of automobile gas engines, placed at Logansport, Ind., is to be cancelled in case of Bryan's election. If everything that stands still awaiting the result of November 3 could be reckoned up the total would run into hundreds of millions.

During the last democratic administration the number of sheep in the United States fell off 10,000,000 and wool sold for 30 cents that now brings 60. A reversion to this state of affairs is what Mr. Bryan offers American farmers in return for their campaign contributions.

Nantucket has just erected a memorial tablet to 24 of its citizens who fought with John Paul Jones on the Bon Homme Richard. As scarcely anything remained afloat at the end of that engagement the name of the ship is a sufficient inscription.

Postage will soon be cheaper between England and the United States than between England and France, or any other part of Europe. The parcels post rate between the United States and England is less than the rate between any of our domestic offices, and this doesn't look so good.

Morning Astorian, 60 per month.

**COFFEE**

The dealing is simple. If you don't like Schilling's Best, it costs you nothing.

Your grocer returns your money if you don't like it; we pay him

**WARNED BY DESERTS**

What These Sandy Wastes Mean to Mother Earth.

**A DEATH GRIP ON THE WORLD**

They indicate the Beginning of the End of Our Beautiful Planet, Which is Doomed to Roll Through Space a Parched and Lifeless Orb.

Deserts already exist on the earth, and the nameless horror that attaches to the word in the thoughts of all who have had experience of them or are gifted with imagination to conceive is in truth greater than we commonly suppose, for the cosmic circumstance about them which is most terrible is not that deserts are, but that deserts have begun to be. Not as local evitable evils are they only to be pitied, but as the general inescapable death grip on our world, for it is the beginning of the end. What despoils the forests to grass lands and thence to wastes must in turn attack the sea bottoms when they shall have parted with their seas.

Last of the fertile spots upon the planet because of the salts the streams have for ages washed down and of the remnant of moisture that would still drain into them, eventually they must share the fortune of their predecessors and the planet roll a parched orb through space. The picture is forbidding, but the fact seems one to which we are constructively pledged and into which we are in some sort already adventured.

Girdling the earth with what it takes but little personification to liken to the life extinguishing serpent's coils run two desert belts of country. The one follows, roughly speaking, the tropic of Cancer, extending northward from Arizona; the other, the tropic of Capricorn. It is in the northern band, as are the Sahara, Arabia and the deserts of central Asia.

Now, these desert belts are growing. In the great desert of northern Arizona the traveler, threading his way across a sagebrush and cacti plain shut in by abrupt sided shelves of land rising here and there some hundreds of feet higher, suddenly comes upon a petrified forest.

Trunks of trees in all stages of fracture strew the ground over a space some miles in extent. So perfect are their forms he is almost minded to think the usual wasteful woodchopper has been by and left the scattered products of his art in littered confusion upon the scene of his exploit. Only their beautiful color conveys a sense of strangeness to the eye, and leaning down and touching them, he finds that they are—stone; chalcidony, not carbon! Form has outlived substance and kept the resemblance, while the particles of the original matter have all been spirited away. Yet so perfect is the presentment one can hardly believe the fact, and where one fallen giant spans a little canyon one almost thinks to hear the sound of water rushing down the creek.

But it is some millions of years and more since this catastrophe befell, and the torrent, uprooting it, left it prone, with limbs outstretched in futile grasp upon the other side. A conifer it was, cousin only to such as grow today, and flourished probably in the cretaceous era, for the land has not been under water here since the advent of tertiary times.

Nowhere near it, except for the rare cottonwoods along the bank of the Little Colorado, grows anything today. The land which once supported these forests is incompetent to do so now. Yet nothing has changed there since except the decreasing water supply. During tertiary and quaternary time the rainfall has been growing less and less. Proof of this is offered by the great pine oasis that caps the plateau of which these petrified forests form a part and is keeled by the San Francisco peaks. The height above sea level of the spot where the chalcidony trunks are strewn is about 4,500 feet. The lower present limit of the pine in its full development is 6,500 feet. Two thousand feet upward the verdure line has retreated since the former forests were. And this is no local alteration, for upon the other side of the plateau petrified remains of trees are similarly found.

The line of perpetual green has risen because in desert regions the moisture is found most plentiful nearest to the clouds from which it falls upon a parching earth. Streams, instead of gathering volume as they go, are largest near their source and grow less and less with each fresh mile of flow. The brooks descending from the Anti-Lebanon, in Syria, water the gardens of Damascus and, thence issuing upon the plain, lose themselves just beyond the threshold of its gates. So in the Arizona desert, though in a less degree, and those who live there know it but too well.—From Percival Lowell's "Mars and the Future of the Earth" in Century.

**Breaking Wire.**

Anybody who has tried to break a piece of wire without the aid of a pair of pliers will probably agree that the operation is both a difficult and painful one. There is a method, however, by which it may be easily accomplished. By bending the wire into a loop and pulling both ends as tight as possible an injury will be caused to the wire, which on being straightened will immediately break. By this means wire up to No. 12 gauge may be successfully dealt with.

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**A CHEMICAL FURY.**

Fluorine is a Rabid Gas That Nothing Can Resist.

The fury of the chemical world is the element fluorine, although, strangely enough, it exists peacefully in company with calcium in fluor spar and also in a few other compounds.

Although this element was known and named a good while ago, it long resisted the efforts of chemists to isolate it—that is, prepare it in a pure state, unaltered chemically with other substances—for the instant the compound containing it was torn apart the free fluorine attacked and combined with whatever substance composed the vessel containing it. It was finally isolated by the great French chemist Moissan.

Fluorine is a rabid gas that nothing can resist. It combines with all metals, explosively with some, or if they are already combined with some other nonmetallic element it mercilessly tears them away from it and takes them to itself.

In uniting with sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium and aluminum the metals become heated, even to redness, by the fervor of its embrace. Iron filings slightly warm burst into brilliant scintillations when exposed to it. Manganese does the same. Even the noble metals, which at melting heat proudly resist the fascinations of oxygen, succumb to this chemical siren at moderate temperatures.

Glass is devoured at once and water ceases to be water by contact with this gas, which, combined with its hydrogen, at the same moment forms the acid, glass dissolving hydrofluoric acid and liberates ozone. Even hydrofluoric acid eats into and destroys every known substance except platinum and lead.—Exchange.

**Glaciers.**

It has been demonstrated that the glacier does not move in one block, but flows, accommodating itself to the channel in which it moves. Professor Tyndall planted a row of sticks in a straight line across a glacier, and after a few days the line had become a crescent, with the concavity upward, showing that the middle of the glacier moved faster than the sides, just as in a river the stream is stronger in the center.

**Her Mild Ambition.**

"You expect your boy to become a good man?"  
The mother's face fell.  
"He is not a brilliant child," she made answer doubtfully. "No, I think I shall have to be content if he attains only a moderate success—becomes a very rich man, say, or something like that."—Puck.

**A Scratch.**

"How does Mrs. Sleigh get on in the club?"  
"Oh, she always comes up to the scratch."  
"Of course she does—the cat!"—Kan.

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