

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING (EXCEPT SUNDAY) AND EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT THE JOURNAL BUILDING, 225 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

THE OLDEST PERSON DIES.

MRS. MARY RAMSEY WOOD, who died in Hillsboro on New Year's morning at the age of 120 years and 6 months, was so far as we remember the oldest white person on record in this country.

How far back the term of this woman's life takes us! What world-transforming events have taken place in it! In the same year that she was born the fathers of the American republic framed the constitution, and when Washington was first inaugurated president she was nearly two years old.

THE ARMY OF TRAMPS. IT HAS been declared that there are in the United States two million roaming, homeless, unambitious vagrants, known as tramps, hoboes and bums.

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PARTIES AND THE PRIMARY LAW.

THE PORTLAND morning paper is most dolefully pessimistic about Republican party prospects under the primary law.

Republicans fit for office, we are told, won't seek nominations under the present law, and if they do they cannot be elected.

It is to be remembered that he ran as a non-partisan more than as a Democrat, for he had particularly repudiated organized party dictation and avoided partisanship in his appointments.

Why should Republican voters refuse to support a nominee under the present system any more than one selected by a convention out of several eager aspirants, each with an army of friends and supporters?

So all this wailing and gnashing of teeth is puerile, absurd, without any reasonable cause or excuse. But even if the new law should result in dividing up the offices a little more, in causing the voters to become more discriminating and independent, no harm would be done.

THE MONEY WENT BACK. Illustrative of the wrinkles and kinks developed during the financial flurry is told by a central Iowa banker who was carrying a time deposit of \$4,000 for a farmer who took alarm and demanded his money, although his deposit certificate did not require payment until January 1 next.

AN OLD CUSTOM.

THE DARK history of the Title Guarantee bank, now in large part disclosed, contains incidentally, a warning against the alliance of business and politics; that is, the bargain, hitherto common and almost universal, that business concerns in return for favors shown to candidates or other politicians should be rewarded by officeholders who were thus helped to win.

Another "King Jake."

With a scowling brow the frate vaudeville agent awaited the next applicant, who was not long in coming. A long, lanky individual with more hair than was absolutely necessary and a countenance that was not a bit cheerful, came to his desk.

States would leave it an easy prey to the Bear, which nobody knows better than the elder rulers of Nippon.

That Portland has the lowest death rate of any city of considerable size in the country—only 8.27 per 1,000—is a fact that ought to be advertised as widely and thoroughly as possible.

OREGON EDUCATION.

CYNICAL COMPLAINTS with reference to education have been uttered in Oregon of late. It is asserted that our youth are given instruction that leads them away, rather than into, industrial life.

When any of our state exchanges feel like condemning Portland and wishing it were in Guinea, or anywhere out of Oregon, let them remember that Multnomah county pays 31 per cent of the state taxes, and does so very cheerfully.

Longitude.

Portland, Jan. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal—Please let me know whether longitude is from north to south or from east to west.

The Panic and Hard Times.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal. Now that the country has passed through a money panic it is time that everybody who has contributed to it should collect his senses and ask himself what he has done to bring it on.

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THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LAND FRAUD CASES

From the Pendleton Tribune. There is much of apparent justice in the Sunday Portland Journal's severe criticism of the juggling that has marked the course of the national administration in the case of United States District Attorney W. C. Bristol.

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Small Change

A good record the first three days in a fine start. Isn't it time to banish the unlucky Friday superstition? Can't that crematory question be settled somehow this year?

Perhaps college students can get time now for a month, or so to pay a little attention to books. "Jack" Matthews is delighted with the Oregonian's fight against the primary nomination law.

Letters from the People

Putting Himself Right. Portland, Jan. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal—In reply to Edmund Ford's letter, which appeared in your issue of December 30, will say that, unlike him I have been regularly discharged from my ship in Tacoma, Washington. I have never been to sea.

The Taft Mistake

From Colliers. That the secretary of war would make an excellent president we are more than ready to believe. Once in office, he would get back to his old independence. Nevertheless, the collapse of the Taft movement is due in large part to mismanagement of the Taft campaign.

Oregon Sidelights

Medford is likely to have a fine new opera-house this year. The Coos county sheriff has been raiding gambling joints.

Faded Dreams.

I want to be a kypsy, in the springtime; I want to be a rover, in July. But November winds have racked me, and those things now don't attract me.

This Date in History.

1740—Benedict Arnold born. Died July 14, 1801. 1777—Washington surprised and defeated the British at Princeton.

The Unlucky Japanese.

Brief telegraphic reports of disasters in Japan give only a faint idea of the situation there. Decimated by war and struggling under a burden of debt, the island empire has also suffered this year from a series of fires, floods and earthquakes that would overwhelm any other nation.

The Longest Year.

From the London Chronicle. The longest year on record was the year 46 B. C. This year had 445 days because Julius Caesar ordained that it should throughout the Roman sphere of influence.

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