EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

Published every evening (except Sunday) and every Sunday morning at The Journal Building, Fifth and Yamhill streets, Portland, Or.

Entered at the postoffice at Portland, Or., for transmission through the mails as second-class matter.

TELEPHONES—MAIN 7173. HOME, A-6051. All departments reached by these numbers. Tell the operator the department you want. East Side office, B-2444; East 839.

FOREIGN ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE. Vreeland-Benjamin Special Advertising Agency, Brunswick Building, 225 Fifth avenue, New York; 1007-08 Boyce Building, Chicago.

Subscription Terms by mail or to any address in the United States, Canada or Mexico:

DAILY.

One year.....$5.00 | One month.....$ .50

SUNDAY.

One year.....$2.50 | One month.....$ .25

DAILY AND SUNDAY.

One year.....$7.50 | One month.....$ .65

Circulation Guarantee

This Certifies that the circulation of the **OREGON JOURNAL** *has been audited and is guaranteed by the Advertiser's Certified Circulation Blue Book*

1908

Circulation Agency 115 Dearborn St Chicago

This Paper has proved by investigation that the circulation records are kept with care and the circulation stated with such accuracy that advertisers may rely on any statements of same made by the publishers under the ownership and management in control **September 7, 1908.**

And the angel said unto them: Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord.

HUNGRY, AND YE FED ME

IN THE downtown district a man named McLaren has announced that today he will give a good Christmas dinner to everybody needing one, without pay. He made provision to feed at least 300 men, and if they are hungry and broke they are as welcome as if they had plenty of money and an uncertain appetite. This man and his family, The Journal is informed, does this to some extent all the time, every day as well as on Christmas day; that is, if a man has no money the McLarens give him meals and lodging all the same for awhile, and more than that, they help him to get a job if he wants one; they hustle around and find work for him. If they discover that a man won't work when he has a chance they cut off their charity, but no moneyless man out of work is turned away. The regular price of meals and lodging is low and would scarcely support a family if everybody paid; but since many do not pay, it would of course be a losing proposition for the McLarens if they did not receive some assistance from well-to-do charitable people.

Whatever one may think of the advisability of this sort of charity, he would be hypercritical who would censure this family for its sincere practical efforts to benefit unfortunate, shiftless or wayward men. There nobody has to give his pedigree and recount his history in detail, and then get a ticket for a meal after earning it, nor does he have to play the hypocrite by professing to believe something he can't believe or understand; he is simply fed, lodged, and helped.

This may not be wise; no doubt some would condemn it as encouraging idleness and fostering beggary; yet somehow, on this Christmas day at least, warm-blooded hearts will throb in sympathetic commendation of the McLarens, realizing that like Abou Ben Adhem, they rank high among those who love their fellow men.

A COMING METHOD

IT WAS in the Molalla district, Clackamas county, that the first watermelons and strawberries were grown in the Willamette valley. It is now proposed to make the same district the scene of the first extensive irrigation project in the Willamette valley. For the purpose the Canby Canal company has been organized with a capital stock of $5000. It is the plan to irrigate 5000 acres of land, and by the process to create a large production where now there is but little. To the ultimate Willamette valley the Molalla district is now to be in irrigation what it was in the melon and strawberry business. It is to be a pioneer, pointing the way. Students of agricultural economics and conditions have no doubt that great areas in the Willamette will finally come under irrigation. They will see in the Canby project the beginning of the evolution from dry into irrigated agriculture. The efficacy of the plan has been demonstrated many times in restricted areas. The housewife demonstrates it every summer day in keeping the lawn. Every garden and every flower bed where water is applied proves the theory. The Oregon Agricultural college has demonstrated the efficacy of water farming in the case of corn, potatoes and alfalfa, in which tremendously increased crops of each were secured. A Washington county farmer in a single application of water secured the greatest yield of clover ever grown on a similar tract of land in Oregon. Oswald West secured a far better product, and a 30 to 50 per cent increased yield in his hop yard near Corvallis. Experiments by the government in various localities in the valley though yet in the early stages, have invariably yielded splendid returns. Problems and methods remain yet to be worked out, but that they will be worked out and that water will be introduced on large areas in the Willamette region is unquestioned. The movement is slow because not so far deemed necessary. Life has been easy and crops certain without irrigation. With water in abundance everywhere, with vastly increased profit to come from its application and with the natural advance that time and progress bring in all things, the resort to irrigation on an extended scale in the region will be one of the steps of the future.

LABOR AND JAILS

MUCH OF moment is involved in the sentencing of the labor leaders to jail. It is doubtful if there will be general approval of the principle at issue. It is doubtful if the offense is as big as the sentence.

In the minds of just men there is a higher law than that applied in the Washington court. It is a law under which the effort of men to increase the income of toil is not an offense with jail sentence for a penalty. It is the great law of humanity which places men on a plane above the thing. The toil of the man produces the thing, and under the great humanized law, the man is placed first and the dollar or the property afterward. The courts may say so, but it is not an offense against society for workers, by all peaceful means, to get all they can for their labor. His wage is the measure of the worker's welfare and the test of his family's comfort. Human wellbeing is the primal and only object of social organization. It was for their mutual wellbeing that primitive men banded together in little groups. The same principle, through a process of evolution, led to the institution of governments. If these governments do not exist for furtherance of the comforts of men, the principle for which they were originally organized has been lost sight of. Reduced to its simplest terms, the economic task of politics consists in helping the average man to make ends meet. By the test of human comfort and protection the essential problem of statesmen is to increase the purchasing power of an ordinary day's work.

The Buck Stove company has been the persistent foe to labor in the effort of its leaders to secure a better wage for the comfort of toilers and their families. Because Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison printed the fact of this hostility in a labor newspaper they are sent to jail for one year, nine months and six months, respectively. If the original theory of government is right, the sentences are wrong, wrong at least under that higher and better law of humanity. Such is the view that will be taken by millions of just men. If it is not the correct view, then our legislation for more than 100 years in which tariffs are levied for the avowed purpose of increasing the toilers' hire is fallacious. If it is not the true view the purpose of government is mostly for the protection of property and but little for protection of the man. However, Mitchell, Gompers and Morrison seem destined to do time in jail. It will be a strange sight. It may become a momentous fact. Meantime what has become of free speech?

WHAT OREGON EXPECTS FROM THE LEGISLATURE

IF OREGON should be searched from one end to the other, not one taxpayer could be found who would be for other than a business session of the legislature. No other kind of a session is wanted. It costs a lot of money to hold a session. It costs more money if false and foolish issues be introduced with complications, delays and tomfoolery. The bill has to be footed by the taxpayer. The burden falls heavily upon the business men and property owners of Portland. It falls heavily on the farmers of the state. It falls heavily on the business men and property owners of every Oregon town. Among all these there is a desire for an orderly and peaceful session, with all the legislators bent on achieving good results for Oregon.

The state needs road legislation. It wants a better distribution of the tax burdens. It wants water power legislation. It wants irrigation legislation. It wants legislation for protection of the timber resources, such as is suggested by the National Conservation congress. It wants legislation with reference to the Willamette locks. It wants legislation in line with the progressive thought for conserving all our resources. It wants legislation for the public schools.

Never in the history of the state did such weighty and pressing problems of legislation appear for solution. Never before in the history of the state has so much of state wellbeing depended upon the deliberations and action of a legislative assembly. Never before was there such need for deliberate and wise action. For all this the 40 days of allotted time is almost too short a period. It is a time for the greatest and best thought of those among our chosen representatives to be devoted with singleness of purpose and deepest seriousness to the great work. Oregon waits and Oregon people await the result with patience and hopefulness. A stride forward in state development and state building or two years more of retarded progress are staked on the outcome. The issues are momentous and the people are watching those who are to be figures in the session. They want to know exactly where each man stands. They want to know whether he is for the people or against the people. They want to know whether he is for Oregon or against Oregon. They want to know whether he is for good legislation or against good legislation. They want to know whether he regards his office as a public trust or a private snap. They want to know whether he has things to do in secret or whether his acts are to be open. They want to know whether he wants to hide things from the people or take the people into his confidence. They want to know whether the session and everything connected with it is to be a square deal for them or a period of secrecy, silence and stealth. If there are those who are afraid to take the people into their confidence, can the people trust them?

GREAT WHITE WAYS

THERE IS agitation for a "Great White Way" between Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Chicago. It is to be a broad macadam of perfect smoothness over which automobiles and other pleasure vehicles may speed under the best and safest conditions. The significance of the plan is that hard-headed capitalists are behind the project, and in financing it, they will secure possession of large bodies of land along the roadway, and rely upon the advance in value for their return for constructing the road. This hint of how a good road will add to the value of abutting land should be suggestive in Oregon. Great White Ways in every direction throughout the state would quickly pay for themselves, would enrich the state, and add immeasurably to the comfort and happiness of Oregon life.

The wonder is that human effort is not more directed in this avenue which is so momentous for a more perfect social and economic condition. Great White Ways, such as that proposed between Milwaukee and Chicago, are almost as much of a stimulus to civilization and happy living as are the colleges and schools. Even the ancient Romans understood this, and in their road building far surpassed us with all our boasted civilization. Why do not our people study the subject and let the light of Great White Ways break in upon them? Is not the subject one through which the coming legislature, by wise and brave action, can do a mighty service for Oregon? Is there one man in the state who prefers bad roads to Great White Ways?

CASTRO AND GOMEZ

FROM A news point of view, as well as otherwise, Caracas is a long way off, and as a strict censorship prevails there we cannot be very sure yet of just what is occurring, and its significance, and the results. Apparently, however, Gomez, the vice-president, has taken advantage of Castro's absence to seize the government, and is approved and will be supported by the Venezuelans generally in doing so. If he can retain the support of the "army," he is likely to maintain himself as president, for awhile at least. While Castro kept himself in power, with little open resistance, for nearly ten years, there are signs that the people were generally pretty tired of his dictatorship, and would not welcome his return. Yet he has powerful friends and followers, who will make Gomez much trouble, if incited thereto by Castro, and even, probably, without such incitement. It is not improbable that Castro went away with the intention not to return. Holland was practically blockading the ports, cutting off his revenues, and he was out of favor not only with most European nations but with the United States as well, and he may well have thought that it was a good time to abdicate informally by going to Europe. But if not; if he returns, and has means, and can secure a large following, it means a civil war that will further devastate and otherwise injure Venezuela.

A clergyman having said that "luxury is as great a curse to the human race as abject poverty," the Public remarks: "This is dreadfully true when the two go together. For where they go together the luxury of some spells poverty for the rest. But the luxury that all might have by earning it, would that be a curse?" This, we suppose, is an expression of socialism, but it is worth some thought nevertheless.

Whatever all the facts as to Judge Root's transactions or negotiations with Railroad Attorney Gordon, he is manifestly very weak, unsuitable timber for a supreme court judge.

A very intelligent and highly respected workingman who died recently in Ohio was once asked by a judge: "What is it that you workingmen want that you haven't got?" This workingman at once answered, Yankee fashion, with the question: "What is it, judge, that you have got that you don't want?" That was fairly and wittily putting the boot on the other foot.

Another "unloaded" pistol; a dead little girl, only three years old, killed by her mother, who pulled the trigger in fun. What a multitude and variety of sickening tragedies the revolver, loaded and "unloaded" causes.

Out of more than 60 councilmen of Pittsburg, the graft manager says six were honest and would not take bribes. This shows that Pittsburg may not be quite as bad as Sodom was when it went up in smoke.

Hurrah for the streetcar fender, or at least one fender in particular; it saved a life. Isn't this the first instance of the kind on record in Portland?

To anybody who has done anything to make anybody else innocently happier, or anywise better today, Christmas will not have come in vain.

Eat, drink and be merry—but in moderation, for tomorrow you'll have to go to work.

"Peace on earth; good will to men."

Nature recognizes no holidays.

"Joy to the world."

CHRISTMAS

Though doubters doubt and scoffers scoff,
And peace on earth seems still far off;
Though learned doctors think they know
The gospel stories are not so;
Though greedy man is greedy still
And competition chokes good will,
While rich men sigh and poor men fret,
Dear me! We can't spare Christmas yet!
Time may do better—maybe not;
Meanwhile let's keep the day we've got!
—E. S. Martin, in Life.

Letters From the People

Letters to The Journal should be written on one side of the paper only, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. The name will not be used if the writer asks that it be withheld. The Journal is not to be understood as indorsing the views or statements of correspondents. Letters should be made as brief as possible. Those who wish their letters returned when not used should inclose postage.

Correspondents are notified that letters exceeding 300 words in length may, at the discretion of the editor, be cut down to that limit.

Regarding Civil Service.

Portland, Dec. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal—In your issue of December 17 I note the stand taken by O. L. McPherson in regard to section 317 of the present city charter relating to the discharge of employes under civil service, which provides that no employe shall be removed or discharged except for cause, upon written charges of which one copy shall be delivered to him and a duplicate filed with the civil service commission, that any employe so discharged shall have the right of appeal to the civil service commission and the commission shall have the right to reinstate. Mr. McPherson bewails the fact that a civil service employe so discharged can appeal to the civil service commission and if charges are not sustained can be reinstated. He would have, to use his words, the heads of departments be the judge and the sole judge as to whether an employe is performing his duties properly and efficiently. He would make appeal to the civil service commission impossible and civil service positions a thing for the heads of departments to juggle with, a chance for them to play favorites in the matter of promotions, etc., by giving them the power to discharge employes whenever their judgment or lack of it justifies it; or some one on the eligible list to whom they owed an obligation, wanted the job. What would be the incentive for one to attempt to pass rigid civil service examinations and if successful perhaps have to hold themselves in readiness for months (and in one case known to me personally nearly two years) only to find the permanence of his position depending on the digestion and consequent humor of the head of his department? To sum up the situation, is it not likely that a body of workers who stand squarely on their own merits and owe allegiance to no individual, will be more efficient, where in case of their discharge they are given opportunity to thresh out the case and be vindicated or discharged, as the evidence warrants, by a commission of impartial men, than would a rabble whose only security lies in their subservience to and vying with each other in ingratiating themselves into the good graces of the respective heads of their departments. FRED E. FULLER.

George I of Greece's Birthday.

George I, king of Greece, was born December 25, 1845, the second son of the late king of Denmark, Christian IX. When the Greeks finally succeeded in throwing off the Turkish domination and looked about for a ruler, they called Prince George of Denmark to accept the newly created throne of Greece. He was chosen king in March, 1863, and was crowned in November of the same year. In 1867 King George married the Grand Duchess Olga, daughter of the Russian Grand Duke Constantine. The rule of King George has been a successful one and no sovereign in Europe enjoys a greater degree of popularity with his subjects. King George has six children. The eldest son and heir to the throne is the Duke of Sparta, who has just passed his fortieth year. King George is a keen man of business and is reputed to be very wealthy, though his civil list is far below that of many other rulers in Europe.

This Date in History.

1635—Samuel de Champlain, explorer, died in Quebec. Born in France in 1567.
1774—British tea ship forbidden to land at Philadelphia.
1776—Americans defeated the British at Trenton, N. J.
1779—The city of Nashville, Tenn., founded.
1826—Rear Admiral Francis M. Bunce, U. S. N., born in Hartford, Conn. Died there, October 19, 1901.
1868—President Johnson issued universal amnesty proclamation.
1890—China Navigation company's liner Shanghai burned near Ching Kiang with loss of 300 lives.
1898—Great Britain inaugurated imperial penny postage.

FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE

"Against Flogging in the Navy"—By R. F. Stockton, Captain U. S. N.

(From a speech as senator from New Jersey, in the United States senate, on his successful bill to abolish flogging in the navy, January 7, 1852.)

I love the navy. When I speak of the navy, I mean the sailor as well as the officer. They are all my fellow-citizens and yours, and come what may, my voice will ever be raised against a punishment which degrades my countrymen to the level of brutes, and destroys all that is worth living for—personal honor and self respect. In many a bloody conflict has the superiority of American sailors decided the battle in our favor. I desire to secure and preserve that superiority. But, can nobleness of sentiment or honorable pride of character dwell with one whose every muscle has been made to quiver under the lash? Can he long continue to love a country whose laws crush out all the dignity of manhood, and rouse all the exasperation of hate in his breast?

Look at your history, that part which the world knows by heart, and you will find on its brightest page the glorious achievements of the American sailor. Whatever his country has done to disgrace him and break his spirit, he never has disgraced her. Man for man he asks no odds, and he cares for no odds when the cause of humanity, or the glory of his country calls him to the fight. Who, in the darkest days of our revolution, carried your flag into the very chops of the British channel, bearded the lion in his den, and awoke the echo of old Albion's hills by the thunder of his cannon, and the shouts of his triumph? It was the American sailor! and the names of John Paul Jones and the Bon Homme Richard, will go down the annals of time forever. Who struck the first blow that humbled the Barbary flag, which for a hundred years had been the terror of Christendom, drove it from the Mediterranean and put an end to the infamous tribute it had been accustomed to exact? It was the American sailor! and the names of Decatur and his gallant companions will be as lasting as monumental brass.

In the war of 1812, when your arms on shore were covered with disaster, when Wilkinson had been defeated, when the army of the northwest had surrendered, when the gloom of despondency hung like a cloud over the land—who first relit the fires of national glory and made the welkin ring with shouts of victory? It was the American sailor! and the names of Hull and the "Constitution" will be remembered as long as we have a country to love. That one event was worth more to the country than all the money which has ever been expended for a navy. Since that day the navy has had no stain upon its national escutcheon, but has been cherished as your pride and glory. The American sailor has established a reputation throughout the world for heroism and prowess unsurpassed.

The great climax of Cicero in his speech against Verres is, "that though a Roman citizen, his client had been scourged." Will this more than Roman senate long debate whether an American citizen, sailor though he be, shall be robbed of his rights? Whether, freeman as he is, he shall be scourged like a slave? Shall any American citizen be scourged? Forbid it, Heaven! Humanity forbid it! For myself, I would rather see the navy abolished or buried in the depths of the ocean, than that those who won for it all its renown, should be subjected to a punishment so brutal, to an ignominy so undeserved.

THE CANAL CONTROVERSY

Mr. Roosevelt Stands Unhorsed.

From the St. Louis Republic.

But Mr. Roosevelt is neither cautious nor resourceful and in the first shock of the conflict he stands unhorsed.

Who Got the Money?

From the Milwaukee Journal.

The recital by the New York World of William Nelson Cromwell's testimony before the senate committee on interoceanic canals, when he was being examined by Senator Morgan, completely cuts the ground from under Mr. Roosevelt. Though an unwilling witness, Cromwell was forced, when confronted with the documents, to confess that the conspiracy had been hatched by American capitalists and that they profited richly from the deal. The $40,000,000 was paid to J. P. Morgan & Co., which in turn distributed it, despite the assertion by President Roosevelt that it was paid directly to the French government.

Public Curiosity.

From the Providence Journal.

The story of the travel of the fortunes of the original French company, following its bankruptcy, indicates that at their last stage they fell into the hands of an American syndicate. * * * That the persons who got the money have not publicly boasted of the success of their enterprise is not surprising. That there seems to have been a persistent effort to conceal essential particulars of the transaction is what furnishes the sinister suggestion. On this point the dallying curiosity of the public is now recreated into a righteous demand for full and precise information.

Should Be Probed.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The president has gone out of his way to bring the issue before the public, and instead of denouncing the author of what he declares to be a falsehood, leaves him severely alone and assails one of the commentators on the objectionable newspaper statement. It is to the credit of the World that it has assumed full responsibility for the story.

Under such circumstances it seems to us that these charges will now have to be investigated.

A Chronic Delirium.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

Whether the New York World's charges are well groomed or not we do not pretend to say, but it is respectfully submitted to intelligent and prudent citizens that Theodore Roosevelt, if a competent, is not a credible witness in rebuttal. His utterances on this subject, as they were in respect to the Parker charges, are those of one sick of a fever, but not yet weakened by it. Mr. Roosevelt moves and has his being in a sort of chronic delirium; he is impetuous, volatile, seething, ecstatic.

Running Shots

Written for the Journal by Fred C. Denton.

Portland should extend every aid and encouragement to ships that come to her wharves. We need some wharves owned by the city and built of lasting materials, properly equipped and able to receive ships in an up to date manner.

* * *

Yes, stranger, some of the initiative laws have been appealed to the higher courts. With all our courts and all our able and uncriminal lawyers the initiative laws go into their hopper, same as in other states the other kind do.

* * *

From the waste of the sawmills in Oregon could be made great fortunes if we were wiser and not so reckless.

* * *

Uncle Sam will not allow bridge or other prize card parties to use the mails to extend invitations. Have Uncle Sam arrested for using the mails to advertise his land lotteries.

* * *

To read that the representatives of the California fruit interests before the congressional committee wept at the ruin that a reduction of the tariff would bring to the Golden State, and then read the loud brags of how California fruit was driving out competition in the foreign and domestic markets because of its superior flavor, appearance and size—made elsewhere, of course—would make some men smile.

* * *

"Let us prey!" and the pious trust smiles at the talk of tariff revision with that confidence and hope that makes his countenance shine with the reflected glory of the triumphant Republican party.

* * *

As Portland grows the bridges seem to get smaller and fewer.

* * *

If Mayor Lane were the city council he might improve the conditions, but if the city council were the mayor what would become of common folk?

* * *

Labor pays all bills. The rent paid for the use of land and the taxes for the support of government; all come from labor. Why not take the land values annually created to pay taxes with and let labor be released that much?

* * *

A paper in California points out that the United States government in constructing irrigation works raises the price of land held by private owners. Certainly. The creation of any and all public betterments raises the price of land held by anybody. When we are sensible enough to tax land instead of the products of labor to pay for the increase we will have more public works and better ones. The paper is mistaken that says it increases the value of land $1 an acre to irrigate it. To say $100 would be a mild statement of it.

* * *

Farmers who have settled upon land in the irrigated districts of the United States government should be given every consideration in making payments for the canals. The first settlers have a thousand difficulties to contend with, and many disappointments. To pay the sum of $3 to $6 an acre for water before crops and trees have been grown, stock sheltered and fences built means ruin to many and little bare feet in the snow.

* * *

Never shall it be said that the Chinese lover of the New England states sleeps! This country must and shall be preserved with Chinese labor! The recommendation of the Roosevelt administration that the Chinese exclusion law be repealed was wisely deferred until after election, but the New England patriot and the corporations seeking liberty loving Chinese to populate the country got together in time to tell congress what to do.

Eternal Fitness.

From the Pittsburg Post.

"I see a retired knockabout comedian is going to buy a title and have a coat of arms."

"Has he decided on anything?"

"I think he is considering two slapsticks crossed over a seltzer siphon."

Oregon Sidelights

Eastern Oregon farmers are smiling at the snow.

* *

Roseburg's streets are simply horrible, says the News.

* *

Less than five per cent of Wallowa county's tax remains unpaid.

* *

Pupils at the Hermiston public school have increased from 90 in September to 140.

* *

A Lane county man has received by mail a six pound cake from friends in Scotland.

* *

The Dalles officials have taken possession of their fine new city hall, costing $45,000.

* *

The big irrigation project in the La Grande valley is progressing rather encouragingly.

* *

Miss Marian B. Towne of Medford, deputy county clerk, is studying law, and expects to practice.

* *

Black slough lands near Astoria are being bought by Finns, whose leader is Rev. E. Lommererjarwea.

* *

A Perrydale man has brought back from Kentucky 21 blooded Jersey cattle to add to his already fine herd.

* *

Excellent progress has been made during the past few days in securing rights of way for the proposed electric road to Seaside, says the Astoria Budget.

* *

Not long ago the best land on the Sandridge in Union county could be bought for $50 an acre, but now most of it is held at $100 or more. Prospective irrigation.

* *

A Myrtle creek man killed 10 hogs last week which dressed 2500 pounds. They were only a year old. At current prices for lard and bacon, amount already realized from sausage and bones, these 10 pigs are worth $260, or $26 each, says the Mail.

* *

The government steamer Umatilla is completed and with a dredge is doing good work that is improving the channels in the Columbia river above Celilo, says The Dalles Chronicle. This boat was built at Celilo and is a fine craft, costing $60,000. The boat is at present dredging Brigg's shoal, above Celilo, and is giving a good account of herself.

* *

Our valley roads are in as perfect condition as in midsummer, says the La Grande Observer. This is an ideal winter; stock can be fed with little or no waste. Wood can be brought from the nearby mountains with greater ease than in the summer, which prevents excessive prices. From a climatic standpoint, 1908 has been a model year.

* *

Athena Press: Eastern Oregon and eastern Washington are in the market now with apples that get the trade and the price not only in our eastern cities, but now the crowned heads of Europe are feasting on them. According to all reports, about a million fruit trees have been planted in eastern Oregon and eastern Washington the last year. New orchards can be found in every locality.

* *

They will be boring for oil out at Pratum within a few days, with the finest outfit that can be bought in the country. The people who are putting up the money are confident that they will get the oil. If they do, there will be another story added to the prosperity of the Willamette valley. Under the surface the oil, on the surface the crops. Above the surface the timber—to say nothing of the fruit, says the Salem Statesman.

No Opportunity.

From Puck.

Mrs. Dyer—Have you had any experience in taking care of children?

Applicant—No, ma'am. Heretofore I've only worked for the best families.

The REALM FEMININE

The Christmas Spirit.

There dwelt in old Judea
A maiden fair to see,
The mother mild and undefiled
Of a blessed babe was she.
O Noel, sing Noel,
And merry be alway,
For Christ was born in the early morn
All on a Christmas day.

And as the infant Jesus
Lay on his lowly bed,
A circle bright of heavenly light
Shone round about his head.
O Noel, sing Noel,
And merry be alway.
For Christ was born in the early morn
All on a Christmas day.

For this was Prince Emmanuel
Who laid aside his crown,
And all to win our souls from sin
Unto the earth came down.
O Noel, sing Noel,
And merry be alway.
For Christ was born in the early morn
All on a Christmas day.

WHAT a genuineness there is in the old carols that were sung by a simple people out of the fullness of their hearts. How their true ring sounds in our hearts today when we come to the blessed Christmas season, doing reverence before the lowly manger wherein lay the unconscious Prince of Peace.

The particular charm of the simple carol here given lies in that refrain, "and merry be alway"—it is giving us the keynote to which to attune our lives through the coming year.

"And merry be alway"—not pouring out all our gladness and graciousness upon one day of the year and withdrawing into a shell of selfishness and egotism through the other 364, but carrying the Christmas feeling, the Christ sentiment, the Christ example, with us and letting it shine out of humble deeds and unimportant actions.

Our hearts have thrilled with the reverence that moved the wise men to lay their offerings of gold and frankincense and myrrh before the little babe, recognizing in his innocence and humility the sovereign power that was to regenerate the world; and we have responded to the angels' song of "peace and good will," wishing we might join that acclaim of joy.

And then, so often, we have come back from our little journey into far distant times, from our mental excursion into that simple, beautiful atmosphere, and have looked out again upon the work-a-day world of this twentieth century, and, with a sigh, have taken up its burdens, gone about its prosaic business, regretfully.

Let us take heart today, from the simple message of this Christmas song. It is couched in simple language, for simple hearts to understand. It recognizes the workableness, the liveableness of a sincere faith, not only in the dawn of the first century, but now, when the accumulated burdens of the old world claim our attention for their heaviness.

Now, as then, social problems press for attention; now, as then, greed lays its burdens upon a community; now, as then, the poor are oppressed and downtrodden; now, as then, there is sickness, heaviness of heart, the trials of the widow and the fatherless, the smiting of the falsely accused, and often our spirits are burdened with it all. We groan under our burdens, we lose faith in the ultimate outcome, we repine that the way is long and the path is stony.

And yet the angels' song was more than an acclaim, it was a prophecy. The worship of the wise men was not alone fitting for that early light of one supreme day in faraway Palestine, but is a type of the mind of wisdom in this day; the coming of the Prince of Peace was not an isolated fact among many facts in a cold and muddled world, but it was indeed the mark of a new day, of the dawn of a hereafter for all the world's struggling people.

It was not the evolving of a theory too fine for common needs. It was not the beginning of a scheme of regeneration for mankind which depended upon vast armies of force, waging war against preconceived opinions with fire and sword. It was the coming of the child, prepotent with a silent regeneration through the souls of men.

It has in its evolution not the plan of the violent reformer who would lay hold upon all the possessions of men and dispose them equally, nor does it depend upon the dream of soul perfection which moves the ascetic, shut off from the touch of his kind, but it is the dawn of the soul, standing in undismayed freedom before God, and humanly housed in an ordinary human frame, and touched on all sides by human needs and human sympathies.

Reforms may seem slow, the sorrows of men may oppress, there may be wrongs and there may be problems—what then; shall we despair because it is given us to touch these in our lives?

He whom this day honors was surrounded by all these. Born in a manger, sheltered by a humble home, surrounded by plain people with their cares and their sorrows, he lived out a simple life, untouched by the wickedness though touched by the sorrows, and he left in the world into which he came the germ of a regenerating force which is even now working out its ultimate destiny.

We are not isolated specks in a world of confusion, but because of that lowly Nazarene child we are individuals, a part of a divine plan, free to chose, free to live out our destiny spurred on by the thought that an omnipotent wisdom has decreed the result.

Why should we not take hold of life with new courage and new hope? Why should we not "merry be alway," not leaving our Christmas behind us when we go out to tomorrow's duties, but carrying with us its spirit and its message wherever our lives may be cast?

It is not a blind world madly spinning down a trackless void; it is God's world, and the day of the fulfillment of the angel's prophecy is every day a little nearer.

The prince of peace has come.

* * *

A Christmas Fancy.

A VERY novel way to serve a strawberry ice cream is to have it packed in a tall mould so that when turned out it will resemble a chimney somewhat. On its top mount a little candy Santa Claus.

* * *

Some Holiday Toasts.

Here's to our Christmas, may it bring
us good cheer!
May the joy of this Christmas reach all,
far and near,
May the message of Christmas to all
hearts be clear;
May it soothe every sorrow and dry
every tear.
May it bind closer to us each soul that
is dear,
And the spirit of Christmas last all
through the year.
—Laura R. Talbot.

A merry Christmas, wishing you prosperity in your friendship and joy in your work—possessions more precious than "the peculiar treasure of kings."—Edwin Markham.

Many merry Christmases, many Happy New Years, unbroken friendships, great accumulation of cheerful recollections, affection on earth, and heaven at last for all of us.—Charles Dickens.

* * *

Fruit Filling.

MAKE any good layer cake and fill with this filling: One cupful of seeded raisins, a half pound of blanched almonds, one of figs and one of citron, all chopped fine. Mix with enough frosting to spread and place between the layers.