THE JOURNAL

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

C. S. JACKSON .....Publisher.

Published every evening (except Sunday) and every Sunday morning at The Journal Building, Broadway and Yamhill sts., 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 what department you want.

FOREIGN ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE Benjamin & Kentnor Co., Brunswick Bldg., 225 Fifth Ave., New York; 1218 People's Gas Bldg., Chicago.

Subscription terms by mail or to any address in the United States 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

Education is simply the encouragement of right habits—the fixing of good habits until they become a part of one's nature, and are exercised automatically.—Elbert Hubbard.

THE UNTERMEYER CHARGE

IT WAS charged at Washington yesterday that the vice president of the Riggs bank at Washington is an official of the National City bank of New York at a salary of $12,000 a year.

The charge was made by Samuel Untermeyer, counsel for Secretary McAdoo, in the court hearing in which Secretary McAdoo and Controller Williams are charged with conspiracy to wreck the Riggs bank.

Mr. Untermeyer significantly inquired, "what was the purpose of the National City bank in keeping a high salaried official with a staff in the capital of the nation?" He added:

Investigation disclosed a remarkable situation. The secretary (McAdoo) found that in 1897, the now president of the National City resigned as secretary of the treasury and was succeeded by the now vice president of the Riggs bank. It is well known that the National City is a large lender of call loans on the stock exchange.

From 1898 to 1913 the National City was receiving funds of the United States on deposit and paid no interest. At times from one-fourth to one-tenth of all deposits of the United States in national banks was in the National City and of these funds it held at times $12,000,000 to $13,000,000. When Mr. McAdoo took office he purposed to cut that pipe line, and to use government deposits, not to stimulate stock market speculation through the National City bank, but to serve the commercial needs of the country.

The National City is a Rockefeller bank. The Untermeyer exposure of the use of millions of public money for stock gambling through call loans by the National City bank throws light on how the great captains of finance worked things for their own profit under the old system.

Twelve to thirteen millions of government funds for which the government received no interest, held by the National City and loaned to stock gamblers at interest rates that in 1907 went as high as 60 per cent, was a softer private snap than the richest gold mine in the world. Secretaries of the treasury left the government employ to become high officials in the Riggs and National City banks, and were so effective in getting government deposits that the National City constantly had one-tenth to one-fourth of all the government deposits, though there are more than 7000 national banks in the country.

The court struggle at Washington is not a mere lawsuit. It is not a passing case of litigation.

It is a struggle between the government on the one side and the great Rockefeller and allied financial interests on the other over the tremendous issue of whether Wall street shall remain in partnership with the government, or whether the partnership shall be dissolved.

It is a gigantic struggle between the old system and the new system inaugurated by the Wilson currency and banking act.

"POTLICKER"

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York Herald, writing of child labor in the southern cotton mills, made the statement that many of them are so poor that a meal often consists only of "potlicker."

Thereupon New York became curious to know what potlicker consisted of. A Boston newspaper undertook to give the information by asserting that potlicker, spelling it pot liquor, was the liquor in which meat had been boiled, or in other words a thin broth. It gave for its authority the Century dictionary.

This fling at one of the delicacies of the south was resented by the press of Savannah, Georgia, which retorted that a dictionary prepared by anyone from the south would not have spelled it "pot liquor" or spoken of it as "thin broth." Furthermore, Boston is so devoted to its beans that it is blind to all other offerings of the gods to man.

What real potlicker is, is thus defined by Colonel Henry Watterson:

Mere meat boiled in water will produce what the writer of a dictionary may call "pot liquor," but real potlicker is distilled preferably in an iron kettle over a wood fire from hog jowl and wild greens. The commingled essences of wild greens, dandelion leaves, lambs quarter, pepper grass and a dozen other varieties, with a bouquet added by the penetrant wood smoke that envelopes the pot in which the greens caress the jowl, make the true potlicker of the south ambrosial to both the "houn dog" and the twins. Upon it many distinguished citizens and a great number of happy and useful people have been fed from weaning time.

The child who drinks it needs no tonic. Moreover, it is whispered around that it really was not a mess of pottage but a half gallon or so of potlicker that proved the undoing of Esau when he returned famished from the chase and bartered his birthright.

If you want to make a Missourian's mouth water murmur to him of potlicker.

IN THE ASHES

PORTLAND'S fire recklessness is a crime.

It led to this: Two little boys of five and three arose before the rest of the family, and were obsessed with the idea of building a fire and preparing breakfast.

They built the fire, not in the kitchen stove, but in the wood box.

The flames frightened the boys and their screams soon brought the mother. She hurriedly put the three-year-old outside the back door. The five-year-old after some delay was found hidden under the bed, and was hurried out the front door. The father was summoning the fire department and trying to fight the swiftly spreading flames.

The mother hurried upstairs through blinding smoke and fire to save her babe. Retreat was quickly cut off by flames in the stairway. She hurried to a second floor window and leaped from it with her babe in her arms, alighting in safety.

For her intrepidity, this mother was entitled to all her children. But the three-year-old, childlike, got back into the burning home and his life was the toll.

The matches had been left in the house where the children could find them. Matches so left are one of the causes of the loss of 16 lives by fires last year. The matches and the inflammables carelessly left about are, in part, the reason why nearly $2,000,000 worth of property was burned to ashes in Portland in 1914.

The fire department is working earnestly and assiduously to check this waste. A school is maintained by the firemen, at which they study the causes and investigate the problems, of fires. It is endeavored to make themselves proficient in fire prevention.

Another step in the work is a system of inspection newly inaugurated. Firemen are visiting every residence and, if the owner permits, they look the house over to see where precautions are overlooked, and what factors are present that increase the fire danger. It is endeavored to have the practiced eye of the fire expert view the premises and suggest changes that will increase the safety of the house and household.

It is a splendid service. It is conservation of life and property. It ought to have the hearty cooperation of every Portlander.

THE CHEAPER ROUTE

MAYOR THOMPSON of Chicago says thousands of dollars are wasted annually by business men of that city because they fail to appreciate the Chicago river and drainage canal. They don't use the cheaper route for their freight. He says:

I cannot understand what the people are thinking of in neglecting this great water artery. The cost of water transportation is so small compared with other means that business men could save many thousands of dollars if they would only decide to do something.

Chicago's new mayor says he proposes to have the city set the example. The river and drainage canal will be used as far as possible for transporting municipal freight. The taxpayers' money will be saved, the problem of congested streets will be partly solved, and business men will be shown that they can save money by also using the cheaper water route.

Mayor Thompson says he proposes to be a prosperity mayor. It is significant that in carrying out his program he has taken up the cost of transporting freight. He declares that Chicago business concerns can benefit themselves by using a water route even for comparatively short hauls. If he is right, how about the Columbia and its tributaries in their relation to prosperity in Portland and throughout the Columbia basin?

Maximum prosperity will never come to any city or district so long as cheap freight routes are ignored.

UNDER SEA FREIGHT CARS

A WRITER in Popular Mechanics says "underwater freight trains are the probable explanation of Germany's submarine successes on the Irish coast. It is declared that few undersea craft now in existence have a cruising radius of more than 500 miles. But German submarines operating in the Irish sea and off the northwest coast of Scotland are at least 700 miles from the nearest German port.

It is suggested that the Germans have made use of a new boat devised by Simon Lake, an American inventor. This is a cigar-shaped, submersible car to be towed. Supplies carried in this car, it is said, can be transferred to a fighting submarine on the bottom of the sea in shallow water.

Oil and water are transferred through pipes. Stores, canned food and even torpedoes can be passed under wat from one craft to another through a compartment cut off from the rest of the craft by air-tight bulkheads. It is even said that when the door of this compartment is open water can be kept out by air pressure. The contrivance is a sort of modification of the diving bell.

If the Germans are supplying their submarines under the guns of enemy coast fortifications, it is only further evidence of the changes in warfare this conflict has brought about.

MAKE IT THE BEST

A MOVEMENT is on to make the floral parade at the coming festival more beautiful than ever.

That is fitness. The floral parade especially typifies the festival. It visualizies the spirit of the rose show. It is the pageant beautiful which expresses to the world in a most striking way the exalted conception that impels Portland to hold its annual celebration of the flowers.

Other cities cannot rival the floral pageant. They haven't the wealth of flowers with which to make it. In their floral parades, they are compelled in their decorations to supplement the real flowers with the artificial. This should be an extraordinary stimulus to Portlanders to be all the more determined to make of their floral parade a pageant beyond parallel, precedent or comparison.

There will never be a more opportune time. The season is favorable, and the flowers are here. There will be a greater audience than ever before, of visitors from distant communities to witness the performance. The fame of the festival is at the San Francisco exposition, and many guests there are planning to view the Rose Festival on their way back to their homes beyond the Rockies. Word is brought by a late arrival from the exposition that a great many parties are counting on the festival as one of the sights of their western trip.

It is an especially favorable time to press home the import of the rose show. It is indeed a poor atom of the race who does not love flowers. Everybody in the world is attracted by a land where flowers are in beauty and profusion. That kind of a land means fair skies, delightful environs and happy people.

There is no appeal that will go so straight to the hearts of visitors. There is no spectacle that will do so much to delight them with the festival and Portland.

The floral pageant this year should surpass all its predecessors because we know better from past experience how to produce it and because we have a greater incentive to make it the best Portland has ever seen.

OUGHT TO BE PROBED

THERE ought to be some way to find out how the midnight resolution got through the House without the knowledge of members, and some way to find out how so many members who did not know of the existence of the resolution have been put in the record as voting for it.

When such things can happen, legislation assumes a role that makes it of wide concern. The late House was an honest House. It was a wide open, deliberative body. With but few exceptions, its members tried throughout the session to do their duty with efficiency and integrity.

After the session, they returned to their homes. Weeks afterward, they learned to their amazement that a resolution carrying the infamous proposal for the federal courts to turn the forfeited public domain back to the railroad was passed at the session, and that they stand recorded as voting for it.

There is not a doubt in the world that these men tell the truth when they say they did not know the resolution had passed. What then, is the situation? What kind of skulduggery was practiced in slipping this measure through?

The facts in this extraordinary proceeding ought to be brought to light. The whole disreputable business ought to be exposed, and the names of those responsible for the fraud be published broadcast before the state.

Thirty-two—count 'em—inspectors have to be employed to prevent the waste of water from becoming so great as to empty the mains and expose the city to destruction from fire. If the city were metered, all these employes would be dispensed with except eight, required for reading meters. This is one small economy among many huge savings that meters would bring about.

There may be a mistake about that lawyer earning $160,000 a year. Once an engineer built a bridge which collapsed. He explained that it was because in his computations he had put the comma in the wrong place. The lawyer's income may be another case of that pestiferous comma.

Owners of buildings have been warned by Fire Marshal Stevens to clean the moss off the roofs. It would be equally important to have some Portland folks clean the moss off their backs.

It has been discovered that if the proposed aldermanic charter had been submitted to a vote, and if the people had adopted it, authority would have been conferred to issue another $2,500,000 of dock bonds. In tinkering with city charters on the spur of the moment, nobody knows what wonders might be performed.

It was not an earthquake or the passage of a midnight resolution that the residents of Rose City Park felt. In the scientific language of Manager Day, the shock was atmospheric, not terrestrial. In other words, the shock absorber was not working owing to the dense humidity.

In West Virginia bootleggers are trying to evade the prohibition law by importing liquor in coffins. One funeral party was arrested the other day and the "corpse" confiscated, thus establishing that a law which locates spirits in the dead is not a dead letter.

The United States Steel Corporation reports that it is operating at about 75 per cent of ingot capacity, as against 69 per cent in April—and the production of steel is a barometer of business in the United States.

God help the man who steps between husband and wife, quotes Judge McGinn. There is another old proverb that God helps him who helps himself.

Evidently Kitchener still believes that it is going to be a three years' war. He wants 300,000 more men.

As Senator Lane pertinently asks, what is the use of an open river if you cannot get to it?

MORE GASOLINE AND CHEAPER

Joseph B. Murphy in Popular Mechanics.

MORE gasoline is being used in the world today than ever before—yet the price of this fuel, so essential in this era of the internal combustion engine, is lower than it has been in many years.

The present European war has been termed the gasoline war, and justly so, for if deprived of this fuel the armies engaged in the great conflict would be compelled to suspend operations. For transporting the field and siege guns and for propelling the thousands of motor cars used in the transportation of troops, ammunition, and supplies on the scale required in a war of such magnitude, gasoline is a necessity, and without it the operation of Zeppelins and aeroplanes would be an impossibility.

But in spite of the tremendous demand made on the oil supply by reason of the war, gasoline has been getting cheaper. This situation is the result of the development of improved methods of refining by which a greatly increased supply of gasoline can be obtained from a given quantity of crude oil. During the past year the tank wagon price of gasoline has fallen in the large centers apparently from this cause, from 16 cents to 9½ cents a gallon. There is little doubt that the price will eventually go still lower with the development of the new process just discovered by Dr. Rittman, chemical engineer of the United States bureau of mines. The improved processes now in use are held as a monopoly by one group of refiners. The new process is to be free to all refiners who will submit to certain government regulations. With it, it will be possible to extract three times as much gasoline as can be extracted by the process of distillation.

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Increased production of gasoline is not all that will be accomplished by the new process. It provides a means for obtaining from crude oil the two hydrocarbons, toluol and benzol, heretofore obtained from coal tar and produced almost exclusively by German and British manufacturers. Toluol and benzol are of vital importance both in peace and war. They form the "mother" substances from which aniline dyes are made and are at the same time indispensable ingredients of the high explosives used in modern warfare.

To understand just what is being done by the new process it is first necessary to know of some of the qualities of that group of substances known as hydrocarbons. A hydrocarbon, as its name indicates, is a combination of the chemical elements, hydrogen and carbon. In the combination there is usually nitrogen, oxygen, sulphur, or other chemical elements in small quantities, which are removed in the process of refining. The range of substances produced by different combinations of these two elements is probably the widest to be found in the whole range of natural products.

• •

There are about 200 hydrocarbon products, many of them indispensable adjuncts of our everyday life. Crude oil, or petroleum, which is the source from which most of these products are derived, is simply a mixture of many hydrocarbons, which may be separated from each other without chemical action by the process of distillation. Gasoline, illuminating oil, and lubricating oil, for example, are all present in crude oil, being mixed together much as different kinds of grain might be mixed. There are other products, however, that are less obviously present in crude oil, and to produce these it is necessary to resort to chemical action, which consists in breaking up some of the hydrocarbons and rearranging the atoms in molecules of a different kind. This is what is done when oils are "cracked," a process that has been used heretofore mainly for breaking up the heavier oils and forming their components into gasoline molecules. It is one of the peculiarities of hydrocarbons that this breaking up and rearranging can be done repeatedly and to practically an unlimited extent.

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The biggest feature of the new process is that practically all the crude oil can be converted into any hydrocarbon desired, so that it provides a means for "cracking" oils on such a scale as has not been thought possible heretofore. Full details of the process have not been made public, but it is reported that the kind of hydrocarbon produced is governed solely by the degree of heat and pressure applied. With a temperature of 932 degrees F., for example, the product obtained is gasoline. If the temperature is raised to about 1112 degrees F., benzine, toluene and xylol, with small quantities of methane, creosote oil and pitch, are obtained. The apparatus is simple and apparently does nothing more than vaporize the crude oil and subject the vapor to the required temperature and pressure.

Almost simultaneously with the announcement of this process another discovery, so remarkable that it ranks as one of the romances of science, was made public. This consists in a process for taking paraffin, or any other derivative of crude oil, and converting it back into crude oil—in short, in taking one part of a complex product and remaking the whole product from it.

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One of the significant things in connection with crude oil products and the vital part they play in nearly every form of human activity, is the fact that the supply is more than equal to the demand, and is likely to remain so for generations to come. The North American continent is thought to be one vast subterranean oil reservoir. Oil is found from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboards, and from Nome to Central America, and while there are a number of fields from which oil is being drawn in enormous quantities, these vast resources have apparently been touched only in spots.

A FEW SMILES

A California youngster had been permitted to visit a boy friend in the strict condition that he was to leave there at 5 o'clock. He did not arrive home until 7 and his mother was very angry. The youngster insisted, however, that he had obeyed her orders and had not lingered unnecessarily.

"Do you expect me to believe," said his mother, "that it took you two hours to walk a quarter of a mile?" She reached for the whip. "Now, sir, will you tell me the truth?"

"Ye-es, mamma," sobbed the boy. "Charlie Wilson gave me a mud turtle—and I was afraid—to carry it—so I led it home."

'Little Girl — "When I get to heaven will I have wings?"

'Mamma — "Yes, my pet; and a crown and a harp."

"And candy?"

"No."

"Well, I'm glad we've got a good doctor.

An old Scotchman deemed it his duty to administer some sound advice to a youth placed under his charge.

"Keep your temper, Dougal. Never quarrel wi' an angry person, especitily wi' a woman. Mind ye, a soft answer's aye best. It's commanded — and forby it makes them far madder than anything else you could say."—Harper's Magazine.

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender. If the writer does not desire to have the name published, he should so state.)

"Discussion is the greatest of all reformers. It rationalizes everything it touches. It robs principles of all false sanctity and throws them back on their reasonableness. If they have no reasonableness, it ruthlessly crushes them out of existence and sets up its own conclusions in their stead."—Woodrow Wilson.

Hours of Labor.

Portland, May 15.—To the Editor of The Journal—In your issue of May 8, in answer to an inquiry relative to laws in Oregon regulating the hours of labor, and as to whether these, if any, apply to employes in creameries, you were in error. Chapter 102, page 169, of Session Acts 1913, provides it shall be unlawful to work any employe of any mill, factory or manufacturing establishment over 10 hours except in case of emergency, or of a night watchman, when three hours overtime may be worked, to be paid for by the employer at one and one half time rate of pay.

Attorneys have given us an opinion to the effect that this law applies to creameries.

Through your columns I would extend an invitation to any one desiring information as to labor laws to correspond with the Central Labor Council of Portland and vicinity, and information desired will be cheerfully furnished and advice given, confidentially if so desired. EUGENE E. SMITH,
President Central Labor Council.

Immigrant Restriction.

Boston, Mass., May 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—Allow me to point out that there is another side to the matter mentioned in your editorial entitled "The Immigrant" in the issue of April 24. What is proposed is a government labor bureau to undertake the distribution of immigrants, and the settling of them in places where they can obtain employment. It will be noticed that this bureau is concerned chiefly with aliens. In fact, if it were not, it would probably be so because the immigrants are willing to work for a lower wage than native Americans. There are likely to be three distinct effects of this proposed work:

1. The displacing of native Americans.

2. The distribution of undesirable immigrants, whom we are now letting in under our very lax laws, from seaboard cities to interior points. They will not at all be changed in character by this move, and will be likely to cause the formation of a great many small slum districts all over the country instead of a few large ones in places where they exist already.

3. Everything done in the way of government employment bureaus will act as a powerful stimulus to immigration. News of it will be spread abroad by the steamship companies as an additional inducement to immigration.

The truth is that until some measure of restriction, like the Burnett bill, which President Wilson vetoed, is passed, it is very dangerous to do much about distribution or employment bureaus. This scheme is another instance of what is very common in our country today—taking some abstract ideal and working it to the logical limit without reference to the concrete situation. Very truly yours,
PRESCOTT F. HALL,
Secretary executive committee, Immigration Restriction League.

Two Presidents.

Portland, May 17.—To the Editor of The Journal—A man against his own convictions received the Nobel peace prize. He urged the raising of large families. Many people have taken his advice, waiting and watching for the young men and young women to grow up. It takes from 21 to 23 years to see good results of some large families, especially those of people with limited means. Still they thought they would take the advice of a great man.

After all, he wants these poor mothers to sacrifice their sons to a bloody war. Can our great ex-president ever stop to consider how many weary days and nights these mothers will spend in 18 years to care for these boys? Did they mean to sacrifice their health and their boys, to plunge them into war? Let our war champion consider which is the more entitled to the boy—the mother or the battlefield.

Long live our President Wilson, for his noble patience.
MRS. M. D. NEER.

Indorses Fisheries Campaign.

Portland, May 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—Your campaign to interest Portland and Astoria in the fishing banks off the Oregon coast is commendable and should have results. But why catch fish if the people do not eat them? Buck shad, an excellent food fish, can be bought at this time of the year at $30 a ton. I asked to be served with shad at the Chamber of Commerce, formerly the Commercial club. They had none. I asked for shad at the Benson hotel. They had none. Demand stimulates supply. If Portland will accept culls from Seattle without protest, Portland will probably continue to get culls. Why don't the business men take up definitely some of these obvious matters?
G. B. M.

INDEX OF ADVANCING TIDE OF PROSPERITY

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

The loaded freight car movement on Pennsylvania railroad lines east of Pittsburg for the first seven days in May showed substantial improvement over the corresponding period of last year. The total movement passing eight junction points was 144,656 cars, an increase of 8807 cars over 1914. The daily average movement was 23,522 cars, an increase of 544 cars, or 2.4 per cent. Of the eight points used for comparison Dauphin was the only one to show a decrease, which was 9.9 per cent. At Gallitzin, the high point, the increase was 4.7 per cent.

The number of loaded cars passing Lewistown Junction in the seven days was 23,357, compared with 21,544 cars last year and 23,855 cars in 1913. The daily average was 3339 cars, compared with 4880 cars last year and 5778 cars in 1913. On May 7 the number of loaded cars passing this junction was 5850. The movement of bituminous cars eastbound decreased 5.7 per cent; coke cars eastbound decreased 24.2 per cent; miscellaneous cars eastbound increased 14.5 per cent, and westbound decreased 9.3 per cent.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Walk fast until you get there—then stand fast.

• •

Business is naturally unsteady when money is tight.

• •

Nature heals—but the doctor always makes out the bill.

• •

The most disagreeable relation one can have is a carb-uncle.

• •

A volume of smoke will bring tears to the eyes of the reader.

• •

A boy who is whipped undeservedly is the victim of a misplaced switch.

• •

Silence is about as much evidence of wisdom as a paper collar is of a shirt.

• •

Money may not bring happiness, but no man is willing to take another's word for it.

• •

During courtship a woman may cling to a man's neck, and after marriage she may walk on it.

• •

A girl admires a fast young man—that is, if she has him so fast that he can't possibly get away.

• •

When rich relatives come you drop everything else and try to entertain them, but when the visitors are poor kinfolks you keep on reading your paper.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

When it comes to a parade, the Register boasts, Eugene concedes superiority to no other place on earth.

• •

Efforts are being made to reorganize the Lebanon fire department, and make it a more efficient organization.

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And this from the Albany Democrat: "Strawberry shortcake and nothing else at that meal, is the menu that fits this Misfits man."

• •

Hermiston Herald: The fruit estimate for this season sounds good. Fully 20 cars besides enough to care for all local demand. And we will have need for a cannery, too.

• •

"All the vacant buildings in Salem," says the Statesman, "are being looked up and listed. The next little chore will be to get them all filled. That is the important thing."

• •

The Mail Tribune reports "wanderers passing through Medford in droves, many of the number headed for Grants Pass, lured thither by the report that construction work on the line to the coast would be under way soon."

• •

Sherwood Journal: A town with approximately one-sixth of its population belonging to the commercial club, sounds big, does it not? That is exactly what the town of Sherwood can boast of before the club is a month old, too.

HOW WILL YOU VOTE ON THIS?

THE WATER METER ORDINANCE

"An ordinance authorizing the commissioner of public utilities to purchase 5000 water meters of such kind and size as may be determined by him.

"Shall the above ordinance pass?"

100. Yes.
101. No.

This is the title of the first measure to appear on the ballot to be voted on at the regular city election, Monday, June 7. It is a referendum measure. If the ordinance is adopted, it will allow the water bureau to meter 5000 water services where water is being wasted.

The voters authorized the purchase of water meters several years ago, but when the city council, about a year ago, passed an ordinance providing for the purchase of 5000 meters, several large property owners circulated petitions and succeeded in invoking the referendum on the ordinance.

Opponents of the measure say that if water meters are installed all over the city it will cost at the start $500,000, and bonds will be necessary to raise the money. They say that a meter will last only 12 years, and the expenses of the water bureau will be increased to a large amount to pay salaries of meter readers, etc. They argue also that Portland has such an abundant supply of water that it is unnecessary to restrict the waste of water by users.

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These contentions are denied by Commissioner Daly, Chief Engineer Clarke of the water department, Superintendent E. A. Taylor and others. The cost of the 5000 meters, including installation, would be less than $40,000, and this sum is available from current revenues of the water department. No bond issue and no special tax will be required. It is true, of course, that the proposed installation of 5000 meters is but part of a plan for eventually metering all water services in the city, but the work would be done gradually and would be paid for wholly out of the ordinary revenues of the department. Unless meters are installed, it will soon be necessary for the city to incur heavy expense for larger mains and additional reservoirs.

• •

It is difficult to determine the life of a meter, although one meter, the cheapest on the market, which has been under test for six months, has already measured enough water to supply an average family for 40 2-3 years. Recently an examination was made and there were no effects of wear discovered. A few months ago meters which had been in service continuously for 11 years, were dug out of the ground for inspection. Not a single repair had been made in the 11 years of service, and except for losing their paint, they were apparently in good condition.

At present, 32 men are employed to check water waste. Their salaries total $34,560 a year. Under the meter system these men will not be needed, for every user will pay for the water he consumes, and no other check will be necessary. Only eight meter readers, at the most, will be required, and their total salaries will be not more than $8640 a year under the meter plan. On this item alone the city will save $25,920 a year by installing meters.

• •

D. D. Clarke, chief engineer of the bureau of water works; Assistant Engineer Randlett, Superintendent of Construction Taylor and L. S. Kaiser, superintendent of the bureau, who have given years of study to the problem of providing the city with an adequate supply of water, say that meters are absolutely necessary if the city would conserve her water supply and provide an equitable distribution system for all consumers.

These men have the support of hydraulic engineers and water works experts throughout the country. These experts say that meters are necessary to prevent water shortages and place water departments on an efficient and economical basis.

STOCK MARKET'S TORTUOUS REASONING

By John M. Oskison.

The stock market "bulls" were rampant. Prices on the exchange had climbed so rapidly that their progress resembled a scramble up the heights of the Carpathians. An observer not yet immersed in the enthusiastic game spoke in doubtful tones:

"Is this a real rising tide of prices or only a flurry stimulated by big holders who were loaded with stocks before the exchange closed last summer and who want to mark up quotations so that they may unload at a profit?" To which the Wall street optimist replied:

"Genuine—without doubt! Why, look here: This country is going to come into its heritage as commercial leader of the world; we're already a creditor, and not a debtor, nation; we have a new banking and currency system; the railroads are actually making a little more money, and feeling a whole lot more cheerful; and we believe that the end of the war is near."

"Is all that legitimate 'bull' argument?" the observer asked.

"Why, sure! Of course, we are still a bit uncertain of the date of the ending of the war, but you can't get away from the rest."

"But," objected the observer, "I have heard that we are now a creditor nation only because of the war's continuance; that most of the unusual trade and manufacturing activity is a direct result of the war—on the exchange, the stocks of the steel companies that have war orders on hand or in prospect are most active. What will an early peace do to them?"

"Don't you worry!" cried the optimist. "The steel companies will sell bridge materials when the war is over. The warring countries will spend their money for our wheat and cotton. We shall still reach out for the trade of the world."

"They won't have the money to spend," the observer countered. "Look at the tremendous debt burden already created in England, Germany, France and Russia. They will have to economize, buy at home, and work desperately to recover lost world trade."

But in the midst of a good old fashioned "bull" market the observer's comments had no weight. They were the croakings of a crape-hanger. The optimist's arguments, for the time, seemed far more pleasant to read.

OREGON

THE OREGON COUNTRY

"IN EARLY DAYS"

By Fred Lockley, Special Staff Writer of The Journal.

George A. Waggoner, a pioneer of 1852, lives at Lebanon. Recently in telling me about the incidents of the trip across the plains he said: "The Indians were not very troublesome in '52, but the cholera was something terrible. You could hardly stand it to stay around camp and hear the agonizing moans and cries of those who were suffering from it.

"I said the Indians were not troublesome. I will have to qualify that statement. We had a pretty narrow escape from being killed by them. For a spell it looked pretty dubious. The whole thing started in a joke. My father was a great hand to joke. My eldest sister was 18 years old and was a very striking girl. She had an olive complexion, long dark hair and was very vivacious. An Indian came into camp one evening and was perfectly bewitched about my sister. He could hardly take his eyes off her. Finally, pointing to Frances, he said to my father, 'How much?' Father pointed to the moccasins Frances was wearing and to her abundant dark hair and said, 'Pretty near Indian already.' The Indian said 'How much for her?' Father thought it a huge joke and answered gravely 'Ten spotted ponies.' The Indian went away. In an hour he was back with 10 spotted ponies and wanted Frances. Father told him it was a joke. The Indian couldn't see the joke. He said, 'You must keep your word; no lie to me.' He soon came back with a score or so of his tribesmen who insisted that father carry out his bargain. Father said, 'Wait one day. Then you can have her. We will make a big feast.' Every immigrant that came next day stayed to help stand off the Indians. We had over 50 men ready to fight for us by next evening. At sundown the Indian came back with more than 100 Indians dressed in all their finery to enforce the bargain and attend the ceremonies. The Indian rode out and demanded his wife, threatening to kill all of the white people if we did not keep faith with him. Father stepped out to speak to him. Every white man had his gun pointed toward the Indians. Father suddenly reached up, grabbed the Indian by the arm and jerked him off his horse and as he lay on the ground kicked him in the stomach and in the face with his heavy brogans. The Indians prepared for action, but they knew they would be slaughtered, so they drew off. Two of our men carried the Indian out and laid him on the grass. The Indians picked him up and carried him off. We stuck by the rest of the immigrants for some days after that. That cured father of joking with the Indians.

"Our cattle drank from the standing pools of alkali water and some of them died. Others played out, so we had to abandon one of our wagons. You could see dozens of wagons cut down to carts and scores of abandoned wagons by the side of the trail. At almost every water hole you could see dead or abandoned oxen. Their feet were too sore to travel or they were too poor and weak to go on.

"While we were camped on Powder river an old man, more than 70 years old, came to our camp and said his wife had just died and he wanted help to bury her. My mother and Mrs. Marshall helped lay her out. Father helped bury her. The old man said she had died of cholera. My mother thought that could not be possible, as it was too far west to have the cholera. Next day my mother got dinner for us but said she felt too badly to eat, so she laid down to rest while we ate dinner. She died that night at 11 o'clock. Mrs. Marshall also died. The symptoms were the same as those in cholera, so I suppose it was the dread scourge.

"We left our last wagon on the Umatilla not far from the present town of Pendleton. We packed our bedding on 'Old Nig,' the last ox left to us, and started on afoot. Poor old Nig. He was a wonderful ox. He was coal black. Father bought him just before we started. He had just made the long trip from East Tennessee to Van Buren county, Iowa, yet he was the only one of our oxen to get to Oregon. Father sold him at The Dalles for $20 to buy food. After we abandoned our last wagon and had started on afoot a woman and a little girl came into our camp one night. She had walked ahead of her wagon train, taken a short cut and became lost. She had been wandering around with her little girl for four days and all they had eaten was rose haws. We shared what little food we had with them.

"We stopped two weeks at The Dalles. Father found an old stove and rigged up a table out of some old endgates and sideboards of an abandoned wagon and ran a lunch counter for the soldiers and civilians who were building the military post there. My eldest sister made pumpkin pies which she sold for two bits each as fast as she could cook them. With the pie counter money father bought a couple of canoes and we started for Portland. At Portland the citizens gave us food and shelter without charge and treated us kindly. My eldest sister and little Emily, 6 years old, were taken in by Colonel Chapman. Father and my brothers Tom, Byrd, and myself went down the valley. Father got work near Salem. We didn't get mail then as we do now, so we didn't learn of my sister Emily's death till two weeks after her funeral. Father never learned where she was buried. It was in a west side cemetery near Ankeny or Burnside streets.

"Next spring my eldest sister came to where we had taken a place 12 miles from Brownsville. The following year she married Dr. Ilus F. Roberts. In 1861 I went to the Idaho mines. I spent the next 14 years freighting to Florence, Elk City, Oro Fino and Bannock. Then I removed to Corvallis, where I lived for 27 years."

Why?

From Judge.

Robbie (from the depths of a bedtime cuddle)—Mother, you 'member you told me today that no one could possibly love dirty, noisy little boys?

Mother—Yes, dear. What about it?

Robbie—Then what for are you huggin' me so tight?

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