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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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America asks nothing for herself but what she has a right to ask for humanity itself.

WOODROW WILSON.

It is an excellent rule to be found in all discussions, that men should give soft words and hard arguments; that they should not so much strive to silence or vex as to convince their opponents.—Wilkins.

AN IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT

A FAIR and able presentation of proposed water power legislation was made Monday before the bar associations by Senator Chamberlain.

A war over that legislation is on. The storm will break at the conference called for next month in Portland by the late Oregon legislature.

No legislation to come before Congress has greater significance. Water powers are the cheapest known energy for use in industries and transportation. The general potentiality of hydro-electric energy costs about one-third that of steam under present devices. Invention may further reduce the cost of applying water powers as motive agencies.

These admitted facts create tremendous possibilities. Motive power so cheap becomes at once a great factor in life, and one of which far-sighted men want to become possessed. The very cheapness fills men with great desire to secure holdings of these powers because to have such holdings means enrichment. And the powers last forever, and if once owned, would be a means of taking tribute from fellow men from generation to generation.

It is a great stake that is to be played for. The streams will never cease to flow, the wealth in the water powers will never grow less, but always, with increase of population, become greater and greater. The stakes that some men are playing for is to get control of these powers for personal ends so they can be used for great personal enrichment. On the other side in the controversy are those who want the powers so affected by legislation that the great public, now and hereafter will be fully protected against extortion and oppression.

Those who are planning to get control of the powers are making their campaign in the name of "state development." That has always been the cry, when the public was to be exploited. Shrewd men who have axes to grind always talk "state development" when they want to get something for nothing.

The Oregon school lands were recklessly squandered in the name of "state development." Oregon timber lands, now largely controlled by timber barons and syndicates, were sacrificed in the name of "state development." The gift of millions of acres of land to the Oregon & California railroad was made with the understanding that the lands were to be sold at low rates in small lots to bona fide settlers as a means of forwarding "state development," but the railroad did not sell them that way, and the highest court in the land has indicted the corporation for its failure to keep faith.

Wagon road land grants were given away in the name of "state development" and the roads were never built, but the companies kept the lands. The crimes of cunning that have been committed against the public in the name of "state development" are uncounted, and to them it is desired to add another in the case of the water powers.

Oregon has one warning as to water powers that should be sufficient. The magnificent water fall at Oregon City, with its enormously valuable potentiality of hydro-electric energy, has passed into the possession of private ownership under rights that can probably never be disturbed, and the title is almost entirely in a single corporation. The attorney of that corporation gave public notice some time ago that no water for irrigation that would reduce the flow at the falls could be taken from the Willamette river. In that notice, there was practically asserted an ownership of the flow from the falls to the source of the river.

These known facts as to the Oregon City falls ought to be an all convincing warning for the people to be on their guard in the present controversy. To prevent other outrages of the kind, the Washington administration proposes legislation by which all water powers shall be leased on long terms and be kept under federal and state regulation. In his splendid address which every citizen of Oregon ought to read, Senator Chamberlain declared:

> Those who have selfish interests oppose federal and state regulation; those who have no selfish interests support state and federal regulation of water power.

And so it is. The big men in the corporation that owns the Oregon City falls, the corporation that has served notice on farmers above the falls not to reduce the flow of the stream by taking out water for irrigation of their farms, are all against the administration bill, are all against federal and state regulation.

WHAT?

MAKING cotton contraband is a desperate expedient.

It is a heavy blow at the trade in a great American staple. The American cotton states are the chief producers. In 1913-14, their yield was more than 14 million bales against five million in India, a million and a half in Egypt and 390,000 in Brazil.

In morals, such a blow at American producers is indefensible. It is of kind with the German invasion of Belgium.

Great Britain defends it as a war necessity. Germany defends the violation of Belgium neutrality as a war necessity. Both acts evidence the lengths to which governments maddened by war will go. Great Britain's pledge to protect the cotton market, yet to be made good is apology for her great offense against the peaceful intercourse of America with neighbor nations.

As Germany tore up her treaty with Belgium for strategic reasons, so Great Britain turns the cotton trade of the world awry for strategic reasons.

This is a war of high explosives. Gunpowder plays only a minor role. Cotton is the base of nearly all the compounds which expell shells and projectiles from modern weapons. Cotton to become highly explosive must be nitrated by use of chemicals. All the chemicals so required are obtainable in Germany and Austria.

Experiments with wood pulp as a substitute for cotton have not been satisfactory. Attempt at such substitution in the midst of a great war would expose a nation in a fatal weakness.

A great German howitzer shoots away a bale of cotton in two shots. A six-inch field gun shoots away a bale of cotton in 400 discharges. Heavier cannon expend cotton in proportion.

A machine gun, of which Germany has 100,000 in the trenches, has with it reserve ammunition containing half a bale of cotton. Every German company of 300 soldiers carries with it at all times three bales of cotton in the shape of cartridges.

David Lloyd-George calculates that Germany and Austria fire 250,000 shells aday on all fronts, requiring in all 1660 bales of cotton daily for artillery alone. It is further calculated that the amount of cotton fired from rifles and machine guns is not less and probably more.

It is easy to see why the London government lists cotton as contraband. It is easy to see the war strategy of German occupation of Belgium.

But what of the American cotton producers?

What of the Belgians?

JUSTICE AND LAW

IN his address to the Oregon and Washington bar associations Judge Turner said:

> It is not the province of judges or courts to administer substantial justice or in fact to administer any kind of justice. It is their duty to administer the law. Whether the law will promote justice between litigants is for the legislature to determine.

As an abstract proposition probably Judge Turner has stated it correctly. The fact should not be lost sight of, however, that the law is supposed to be an efficient instrument of justice.

Lawyers are responsible for the most of legislation. Every legislature contains lawyers to whom their colleagues turn for advice on legal questions and the phraseology of bills to be introduced.

Lawyers appear before committees in favor of or in opposition to certain measures. In ways open and secret, lawyers influence legislation. On them is the responsibility for the laws under which courts adjudicate. On them is the responsibility of insuring that law promotes justice between litigants.

EXPERT TESTIMONY

DR. PAUL ROCKEY, addressing the Oregon-Washington Bar Associations, attacked the present method of securing expert testimony in medico-legal cases. He said:

> Any physician familiar with the facts, who has seen dishonest medico-legal cases in the making, knows that many such cases would not be made, or would be made differently, if it were generally known that if the case came to trial the medical testimony would be able and honest and would be accepted.

Dr. Rockey proposed that all medical witnesses be appointed by the court itself. It is a good suggestion, in line with the best thought concerning our trial courts. There is no reason in the world why justice should be clouded by conflicting "expert" testimony which can be had for a price. Doctors may disagree honestly on many conclusions. But that is not the main trouble with expert medical testimony. Medical experts in court disagree largely because some of them are employed for what they can be hired to say rather than for what they know.

Expert testimony of all sorts is being discounted because it is had for a price. It does not necessarily follow that the expert is dishonest, but he will not be employed unless his views fit in with his client's requirements.

The better way would be for the court to appoint the expert witnesses. They should be officers of the court, chosen for their knowledge and fairness, just as judges are chosen.

Unless there is some such arrangement, the medical experts might as well be dispensed with, for juries are more and more refusing to believe them.

USING THE RIVERS

COLONEL DEAKYN, army engineer in charge of Missouri river improvements between Kansas City and St. Louis, has reported against further expenditures by the government on those projects. He says the $6,000,000 already invested by the government has not brought adequate return in a revival of river commerce, and his conclusion is that future river traffic will not warrant further appropriations by the government.

The Deakyn report is of especial interest to shippers in the Columbia basin, for it is being used as an argument against development of navigable inland waterways. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer says:

> The river towns are all keen for heavy appropriations for river improvements, but none of them, not even the largest, seems inclined to invest any of its own money in establishing transportation lines on the improved rivers. If the rivers are not used now, what assurance is there that they will be used after additional millions are dumped into them?

The Seattle paper might have added that some of the towns do not even protect their water front against a monopolization employed by railroads and others as a means of strangling water competition. Anyway, non-use and meagreness of river traffic is an argument which has more and more to be met by advocates of waterway improvement. It is a specious argument, but its effectiveness is demonstrated in the attitude of an army engineer in the St. Louis-Kansas City project.

On the Columbia river, we ought to be prepared to face this contention, and full use is the only effective preparedness.

The Columbia river is the greatest asset of the Columbia basin. It is of priceless value in the enormous service it can render that vast territory.

Let the people of the region study the recommendation of the engineer in charge of the Kansas City project.

Because of his batting eye and dependable legs, the Honorable Ty Cobb is offered $33,333 a year for three years by the Federals. It is worth more to Mr. Cobb to run the bases than to George Washington to run the nation.

The city health bureau is to determine the amount of sickness more or less directly traceable to the kind or condition of employment. It will probably be found that the less the work the more the illness.

Somebody got their dates mixed for once. Portland business men were ahead of time. Although they were a day earlier they had a pleasant visit to Centralia, just the same.

It was so warm that an editor pulled off his coat last Sunday evening while occupying a Forest Grove pulpit. Still there are those who think the pulpit is not the hottest spot editors are to find.

President Wilson has issued a proclamation of neutrality as between Italy and Turkey. It is to be hoped those belligerents will understand its meaning better than have their allies.

Booker T. Washington says the Black Republic needs Uncle Sam's strong guiding hand in its affairs for a few years, and the indications are that Haiti will get what it needs.

Portland's visiting lawyers are excellent talkers, and after their trip over the Columbia highway they have something worth while to talk about.

It is too much to expect that lawyers will agree that the present judicial system can be greatly improved. They live on the disagreements of others chiefly.

The Pennsylvania federation of liquor dealers, meeting at Reading last week, voted to give financial aid to the anti-suffragists. "With women voting," the dealers said, "the vote against the saloon will be so big as to sound the death knell for the business."

Four California hunters took eight pot shots at a companion, thinking him a bear, in spite of his loud protests to the contrary. Guns in the hands of such men make us wonder whether the constitution makers were wise in decreeing the right to bear arms sacred to all Americans.

Elihu Root was elected president of the American Bar association by unanimous vote, but that does not necessarily mean he would win even by a scratch running for another presidency.

"WAR ORDERS" AND PROSPERITY

From the Philadelphia North American.

AN investor seeking information from bankers upon the prospects of business in the United States in the near future would gather some encouraging reports. They would differ, however, in their nature. The New York banker would point impressively to the advancing stock market quotations, especially the phenomenal rise in Bethlehem Steel and other "war order" securities. He would tell his caller of contracts for war supplies aggregating fabulous sums, and of extraordinary expansion in certain industries; and would explain that the railroads must benefit indirectly from the sudden bulge in special manufacturing lines. The Chicago banker very likely would have optimistic assurances to offer also; but his stimulating advice would be based upon the encouraging crop reports, and he would impress upon the investor the argument that the farm yields constitute the true index of fundamental conditions affecting prosperity. If the inquirer sought enlightenment among Philadelphia bankers, he would hear, we think, a combination of both stories. And although the New York view is fallacious, we fear that that would receive the greater emphasis.

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Habit is a powerful factor in financial affairs, and a great many Americans have been taught to take their financial theories from the money center of the country. These ideas gain wide currency and acceptance through the New York newspapers, which echo the opinions of the speculative banking interests, and through the Wall street news services, which convey the inspired utterances, reports and rumors to every bank and brokerage house. Yet only by disregarding fundamental economic laws can an intelligent observer persuade himself that the flood of war material business is calculated to produce sound, continuing prosperity. In a general way, the influx of new business of this character tends to strengthen the economic position of the country by increasing its favorable trade balance with Europe. But there are obvious factors of disadvantage.

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Against the tremendous totals and high prices of the contracts must be placed the costly requirements for fulfilling them. Plants must have new equipment, in many cases must be virtually reconstructed; big enterprises must be expanded rapidly to meet demands which are obviously temporary and which are subject to sudden collapse; as a result, important departments of the industrial system are being disorganized by forced adaptation to emergency conditions. Helpful as these special activities are in compensating for some of the business losses due to the war, it is idle to argue that they form the basis of enduring prosperity.

It must be remembered that, while high profits are being made, the goods produced are for the destruction of life, and their use means a steady reduction in the population of Europe, the United States' chief customer. Moreover, the purchase moneys are raised by loans at high rates, assessed against the living, which means an impairment of their purchasing power. The interdependence of nations in these days is so close that this country is bound to be adversely affected by the impoverishment of the belligerent peoples.

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The view which we credit to the Chicago banker, on the other hand, is scientifically sound. His calculations are based not upon an exceptional and temporary boom in certain industries, but upon the creation of vast volumes of new wealth; upon the products of the earth's bounty, which, with wise methods of agriculture, is literally inexhaustible. This new wealth, created by nature's own alchemy, is the product of the oldest, the most important and the most diversified of human industries. Agriculture makes not only wealth, but homes. It is the fundamental life-giving and life-sustaining work of man, the basis of his social organization and the foundation of stable government. And it serves and stimulates every other activity; upon it depends the welfare of manufacturing, of merchandising, of transportation and of their manifold subdivisions. The true basis of calculating the business future of the country, therefore, is to be found in the official estimates just issued by the department of agriculture. This year's harvest is to be a veritable flood of wealth for the nation—a billion bushels of wheat, worth as many dollars; 1,500,000,000 bushels of oats and 3,000,000,000 bushels of corn, the latter item representing $2,500,000,000; 75,000,000 tons of hay, 431,000,000 bushels of potatoes and so on through the staggering records of plenty. The figures are beyond mental comprehension, but the forces they represent will be felt in the remotest parts of the nation's being. In them shines the real promise of the future—for the factory, the railroad, the shop and the home.

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There is much truth in the criticism that American bankers and business men, like the rest of the population, pay less heed to economic principles than do the people of any other nation. The reason is that the country's natural resources are so vast that the problems of existence have never been so acute here as in the older and poorer communities. Some experts go so far as to say that we have never been a self-sustaining nation; that we have prospered by prodigality, by consuming our capital, and that only a complete change of policy can save us from economic disaster. There is nothing this country needs so much as a realization, on the part of business and financial interests, that permanent prosperity depends upon certain fundamental economic laws and that attempts to set aside those laws, and substitute artificial systems or devices, must eventually bring upon us drastic penalties. Temporary booms may be produced by speculative audacity and finacial ingenuity, but in the long run it is certain that no enduring structure of prosperity can be erected except upon the foundation of rational economic procedure. The banking and commercial interests of the country would perform a lasting service if they would let the "war order" prosperity speak for itself, and use their great influence to impress upon Americans the supreme significance of the farm crops and their all-important bearing upon the permanent welfare of the nation.

The Once Over

BY REX LAMPMAN

NIGHT before last—about seven—I saw a crowd—at the corner of Sixth and Alder.

—and I shoved in—to see what was doing.

¶ I thought maybe Bill Goldman was making a speech—on what to do for woolly aphis.

¶ He has an orchard some place.

—and doesn't know.

¶ Or I thought maybe—it was Abe Hochfelt—telling a story.

—only—when Abe tells one—the crowd goes the other way.

¶ But anyway—there were shouts of encouragement.

—and I asked the red-headed newsboy—with glasses—who takes it personally—if you buy your papers elsewhere—what was the matter.

—and he said—"Oh—this happens every night now—and hurts business.

—"It's a nut named Krantz—getting his new automobile started.

—"and the other chauffeurs help him.

¶ And there were more cheers.

—and the crowd opened.

—and out came a little bulldog of a car.

—with a lot of chauffeurs—all around it—pushing and pulling.

¶ And at the wheel was Ol' Shad Krantz—the plutocratic reporter.

—and he was calm as a cold boiled potato.

—and about the same expression—in his eyes.

¶ And then I knew it was true—that he'd set aside six week's salary.

—and bought a car.

—making a small payment down.

¶ And just as the car passed me—the engine began to cough.

—like a child that wants cough-drops.

—and the crowd cheered.

—and Shad lifted his hat.

—and sped away.

—down the wrong side of the street.

¶ And I've since learned—from a friend of Mrs. Krantz—who promised not to tell—

—that the other night—she and Shad started out—to come over town.

¶ And the neighbors were out—to see them off.

—and they got a block.

—and the car stopped.

¶ And the neighbors pushed it a block.

—and they stopped.

¶ And an automobile came along.

—and it stopped.

—and the policeman came along.

—and he stopped.

¶ And of course they got down town all right—even if they did stop traffic on the Broadway bridge.

—but they didn't know—what was the matter—and Mrs. Krantz didn't go home—and get her bottle of gasoline—for cleaning gloves—

—until the chauffeur looked at—Shad's car—in just one place—and then turned—and glared at Shad—and said:

¶ "Listen—What d'y'u think this car's going to run on—its reputation—or yours?"

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.

Navy League Members.

Weber, Wash., Aug. 20.—To the Editor of The Journal—We can generally arrive at a pretty fair conclusion as to the aims, objects and good intentions of any organization, by a partial list of its officers and members, without becoming a member, as recommended by Dr. Bullitt and by John McNulty, of the Navy league. The headquarters of this league is in the Southern building, at Washington, D. C. General Horace Porter, for many years an officer of the Pullman company, is its president, A. H. Dadmun is secretary, and Herbert L. Saterlee, a son-in-law of J. P. Morgan, is general counsel. J. P. Morgan Sr., was one of the directors, and very deeply interested in its workings. J. P. Morgan Jr., is a director. Charles G. Glover, president of the Riggs National bank, a branch of the National City bank, of New York, is its treasurer. Colonel Robert L. Thompson, a high officer in the International Nickel company, and president of the New York Metal Exchange, is chairman of the league's executive committee. George Von L. Meyer, former secretary of the navy under Taft, is a director and also a large stockholder in the New Haven railroad, a Morgan concern. He is also director in the Amoskeag Manufacturing company of Manchester, N. H., and on the same league board as an associate is F. C. Dumaine, who was in on the deal with J. P. Morgan in the Boston & Maine railroad holdings company, by which the New Haven was enabled to hold the Boston & Maine road, in spite of a Massachusetts law strictly forbidding it. Mr. Dumaine is also a director in the Fore River Shipbuilding company, which is on friendly terms with the group, and affiliated with the United States Steel corporation and the Charles M. Schwab properties.

These are a few of the bunch who direct the destinies of the Navy league, which is now appealing so strongly to the American people for an enormous army and navy—purely for protection, you know, and purely from motives of patriotism.

And in order to push this game through they are enrolling as members the most influential men in all parts of the country and posting them to write their congressmen strongly urging "the very important matter of a very large appropriation for the amy and navy." And should they succeed, in so arming and bringing on such a war as Europe now has, how many of them or their sons, would be found in the front ranks?

C. J. M'LAIN.

The Laurelhurst Concert.

Portland, Aug. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal—I am one of those fortunate ones who enjoyed last week's concert at Laurelhurst park. Fortunately, we lived near and walking was a pleasure, and there was a happy expectancy in our hearts which sprang into almost excitement as we neared the park and saw the throngs of people pouring into the grounds from every point of the compass. We were conscious that there had been placed thousands of benches and seats and were also immediately aware that our seats would be in the great lap of Nature. How glad we were to have brought some newspapers along. Digging our heels into the ground to keep ourselves from sliding into the good natured backs of our front neighbors, we reposed comfortably on a bank near the music stand and enjoyed the ever increasing crowd of music lovers. It was an interesting sight to look across at the long flight of steps that lead into the park from the Ankeny car line. I could think of but one thing, an army marching, and with this thought I could not but breathe a prayer of thankfulness that it was an army of happy people, seeking to appease their hunger for the beautiful, longing and eager to honor a mellow voiced, generous hearted woman, to respond by their presence to her genius, her expression of the divine within her and to the freedom with which she gave of her best.

Our glorious flag hung high, in numbers, from the great trees that surrounded the stand. They were quiet, sometimes, as if they listened. Again, as if thrilled with the sight of the thousands below who reverenced their stars and stripes, they waved gracefully and wound themselves in the evergreen branches, as though caressing them and acknowledging the bond existing between the great souls that created them, and the creator of the woods. Yes, those great trees were a wonderful part of a wonderful scene.

I am one of those happy thousands whose heart the singer touched with her sweet tones, and I am thankful for that touch.

A READER.

For Concerts Out of Doors.

Portland, Aug. 20.—To the Editor of The Journal—Taken as a whole the great concert in Laurelhurst park last Thursday night was a magnificent affair, and one never to be forgotten by those who were there. The extraordinary setting among the scattering firs, the vast audience, the beautiful music of the band and the golden notes of the great singer, all made a scene and an event inspiring beyond words to express.

But it demonstrated one thing of which Portland is greatly in need, and that is the proper facilities for holding great open air concerts of this kind during the summer time—something on the order of a shell stage to reflect the sound waves out so that all may hear.

While the singer was successful in making her voice heard by all the large audience to a remarkable degree, many of the softer passages of the band's music were "wasted on the desert air," for many people could not get near enough to hear it. A shell stage—on the order of that in Golden Gate park at San Francisco, located on the lower side of the grounds used for Thursday night's concert, facing the gradually rising ground south of it, would form a natural ampitheatre making it possible for many thousands to hear perfectly.

The city should provide something of the kind, or some wealthy person should immortalize his name and bring blessings upon his head for all time to come, by providing it. J. W. CREW.

His O. K. on Roger Williams.

Portland, Aug. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal—I am so glad "Roger Williams" visited Portland and went to Council Crest. He told us what he saw, and honestly that is all he or anyone else can see. Shacks and catch penny obstructions that mar what God intended for a supreme outlook.

Our philanthropists and officials can serve our population and the thousands of visitors best by planning and working toward the securing of Council Crest or some contiguous site giving the view, for a public park, and making a clean sweep of the obstructions now in evidence.

In this banner year of tourist travel many of us have been so ashamed of the condition prevailing on the heights that we have taken our visitors elsewhere.

Thank you for your good message, and also for the light on the conditions along our docks. As a lover of neatness and beauty I am glad for the message of the man who sees things as they are. J. D. CORBY.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

St. Louis Star: The self reliance of Galveston cannot be hurricaned nor flooded out.

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Seattle Times: The Baltic seems to have a monopoly this year of old-fashioned sea battles.

• •

Boston Globe: One phase of the present contest in Europe is to see which side will be first to get the balk out of the Balkans.

• •

Atlanta Journal: President Wilson is an example of a man who, with all the provocation in the world, has not talked too much.

• •

Chicago Post: Complete "movies" are to be taken of the British army. Perhaps this is in response to the demand that it get a move on.

• •

Philadelphia Telegraph: The determined man that Villa wants to rule Mexico has probably appeared to him several times on looking in a mirror.

• •

Wall Street Journal: Russian armies may be safe, but they probably feel like a pedestrian who has just ducked across a motor highway on a Sunday afternoon.

• •

New York Evening Post: One argument against the disbanding of the Progressives is that it would leave the diplomatic abilities of Mr. Perkins without adequate employment.

• •

New York Globe: A panic in a Massachusett theatre was averted when the orchestra played "The Star Spangled Banner." Never were the sepulchral strains of that admirable dirge employed to better advantage.

• •

Los Angeles Express: By all odds, the hottest fight in the coming session of congress promises to take place over the plan to rout the war munitions trust and establish a government monopoly.

• •

Kansas City Star: Senator Theodore Burton of Ohio is such a complete standpatter that he probably cannot forgive the Missouri river for flowing forward. Now if he could only get a river that would flow backward!

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Salem Statesman: Three big days in Salem this week, Safety first day today; circus day Friday; dollar day Saturday.

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The Medford Sun beams as follows: "Hats off to Gold Hill, at present the liveliest community in Jackson county! May she secure the reward her energies and courage justify."

• •

Baker Democrat: The matter of quick transportation between isolated sections and the city is being solved by the auto truck. No longer is hope for a railroad necessary. The auto truck is meeting the long felt want.

• •

The editor of the Monroe Leader recognizes in Otis H. Griswold, who lately bought the Newport Review, a former office devil who served him when he was a publisher in Iowa, 33 years ago, and says, "We will have to go over to the seaside and swap reminiscences with him."

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"Probably the greatest factor in the work of improving and beautifying Dallas," says the Observer, "has been the street paving. In itself a long step forward, the better streets have exerted a great influence in other ways. A well paved street compels adjacent property owners to spruce up, and so the silent influence extends to all parts of the city."

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How to heal town rivalry, as the Eugene Register would go about it: "The row between southern Oregon towns over tourist travel has become quite bitter," says the Medford Mail-Tribune. Tut, tut! Won't you boys ever learn to be good? Unless you do better we will be forced to stop all the tourists in Eugene—When we get our camping grounds in running shape."

• •

Snake story in Medford Mail Tribune: "Harvey Fields killed a rattlesnake with 10 rattles and a button Sunday while walking on the desert. The reptile was coiled ready to spring, with all rattles rattling when Fields sighted him about six feet away. He whipped out a revolver, and the first shot clipped off the head of the serpent. The skin will be preserved as a trophy."

SHAPING CONSTRUCTIVE LEGISLATION

From the Christian Science Monitor.

The reports that come from Cornish about the way in which President Wilson is preparing to discuss, in his address to congress, the issue of military preparedness, and then to follow up his recommendations with a bill back of which he and the congressional leaders as well as the war and navy departments can stand, are doubly interesting. For, besides the light they shed on a phase of future national policy altered and shaped by the record of the year in Europe, they also illuminate the process by which he usually compasses his ends as a party and a national leader.

Many people still have the notion that President Wilson is essentially egotistic in his theory of official conduct and that his policy for the nation and for his party is the outcome of an intellectual process worked out in isolation from other officials. In short, these critics would have it that he scorns advice, resents counsel and fails to consult with men who know about affairs for which he asks congressional action and popular approval.

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This is not the verdict of individuals who worked with him for the remedial legislation which he carried through the legislature of New Jersey, nor of those who labored with him in shaping any of the major acts of congress since he became president. It is true that he defines executive responsibility in shaping as well as executing law more positively and aggressively than most of his predecessors have done, and he is not averse to deciding for himself issues that other men would distribute blame or praise for because made a mutual affair with cabinets. But his countrymen elected him knowing his theory of executive responsibility and power. He had defended it as a theory for many years while only a student of constitutional government; and as a state governor he had shown that what he taught in theory he put in practice when in office.

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The fact is that, while it is true that he is firm, there also is the record which cannot be impeached, of an executive who, when it comes to giving form to policies of state or nation, insists upon collection of facts and opinion of all kinds before final action is taken, and who recognizes that the final outcome must be the wisdom of many advisers. The general form and outlines of a policy he will endeavor to define as clearly as his prevision will admit; but when it comes to constructive legislation and mating the ideal with the actual and the desirable with the possible, then he is all for consultation, for conference and for practical statesmanship. Consequently when in its tentative form a bill enters congress it is his, but also other men's; men who have the same reasons for championing it that he has, namely, because they have helped shape it and have argued their case in the conference room.

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How shrewd this policy of combined manufacture of law is, and what a momentum it gives a measure, some of the president's opponents would perhaps be the first to testify. They might defeat a measure more egotistically made and championed; but a bill that starts with a minimum of official opposition to it from departmental heads or from congressional committee chairmen is difficult to block or defeat. It is such a bill on army and navy extension that the president apparently is getting ready to champion.

OREGON

THE OREGON COUNTRY

"IN EARLY DAYS"

By Fred Lockley, Special Staff Writer of The Journal.

PORTLAND and Oregon are rich in literary material. We have no lack of literary shrines at which to worship, and in days to come they doubtless will be pointed out to generations yet unborn. The generation that was thrilled by the eloquence of such men as Colonel E. D. Baker, J. W. Nesmith, Ben Hayden and Delazon Smith is rapidly passing away. When Edwin Markham, a native son of Oregon, wrote "The Man With the Hoe," he wrote for all ages. Edwin Markham was born on April 23, 1852, at Oregon City. Stop for a moment and listen to the heart-wrung cry of the industrial slave whose sweat pays for the unearned luxuries of the rich:

> Bowed by the weight of centuries, he leans
> Upon his hoe and gazes on the ground,
> The emptiness of ages in his face,
> And on his back the burden of the world.
> Who made him dead to rapture and despair,
> A thing that grieves not and that never hopes,
> Stolid and stunned, a brother to the ox?
> Who loosened and let down this brutal jaw?
> Whose was the hand that slanted back this brow?
> Whose breath blew out the light within this brain?
>
> Through this dread shape the suffering ages look,
> Time's tragedy is in that aching stoop;
> Through this dread shape humanity betrayed,
> Plundered, profaned and disinherited,
> Cries protest that is also prophecy.
>
> O masters, lords and rulers in all lands,
> How will the future reckon with this man?
> How answer his brute question in that hour
> When whirlwinds of rebellion shake the world?
> How will it be with kingdoms and with kings?—
> With those who shaped him to the thing he is—
> When this dumb Terror shall reply to God
> After the silence of the centuries?

There is no sunlight in this poem; it has the somberness of a December day in the vast and solemn forests of Oregon. Its shadows are as deep and as black as a moonless and starless night on Memaloose Island, "where repose the unburied Indian dead of countless ages."

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Sam Simpson's poems of Oregon will live long. He was born in Missouri on October 10, 1845. Before he was a year old he was a resident of Oregon. His father, Ben Simpson, was employed on the Grand Ronde Indian reservation. Here Sam spent his boyhood. After being graduated from the Willamette university, he read law and was admitted to the bar when 21 years old. He moved to Albany, where he formed a partnership with J. Quinn Thornton. In April, 1887, the Albany State Rights Democrat published a poem contributed by Mr. Simpson, entitled, "Ad Willametam," or, to put it in English, "To the Willamette." It is now known as "The Beautiful Willamette." If he had never written another line his place as one of Oregon's sweetest singers and truest poets would be established by the plaintive and haunting beauty and melody of this poem.

Every lover of Oregon knows it by heart, so I will quote only one stanza:

> Spring's green witchery is weaving
> Braid and border for thy side;
> Grace forever haunts thy journey,
> Beauty dimples on thy tide;
> Through the purple gates of morning,
> Now thy roseate ripples dance;
> Golden then when Day departing,
> On thy waters trails his lance.
>
> Waltzing, flashing,
> Tinkling, splashing,
> Limpid, volatile and free—
> Always hurried
> To be buried
> In the bitter moon-mad sea.'

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Ella Rhoades, or Ella Higginson, as we best know her, was born in Kansas; but, like Sam Simpson and Joaquin Miller, came to Oregon while she was a baby. Her parents settled near La Grande in the Grand Ronde valley. Here she spent her girlhood. She spent her young womanhood at Oregon City, and when she moved to Portland she was wooed and won by Russell C. Higginson, who hailed from New England. Mr. and Mrs. Higginson moved to New Whatcom, Wash., in the early eighties. Both Mrs. Higginson and her sister, Carrie Blake Morgan, have added much to the literary fame of Oregon.

Though Mrs. Higginson has published many readable and interesting stories in the leading magazines, she will be best remembered for her poetic feeling and insight. She has published several volumes of poems. Possibly the best known of her shorter poems is the "Four-Leaf Clover," which follows:

> I know a place where the sun is like gold,
> And the cherry blooms burst with snow;
> And down underneath is the loveliest nook,
> Where the four-leaf clovers grow.
>
> One leaf is for hope, and one is for faith,
> And one is for love, you know;
> And God put another in for luck—
> If you search you will find where they grow.
>
> But you must have hope, and you must have faith,
> You must love and be strong—and so—
> If you work, if you wait, you will find the place
> Where the four-leaf clovers grow.

Ready to Learn.

From the Boston Transcript.

Lady (in bird store:) Does this parrot swear?

Clerk: No, madam; but you could teach him in a week.

INDEX OF ADVANCING TIDE OF PROSPERITY

Chicago—Indications of the beginning of a buying movement on the part of furniture manufacturers seeking stocks for early fall requirements were reported in the Chicago lumber market yesterday. In the local hardwood yard districts it was reported there was good demand for material required in the manufacture of furniture of the cheaper grades. Oak, birch, maple and red and sap gum, especially the one-inch boards, were in demand, and it also was reported that elm moved in good volume to the same industries. This wood is used in the manufacture of furniture crating. It also is being consumed in good volume in chair factories. In consequence of improved conditions in the furniture industry, increased demand was reported for veneers and some of the imported woods. The wholesalers reported some improvement in the demand for hardwoods in carload lots from the outside factory trade.