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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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

This is the feeling that gives the man true courage—the feeling that he has a work to do at all costs; the sense of duty.—Charles Kingsley.

THE FERRIS BILL—NO. 1

WE are told in advance that the coming water power conference will protest against the Ferris bill.

That was long ago surmised. Indeed, it has all along been common knowledge that the conference was called, not to confer, but to protest.

But why? The Ferris bill reflects the effort of Secretary Lane and President Wilson to secure legislation for development of the West.

It may be that the Ferris bill is not perfect, and that it can be improved in some details. But this is true: The Ferris bill is the endeavor of earnest, sincere men who know the West and its needs, to open western resources to use without dissipation.

The West wants the water powers for use now. City development, new industries and extensions of old industries, reclamation of arid lands in several states, await the transforming into cheap electrical current for lighting, power and pumping, of the thousands of unused potential horse power in the mountain torrents and canyons, possessing only scenic value in their present state.

The Ferris bill is planned to bring about such use. Its very keynote is use.

Instead of giving these water power sites in the public domain into private ownership in perpetuity, for use or non-use as the private owner may elect, the Ferris bill proposes to allow the use of these lands only to such persons or corporations as desire and propose to use them, and it proposes that the government shall enforce use and development by making the grants revocable for non-use.

There can hardly be honest objection to this requirement for use. A transfer of ownership avails the public nothing unless the power sites are used for development of power. To allow these sites to go into unregulated private ownership and be held by private owners for speculative purposes—held out of use until the public necessity makes them far more valuable—would not help the West.

We have too much of this now. The dog-in-the-manger policy of private owners of land and natural resources who have acquired great holdings from the government in the past for little or nothing, and now demand a big profit from those who would develop the country if given a chance, has done and is doing more to keep the West from realization of its greatest possibilities than is any policy of the government with reference to the remaining portion of the public domain.

If private owners of water powers and power sites now held out of use, had been as anxious in the past for fair returns from development as they have been for large profits from non-development, there would not now be the imperative need for use of the power sites remaining in the public domain.

For 20 years, these power sites in the public domain have been held out of use because of laws which made inhibitive terms to hydro-electric investments and investors. These unworkable laws have been the result of the deadlock between the sentiment of a great section of the country which has refused to permit remaining natural resources to pass into unregulated and uncontrolled private ownership, and a dwindling sentiment in the West which has demanded that these national assets should be turned over without reserve to private ownership and state control. In this 20-year deadlock, the Ferris bill is the first practicable solution offered which does not do violence to the sentiment of any section of the country.

But we are told in advance that the water power conference will protest against the Ferris bill. We are told in advance that resistance is to be made to the fair and earnest effort which Secretary Lane and President Wilson are making to open the West to investments and investors.

To what provision in the foregoing digest of the purpose of the Ferris bill is there objection by the gentlemen who know in advance what the water power conference is going to do?

To what will they object in the provisions of the bill which The Journal will set forth in later articles?

THE TACOMA IDEA

IN TACOMA, the city commission has dismissed the chief of police and the duties of the position will be assumed by the head of the department of public safety without extra compensation.

In governments, municipal and otherwise, how many officials do we have just because we have always had them?

A telephone at the national capital got out of order during the Spanish war and two telegraph operators were employed for a day or two until it could be repaired. Somebody forgot, and though rendering no service, they remained on the federal payroll until 1910 when a Democratic House was elected and in a spasm of house cleaning, required their dismissal.

About the same time, there were rumors that the president's life was in danger from anarchists on account of the war, and something like a dozen special detectives were employed to look after his safety. Though the danger soon passed, they were still on the payroll until dismissed in the 1910 house cleaning.

How many kindred, even if less exaggerated cases of dead timber are there in city governments? How many functionaries are permitted to remain on the payroll just because it is the habit for them to be on the payroll? Is not the Tacoma idea that there are employes who can be dispensed with and the work be as well done without them, a good idea?

The subject is worth consideration. The test of public employment should be service, competency, and complete consecration to duty. Wherever there are drones or leaners, they should be discarded.

Commission government in Portland has done many good things. It can render no higher service than by absolutely making of every person on the city payroll a complete example of effectiveness, worth, and true service.

THE BIG GRAIN CROP

THE JOURNAL'S market editor announces that the Pacific northwest's grain crop this year aggregates 119,200,000 bushels. This total compares with 111,400,000 bushels in 1914, a gain of 7,800,000 bushels over last year's exceptional yield.

The harvest is practically completed in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. The grain is on its way to market. There is no possibility of failure, no chance that the Pacific northwest's great volume of farm products will be cut down.

The wheat crop furnished a big surprise. An estimate of 66,000,000 bushels made in July was said by some to be too large. But the actual harvest shows a total yield of 69,300,000 bushels, 3,300,000 greater than the July estimate and 8,300,000 bushels greater than last year's yield.

With a large part of the world dependent upon the United States for its food, the Pacific northwest's grain will be in great demand. Money for foodstuffs will flow into Oregon, Washington and Idaho as never before. This money will not remain idle. It will be put at work improving the farms and turning the wheels of industry. It means a tremendous boost to prosperity.

There is another phase to the situation. This year's grain crop illustrates the value of agriculture as a sound foundation upon which to build for the future. The farmer came to the country's assistance last year, and he has done so again. Our greater material progress depends on the farm, and the Pacific northwest's farms have made good.

BUYING SWAN ISLAND

DO THE gentlemen who use public funds to buy property in Portland for public use at very high prices realize that there is a growing disposition to question their policy?

Do they know that many reflecting people are not content to have public business so transacted, and that many of them are privately expressing their disapproval?

Here is a plan by the Port Commission to buy Swan Island at a lump sum of $300,000 to be paid for out of taxes collected from the public. As the owners in giving a valuation at which their property was to be assessed place that value at only $58,000, a great many people ask the question, why do they ask more than five times as much when they want to sell the holding to the public?

When were the owners correct about the value of Swan Island, when they stated it to be worth $58,000 for tax purposes or $300,000 for sale purposes?

The Port Commission cannot, in justice to itself, contract to pay out $300,000 of the people's money for this property at a private sale. Too many doubts are arising in the public mind as to the good faith of such transactions, and members of the commission may well consider whether or not they can afford to run the gauntlet of the doubts and questionings that such a purchase would obviously arouse.

Millions of dollars in public money have been collected and paid out on the mere judgment and reputation of men clothed with temporary power. The tax burdens of Portland are partly due to transactions growing out of this free-and-easy process. The people's faith has been very, very great. How long can that faith be expected to endure in the face of the ever growing demands for taxes and taxes and taxes?

The very questionable and very unstable value of Swan Island should make every member of the commission shrink from touching it except through condemnation proceedings where the values will be established in open court and by a jury of men on oath.

A MYSTERY

SELDOM is there such unanimity of approval as that expressed in the resolutions and petitions by the people of Roseburg requesting the retention of Mr. Elder as commandant of the Soldiers' Home.

As published in full in Tuesday's Journal, the resolutions and appended names are the testimonial of those at the scene and fully informed as to affairs about the Home. For Mr. Elder, the splendid words of encomium by those with whom he has been closely associated, both officially and privately for a number of years, are worth more than the position from which he has been dismissed without cause. It is so unusual an indorsement from a local community and so remarkable a testimonial to the efficiency and satisfying character of his administration that it is a better reward than the emoluments of the mere office.

Meanwhile, after repeatedly testifying to the excellence and effectiveness of Mr. Elder's administration, and after standing a long time with Secretary Olcott against Elder's removal, did State Treasurer Kay see and consider the Roseburg resolutions and the names thereon before he yielded to Governor Withycombe's insistence that Elder should be removed to make room for a Withycombe henchman?

If so, what influence was it that induced him to spurn the Roseburg petitioners and their testimonial and to consent to the dismissal of a man against whom there was no charge and for whom there was so much commendation?

A PROSPERITY FACT

GEORGE M. REYNOLDS, president of the Continental and Commercial National Bank of Chicago, has received reports on the business situation from over 6000 correspondents. This canvass was made among representative bankers in a large section of the country, and they say fundamental business conditions are sound, that trade and industrial activities are rapidly improving.

The reports of these bankers are especially significant, for a banker does not speak without knowledge and he has his finger on the business pulse at all times.

A review of the Reynolds canvass states that labor is better employed than at any time since the outbreak of the European war; the domestic credit situation is much better; soundness and conservatism appear to be the ruling motives in the conduct of business today; the country has recovered from the first shock of war, and only further improvement is in sight.

It was even stated by many of Mr. Reynolds' correspondents that there is more likely to be a shortage of workers in the United States within a short time than a shortage of work. The immense volume of war demands has given fresh impetus to the steel industry, and this is being reflected in increased railway traffic. Industries not directly affected by orders for war munitions are resuming operations on a large scale. Another record crop will soon be ready for sale. Everything is conspiring to promote the biggest business and industrial boom the country has known.

The only deterrent influence is said to be uncertainty as to the war's duration. But that drawback is losing its force. The country is adapting itself to new conditions and is utilizing the war to make bigger the business boom which has already started in the United States.

People will be given an illustration of the American dollar's increased purchasing power in Portland next Thursday. If ability to buy the most has made the dollar king of all nations' money, his throne will be in Portland on Dollar Day.

The presumption is that the boy who threw a stone through a Maryland avenue car window "just to see the people jump" did a little jumping himself after being sent home to his parents.

Foreign Minister Grey announces that England will allow drugs and chemicals which cannot be secured elsewhere to be shipped from Germany to the United States. Is it a sign that England is also experiencing a change of heart concerning America's rights to the seas?

A present question in the great international fight is whether Russia can "come back." A few prize-fighters have done it, but only a few.

The Germans have captured Pinsk on the Pripet river, but the Russians have taken Hulewitzschie. Tell the children about it.

HANDING THE HAT TO DIPLOMATS

Luke Guardian in Philadelphia Ledger.

SOME diplomats, so-called, having become "persona non grata," take their departure gracefully, under the guise of a leave of absence, and others have their walking papers forced upon them. Cases alter the circumstances.

Dumba is by no means the first representative of a foreign government at Washington to be told that his absence would be more desirable than his presence. There have been about a dozen offenders of ministerial or ambassadorial rank. The recall of diplomats, on complaint, has likewise applied to a few American representatives in posts abroad.

"It is an accepted rule of diplomatic usage," says Foster, "that every government has the right to determine for itself the acceptability of an envoy accredited to it, and that if his government does not recall him upon request, the government to which he is unacceptable may dismiss him." Ordinarily, a mere request is deemed sufficient, but sometimes the government of the offending diplomat refuses to act until satisfactory evidence has been submitted. It is the usual practice of the complainant to assign reasons, which is different from submitting evidence.

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Of particular interest at this time, by reason of certain attending circumstances, is the case of Sackville-West. This case involved a foreign envoy's intervention in the domestic policies of the United States.

Sackville-West was British minister at Washington during the presidential campaign of 1888. The difficulty arose over his reply to a letter, marked private, in which the writer, who represented himself as a naturalized citizen of British birth, asked the minister for advice on how to vote. The reply was published in the newspapers. Relations between America and Great Britain formed the subject of much of the political talk of the day. The minister, in his letter, suggested that President Cleveland's election would be likely to promote British interests. In subsequent interviews he made a bad matter worse by indiscreet statements.

Secretary of State Bayard cabled to Mr. Phelps, our minister at London, saying that Sackville-West had shown him the letter and that in newspaper interviews the British envoy had been "reported to have gravely reflected upon the motives of the president and the senate as regards their action touching pending questions relative to Canada." Mr. Bayard continued: "The government of the United States cannot be indifferent to any interference in domestic issues by foreign representatives. Mr. Phelps will accordingly invite Lord Salisbury's attention to the occurrence, and express the confident reliance of this government upon the action of her majesty's government in the premises." Lord Salisbury declined to act until he had received his minister's explanation. There was considerable further correspondence on the subject, but in the meantime Sackville was handed his passports. He returned to England and retired to private life, the incident having destroyed his usefulness, in the opinion of his own government, as a member of the diplomatic service.

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An earlier instance of the promptness with which the American government has seen fit to act where long delay was promised by the failure of a foreign government to take action is the dismissal of the British minister, Crampton, in 1855. Crampton and several consuls violated the neutrality laws in securing enlistments for the Crimean war. On the refusal of the British government to take action until Crampton had been given an opportunity to vindicate his conduct, the minister was handed his passports.

In both the preceding cases, it should be observed, reasons were assigned for the American protest. When Blaine was secretary of state he was informed by Chili that our minister in Santiago was "persona non grata." Chili asked that Mr. Egan be therefore recalled, and remarked that she had the right to make such a request. Secretary Blaine, in a note to the Chilian minister, replied that "undoubtedly she has that right, provided she assigns a reason. You are too well skilled in diplomatic usage to be reminded that when the nation is pleased to declare that a minister is 'persona non grata,' she is expected to assign a reason therefor." Chili then let the matter drop.

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Genet was one of the first foreign envoys to meddle in American affairs in such a manner as to make his retention in office intolerable. But the case of the Frenchman, Moustier, was the earliest. Moustier's disagreeable conduct, both in public and in his personal dealings with members of President Washington's official family, had made him unpopular with all classes of society. John Armstrong wrote to General Gates, about that time, "We have a French minister here with us, and if France had wished to destroy the little remembrance that is left of her and her exertions in our behalf, she would have sent just such a minister."

Secretary Jay wrote to Jefferson, instructing him to make known to the French government the offensive character of Moustier's conduct. Jefferson thought the matter too delicate for official dealing with the foreign minister, so he asked Lafayette to assist him. Lafayette had a talk with the foreign minister, who took advantage of a loose expression in a letter from Moustier, ostensibly regarding it as a request for a leave of absence. The "request" was "granted." Moustier did not return to America. That is one way of having a minister recalled.

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It was also during Washington's presidency that Genet was recalled by the French government on request. The Spanish minister, Yrujo, was summarily dismissed in 1806. Three years later Jackson, the British minister, received his passports. In 1849 the French minister, Poussin, was handed his hat. The Russian minister, Catacazy, was similarly treated in 1871. L. A. Thurston, minister of the republic of Hawaii, was recalled at the request of President Cleveland.

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 clothes them out of existence and sets up its own conclusions in their stead."—Woodrow Wilson.

A Plea for the Birds.

Albany, Or., Sept. 15.—To the Editor of The Journal—The joint three days' session of the Benton and Linn County Teachers' institute that closed this afternoon was a grand success, and well it might be, with nearly 400 teachers in attendance and addresses by some of our most noted Oregon educators, from Eugene, Salem, Monmouth and the O. A. C. As a has-been Oregon rural school teacher by nearly 40 years, the progressive ideas advanced, especially as to rural schools, for making them more efficient and attractive, were a revelation to me, and I know they were an inspiration to all who heard them.

And then, the songs as given in the Oregon Teachers' Monthly, published at Salem by Charles H. Jones, sung in grand chorus, were a grand outburst of song. While those about Oregon may have appealed to me the most, along patriotic and sentimental lines, two whippoorwill songs brought forth the most of practical thought.

Some weeks ago, in an article by me, published in The Journal, about some of our Oregon birds that were seen in pioneer days, but were now gone, as I believed, I named the whippoorwill, whose plaintive notes could be heard summer evenings in the Willamette valley. And this impells me to ask your many readers if during these later years any of them have heard this bird in our valley or elsewhere in Oregon or Washington. I hoped the matter of our song and other useful birds would be mentioned during the institute, but time forbade; so here I make a special plea to all our teachers, especially in Oregon and Washington, too, to talk to their pupils, asking them not to kill the birds. True, most, if not all, are protected by law, but young people, especially the boys, evidently often forget.

What's the use to teach agriculture and kindred subjects in our schools, and then have an ever increasing damage done to our garden, orchard and grain crops by the ever growing numbers of unwelcome worm or insect pests that prey upon them, mainly because their greatest enemies, the birds, are decreasing, instead of increasing in numbers?

And when, even in our Oregon, there sometimes come chilling wintry blasts, and a snow covered ground, let us feed the birds that flit around our homes. In springtime they will reward us with their sweetest songs of gratitude and praise, and wage a more valiant battle against the enemies of our grain or other farm products.

CYRUS H. WALKER.

The Billion Dollar Loan.

Portland, Sept. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—The editorial in yesterday's Journal, "Borrowing a Billion," is surely a plain matter of fact exposition of where The Journal stands as regards the disastrous war now raging in Europe and explicitly proves that The Journal is not a pro-war advocate and stands alone in Portland for peace and good will to all nations. Last evening's Journal told us of the arrival of the entente allies' representatives in New York and of their being met by J. P. Morgan and his partner, Henry P. Davidson, and that the six commissioners were at once taken under Morgan's care, boarded his yacht and sped up the bay to arrange, it is said, for a loan of one billion of our good American money, to help Britain and her allies to wage their world war.

This important matter should make true Americans pause and think what this all means to the cause of peace. Yes, think what this fabulous sum, earned by the sweat and hard toil of labor, would do for this country if it were in the hands of true and tried Americans instead of being in the hands of the pro-allies. This money would be more safe in the hands of good Americans, put on the waste lands of this country and would return a higher rate of interest, and the security would not be a foreign bond but a bona fide American land security.

Is it any great wonder that the great masses of the American people are getting more and more disgusted with conditions that bring home to them the true meaning of Morganism in the United States? We talk and boast of our neutrality, and at the same time our Morgans and their ilk are doing all in their power to continue the destruction of life, which is filling those warring countries with widows and orphans and homeless children. God being just, woe is Morgan & Co., when they come before the judgment seat. If Morgan expects a chance to pass the judgment he must see that the eye of the needle is manufactured and enlarged in his own gun foundry, or his chances to pass through will fail, and all the shrapnels ever manufactured will not be able to pull down the fortress which will bar his entrance. He may repent, but it is doubtful.

D. M. O'SULLIVAN.

Railway Mail Carrying Charges.

Jennings Lodge, Or., Sept. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have read the article in a recent issue of The Journal in relation to a pamphlet issued by the Railway Business association, asking business men to interest themselves in securing a readjustment of the method by which railways are paid for carrying the mail. It is claimed that while postoffice receipts increased 100 per cent in 10 years, the total paid railways increased only 7.7 per cent.

Now, to show what a graft the railroads have, I will submit the following table which is substantiated by Henry C. Adams, statistician of the United States postal commission, generally known as the Wolcott commission. Some revisions have since been made (in 1907), but they are too slight to affect the disparity in charges here shown:

New York City to Buffalo, a distance of 440 miles: One ton mail, $31.65; one ton freight, $7.80; one ton express, $12.50; 100 pounds mail, $1.58; 100 pounds freight, 29 cents, 100 pounds express, 63 cents.

New York City to Chicago, 1000 miles: One ton mail, $71.39; one ton freight, $15; one ton express, $25.

New York City to San Francisco via New York Central, Lake Shore, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, Union Pacific and the Southern Pacific: One ton mail, $265.53; one ton freight, $60; one ton express, $135; 100 pounds mail, $15.28; 100 pounds freight, $3; 100 pounds express, $6.75.

The railroad rate for mail, however, is much higher than shown in the foregoing table. The government is cheated in the weighing of the mails and is charged an exorbitant rental for the use of mail cars.

W. B. JENNINGS.

A Plea for the Unemployed.

Portland, Sept. 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have noticed in the papers recently a number of proposed solutions of the problem of unemployment. I noticed in yesterday's Oregonian the statement that the Democrats were denying the fact of unemployment, well knowing that such is not the case. The Oregonian purports to be Republican, and of course I expected the calamity howl of Democratic empty dinner pail.

Just so long as the moneyed powers control our government, the question of unemployment will exist. They are always looking ahead for their dividends, and when they fall off the question is not how are their employes to exist, but rather by what means they can legislate to make their money more effective. This is the cause, in my estimation, and its removal will be the cure. I am well satisfied that the Democratic government is seeking to find the solution. I have a friend, an old pioneer, who came to Oregon and helped develop it, not with money but with brawn. He has been one of the many that have given their manhood to make it possible for the captains of industry to amass the wealth that keeps them, hard times or good times. The lands that he held for them are today producing their wealth and pouring it into the coffers of those that were keener witted than he. All that he has left as his part of many adventures he passed through, at the risk of life, to give to the keener witted the power to dictate whether he shall be employed or not.

Men of his stamp have made and are making it possible for us to inhabit the great state of Oregon and the greater state to come. I am sure that could his stories be told to the people at large, their reality would impress so greatly that a warmer feeling would exist for the unemployed and that greater efforts would be put forward toward the solving of their great question. For is he not entitled to a market for his brawn, his only stock in trade?

I am one of the unemployed at present, through no fault of my own, and yet I am not crying over the fact. I do not like the way things are being conducted at present. Yet I do not denounce them, for they are the best we have, and they must serve until we get better. I feel that it is the duty of every man not to shirk the fray because he does not like it, but rather to get in and make from out of chaos the things he does like. While I would like to feel that the fear of unemployment would be the least of my troubles, I know that such can not be the case until it is made possible by the people en masse. I know that I am going to exist, by means foul or fair; I hope not foul, for self-preservation is the first law of nature, and I hope that with this far advanced civilization the question will be quickly solved, thus doing away with that dark cloud that hangs over every man and woman that possesses but brawn as the only means of livelihood.

That we are human and should deem nothing that relates to humanity as foreign to our feelings, will at some time be the theme of mankind. Of those who are in position to make betterment of things in general, I ask that they strive for relief of us, the unemployed. ROBERT T. MERRILL.

Reckless Japs.

From the Cincinnati Times-Star.

The Japanese again are showing their innate treachery. They are stripping their forts of guns and shipping them to Russia, just as if there were no United States to menace and no Richmond Pearson Hobson to confirm.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Washington Post: Gravitation toward a protective tariff would seem to indicate that England expects every man to pay his duty.

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Pittsburg Press: The chap—some would say queer guy—who wrote "The melancholy days have come," was evidently not fond of oysters.

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Detroit Free Press: Harry Thaw might have saved himself and his family much worry and expense by merely suing for divorce in the first place.

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Baltimore Star: Lloyd-George might pull the "Song of the Men of Harlech" on those Welsh miners. It couldn't do less good than the munitions act has.

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Seattle Times: A contemporary suggests that "If Shakespeare were on earth, he would be writing for the movies." Probably so—and he would be making screen classics.

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Salt Lake Tribune: Somebody has complained because the Turks have just killed as many as 1000 Christians. The Turks probably are complaining because they killed only 1000.

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Philadelphia Ledger: Who shall say anything against the versatile climate of Philadelphia when a boy can be arrested at this season for hitting a woman in the eye with a snow ball?

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Philadelphia Telegraph: Things published as lost in a New York street car include a hat, a collar, shirts and socks. And now we will never rest until we know whether he went home in a barrel or a paper bag.

• •

Chicago Journal: With crops far better than the average, with an ample supply of labor for every demand, with railroads and other public utilities clamoring for betterments that short-sighted financiering has denied, why should the money of the country lie idle?

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

"When it is remembered," says the Eugene Register, "that these early fall rains are but the prelude to Indian summer they may be hailed with joy."

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The Baker county fair having been successfully negotiated, the Baker Herald says "Now let us return to the subject of cluster lights until we have them burning."

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During the hot days of June, July, August and September, 6446 swims were enjoyed in the Y. M. C. A. swimming tank at Corvallis. The swimmers included 148 ticket holders, besides many occasional patrons.

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Pendleton East Oregonian's challenge to the weather man: "It can rain bucketsful all week and not a Round-Up booster will complain. It will put the roads in good shape for automobile travel to the biggest show on earth."

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The civic department of the Salem Commercial club has allowed enough money for the construction of an arch of welcome, with a 60-foot span. It will be used for the first time during the state fair and will be erected in the business section of the city.

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Port Orford Tribune: It is reported here that 24 pounds of radium-bearing ore was taken out of a mine on Boulder creek, 27 miles from Port Orford, in the past few days. The report has caused a local sensation. It is said that in the form in which the radium is found, it is worth $80 an ounce.

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Gresham Outlook: Stand Pat McArthur, who expects to keep a seat warm at Washington next winter, has promised to dredge Johnson creek as far as Gresham, build us a new postoffice and get a national law passed in aid of county fairs. He's a man after everybody's heart but is respectfully warned not to set after the hearts of the Gresham girls, even if he is an M. C.

THE KURD AND HIS WAY OF LIFE

From a Bulletin of the National Geographic Society.

The Kurds, who, report says, are again engaged in their favorite occupation of slaughtering Armenians, men, women and children, are a survival from the days when self respecting men lived only, or at least principally, by the sword. Their wild tribes are scattered throughout Asia Minor, acting to thwart the most modest efforts of the land toward modern comfort, security and organization. Although once fabulously rich, the country has not been able to bring forth a sufficiency through all the years that the Kurds have practiced their untamed housekeeping here, a housekeeping that has consisted in abandoning the summer tent for the winter cottage, after preliminaries of killing the owner and his family, and the replenishing of goods' stores at the point of a rifle, the transaction usually followed by the burning of the looted shop.

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The Kurd is a picturesque citizen, and, whatever his numbers may be—census matters in Turkey are indefinite—he is much more in evidence than the Armenians and other peoples among whom he lives. The Kurd is the traveler's first impression in Asia Minor, and in most cases he remains the predominant one. The Kurds wear clothes of vivid colors; they also wear rags, that is, the poorer ones, of the most reckless nondescription. The Kurds ride the best horses; they are always armed; they bully the Armenians, the travelers and the overlord Turks themselves.

The Turks have been unable to get a complete mastery over their subject Kurds, and have employed an administrative policy toward them of letting them alone. Thus, the Kurd massacres Armenians, robs Armenians and travelers, and considers both of these occupations his just right. In a useful state, the Kurd lives in the hills and herds sheep. He is a pastoral tent dweller in the summer. In the winter he moves to the Mesopotamian plains and either lives in his tent or turns the owner out of a selected house. His tent is of black, homespun goats' hair and its furniture is mats, quilts and cooking pots. His children go naked and his women ragged. His board is set with sour milk, and when by chance he builds a winter home, it consists of a hole in the ground with a flat roof of wattle and clay—air tight, smoke tight, light tight. There are small smoke vents in the roof, but the whole effect is that of a prairie dog's dwelling. Within, it is as light and airy as a low-level coal mine.

• • •

To be of "Ashiret" blood, in Kurdish estimation, is to be really worth while. The Kurds have a conscious superiority which gives them a certain bearing of nobiesse and dignity. A Kurdish chief is an impressive, often an affable, individual. These people are not inclined to settle down, and they do not seem to want others to settle. In some districts, however, they have taken lands wholesale from the Armenians, massacreing the owners, and have become rich landholders. Occasional Kurds attempt civilization.

• • •

Officially, at least, the Kurds are Mohammedans. They reject the custom of veiling their women, reverence fire, and are, on subjects of religion altogether liberal. Many of them are Kizilbashis, heretic Moslems, and some few are Christians. Their little feudal organizations are their nationalities, and their patriotism is a devotion to the privilege of being able to live at the expense of others. They are medieval, with all the headstrong irregularities of medieval times. It was not until 1913 that the first Kurdish newspaper appeared. This was published at Constantinople. As, however, there is no such thing as a definite written Kurdish language, this paper is carried on under some difficulty. There was something called a "Kurdish movement" before the war, but its labors seemed hopeless. The latest reports from the haunts of the Kurds tell of the massacre of many thousands of Armenians.

INDEX OF ADVANCING TIDE OF PROSPERITY

Philadelphia—All good order freight cars on the Pennsylvania railroad lines, both east and west of Pittsburg, are now at work. On January 4 of this year there were 46,065 of these good order freight cars completely idle. The fact that this large number of cars is now at work is striking evidence of the great improvement which have taken place in traffic.

The number of shop cars has been gradually reduced during the last few weeks, and present indications are that the system will have to rush repairs on these cars to meet the increasing demand for equipment for freight moving purposes.

The Once Over

BY REX LAMPMAN

BACK FROM EXPLORING THE INTERIOR.

DALLAS — Polk county — Oregon — September 15.—This is the prune center of the universe—according to the best information obtainable here.

—and I have talked to Breeze Gibson—Jack Algood—and Walter Tooze.

¶ Dallas used to be known as the goat center of the universe.

—but in a few years—the word "goat"—became so popular—as a slang term—

—that the motto was amended—to read—"prune center of the universe."

¶ But there are many whiskers in Dallas that remind one of the old motto.

¶ However—it may be just as well—to tell how we got here.

¶ Of course—we came to Dallas—in the first place—before we started out to explore the interior.

¶ Having explored it—we forsook the wilderness—at Falls City.

—where Dean floated a bond—

—with Kernel Matthews—as the floatee.

¶ And that enabled us—to return by rail — to Dallas — Dean's old home town.

—where he is regarded—as a sort of chocolate soldier.

¶ And I have been embarrassed—several times—because women and girls stop him on the street.

—and kiss him.

¶ And now I know—why he went to a barber shop—when we first got in.

—and had it all cut off—

—except a light opera mustache.

¶ As soon as he came out of the shop—a dear old lady met him.

—and kissed him.

—and he told me she was his aunt.

¶ And then a woman—not so very old—met him.

—and she kissed him.

—and he said she used to be his Sunday school teacher—when he was a little boy.

¶ And it was that way—all over town.

—until it seemd to me—that Dean must be related—or must have gone to Sunday school—or public school—or kindergarten—or something—to a great many of the loveliest women in Dallas

—or Polk county.

—or Oregon—

—or any place.

¶ And there were several girls—who were too young—to be in the aunt or teacher classification

—and Dean said they were his cousins.

¶ And of course—when I started out—I meant to tell a lot of things—about Dallas

—and what makes it such a good town—

—and all that

—but I got sidetracked on Dean—and his wonderful endurance—as a kisser.

¶ And I asked Cary Hayter about it—and he laughed and said—

¶ LISTEN—"As far as I know—and I've been here quite a while—Dean hasn't got a girl cousin in this whole town."

MAP MAKING ONCE THE WAR IS OVER

The changes in the map of Europe that may be expected to follow a victory by the Teutonic allies or the Quadruple Entente are set forth in a most instructive fashion by Frank H. Simonds in an illustrated article that will appear in The Sunday Journal.

Mr. Simonds, who writes with authority, takes up in detail the several territorial concessions that the several nations will demand and expect if the war goes their way.

As may be expected, the big change will come in the Balkans, no matter who wins. But look for his article and see for yourself the tasks the map makers have in prospect.

FOR MATRON AND MAID

Anne Rittenhouse, in her weekly fashion letter, shows how the designers have seized upon the mannish styles of the French Revolution for this year's costumes.

Margaret Mason writes that this season's foggery comes high, meaning high from the ground. Her letter is delightfully flippant, as usual.

Catharine Greenwood, the needlework expert, offers an attractive centerpiece in Richelieu work that will appeal to the needlewoman.

Dorothy Dolan presents a page of practical talks on the home in The Sunday Journal Magazine.

MAGAZINE FEATURES

THE WONDERFUL TOMB OF TAHERI—A Sepulchre's Chiselled Story.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN, FARMER—By Andrew Watres Ford.

CONFESSIONS of AN AUTO BANDIT—By Joseph Taylor.

SCIENCE AND NEAR SCIENCE UP-TO-DATE.

HOW TO BECOME A MOVIE ACTRESS — By Louella O. Parsons.

ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF LIFE—Flashes of Humor.

CARTOONAGRAMS — Charles A. Ogden.

THE CROW AND THE GRAIN OF CORN—Georgene Faulkner.

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