

THE JOURNAL

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Old but persistent: An old white haired pioneer over whose head eight-five winters have passed, appealing to a congressional committee to crown a work he has urged for many years, is a spectacle that appeals to our sentimental nature.

Nothing the matter with Portland: In the history of man has ever existed in either the physical or the moral importance of the results the discovery made by that unknown genius who first produced fire by friction means and ever since the building of fire, especially on coal stoves, has been a constant problem.

Letters from the people: The Oregonian has had a shock. In fact these are times of frequent shocks to the old state newspaper.

Uncle Jeff Snow says: Lots of young fellows excuse themselves because they haven't made a success of life. Well, what about them? They are at rotation pool. Some win, some lose, some make a specialty of telling their own tales.

Wool and prices: Northwest are being asked to contract their coming season's clip of fleeces at prices 1 to 2 cents a pound higher than similar goods sold at last season.

Seeing America: One of the popular attractions for tourists in Pennsylvania is a coal mine near Summit Hill which has been on fire for fifty years and more.

The factory and the farmer: Albany, Or., Feb. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I have been thinking of you for some time.

Editorial endorsed: Independence, Or., Feb. 2.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I was very much impressed with your editorial on the "Wage War" in Oregon.

Writing back Home: Oswego, Or., Feb. 1.—To the Editor of The Journal.—So many commercial clubs, ad clubs and all booster clubs want people to write back east and tell of Oregon's wonders and how people are getting on.

Just wanted One Look: LOUIS YOGAN is the most versatile member of The Journal family. He is equally at home in the publisher's office as in the newsboys' quarters.

Wanted: A man who can do a little more than a little more of this world's goods.

Some denominations require their ministers to take a vow of poverty in order that the luxuries of earth may not outweigh the promised joys of heaven.

Poverty such as John Brown had all his life lends something of a charm to historical characters.

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what becomes of him. With so much money we feel that he is no longer an object of worry. What is a fine thing to have at the close of life, but bad at the beginning. The world would be better if all youths had to get out on their careers with a good deal of hard, rough work before them. Softness is close kin to evil.

The back of the snow regime seems broken, and Portland is in fair way to return to the normal. It would be appropriate now for all to get together in a long pull and strong pull for a greater and busier city.

OLD BUT PERSISTENT

AN OLD white haired pioneer over whose head eight-five winters have passed, appealing to a congressional committee to crown a work he has urged for many years, is a spectacle that appeals to our sentimental nature.

But when the appeal concerns a matter of local interest the spectacle becomes doubly impressive. A few days ago Ezra Meeker, known throughout the Pacific northwest as one of its earliest residents, appeared before the house committee on military affairs at Washington in behalf of a bill appropriating \$75,000 to survey and locate a military and post road from St. Louis to Olympia.

The road is to follow as far as practicable the route of the old pioneers who crossing plains and mountains in the Oregon country made it a part of the Santa Fe States. As home builders they came over the trails of the Indian and the trapper who before them had followed the paths of the wild animal.

The day has now come, says Mr. Meeker, when sentiment prompts, commerce needs and military preparedness demands that the old trails be converted into trunk line thoroughfares.

Eorn before the coming of the railroad to the United States, Mr. Meeker has seen all the developments of transportation that have followed, leaving him with the conviction that greater and more far reaching benefits for humanity are to follow this automobile.

The great Pacific northwest was made a part of our nation not through war but by the enterprise of its early settlers, and therefore sentimental reasons alone should justify the permanent marking of the road by which they came, contends Mr. Meeker.

But there are other reasons, he says. In what he calls his short span of life, 85 years, he has witnessed four wars in which this nation has been engaged without preparation.

"We can't forget," he adds, "the battle of Bandenburg, where over 8000 war troops were prepared, gave way before 4000 trained soldiers who marched to Washington and burned the capitol, inflicting a humiliation that rancors to this day in the breast of any American citizen with red blood in his veins."

Even one who has no sympathy for Mr. Meeker's propaganda can not help but admire his undaunted spirit.

There are many severations by experts that Mr. Naramore is a perfectly competent architect. He is fully accredited by the American Institute of Architects. He is, in fact, a member of the executive committee of that organization, and is said to be especially skilled in the architecture of school buildings.

WOOL AND PRICES

WOOL growers of the Pacific Northwest are being asked to contract their coming season's clip of fleeces at prices 1 to 2 cents a pound higher than similar goods sold at last season.

Few, if any, are willing to take advantage of this opportunity because the contracting idea is going rapidly out of favor among producers for the reason that they have seldom, if at any time, received the full worth of their product when selling months ahead of delivery.

Contracting of farm products has always been a very serious detriment to the producer. Not only has the actual contractor received less, as a rule, for his product than the stock was actually worth at the time of delivery, but it is a fact that contracting by a few will cause loss to all growers producing that commodity.

The man who purchases wool on contract is human. He purchases on contract at a lower price than he confidently believes the market will reach when delivery time arrives. He has better knowledge of the average on the market than the average seller, and uses this knowledge to secure his requirements at a less price than he can possibly purchase at later.

There is nothing but an excited demand for wool in sight for the Pacific Northwest sheep interests. Stocks of wool are rapidly diminishing, although up to this time many of the leading American manufacturers have discriminated against the domestic producer in an effort to play favor with foreign interests, from whom comes a record-breaking demand for wool.

The wool grower has generally played the game just as the big mill interests wanted him to. He had borne the great expense of production and the other fellow has taken the profits. Now conditions are changing. The wool grower no longer is willing to throw away his profits and refuses to contract ahead of the time of delivery.

To punish him the mills are in many instances paying more for foreign fleeces of equal quality than they are for the home product. This condition cannot exist forever. Stocks of foreign wools are diminishing fast at leading world centers. Prices are showing a corresponding increase at such points. This means only good for the home producer if he is wise enough to refuse to play the other fellow's game.

By refusing to take a stand on the pure fabric bill, which would have forced better values for the domestic fleece, the Oregon wool grower made a mistake. The use of shoddy in so-called "all wool" goods means the use of that much less virgin fleece by the manufacturer, although the public is paying for the real article.

It would be broad vision if the American Institute of Architects would name a committee to offer suggestions architecturally in so important a public matter as the Benson technical school building. A high sense of civic possibilities and a broad realization of an important public service rendered, would splendidly compensate the body for such an act.

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That is his chief substance is sawdust is patent. Anyone can see that for himself, but the eye will not further penetrate the little squares that discern the material that composes this entirely modern joy-producer. It dispenses with the grievous toll of making splinters of Oregon iron. It dispenses with the necessity of a saw and their great newspaper beneficiaries.

Does the Oregonian dare charge direct that Mr. Brandeis, though a Jew, is a Jew? He is a Jew, and he has his bias in favor of that race and its creed. This is an American country, and we are an American people, and we are an American people.

How is it made? The five ingredients—some may be chemicals for anybody but Mr. Hauke and Otto Marcus and Ben Sagorzi, his associates, know—are thrown into a box and mixed up like mortar. A machine does the mixing. This is a Gorman proposition, hence Paddy and his hoe are strictly taboo.

When the sawdust and other substances are worked to about the consistency of that clay that each of us, when happy children with no "silver thaws" to torment our souls, used to fashion into soldiers and cats and mice and such things, it is fed to a pressing machine which hands it back in cakes of ten squares each. These squares are one inch each way in size, and two to four in thickness.

All that is necessary is to break off a couple of them from the cake, place them beneath the fuel, touch a match to the thing and go off about your business. The economy fire starter will do the rest. And so cheaply, too. Twenty squares sell for a nickel, and it is expected to slip in another ten after a few months and not increase the price. One can start ten wood and five coal fires for five cents even now, and without danger of explosions or other troubles.

Fire Marshal Stevens, whose General Rumor declares it to be safe, when in the neighborhood of even a lightning bus, declared there is not an atom of danger attached to the use of the Economy Fire Starter. They are safe, he is reported to have said, "as fire brick in a teapot."

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The first and most natural thing they did was to pump water down into the burning vein through bore holes, but this did not help much. Very likely the water when it reached the area of greatest heat was decomposed and actually made the fire hotter, as it does sometimes when houses are burning. So the coal smoldered away, throwing out gas and flame to the joy of tourists until about six years ago when the owners drove down in advance of the fire a solid row of concrete piles. It was supposed that the fire would burn up to the piles and then go out of its own accord. But it managed to get through in some way and went on burning as before, but not so hotly. It is now burning as it does sometimes when houses are burning. So the coal smoldered away, throwing out gas and flame to the joy of tourists until about six years ago when the owners drove down in advance of the fire a solid row of concrete piles. It was supposed that the fire would burn up to the piles and then go out of its own accord. But it managed to get through in some way and went on burning as before, but not so hotly. It is now burning as it does sometimes when houses are burning.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE. Why is it that nobody started a relief fund for Graham?

Homeless students at the University of California have organized a league. Wonder how many corks belong to it?

All but 22 of Oregon's 176 state senators have professed to be and it wasn't a very good year for banking.

News concerning the status of the Federal Reserve Bank of Portland is being furnished to each individual's natural tendency.

When the weather gives its consent business will resume with a rush, for the winter has been a very successful one.

The Albany man who emerged alive from the midst of an acetylene explosion was not injured and is now recovering from our proposed army of defense.

Oakland's superintendent of schools says Portland has the best public schools in the West. He says that if a fault existed now have somebody else to attack.

John Willard, the pugilist, will be paid \$17,500 for 30 minutes' work with a prize of \$10,000. He says he is not so smart enough not to attempt to work with his brain.

The National Marine league has announced a nation-wide educational campaign for the need of an American merchant marine. No such campaign has been conducted since the league has in mind a subsidized merchant marine.

Julius Fleischman, leader of Ohio Republicans who says President Wilson is a "Jew," has been sound and reasonable. He says that his criticism is not based on his frankness rather than as a purveyor of news.

NO CAUSE FOR INTERVENTION

Senator Robert M. La Follette in La Grange, Ind., has written a letter to the Oregonian. He says that Mexico is not a military dictatorship. He says that Mexico is not a military dictatorship.

No, we will not intervene in Mexico—at least not on any facts thus presented. It is granted that much valuable property belonging to American citizens has been destroyed. It is admitted that a number of the employees of such companies, citizens of this country, have lost their lives at the hands of lawless Mexican bandits. These cases do not stand alone. Others have been from time to time on the other side of the Rio Grande more revolting in character than anything of recent occurrence.

It is not unlikely that other companies will voluntarily give up their lives and property to protect their property interests. They have been warned by this government again and again to leave Mexico. They scorn the admonition. They say that they are not interested in the welfare of the Mexican people. They say that they are not interested in the welfare of the Mexican people.

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