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Every measure must be tested by the question: Is it just? Is it in the interests of the average man, without influence or privilege? Does it embody the highest conception of social justice, without respect to person or class or political interest?—Woodrow Wilson.

THE ROAD SCANDAL

THE need of a closer inspection of state highway work is made apparent by the disclosure that the pavement in Marion county between Brooks and Salem is not being laid according to specifications. The development of a weakness at this point naturally leads to the suggestion that there may be weak spots at other places. It is now incumbent on the state highway commission to make a thorough investigation of the work already finished as well as that which is in a state of construction. It should develop that the work is not up to standard, contracts should be cancelled forthwith and the dishonesty of the contractor exposed to the public.

More than this, the commission should, as it do not will, strengthen its inspecting force by employing only tried and competent men. With paving contracts amounting to over \$6,000,000, involving a mileage of nearly 295 miles outstanding and with many others in prospect the commission has before it a big task in seeing that all conditions are complied with and that full use for such a large expenditure of public money is had. It is not an impossible task or one in which it might be pleaded that the scope of the work undertaken is too big to secure efficient and faithful workmanship. While road development is one of the most urgent needs in Oregon its urgency will not admit of slackness or dishonesty. If honest work cannot be had it would be far better to suspend work altogether.

Not only as a duty to the public but to itself should the highway commission make a searching investigation and take practical steps to justify public confidence in its capacity and desire to get the best results possible.

More than 1,000,000 words were written by Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and their assistants to day to day the story of their adventurous exploration of the Oregon country. This is one of the interesting facts brought to light by The Mentor, an unconventional magazine of New York, which devotes its May number exclusively to pictures and text descriptive of the Lewis and Clark expedition. To have followed the path beaten out by the intrepid explorers should be a cause of pride to every person who has come to the Pacific Northwest from less favored portions of the country. To know the history of that original expedition should be the ambition of every person entitled to the name, Oregonian, by birth or adoption.

IS IT ALL BELOW?
T IS funny about bootleg booze. It seems to be more apparent in the lower strata than in the upper. It seems to have a harder time hiding itself down below than up above. It is a paradoxical sort of stuff. Inside it has a tendency to go to the top, in making its presence known. Outside it seems to be easiest to find if down toward the bottom.

Maybe the lower strata, unlearned in biblical lore, has not yet discovered that silence is golden, in more ways than one. Maybe, too, the lower strata, not having much of the golden glamour about it, finds more difficulty in securing the silence. It is a strange world. There seems to be something very noisy about a still, or a pint of moonshine here and there. Their juggling cannot be hidden from the official and eagle eye and ear. But a case or two—that's a different matter, not so noisy, if properly situated. Once there was a man, so the fable tells us, who found a piece of money at his feet. All his life-long thereafter, as he journeyed about, he kept his eyes on the ground looking for more. He never

looked up. He found other small pieces of change, now and then. But he missed all of the big things, throughout his journey, on a level with his eyes, and above. People were disappointed with him. Large visions flouted themselves in his face but he failed to see them because he was continually looking down. He missed what he was hunting because he never looked up. Some said he was a failure, as a looker. Others, that he did not want to see.

It was timely action by Governor Olcott in heading the information received from the Marion county farmer and reporting direct to the state highway commission that the road work was not up to specifications. It is a good thing that this inefficient work has been discovered thus early, so that a more effective inspection may be applied. The Marion county farmer is entitled to great credit for his vigilance.

THE PICTURE

PEACE has been signed, and we are starting well. Government reports indicate that this nation will become the granary of the world when harvest time is over, the June estimate fixing the wheat crop of the country at 236,000,000 bushels. All other products are on a similar basis. The problem of unemployment has shifted to the reverse side of the picture with jobs clamoring for men rather than men for jobs. Labor, in national convention, has shown its conservatism and sane control and altogether the United States is on solid ground and ready to advance.

It is a good picture to look at; one out of which business men will take confidence to go forward. The world once more has turned its back upon the past to face the future with strength and confidence.

A great deal of confidence was shown by the legislature and the people in entrusting so much road work to the state highway commission. The commission owes it to itself and to the public to take measures that will prevent repetition of the road scandal in Marion county. Let us either have a dollar's worth of sound road for every dollar of public money spent or have no roads at all.

ONE REASON

THERE has always been a relation between a vermin infested trench, soggy with mud and blood, in France, and the trees and flowers and fields of Oregon. Letters which the boys wrote when they were 6000 miles away made it clear that their dreams of paradise pictured the fond scenes of home. Where the lords of the mountains are lifted. In auster of silver and pearl. And the shadows of green are drifted. In the banners the forests unfurl. Those whose fortune it was to remain at home and keep before their eyes the constant delight of the beauty of this Eden-like land can have no such vivid pleasure in it as the bronzed lads that have come back to it from a hell storm swept with hate and destruction.

Watch them as they gladden their eyes with longed-for views, as they lift their faces to the caress of the sea breeze, and as they listen to the melody of the streams in the mountains. To them the rainbow is a diamond locked in the heart of a rose. To them the blue of the sky and the gold of the sun are reflected in the nodding blossoms of wayside paths. It is the land, the home of their endeavor, for which they made offering of their lives. No wonder they fought so well or longed for a speedy return when victory was won.

Why not offer the carp of our sloughs to Major Geiger of the federal health service? The officer seeks top feeding fish that can be taught to eat mosquito larvae in irrigation ditches. The carp is a top feeding fish, but judging from the present business product of the slough, he certainly seems to lack public spirit in mosquito destruction.

PUGET SOUND CAMOUFLAGE

PROPAGANDISTS from some where on Puget Sound are just now very busy trying to convince the producers and business men of the Columbia basin district that the Columbia basin water grade rate case to be heard before the interstate commerce commission on July 21 is an onslaught of Portland interests against Astoria.

T. O. propaganda, as is so often the case with that commodity, is wrong in its premise, and, therefore, wrong in its conclusion. The petition of the inland empire shippers' league has nothing to do with Portland any more than with Vancouver, or Astoria or any other shipping point in the Columbia basin. It is founded upon the complaint of the wheat growers and shippers of Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington and Idaho, who seek to have the interstate commerce commission give them a rate based on the cost of the service rendered. The league in its petition is not asking for a Portland rate, an Astoria rate, a Vancouver rate, or for rates to Seattle, Tacoma, or any other Puget Sound port. It is asking for a just rate to all tidewater ports. It is doing nothing more than to petition the interstate commerce commission to determine, upon its own investigation, the cost of transporting grain on all lines to tidewater terminals from the inland Empire wheat fields. To read just

grain rates on the basis of the cost of service as shown by the investigation. It may be true that a readjustment of rates based on such an examination of cost of service would throw Puget Sound ports into an unfavorable position, but that is the misfortune of the unfavorable geographical location of those ports. The grain producers of the inland Empire should not be forced to suffer in their profits because the Cascade mountains run between them and Puget Sound. The grain men did not plant the mountains between their produce and their markets. Neither did they carve the gorge of the Columbia down to the water level. They are merely asking that they be given the benefits of what nature has tried to do for them. They want to buy transportation and pay a reasonable price for it, but nothing more. They want a just rate.

The public service commission of Washington contends, in Seattle's behalf, that the petition of the inland Empire league is discriminatory as against Seattle and Puget Sound. It is difficult to see the foundation for the charge. All that is asked is that rates be fixed on a basis of a just charge for the service, all factors of cost being considered. The present rates are unjust and discriminatory against the shipper and the grower, forcing them to pay a mountain rate for a down-grade haul.

The grain rate case is a grower's case, wherein they seek justice for themselves and justice for no one. Puget Sound railroad and shipping interests may attempt to fool the public about the issues involved, but it will take some juggling with facts and figures to fool the interstate commerce commission.

A POLITICAL CAPTAIN

SIX feet 2, straight, and 49, Homer D. Cummings is chairman of the national Democratic committee, and has been a Portland visitor. He is a lawyer, and one of the most successful lawyers in Connecticut. His father was an inventor and contributed several important devices to the mechanical world. As national Democratic chairman, Mr. Cummings receives no salary. He has won all the honors of his profession and enough of competence to enable him to give a great deal of his time to the ever fascinating game of big politics. What is more, he has a profound faith in his cause. From a close knowledge of him, Mr. Cummings thinks Woodrow Wilson has by far the greatest mind in the world. He is convinced, too, that he is the most practical statesman in the world. "The president's head may be in the clouds," says Mr. Cummings, "but his feet are firmly planted on the earth. In his statesmanship, where can you point to a mistake of importance that he has made? At times many of us have thought him wrong in some move; but it has almost invariably turned out that he was right and those who doubted him, wrong." When you glance back at events and search for blunders made by this man in the White House operating among colossal events and under tremendous pressure and responsibilities, you find them, if at all, of minor character and very far between. Mr. Cummings is in politics wholly and only to forward the great movement for the betterment of America that Woodrow Wilson has inaugurated. He tells you that Wilson and his Congress put into effect more measures of reform than had been enacted in this country in two generations. He takes the Progressive platform of 1912, and, one by one, shows the pledges made the people by the Progressives actually enacted into law and put into operation by the Democrats. The list of measures so translated into law is extraordinary. It is so striking that it is worth while to hunt up a Progressive platform of that year and make the comparison. A strong face, eyes of the clearest blue, a firm mouth and a voice and manner suggestive of great reserve power, Mr. Cummings seems of stature for the great responsibility that goes with his high position. In his party are Vice Chairman Knickerbocker of Montana, a clean cut lawyer of much prominence in his state, still young as to years, but strong in personality and capacity; Director of Finance Jamieson of Iowa, known nationally as a wizard in securing campaign funds by small popular contribution; Executive Secretary Hollister of Missouri, 39, quick, widely informed and altogether interesting; and Mrs. Bass, a nationally known woman, who is head of the women's bureau of the national Democratic committee. His friends know that Mr. Cummings has a great deal of confidence as to the outcome in 1920. This confidence has been greatly stimulated by so much of the tour of the country as has been made, covering about one third of the states so far. The leadership of the opposition, he insists, is pronouncedly reactionary and its definite issue will be whether the progress made in progressive legislation shall be undone and the country swung back under reaction, or whether the forward movement is to continue until all the discriminations against the masses which ran riot during the old reactionary period shall be swept away and every man be on an equality before the law. Mr. Cummings is widely popular

in his own state. He was the Democratic nominee for United States senator in 1916 and ran a neck and neck with President Wilson, both of whom reduced the normal Republican plurality of 35,000 to 30,000 in 1900. Mr. Cummings and his associates, in their visit to Portland, left a most favorable impression upon members of their political party.

CAN DISARMED HUNS RE-ARM?

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. The clauses disarming the late central empire are drastic and comprehensive. They will leave them entirely devoid of military and naval power in the European sense. But a civilized world proposes to apply these military British were effectively all military menace from the central empire, they are forgetting one of the outstanding lessons of the late war. And that is, that a great intelligent people can improvise an armed force at astonishing speed. These arms, those military British were could ignore the British people as a military factor because they had no army of continental magnitude ready when this war broke out. But, by reason of the ability of the French and British to keep the Germans engaged while the British enlisted and drilled the army, those military British were able to create the force which really "won the war" during the two years, 1918 and 1917, between their arrival in the field and the final German capitulation. The unredeemed British were formidable in the summer of 1915 and they were impregnable in the summer of 1916. This success was accomplished, remember, under the leadership of a man who had no military training, and whose only military experience was that of a volunteer in the British army. The British did not turn to conscription until the drain of the war forced it on them. Yet in a few weeks a city like London was able to have its own army of 100,000 men. We conscripted our armies in the late summer of 1917, and we broke the German offensive in the summer of the following year. When the German army was in autumn we had more than 2,000,000 men under arms on the other side of the world.

So much for the possibilities of raising and equipping an effective army out of the bosom of an untrained and unprepared people. This, it should be kept in mind, was done in the most favorable conditions of warfare, which are in many regards very much like what they were in a century ago. The modern war is important, the vital arm. Vast masses of trained men are still the decisive factor. Artillery has increased enormously in value, but it is still a tool, and its purposes of pursuit, almost negligible. But it is far more necessary than ever before to assemble enormous numbers of men and subject them to intensive military training.

Are we sure that similar conditions will prevail even a decade hence? This was the development of two new forms of warfare on land which may very easily so gain in scope, power and paralyzing effect as to revolutionize military methods. These are the employment of aircraft and the tremendous increase in the devastating force of high explosives. If it should turn out that in future wars the most important factor against the armies in the field are against cities, industries, transportation lines and civilian activities generally of the belligerent, then the intensive military training will be of little value. It will be the development of two new forms of warfare on land which may very easily so gain in scope, power and paralyzing effect as to revolutionize military methods. These are the employment of aircraft and the tremendous increase in the devastating force of high explosives. 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