Oregon Daily Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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Literature, taken in all its bearings, forms the grand line of demarcation between the human and the animal kingdoms.
—William Godwin.

OUR POUND OF FLESH?

IT IS not legal responsibility alone that rests upon the city. Its moral responsibility may sometimes be as great.

A deputy city attorney advises that legally Hans Pederson's losses in building The Auditorium are no concern of the municipal administration.

The contract held the builder to the letter of its terms. But after the contract unanticipated war rushed costs skyward. The contractor failed. The burden of restitution fell upon his bondsmen. They are Portland people to whom, in one instance at least, the loss will mean ruin. It may be these bondsmen deserve no mercy.

But did, or did not the city get the value in The Auditorium that they are paying for.

Do we, or do we not admire Shylock's demand for his pound of flesh as named in the bond?

"I go afishing" to a Tacoma pastor is synonymous with "I go atraveling." He wanted to return to Norway. His salary was unequal to the expense, so he sallied forth with a net. His experience was similar to that of the disciples on the Sea of Galilee. Every cast filled the net to point of breaking. Now he believes his journey has the approval of Providence.

HIS NEW GIFT

IT WAS said by Mahomet that when a man dies the people ask: "What property has he left behind him?" but the angels, as they bend over his grave, inquire: "What good deeds hast thou sent on before?"

It is probable that in seeking an answer to this question Simon Benson has added to his many public benefactions the creation of a ten thousand dollar loan fund for the Benson Polytechnic school, whereby a young man may be enabled to finish a technical training and thus become a world asset.

To acquire wealth is difficult. To preserve it more difficult. To spend it wisely most difficult. How can a man spend it more wisely than by regarding it as a public trust and so disposing of it that it will minister to the safety of the state by providing it with honorable and well educated citizens.

In education is the solution of the problems of the world. Through a better understanding which gathers all classes at a common view point will come the settlement of social and industrial questions.

Having made his way through adverse conditions, unaided, Mr. Benson is impressed naturally with the view that education should be practical, combining theory with manual skill.

By equipping a young man with the necessary technical knowledge at the same time he acquires practical training he is well placed on the road to usefulness.

Another probable thought in the mind of Mr. Benson is that there are many young men of mechanical talent who are unable to finish a course at school for lack of the necessary support and are forced to go out into the world unprepared.

By affording them an opportunity to go ahead not only are they helped individually but the world at large is made better.

The handicap on the uneducated workman can be appreciated by no one better than Mr. Benson, who looks back on those days when he himself was deprived of the advantages of the common school.

In money alone Mr. Benson has during the past few years given much to the public. To the building of the Polytechnic school he contributed $100,000. Then there are the Benson fountains upon which the blessings of many a thirsty one have been invoked. Then there is Benson park on the Columbia river highway which was purchased and deeded in perpetuity to the city of Portland that its natural beauties might be preserved and enjoyed by everyone. Many other sums have gone into the building of roads. There have doubtless been other benefactions to individuals which are known only to the recipients.

"But," says the donor of all these, "the best investment I have ever made is in the Benson Polytechnic." With him many will agree. It is an investment in humanity and one the influence of which cannot be bounded.

The use of wealth in the education of men that they may be self-supporting, practical and helpful to others is the noblest.

The benefactions of Mr. Benson are a wonderful example to other wealthy men. They stimulate sweeter thoughts and kindlier relations among men, and are consonant with the growing belief of the world that superfluous wealth is a public trust.

President Wilson is paying with broken health for his titanic service to America and the world. Only occasionally in the world's history do men thus devote unselfishly their genius to the good of mankind. No wonder the hope and prayer from many nations is that he may fully recover and live to see the fruits of his works.

A BABY'S CRIES

LET all mothers read the story of Mrs. Luekart. She wanted a stage career. But the arms of her children were about her neck. They held her back. They bothered her. She thought of them as a burden and a nuisance. So she fed mercury tablets to tiny Edna and Shirley. Until they withered before her eyes like fragile flowers crushed by a ruthless hand, she was stoical. When they lapsed into unconsciousness she broke down and confessed.

"Where is mamma?" was tiny Shirley's first question when specialists working desperately, brought her back to momentary consciousness. How the words must have beat upon the mother's heart! She had desired to depict mock tragedy and the stage's make believe. She had brought real tragedy into the life of herself, her husband and her babies. She will be remembered as a travesty on motherhood.

Mrs. Luekart's terrible act was prompted by selfishness and a false standard of values. She expected to find food in husks. She thought warmth of the heart came from incandescent unreality rather than from the friendly hearthstone of home. She failed to hear the music in the voices of her children and the appeal of helplessness in their cries. She thought to find happiness in the direction of self indulgence instead of in the rich tenderness which is a priceless privilege of motherhood. She sought false success and won failure.

The assessed value is a basis for determining the price to be paid by the city for park sites. It is lower than the market value, but when the council pays several times the assessed value for a tract, it is joining with the property owner in a profligate raid on public funds.

MINING TIMBER

REFORESTATION of Northwest timber lands has frequently been spoken of as though it were a problem of the future. As a matter of fact, its consideration belongs to the immediate present. As a forestry official says, the question is whether timber shall be mined or cropped. The mining method is in vogue. The timber is cut clean. The denuded land would easily be reseeded from the store in the ground which is germinated when sunlight gets in after the larger trees are removed. If only the autumn slashings fire, required by law to follow the cutting operation, reaches the ground the seedlings will grow thickly. But all too often fire succeeds fire and not only are the tiny trees wiped out, but the humus is burned from the soil and it becomes unproductive.

Thus only a fraction of the millions of acres cut over or burned by unintentional fires bears today the promise of future forests to supply the needs of generations yet to come.

Some of the land from which the timber is removed has greater agricultural than forest value and in the progress of time, even under the careless direction of the present, it will undoubtedly be populated. But much of the land will never be so good for anything else as to grow trees. It is obvious that true economy demands the production of successive crops of fir, spruce or pine on such property.

Will private operators prepare for recropping? The only available answer is that they are not doing it now. Certain elements of cost lead them to believe that systematic reforestation is impracticable, for them. A hundred years must be allowed for the production of the timber crop. The best wood comes from trees two and three hundred years old that have encircled the knots of youth with many annually added, closely formed rings of growth.

In Michigan and Minnesota timber lands denuded in earlier operations are barren today. Lumbering communities that once boasted considerable populations have fallen into desertion and decay. In the Southern pine belt, the operators have about 10 years of cutting left and they intend then to abandon their operations and move on. Mr. Munger of the forest service estimates that the cutting of original timber in the Northwest at the present rate will last only 42 years, but that fire prevention and natural reseeding would produce indefinitely ten billion feet a year, which is more than the present annual cut.

Regrowth of our forests is a benefit to be realized upon so far in the future that it is doubtful if private interests will ever be equal to the task. It ought to be a governmental function. Logged over lands valuable chiefly for tree cropping ought to return to the government and by it be protected until the trees are of sawing size. Then only the stumpage should be sold, not the land.

In the late world war singing armies fought most victoriously. Battle paeans voiced magnificently the justice of their cause. Men and women at home singing the songs of liberty and victory gave greater aid more willingly to their sons abroad. Now comes the proposal of war camp community service, abbreviated for the purposes of peace to community service, to continue community singing, to organize recreational activities, and to cooperate with all the organizations that bind citizens in cordial fellowship. The movement ought to have successful support. It will help solve problems as serious as those of war.

ITS DISTINCTION

TWO thousand young men are on the ground and in the various educational courses at the Oregon Agricultural college. More than 800 young women are there.

The registration up to Tuesday of last week was 2817. In point of attendance, it raises the Oregon institution to second place in the land grant colleges of the country. It puts it even beyond Kansas Agricultural college, one of the best known colleges in America. The registration there is only about 2400. The only agricultural institution with a larger attendance is that of Iowa with a registration of about 3300.

The attendance at O. A. C. would now be above 3000 but for the fact that about 200 young men and women who wanted to enter were unable to find accommodations, and were obliged to go elsewhere, some of them after remaining a week at Corvallis. This lack of housing has, however, been partly remedied by transforming into a young men's dormitory the barracks built during the war by the United States government for the housing of soldiers in training at the institution. It accommodates 320.

At the usual rate of deferred matriculations, the enrollment at O. A. C. should approximate 3300 by the end of the college year. The institution now has the largest class in home economics of any institution in America. It consists of 492 young women.

The growth of the Oregon Agricultural college and its prominence among the educational institutions of America is a splendid prestige for Oregon. There can be no better fame for a state than that which comes from wide repute as an educational center, and Oregon's Agricultural college and state university are giving to the state a conspicuous distinction in that field.

When investigators seek to fix responsibility for the high cost of living, manufacturers, merchants and labor disclaim responsibility. This leaves only the ultimate consumer, and he is in the habit of being the goat.

GOSSIPING SENATORS

SENATOR PENROSE of Pennsylvania interrupted the United States senate's discussion of the peace covenant and the League of Nations a few days ago. He said:

The senator does not have in mind, I take it—or has he in mind—the very valuable and numerous presents brought back to this country by those in executive and diplomatic place affecting to represent the United States abroad * * * To state the matter bluntly, I am told that the president came back to this country laden and overburdened with presents from crowned heads and foreign governments * * * and that even the ladies in the executive party brought back jewelry worth many thousands of dollars. An official of the customs house, I was informed, stated that jewelry amounting to $1,000,000 had been brought back by one of the party on a recent trip.

Two gossips leaning over a backyard fence might gossip as ably and untruthfully as did Senator Penrose on the floor of the United States senate and surely with equal dignity. The truth about the matter, that photographs and other trifles comprised the list of presents brought to America by President and Mrs. Wilson, has already been made public at the president's request. The announcement makes Senator Penrose too ludicrous for words. But it is of such stuff that opposition to the League of Nations is made.

The local firm that is to manufacture three quarters of a million fishing spoons has the good wishes of a nationwide array of anglers, who are always hoping for a spinner that will catch the fish.

MATCH THE OFFER

THE improvement of the road to Mount Hood is now up to Multnomah county. The state highway commission has made a concrete offer to appropriate $170,000 out of the state and federal funds to grade the stretch between Sandy and Zigzag next year, a distance of 16 miles. This would join the improvement now being made from Zigzag to the summit of the mountains. The state appropriation is contingent on a like appropriation from Multnomah county. The estimated cost of the project is $340,000.

While this link in the road is outside the boundaries of Multnomah county, it is suggested that Multnomah county can apply its share of the auto license revenue.

By a special provision of the law it is legal for Multnomah county to expend its quarter of the motor vehicle license fund on roads outside the county which connect with its road system.

Portland is losing thousands of dollars every year because of the present condition of the Mount Hood road. The worst stretch is between Sandy and Zigzag and it is logical that it be improved first.

We have learned by experience what the Columbia highway means to Portland, to the state and even to the coast. It has helped turn to this state a great many tourists and a great deal of money that were going elsewhere. It is helping keep the people of the United States in their own country and helping them to know more of its beauties, its lures and its people.

The Mount Hood loop, once completed, will vie with the Columbia highway as a wonder spot, as a playground and as a great outdoor attraction. It will be of infinite service as an inexpensive outing place and rest place for Portland's burden bearers at the end of a wearing week.

With the highway commission's offer before it, there is no question as to what Multnomah county should do in this case. The offer should be met.

The city's suit against the organization of the police union would scarcely be called a union suit.

TAFT'S PLEA FOR BUDGET SYSTEM

By Carl Smith, Washington Staff Correspondent of The Journal.

Washington, Oct. 13.—Ex-President William H. Taft, advocating the budget system before a special committee of the house, declared unreservedly for executive responsibility for the preparation of the country's program of expenditure, and for consolidation in one committee of the house of responsibility for legislative appropriation. Mr. Taft in these particulars follows the leading students of budgetry, and aligns himself against those who contend that to do this would be to unduly expand the presidential power, and would surrender the power entrusted to the "representatives of the people."

Defenders of the old system of hit and miss are especially jealous of the "constitutional authority" of members of congress to exert, each for himself, an influence over the spending of the public money. This means, when examined, merely a desire to hold onto the old system of logrolling and bargaining, whereby members depend upon their popularity and plausibility and the similar desires of others around them, who, in their turn, may be either rewarded or punished in the appropriation game.

* * *

During his term as president, Mr. Taft recommended the budget system, and occasionally tried to prune estimates of the departments on his own account. He explained the other day that it is practically impossible now for the president to exercise intelligent control over estimates. The budget system, he asserted, would put the president and congress in posesession of facts whereby fiscal measures can be handled under business principles. In his testimony Mr. Taft said:

"Every great nation except the United States has a budget, and could not live without one. The United States has been able to live without one, because its revenues have been so large that little need was felt for economy. The consciousness that if the revenues were insufficient new fields of taxation were open that had never been touched before, gave an unsafe sense of freedom to the executive and legislative branches in the matter of expenditures.

"It is true that the issue of extravagance was always more or less a subject of controversy between the 'ins' and the 'outs,' but the arguments generally were not directed to totals or to a comprehensive view of the debit side, but only to certain items which might attract popular attention and be made the subject of political attack.

* * *

"I concur in the provision for an executive budget contained in the bill of Chairman Good. I believe that a budget ought to be prepared by that branch of the government which is charged with the duty of carrying it on in an executive way. The executive branch is the one most familiar with the actual machinery of government, and therefore best able to tell how much money is needed to keep that machinery going.

"If the president is charged with the duty he must have a staff competent to do a great deal of work for him, and to submit to him questions of difference between his budget staff and the various departments and bureaus. He should be given by congress the opportunity to say how much he thinks it will take to run the government efficiently and give his reasons therefor, and give them in detail.

"A good, sensible department head will be glad to have the benefit of a watching upon his own department by an outside source, all within the friendly supervision of the chief executive, to whom differences should come for final settlement.

* * *

"If you are going to have a budget, you should have a budget; if you are going to have a simple book of estimates and congress is to consider what each department head and each bureau chief thinks he ought to have, then you would better continue the old system. If you have an alternative budget, the committees of congress are likely to take that which they have always had, and the executive budget coming from the president will become nothing but a basis of reference, and will have little authority.

"Of course, if congress is going to begin a reform it ought to begin at home, either by restoring to the appropriations committee the duty and power to make appropriations for the whole government, or by a supervisory budget committee, to whom appropriation bills prepared by all the committees shall come. It will thus secure the same thing which the presidential budget provision of the Good bill secures, the knowledge and decision of one having a full view of the whole governmental expense.

* * *

"The limitation on the right of individual members or the appropriation committees to increase the estimates beyond those contained in the budget is one that is suggested by the standing order of the house of commons, now nearly 300 years old. I don't know whether any limitation of that sort is practical.

"The presentation of a budget by the president will put him on record, will make him responsible, and will require him to justify himself before the people.

"It seems to me it would be wise to pass a law and to amend the rules of the house requiring and permitting the heads of departments to come on the floor of the house and present and justify the estimates and to subject themselves to questions and opposing argument, before the budget is referred to the committees."

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 signed by the writer, whose mail address in full must accompany the contribution.]

Gold Hill as Tourist Hotel Site

Gold Hill, Oct. 9.—To the Editor of The Journal—I notice in yesterday's Journal an article by Fred Lockley, carrying the criticisms of H. W. Child of the Yellowstone National park, on "rotten roads" and want of "tourist hotels." I am neither confirming nor taking issue with Mr. Child, but on what he says, as a basis, desire to fix attention on Gold Hill. Early next year the Pacific highway will be completed from the California line entirely through Jackson county to Grants Pass, about 70 miles. No country is more beautiful to travel through, look at or live in. The stretch of road mentioned is a continuous delight to the tourist. Traveling north, he reaches the famed Rogue river, for the first time, at Gold Hill. Here all feel a desire to fish. All are delighted with the scenic beauty all about. Gold Hill makes no pretension as a city, but for water and power, no place in Southern Oregon can vie with it.

Mr. Child said: "The tourist agents throughout the United States and Canada will not direct people to city hotels. As a usual thing the tourists get all of the city hotel life before they start on their pleasure trip." This is an observation that needs no verification.

Gold Hill occupies the most central location from which to visit the great scenic attractions of Southern Oregon. From here to Crater lake is nearer than from Grants Pass, Medford or Ashland, and the road is as good; in fact, a considerable part of the way it is the same road. Gold Hill is nearer by several miles to the Marble Halls—the great caverns of Josephine county—than either Ashland or Medford and but little farther than from Grants Pass, with the Pacific highway covering the difference.

It seems that cities are not to be considered in seeking a site for tourist hotels. Here, then, is the point, for Southern Oregon, from which to start for any of these attractions, as also for outings at the coast near Crescent City, and at the same time affording the most delightful spot for rest-up season before starting out and after returning. This is the logical spot for a great tourist hotel. Of course, Gold Hill can not give such inducements as some of the larger places can, in artificialities, but calls attention to its wonderful surrounding beauties, fresh from the hand of the Almighty. Gold Hill has all that "outers" are looking for.

C. B. WATSON.

The Makers of the Treaty

Marshfield, Oct. 8.—To the Editor of The Journal—The making of the covenant and treaty summoned the most brilliant minds of the whole earth in the most solemn conclave that ever met to deliberate since the dawn of history. They, in turn, combed the world for the highest authorities and the most expert advice that could be brought to aid in their counsels. Every word, every line, every phrase, was checked and rechecked and revised to balance one with another as nearly as it was possible to devise, with the one ideal uppermost—that of right and justice to every tribe and nation of the earth, the weak as well as the strong. Month after month the whole world waited and hoped and prayed, and held its peace in patience until the treaty with covenant was given to the world.

And now, who are Johnson and Borah and Reed, who would tear it up as only a scrap of paper? They are would-be wreckers of the hopes of humanity. They are giving hope and comfort to our enemies, as is evidenced by reports now coming from Germany. They are playing right into the hands of an element in this country who are bending every energy to disrupt our government. The whole world is gasping, almost at its last breath, for peace and stable conditions, and these men fiddle while Rome burns. They should realize that they are the servants of the people, and were not elected to go bellowing over the country trying to undo the work of the greatest minds of this age.

Where President Wilson made a mistake was in not sending this triumvirate over to France. They would have turned out a covenant and treaty in 10 days that the Almighty himself could not pick a flaw in with a microscope. Had they lacked any expert advice, Senator Fall could have called up Villa, and the two could supply any information needed.

PEACEMAKER.

Two Drivers

Portland, Oct. 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—Many automobile drivers think there is a "divine right of automobilists." They consider that they are superior not only to all law, but also to all decency. A state law requires all automobile mechanics to pass an examination. There should be a federal law providing that all automobile drivers be examined for skill, sanity, caution, decency and sense of proportion. Two instances affecting me will illustrate the point. Thursday morning as I was about to board a city-bound Council Crest car on Ravensview drive a woman was leaving the rear platform. A passenger automobile—Oregon license No. 5119, as I recall it—drove up behind the car on the right hand side, and while the woman was alighting, drove past, narrowly missing me, but more narrowly missing the woman. The very wise conductor hailed the driver, who stopped after he had passed the street car, and in no unmistakable language called the driver's attention to the city ordinance. He may have reported him. It is to be hoped that he did.

The same evening about 6 o'clock my little boy, in company with an older person and his playmate puppy, was coming south on Talbot road towards Patton road, when a passenger automobile, going in the same direction, ran over the dog, which was in the street. Possibly that could not have been avoided, but the contemptible cur of a driver did not display even the veneer of courtesy and come back to see what damage he had done. Later in the evening the dog was put out of misery by a veterinary, who, after examination, decided that he could not be saved.

It is to be hoped that both these strange animals of drivers will see this. Thirty people a day in auto accidents, in Portland, your paper reported recently. There is a reason.

W. H. GILLESPIE.

"Dictation of the Interests"

Estacada, Sept. 27.—To the Editor of The Journal—In a communication published in The Journal some time ago about the League of Nations, it seems that I failed to make myself understood. I did not aim to oppose the ratification of the treaty. I think it would be better to ratify it and get it out of the way, for other matters of more importance are insistently pressing. There will be no peace anyhow. It is a league of capitalist governments none of which represents the interests of a majority of its own citizens. All these countries are governed by a capitalist minority.

It was reported in the newspapers at the time the war broke out that the German government inquired of the French government what France would do in case of war between Germany and Russia, and that the answer came back, "France will do as her interests dictate." I doubt whether this exchange ever took place outside the imagination of some correspondent, but I do know that the reply gives away the whole game of capitalism. The capitalist interests dictate the policies of capitalist governments.

There cannot be any peace, because capitalist commercialism and competition for markets constitute a continual state of war against the producers. If the gentlemen who labor for a living would read the market page of The Journal and compare it with the news dispatches they might see a great light. They will see that stocks go up as labor goes down to defeat. That is the key to the combination. The income from stocks and bonds and other "obligations" is called "unearned increment." There is no such thing as unearned increment. Somebody earns it. It is taken out of the life of the workers. The capitalists who riot in luxury, while workers rot in slums are the rioters who ought to be suppressed by law, but these are they who dictate the policies and write the laws of the nations.

Most people would be on the side of right if the lines were distinctly drawn, but the "interests" control all the means of education and information. They own the newspapers and magazines. They dictate what the preachers shall preach and what the professors profess and what the children are taught in the public schools. They constantly stir up strife and discord. They array man against man, city against city, class against class and nation against nation. The woeful plight of the world now is due mainly to the dictation of the interests.

J. L. JONES.

"The One Great Difficulty"

Herbert N. Casson in Forbes Magazine

Recently, while waiting for a train, I happened to notice a little old man who stood near by. He had been unsuccessful all his life, this poor little, old man, as any one with eyes could easily see. He was talking to a friend in a weak cackling voice. His eyes looked at nothing. His hands hung limp. He had a general look of dejection and what's-the-use? While I was observing him, I heard him say "The one great difficulty." The one great difficulty! It was the secret of his failure—that was the phrase. All his life, that poor, little, old man had been cackling—"the one great difficulty." That phrase had been the keynote of his life. I wish we knew how many men and how many firms have been ruined by this phrase of failure.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Soon be time to change time again.

* * *

How many shopping days to Christmas?

* * *

Did you place your money on the parson in the air derby?

* * *

"Allies prepare for war," shouted a newsboy last night. Quite a while since we had heard it.

* * *

Here's hoping you will never be ill but if you're not many others will be, so you can afford to give the new hospital a lift.

* * *

All that the League of Nations undertakes is to fix it so Herbert Hoover won't ever have to go to Europe any more. It is all very simple.

* * *

A reader of this quarter-colyum phones in to go us one better, saying that not only has Nitti some notti problems, but they are enough to make him nutti.

* * *

We had contemplated going to England for a change, but now we read that committees are investigating the high cost of living over there, too, so what's the use?

* * *

One of our fellow writers of paragraphs wants to know what's the matter with H. G. Wells that he hasn't yet produced his 1920 model of the Deity. It is true, he hasn't, but why taunt him? Humanity as a whole keeps making God in its own image and then remaking Him, over and over again, so why not H. G.?

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

"The Oregon Methodist conference," comments the Eugene Guard, "demands the early ratification of the peace treaty. Another instance of the assertion of good old-fashioned Methodist common sense."

* * *

"Tardy contractors must rock the roads which they have torn up but not paved, which is as it should be," says the Eugene Register. "Oregon needs to be lifted out of the mud this winter as well as other winters."

* * *

The government will realize at least $500,000 this fear from chittim bark which the forest service has sold or will sell from the Siuslaw district, according to an estimate compiled by A. C. Read of the forest service.

* * *

Concluding an editorial article on Harney county's irrigation interests, the Burns News earnestly inquires: "Do the citizens of Harney county think we can catch up with Egypt?" and goes on to urge: "Let's act that way at any rate, and get ready to invite the services of a civil engineer."

* * *

Since cooperation and community team work are the words for the times, what's the matter with this? "What may be properly classed as a community sale," says Wednesday's Albany Democrat, "will be conducted at the Bill Hoefer farm 1½ miles northwest of Conser. Hoeffer, Totton, Truax and Monroe have pooled their farm products, consisting of machinery, stock and many articles of value, and will sell the same at auction to the highest bidder."

IMPRESSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE JOURNAL MAN

By Fred Lockley

[Stories related by a Portland woman who has been a traveler in Alaska are detailed by Mr. Lockley today. These he supplements with several others which will hit the spot.]

If you want to know where O. M. Plummer gets all his good stories, I can tell you. He gets them from his wife. A few nights ago Mr. and Mrs. Plummer entertained a few of their friends, of whom I was one, at a dinner at the Hotel Portland. Something was said about the beauty of the Columbia River highway, which led to a discussion of the beauty of the Inland Passage to Juneau and Sitka. Mrs. Plummer has made numerous trips to Alaska and we began comparing notes about our experiences there.

"One of the most desolate places in all Alaska," said Mrs. Plummer, "is the graveyard at Skagway. From a city of several thousand, Skagway has dwindled to a mere handful. As a consequence the road to the graveyard is overgrown with brush and the graveyard has fallen into ruin. 'Soapy' Smith's headstone is still standing, but many of the headstones stand drunkenly awry or have fallen face down on the sunken mounds. Have you ever noticed how many of those who die in Alaska ask to have their bodies shipped to the family burying grounds in the states? For years they have been looking forward to going 'outside,' and they do not want their bodies to lie in a forgotten and neglected grave, far from their friends.

"The last trip I made to Alaska the captain of one boat said to me, 'On my last trip down I had a peculiar experience. Just before we pulled out from the wharf at Ketchikan a man hurried up the gang plank and asked for the captain. He was directed to me, and when he had located me he said: "How long can you wait? We want to ship a corpse to Seattle." I told him we wouldn't pull out for an hour, and to hurry the body of his friend aboard. He said: "I ain't right sure we can have him here in an hour. Couldn't you possibly wait any longer on him?" I said, "Why can't you get the corpse here in an hour. That ought to give you plenty of time." The man coughed rather apologetically and said, "He's taking so much time to die he may not croak quite that soon. He's been dying for several hours, though, and it looks like he ought to finish the job by that time. Still you can't tell, and we don't like to hurry him." I told the man I had to go over to Metlakatla, and if his friend finished dying within the next few hours to bring him out in a small boat and I would stop and take him aboard as I passed Ketchikan on the way down. Sure enough, he hailed me a few hours later and said, "He made good O. K. We've got him here, ready to be shipped."'

"'It may be all right to speed the parting guest, but I have always wondered what method they employed in this case.

* * *

"On one of my other trips, while returning from Alaska, a sourdough at Wrangell came aboard to go 'outside' for the winter. The captain told him every berth was taken, so he could not sell him a ticket. The sourdough said, 'I want to go on this boat. I am willing to pay first class fare, and if you can feed me I will sleep on deck in my sleeping bag.' The captain agreed to take him. Toward evening a rain squall blew up and the sourdough decided not to sleep on deck. He foraged around and found a room where he could spread his sleeping bag on the floor. During the night several of the men on watch came into the room to get out of the rain. The sourdough was unaware of the fact that he had put his sleeping bag next to the bodies of three men who were being shipped to the states for burial. One of the sailors stumbled over the sourdough and said, as he lighted a match to investigate: 'One of the stiffs has slipped his cable or broken from his moorings and is adrift on the deck.' The lighting of the match awakened the sourdough and getting up he said in an exasperated voice, 'What in hell do you fellows think you are doing? I'm dead—' He started to say 'I'm dead tired and want to sleep,' but they never heard the rest of the sentence. They all hit the doorway together and nearly tore the sides of the door out getting on deck."

* * *

Not long ago I fell into conversation with a Pullman conductor—an old time railroader. He said, "Yes, you are right. Lots of funny things happen in the sleepers. Some years ago, when I was running on the Denver & Rio Grande, on the mountain run, hardly a week went by that one or more passengers didn't come tumbling out of their upper berths when we rounded the curves.

"I remember one night a chubby, middle aged traveling man fell into the aisle with a dull thud. He lay there, and I thought he had been stunned. I hurried to him and gave him a shake. 'Leave me alone, can't you?' I never saw such a woman. You're always picking on me,' he muttered. I gave him another shake and he said, 'That's it; nag, nag, nag, all the time. What's the matter with you now?' I shook him harder, and he woke up, looked around in astonishment, and said, 'Who kicked me out of bed? Where am I, anyway?' I told him he had fallen out of his berth and was having a nightmare. He looked sheepish and said, 'Not exactly a nightmare. I dreamed my wife and I were having a friendly discussion.' I got him to the ladder and he climbed back into his berth, and I thanked my lucky stars that I wasn't a married man if that was a 'friendly discussion.'"

* * *

"Speaking of the 8 cent fare," said a friend to me a day or so ago," do you remember the well known attorney who had been promoted to the presidency of an electric light and power company, who in a speech made shortly after his promotion, told of the many benefits of the company to the community, and said he felt like quoting the words of the poet, 'Honor the light brigade.' Someone in the rear of the hall finished the quotation for him by saying in a loud voice, "Oh, what a charge they made!'"

The same friend told me of a deaf man who was being married. The minister raised his voice and inquired, "Do you take this woman for your lawful wife?" The groom gave the minister an angry glance and said, "What was that?" The minister repeated the question. The groom replied angrily, "She ain't so awful. I've seen a heap worse."

Curious Bits of Information For the Curious

Gleaned From Curious Places

Chinese dentists of the old school extract teeth with their fingers, and their success in this line of endeavor is said to be astonishing. From youth to manhood the dentist is trained to pull pegs from a wood board. This training changes the aspect of his hand and gives the student a finger grip amazing in its strength, equivalent to a lifting power of 300 or 400 pounds. Every year or two these dentists arrive in every large town and remain there until their customers have had their teeth "put in order."

The dentist works on the superstitions of the trade to a certain extent. He tells his patients that all dental woes are caused by tooth worms. The nerve pulp is called such a worm, and is always shown to a patient. For humbugging purposes he also carries white grubs with him, and after extracting a tooth shows a grub to the sufferer as the cause of his trouble.

In cases of toothache he administers opium, peppermint oil, cinnamon oil and clove oil. He sometimes fills teeth, but the work is done in such bungling fashion that the fillings stay in only a few months.

Olden Oregon

Habeas Corpus Case Settled Status of Slaves in Oregon in 1853.

Nathaniel Ford, one of the earliest settlers of Polk county, brought with him from Missouri in 1845 as slaves a negro named Robbin and the latter's family and held them in servitude. In 1853 Robbin obtained his freedom on a writ of habeas corpus by appealing to Federal Judge George H. Williams, the federal judge who decided that slavery did not and could not exist in Oregon.

The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader.

OREGON NOTES

No employment bureau is needed in Linn county, for there are more jobs than men in that section of the state.

A buffalo cow, quite tame and unconcerned, is reported roaming in the Cabbage Hill vicinity of Umatilla county.

Miss Rosa Espinosa, graduate of the University of Colorado, is the new professor of Spanish at the University of Oregon.

Plans are being made for a big homecoming week on the campus of Oregon Agricultural college October 24, 25 and 26.

Mrs. Philippina Warner, an Oregon pioneer, died recently in Salem. She had been a continuous resident of that city since 1852.

The daily payroll for apple pickers in the Hood River section is more than $8000. Receipts in wages for the season will exceed $325,000.

The total prune production of Douglas county this year is said to be 8,000,000 pounds, which will bring approximately $1,200,000.

George Taylor of Westfall, graduate of the University of Oregon in the class of 1919, has been appointed principal of the Lowell high school.

A churchman's association has been organized at Pendleton, with three accredited members from each of the Protestant congregations.

It is announced in North Bend that a prosperous colony of French farmers located in Saskathewan are planning to move to Coos county to engage in farming and dairying.

Issuance of $900,000 in bonds to finance irrigation of 28,000 acres of the Langell valley in Klamath county, was approved Saturday at a special election of taxpayers.

Five former citizens of Germany were refused citizenship at Dallas last week on the ground that petitions for their first papers were not filed at least two years before the declaration of war.

Shipments of peaches and pears by the Ashland Fruit & Produce association have passed the record mark of 40 carloads this season. Independent shippers have sent out about 30 carloads by express.

Demands have been presented to the board of education by the teachers of 30 schools in North Bend for an increase in salaries of $20 a month, effective from the beginning of the present semester.

Arthur Waters, a Britisher recently released from the Oregon penitentiary and deported from Astoria last week, told the officers that he cleaned up $10,000 within three weeks in Portland before he was caught.

WASHINGTON

Paradise Inn on Mount Rainier has been closed for the season.

Enrollment of pupils in the Yakima city schools shows a gain of 26.5 per cent over the enrollment a year ago.

Ray Wells, aged 17, is dead at Anacortes as the result of being accidentally shot by a companion while hunting.

Commissioners of Grays Harbor county have indorsed a five year road building program to cost $4,800,000.

After a search for the past 15 years, V. V. Rand has discovered free milling gold on his claim 10 miles from Yacolt on the Lewis river.

By the will of Mrs. Eliza Anderson Lawton, widow of the late James M. Lawton, the Episcopal diocese of Olympia is bequeathed $15,000.

Owing to bad roads and small pay allowed by the government, the rural carrier on route No. 1 out of Winlock has concluded to quit his job.

Laundry workers at Vancouver who have been out on a strike for some time will start in business in competition with their former employers.

Representative business men of Kalama have organized the Kalama Business Men's club with Grant Gruner as president and C. T. Myers as secretary-treasurer.

The Wahkiakum county fair held last week at Skamokawa was one of the most extensive exhibits of agriculture products ever shown in Southwestern Washington.

Mrs. Dale Boyd is under arrest at South Bend on suspicion of setting fire to her home which was destroyed a few days ago. She declares the fire was the work of enemies.

A shaft sunk by a company prospecting for oil in Yakima county struck a flow of hot artesian water at a depth of 2200 feet. It has a temperature of 92 degrees and is welling up at the rate of 1100 gallons a minute.

IDAHO

Main street in Bonners Ferry is being paved at a cost of $27,465.

G. A. Axline, for 12 years president of the state normal school at Albion, has just died at Long Beach, Cal., where he went recently in search of health.

Michael Doherty of Pendleton, Or., who has been grazing sheep on the Clearwater forest reserve, has sold 4000 head to Lewiston parties for $37,250.

The public utilities commission has handed down a decision holding it not feasible to heat by electricity in Idaho and unwise to hold out to residents that this can be done.

A $100,000 stock raising concern, the Sheep Mountain Livestock company, has been approved by the secretary of state. The company will maintain headquarters in Idaho Falls.

William F. Fisher, who played an important part in the early history of Southeastern Idaho, is dead at Rigby, aged 80 years. Mr. Fisher rode the famous "pony express" in the year 1860.

GENERAL

Registration at Stanford university this year is the largest in the history of the institution, totaling to date 2327.

Striking Anaconda metal workers have disregarded the advice of radical labor leaders and have voted to return to work.

On Yukon river ice, 127 passengers and 60 members of crews of ice-bound vessels are making an overland journey on foot to Circle.

The American steamship Mount Hood has been destroyed in the harbor at Montevidio by the explosion of an oil tank during a fire which broke out on the steamer.

Word was received by wireless Sunday that the British steamer Chalmers, bound for London from Norfolk with a cargo of fuel, is afire at sea, 600 miles southeast from New York.

Approximately 4000 Chinese coolies who were employed behind the lines by the allies during the war will be returned to their homes by the steamer Tyndarius from Vancouver, B. C.

A serious situation exists at Brest, where disorderly demonstrations by strikers are taking place. Four thousand men employed in the arsenal are on strike and parading the streets carrying red and black flags.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

When President Wilson was here he ast me if we had the recall of jedges in Oregon, and I told him we sure had, from the supreme court to the jestice court, and while we hadn't never recalled nobody in the jedge line, 'ceptin' of a few county jedges, we kep' the recall of any old jedge like a club behind the door in case of needcessity. President Wilson don't like the idea of bein' able to recall jedges nohow, but I reckon it hasn't done us no harm, and mebby has did us some good in Oregon, and mebby it might be awful handy some day and save a lot of trouble.

The Journal Issues Complete Morning Edition

The Journal issues a complete early morning edition, which is sold on the streets in Portland the night before date of issue. The same reliable service and accurate local, national and European news that characterizes the afternoon editions of The Journal is furnished also in the morning edition. It is a complete newspaper.