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Great ability without discretion comes almost invariably to a tragic end.

BIGGER THAN THE PACKERS

Public confidence in American government is greatly strengthened by what Attorney General Palmer has done with the packers.

The Big Five were spreading their monopolistic tentacles through the country. They were a source of alarm to observing men.

In 1916 they sold nearly 100,000,000 pounds of poultry, 90,000,000 pounds of butter, 70,000,000 pounds of cheese and over 155,000,000 dozen eggs.

In 1916 they slaughtered 56 per cent of all the hogs, 62 per cent of all the calves, 74 per cent of all the cattle and 78 per cent of all the sheep killed in the entire United States.

Their branch houses were not only stations for sale of meat but they took on the character of wholesale grocery stores.

The Big Five sold machinery, salt, ice and boxes, owned or held direct or indirect interest in 14 principal American cities.

onstrated both its value to the country and the wisdom of its creation. The wholesale grocers of America, the farmers, the livestock growers and millions of Americans generally, will breathe more freely in this newly demonstrated exercise of the power of the government over the encroachments and menace of the growing personal and private power of the packers.

It increases public confidence in our government and our country. It is difficult to resist the appeal of children. The protest of the boys and girls in Portland's schools against the dismissal of W. L. Finley from his work as state biologist is impressive.

NO MORE THIMBLERIGGERS

It is only proper that the governor should insist that A. H. Lea, or whoever it is who directs and controls the state fair, should see to it that Oregon's big annual exposition should be conducted "without taint of indecency or immorality."

Times have changed since racetrack touts and gamblers, sure thing men and all their motley retinue flung their raucous and ribald orge openly to the public gaze at the state fair ground. Those days are dead.

Complaints have been made so persistently that the governor says he is constrained to believe, they have "been founded on fact," that "some of the so-called shows have passed the border line of morality and decency to such an extent as to be highly offensive to many of the patrons of the fair."

It is trial enough to pass a teachers' examination. When to it there must be added a journey of 60 miles through the snow was the case of the teachers who went to Baker for the test, real courage is required.

TAKE THE "MURPHIES."

WHEN Tom Brown arrived at the famous school at Rugby, as a "new boy" some generations ago the delicacy on the season was the "murphy" or baked potato, which the English public school boy devoured in quantities.

The people of the United States had better take the "murphies." The blazing pockets of America may yet start a conflagration that will consume the whole structure of the nation's prosperity, and bring disaster in its wake.

have made places for 25, and the furniture manufacturing nine. It is the true spirit. Whatever may be the status elsewhere, let it never be said of the state that was first in every activity in the war, that her people were ungrateful to those who went out to fight for the victory.

UNREPORTED AUTO ACCIDENTS

LESS than 23 per cent of the collisions between streetcars and automobiles are reported to the police station by automobile owners.

Although the Portland Railway, Light & Power company records show that there were 3417 collisions with automobiles from December, 1918, to December, 1919, only 775 were reported at the police station.

President Griffith of the railway company has announced that he will instruct all carmen to take the license numbers of automobiles in collision with cars, and report them to the police station.

The committee for Armenian relief ventures the hope that generous giving at Christmas time will include the millions of persecuted, oppressed, starving people in a tyranny darkened country.

NEW SLEEPER SERVICE

ONE of the most welcome of recent announcements is that a sleeper train service is soon to be established by the O.W.R. & N. railroad between Grays Harbor and Portland.

Southwestern Washington belongs naturally in Portland's trade territory. Citizens of Hoquiam, Aberdeen and other communities of Grays Harbor should be able to come to Portland, do their shopping and return within the space of 24 hours.

The new service should end the difficulty. It will doubtless give both Grays Harbor and Portland business interests a strengthened trade opportunity. It cannot fail to increase the friendliness of Grays Harbor and Portland for the O.W.R. & N.

MORE SEATTLE SPIRIT

EVERYBODY is on his toes up at Seattle preparatory to the census taking. No available individual is to be permitted or allowed to escape the net of the federal enumerators.

It is another evidence of the persistent fact that Seattle overlooks no bent when it comes to anything bearing upon Seattle's public, private, personal, business or commercial interest. It contends that it is a big city, and it is going to be sure that the figures are jotted down by Uncle Sam's census army to back up the contention.

It is a proper spirit. That is what the census is for, to find out how many people there are in the United States, and where they hang their hats when they are home; what they are, what they do and how they do it. It is the Seattle spirit, and it ought to be the spirit of everywhere.

and started on the site now occupied by the Oregon City first store. This was Oregon City's first store. Powder and shot, calico, beads and other wares were exchanged here for dried salmon, beaver skins and other furs.

In 1840 the bark Lausanne brought the reinforcement of missionaries and laymen to Jason Lee and the other workers in the Willamette valley. While the Lausanne was anchored at Fort Vancouver the brig Maryland, commanded by Captain John H. Couch, came on up the Columbia river, anchoring in the Willamette, went up to Clark's Landing, where it was captured by the Indians.

HELGOLAND'S DESTRUCTION

Gibraltar of North Sea in Process of Utter Dismantlement. From a Berlin News Dispatch. With the dismantling of the German fortress on the island of Helgoland, the "Gibraltar of the North Sea," the mysteries of that rocky islet have been revealed to the world.

Helgoland was a pet of the former kaiser and the soundness of his judgment in turning it into a great defensive work was shown by the fact that for four years it kept the allied navies away from the German coast.

Half a billion marks were spent by the Germans to make the island a mighty fortress. But now all is changed. The tunnels connecting the various gun pits have been uprooted; the observation towers and the one hundred and one great cannons are being melted up for junk.

Ariel Vargas, an American moving picture operator, who has just arrived from Helgoland, gives a graphic description of the place. "The work was studied with hidden turrets and fire observation stations," he said.

"As one enters the electric plant he is reminded of a modern municipal station and he is apt to forget that he is out in the midst of the ocean on a desolate rock in the North Sea.

Bird Feeding-Shelf

Portland, Dec. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—I saw various requests in The Journal during the recent cold weather to see that all of the citizens of our city could know the pleasure afforded by a bird-feeding shelf.

Objects to Rose Festival Tax

Portland, Dec. 15.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In the Oregonian of last Sunday there appeared a notice headed "Festival Tax Favored." This was from the ready board, asking the commissioners to levy a tax for the 1920 Rose festival.

Beginnings of Oregon's Oldest City

Story of the Laying of a Commonwealth's Prime Foundations. Ten years hence Oregon City will celebrate the hundredth anniversary of its natal day. It was founded in 1829 by Dr. John McLoughlin, chief factor of the Astoria and Columbia River companies.

and the doctrine of eternal torment are on a par—both the result and product of fear. Christian teachers have done wrong in teaching these false ideas to the people. Why do we not see a widespread superstition and appalling ignorance. Both doctrines are based on the symbolism of the scriptures.

Letters From the People

Again Defends Delivery Boys. Portland, Dec. 15.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I see that an advocate of the licensing of the delivery boys, so if they break the speed limit their licenses will be taken away.

I haven't been busy the last two months. I have watched on the streets downtown to see for myself. I say, when anyone says the delivery man is the worst of the lot, he isn't proved.

Not that there is any cooperative collusion being practiced or intended by Messrs. Kellar and Lewis, for each is traveling his own peculiar and individual path. But both are after Muck.

Well, well, here he is, R. Alexander, head of the "Bureau of Municipal Affairs," who has just been appointed to do on Main street up in Pendleton, his own home town.

Impressions and Observations of the Journal Man

Character in those days. He hailed from Arkansas. He wore his hair long and wavy, and his eyes were blue and his hair was black. He had killed seven men in Virginia City, and had never been tried for it.

Olden Oregon

Arbitration With British Interests Worked Well in an Oregon Case. After the settlement of the Oregon boundary question between the United States and Great Britain in 1846, there remained to be adjusted the claims of the Hudson's Bay company and its adjunct, the North West Company.

Curious Bits of Information For the Curious

This year marks the centenary of the remarkable collar. It was 100 years ago that Hannah Montague, wife of a blacksmith in Troy, N. Y., made the first detachable collar.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Sumner's government under its recently adopted commission charter has been elected, with W. H. Gleason for governor and W. W. Foster and W. H. Jamison, commissioners.

The arrest at Vancouver, B. C., of Filipinos who were carrying human sausage skins opens a new avenue of operation for local bootleggers.

Now and again, from day to day the shuddering public is accustomed to reading in the police court news about a man and a light man, who have been working shoulder to shoulder in the accomplishment of deeds that are dark and dangerous.

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL Random Observations About Town

"Yes," we admitted, "here we are, what's left of us." "What do you know?" he asked confidently. "Not a thing," we admitted again.

"Well," he explained, "here I have been sticking at home for a year or more, trying to heal the sick and soothe those who are too sick to heal. And it gets 40 degrees below zero, and I come out to see the doctor."

"If the court please," Phil answered, after conferring with counsel, "I plead the statute of limitations."

Standings Today in Sunday School Contest

Three important advances were made in the Sunday School contest. Woodlawn Christian advanced from fifth to fourth with a gain of 7200 votes.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

I was readin' how some of them there high-brow preachers had east in talkin' of 'bunchin' a dozen country congregations together with one preacher in 12 cylinder auto to cover the field and take along a good lookin' boy of high class opry singers from one church to another to talk and sing the gospel.

STOP THE WASTE

WASTAGE by the government is exemplified in literature sent out by Washington departments. Envelopes known as 40's are used in carrying printed letters that could better be carried in sixes.

Local Lumbermen have arranged to give employment to 300 service men.

Portland lumbermen have met the quota assigned to them for employment of idle fighters, the bankers

The Oregon Notes

Many horses in the Butter Creek region of Umatilla county are dead because of cold and insufficient feed.

The recent severe weather and heavy snow destroyed the assets of the conservatories owned by the florists near Oregon City.

The state highway commission has started a survey of the normal and county road which was authorized by the Morrow county taxpayers at a special election last summer for a five-year term.

Barbers of Spokane are demanding \$26 a week and 65 per cent of the receipts over \$40.

Announcement is made by Secretary of the Oregon State Board of Agriculture that the estimated value of the 1919 apple crop is \$15,000,000.

Coal production in Washington has been reduced to a minimum for a five-day week and double wages for all work done Saturday.

The Chehalis Mill company will install a sixth machine the first of the coming year, with a daily capacity of 80,000 lard.

Plumbers in Tacoma have made new record in their work for a five-day week and double wages for all work done Saturday.

Fire starting from an attempt to thaw frozen pipes destroyed six frame buildings in the heart of Portland. The loss is \$250,000.

The mines of the Washington Union Coal company at Tono and those of the Mendota Coal & Coke company at Mendocino have resumed operations with full crews.

Two Falls lodge B. P. O. E. has authorized inauguration of work on a \$300,000 four-story lodge building.

Representatives from 200 western Idaho churches will meet at Boise January 6 and 7 to consider the reclamation of arid lands.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Moody, formerly of Spokane, have given \$20,000 toward a new gymnasium at the school institution raised the remaining \$12,000 needed of the \$32,000 fund.