Oregon Daily Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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He who reforms himself has done more towards reforming the public than a crowd of noisy busybodies telling others how to behave.—Lavater.

STRAIGHT VOTE SKULDUGGERY

If a legislature can disfigure the Australian ballot in one particular, when may it not, at any time, disfigure it in another particular? When may it not, by one inroad after another, nullify it altogether?

It is not a question of whether the Moser "straight-vote" skulduggery helps one party or another. What party is helped or hindered is not the question. By the disgust it may create in the public mind this assault on the ballot may help the Democrats. That disgust can easily create a revulsion against a party whose politicians, clothed with temporary legislative authority, struck at one of the most sacred institutions in the country—the Australian ballot.

The real question is, now that tinkering with the ballot has begun, where and when is it to end? If the politicians in the Oregon legislature can cut one provision after another from the ballot and add other provisions of their own, will the mutilation go on until our present splendid system of voting is destroyed? Who knows?

Every step barckward is a new opportunity for the corruptionists and vote buyers and ward heelers and ringsters. It is a step back toward the old days of rotten political processes in this state when the forests were stolen by creation of fake forest reserves and legislative votes were bought in senatorial elections like second-hand furniture at an auction. If anybody has doubts, let him read the records in the federal courts during the Oregon land fraud trials. Or let him read newspaper accounts in those days when it was related in cold print and never denied, that voters were taken to the polls in blocks of 10 and the price of a vote was $1.50 to $5.

It will be a sorry day for the people of Oregon, now that the start is made in whittling at the Oregon ballot, if one provision after another is pruned away by politicians who know exactly what they are doing. Taxes are high as the thing stands now, but with the bosses and ward heelers once more running public affairs the cost of government will go on mounting.

There was no call from the people for this change in the ballot. There was no complaint from any quarter. Government in the state was becoming purer and purer, as it ought to do. Men had a growing pride in the progress of public affairs in the state toward that perfection which should be the aim of all, and on which the future of the republic depends.

But over the protest of honorable Republican and other senators, the "straight-vote" skulduggery was passed. What wonder that our people are sometimes discouraged with representative government?

If Admiral Sims, before leaving for the war, was instructed at the navy department "not to let the British pull the wool over your eyes," it was good advice. One reason America has admirals is to prevent any government and all governments from interfering with American interests. Great Britain was detaining American cargo ships early in the war and there was a great deal of complaint in this country about it, and if Admiral Sims did not receive instructions to be on his guard with reference to the British and all other nations, a bit of timely instruction was overlooked.

CENSORS

One hundred or more persons act as volunteer censors of motion picture films in Portland. Upon what basis of training, perception and analysis they qualify for their unremunerative duties it would be difficult to say. Doubtless they represent quite as many viewpoints and opinions as there are censors. The pleasure or satisfaction they derive from their work may likewise be divided, some of them actuated by genuine desire to perform a public service, others enjoying the superior sense of acting as savant and patron to public morals.

Beyond the volunteers, censorship narrows to an officially obligated but noncompensated board of censors, the board in turn having a secretary to whom inevitably must fall a major share of administrative duty.

This is the local structure of censorship as it appears in the argument precipitated by the arrest and subsequent acquittal of a film distributor who was accused of failing to make ordered cuts.

If censorship of such organization is infallible the impossible has been achieved. But volunteer service without the balancing quality of direct responsibility has never before demonstrated itself to be free of error or even of weariness in well doing. This latest phase of the recurrent question of censorship might well result in tightening the lines upon the censors themselves.

Without passing upon or referring to any of the decisions of the board, it is surely a tenable proposition that common sense, discernment, knowledge of dramatic values and a background of some experience or training are the qualities a motion picture censor should possess. Prudery, strained notions, personal antagonisms and a desire to be the gratuitous governor of other people's morals are disqualifying qualities.

Motion picture censorship is in the public interest. The people want censorship. If it were not provided and pictures ran to gross suggestion, the unerring judgment of vox populi would sooner or later strike at the foundation of motion picture production.

This is a good time to consider the qualifications of censors, volunteer and otherwise. It is also a good time to hold censorship and film distribution to equal responsibility.

Here are Republican senators who voted against Gus Moser's "straight-vote" skulduggery: Gill, Eddy, Handley, Jones, Lafollett, Nickelsen, Norblad, Smith of Coos and Curry, and Thomas. There were other Republicans in that senate whose consciences urged them to vote for an unsullied ballot. Out in the state there are thousands upon thousands of Republicans who will resent the Moser-Banks assault upon one of the country's most sacred institutions.

POLITICAL ROADS

From legislative interference in highway construction it is but a short step to no construction. If the legislature would stop with the mere designation of certain roads as state highways it would not be so serious a matter, but human experience is that it will not stop here, but will go still farther and say how much money is to be spent on a certain road, which shall be built in such and such a manner without any regard to a comprehensive plan or to the relative importance of the road. Soon there will be a series of disconnected roads scattered about the state. They will be political roads as distinguished from economic roads.

Every community naturally thinks its particular road is the most important in the state. It is not willing to wait until a general state system is worked out, but will go to the legislature and by trading votes get a bill through giving it preferential treatment.

We started out with the idea of not making highway work the football of legislative politics. Let us hold to it. The action of the special legislature in tacking on to the system several hundred miles of minor roads, judged from a state viewpoint, shows that we are following along the lines of other states whose road building has been wrecked by legislative interference.

With the addition of roads by the legislature it is inevitable that their claim to immediate attention will be urged before the highway commission.

If the commission persists in its expressed determination to finish the system as originally outlined in 1917 before taking up additions, there will be an appeal to the legislature for a mandate. There will be turmoil and dissatisfaction which will react on the entire work.

In view of the fact that there are not available resources in sight to finish the main trunk highways, it does not seem a proper time to add more roads to the state system, even though some of them may have some claim to attention.

The most inconsistent thing we can think of is a barber with a toupee urging upon a hirsute customer the merits of a guaranteed hair restorer.

THAT INSURANCE AGENT

The man who posted in a conspicuous place the sign which read, "I want no life insurance and have no time for insurance agents," must turn the card to the wall. Down at the Chamber of Commerce, Monday, during a Thrift week program, a banker spoke of life insurance as an aid to credit. A physician averred that possession of a policy is evidence of good sense, good health and abstemiousness from overeating, under exercise and other bad habits which wreck the body and render the individual uninsurable. An insurance company manager suggested that to put oneself in a position to pay premiums testifies to affection for dependents, demonstrates a thrifty instinct and safeguards the ever uncertain future.

The life insurance agent, through this more or less disinterested tribute, appeared in a new role. Instead of a nuisance he is a protector of the home. He is a foe to extravagance. He is athrill with love for humanity. He is a contributor to the general welfare. He is a philanthropist. The reason there are so many of him is that his business constitutes a dedication to public service slightly better recompensed than the minister or the avowed social worker. His complacent occupancy of time intended for other busy affairs is due to his calm knowledge, if not ours, that when he appears we "entertain an angel unawares."

To Mayor Baker is due a great deal of credit for defeat of the bill aimed at the Portland zoning system. In the first days of the special session many senators and representatives were lined up against the system, and its repeal seemed assured, as evidenced by the action in the house. But Mayor Baker went to Salem, and being a good fighter remained on the job until the senate repudiated the action of the house.

IN THE NEXT HEARING?

In effort to reverse the Thurtell findings, the public service commission of the state of Washington is exceedingly busy. All the influences that Puget Sound ports can exert will be brought to bear in opposing the Columbia river differential.

What is the Oregon public service commission doing? It rendered excellent service in the recent case. Though the date for the next hearing has been postponed at the request of the Washington public service commission, the extension is only until February 10, a very short period.

The Cascade mountains are still on the road from the interior to Puget Sound. The water grade level is still in the Columbia river gateway. A great population in Oregon is directly concerned in having the Thurtell findings confirmed by the commission. The Oregon commission should support the Columbia river contention with all its power.

And what is the O-W. R. & N. going to do? Its former fear that if the Columbia ports were given a differential northern roads would meet it, is made groundless by the Thurtell plan. Under it the Columbia rate in the zone concerned would always be 90 per cent of the Sound rate, and for the northern roads to attempt to compete would be absurdity.

The Thurtell plan is the O-W. R. & N.'s way to get out from under the domination of the northern roads, and be a free and independent line. It would be delivered from participation in a rate structure that all the world knows has always been a discrimination against the interests and suicidal for the stockholders of the O-W. R. & N.

And is the North Bank going to withdraw from its former attitude of support for the Puget Sound contention? It has no line to the Sound. To continue to reject a differential that would give it greatly increased business would seem to be almost a betrayal of the interests of the North Bank and tend to keep that wonderful line on the verge of bankruptcy.

How can a railroad afford to work against its own welfare and against its hopes of increased revenues and greater prosperity?

Seattle, Tacoma and the public service commission of Washington have besought the Interstate Commerce commission for an extension of time in which to reply to Chief Examiner Thurtell's recommendation for a reduction in the rail rate between Portland-Vancouver and the zone south of Snake river. What are Oregon interests doing on the other side?

NOBODY GUILTY

One juryman of the January panel in Multnomah county was overheard to say that inasmuch as the circuit courts saw fit to show leniency to Sorensen, he was going to do his best to let everybody else off for a time if it were humanly possible to do so, according to a statement that seems reliable.

Whether the statement be true or not, it is the fact that a tidal wave of acquittals has followed in the wake of the Sorensen case. Not one jury conviction has been secured under a grand jury indictment. Not one municipal court conviction has come from a jury trial in the circuit court.

Since the beginning of the year not one person who pleaded not guilty to an indictment or to appeals from the judgments of the municipal court in traffic cases has been convicted by a jury in the higher court. The two Mielke acquittals are among the cases in which no penalties were inflicted.

Another case is that of Harry McNab. He was convicted in the municipal court of driving an automobile while intoxicated. He appealed. In the circuit court two policemen testified that McNab was drunk when they arrested him. McNab denied it. No witness backed up his denial. After being out only eight minutes, the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty.

There was no reason for the two policemen to testify falsely. There was every reason for McNab to deny the charges in the complaint. That is done by all defendants who do not plead guilty. Yet the jury rejected the statements of the two officers and based their verdict of not guilty on the mere statement of the defendant, a most unusual if not extraordinary proceeding.

Whether or not the venireman said he intended to show the leniency to others that the circuit courts showed to Sorensen, he and other veniremen must have had thoughts of that very thing. Else how could the testimony of two policemen have been rejected and the testimony of the accused have been accepted in the McNab case?

In any event, there is near anarchy in the administration of traffic laws, so far as cooperation by courts and juries is concerned. If there is such an attitude by jurors as seems likely, what day will some venireman's own little girl be run over by a drunken or madcap driver, as a result of the encouragement to recklessness by these acquittals by juries and suspended sentences by courts?

With the spring about to open and thousands of new machines to be added to the already large list on Portland streets, what families, as a result of this leniency, will have to count their dead?

POINDEXTER AND HIS BOOM

By Carl Smith, Washington Staff Correspondent of The Journal.

Washington, Jan. 20.—Politicians at Washington, who seek to fathom the why and wherefore of the campaign of Senator Miles Poindexter for president are not agreed except as to one thing. They cannot believe that the Poindexter managers really expect him to be the Republican nominee at Chicago. Some think that he hopes to swing in at the tail of the ticket. It is recalled that the Poindexter boom was originally of the vice presidential variety. The senator put that crown away, and the next thing heard was that he was a candidate for president. It is suggested in this connection that if Poindexter can control the Washington state delegation and pick up a few delegates elsewhere his managers may at an opportune moment withdraw his name and turn his votes where a vice presidential favor can be asked in return.

* * *

Poindexter has already shown his antagonism to General Leonard Wood, and is counted a member in good standing of the favorite-son-anti-Wood league. Some of the favorite sons are suspected of having been brought into the sonlight for the purpose of heading off Wood. The junior senator from Washington was one of the earliest entries among the minor pacemakers.

Another theory is that Poindexter's promoters have a catch-as-catch-can idea, with the vice presidency first in view, a place in the cabinet next, and extra prominence as a senator as a last and certain resource, based upon vigorous advertising as a presidential contender.

* * *

There appears to be plenty of financial backing for the Poindexter thrust. He has headquarters in the Munsey building in this city, and managers and bureaus elsewhere that display considerable vitality. The senator has been absent from Washington on frequent speaking trips, and promises to go personally on long tours into the primary states.

* * *

Former Senator Jonathan Bourne of Oregon, who talks enthusiastically of "Miles" as a presidential candidate, is one of Poindexter's best known lieutenants. Whether he is carrying part of the expense account is not definitely known, but, if so, he is believed not to be alone. If Poindexter should land somewhere along the line, even to the extent of strengthening his position in the senate or in "getting the ear" of a future Republican president, the gossips surmise that the political rejuvenation of Bourne would be a point of honor with him, and that Bourne may be urged for postmaster general, a place that is believed close to the former senator's heart's desire.

* * *

In the Bourne conducted Republican publicity bureau, which supplies ready-made "dope" for country weeklies, Bourne is associated with a number of old time Republican leaders whose chief delights are the promotion of high tariff and the lambasting of Democrats. It is guessed that Bourne may have interested some of his friends in the Poindexter cause, for Poindexter, who was a Democrat before he became a Bull Moose or a standpatter, now has a great aversion to Democrats and moves freely in the standpat circles he once abhorred.

* * *

Who is the Poindexter second choice? Guess No. 1, built up from various happenings, is Harding of Ohio. Harding is believed to be the ultimate objective of several of the favorite son movements. He is the "safe and sane" leader who is picked to stand forth at the proper time. A perceptible effort is under way to train sentiment in his direction after the Wood and Lowden forces have paralyzed each other, as many believe they will.

Colossal Counties Formed in the Oregon Country

Roads and Other Important Matters Before 1845 Legislature.

The third session of the Oregon legislature, held in 1845, which convened at Oregon City on December 2, created a new country, called Lewis. It included all the territory north of the Columbia river to the latitude of 54-40, thus including all of British Columbia. Another county created at this session was Polk, which included all the country between the Willamette river and the Pacific ocean lying between George Gay's house on the north and the Spanish possessions in California on the south.

Three petitions were presented to the legislature to grant authority to construct wagon roads across the Cascade mountains. Thomas McKay was authorized to build a toll road from the settlements on the Santiam river to Fort Boise. Stephen H. L. Meek's petition to construct a wagon road over the Cascades was refused. Samuel K. Barlow was authorized to build a toll road from Oregon City to The Dalles, skirting the base of Mount Hood. The Barlow road was so far completed as to be used by the emigrants in the fall of 1846.

Before adjourning, on December 19, after a 17 days' session, the legislature passed a currency law, making wheat or other produce legal tender and designating certain depots where it must be delivered. It also appointed W. G. T'Vault postmaster general for the provisional government, and established the legal charges for carrying letters. The rates of postage were: A single sheet letter, 15 cents for 30 miles or less; 25 cents, if the letter's destination was between 30 and 80 miles; 30 cents, over 80 and less than 200 miles; 200 miles or over, 50 cents. It also established a mail line between Oregon City and Weston, Mo.

The year 1845 was a red letter year for Oregon City. A Catholic church was built in the summer of 1845. In December a Baptist church was organized at the home of Peter H. Hatch by the Rev. Hezekiah Johnson and the Rev. Ezra Fisher. William G. T'Vault, who came overland from the states in the fall of 1845, was elected editor of the Spectator, published at Oregon City, the first paper published west of the Rocky mountains. To encourage the wide dissemination of the forthcoming newspaper, the provisional legislature in December, 1845, made a special rate of postage of 4 cents a copy on newspapers, letters weighing no more having to pay 15 to 50 cents.

More than 3000 new emigrants came to Oregon in 1845, most of them stopping for awhile at Oregon City before starting out to locate homes in the Willamette valley.

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.]

The Auditorium and Equity

Portland, Jan. 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—The city's public auditorium, universally conceded to have been well and honestly built, cost many thousands of dollars more than the city has paid for it. The contractor, his bondsmen and creditors, in accordance with stipulations in the contract, have formally asked the city that their claims for increased compensation be submitted to arbitration. Is the city morally or legally under obligation to pay for The Auditorium what the structure honestly cost? The Journal of a few days ago, in an editorial headed "In Morals at Least" answers this question in the affirmative.

Mayor Baker, presumably from a sincere desire to obtain answer to the question, appointed a committee of five well known citizens to investigate and report their findings and recommendations in the matter. The members of this committee were: W. F. Woodward, Franklin T. Griffith, O. R. Hartwig, E. B. McNaughton and Marshall N. Dana. They answered the question in the affirmative, as has The Journal.

The mayor's committee heard testimony and arguments from both sides. Claims against the city were set forth in 12 items, based upon changes made in the plans after the contract was let, changes in method of work and in material, and constantly increasing cost of labor and materials due to the great war. The committee after careful consideration sent to the mayor a report which, after reviewing the facts presented, said:

"We believe a sum of money is justly due the claimants from the city at this time—such an amount as will reimburse them for losses sustained in the erection of the building for which they cannot properly be held responsible, and we believe that a committee of fair minded men, experts and engineers qualified by training and experience, to be appointed by the council, should determine the exact amount which the equities may indicate."

One would naturally suppose that the mayor was seeking advice when he appointed the investigating committee, and that he would be guided by their findings and recommendations. But was he? The news report of a meeting of the council in which the matter was informally discussed says he and some of the commissioners opposed the report, though no definite action was taken. What was the idea in appointing the committee if no heed were to be given its report?

I understand that all the contractor, his bondsmen and creditors ask is arbitration of their claims. The committee recommends arbitration be accepted by the city, and arbitration is the fair and just way to decide an issue in which the question of moral responsibility is involved, as in this auditorium case. I believe, as do The Journal and the committee, that the city should accept arbitration.

HENRY W. GODDARD.

P. S.—Since writing the above I have read your clear, logical and forceful editorial, entitled "Auditorium Facts." How any fair minded man, be he city official, lawyer, or just a plain citizen, can quibble over technical legal points after reading it, is more than I can see. H. W. G.

The Unseated New York Members

Athena, Jan. 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—The five members unseated or about to be kicked out of the New York legislature ought to have some significance in the United States of America. No true American can pass it carelessly by without giving it careful thought. More and more must we ask ourselves whether the most cherished principles of our government are to be overridden by the autocracy of faction, whether the right of suffrage is indeed inviolate, whether the arbitrary power of congress or the legislature can void the will of the people.

It is evident that there are statesmen of the reactionary type who do not countenance the high-handed proceedings, and Judge Hughes has come out squarely denouncing the action of the New York legislature. There will be others, and such unlawful procedure can have no other effect than to enhance the cause of those it oppresses. How much better would it be, if the claims of the Socialists were met in open forum than by arbitrary methods in the attempt to put them out. How much better, if the social reforms they ask are vapid dreams, to show them up as such, by the light of truth—if the industrial changes they demand are impossible, to meet their demands with better laws and conditions.

The world moves, and we must recognize and abide by that fact. We must be ever reaching out to perfect our social conditions. What the people wish, they will have. Legislatures, United States senates, coal administrators, attorneys general and arbitrary rulings can have but one effect. The "recalcitrants" will multiply. Vox populi vox Dei. F. B. WOOD.

Not So Slow

Employer (to new boy)—You're the slowest youngster we've ever had. Aren't you quick at anything?

Boy—Yes, sir; nobody can get tired as quick as I can.

Curious Bits of Information For the Curious

Gleaned From Curious Places

Matches begin life as a three-foot log and undergo at least 12 distinct processes before they reach the state in which we use them. First, the bark of the log is chopped off, then the log goes through a veneering machine, which cuts it into strips, and these strips in turn disappear into the chopping machine, to reappear as match sticks.

As the match sticks fall out of the chopping machine into a chute, they are sucked up through a large pipe to drying machines on the floor above. After undergoing the drying process they are sorted and stacked in shallow boxes ready to go to the dipping machine. This machine is an arrangement of endless carriers, which pass the tips through the fire making solution. Such a machine can readily handle 1,000,000 matches at a single operation.

After being tipped off, the maches are packed into paper boxes and journey forth to make the world brighter.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

There must be a tank or two of grape juice with a kick in it stored away somewheres in San Francisco, or surely the Dimocratic national convention wouldn't of come past St. Louis this year.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

We'll soon be shining up for the Shriners.

* * *

Millerand is the new French premier. Miller and who?

* * *

General Pershing came, saw and had a busy day generally.

* * *

The president says the Americas are ready to aid the world. We'll tell the world they are.

* * *

The deported Reds are said to have crossed the Russian border. Can't rush 'em any too fast to suit us.

* * *

If we really were not sorry for the telephone operator at Odell, Oregon, who dislocated her neck while yawning, and did we not realize that it is no joke for her, we might be able to frame up a wheeze of warning to telephone operators elsewhere.

* * *

Do you wonder, asks a contemporary, that the active advocates of prohibition smile at the frantic and continuous efforts of its opponents to evade its application? Don't you realize that these counter offensives merely serve to maintain for the antisaloon league officials their jobs?

* * *

Now is the time when all good men and true are beginning to size things up in the basement—no, not with a view to taking inventory of wet goods on hand, but with the idea of locating the garden hoe and the rake and spade, with a view to preparedness for the annual springtime exercise in the little old garden patch.

SIDELIGHTS

The Carlton Sentinel is to have a typesetting machine.

* * *

Amity has a Thirty Year club, whose annual meetings are events in the lives of the oldtimers. This year's meeting has been dated for February 6.

* * *

"Another purchase of western timber by a southern operator is announced," says the Bend Bulletin. "Here is a case of the sun rising in the west as it sets in the south."

* * *

On the University of Oregon campus at Eugene is soon to be installed one of the smaller guns of the old battleship Oregon, as a memento of a famous ship and a famous victory.

* * *

"The war on cigarettes," remarks the editor of the Crane American between puffs, "has begun. This is not to be confused with a war on tobacco. The two do not always mean the same thing."

* * *

Defi in the Harney County News: "There is a standing invitation for anyone to say what they d——d please about the mean 'wrapping paper contemporaries.' We're not afraid of just criticism and leave the unjust to the 'contemporary' for salvation by fire cleansing."

* * *

George Winter, a homesteader near Port Orford, Curry county, has been telling the Register, while in Eugene, about the good catches of the many trappers who have wintered near his home. Fur bearing animals seem more plentiful in that neighborhood now than for many years.

IMPRESSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE JOURNAL MAN

By Fred Lockley

[Fragments of conversation accidentally overheard and what they may lead to are considered by Mr. Lockley today. He also rebukes the indiscreet assumption of many who discuss private affairs publicly, that nobody in the neighborhood has ears to hear or curiosity to follow up clues.]

Did you ever notice how indiscreet people are in talking before strangers? For the past few weeks I have been making almost daily trips to Oregon City and, without wanting to be an eavesdropper, I have overheard fragments of conversations on subjects that would have been much better discussed in the privacy of one's home. I have come to the conclusion that women, particularly young women, are either more careless or more indifferent in this matter than men. They seem perfectly willing to share with utter strangers in the seat behind them their knowledge, which seems to be very complete, as to why Viola is getting her divorce from Jim; and when every sordid detail has been threshed out they wiggle and giggle and in a penetrating whisper discuss other matters which should be too intimate for the ears of casual masculine hearers.

* * *

Occasionally we all hear some fascinating fragment of talk that makes us wonder how the incident ended, but we never see the strangers again, and so the mystery must remain forever unsolved. I happened to sit back of two men recently and I overheard one say: "He leaned forward with a smile. There was a swish, and his head rolled toward me. As it came to rest the eyes opened and closed, but the smile was still there. The others laughed. They have a grewsome sense of humor."

That accidentally overheard remark filled me with curiosity and horror. I wondered why he smiled when his head was "swished" off. I wondered what they "swished" his head off with and why the others laughed to see his eyes open and close. I decided, for my own peace of mind to ask the stranger for an explanation. I touched him on the arm and said, "I overhead you say you saw a man's head 'swished' off. Tell me about it." The man looked surprised, and then said, "I don't wonder at your curiosity. I recently returned from China. I was invited by a government official to see a dozen or 15 Chinese bandits executed. The Chinese executioner understood English. He let me examine his sword. It had a heavy back and a razor edge. He was very proud of his ability to cut a man's head off with a single blow. As we were talking he called one of the bandits over and said to me, 'I will show you how it is done.' He said something in Chinese to the bandit, who smiled and leaned over. There was a lightning-like swish of the executioner's sword, and the bandit's head fell to the ground and rolled for several paces. The headless trunk slumped forward, the blood spurting from the severed neck. The other bandits seemed to think it was a huge joke. It made me sick. He ranged the rest of the bandits in a line and with deadly precision and celerity he whacked their heads off. They seemed quite unconcerned about it. I wish I hadn't seen it, for I am constantly dreaming of it and it seems that if I don't wake up in time my head will bounce off and roll to the feet of the grinning coolies standing around watching the grim business."

* * *

As I came down in the elevator from the Press club the other day I caught the remark: "That's right—wormwood, hyssop and balm, with some caraway and anise seed. Kick? Kick is no name for it. It's a riot—a regular knockout."

They stepped out of the elevator and walked away, leaving me with no key to fit the puzzle. "Wormwood and hyssop and anise seed"—sounds like a Chinese drug store. Was it some kind of a prescription they were discussing, or were they football coaches, and was this a new code of signals to direct the players when to kick or when to pass the ball?

A day or so ago I answered the phone. Here, eliminating my remarks, is what came over the wire: "Is this Fred Lockley? This is Mae Celeste Post speaking. Yes, 271 Third street. You remember that story you had in The Journal with my picture? I called you up to thank you for a $5 check. No, I don't suppose you do know what I am talking about. Shortly after that article in The Journal appeared a woman called at my home and handed me a letter. No, I don't know the woman's name. Yes, the letter was addressed to me. It had been opened. Yes, it had been in the mail. It was postmarked in 1914—six years ago. It had a check for $5, sent me by the editor of the Nautilus magazine for a story I had written for them. This woman said her husband had found an old coat hanging on a post several years ago when he was tearing down some old buildings by the side of the river, to clear the site where the municipal dock was built. Before throwing the old coat away he looked through the pockets and found this letter. Yes, she had kept it all this time thinking she might hear of me in some way. When she read that article in The Journal she remembered the name on the letter and brought it to me at once. Do you suppose the man who had hung up that coat with my letter in it had robbed a mail car or some postoffice?"

KOREA'S FAR TRAVELERS

By William E. Nash

Special Correspondence to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.

Paris, — The adventures of the two Korean delegates who tramped 8000 miles to come to the peace conference read like an Odyssey. According to the Paris newspaper, Excelsior, they came in order to represent 1,000,000 of their countrymen in Siberia, who fought loyally in the Russian ranks during the war, and who now demand the independence of their fatherland from Japanese rule. Starting out from Vladivostok in February, 1918, Messrs. Youn Hai and Go Tchanir made first for Omsk, whence they hoped to reach Odessa and Constantinople. Most of the way they had to travel on foot. Trans-Siberian railway schedules have long been badly disorganized. In April the Koreans arrived in Omsk. To reach Odessa was impossible, for fighting was going on between Deniken and the Bolshevists across the main road of communication, and access to the Caspian sea was difficult. So the determined Koreans turned their steps toward the north. They wished to attain the Arctic ocean and thence Archangel.

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It was at this moment that the Japanese chose to intervene. They requested Kolchak to stop the anti-Nipponese emissaries. The admiral sent troops after them, but without success. By ruse and flight Youn Hai and Go Tchanir avoided contact with the Cossacks. At the mouth of the river Pethor, emptying into the Arctic ocean, they discovered a small rowboat, by means of which they slowly and painfully pursued their voyage toward the west. Luck now seemed to be with them. Half way along they succeeded in buying a pair of horses from the Samoyak peasants. Travel became relatively easy now that they had horses, though, of course, bread, meat and other articles of nourishment were painfully scarce.

At Archangel, in June, the delegates came in contact with British and French authorities. The faith which had kept them going so long was rudely shattered on learning that President Wilson had left Paris and that the peace conference had finished its most important labors. Yet they did not wholly despair. With British and French passports they continued their journey through Russia, Norway and Great Britain. At last, in the month of December, 1919, the adventurers arrived in Paris.

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The Korean question has never been considered by the supreme council. The reason for this perhaps is the long, strong arm of Japan. She has every reason for wishing to keep the problem quiet. Koreans say that the Japanese outrages in Seoul and other cities surpass those of the Germans in Belgium. This may or may not be true. What is certain is that Japan performed valuable services during the war, and outside of Klauchau has received little recompense in return. The allies do not want to antagonize her. They refused to hear Mr. Klimm, the official delegate who came to plead the Korean cause. All honor to these brave gentlemen who dared so much in the service of their cause!

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Olden Oregon

Burnt River Canyon Road the Dread of Early Travelers

One of the worst stretches of road encountered by the first emigrants to Oregon was in the Burnt river canyon. Wilkes, Fremont and others agree that it was the roughest road of the whole journey. This is what Fremont said under date of October 13, 1843. "We now traveled through a very mountainous country, the stream running rather in a ravine than a valley, and the road is decidedly bad and dangerous for single wagons, frequently crossing the stream where the water is sometimes deep; and all the day the animals were fatigued in climbing up and descending a succession of steep ascents to avoid precipitous hillsides; and the common trail which leads along the mountain side at places where the river strikes the base is sometimes bad even for a horseman." The 26 miles up the canyon was made in three days. As today, the road had the advantage that there was no mud.

The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader.

OREGON NOTES

The national prohibition law was ratified last week at Roseburg at an all-day session of the W. C. T. U.

The annual meeting of the Baker Commercial club will be held February 18. Ten directors are to be elected preceding a banquet.

During the first flight of a hydroplane at Oregon City a number of birds, including pigeons, swarmed around it. A pigeon was struck and killed.

More than 80 ex-service men of Willamette university have received their first two and a half months' allotment from the state for educational use.

Preliminary steps toward the diking and reclaiming Sauvies island have been taken at St. Helens. The proposed district affects about 25,000 acres of land.

Theodore Gilbert of Albany sold more Red Cross seals than any other school child in Albany last Christmas, winning a $5 prize. He turned in $14.28 to the fund.

Since the flu epedemic of last winter Brownsville has suffered from bad colds which are widespread. City Recorder Craig along with several dozens of citizens has been afflicted.

While returning home Saturday night L. C. Eastman and wife of Silverton thought the end of the world was coming when they saw a meteor as "big as the moon" shoot across the sky.

The records of the county clerk of Klamath county show that during last year 138 marriages were performed. During the same period 70 divorce suits were filed and 42 decrees granted.

A statewide movement has been started at Eugene to interest the children in clubs for the raising of registered livestock. Money will be advanced at a low interest to be repaid when the stock is sold.

The third annual convention of the Oregon Elks will be held at Salem July 22-24. A house-to-house canvass for rooms will be made at once by a committee. In addition a large camping ground will be fitted up.

A novel religious innovation at Medford has been started by Rev. J. Rudolph Sasnet, who has opened headquarters in one of the large office buildings where people are given medical, legal and general counsel.

WASHINGTON

The Toledo state bank is planning the erection of a new building with every modern facility for banking.

Robert Isbell of Winlock caught a big lynx on the Curtis ranch west of town. The animal weighed 25 pounds.

Sixty jurors have been impaneled for the next jury term of the Cowlitz county superior court. The docket contains 14 criminal cases and several civil cases.

Mystery surrounding the disappearance of Mike Desanta, a jitney driver of Hoquiam, has been solved by finding his body in the water four miles east of Aberdeen.

Milfred Benefiel, who was charged with stealing a truckload of wheat at Mossyrock from E. O. Rose, a prominent farmer of Klickitat prairie, has been released on a $300 bond.

The city council of Spokane has passed a resolution assuring jitney companies protection against competition in adequately served territory such as has been given the streetcar.

Two stills in operation were confiscated, together with 450 gallons of corn and barley whiskey, by county authorities at a lonely place in the woods about a mile from McCleary. Several arrests were made.

Mrs. Anne Marshall Williams, an Oregon pioneer, died at Seattle last Saturday at the age of 19. She lived in the first home built of logs at The Dalles. The timber of the house was brought around the Horn.

Dr. Henry Suzzalo, president of the University of Washington, will be the principal speaker at the meeting of the Centralia Chamber of Commerce next Wednesday. He will speak on the functions and duties of the Chamber of Commerce and how it can work for community and state betterment.

Yakima has decided on a three days' drive to round up the census enumeration. Seventy-five volunteer enumerators will take the field and make a house to house canvass. Yakima hopes to reach a population of 20,000 and become a city of the first class. According to the directory it has 22,500.

GENERAL

The greatest indoor and out sport in England today is house hunting.

Failure to reach an agreement on prices threatens to disrupt the association of cane growers and manufacturers of Cuba.

Formal announcement that the American Federation of Labor will oppose the enactment of an anti-sedition law is made by Samuel Gompers.

Profiteering and public ownership are declared by William J. Bryan to be two of the great issues on which the coming presidential campaign will be fought.

Winston Churchill, British minister of war is being criticised because of his removal of General Fielding from the London command and giving it to a favorite, General Jeffreys.

Profiteering landlords are to be caught in the income tax. The new forms sent out contain a section providing that tenants shall include in their statements the amount of rent paid and to whom.

A new record has been established by the national banks, according to the report of Comptroller Williams. For the year ending November 17, the gain in deposits was approximately $2,500,000,000. The total deposits were $17,467,853,000.

Securities and other loot valued at more than $100,000 taken from a mail car of the eastern express of the Southern Pacific by a robber have been recovered near Stege, Cal. It is believed that the booty of the robber amounted to $200,000.

In a letter to the senate naval affairs committee Secretary Daniels denies that he told Rear Admiral Sims "not to let the British pull the wool over your eyes," and that the United States "would as soon fight the British as the Germans."

Objections by the state department to the construction of an all-American canal along the California border which would free 55,000 settlers of the Imperial valley from dependence on Mexico for water for irrigation purposes, have been withdrawn. Under the proposed Kettner bill 200,000 acres of government land will be opened for entry and settlement by ex-service men.

Why Brother Reads The Journal

Brother wants the sporting news first, and he knows The Journal's sporting pages are always full of the latest thing in the world of sports.

The local news and the automobile section are also interesting for Brother, and he finds these features most complete and interesting in The Journal.

Like the rest of the family, Brother doesn't enthuse over this "Early to bed and early to Rise" stuff. Particularly the "Early to Rise" part.

So he sleeps just as late as he dares, grabs a bite to eat and rushes to the job just in time to punch the clock ahead of the "late" deadline. He finds no time for reading in the morning and prefers to get his news in the afternoon and evening when it is fresh. "Warmedovers," whether food or news, never did appeal to Brother anyway.

Incidentally, when Brother wants a used bike, a used car or a new job he knows where to find it—in The Journal "want" ads, of course.