

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader.

OREGON More than \$250,000 of the \$550,000 road bond issue of Douglas county is unexpended.

A local women's auxiliary of the American Legion is being organized in Hood River.

The annual convention of the Christian and Missionary Alliance will open at Hood River February 1.

That the damage to Marion county fruit trees from the blight which was reported in a report made by Professor Brown of the O. A. C. who has just completed an inspection tour of the county.

The Douglas County Light & Water Commission has been organized.

The Dallas Commercial club has at last secured the location of a cannery at Dallas.

State Law Enforcement Officer Jones has been ordered to the district court from revoking the licenses now held by seven dentists.

E. C. Manson has been made superintendent of the Idaho division of the Oregon Short Line to succeed A. B. Stevenson, deceased.

State road development is in grave danger of being abandoned.

The Boise Chamber of Commerce has found that fully 20 per cent of its citizens have been missed by the census enumerators.

Washington's honey production totalled \$500,000 in value during 1919.

Ten alleged members of the union of the Kluge-Buchner have been arrested in Seattle on federal warrants and bound over for trial.

The Wenaha Wool Growers' association claim that shepherds are in a powerful union; are careless in their work, and that their wages are too high.

Plans for calling a special election at Yakima determined by the state of the election of a memorial auditorium in honor of service men are being discussed.

A Japanese picture bride will be given a hearing at Spokane at which immigration officers will determine if she is a "barber of shaving" while the barbers were allowed to ply the lance and to pull teeth, and from the old days of blood letting by barbers to the present day they still display the barber's pole with its red stripes to signify "Blood Let Here."

Articles of incorporation of the Medford Gas & Oil company, with a capital stock of \$500,000, have been filed.

Dr. J. J. Faltovich tells of the strong adherence of the Falashas to the religious rites of the Jews and their teachings in Palestine, even though they no longer speak Hebrew.

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SIDELIGHTS

Pendleton's fire committee of the city council declares in a recent report that a new one up to date fire truck must be had. The present machine was bought in 1913, and is now beyond repair. It was reported.

"Class ad" in the editorial columns of the P. O. Bulletin, East Oregonian: "Wanted—Soon, \$5000 man to take an \$1800 job as county judge; must be good looking, must be able to spend lots of money and yet keep down expenses."

"Opinions as to damage done by the frost vary," says the Eugene Register, "but what really happens cannot be determined until after blossoming time. Oregon fruit has a constant habit of upsetting predictions of damage to the crop."

Almost half the population of Salem, the Stagnation city, are registered as borrowers from the Salem public library, according to the librarian's annual report. There are 872 residents of Salem on the registration list.

David N. Nelson, who thus far has allowed no one in Umatilla county to step by him when it comes to up-to-the-minute horse racing, is a guest at the Hotel Portland on his way to Portland on his wonderfully improved ranch in the background for the present.

"Ole" Fuller, who resides at the New Perkins hotel just now under his perfectly proper initials, "W. V.," comes to Portland so often that his friends believe he lives here. Most of Fuller's business, however, is in Dallas, where he is president or past president of almost everything that goes on in Polk county, from the county fair to the county agricultural society.

Tillamook streets have been denied the presence of S. S. Johnson, attorney in "dairyland," for some time. Meanwhile Johnson is at the Seaward, where he is otherwise occupied about town.

Jack Porter, whose kindly counsel has put hope into many a youthful breast, has a new job at the Seaward. Porter is with the Benton County National bank in the college town, and there gets ample opportunity to display a big-hearted vein that has made him known to everyone in town.

"S-h-h." You know Jay Upton of Prineville. Jay's going to be a candidate for a huge job at the next legislative session, and at many thereafter if his friends will it, said friends declare. Upton is trimming his flying feathers for a dash at the job of being state superintendent of education.

Reversing the usual order for a day or so, Mrs. C. H. Castner and husband are in Portland, the former to attend the annual meeting of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs and the latter to be on hand when wanted. Mrs. Castner, former president of the federation, is very active in its work.

Mrs. Ida B. Callahan, before whose throes more than a few "rooks" at the portal of the Oregon Agricultural college first learned the collegiate opinion of their English, is in the city to preside at the luncheon of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs, of which she is president. For years Mrs. Callahan taught English at O. A. C.

For centuries barbers and surgeons were at swords' points, for regular surgery was a "barber of shaving" while the barbers were allowed to ply the lance and to pull teeth, and from the old days of blood letting by barbers to the present day they still display the barber's pole with its red stripes to signify "Blood Let Here."

We often think of the postoffice as a modern institution, yet in the sixth verse of the thirty-first chapter of Second Chronicles we are told, "The posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel."

Did you ever stop to wonder why the conductor on the train you are traveling on is in charge of the train, instead of the engineer? Originally the conductor was a "barber of shaving" while the barbers were allowed to ply the lance and to pull teeth, and from the old days of blood letting by barbers to the present day they still display the barber's pole with its red stripes to signify "Blood Let Here."

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SMALL CHANGE

Don't worry about the flu, and it won't worry you. The newspapers are telling of the "Red Offensive." We'll say he is.

Thirty-six Oregon boys won the highest honors of war and thousands of others tried as hard as they could to win them.

London is reported to be ready to finance the Yankovitch loan to work as a regular Yank, the chances are he won't be felled, and if he isn't, he needn't go as far as London as a trimming.

Representative Sabath of Illinois is in favor of lifting the liquor ban for the benefit of the sufferers from the personally we'd rather do without the "flu" at that. And will you notice the name of the man who offers the suggestion?

Lady Astor has been fined for breaking the London traffic laws by blocking the street while she did a little Christmas shopping. Evidently those who would arrest a lady for exercising the prerogatives of her sex.

There are so many splendid and interesting things to be said about Mrs. Ada B. Milligan that we cannot do justice to her in less than a volume. Draw straight lines through the map of Oregon, north to south, east to west, from the points of the cardinal directions.

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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 100 words, and should be accompanied by the writer, whose mail address in full must accompany the contribution.]

An Open Letter Portland, Jan. 20.—To Senators McNary and Chamberlain and Congressmen Sinnott and Hawley. Gentlemen: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th, B. of L. F. & E., take this means of showing our appreciation of your votes on the Esch and Cummins bills.

Because we stand behind the Plumb plan, the one plan offered that does not mean an increase in freight rates with the consequent increase in the cost of living, we are stung out and deprived of the only right that marks free labor, the right to strike, and turned over to Wall Street to be exploited as it sees fit.

We hope you will vote to continue government ownership for two years. If it was necessary during the war why not give it a fair trial in time of peace? Why increase the cost of living further? We thank you for your votes on the Esch and Cummins bills.

Let Representatives Represent Portland, Jan. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal: It is apparent to all free thinking people that the present state of the national affairs that the representatives elected by the voters who put them in office do not serve the electorate.

Men, like organizations, have their rise and fall. Much depends upon the quality of their leadership, their moral and moral training, and the quality of the men who follow them.

How "Chris" Schuebel Came Up Through Great Tribulations Oregon City not only has an interesting past but its present is full of promise.

Concerning the Judiciary Portland, Jan. 15.—To the Editor of The Journal:—Why all this censure of the judiciary? Do they not have to handle the cases? Do they not have to try the cases? Do they not have to render the verdicts?

The State Song Contest Dayton, Jan. 17.—To the Editor of The Journal:—Concerning the state song contest, what is the prize? Is it eligible? What is the prize?

Indian Schools Ontario, Jan. 20.—Kindly inform me to whom to apply for information concerning the government schools of Alaska.

Ohio's Sentence Portland, Jan. 20.—To the Editor of The Journal:—In yesterday's paper you say, "Gatens Gives Ohio 50 Days."

Lions and Tamers Independence, Jan. 22.—To the Editor of The Journal:—The Oregonian says: "Sims is a regular old lion in Daniels' den."

Olden Oregon The first exploration along the Oregon coast was that of the Spanish expedition under Cabrillo in 1542-3.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says: On some of the branches of Salt River, Arizona, we use 50 fishin' with a shovel and pitchfork. A kind of catfish buries itself in the mud when the river goes dry and lives till the freshets washes it out again.

ECHOES OF OLD POWER FIGHT

Washington, Jan. 24.—Echoes of the old water-power fight on the questions of limitation of federal charges and perpetual franchise have returned to the surface in a report of the Senate committee on the subject.

Amendments proposed by the senate committee on the subject and declared by their proponents to be necessary to "liberalize" the house bill to the point where investors may be induced to risk their money for large developments on the navigable streams and the public lands of the country, were fought by others as equivalent to the surrender of valuable resources to special interests.

Branding the senate amendments as full of danger and a surrender to the water-power corporations, Senator Lenroot of Wisconsin led the opposition to them, supported by a brief sojourn in Washington, chairman of the committee; Nelson of Minnesota, next in rank on the committee, and because of Jones' interest in a brief sojourn in Washington, chairman of the committee.

The first test vote was on the committee amendment proposing to limit the federal charge for plants on government lands to not more than 25 cents per horsepower developed. Lenroot contended that the bill was not merely a matter of the house, giving full power to the federal commission to regulate charges and thus to equalize the charges between plants where under active competitive conditions only nominal charges for bare administrative expense would be justified, and others where conditions may be totally different.

By a majority of one vote Lenroot's view prevailed and the committee amendment was rejected, but the result was subject to another vote under senate procedure before final action on the bill.

For 25-cent limitation—Ball, Bankhead, Borah, Brandegee, Calder, Chamberlain, Colt, Edge, Hale, Harding, Jones (N. M.), Lodge, McNary, Moses, Nelson, Norris, Page, Phelan, Sherman, Smoot, Spencer, Sterling, Sutherland, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, Watson—28.

Against—Beckham, Capper, Dail, Gay, George, Gurnea, Harlan, Johnson (S. D.), Kendrick, Kenyon, Keyes, King, Kirby, Lenroot, McKellar, Norris, Nugent, Phelan, Ransdell, Sheppard, Smith (Ga.), Stanley, Underwood, Walsh (Mont.), Walsh (Mass.), Williams—28.

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PERMITS. These men have so far recommended that the Armenian drive be allotted the first two weeks of February and the Pisgah home colony the last week of the same month.

The public should take notice that other campaigns which may be under way lack the status of official recognition. To solicit without a permit is to violate the law of the city. Contributions should not be made until evidence is produced by the solicitor that the campaign is carried on under authority.

The rule may seem irksome to organizations that have been active in the city so long that nearly every one knows and praises their good works. But the regulation is only in part aimed at such bodies. It is as much for their protection as for that of over-solicited business men.

Careful review of budgets and campaign plans will lead to greater care in preparing the budget and proving the essential character of each item. It might even lead to such coordination of agencies rendering similar service as to cause them to coordinate their appeals, reduce the costs of campaigns and get greater results with the money contributed.

There would even be a possibility of advancing that millennial day when our philanthropy will have for the support of its kindly impulses a basis of truly scientific administration.

It appears that under Chamber of Commerce auspices a club for the study of foreign trade has been formed just at a time when foreign trade is becoming to Portland a practical business subject rather than the theme of academic musings.

Those who continue the propaganda to undermine the farm loan structure are committing a great wrong. They are playing with fire, for if they succeed in breaking down the system there will be a near uprising of farmers.

It gave immediate relief to farmers whose farms were about to go on the auction block to satisfy the mortgage. It gave them long time loans at low interest rates with no bonuses paid for renewal of loans, no fees every few years for new abstracts of title, new mortgages and the other costly steps necessary in the renewals of short time loans.

It set free the minds of farmers who were discouraged with debt, and gave them new hope in going forward with plans for improving their land and extending their production.

Best of all, it raised up a new barrier against the spread of farm tenancy, that gnawing canker which eats the heart out of agricultural enterprise and saps the strength out of the very foundations of the republic.

Tomorrow The Journal will print parts of a special article from the New York Times on the industrial situation in the states of Oregon and Washington. It is a description of the situation in the two states as seen by an Eastern writer during a visit to the coast and it will be of particular interest in Portland because of local names and the conclusions arrived at.

LOMBARDI LTD. A GLIMPSE at gentleness in human life is caught in the charming comedy now running at the Heilig.

The kindly relation between employer and employee when the dress-making establishment of Lombardi Ltd. is about to go into bankruptcy could be studied with profit by all employers and employees in America.

Oscar Menefee was a good man and a good citizen. The maladies that one after another attacked him furiously, were like a strange fate and out of the ordinary for a man at his time of life and in his fullness of strength.

It is no wonder that the play is in its third year and that it is shortly to leave for a run in London. The delightful humor of the life pictured in the changing scenes in the production, the inimitable impersonation of the Italian character of Lombardi, and the many effective sermons in the outcome of the various situations, make the play a representation of drama that is worth while.

Mischief may be the occupation of the idle, but it is just as frequently the recreation of the industrious. It is of interest that the "Norah" in the cast is an Oregon girl, a daughter of George Watkins of Marshfield.

It might be good business for banks and bond buyers who want county bonds to trade with, or in. But it is a plan which wreches the constitution out of plumb, sets a bad example, works a hardship on the children of today, and, incidentally, is in working effect, a partial repeal of the 6 per cent tax limitation amendment.

CITY ordinance requires all organizations that intend solicitation of funds to secure a municipal permit. The city auditor reports that all outstanding permits expired on January 1. The city council committed to the heads of civic and business organizations the examination of applicants for solicitation permits.

RECURRENT CASES OF SPANISH INFLUENZA ARE Milder than last year. The city's official quarantine of the disease is to be rigid. These are the reassuring attendants of the report that half a dozen persons in Portland seem to have the "flu."

But more hopeful than official measures or the softening of the epidemic's virulence, important as these are, is the new intelligence of public sentiment. "Flu" is no longer a jest. It has a background of too much tragedy. No sane person will seek to defy quarantine or nullify preventive measures.

ITS GREAT GROWTH WERE there no other reason, the number of loans made to farmers proves the need for the farm loan banks.

Up to December 31, 411,131 farmers had borrowed of the banks. The loans to them totaled more than \$295,000,000.

The Spokane bank led in the number of loans with a total of 15,302. St. Paul was next with 14,270 loans, New Orleans was third with 13,818, and Houston followed with 11,668.

St. Paul was first, Spokane second and Omaha third in the amount of money loaned with totals of nearly \$40,000,000 each. During the month of December last new loans were made to 4367 farmers with an aggregate of \$14,281,625.

This growth of the system to a volume of rural credits amounting to nearly one third of a billion, occurred during war times when every agricultural product was high and farmers more prosperous than at any time in a generation. The system went into operation in May, 1917, and the extension of its business in less than three years to such large proportions is the best evidence in the world of the wisdom of the federal government in establishing the plan.

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POLITICAL ROADS GOVERNOR OLCOTT was fully justified in vetoing the road bill. The legislature was playing horse with the state highway system.

If it had been permitted to continue to do so there would soon be no organized highway plan. Of the bills there were only two which had the substance of a claim for consideration, but they were in bad company. The two were those which involved the road through Sherman county and the road in Malheur county.

The Sherman county road is important for the reason that it is more than a mere county road. It is a geographical and construction standpoint it is the natural route to the great plains of Central Oregon embraced in Crook and Lake counties.

In time to come it will be a main road of travel between the Columbia river highway and California. The Malheur county road, while confined within the boundaries of the county, has an interstate character, connecting with Idaho and Nevada, and its development would no doubt be influential in bringing into Oregon a large traffic.

The merit of these two roads will be recognized in due time. As to the other roads, which were to have been designated as state roads, they are purely local and to have attached them to the state system would have been the transference of a county obligation to the state.

It was asserted by the proponents of the measures that there was no intention to commit the state to an immediate construction of the roads. This was but a pretext, an opening wedge as it were.

At the next session of the legislature they would have been found asking for an appropriation and for a mandate compelling the highway commission to begin work immediately on a series of roads which begin nowhere and end nowhere.

The extravagance, waste and unsubstantial result of such a method of building is apparent in the experience of other states and in all lines of constructive effort.

If the highway commission is not interfered with and left to its own responsibility to the public, it will be found that it is a responsive body. If it is not it can be soon made so. When it has completed the improvement of the system already planned, a task which is going to tax to the limit the financial resources of the state, other roads will be added in accordance with their relative importance.

To take away from the highway commission the direction of road construction and to place it with the legislature would lead to disaster and chaos. By his veto Governor Olcott has saved a fundamental principle and barred the highways to legislative politics, and saved the state from a carnival of political road building.

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At the Soda Fountain WERE there days when ice cream sodas, popcorn balls and pink lemonade were unknown. What in the world was done then to revivify youth's and maturity's jaded appetites for sweets? One would judge in the base periods of this present time that the consuming of a soda was primarily the act of a hypnotized imagination.

Pick up any fountain card. Note the lurid recurrence of such terms as "Dusky Dream," "General Pershing's Victory," "Peach o' Reno," "Love's Awakening."

Yet when the order comes, instead of being the ensemble of romance with Cleopatra stage settings, it is merely 10 cents' worth of the old-fashioned ice cream, and carbonated water or dilute fruit juice, with 20 to 40 cents added to pay for the word wizardry.