Oregon Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON ....Publisher

[Be calm, be confident, be cheerful and do unto others as you would have them do unto you.]

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A man may buy even gold too dear. —Selected.

OH, PROMISE ME

IT IS astounding and discouraging how much "waste and extravagance" there seems to be in the conduct of public offices throughout the state, every two years just prior to election time.

Those handmaidens of the old order of things seem to be roaming rampant through all the halls and corridors of our public buildings about the time they begin to dust off the ballot boxes, but the coy things seem to vanish when those implements of our well ordered democracy have been piled safely up in the basement once more.

One aspiring candidate who has just thrown his hat in the ring for state office takes the public into his confidence to say:

> If elected I shall conduct the office on strictly business lines, cutting down expenses wherever possible and securing economy and efficiency.

Of the state board of control, to membership upon which he aspires, he also says:

> I shall exert my influence to conduct the state's affairs and institutions also upon a strictly business basis, eliminating waste and extravagance and spending the money raised through taxation to the very best advantage.

Once in a while when the spirits occasionally move them to burst forth in song we hear some of our grey haired boys disturb the ghosts of dead but happy days with the chorus of "There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight," "After the Ball," or some other almost forgotten favorite of vanished youth. We smile reminiscently, mark time with nodding head and introspective gaze, and again march on towards the silent river. But, just before the battle, voters, the political ether shivers and vibrates with the old, old refrain. They all sing it, whether they are running for president or dogcatcher, whether they could deliver or would have nothing to deliver were they to be elected.

The sad part about it all is that in spite of the biennial cantilena, governmental expenses continue to climb and taxes insist upon growing heavier and heavier. There must be something wrong somewhere. Either the vocalists forget their music and leave it home in the pleasurable excitement of receiving their commissions, they cannot deliver the goods, they find there are no goods to deliver, or they fail, neglect and refuse to make delivery.

The Journal does not believe there is a great deal of "waste and extravagance" in public office, in Oregon; there may be instances here and there but not as a general rule. It does believe that the state board of control has been conducting "the state's affairs and institutions upon a strictly business basis."

It believes that the governor, the secretary of state and the state treasurer, composing that board, have for years past been "eliminating waste and extravagance and spending the money raised through taxation to the very best advantage," and this in spite of the fact that The Journal has not been in entire accord at all times with all members of that board.

Mounting governmental costs, in state affairs particularly, and increasing taxation to support them have come more from the growth of the state and its business, and, especially, from the public demand for particular service, than from lax methods or official inefficiency. We have been demanding what we want of the government regardless of cost or whether we could just as well do without it.

Anyway, it ought to be a maxim that any candidate for office would be a foe to waste and extravagance and a friend of economy and efficiency in the public service. As it is the continual chorus gives everybody a perennial headache.

STICKING THE PITCH

THE state highway commission has, officially and by resolution, passed the long shuttled royalty buck up to the Warren Construction company by saying, in so many words, that it will not pay any royalty claimed by the company on bitulithic pavement laid on the state highways "until the commission is ordered to do so by the court." This ought to settle the controversy one way or the other, and have it over with.

In fact the highway commission has not paid any royalties, but has been keeping its hand on its pocketbook so far as that item of expenditure has been concerned. It has stated, to legislative committees and otherwise, that such payments have been held in abeyance pending some determination of the quarrel that has been so consistently waged about them. It has also contended, however, that the contracts for that particular pavement had always been let because the price bid, royalty estimates included, had been the lowest submitted. This contention, however, has not been sufficient to still the storm as the legislative records show.

Now the commission, following the suggestion of the attorney general, has refused to pay unless ordered to do so by the court. If the company holds no valid patent it becomes a general contractor and is not entitled to royalty more than any other contractor. If the court finally says the company has a valid patent the state will pay the royalties accrued, or to accrue, together with the costs of the litigation. Whichever way it goes the public will know that its interests are being protected, which ought to soothe the situation and let the highway work go on unhampered.

An employe of the Denver mint who carried off more than $100,000 worth of gold bullion concealed in his wooden leg surely believed in taking advantage of misfortune.

EIGHT HUNDRED PER CENT!

FOR selling shoes at a profit as large as 800 per cent, the F. G. Collins Shoe company at Providence, Rhode Island, has been punished by the courts.

Shoes that cost the company $2.62 were sold to one customer at $6.48, and to another at $7.98. In the latter instance, the sale price was more than three times the cost price. From one customer they took a profit of $1.50 more than from the other.

In another case, a pair of shoes was sold to one customer at $7.50 and the same salesman sold the same kind of shoes to another customer at $10.98. Each pair cost the company $2.26.

In one case the profit on a $2.26 pair of shoes was $5.24, and in the other $8.72. A profit of $8.72 on a pair of shoes for which the company paid only $2.26 was a thrifty transaction. The salesman who made the sale was given $1 commission for robbing the customer.

But even these cases of shameless profiteering were exceeded when one of the company's clerks induced a customer to take a pair of shoes on which the company made a profit of 800 per cent. The company's salesmen were instructed to first size up the customer and then take whatever could be obtained for a pair of shoes.

In order to stimulate the clerks to gouge customers to the fullest extent possible, the company paid in addition to regular salary, a commission on whatever added profit could be obtained above the regular sale price. A more infamous system of conducting a business could not be devised. The company deliberately set out to take advantage of the disturbed condition of the markets and to make all possible out of the psychology in which the public expects to pay high prices for goods and seems willing to pay almost any price asked.

The country suffers from the acts of such men. Such transactions by crooked dealers have the unfortunate effect of casting suspicion upon the thousands and thousands of men who do an honest business. It creates a lack of confidence that is harmful to all society. Nobody should be more concerned in destroying these profiteers and their wicked processes than the honest business men of the country.

Here was a firm that is more harmful to America than the average Red. The Red ordinarily is a weakling. He is discredited in advance by his absurd ideas.

But this big Providence shoe company wore the garb of respectability. Members of it doubtless had high social and business connections. Undoubtedly they boasted of their Americanism and their patriotism. Perhaps they clamored for all the Reds to be weighted down with stones and be cast into the sea.

Though the Reds are bad enough and dangerous enough, this Providence firm of profiteers is a more dangerous enemy to society. Its members should have gone to jail instead of being let off with fines.

Judging from the testimony and the results, when it came to racing for the senatorship in Michigan, Senator Newberry's dollars "just rambled right along" regardless of how hard Henry "stepped on 'er."

THE HINES PLAN

WALKER D. HINES, director general of railroads, ought to know what he is talking about when he discusses railroad problems. Not because he is the supreme head of railroad operations in this country, merely, should this be so, but because he was a trained railroad executive before he went to his government position.

Mr. Hines has a theory about the settlement of the railroad tangle. He believes that the railroads of the country should be grouped into a few big systems so that the small lines which stand to one side as weak children in the main family may be carried along in the general prosperity of the whole.

Such a plan would equalize tariff charges, he contends, while, at the same time, it would result in increased efficiency and economy of maintenance and operation.

This sounds a great deal like a theory of the late E. H. Harriman, but Mr. Hines would block objections which might arise because of that fact by providing for strict government regulation, and by giving the public, through the federal government, and railroad labor also, some voice in the direct management and control of the various systems.

Mr. Hines contends that the railroad problem must be dealt with by congress "in a bold and effective way," or the return to private management "will be wholly disappointing." He is undoubtedly suggesting boldness in his proposals.

But passing from the control of the properties to the control of their finances, Mr. Hines makes further somewhat startling suggestions. He would allow railroad investors a "reasonable return" upon their investment but would provide that excess earnings above that level of reasonableness would go to the government. This he believes would result in protection both to the carrier and to the public.

Carriers are entitled as a matter of moral right, he points out, to a rate sufficient to maintain them and at the same time to earn a reasonable rate of return upon the investment by private persons. To provide that any excess above this amount would inure to the benefit of the public by reversion to the federal treasury, Mr. Hines argues, would tend to keep rates down to the minimum. If this were done, the public would benefit directly; if excess earnings were made and transferred to the treasury the public would still be the gainer, indirectly.

Of course it might not be the wisest kind of advertising but the Coney Island managers might recoup some of their losses if they could give the people of Oregon a chance to take a look at the brand of New York climate they have on exhibition back there now.

ITS TEARS

THE Oregonian isn't satisfied with the way The Journal is conducting the straw vote on president. It was, perhaps, idiotic in The Journal not to have asked the Oregonian how to do it. Come to think of it, what a wonderful newspaper The Journal would be if its erring feet could always be steered into the paths of righteousness by the Oregonian!

The Oregonian intimates that The Journal's straw vote is full of designs and crookedness. Why is it that our neighbor thinks anything and everything a newspaper does is full of guile and craft? Why does it think that if a newspaper, at a sacrifice of precious space, opens its columns to the people to vote on presidential candidates, there must be a snare, a job or something rotten in the process? Does that thought in the Oregonian's mind mean that such is the Oregonian's way of doing it and that, therefore, it is The Journal's way?

Is it from its own habit and its own consciousness of how it does things that the Oregonian thinks The Journal's straw vote is crooked?

Not for publication and in the strictest confidence, The Journal will say that it has usually found that to do a thing the honest way is not to do it as the Oregonian would. And usually, our esteemed neighbor kicks about it, just as in the case of the straw vote.

The Oregonian weeps crocodile tears because The Journal did not place Mr. Bryan's name on the coupon. How the Oregonian does love Mr. Bryan! And how its broken heart does palpitate at the omission of Mr. Bryan's name!

Job had his troubles. But they were nothing compared to the bleeding wound that has been opened in the Oregonian's punctured bosom.

Cheer up, neighbor. All is not lost! You have a wide circulation and abundant space in your columns. Start a straw vote of your own, devoted exclusively to Mr. Bryan, and, in the happy consciousness that justice is not dead, you may be able to sleep nights.

Meanwhile, Journal readers who want to vote for the great Nebraskan, whom the Oregonian has abused like a dog a thousand times, are writing his name on The Journal's ballot, if they see fit, and their votes will be fully counted and reported.

All doubt about Postmaster Myers being out of office ought to be settled. Congressman McArthur has discovered it to be a fact.

WHO'S GOT THE BOTTLE?

MILKMEN are having a lot of trouble about their bottles. Not the black kind about which so many melodramas have staggered in the days gone by but the wide mouthed, paper capped, sterilized and sanitary adjuncts to the nursery that baby cries for.

The vendors of our juvenile diet undoubtedly have a kick coming with the carelessness of absent minded housewives, the thoughtlessness of drivers and the high cost of glass all combined, but there ought to be a way out of it. And if that way out would result in less cost of delivery, as the milkmen contend, it ought to result in cheaper milk, not in quality but in cost.

Why not issue a ukase to milady and tell her "no empty bottle ready, no full bottle left?" It might have a great deal of influence, for baby's voice proclaims the urge of his appetite, a sound more potent within the home than the curses of the milkman on the back porch.

Speaking of bottles is reminder that the simple life is getting to be a thing of the past. Time was when the plodding milkman lugged his shining can from door to door to ladle out the daily ration into waiting crock or pan. In those days the high cost of bottles cut no ice with the high cost of distribution. Mother scalded out the latest and brightest lard bucket, set it in its promised place and the milkman did the rest.

But now we have to have it done in glass. Glass costs money. More glass costs more money. The milkmen strive to please. It's up to mamma and to dad.

School Director George B. Thomas must be about to run for something.

PEANUTS FOR JUMBO

By Carl Smith, Washington Staff Correspondent of The Journal

Washington, Feb. 7.—The advisory committee on policies and platform of the Republican national committee, which Will H. Hays has announced with a fanfare, is regarded as a hopeful means of publicity for the committee and Mr. Hays. Practical politicians do not regard the move of any great importance, so far as any actual functioning of the advisory committee is concerned. They think it may assist, however, in giving different varieties of Republicans a chance to blow off steam, and that the making of the platform may offer fewer difficulties if a lot of vapor is let off in advance.

The make-up of the committee is cited to show the impracticability of its really doing anything. It has 171 members, more or less, chosen from all parts of the country in a grab-bag collection of standpatters, radicals and middle-roaders, who would certainly split into several factions if ever assembled in one room. The balancing device, which furnishes a key to the combination, is the sub-committee of the national committee, which will receive the advice of the advisers, classify it, and see that no raw ideas are presented. This committee is important enough to be particularly noted. It comprises Senator Boies Penrose of Pennsylvania, Senator Reed Smoot of Utah, Senator Frank B. Kellogg of Minnesota, former Senator W. Murray Crane of Massachusetts, H. C. Bursum of New Mexico, Virgil L. Highland of West Virginia, R. B. Howell of Nebraska, Charles B. Warren of Michigan, Herbert Parsons of New York, William H. Crocker of California, H. F. MacGregor of Texas, and John H. Morehead of North Carolina. A glance at this list shows the names of Penrose, Smoot and Crane as the outstanding figures. They are experienced in party management and platform making, and should have little difficulty in directing the activities along the paths they approve.

Of course the platform will actually come at last from a platform committee chosen at the national convention, one from each state, and it will be made in the usual way, with drafts prepared by the party managers. It is expected, however, that local pride will be flattered by the appointment by the national chairman of platform "advisers" from each state, who will form a channel for passing along the ideas that come to them from Republicans of local importance, who will be solemnly assured that their suggestions will be taken up by the committee. This device has in it the promotion of the idea that the voters are everywhere being consulted and that local leaders are being consulted. The skilled politicians see an advantage in that, but they do not believe that Mr. Hays or any other of the responsible leaders intends to allow any real innovation when they "get down to business" at Chicago. They expect to see the real platform appear overnight, according to the usual form, with no unusual frills.

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.]

Inflation and Deflation

Portland, Jan. 29.—To the Editor of The Journal—E. F. Baldwin, in The Journal of January 27, calls the reserve board to order for giving warning that bank credits must be contracted. This letter contains many of the arguments of the old time inconvertible money advocates of the last century.

This writer adds: "What is the mysterious thing that tells us that the money value of silver is 39 cents and the silver value is $1.05." By what method 39 cents is arrived at as a former value of the dollar I fail to comprehend. However the point is that silver as bullion is worth more than silver minted for money, whereas it was formerly worth less. In this country silver owes its value as a coin to its ability to exchange for gold at a rate set by law. Its present high price as bullion is due in part to increased demand and in part to increased cost of production as measured by an inflated currency. The increased demand is due to excessive imports from China and India. The inflation of the currency is due to the great mass of gold that came into the country in 1914-15, as a result of excessive exports to Europe, and to the injection of vast quantities of paper money to allow the government to finance its war loans, and, since the armistice, to help finance Europe. The gold has become a basis for bank credit and is as much a party to the inflation as the paper. Had production kept pace with expansion of credit and the increase of money no inflation need have resulted. But even a most cursory survey of production during the period immediately preceding the war and that of the past year will show that the physical volume of goods has hardly increased at all. To circulate the same quantity of goods bank credits have more than doubled and there is nearly twice as much money in circulation as there was just prior to the war, not to mention the great quantity of government securities used as money. Under these circumstances it is easy, I think, to account for the present high level of prices. Now, gold is prevented from circulating as money in all countries, hence it is apparently not affected by the general increase, but its real cost of production bears the same relation to the cost of production of other commodities as it did before the war period. Accordingly, as the government will only pay the same price (measured in this inflated currency) which was paid before the war for gold, is it to be wondered at that gold mines are forced to stop operation? The price of silver, being free to move, has increased along with other commodities. The extraordinary demand from Asia has carried it somewhat above its true price level. That the currency is inflated would readily be seen were it not for the fact that the currency of the other gold standard countries is still worse inflated.

Now bankers have learned from experience that an inflated currency is a most unsatisfactory medium with which to transact business; hence the desire for contraction. As far as one can judge from the statements of the reserve board officials no drastic action is considered. The period of deflation may last several years. It is, in my opinion, a pity that the full brunt of the deflation cannot be visited upon certain industries which glut the country with their nasty contrivances. Political expediency will, I suppose, necessitate that all be treated alike. A sudden contraction would cause disaster in America and would be the rankest sort of injustice to the people of Europe, who owe such great debts to America, as it would cause them to pay back about twice as much goods as they received.

TOM THOMPSON.

The World's Greatest Living Vons

Portland, Jan. 29.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Some time ago was started a series of comebacks, three in number. No. 1 was staged in Berlin, the principal actors being the Von Ludendorffs, the Von Hindenburgs, the Von Bethmann Hollwegs, the Von Bernstorffs, a regular autocratic love feast. The street parade was enlivened by unfurling the old imperial standards of Germany. No. 2 was being staged at the same time, in the United States senate, by the Von Lodges, the Von Borahs, the Von Johnsons, the Von Poindexters, the Von Hardings and the Von Cumminses, and at this writing is still holding the boards. No. 3 was staged later on in Salem, Or., in the extra session of the legislature, with the principal actors the Von Mosers, the Von Bankses, the Von Beans and the Von Days, with not quite such good results as the two preceding comebacks, thanks to the interposition of our own naughty governor, Ben W. Olcott. (Peace to his ashes if they burn him at the stake!), as to whom they have been racking their brains for some plan to get him out ever since he got in the governor's chair. Then when the supreme court set down on them and their little scheme they asked him to quietly resign—one of the rottenest schemes pulled off on the Oregon public since the notorious Bowerman assembly scandal, ever since which the same crowd has been, with the assistance of the Oregonian, trying hard to do away with the Australian ballot, initiative and referendum, restrictions on land stealing, and all or any laws in the interest of the people. They may die of heart disease or lung trouble, but their gall is absolutely all right. Now the autocracy of partyism—capitalism, if you please—is self evident in all of these comebacks, the difference being in degree only, not in principle.

C. J. McLAIN.

Advises Stockmen to Organize

Prineville, Jan. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal—For three years the beef producer has been hard hit. He has not been making expenses, while the consumer has paid exorbitant prices for beef on the block. There is evidently something wrong—too many men between the producer and the consumer. A logical remedy seems to lie in the organization of cooperative packing houses and retail shops, by use of which the producer would receive a fair price for his stock and at the same time the consumer would pay a relatively low price for his steak. At present the packers are financing a large number of stockmen through loans for six months, with interest paid in advance. The producer thus pays interest to the packers for several years and then if he ships to market and finds a large run of cattle in the yards he receives a price which, far from leaving him a margin for his time and labor, is not equal to his past expenses. If the stockraisers would organize and compel the buyers to come to the various communities on certain specified days of the week or month to bid on the stock the producer might avoid some of the poor markets as he would not be compelled to accept their bids, while when he ships to Portland, Seattle or some other large, distant market he cannot well ship back, as the railroad charges darken his chances of doing better if he ships back to the feed grounds and tries to strike a more favorable market.

J. F. HOUSTON.

Butte's Mural Wealth

From the New York Evening Post

Butte is probably the only city in the world that can boast of houses built of silver and manganese, almost as good as a gingerbread residence or an Arabian Nights palace walled with gems. Should the steel industry attain the magnitude which economists presage, these homes may tempt the assayer. The outcroppings of an unusually long and rich ledge of manganese and silver have been used for building stone in Butte for some time. The rock is beautifully colored and of a weight and hardness destined to withstand any weather, having been baked in earth's own bake-ovens. It shows evidences of the intense heat to which it was subjected before a cataclysm of nature threw it to the surface. This ledge was the original guide of the prospector to the spot which later proved to be the entrance to that vast treasure-house of silver called the Trevonia mine, tapping perhaps the longest lode ever worked. The Trevonia brought Butte back from a deserted village—after placer mining had become a thing of the past and gold seekers had drifted farther west—to the prosperous city that saw new millions drawn from the depths.

Olden Oregon

John Ledyard, Pioneer of All Pioneers of the Northwest

Probably the first man to be impressed with the possibilities of the fur trade in the Pacific Northwest was John Ledyard, a native of Connecticut, who accompanied Captain James Cook, the British explorer, on his third voyage. On his return to Europe Ledyard tried to get backing to engage in the trade. He was not successful, but in Paris, in 1786, he ran across Thomas Jefferson, afterwards president of the United States, who proposed that Ledyard go to Siberia, find his way across to the American shore and "fall down to the latitude of the great river" indicated on French maps, and cross the continent to the United States. Ledyard reached St. Petersburg, having walked around the Gulf of Bothnia, and went on to Moscow in midwinter, without shoes. He was unable to get a passport to cross Siberia, but went on, being arrested near Kamchatka and sent back to Poland, where he was released on condition he never return to Russian soil. Ledyard afterward died in Africa in exploring the sources of the Nile.

Curious Bits of Information For the Curious

Gleaned From Curious Places

It is possible for a baby born this year never again to have a birthday. For this is leap year, and a baby born on the right spot at the right time will almost certainly have no birthdays to keep. It is well known that to make the actual number of sunrises and sunsets experienced during a voyage around the world correspond with the calendar, an extra day must be either intercalated or "thrown overboard," according to the direction traveled. This adjustment is made at the moment of crossing the 180th meridian, which runs to the west of the midway point between Japan and California. And a baby born on the extra day in February of a leap year must be content to do without birthdays unless he or she should happen to be on a similar spot at the same time in some future leap year

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Another new ship service for Portland is worth front page position any time.

* * *

Have you straw-voted yet? Straws show which way the wind blows, so get in and express yourself.

* * *

The mint worker who is accused of theft by concealing coins in his wooden leg is an original sort of a "bootlegger," anyway.

* * *

Many people who never knew there was such a town as Montesano on the map are now reading it in the date lines every day.

* * *

Some men are so pessimistic that they begin before they have gained their profits to worry about the taxes they will have to pay on them.

* * *

Iowa Shriners, when they visit Portland, next June are to be billeted in a schoolhouse. Well, we've slept in worse places than a Portland school house at that.

* * *

The death of a motion picture performer, killed when he fell from an airplane while doing a "stunt," recalls that there are some real thrills in the reel game.

SIDELIGHTS

Editor Richter of the Amity Standard has announced that he has seen "a big drove of robins" already.

* * *

"Regular summer weather during the past week and it looks like it will continue," was the weather report in the latest issue of the Enterprise Reporter.

* * *

If no more snow falls in the Crater Lake region the tourist season there will be open by June 1, is the prediction of Alex Sparrow, superintendent of Crater Lake National park, reported by the Medford Mail Tribune. There is only 3½ feet of snow at the park headquarters and but a foot more at the rim of the lake.

* * *

Nature story in the Canyon City Eagle: "Lynn George and Denver Leedy, who are trapping beaver along the John Day river, below John Day, reported six beaver last Monday. The farmers along the river made complaint to the state game warden about damage done and permission was secured to trap them. On the Marion Rounds place the beaver cut down four large apple trees. They were destroying orchards all along the river. Mr. Hazeltine has pictures showing fruit trees cut down by beaver."

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL

Random Observations About Town

Peoria, Ill., is a pretty little place to be, and, according to some opinions, it is a better place not to be. In any event, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Neikirk of that city are perfectly willing to transfer the scene of their abode from Peoria to Oregon, and they are here to look over the terrain for a habitable looking spot. The Neikirks are so thoroughly interested in the state that they have been consulting with the Chamber of Commerce regarding a location for their future home. They are much impressed with the wonders of the Far West, but are uncertain in what part of the state to locate. Meanwhile they are guests at the Imperial.

* * *

Twenty-six business men of the Los ter. They expect to arrive here Sun- Angeles variety are en route to Portland from the Southern California cen- day morning, and will remain until Wednesday evening, according to the plans that have been announced for them. The visitors are coming on a "trade mission" that is taking them to all coast cities of importance. The party is in charge of R. L. McCourt.

* * *

J. S. Delaney, president of the Warrenton Investment company of Astoria, is a guest at the Multnomah. Delaney, glorying in the midwinter spring season of the past week, motored from Astoria on Thursday, and appeared here right side up in spite of the trip. The roads could be much worse, Delaney believes.

* * *

If the price of prunes stays up to about 15 cents a pound as they were last season, Polk county will have a whole flock of budding millionaires in no time at all. In fact, there are several such now, as A. C. Peterson of Dallas will testify. Peterson is manager of the California Packing corporation at Dallas, formerly the J. K. Armsby company, and through his hands pass the annual checks for a large part of the Polk county prune crop. In spite of the fact that Peterson's company is one of those California corporations that have been guilty of disguising Oregon fruit under a California brand, he will tell you that no better prunes are grown in the world than are produced upon the orchards of Polk county, Oregon.

* * *

Provo, Utah, is down near the state insane asylum, and it is also near Utah lake, which is, aside from the great Salt lake, the largest body of water in the Deseret state. It was from Provo that J. T. Williams came to Portland. Williams, a deputy sheriff at home, is here to reclaim for the authorities a pair of law violators, but until his charges are delivered to him he is enjoying a careful inspection of Portland. Williams is stopping at the Perkins.

* * *

C. H. and Henrietta Boxreed and Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Boxreed of Red Wing, Minn., as well as Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Curtis of Albert Lea, Minn., are tourists registered at the Multnomah hotel, where they have been told several times that Friday's little mist is quite unexpected after such delightful weather as they just missed. However, the visitors have some recollection of mid-winter snow back Minnesota way, and are unperturbed by the mist.

* * *

The name of Leo J. Falk's hotel at Boise, Idaho, sounds like the chorus of a Blackfoot Indian spring song or the howl of a Snake river catfish, but it is neither, Falk says. The Boise hotel man is a guest of Richard W. Childs' Hotel Portland, where many Boise people find shelter. He is part owner of the Owyhee hotel in the Idaho city.

* * *

W. Bolton is quite an important person at Antelope, Or., where he is a storekeeper. Bolton is a guest at the Cornelius hotel with Mrs. Bolton, and is there characterized as a "storekeeper and a good fellow." Antelope, incidentally, is in the southern part of Wasco county, 2617 feet above the broad Pacific, and far above some other sections of the United States in the little matters of cattle raising and wool-growing.

* * *

Helen A. Courtney is a powerfully small person selling powerfully large things. She has made a name for herself at selling automobile fire apparatus, and that she actually does sell it is said to be attested by her official record. Miss Courtney is at the Multnomah.

* * *

Edward Van Horn, who sleeps in that fine house atop one of the highest hills in the Hood River valley, is at the Portland, where his mother is also a guest. The Van Horn home is built upon a symmetrical knoll known as Van Horn hill, in the heart of the Hood River valley. Edward is carrying on the big Van Horne apple business while his father is in a Portland hospital.

* * *

Berry baskets and the like are coming into greater demand in Oregon each year, and the manufacture thereof is proving constantly a more lucrative business. The acreage in berries in Oregon has vastly expanded since the popularity of the loganberry has been assured, and since its uses are manifold. O. L. Zentner of Bandon, a guest at the Multnomah, is a manufacturer of berry baskets, veneer boxes and such by-products of the Oregon forests.

* * *

D. S. R. Walker, realty dealer and business man at Eugene, is a Portland visitor. Walker is making his headquarters at the Perkins.

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R. F. Fraser is one of the 400 of Ione, Morrow county. The census records will attest Fraser's social position in a highly satisfactory way, for Ione has just 400 inhabitants, such records show. Fraser, who is a guest at the Perkins, is a Morrow county rancher. But there is something famous about Ione besides its "400." A few years ago that same little town had a wide reputation because of the fact that it shipped more poultry into the general markets than any other town on the O-W. R. & N. railroad lines. And that's going some, Ione believes.

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P. E. Larson, a merchant at Allegany, a little town on the Millicoma river in Coos county, is visiting in Portland and transacting business on the side. Larson is at the Multnomah.

IMPRESSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE JOURNAL MAN

By Fred Lockley

[In an old school reader was a lesson, which many semi-elderly persons will remember, which began, "Peter Pindar was a great story teller." Mr. Lockley, as is well known, is in the same class. So is A. D. Cridge, whom Mr. Lockley quotes today for some good stories of once noted Oregon characters. Mr. Cridge also is thus made to contribute a story of Civil war days—how Lincoln then handled an element bearing a certain resemblance to the "Reds" of these days.]

Old timers in Oregon will remember Colonel J. W. Kelsay. His home was at Corvallis, but he was a frequent visitor in Portland, and while a justice of the state supreme court he made his home in Salem.

"Colonel Kelsay hailed from Kentucky, where he acquired his title of colonel as well as his knowledge of law," said A. D. Cridge to me a day or so ago, while we were discussing some of Oregon's well known officials and their idiosyncrasies. "He had served as district judge in the '60s, and was later elected to the Oregon supreme court. Colonel Kelsay's signature was illegible except to his friends, and he planted it with prominent earnestness on hotel registers, using a stub pen whenever possible. He once registered at the old Chemeketa hotel at Salem with his usual flourish, and Judge Graves of that city placed after it in brackets the words 'his mark.' When the colonel observed it he loudly demanded that the hotel clerk erase the disgraceful words. 'It is all right, sir, for a colonel to be illiterate, but it would never do for such a stain to remain upon the register of a hotel,' said the judge. 'Posterity, sir, must never be led astray and left to believe that a supreme court justice was unable to write his name.'"

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"Another well known and picturesque character of Oregon," said Mr. Cridge, "was B. F. Finn, who lived in Lane county, on the McKenzie river, in early days. He gloried in the honor of being the most voluminous prevaricator in the state. One day he was observed on a log by the roadside by a party of fishermen from Eugene, sobbing as if his heart would break. One of the party attempted to comfort him and asked 'Why these tears?' Finn sobbed out that one Jim Hickson had recently come from Missouri and settled near by who could outlie and outboast him, and as a consequence he had lost his prestige and his power in the community. 'Finn was right, too,' said one of Lane county's old residents. 'For once he told the truth.'"

* * *

Our talk drifted to presidential prospects and the name of Lincoln came up.

"During the Civil war there arose in Indiana, Ohio Illinois and perhaps some other states a secret organization advocating peace with the South and known as Knights of the Golden Circle," said Mr. Cridge. "They met in woods and drilled in out of the way places, with the object of forcibly restoring peace and compelling the federal government to recognize the Confederacy. Every meeting was guarded by triple lines of pickets. The councils of chiefs were carefully called by signs, and double guarded and protected. The propaganda of the Knights of the Golden Circle ran from petitions to the president to open negotiations for a peace with reunion with the Confederate states and actually arming men to secure peace by assisting the Confederates. President Lincoln could have made horrible examples of numbers of them. He could have arrested their leaders and done various things that lay within his power. Instead, he summoned a number of the leaders to a conference with him. At that conference he informed them of their actions, their proceedings in mass and in council, and advised them to go home and forget it. He assured them there was no such thing possible as a secret meeting or a secret society having treasonable objects. He told them some funny stories to illustrate his points and dismissed them, not, however, without stern warning of what might happen if the Knights of the Golden Circle did not cease their activities. Some mutterings and some subsequent meetings were heard of, but no matter how secret the meetings, Lincoln learned of them and sent messages warning those who thought to deceive the federal government. The organization soon melted away. Lincoln considered they were not so dangerous alive as dead. To have made martyrs of them would have done no good, in his estimation. Many of them later served in the Union army and many, still later, occupied positions of honor and trust in local, state and national affairs. They had been carried away by eloquence, hypnotized by phrases and the love of adventure, mixed with a desire for peace and in some instances a desire for office. Perhaps Confederate money stimulated the organization to some extent. Perhaps there was no Confederate money devoted to the 'cause.' But anyway, Lincoln was humanitarian, statesman, American enough to put a stop to the work without shooting a man, imprisoning a plotter disturbing or alarming the country, or permitting them to do a single thing that they had set out to do."

The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader.

OREGON NOTES

E. D. Cusick has been elected president of a new Republican club formed at Albany.

Smuggling liquor from Canada by airplane into Oregon is said to be the latest scheme to evade the law.

W. E. St. John, commissioner of Douglas county, has announced that he will not be a candidate for reelection.

The Klamath county wool growers' association has elected officers, including E. M. Hammond, president.

Fossil is having its share of influenza, but the cases are generally mild. It is practically impossible to get nurses.

Cougars are reported killing deer on the north fork of Smith river, in Southern Curry county.

Paul V. Maris finds a strong sentiment in the agricultural communities in favor of organization and cooperation.

James A. Parcel of Berkeley, Cal., a senior in pharmacy at the state university, has died of uremic poisoning.

Fifty-seven new influenza cases were reported in Portland Friday, making a grand total of 581. There have been eight deaths.

A Salvation Army advisory board has been created at Eugene to investigate and report on local conditions in which the organization can be of service.

Already more than 20 Hood River citizens have contributed $10 each to the county's quota of $2600 for the Near East relief fund.

Dr. H. L. Toney of McMinnville, deputy grand exalted ruler of the Elks, is making an annual tour of inspection of lodges in the state.

The cases against three alleged I. W. W. in Tillamook county have been continued until March, owing to the absence of their attorney, engaged in the Chehalis case.

After acquiring a fortune of $10,000 shining shoes at Eugene, Louis Polalis, a young Greek, has returned to his native land, after selling out to his brother.

The membership of the Salem council of Boy Scouts has increased 100 per cent during the last year. A budget of $5000 will be raised to meet expenditures for the current year.

Preliminary steps have been taken at Heppner for the organization of a Morrow county fair association, with a capital stock of $25,000. A tract of 22 acres near Heppner will be purchased.

The living cost for women students at the state university is from $5 to $10 a month less than that of men, according to a report just prepared. The monthly cost for women is from $40 to $45.

The best all round score on the indoor rifle range at the state university has been made by Ed McAllister, a freshman and son of Professor McAllister. His score was 48 out of 50 at 50 feet and 47 and 46 from 75 feet.

The Indian appropriation bill in congress carries the following for Oregon agencies: Klamath, $5570; Umatilla, $3000; Chemawa, $160,000; Siletz, $2500; Modoc irrigation project, Klamath county, $14,000.

Apple pumice yields a delicious confection, according to a discovery made at the Oregon Agricultural college. The pumice is boiled, strained and clarified, then left to cool and thicken. Small cubes may then be covered with chocolate or candied.

When influenza broke out in Camas valley, Douglas county, the conditions of the roads was such that doctors could not make the trip to the settlement. Mrs. Stella Campbell Speer, a resident of the valley, took charge, and is nursing 10 families, not having lost a case.

WASHINGTON

Of the 26 births at Centralia during January 14 were females.

A rare occurrence in the days of the automobile is the stealing of a horse at Vancouver from a livery stable.

Petitions are being circulated in Centralia for the improvement of West Second street, from Tower avenue to J street.

Approximately $1500 has been collected at Vancouver in the drive for the Jewish relief fund which has been going on a week.

Investigations in the alleged irregularities in the Pacific coast shipbuilding program have been resumed at Seattle before a federal grand jury.

Repair of the new water main of South Aberdeen has been completed and the service, which was interrupted, has been renewed.

An unfavorable report has been made by United States army engineers on the proposed ship canal from Puget Sound to Grays Harbor.

C. B. Hopkins, pioneer telephone manager of Washington and former United States marshal, is dead at the Mayo hospital, where he underwent an operation. He was 65 years old.

The Washington state public service commission has entered a protest against the proposed federal law giving the interstate commerce commission power to suspend intrastate rates.

Sara school district, in Clarke county, will celebrate Lincoln's birthday by dedicating the new school building built to replace the one destroyed by fire last year.

Four famous guns operated by the 146th field artillery, recruited mainly from Washington, Oregon and Idaho, have been presented to Walla Walla by the war department.

A contest of the will of J. D. Sherwood of Spokane, who was killed in a California automobile accident together with his wife, has been filed by a sister of the wife, who claims that the husband died first.

IDAHO

A total of 23 names have been drawn for the federal grand jury which convenes at Boise, February 16.

The Lewiston Commercial club has indorsed ex-Governor Hawley for appointment as secretary of the interior.

Dr. W. A. Fallon of the federal bureau of animal industry has been chosen meat inspector at Twin Falls. His salary will be $3500 per year.

Bad roads between Boise and Caldwell has prevented the scheduled game of basketball between Boise and the College of Idaho.

The Sanders Construction company of Rexburg has been given a contract for construction work in the south fork of the Snake, near Kruger.

Special meetings and oyster suppers planned by the Caldwell Equity for the month of February will be deferred on account of the weather and bad roads.

Executives of the Idaho Cooperative Beet Sugar company at Twin Falls announce that a second factory will be built in the Hansen-Kimberly district.

The executive committee of the American Legion for Idaho will select a successor to Commander E. C. Boom, who has been appointed prohibition director for Idaho.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

Down in Medders holler on the Arkansaw river 'fore the Civil war the folks elected a feller justice of the peace that looked solemn and spoke slow and had most of the outward signs of a jurist. Jedge Jefferson Jackson Washington Brown had taught school and he passed along purty well until he had a case of a rich feller named Louis Scroggs from up nigh Rock Springs, who come to town and shot out all the lights and busted all the glass out of ever' store and rest center in town. Scroggs owend 20 sections of land and had a wad in several banks, and any part of the state of Arkansaw he wanted he jist tuck. Jedge Brown turned him loose on the ground that the prosecutin' attorney didn't state in the indictment what brand of whiskey he got drunk on, or where he got it. This sort of thing didn't suit the influential citizens of Medders and they had to draw the jedge [illegible] his feet with a rope three times 'fore he resigned.