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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To know what you prefer, instead of humbly saying Amen to what the world tells you you ought to prefer, is to have kept your soul alive. Such a man may be generous; he may be honest in something more than the commercial sense; he may love his friends with an elective, penetrated sympathy, and not accept them as an adjuncт of the station to which he has been called.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

UP TO THE NINETY-NINE

AS SECRETARY TREGO of the National Association of Credit Men, said to a Chamber of Commerce audience, the Bolshevik who believes neither in God nor government is an almost unclassifiable creature. But he erred, probably through failure to measure his words, when he added, "Ten cents worth of rope and three cents worth of ammunition excel deportation as a means of eliminating the Bolshevik."

Deportation is an orderly process of law. So is imprisonment for cause. So is trial by jury. But the most law defying act of lawless radicalism is no more destructive to government than the violent destruction of the anarchists by those who boast that they are law-abiding.

For the individual or the mob to take the law into their own hands is an acknowledgment that the institutions of government which men have given their lives to uphold, have broken down. Mob rule is more fearful than the crimes of syndicalism.

Over in Kentucky the other day soldiers shot down half a dozen citizens, members of a mob, who were seeking to wrest a vile criminal from the hands of justice. The members of the mob were following unnecessary tradition. The criminal was tried and executed by the processes of law within five days after his arrest.

Law in America is equal to meeting the emergencies of Bolshevism if the 99 per cent of law abiding citizens uphold it. But it will fail if the law abiding preach and practice lawlessness against the lawless.

The fish and game commission is following one of the two effective means to prevent the extermination of trout by closing badly fished out streams. The other means is to keep the mountain torrents heavily restocked. But even the most systematic and effective restocking is scarcely proof against the "fish hog" who uses illegal tackle, illegally overfills his basket and retains the trout of illegal size. A warden every half mile could scarcely defeat the pernicious determination of such a person. The only remedy for such as he is to keep him off the streams entirely.

HEIR OF TYRE

NO CONVENTION of business men has ever held greater possibilities for America than the national foreign trade gathering which is to be held in San Francisco from May 12 to 15. No other meeting has ever been more largely or peculiarly related to Portland's port interests.

America is self nominated the heir of Tyre. America has built a great merchant marine. She has placed herself in the way of regaining the commercial dominance on the seas that she possessed 70 years ago.

America, emerged from the war with coffers bursting with gold, with an industrial production far in excess of domestic needs, and with the world hungry for the supplies she has in greatest amount—America is seeking foreign trade. America has not only the goods to deliver but has at last the delivery vehicles.

Portland is a potential world port of a re-empowered commercial America. Portland and the ports of the Columbia are looking to the Orient, to Alaska, to South America, to Australia and, through the Panama canal, to the Atlantic coast and Europe.

Oregon and the Oregon country are in happier position than almost any other section of the American continent, for their staple products are the commodities needed most and that move at highest returns.

The foreign trade convention will attract national and international figures in finance, commerce and the statesmanship of business. Its program reveals determination to get definitely at the concrete facts of foreign trade and the conditions under which a port may increase its foreign business. The advantage and the handicap of being so large a creditor nation as the United States has become, will be discussed apparently in every phase.

Times have changed. The conditions of business have changed. The significance of the change is undeniable. Trade routes are being rearranged at the behest of new and growing influences in commercial affairs.

Ports backed by territory such as ours are taking places of world importance. The very assemblage and interchange of a foreign trade convention of national scope so near Portland as San Francisco would justify our large attendance.

It is rarely that The Journal feels strong conviction as to the valuable product of any mere meeting, but this exceptional instance furnishes all necessary reason for filling fully the special trainload of delegates which Portland is preparing to send to the convention.

Two years ago city people grew gardens to help the government. Judging by prices and the fact that the canneries are contracting for the vegetables before they are planted it will be wise to grow a garden as protection against the vegeteers.

AFTER MIDNIGHT

THE names of the legislators who voted for the "midnight resolution" are asked for by A. M. Esson of St. Helens, in a letter on this page.

Most of the members are recorded in the House and Senate Journals as voting for the measure. But many of them later declared that they did not vote for it, that they did not know that such a resolution had been passed, and that they were entirely opposed to it.

Their statements are undoubtedly true. As usual the closing week of the session was tumult. Bills, bills, bills were piled up on the calendar. There was not the slightest chance for members to know much of anything about what was going on.

The closing day was the climax of this tumult. The session was continuous except for meals. As the shadows of evening thickened into darkness, the clocks were turned back. Midnight came and passed with the members still at work. Many were asleep in their chairs. Others were scurrying frantically through the lobbies looking after measures in which they were particularly interested.

The "midnight resolution" had already passed the senate. No protest had been raised there because it was innocent in appearance and its real character was not understood. But on its first appearance in the house, some member attacked it, and the men engineering it quietly laid it aside.

They were waiting for the closing hours and the tumult.

Three o'clock on Sunday morning, after the members had been in continuous session since 9 o'clock a. m. Saturday, was selected as the time to slip it through. The leaders of the senate machine walked quietly into the house at that hour and held whispered conversations with a few house members. To some members it was explained that the resolution had been amended to meet the objections that had formerly been raised against it.

There was the semblance of a roll call. Even the speaker of the house stated afterward that he was misled as to the measure. It went through, and none but the select inner circle of the legislative organization knew what had happened. Even the attorney general of the state, who was vitally concerned, did not know until told by Senator Moser on the streets of Portland weeks afterward that the "midnight resolution" had been passed.

The people of the state had for years been clamoring for forfeiture of the railroad grant lands. The 1907 legislature had memorialized congress to declare the lands forfeited. Chambers of commerce, city councils, granges, county courts and other bodies all over Oregon had demanded forfeiture.

For several years, the railroad had refused to sell the grant lands to anybody at any price. It had violated every term of the grant act. It had sold lands to speculators who were holding them for speculative purposes. The process was retarding settlement. It was holding back development.

Congress, in response to the demands of the people of Oregon, ordered suit for forfeiture brought, and at the time the "midnight resolution" was passed, that suit was pending. The resolution was a stealthy endeavor by the legislature to defeat the people and aid the railroad. This we know on no less an authority than the supreme court of the United States. Speaking of the resolution, it said: "The interest and hope expressed (in the resolution) seem a prayer against the government's contention."

And so it was. It was a prayer in favor of the railroad contention. It is because of such subterranean tricks in the closing hours of legislative sessions that Senator Pierce proposes a divided session of the legislature that will put an end forever to "midnight resolutions" in this state.

Incidentally, the only metropolitan newspaper in Oregon that fought the resolution and fought for the grant lands to be returned to the people under the Chamberlain act was The Journal. The lands are now being opened to settlement with preference rights given to returned soldiers and sailors.

AFTER EIGHTEEN YEARS

THERE was a time when Oregon was a hotbed of crooked politics. Fake forest reserves were created to enable crooks to steal highly valuable timber lands. One of these forest reserves was known as the Blue mountain reserve. Comparatively little of it was timber land, but politicians conspired with crooks and these prairie lands with scattering timber were made a so-called "forest reserve."

School lands in this so-called reserve had been previously bought up of the government and when the reserve was created holders of these lands exchanged them for valuable timber lands in other parts of the state. In acquiring title to the school lands bogus applications and bogus assignments were filled out in blank and signatures to them were secured in the back rooms of saloons, sometimes at $2.50, sometimes at $5 per signature. The men who signed them had never seen the lands, never intended to occupy them, never wanted them. They were simply the stool pigeons for men who wanted school land titles to be used in exchange for lands now extremely valuable for the timber on them. Some of the biggest fortunes in Oregon were built up by this wicked process.

It was crooked politics and crooked politicians in league with crooked men that carried out that scheme. In those times there was legislative election of senators. Every time a senator was to be elected the legislature was debauched. The candidates whose friends could control the organization of the legislature had a strong advantage. Money was used here and there in electing legislative candidates. The corrupting process began out among the voters. Vote buying and use of money was carried into every community.

When the legislators arrived at Salem, bedlam ensued. The establishment of a normal school was authorized in exchange for a legislator's vote in one senatorial election. Seven thousand dollars was paid for two votes in the election of a president of a senate. Henry McGinn has many times publicly stated how in one senatorial election the friends on one side went to Salem with $18,000 and those on the other side with $30,000.

One legislator went home from a session at which a senator was elected and deposited $7000 in currency in the bank. Another man offered $2000 for a legislator's vote, a scandal resulted and he fled the state. One legislator held aloft in the house a roll of $1800, which, he declared, had been paid him for his vote for a certain senatorial candidate.

As a result of this frequent debauchery, political morals were at a low ebb. The youth of the state was growing up amid such scenes, and there was little prospect of betterment. The use of money in politics was not looked upon with the same repugnance with which it is regarded now. For example, the leading newspaper of the time agreed to support a certain candidate for senator provided he would give it control of the state patronage. Even jouralism itself was rotten to the core.

A direct primary was offered as a partial cure, but the legislature voted it down. By that time the initiative and referendum had been put into operation, and under it the people passed a direct primary law. They did more: They attached to it Statement One, under which each legislative candidate pledged himself to vote in the legislature for that senatorial candidate who received the largest number of votes for senator at the preceding election. It was effort to abolish the corrupt convention system and the corrupt election of senators.

Even this reform was fought. The Oregonian, opposing Statement One, declared that "Republicans will put the knife to each and every legislative candidate subscribing to Statement One," and on another occasion proclaimed that into such candidates it would drive "the knife to the hilt."

For seven years the struggle raged over Statement One. Just before the end of the long conflict the Oregonian led a movement to restore the old convention system and kill Statement One under the name of the assembly. Politicians almost without exception, the old political bosses, the thimbleriggers and not a few honest people who believed in the old order were on one side, and masses of people who wanted government cleansed and the old rottenness overthrown were on the other.

Assemblyism was beaten, the leadership of bosses, political machines and ward heelers was repudiated, corruption in politics very largely eliminated, publicity of campaign expenditures established and bribery and boodle kicked out of Oregon politics.

Eighteen years ago today, The Journal came into being. Corruption in public affairs was then at its height. It was publicly stated about that time and without apparent regard for the terrible meaning of such a thing, that voters were taken to the polls for election of delegates to a Multnomah county convention "in gangs of ten" and that the ruling price for votes was $1.50 to $5.

From the moment of its birth The Journal took the side of those who wanted crooked politicians and crooked men driven out of control in this state. It fought the good fight for the direct primary and Statement One. It defended Statement One in the time when other newspapers and the politicians seemed on the verge of destroying it, and lived to see the plan adopted in Oregon lead finally to adoption of direct election of senators in the nation.

It resisted assemblyism, and was a helper if not a leader in the grand conflict that buried that heresy under an avalanche of ballots, never to be resurrected.

It has lived to see the things it struggled for adopted as the regular order and accepted as the approved and enduring status of the commonwealth; and on this, the paper's eighteenth birthday, it looks back on its course with a modest satisfaction and renewed purpose to go forward with all its strength for things that promise the betterment of this cleansed, substantial and always advancing state.

POSER PUT UP TO REPUBLICANS BY A PARTY ORGAN

"Why Will Their Leaders Give the Democrats the One Candidate Who Might Win for Them?" It Asks

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Senator Boies Penrose, whose return to health is welcome news to his multitude of friends, dropped just before his departure for Florida the following succinct statement as to the attitude of the Republican "stalwarts" toward the Hoover "boom":

"Herbert Hoover never could be considered by a Republican convention as a fitting candidate for the presidential nomination. Mr. Hoover is an adherent of the Wilson end of the Democratic party. Any good Republican can be nominated for president, but Mr. Hoover is neither a good nor a bad Republican. He is no Republican at all."

* * *

Why are the Republican staff officers driving Herbert Hoover into the Democratic party?

Why are they presenting a discredited Democracy with its one chance of winning the elections? If the Republican convention nominated Hoover on a platform he would harmonize with, the voting of the great body of the electors would become almost as much of a formality as the voting of the college of electors. The presidential contest would be a "walkover," no matter whom the Democrats named. There is no other presidential possibility within their reach.

But if the Republican managers indirectly nominate Herbert Hoover as the Democratic standard-bearer, they convert the coming campaign into a real fight. Fate offers them, indeed, the choice between "a fight or a frolic"; and they threaten to choose the fight.

* * *

Why?

What is the matter with Hoover? Why don't they like him? Does he lack in malleability at the hands of "the machine"? Has he too much popular strength to please the Old Guard, which prefers a president to draw his strength from them? Is he too big to be "bossed"?

County Agent Tells What His Office As Mentor Is to Accomplish

To Make Farming a More Profitable Pursuit and Life on the Farm More Pleasant

George W. Kable is making two blades grow where but one grew before, to say nothing of making, by the use of tested seed, all three blades produce more abundantly. He is county agricultural agent of Benton county.

"My job," said Mr. Kable, "is to produce better conditions on the farm, incidentally making it more profitable as well as a better place to live. Many a farmer fails to make intelligent use of borrowed money. I am preaching the gospel of increased farm credit so that a farmer can bring his farm into higher productivity by the use of fertilizers and labor saving machinery. You might describe my work as that of farm and community development. To make this improvement we have certain definite goals, such as the gradual elimination of the tenant farmer by making it possible for him to purchase the property upon which he is a tenant, and the elimination of the old system of cropping the land year after year to the same crop, for by crop rotation not only will the farmer secure greater financial returns, but he will be building up the soil, not impoverishing it.

* * *

"Another thing of prime importance to every community is the absolute abandonment of the old system of buying seed because it is cheap and of buying nursery stock from irresponsible agents. Seeds that have been tested and are known to do well under local conditions may cost a little more, but their yield will be so much greater that there is no argument for the use of unknown or untested seeds, particularly since it takes just as much land and just as much labor to grow poor potatoes or other vegetables as good ones. Another goal we are aiming at here in Benton is the production of more poultry of egg laying strains and the setting out of more small fruits. With the present active demand for red raspberries and loganberries the farmers can put in large acreages with assured profit. The care of farm machinery, the destruction of weeds and of rats, moles and gophers, the betterment of home conditions, the beautifying of the home acre and of school grounds, the introduction of more and better reading matter and the use of labor saving utensils about the home—all these and a score of other improvements are being agitated through a campaign of education.

* * *

"Another needed improvement is better cooperation among farmers, they clubbing together to purchase blooded males for their flocks and herds. The opportunity for improvement is boundless. Here, offhand, are a few chances on the average farm: Keeping an accurate farm record, to keep tab on the profitable crops or animals; planting more clover and root crops; planting corn; building silos; erecting modern and convenient farm buildings; more intelligent utilization of manure; building up farm pastures; proper pruning and spraying of all fruit trees; greater use of the farm garden; increasing production by fertilizers, irrigation, crop rotation and drainage; culling all livestock and poultry and selling to the butcher the star boarders; realization of the value of straw; realization of the value to the community and the nation of the boys and girls born and brought up on the farm. The greatest need of all is to make the farm so attractive that the farmer's boys and girls will not leave the farm to go to the city to become chauffeurs, manicures and movie fans. It is more important to preach the gospel of stay on the farm than that of back to the farm, for the boy or girl reared on a farm knows the game and can succeed and remain a self-respecting producer, not a leaner and a parasite."

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 Oregon Legislature

St. Helens, March 8.—To the Editor of The Journal—I note with amazement that at the 1915 session of our sapient legislature a resolution was passed directing our attorney general to proceed to Washington and oppose the government's contention in the matter of forfeiture of unearned land grants in Oregon.

Mr. Editor, you will confer a great favor on the Oregon electorate if you will publish, at least once a week until after the pending primary election, the list of names voting for that resolution. If there be an honest man in Oregon (outside said legislature) who favors the letter or spirit of that resolution, invite him kindly to come forward and be heard.

Now we see why that "august body" never appropriates money, or directs the attorney general, as to the state's just claim for stolen lands in Southeastern Oregon. There is a reason, and that reason would make interesting reading. The sitting of our legislature is a menace, its adjournment a relief. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. Did not Oregon, as a young state, construct the locks at Oregon City? Did not our legislature thereafter sell the same to a grasping, blood-sucking corporation that bled all Western Oregon for 50 years? Is it not true that through political jobs the agreed purchase price was never paid to the state, that the matter was hushed up until such time as the state could not and did not collect even the interest supposed to have been paid for said locks; that the general government thereafter did pay to the successors in interest of the aforesaid corporation the sum of $350,000? This is a sample of Oregon legislative "statesmanship."

Space does not permit doing justice to this subject. Oregon has done well in clipping the wings of its legislature, and a way will be found to yet further circumscribe its nefarious activity.

Publish the list of these latter day conspirators. A. M. ESSON.

That Court House Annex

Portland, March 5.—To the Editor of The Journal—Anent the proposed annex to the courthouse to furnish more space for the collection of taxes and to provide room for the army of patriots supposedly necessary to perform the operation:

By all manner of means let us not fail in this, but while at it increase the space sufficiently so that it will at least serve for five years to come, as it will surely be needed, as at the ratio of advance in taxes they will be double what they are now within five years, and I for one can see no reason why every want and convenience of this self-sacrificing army of patriots should not be supplied. The taxpayer pays the bills, and the spirit of the times seems to warrant extravagance, and why not the taxeater have his every wish gratified while this spirit is rife? The taxpayers will wake up some day and put a stop to extravagance and waste, so let us get all we can while the getting is good.

TAXEATER.

From a Staunch Wilson Supporter

Placer, March 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—Wilson is showing his antagonists a thing or two in appointments. I approve his method. Should he have anyone in his cabinet opposed to his principles? A house of any kind divided, as anyone knows, cannot stand. What hurts the politicians is that Wilson represents the great majority of the people and would have laws enacted to benefit the people if he were not prevented by this same element that hates and is opposing him. Many people condemn Wilson who should not, through being misled. Wilson has worked harder than any other president to accomplish things to benefit the people.

President Wilson is representing the people, against a congress antagonistic to him. Should he shoulder all the blame? Shall we lay all the blame on him? How can people be so misled?

N. H. BLALOCK.

Denounces Gompers' "Non-Politics"

Portland, March 1.—To the Editor of The Journal—In reading Gompers' tirade against labor entering the political field with a new party I am impelled to suggest that it is time that the rank and file of the American Federation of Labor got wise to his reactionary bunk. I have no hesitancy in saying that such leaders as Gompers have been labor's greatest enemies. His slogan has always been, "Keep out of politics," which has deprived labor of the principal weapon whereby it is possible for the proletariat to peaceably achieve industrial freedom. Craft unionism can never emancipate the industrial slave. The principle it inculcates is the same in its narrow selfishness as that embodied in the class with which it grapples. Craft organization is not broad enough to emancipate the worker. Any good that has resulted from it has only been a little better wage and hours for the "craft," and that betterment has only increased the load of the already overburdened workers in other lines. No better illustration of this fact is needed than in the concession granted the railroad workers during the war. The expense entailed was shifted on to the farmer, the miner, the lumberjack and the fisherman—the only raw wealth producers—the workers that supply the freight. The railroaders are only in on the distributing end of the game.

Force of economic pressure will eventually teach the worker that nothing short of a proper economic education, 100 per cent organization of all workers along industrial lines and solidified political action can ever, as the political state is now constituted, bring peacably, economic and industrial emancipation, all bunk to the contrary notwithstanding.

D. L. McLEOD.

The Regular Soldier's Clothing

Fort Stevens, Feb. 29.—To the Editor of The Journal—I would like to express my opinion on the treatment the enlisted men in the regular army are getting. I know a man of 20 years' faithful service, two years in France as a commissioned officer in the A. E. F. Last week that man was issued clothing by the quartermaster, and left one pair of old shoes, half soled, belonging to some man lucky enough to leave the army, three half worn undershirts and several other half worn garments. Is it possible the United States is so poor that the men that serve it must wear half worn clothes that have been worn by some other man, or buy their clothes out of their pay? This pay is about what a 15-year-old boy earns as an errand boy. If such is the case, I am in favor of taking up a collection for the regular soldier and letting some of the other countries take care of the poor Armenians. Charity begins at home. AN AMERICAN.

A Word From a Landlord

Oswego, March 4.—To the Editor of The Journal—I see by the papers of February 28 that one of the Own Your Own Home contingent is finding out that it is cheaper to rent than to own your own home. He can see now why the landlord has got to raise rents once in a while. The people will vote for all these things like pensioning all the city employes, and then if the landlord raises the rent so he can pay his share, he (the landlord) is a profiteer. Why not pensions for all?

A LANDLORD.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

More like real Oregon weather, isn't it?

* * *

Has your old home town census figure been published yet?

* * *

Still time to file your income tax statement and save a lot of trouble.

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Trouble about the proposed 2-cent piece is that the profiteers would soon have people using it as a penny.

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If they are to be judged by their activities, the bond thieves must expect bonds to get back to par some day.

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It appears that the profits of the leather trust last year amounted to about 120 per cent. We'd like to hear how much the leather trust charges off for depreciation when its income tax return is filed.

* * *

"The world's growin' better," said Uncle Sim Hankins. "I seen an advertisement in our farm paper that said if I would send a dollar I could find out what was good for cold feet. I sent it and got an answer this mornin'. It didn't tell me to warm 'em."

SIDELIGHTS

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"The Community moving picture enterprise," says the Hood River News' Parkdale correspondent, "is putting on its finishing touches. This week a committee was at Portland to select and purchase a complete projecting outfit. Judging from the response people are making on behalf of this enterprise, the venture is scheduled for a full success."

* * *

A rare event in these modern times is chronicled in the Albany Democrat: "One of the Democrat editors has been running on high gear today as he had the opportunity of participating to the fullest degree yesterday in helping to eat one of the fine Barred Rock chickens from the Pacific hatchery furnished by O. E. Newport, the congenial proprietor."

* * *

You can't keep a good little country paper down. Here is the Banks Herald with: "The paper is late this week because the east wind blew in through the holes where the windows were knocked out. Paper was blown down and damaged, our printer got disgusted trying to keep warm, and other pleasures too numerous to mention. But here we are, still kicking and boosting."

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL

Random Observations About Town

W. C. Wilson, former lieutenant in the American army overseas, has just returned home from a business trip to France, where he studied import and export conditions. Aside from the interesting facts in that connection, Wilson brings back a report of the demobilization problems that face the French republic as a result of the war. "The problems are vastly greater than ours," he said, "because so many French soldiers were mere youths when they entered the war, being drawn out of their school work. Now, after five years of warfare, they are men, uneducated and unskilled." Wilson visited the battlefields of Verdun and declared the vista there to be as desolate as the day the war ended.

* * *

More than 500 reservations for space piled up before the management of the Multnomah hotel soon after the formal opening of the new Arcadian grill was announced. More are coming. The result is that it has been found impossible to confine the formal opening festivities to one night, and they will be spread over three nights, March 17, 19 and 20. The program of the opening will be elaborate each occasion. "We feel we are justified in praising the new grill," Eric V. Hauser says, "and the interest already shown in the formal opening indicates that it will be a welcome addition in the city." The grill has been closed for some months while the old Arcadian gardens have been transformed until patrons would not recognize their surroundings in any feature.

* * *

A friend stopped Gus Bostrom of Oak Point, Wash., on Tuesday to ask about the 30-foot sturgeon Bostrom pulled from the Columbia off Oak Point, where he is a commercial fisherman. "Well, it was hardly that big," the fisherman declared. Confidentially, however, the friend avers, he catches the tall ones, small ones, old and young and just naturally defies the world at hauling in sturgeon. Mr. and Mrs. Bostrom are in the city enjoying a renewal of their honeymoon memories of recent date.

* * *

Remember that pelting rainstorm of Tuesday noon? In the midst of it, safely ensconced in the Imperial hotel lobby, were Senator A. M. LaFollett of Salem, Charles B. Moores of Portland and A. W. Orton, senator from Multnomah county, with their heads together and their conversation rushing onward. Orton has lots to talk about. He returned a few days ago from Omaha, where the influenza caught up with him while he was on his way to Detroit to establish a new business connection, necessitating the severance of his business and political relations here. Returned to Portland, Orton found Mrs. Orton ill with flu. Not fully recovered himself, Orton thereupon made a firm decision to stay with the old ship and, according to his statement Monday, he will remain at home hereafter.

* * *

Stevenson Taylor, president of the American Bureau of Shipping; C. A. McAllister, vice president, together with Mrs. McAllister and their daughter, all with headquarters at New York, are registered at the Multnomah hotel. With the party is E. G. Tuck, assistant to the chief surveyor, with headquarters at Seattle. The group came to Portland over a route that permitted them to visit and inspect the ports along the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific.

* * *

Dr. W. T. Phy of Hot Lake, Union county, is a guest at the Imperial. Hot Lake, where natural hot springs gurgle their healthful fluids into a popular health resort, is prospering as usual under Dr. Phy's direction, it is said.

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Mrs. John Gavin and Mrs. D. B. Lewis of The Dalles are Portland visitors, stopping at the Seward hotel. At the same hotel are Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Walther of The Dalles.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Foote, who are stopping at the Multnomah hotel in connection with the tour of the Pacific coast, saw on Monday some sights that in all their travels cannot be duplicated for they traveled over the Columbia river highway. The visitors are from Grand Rapids, Mich., where Foote is in the lumber business on a big scale.

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After being blockaded several times in their Eastern travels by snow and ice, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Brown have returned to their apartments at the Multnomah hotel, delighted, in spite of the hardships of the journey, with the midwinter trip.

* * *

Charles K. Spaulding, lumber manufacturer from Salem, is in Portland on a business trip, stopping at the Imperial hotel.

* * *

J. H. McCormack, secretary, and Mrs. James McCormack, wife of the president of McCormack Brothers' department store at Tacoma, are at the Multnomah hotel.

* * *

J. H. Minerough, president of the Stock Growers & Farmers National bank of Wallowa, is a guest at the Multnomah. There, also, is E. W. Hall of Wallowa.

IMPRESSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE JOURNAL MAN

By Fred Lockley

[A high and well deserved tribute to that fine old senator for whom the fine old county of Benton, state of Oregon, is named, is Mr. Lockler's offering today. It is gratifying to read the excellent testimonial of Senator Benton uttered at a time when, to the Oregon country, a friend in need was a friend indeed.]

Benton county is named for United States Senator Thomas H. Benton. No man in congress or out of it was a better friend to Oregon, and Benton county honored itself in honoring Senator Benton. In the fall of 1844, in a speech at St. Louis, Senator Benton, speaking of the Oregon country, said:

"I say the man is alive, full grown, and is listening to what I say—without believing it, perhaps—who will yet see Asiatic commerce traversing the North Pacific ocean; entering the Oregon river; climbing the western slope of the Rocky mountains; issuing from its gorges, and spreading its fertilizing streams over our wide extended Union. The steamboat and the steam car have not exhausted all their wonders. They have not yet found their amplest and most appropriate theatres—the tranquil surface of the North Pacific ocean, and the vast inclined plains which spread east and west from the base of the Rocky mountains. The magic boat and the flying car are not yet seen upon this ocean and this plain, but they will be seen there. St. Louis is yet to find herself as near to Canton as she now is to London, with a better and safer route, by land and sea, to China and Japan, than she now has to France and Great Britain."

* * *

It was this prophetic utterance and others like it, printed in the papers of St. Louis and elsewhere, that helped swell the tide of immigration to Oregon the next spring, to over 3000 souls. Among the immigrants who had faith in the prophecy of Senator Benton was J. C. Avery, the man who was to found the county seat of Benton county. Thomas Benton was in congress 30 years, and if you will look up the dull files of the Congressional Record you will find that he, with Senator Linn, constantly spoke in the interest of Oregon when many other senators were sneering at it as a desolate waste of no value.

* * *

Senator Benton was born March 14, 1782, and died March 14, 1858. He was born in North Carolina. His father died when Thomas, eldest son, was 8 years old. The family moved to Tennessee when Thomas Benton was a young man, occupying a 3000-acre tract left them by Colonel Jesse Benton. A year or so before the war of 1812 Benton met Andrew Jackson, who at that time was judge of the supreme court of Tennessee, and through his aid he prepared himself for the bar, and was admitted at the age of 29. The year following his admission to the bar he served as aide de camp to General Jackson in the war with England. He was appointed a lieutenant colonel in the regular army, but resigned at the close of the war of 1812. Three years later he founded the Missouri Enquirer at St. Louis and divided his time between writing editorials and fighting duels with people he had offended by criticism of their official acts, in his paper.

* * *

Benton worked untiringly for the admission of Missouri as a state, and when it was admitted to the union he became its first senator, which place he held 30 years. He was fearless, aggressive and a champion of 100 per cent Americanism. He fought machine politics tooth and nail and worked unceasingly for the direct election of the president by popular vote. Although Henry Clay was his cousin, he fought him aggressively over the nullification act. He also fought John C. Calhoun with all his power on the Wilmot proviso. He believed that slavery should be excluded from all territory subsequently acquired and he fought the doctrine of states' rights. So it is easy to see that he made many and powerful enemies. He was a man of such intense convictions that he worked against his own son-in-law, John C. Fremont, who was running for president against Buchanan, because he was afraid the election of Fremont would lead to sectionalism instead of nationalism. In an age when almost all public men smoked, drank and gambled, he was a total abstainer from all three of those habits, because he had given his word to his mother. Some day the citizens of Corvallis will erect a bronze statue of the friend of Oregon on the campus of the Oregon Agricultural college.

Olden Oregon

McKenzie Pass Route Was First Traveled in 1853.

The McKenzie Pass road was opened in 1853 by Felix Scott of Lane county in order to drive cattle to the mines of Eastern Oregon. Over the road Scott drove 700 head of cattle and eight heavy wagons. Being improved subsequently, the road became a good pass between the Willamette valley and Central Oregon. In 1857 Scott went East to bring out some blooded stock. Returning the following year by the Southern route, he was murdered by Indians near Goose lake, together with two other men.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

The Lord made lots of us so we can't never see the other feller's troubles. I uster know old Cap. Henry in Texas, who died a-cussin' the Yanks and the English fer ruinin' him, confiscatin' his hard-earned slave ship and keepin' him in jail fer several year. Cap was chased by the British and had to chuck overboard a couple of hundred slaves one night to keep clear of them chasers. The next day they searched the ship and tuck it 'cause it smelt like a slaver. Cap got off 'cause President Buchanan 'lowed you couldn't hang a man fer a smell. Cap never could be made to see that them there slaves chucked overboard to the sharks had any troubles 'longside of his'n.

Curious Bits of Information For the Curious

Gleaned From Curious Places

The Malay is a sportsman, and any kind of a fight draws a great crowd. One of the queerest sports is fish fighting. The combatants are two very small fish about one and a half inches long. Before the fight commences the fish are kept in separate bottles and exhibited by their respective owners to the onlookers, who bet on their favorite. Frequently the fish are heroes of many battles. When the bets are made, the fish are placed together in the same bottle and the battle commences. The little fish fight and dart at one another until one succumbs and sinks to the bottom of the bottle.

The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader

OREGON NOTES

Several rich gold strikes in the vicinity of Canyon City are reported.

The state water board has finished adjudication of water rights on the Malheur river and tributaries.

A convention of cattle feeders will be held at La Grande March 25, under the auspices of the Oregon Agricultural college.

The adjudication of water rights on the Malheur river and tributaries covers the irrigation of 46,946 acres of land and a number of power sites.

A fire survey of Pendleton is being made by state fire marshals. These surveys have been in progress in different parts of the state for some time.

After 30 years continuous service in the maintenance of way department of the Southern Pacific M. F. Ryan of Riddle has been retired on a pension.

Penitentiary officials have sent out circulars containing photographs and descriptions of A. B. Foster, who escaped from the state tuberculosis hospital.

An immense herring run in Yaquina bay is yielding large catches to fishermen. The cold storage plant is running to its full capacity in caring for the fish.

George Densley, a prominent Eastern Oregon stockman, has acquired the lease of the Orson Moody estate consisting of 2300 acres of land in the Lookout mountain section.

An effort will be made this season, says I. P. Whitney, agriculturist of Lane county, to unite all poultry producers in the county with the Oregon Poultry Producers' association.

The state school superintendent has been informed that 10 school teachers are needed immediately in Curry county and that there are four vacancies in the rural districts of Wallowa county.

Federal authority to construct a bridge across the big Nestucca river in Tillamook county only awaits the signature of President Wilson, the bill having been passed by both houses of congress.

Will T. Kirk of the state industrial accident commission reports that out of 14 crippled workmen who applied to the commission for assignment under the rehabilitation act to vocational schools 12 have been assigned.

The senate agricultural committee upon motion of Senator McNary has increased the appropriation under the Weeks bill from $75,000 to $125,000 for the protection of lands at the headwaters of navigable streams.

Charles Blum of Tillamook county has been held to answer the charge of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the death of Walter Smith on the Miami river. Both men were intoxicated, it is alleged, with hard cider.

WASHINGTON

Ad men of Seattle are organizing an automobile caravan for the exploitation of Northwest products between Seattle and Stockton next May.

In the high school debate, Chehalis was defeated by the Raymond team, which is now the champion of Southwest Washington high schools.

W. T. Merry has purchased from the Weyerhaeuser company 340 acres of logged-off land lying less than a mile from the town of Oakville.

At the annual spring sale last week of the Northwestern Shorthorn Breeders' association at Spokane, 71 pure bred animals were sold for $14,575.

One hundred pounds of opium have been seized while in transit to Hoquiam, indicating quite a volume of illegal traffic in the Grays Harbor region.

Ellis Ragan, a leading sheepman of Yakima valley, is lambing 7500 ewes on the reservation. So far the increase of his flock has been 115 per cent.

Elections will be held to fill two vacancies in the senate and four in the house before the meeting of the special session of the Washington legislature.

The old Star brewery building at Vancouver has been sold to the Interstate Storage & Ice company for $100,000 and $10,000 will be spent in remodeling it.

Lee Alsbury, who operates a large farm near Grandview, is under arrest charged with murdering an illegitimate child. The mother of the child has confessed.

Legislation designed to establish a state agency for dealing with labor disputes will be considered by the legislature which meets in special session on March 22.

Steps will be taken to eliminate Washington from the operation of the coal distribution regulations put into effect by the federal government, as they do not apply to local conditions.

The North Pacific union conference of Adventists in session at Walla Walla decided to raise $350,000 to improve their schools in this conference. Of this sum $150,000 is to be spent on the Walla Walla college at College Place.

IDAHO

William F. Sommercamp, a pioneer merchant of Silver City and Weiser, is dead of pneumonia after an illness of 10 days.

Plans are announced at Twin Falls for the organization of the Idaho, Nevada & Tidewater Railroad company for the building of a railroad from Twin Falls to Wells, Nev.

A train of 14 cars left Twin Falls last week carrying farmers and their implements and livestock to points in Alberta, Canada, for settlement on Canadian Pacific lands.

Idaho Democrats have selected Lewiston as the place to hold the state delegate convention on June 15, and Idaho Falls was given the nomination convention to be held August 24.

In deciding a North Idaho tax case Judge Deitrich found that farm, business and city property in the state is assessed on a basis of only 50 per cent of its value, while utility corporations are assessed at full cash value, or at values in excess of 50 per cent.

The Journal Was Foremost in Erecting Commission Form for Portland

Portland's city attorney told an Astoria audience a few days ago that commission government in Portland has brought our municipal administration into the light. He said there is a better balancing of authority and responsibility than during the old councilmanic days. He added that there is greater simplicity, prompter action and more dutiful accounting than during the former regime.

He spoke truly. Commission government has benefited Portland. It has made the acts of city officials known. It has provided a larger opportunity for economy. It has gone far to shut the petty political agents of selfish interests out of the city hall.