Oregon Daily 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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I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day.—Abraham Lincoln.

A MOTHERS' PLANK

THE world has too long driven the nails of war through the bleeding hands and feet of crucified mankind.

In all time, but one plan has ever been proposed to end war, and thereby stop the crucifixion of young men. Except one, all the great nations have accepted that plan. That one is America, the nation that originated the plan. In rejecting it, America is in the company of "revolutionary Mexico, Bolshevist Russia and unspeakable Turkey."

There is a sound League of Nations plank in the San Francisco platform. It is printed on this page. It is broad enough to satisfy every citizen who wants a league. It declares for any kind of interpretive reservation that will not nullify the league.

Could anybody who wants a league ask more? If reservations are to nullify the league then why a league? If 29 other great powers of the earth accepted the league as it stands without dotting an "i" or crossing a "t," cannot America afford to accept the league which she originated with interpretive reservations that will not nullify it?

A great historian said in yesterday's Journal that there will be another great war within five years. The future is to be read in the history of the past. Population is crowding Europe. One reason why Germany went to war was to make room for the people who were overcrowding her territory. There will, more and more, come to pass that congestion of population which brews wars and battles and the shedding of blood.

We thought we were isolated enough to keep out of European wars. We learned better. It cost us $26,000,000,000 and more than 100,000 dead and innumerable cripples to find out differently. We tried to keep out, but couldn't. We voted in a great election to keep out, but we got in. We were drawn into the vortex of the struggle is irresistibly as a dry leaf in the current is drawn over Niagara. And if we elect to keep company with Mexico, Russia and Turkey and withhold that moral influence without which the league will go to pieces, we are headed for participation in the next great war just as certainly as that a board on the bosom of a swift river is carried down stream. We shall be helpless to keep out and we shall be drawn into it just as we were drawn into the last great war.

It is fortunate that the San Francisco platform offers a reasonable declaration for the League of Nations. Through it, mothers whose sons were in the last war can protest against another war. Through it those mothers whose sons perished in the last conflict can vote to save their neighbors' boys. Even if the historian is wrong and the next war does not come within five years, it will come, and when it does come the die will be cast. There will be no turning back. The young men will again be drafted. We shall see the camps and cantonments again, and again read the casualty lists. The whole sorrowful tragedy will be enacted over again.

There is but one league platform. It can be read on this page. The Chicago platform is a no-league platform. It indorses the action of the senators in rejecting the league. It was approved by Johnson and Borah, and Borah said he would not accept the league even if it were proposed and urged by Jesus Christ.

All but a dozen or two people will be glad the Vista House litigation was so conclusively decided by Judge Tucker as to preclude reopening the issue. The Vista House may be an exotic excrescence on the summit of the most splendid among the magnificent outlooks afforded by the Columbia River highway. It may have cost two or three times more than it would have cost had the architecture and the materials of construction been consistent with the nature of the location. But Vista House is built. It is in use. No one contests its usefulness. The paving and embankments, which were part of its bill of expense, are most worthily devised.

JETTISONED

IT WOULD be difficult to explain the course of the district attorney's office in the Uhlman traffic case. The extraordinary motion of the deputy attorney to dismiss the action against Uhlman merely because he agreed to pay the damages caused by his unusual driving is hard to understand.

Witnesses were in court prepared to testify that Uhlman was driving at approximately 30 miles an hour when he crashed into another machine, wrecking it and sending the driver to the hospital. They were prepared to testify that Uhlman took right of way when it was not his. Uhlman himself admits in his report to the police that he did not wait to render assistance to the injured man, but abandoned his machine and went on to Tacoma to "see the races."

The case was brought into court by the traffic bureau after repeated attempts had been made through secret pull to have it dropped. The officer who investigated the case says at least two dozen people asked him to "help Uhlman out."

In spite of all the evidence, the deputy district attorney offered a motion that the case be dismissed inasmuch as Uhlman agreed to pay all damages.

In every traffic case there are three parties interested. One is the defendant. Another is the driver whose car was wrecked. The third is the public.

The defendant is represented by his attorney. Usually the interests of the second driver are in the hands of his own attorney. And the public expects to be represented by either the city or district attorney's office.

In the Uhlman case the defendant was well taken care of. The driver whose car was wrecked received his damages. But what did the public, represented by the district attorney, get? Uhlman broke three laws, witnesses were ready to testify, laws that were enacted to protect innocent men, women and children from reckless drivers, but Uhlman was not made to answer to them. The representatives of the public asked that the case be dismissed.

The Journal does not believe that the influence that failed to sway the police had anything to do with the attitude of the district attorney's office. But it does believe the public interests were jettisoned.

A dispatch from the east says the cost of all engraving, including birth, marriage and death announcements, is to be increased. We have now come to the stage where high costs get us from birth to the grave. And they don't miss many places in between.

SMALLER LINERS

FUTURE trans-Atlantic liners are not to be Titanics. Orders recently placed by the White Star line for ships for the cross-Atlantic runs have specified that they be of 30,000 tons as against the luxurious 46,000 tons and above previously constructed. The large, magnificent liners have not paid, is the reason given for their abandonment.

The Olympic, recently equipped with oil burning engines, is the last of the luxury ships. Every first class stateroom in the big White Star liner has a cot bed and is fitted and decorated in excellent taste, the more expensive suites are extravagantly furnished, and the various cafes, salons, drawing and reading rooms are the product of years of study in the creation of spacious luxury. The ship is one huge floating spectacle of artistic magnificence. An expenditure of $25,000,000 is the estimated cost if the Olympic were to be reproduced.

Does the decision to build smaller and less luxurious vessels indicate a tendency on the part of travelers to demand less luxury on their sea trips?

A Connecticut woman may have to submit to amputation of a leg because of blood poisoning resulting from carrying large sums of money in her stocking. Word from Connecticut indicates that the women's "national bank" may close its doors.

FARMS IN THE WEST

WHAT'S the matter with the West?

The world is hungry. The peoples of the earth are getting hungrier. But Western agriculture is failing to expand.

A very interesting graphic chart, prepared by J. C. Ralston, the Spokane engineer in whose mind as much as that of any other individual was born the idea of the Columbia basin irrigation project, shows that the state of Washington made an increase of 6 per cent in cultivated acreage between 1909 and 1918.

It may be said that Washington has reached the limit of agricultural expansion until larger resources than are in control of individuals are applied to the reclamation of arid and logged over lands.

But Oregon, during the period between 1909 and 1918, increased its cultivated acreage but 22 per cent. This is three and a half times more than Washington's increase. But Oregon's arable land attains the enormous total of more than 20,000,000 acres. The cultivated area is probably not in excess of 5,500,000 acres. Had the growth of agriculture in this state kept pace with the demand for agricultural products, we ought to show an increase as great as that of Wyoming, which is 100 per cent, or of Arizona, which is 150 per cent, or of Montana, which is 162 per cent.

Wyoming has been touched by the genius of irrigation. Montana has thrown great tracts of public lands open to settlement. But Washington and Oregon, the states richest in agricultural protentialities in all the West, have fallen behind.

It is probable that the progress of irrigation will govern during the next 10 years the agricultural expansion of Oregon and Washington.

The reclamation of logged-over lands will be a factor, but irrigation has attained a success so richly proven that the large achievements will be in the invigoration of arid lands.

But the West must hurry up its farming if it wants to help solve the international hunger problem.

One reason for the serious automobile accident on Terwilliger boulevard a few days ago and for other accidents there, is the manner in which the highway is constructed. Instead of banking the roadway on the outside to prevent machines from skidding over the steep incline the engineers banked it on the inside. It is, therefore, imperative to their own safety that drivers proceed with unusual caution on that boulevard.

THE MILK DEBATE

WHY the sudden solicitude for Portland milk dealers?

Deputy City Attorney Mackay says that to pay them as much for delivering milk as dairymen are paid for producing it allows the dealers but one-eighth of a cent a quart net profit.

But the dealers maintain an extravagantly wasteful, duplicative and expensive distribution system. As many as 12 competitive milk wagons may serve a single block.

Much of the amount they are paid for delivering milk goes into the costs of inefficient deliveries, loss of bottles and incompetent plant management.

Let the dealers reform their distribution system. Let them organize a single distributing company, district the city and end the waste and losses of duplication. Let them seek their profits through efficiency.

If the dealers want to make money let them stop their wasteful inefficiency. Let them abandon their alleged secret organization for an open organization obedient to law and in public interest.

The dairymen have an organization. It is a cooperative marketing organization of the kind approved for producers by advanced schools of agricultural thinking. The announced purpose through their colonization is to secure for milk the cost of production plus a legitimate profit. To that end they recently expanded their organization and placed under the management and control of its officials a manufacturing corporation. The announcement will be remembered that this "by-products corporation" had taken over plants valued at some $200,000.

Through their organization the dairymen have a right to expect cost of production and a profit. But through the efficiency of organization and the lessened overhead expense due to volume handling the consumers have a right to expect the benefit of economies as well as higher quality milk.

On the other hand, the dairymen say that for years they have been receiving less than cost of production and that this item is now actually 9½ cents. If this is the case how can they continue in business?

In the business of supplying wholesome, fresh milk for a large city there are many ramifications. The agencies involved can only be condemned or exonerated on the basis of all the facts involved.

Has the deputy city attorney who reported to the council been able to secure all the facts? If so, he has done more than the investigating commissions which have preceded him. The public wants to know what are all the facts. It doesn't want boast or bunk.

INTO THE DISCARD

MORE and more so-called morning newspapers are passing out of existence.

City dwellers are more and more demanding news on the day that it happens. They do not want to wait until tomorrow to learn what takes place today.

It is the evolution of news dissemination. Facilities for news gathering, news transmission and news delivery are tremendously improved. They are already so complete that there is no longer need to wait until tomorrow for the news of the world today.

The late convention at San Francisco afforded example. The nomination occurred at 1:40 a. m. Though they had waited beyond the usual time of going to press, so-called morning papers carried only the mere name of the nominee, and that in but a few papers in the last end of their city editions. Probably 99 out of every 100 of their readers got no announcement of the final result.

The truth is that so-called morning papers are not morning papers at all but are night papers. Their latest editions go to press shortly after midnight. At that time, the world has long been asleep with no news made during the interim. While facilities for news gathering and transmission were crude and all the processes of newspaperdom slow, the morning paper had a field.

It is different now. Invention has obliterated distance and conquered time. The newspaper reader can have his news and all his news on the day that it happens, and that is when he wants it. Tomorrow is too late. Tomorrow has news of its own and that makes the news of yesterday history.

That is why so-called morning papers are passing into the discard. They have been outlived. The world has moved away from them, and is calling for the fresher afternoon paper with its story today of what happened in the world today.

HOUSING STATUS AT WASHINGTON

By Carl Smith, Washington Staff Correspondent of The Journal

Washington, July 15.—In January by the federal enumeration Washington had a population of 457,000. It is presumably many thousands less in July, and will be still less when the demobilization of the army of war clerks and leftovers is completed. The first of this month there was an estimated decrease of 6000 or 8000 in the government force, that being the end of the fiscal year and the date when there was in particular a cut-down of emergency officers and workers in the war department. There is no longer such a crush in the street cars or such great throngs on the streets as the visitor saw during the war, but there is such a substantial permanent increase in population that Washington does not seem likely ever to lapse into the easy-going Southern atmosphere which characterized it in pre-war days.

* * *

There seems no relief in the housing situation, despite this depletion of the population, and despite the fact that 50 or more new apartment houses are being built. Apartments in new buildings are for the most part rented before ground is broken for the building, or as soon as the first scaffolding appears, and they command rentals two or three times the pre-war rates. Apartments of more than three rooms are beyond the reach of the average worker, and nothing appears to be vacant overnight.

* * *

One reason why the demobilization of the war workers has not had more noticeable effect on housing is that during the war and for some time after families that never before rented rooms were induced to do so. The departure of the tenants has not made any increase in the number of available rooms. Then thousands of war workers were housed in government dormitories, some of which survive, but are in large part dismantled. During the latter part of the war tenants were protected from rental increases by the Sanlsbury law, which prevented eviction for failure to pay higher rent. This was superseded a the end of the war by the Ball law, which declared that because of conditions still existing, the rental of property was stamped with a "public interest" and therefore subject to regulation under a federal rent commission. This commission has heard hundreds of cases and has aided materially in checking the upward flight of rent, but the law has been declared unconstitutional by the district supreme court and its authority to control leases and meet the many devices of the property owners for raising rent is seriously challenged. The present situation is one of uncertainty, with all sorts of rumors in circulation as to the plans for "landlord raids."

* * *

Yet statistics show that the population is shrinking steadily, with scores of clerks "let out" as a frequent announcement, and others resigning before the let out stage is reached. The answer appears to be that war-time expedients of overcrowding and the lack of building during the war left the housing inadequate for the normal increase needed.

The League of Nations

From the Democratic Platform

"The Democratic party favors the League of Nations as the surest, if not the only practicable means of maintaining the permanent peace of the world and terminating the insufferable burden of great military and naval establishments. It was for this that America broke away from traditional isolation and spent her blood and treasure to crush a colossal scheme of conquest. It was upon this basis that the president of the United States, in prearrangement with our allies, consented to a suspension of hostilities against the imperial German government; the armistice was granted and a treaty of peace negotiated upon the definite assurance to Germany, as well as to the powers pitted against Germany, that a general association of nations must be formed, under specific covenants, for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike. Hence, we not only congratulate the president on the vision manifested and vigor exhibited in the prosecution of the war, but we felicitate him and his associates upon the exceptional achievement at Paris involved in the adoption of a league and treaty so near akin to previously expressed American ideals and so intimately related to the aspirations of civilized peoples everywhere.

"We commend the president for his courage and his high conception of good faith in steadfastly standing for the covenant agreed to by all the associated and allied nations at war with Germany and we condemn the Republican senate for its refusal to ratify the treaty merely because it was the product of Democratic statesmanship, thus interposing partisan envy and personal hatred in the way of the peace and renewed prosperity of the world.

"By every accepted standard of international morality the president is justified in asserting that the welfare of the country is involved in this business; and we point to the accusing fact that, before it was determined to initiate political antagonism to the treaty, the now Republican chairman of the senate foreign relations committee himself publicly proclaimed that any proposition for a separate peace with Germany, such as he and his party associates thereafter reported to the senate, would make us 'guilty of the blackest crime.'

"On May 15, last, the Knox substitute for the Versailles treaty was passed by the Republican senate, and this convention can contrive no more fitting characterization of its obloquy than that made in the Forum Magazine of December, 1918, by Henry Cabot Lodge, when he said: 'If we send our armies and young men to be killed and wounded in northern France and Flanders with no result but this, our entrance into war with such an intention was a crime which nothing can justify. The intent of congress and the intent of the president was that there could be no peace until we could create a situation where no such war as this could recur. We cannot make peace except in company with our allies. It would brand us with everlasting dishonor and bring ruin to us also if we undertook to make a separate peace.'

"Thus to that which Mr. Lodge, in saner moments, considered 'the blackest crime,' he and his party in madness sought to give the sanctity of law; that which 18 months ago was of 'everlasting dishonor' the Republican party and its candidate today accept as the essence of faith.

"We indorse the president's view of our international obligations and his firm stand against reservations designed to cut to pieces the vital provisions of the Versailles treaty and we commend the Democrats in congress for voting against resolutions for separate peace which would disgrace the nation. We advocate the immediate ratification of the treaty without reservations which would impair its essential integrity; but do not oppose the acceptance of any reservations making clearer or more specific the obligations of the United States to the league associates. Only by doing this may we retrieve the reputation of this nation among the powers of the earth and recover the moral leadership which President Wilson won and which Republican politicians at Washington sacrificed. Only by doing this may we hope to aid effectively in the restoration of order throughout the world and to take the place which we should assume in the front rank of spiritual, commercial and industrial advancement.

"We reject as utterly vain, if not vicious, the Republican assumption that ratification of the treaty and membership in the League of Nations would in any wise impair the integrity or independence of our country. The fact that the covenant has been entered into by 29 nations, all as jealous of their independence as we are of ours, is a sufficient refutation of such charge. The president repeatedly has declared, and this convention reaffirms, that all our duties and obligations as a member of the league must be fulfilled in strict conformity with the constitution of the United States, embodied in which is the fundamental requirement of declaratory action by the congress before this nation may become a participant in any war."

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.]

CONCERNING THE ISSUE

Portland, July 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—The Oregonian tells us that now that Cox is nominated, the question to be decided at the election is: "Shall the United States be wet or dry"? It says that is the prime issue; the League of Nations is secondary.

The cestui que trust was silent when those men and women he speaks of were fighting to make Oregon a dry state. They received practically no encouragement from the editor of the morning daily. Its editorial comment on what it now terms the prime issue was cautious and discreet. Now, however, the question which was supposed to have been settled by the American people is to be used by Republican editors to defeat the Democratic nominee.

The real issue, ignored by the Chicago platform, is the march of liberal ideas. The march has progressed across the Polish frontier. They come in ever increasing waves. How quickly do they cover whatever it is their mission to destroy and to bury. The news from the Polish frontier is ominous. Statesmen entrusted with the destinies of nations are sacrificing human lives and immense treasure in futile attempts to erect a barrier. Statesmen know history. They know what happened to Europe after the miserable failure of the Holy Alliance to suppress the French revolutionary spirit.

Today civilization totters. If it falls, a greater and grander civilization, founded on economic justice, will arise from the ruins. Mark well the words of Sir Auckland Geddes, British ambassador to the United States: "In Europe we know an age is dying. A realization of the aimlessness of life lived to labor and to die, having achieved nothing but avoidance of starvation and the birth of children also doomed to the weary treadmill of life, has seized the minds of millions."

In view of the obviously impending menace, how insignificant is the question, "Shall the United States be wet or dry?" Discussion will only accelerate the movement that is rapidly assuming the proportions of a social avalanche.

W. P. ADAMS.

AS IDLE AS AN EMPTY CAR

From the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Apparently, the country is suffering not so much from car shortage as it is from car slackerism. If the 1,000,000 cars now lying idle were put to work the freight tieup soon would be relieved.

CAN BE DONE WITH SAFETY

From the San Antonio Express

To Any Community—If you have profiteers, prepare to shed them now.

Curious Bits of Information for the Curious

Gleaned From Curious Places

Early presidents of the United States received strange gifts during their terms as executives, the strangest of them all being, perhaps, the cheese sent to Thomas Jefferson, with the admiring inscription, "The greatest cheese in America for the greatest man in America." It was conveyed to Washington by a six-horse team. Jefferson insisted upon paying for it, and it lasted for a whole year. Andrew Jackson was the recipient of such gifts as a whole hog from Kentucky, whisky from Pennsylvania, beef from New York and a cheese that weighed half a ton or more from New England. The Blue room in the White House contains the most famous of the gifts received by American presidents, the golden mantel clock presented to Washington by Lafayette, who received it from Napoleon. In the Green room is the Gobelin tapestry, made by a process which now is a lost art, which the emperor of Austria gave Mrs. Grant.

Olden Oregon

Flour Milling Attained Importance at Very Early Date.

Among the early flour mills in Oregon were the Standard mills at Milwaukie, built in 1860, having a capacity of 250 barrels a day, and the Oregon City mills, owned by J. D. Miller, capable of turning out 300 barrels daily. This mill was originally erected in 1866 to make paper but was converted in 1868 into a flouring mill. The Imperial mill at Oregon City was capable of grinding 500 barrels daily. The Salem flouring mills, established in 1870, manufactured from 5,000 to 16,000 barrels a month and found a market in Europe. The Jefferson City mills ground 10,000 barrels a month and J. H. Foster's mill at Albany had a capacity of 300 barrels a day. In the great flood of 1861-62 the Island mill, built at Oregon City by the Methodist mission, and McLoughlin's mill were both carried away.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Keep smiling.

* * *

The fire season seems to be on with a vengeance in Oregon.

* * *

The 48'ers, at best, need never expect to go down in history with the 49'ers.

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Three inches of snow over in Boulder, Colo. Colder at Boulder, too, no doubt.

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We read now of the murderous activities of the "black reds." Which reminds us of the old white blackbird stories.

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The man who waited 30 years for the idol of his heart to say "yes," deserves to spend his declining years in peace and happiness.

* * *

England is trying to get control of the world's supply of oil, but she is willing to let us continue to paper our walls with oil stock.

* * *

A telephone operator in England has given up her job at the age of 80 years. Some Portland "girls" should follow suit for the good of the service.

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The good citizen wants to see increased river traffic on the Willamette, but he hopes it will go by at times when he isn't waiting to cross the river.

* * *

The wheat crop will be a bumper one, according to reports. Wonder what excuse the bakers will dig up the next time they raise the price of bread.

SIDELIGHTS

Farmers near Yamhill are having the new city water supply extended onto their premises and are paying for the extension costs.

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The population of the country is estimated at 106,000,000, most of which, the Crane American has discovered, "surrounds Crane in a radius of from one to 4000 miles."

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Colonel Clark Wood of the Weston Leader puts himself in line for 1924 with this: "We're glad that in any event an editor will occupy the White House, having the utmost confidence that any man who can run a newspaper can run the federal administration."

* * *

Between May 1 and June 15, on his father's farm, Clifford Feller, aged 15 of Turner route 2, killed 108 grey digger squirrels, 12 gophers and seven moles. His bounties totaled $7.20, and what these varmints would have destroyed had they lived would probably total 100 times as much.

* * *

"On Wednesday, July 7, something occurred in Independence banking circles," says the Post, "that never happened before and may never happen again. The 'clearance' between the two banks was the same, that is, at the close of the day's business each institution owed the other exactly the same amount, to the penny. Perhaps not 100 banks in all the world ever had a similar experience."

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL

Random Observations About Town

Harry Edward Freund, who directs the publicity for the National Jewelers' association, is at the Benson hotel, where he tells some interesting stories about jewelry, especially diamonds. Freund declares that trade statistics reveal the fact that the workingman is the real diamonded plutocrat of the present day. More working people purchased diamonds during the period of the war than did the members of the moneyed class—if there is any distinction between the workingman and the moneyed class. "Everyone is wearing diamonds," Freund says. "It used to be that only the rich could buy, but since the worker came into money during the war he has attained a rare discrimination in jewelry and his purchases, especially in the diamond market, continue heavy." The jewelry industry is to be widely advertised through a $300,000 appropriation made for the purpose by the association which Freund represents.

* * *

South Carolina and Alabama, both enjoying some intensive summer heat just now, have contributed to Portland's transient population in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Burns of Alkur, S. C., Mrs. W. A. Ali and son, Ernest L., of Birmingham, Ala., and Mr. and Mrs. J. Henry Johnson of Allendale, S. C. The visitors are stopping at the Hotel Portland.

* * *

E. O. McCormick, vice-president of the Southern Pacific company, and Stephen T. Mather, director of national parks, returned to Portland Wednesday morning en route to California. The visitors have been touring with the congressional appropriations committee, which arrived in Portland for a brief visit Sunday, and they continued to the Rainier national park with the committee. The congressmen are now on their way back to Washington, D. C., traveling through all that part of the west interested in reclamation projects and visiting all national parks en route. The committee will spend some time in Glacier national park and the Yellowstone.

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Tourist visitors at the Imperial hotel include Misses Helen Parkhurst and Alice and Harriet Underwood of New York city and Katherine J., Emma C., Katherine R. and Clara M. Fornof and Elsie Barnes and Augusta Seaman of Columbus, Ohio.

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The Multnomah hotel is entertaining guests who are much pleased with the scenic assets they have thus far been able to see in Portland. The visitors are Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Collins and their daughters, Elsie and Ruth of Gardner, Mass.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Bidwell of Island City are about home now after a very interesting trip through the East. The travelers especially visited Kansas City and Washington, D. C. While in Portland they were guests at the Imperial hotel. Bidwell is a flour miller in the Union county town.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Clark of Canby, Clackamas county, are visiting in the city briefly. Canby is looking forward to a big county fair this year and some notable race track features are promised, it is said.

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Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop Higgins of Danbury, Conn., where Higgins is president of the state normal school, are tourist guests at the Multnomah hotel.

* * *

Erle F. Whitney of the General Electric company, who has been East and South on an extended trip, has returned to Portland.

IMPRESSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE JOURNAL MAN

By Fred Lockley

[How'd you like to be the congressman, if you really had to give cross-your-heart answers to the questions which constitute the principal matter of Mr. Lockley's article for the day? Answering them for the congressman, however, is a different matter, and is an indoor sport which will prove not only diverting but edifying.]

Some time ago C. S. Jackson said to me, "It costs the public $30,000 a year to support each congressman, and mighty few of them are worth that to the country." I knew that congressmen received a salary of but $7500 a year, so I thought Mr. Jackson's statement somewhat rash. My curiosity was excited and I began to investigate the matter and the more I investigated the more sure I became that he had understated rather than overstated.

Evidently a good many people wonder whether our congressmen are worth $30,000 a year to the public, for recently each member of congress received a list of 100 questions from Lynn Haines, who prefaces his questions with the statement that he is writing a book on congress in which he will show how, by whom and why things are done in congress, the cost to the public and who receives the benefit. In his letter to the congressmen he says:

"You will of course agree with me that in governmental matters every individual activity and influence of every member is a proper subject for the closest scrutiny. You will want to have all your public relations completely known and understood. In a democracy public opinion, to occupy its rightful place, must have complete and continuous information as to all the affairs of government and must possess truly democratic, easily workable instrumentalities of government through which to express its will and power."

* * *

I shall not attempt to quote his list of 100 questions, but here are a few which will give one an idea of the character of the inquiry, though I am very much afraid he will not secure the data he seeks:

"Whom do you consult as to your course with reference to patronage, local bills, public matters? Why? This whole question of association and leadership is tremendously important. In many cases it would be sufficient in itself to enable the people to form an accurate estimate of the member whose alignment was thus established.

"If you should be defeated for re-election, what would you do? When a member becomes a 'lame duck,' as a rule he does one of three things: Obtains a political appointment, continues at the capital as a lobbyist, or returns home to resume his original vocation, whatever that was.

"When did you first enter congress? What had been your business or profession prior to that event? Thinking people everywhere are giving attention to the fact that congress is now composed mostly of one class—lawyers.

"If a lawyer, what was the character of your practice? What business interests, if any, did you represent?

"Have you done legal work for clients since entering congress?

"To what do you attribute your first election? Was it your platform, your personality, or the political help of interested persons or groups? What campaign promises did you make, outside of platform pledges?

"Have you controlled in whole or in part the patronage of your district? Who among your active campaign supporters obtained appointive positions through your influence? Who were they, and to what offices were they appointed?

"What is the exact amount that you have drawn in mileage each year since entering congress?

"How have you handled your stationery allowance? What part of it, if any, was drawn in cash? Have you used stationery which was charged to committees or otherwise paid for? I wish you would explain fully why the house handles all sorts of things under that name—stationery. The report of the clerk of the house for 1917 shows there were paid for, out of 'the contingent fund,' 744 decks of playing cards, a large number of manicure sets, 298 bags, purses and brief cases, thermos bottles and Gillette razor blades?

"What relatives have you appointed to secretarial or clerkship positions in your congressional office? Who among your relatives have been appointed to positions in the house patronage list? What relatives of yours have received appointments to positions outside of congress? What persons outside your family have you been instrumental in getting appointed to positions in the house patronage list? In the various departments? Who among these have contributed in service or otherwise to your political success?

"What local and private measures have you introduced? Please classify them, pensions, private claims, cannon, bridges, buildings, rivers and harbors, etc. What appropriation did each carry? How many of these measures were passed?

"How many local measures did you introduce knowing they would not get beyond that stage? How many of these were printed and franked out, to impress voters with the idea that you were trying to get something for them? What was the cost of these performances? In printing? In labor? In postage, if that has been paid?

"How many packages of free seeds do you frank out each year? What expense, in first cost, envelopes, unpaid postage, etc., would be involved? How many government documents do you frank out for political purposes? At what figure do you estimate all the expense attached to this? How many times a year do you frank some sort of communication to all your voters? What does this cost the people? Upon what subjects have you actually delivered speeches? How many undelivered speeches have you had printed in the Congressional Record? Did you write all of these leave-to-print speeches? What is the total number of undelivered speeches you have printed and franked out? What has this cost the public?

"How many government franks have you used since entering congress? What would have been their equivalent in postage had it been paid? All told, how many envelopes have you used at public expense?

"What measures, if any, have come before congress in which you had a personal interest?

"How would you go about it to take special privilege out of politics, making politics the servant rather than the master in governmental affairs, substituting statesmen for politicians, to the end that public service may predominate over self service in that field?

"How would you divorce from legislation the corrupting influence of both pork and patronage, thereby eliminating a thousand and one kind of local 'trash' and raising members above the status of errand boys for political bosses and selfish individuals, communities and classes?

"What do you propose to advocate and do to bring about a wholesome reconstruction of the motives and methods of congress, to the end that efficiency and economy may replace the existing orgy of spoils and special favors within the national legislature?

"How would you handle the fiscal affairs of the government, as to both appropriations and revenue, giving principles and particulars, and reorganization needs from beginning to end?"

The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader.

OREGON NOTES

Sheriff Johnson of Hood River county has asked for volunteers to assist him in enforcing speed laws.

Astoria is to have another sawmill, which is to be devoted to the cutting of alder for furniture and veneer.

Astoria automobile dealers have ordered large quantities of gasoline from independent oil companies to accommodate beach tourists.

The city of Glendale in Douglas county has made application to appropriate one second-foot of water from Mill creek for a municipal water supply.

A new cooperative salmon cannery on the lower Columbia river is being organized by trollers and gillnetters. The capital stock is to be $100,000.

The Lane county court has decided not to build a new bridge across the Willamette at Harrisburg for at least two years. The ferry will be continued.

The Tillamook club has sold 18 head of pure-bred Guernseys at an average price of $700. The highest price paid for a single animal was $1150 to Ira G. Lance.

On the ground that the city of Woodburn has exceeded its limit of indebtedness, A. C. Simmons has brought suit to restrain the city from undertaking certain improvements.

The city of Roseburg has received legal advice that bonds recently authorized by a special election for the sum of $7000 for an aviation field outside the city limits are invalid.

Harry Shown of Twickenhem in Wheeler county was seriously burned while trying to start a crude oil burning engine used in irrigation. The torch exploded, throwing burning oil in his face.

Practically all the mill-owned logging camps which suspended for the Fourth of July have resumed operations. The majority of the independent camps are preparing to start within a week.

The body of Thomas Alexander, aged 65, has been found near Dillard in Douglas county with the entire top of the head shot away. Death is thought to have been caused by the accidental discharge of a rifle he was carrying.

WASHINGTON

Material benefit to crops in Eastern Washington resulted from the rain of Sunday.

Some damage to wheat has been done in Walla Walla valley, in the foothills, by wind which followed a heavy rain.

A contract for paving approximately one mile of the Pacific highway in Snohomish county from Silvana north has been let for $38,458.

Walla Walla is planning to advertise for bids soon for a new bridge over Colville street. The bridge will be 80 feet long and 60 feet wide.

The wheat harvest will begin in Adams county in a week or 10 days. Labor is scarce and $5 per day with board and up is offered.

The public service commission will conduct a hearing at Bellingham on the increased rates of the Fairhaven Water, Light & Power company.

The state reclamation board has authorized a survey of swamp land projects in Western Washington preliminary to the construction of drainage and diking projects.

District bonds of the Chelan reclamation district to the par value of $8300 will be purchased by the state reclamation board for $75,000. The project includes 4650 acres in Chelan county.

A cloudburst in the hills north of Sunnyside canal between Outlook and Granger caused the canal to overflow. The canal was broken in four or five places, causing considerable damage.

According to an assistant state fire marshal, 80 per cent of the grain field fire losses in the state last year were in Walla Walla, Columbia and Whitman counties. The total losses were $159,134.

The state reclamation board will make a survey of the Methow reclamation district known as the "skyline" project. The project contemplates the irrigation of approximately 12,000 acres in Okanogan county.

IDAHO

A special election has been called at Rupert to decide whether picture shows may operate on Sunday.

Walters ferry has been closed to traffic until July 17. The ferry is on the road from Nampa to Murphy.

Application has been filed by the Boise Valley Traction company with the public utilities commission to increase its rates on the Hillcrest loop lines and to abandone the Cole school branch.

Four Idaho athletes have been selected to represent America in the Olympic games at Antwerp this summer. They are "Babe" Brown and Eugene P. Sherman of Boise, Pat Pennise of Nez Perce and Neil Irvine of Rupert.

The district court at Pocatello has issued an order asking Mayor Whitaker and the city council to show cause why the recently enacted "price marking" ordinance should not be restrained. The ordinance is being fought by retail merchants.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

Politics ain't no hoss race; leastwise it hadn't orter be. The slacker is the feller that don't go to the ballot box and vote. He won't be let off by the good Lord fer his dodgin' responsibility that a-way. In fact, the slacker citizen and citizeness does vote when they don't vote, because by not votin' they support rascality, thievery, knavery, special privilege and all manner of evil. The big bizness fellers and the trusts and the political tricksters exists 'cause the people oftentimes by 50 to 80 outer 100 stays home or goes a-fishin' or goes anywheres 'ceptin' where duty calls, which is to the votin' booth.

Oregon Has Metal Wealth of Great Value, and Possibly Oil

Oregon is more of a mineral producing state than many people realize. The production of lumber, fruits, wool, grain, livestock and poultry is so great as to overshadow the yield of the mines.

Yet in 1919 there came from Oregon mines gold, silver, copper and lead valued at nearly $2,000,000. Last year was, at that, what the miners call a short year. The mineral production was about $175,000 less than in 1918.

While the war was being waged, another important mineral which is little heard of in this state went to help fight the battles of democracy. The chrome ore mined in Oregon during 1918 was valued at $865,049. It is an essential alloy in the manufacture of the big guns which helped to win the conflict for world freedom. There is much chrome ore in Oregon yet. Many carloads of it. In fact, are ready to move in Southern Oregon, but imported supplies are now purchasable in the East cheaper than the chrome ore which comes from Oregon.

Although most of Oregon's coal mining is done in Coos county there are believed to be large deposits of coal in the state. The Oregon bureau of mines and geology in cooperation with the United States geological survey is making constant investigation to determine the probable location of coal lands as well as gold, silver, copper and other minerals.

The bureau not long ago conducted an investigation with a view to ascertaining whether the underlying strata of Western Oregon might possibly contain reservoirs of petroleum. Its report indicated, however, that the formations were not favorable for the discovery of oil.