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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It is a law of the gods which is never broken, to sell somewhat dearly the great benefits which they confer on us. —Cornelius.

CANNED GOVERNMENT?

IT HAS been suggested, as a result of the recent census, that the number of representatives in congress be limited permanently to the present quota—435.

Why not, as Congressman McArthur recently suggested in an interview in The Journal, reduce the house to 300 members? Why maintain a top-heavy body? Why have canned government by a few rather than deliberate government by all members? Why pay $7000 a year in salary to members who give nothing but O. K'd votes and an occasional campaign speech?

Because of the large house, that body has resolved itself into a ratifying assembly in lieu of a deliberative convention. The house as a whole, as things work out, takes a small part in legislation. Even the party caucus is now little more than a ceremony. Instead, a few leaders, men of experience and recognized political acumen, have become the sponsors of legislation. Committee government has become the fad. And not only committee government, but subcommittee government.

On the important committees are a few men of predominance. They direct. They say this bill shall be favorably reported and that shall not. Through their immense power they are enabled to whip the remainder of the house into line. The representative who refuses to accept their dictum invites their wrath. Thereafter, he can obtain no consideration in the house.

Under such a system, where debate is stifled because of numbers, deliberative government is impossible. When deliberative government is abandoned the way is opened to injuitous, discriminative and defective legislation. Although the few are responsible for the action of the house, they can dodge responsibility behind the cloak of numbers.

All the house as a whole does is to put its O. K. on measures that a small group of committee members has ordained. In effect, the house as a whole is a rubber stamp house and legislation by it rubber stamp legislation.

With the time here for a reapportionment of representatives and the number to be increased by the figures of the late census, is there a more opportune moment to permanently fix the number of representatives at a figure to permit free and open discussion of pending legislation, or a better time to substitute deliberative government for canned government?

Spontaneous combustion ignited refuse in a metal garbage can in the basement of the Platt building Thursday. What if the receptacle had been wood?

NOT NATURE

SOMEONE once said that people "do not die—they kill themselves." He referred to eating, to drinking, to working and to other pleasures or occupations wherein human beings exceed the limits set up by nature as boundaries for conduct of daily life.

Many a man has gorged himself to death. He has eaten and eaten and eaten until his senses became dulled, his ambition cooled and his life was given over to lethargy and early death.

Our present dry status was brought on by those who drank to excess. Those who attempted, by patronage, to keep the brewery wheels turning were in the end the ones responsible for the prohibition of manufacture. And many a man paid for the attempt by premature death.

The consequences of overwork are not less fatal. To the man who grinds, grinds, grinds for seven days a week, 12 hours a day in an office, without physical culture, physicians promise an early breakdown. The tissues of the brain are not constructed to withstand continual wear and tear without relaxation. They are not to be worked to death.

The ambitious professional man, the one who is working for himself in an office, is prone to over tax nature. He is inclined, fired by ambition and spurred on by success, to give all his time, all his thought, and his life to his work. He sacrifices his health. And then he pays the piper.

After he is gone, there are friends to remark that "so-and-so" is dead. The grave is covered, the head stone set up. Then someone else takes his place on this earth.

In isolated cases the law of the realm can be violated and the penalty averted. But no man can defeat the grim law imposed by nature.

Possibly the split between France and England over European politics is overdrawn. Yet division is possible at any time among European nations. That is why the balancing and impartial influence of America is needed over there. America alone can be the high arbiter, the impartial tribune that can guide those nations to higher ideals and save the world from disagreements, divisions and consequent war. And America can do it without firing a shot or burning a drachm of powder.

ARE WE?

IF THE British government joins France in opposing the Russian Bolshevists by use of force, the British Federation of Miners will call a general strike. A vote to that effect has been taken by the miners.

In Germany recently, Bolshevists were threatening a general strike if the German government continued to interfere with the organization of secret soviet armies in Germany. It made no difference to the German Bolshevists that Germany had covenanted in the Paris treaty to limit her military forces.

Here is an unseen hold that Bolshevism has on Europe. There is communication and cooperation between Russian Bolshevists and Bolshevists in other countries. They have mutual sympathies and mutual purposes. The Russian soviets send their armies into Poland, and the Bolshevists in other countries, by threats of general strike and other group action, prevent the governments in those countries from taking measures to save Poland from passing under the rule of an armed soviet autocracy. If Poland thus falls before the military power of Lenin and Trotzky and is annexed to their armed realm, it is merely a question of what nation will be the next to be rolled under the wheels of the advancing soviet juggernaut.

Such is the present trend of things in Europe. For nearly three years prophets have announced the fall of the near fall of the soviet regime in Russia. Instead of falling, the Lenin-Trotzky regime is extending the tentacles of its power until, with threats of general strikes in other countries, it is not only ruling Russia but is actually exercising authority in England, Italy, Germany and other nations.

If the system continues to advance, what is to be its effect upon the United States? Does it all mean nothing, or does it mean a great deal to the American people?

Are we isolated?

Even with the cruel death of 5-year-old Donald Harvey under the wheels of an automobile on Mason street, automobile killings are still much below the gory record of last year, all in spite of a heavy increase in the number of machines in use. But when a killing happens when the driver has 75 to 100 feet to go on and a whole street in which to avoid his victim, there is no telling, if that sort of thing is allowed to continue, to what dreary lengths this year's aggregate may go.

THE LOWLY DEAD

THERE could scarcely be a more complete disregard of human life than that by the automobile driver who ran down and killed 5-year-old Donald Harvey on Mason street.

The child was crossing the street with his back to the approaching machine. On his own testimony at the coroner's inquest, Ritzman, the driver, admitted that he saw the boy when he was still 75 feet distant.

But by his own statement and that of others in his car, the driver did not slacken his pace. As numerous other drivers do, he drove his heavy juggernaut ahead, in utter heedlessness as to consequences. Instead of going to the slight trouble of applying his brakes and making sure that there would be no accident, he blew his horn and relied on that to get the child out of his way.

Here was the scene: The child 75 feet away—some witnesses said the distance was 100—and a whole street in which to pass him. But the child was run down and killed. The driver broke the law in passing to the left side of the street where he finally struck the boy. He broke the law by using a car with defective brakes. He killed the child under circumstances that are without excuse and, so far as The Journal can see, without a single mitigating fact.

Just so long as juries refuse to convict drivers whose recklessness results in killing, children like little Donald Harvey will have to be hauled off to the cemeteries. Can anybody give one single reason why it would be wrong to send to the penitentiary for involuntary manslaughter any driver who, with 75 feet of distance to stop in and a whole street in which to pass him, runs over and kills a 5-year-old child?

The children in the street are mostly from lowly homes. They have no place else to play. They must sometimes cross the street to do errands for the household.

Is it because the slaughtered little ones are usually from lowly homes that juries think them of little consequence? That assertion has been made to The Journal. Abraham Lincoln came from a lowly home and Jesus Christ was born in a manger. And the Nazarene, who marked even the sparrow's fall, thought as much of the child in the shanty as of the child in the palace.

Because the door to the back stairway of the Glenwood hotel was found locked at the time of fire in the building early Wednesday, the Greek proprietor has been sentenced to 180 days in jail. The course of justice runs in ways that are confusing to humble laymen. Here is a sentence of 180 days on the technical possibility that the Greek's act might have resulted in somebody's death. While on the other hand, two violations of law and mad driving by a motorist that actually killed a 5-year-old child brought a clear bill of health for the driver from a coroner's jury.

THE SWAN ISLAND PROJECT

THE discussion of the $10,000,000 Swan Island project as proposed by the Committee of Fifteen has become something not much more seriously to be considered than other casual conversation.

The actual project would place upon the public so much greater burden than the $10,000,000 first estimated that a mere statement of the facts is sufficient to discourage the most affirmative attitude of mind toward the scheme.

For instance, it is now being said that the 40,000,000 cubic yards of fill which would be necessary in reclaiming the Guilds lake, Swan island and Mocks bottom districts will cost not the $2,906,966 as first estimated but $8,000,000.

Some 1552 acres involved in the project are to cost not the $1,744,945 primarily estimated as the sum of the assessed valuations of the various parcels but an amount in the near vicinity of $4,600,000, an average of $3000 an acre.

None of the reports was offered estimates for the cost of port terminal facilities to be erected on the property when acquired by the public but the drift of non-official estimate is that if the St. Johns terminal (No. 4) required two bond issues, one of $3,000,000 and the other of $5,000,000, the more elaborate facilities of the Swan island project will call for not less than $9,000,000.

Here, then, are three tentative figures of costs aggregating $21,600,000, or more than twice as much as the people have been asked to have in mind as they contemplate the affirmative or negative character of their votes on the port bill in November.

And who knows whether the complete development of the project would end with $21,000,000 or even $40,000,000.

But the voter who studies the port bill and looks within it for a seeking of authority to execute a $10,000,000 Swan island port project is disappointed.

The port bill, as The Journal has before stated, contains no reference to the project which inspired it.

It is a proposal for the merging of the port and dock commissions. But even the merger is premised upon contingencies, which if not overcome will leave the present port commission as the administrative agent of vastly increased port powers.

In other words, if the port bill carries in November, but the city council thereafter fails to cede title to dock properties already erected, to the port commission there will be no merger of the port and dock commissions.

But whether the merger occurs or not, if the bill passes, the port commission will be empowered to do all things it now does and also all the things the dock commission does.

And, if the port bill carries, the port commission, without further vote by the people, will have authority to issue bonds in an amount not exceeding 5 per cent of the assessed valuation of the port district, or $16,000,000.

If the bill is passed and the bonds are issued the port commission will not be reponsible under the law for using the funds to develop the Swan island project or any other project. It is to be presumed that the funds would be spent on the Swan island plan but such is only a presumption.

The bill leaves the selection of future port commissioners, after the details of the merger have been attended to, to the state legislature. In other words, the legislators from Klamath and Malheur counties, among others, will vote to fill vacancies on the Port of Portland commission.

To resume, it appears that the Swan island project will exceed by twice, if not more, its first estimates of cost, and that the port bill, while containing broader grants of power than have ever been proposed for port purposes, does not make the Swan island project or any other project mandatory.

In many ways the Swan island project is one that by its very magnitude possesses powerful appeal. But the people of Portland have in previous action on port questions voted with their eyes opep. The Journal believes they should do so now.

TIMBER CUTTING IN NORTHWEST

By Carl Smith, Washington Staff Correspondent of The Journal.

Washington, Aug. 13.—Logging operations are removing annually a little less than 2 per cent of Western Washington's timber, and less than 1 per cent of Oregon's, according to the report of the forest service on timber depletion, which has been prepared in great detail for the United States senate.

"Yet the reasonably accessible timber and that in private ownership is going very much faster," says the report, "and with decreasing southern pine production, enormous pressure to increase the cut may be expected."

It is estimated that Oregon has a total stand of 494,000,000,000 board feet, that Washington has $34,000,000,000 feet, and California over 313,000,000,000 feet. Over half the total, or 686,000,000,000 feet, is found in the Douglas fir belt of Oregon and Washington, of which Douglas fir alone shows 558,000,000,000 feet. One fourth the remaining saw timber in the entire country is the Douglas fir of Oregon and Washington. Forest depletion has occurred more rapidly in Washington than in Oregon, it is stated, and by far the greater part of future expansion may be looked for in Oregon. The reason Oregon has been slower in cutting, says the report, is the fact that its timber has been more inaccessible. It is predicted that operations into the more difficult regions will now be financed and the timber brought out for the markets.

"A gradual rise in logging costs is inevitable," says the report, "as it becomes necessary to extend operations to the more mountainous logging chances. The timber resources of the Pacific coast are very large, but it would be unwise to overestimate them, for much less than the fotal stand is readily available. Existing transportation facilities to the East are already overburdened with present traffic, and they will have to be very materially increased to meet the probable reduction in eastern and southern lumber cut during the next 10 years."

The report says the danger is that the Pacific forests will be considered "inexhaustible" until it is too late. Other measures than the existence of national forests are necessary. By following selective logging plans and avoiding waste of unused trees the destruction of complete forest areas such as has taken place in New England, the lake region and the south, can be avoided. The first step of all is more adequate protection against forest fires, says the report, with the cooperation of government, state and private owners.

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.]

A LAND OF LAW

Enterprise, Aug. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal—I am pleased to notice that in your issue of the sixth instant, you have given space to communications from two correspondents who justly condemn the "third degree" treatment administered to the slayers of Til Taylor, and I am also pleased to notice that one of your correspondents, though a woman, has the courage to sign her name, while the other does not. Both communications are upon a subject which should arouse the interest of all persons who desire that our country should be known as a land of law, and not one where supposed justice is administered or evidence obtained according to the modes in vogue during the dark or medieval ages of several hundred years ago. Your recent editorial on the subject was entirely too mild, for instead of philosophizing in the abstract, you should have named the particular individuals guilty of the "brutal but effective" treatment of the prisoners in the Umatilla county jail, and called upon the district attorney of that county or the attorney general of the state to see that they were made to answer for their unwarranted and savage work. The prisoners may be guilty and deserve the extreme penalty of the law, but it is the business of the courts to attend to that, and not the business of those self-appointed executioners without warrant or process for their acts.

Many states have found it necessary to pass legislative enactments strictly prohibiting under severe penalties any attempt to obtain evidence by means of the "third degree" or "sweating" process; and I earnestly hope a similar enactment will be adopted by the Oregon legislature at its next session.

D. W. Sheahan.

EDUCATION AND JAYWALKERS

Klamath Falls, Aug. 5.—To the Editor of The Journal—You are certainly doing a great service to the public, both in your editorials and the general articles on the "reckless drivers" and the "jaywalkers." The fact of four persons being killed in one week recently in your county through their own "carelessness"—possibly their own incompetency instead of carelessness in some instances, and not the fault of the drivers—as well as the many other facts of injuries daily recited in all the papers, ought to make persons think, if they read them. But do the persons who most need such facts read such items in the papers? Do the careless, the thoughtless, the self-sufficient or the hurried and worried persons read such editorial or statistical articles? Is there not a great army of worthy persons so fully occupied with home and hurried shopping duties that they really have no time to read such items? Of course, there are the absolutely careless and habitually venturesome from pure egotism. The truck driver, who with a woman by his side recently failed to stop before crossing a railroad track although another automobile was waiting for the train to pass, doubtless belonged to one or both these classes. Recently I called a 4-year-old boy from the street at the middle of the block and was about to take him to the corner and then across, when a woman who seemed to know him butted in and started across with him. When I politely said, "Please do not take him across in the middle of the block," she drew her face into a contemptuous expression at me and continued across at the middle of the block and then went to the corner on the other side. I reflected that this woman was a "graduate with high honors" at our grade and high schools, all at public expense, and yet had not learned common sense as to personal safety or common courtesy for others in the public streets.

The best place to get many persons to read is at the movies. Let the authorities conduct a campaign of short educational directions on the screens between acts at the movies.

C. C. Brower.

CONCERNING INQUIRIES

Portland, July 29.—To the Editor of The Journal—The Oregonian editorial entitled "Needs of the Farmer," of this date, is in regular G. O. P. form. It states, "The Democratic party refused to buy foreign sugar, which would cost us 11 cents, and thereby allowed the American growers to get 17 cents." There can be no doubt that the foreign growers will repudiate the Democratic party.

The other crime mentioned was that while they fixed the price of wheat and meat they failed to fix the price of cotton. It seems to me there was a greater opportunity to fix prices during these last two years, since the Republicans have had control, which control was gained through tactics used by that fellow in Michigan—I don't remember his name, and don't want to. I am from Michigan myself.

The article continues to tell of G. O. P. promises. We are promised a national inquiry. Let us hope, if elected, they will inquire about the farmers' loan, federal reserve, irrigation projects, etc. We will be satisfied if they do nothing more than inquire, which is all they promise.

But let us get close to home, and something fresh. Democratic federal officials could find nothing for which the Dairymen's league could be prosecuted. Our Republican city officials are still after them. It looks as though G. O. P. somehow stands for "league prosecution." The dairymen made a mistake in calling their organization a "league."

Get Me?

OWNER OF AMERICA

Portland, Aug. 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—To your editorial in the issue of July 31, "Who Owns America?" I will answer, without fear of successful contradiction, that when it comes to the means of motive power for automobiles, trucks, tractors, etc., the Standard Oil company owns America by a large majority. Now as one good turn deserves another, I want to ask a question: Why is not ethyl alcohol utilized? Why do we have to depend upon an agency under the ground when there exists in plain sight and above the ground an agency better, cleaner, more efficient, easier converted for use and obtainable in unlimited quantities, with less cost, labor and trouble? Why is not the waste of "a billion dollars annually" (I quote from an opinion by Carl Vrooman, assistant secretary of agriculture) turned into a profit by utilizing material always at hand and obtainable anywhere, "the pure gift of God," to propel our numerous and fast growing number of autos, trucks and tractors, besides obtaining the sources of light and heat, non-combustible, odorless and stronger than gasoline? I have seen thousands of automobiles use ethyl alcohol. I have seen large cities lighted by its means in Europe. Why in America? The American farmer ought to issue a declaration of independence from his overlord, despotic, tyrannical and greedy.

Paul Pferdner.

MORE CIVIL WAR RELICS

Independence, July 30.—To the Editor of The Journal—I noticed an article in The Journal of July 25 about a Mr. S. M. Jackson, who was visiting relatives at Brownsville, and who owned a newspaper printed by the Confederates on wallpaper at Vicksburg before its surrender.

I believe I can go him one better, as I also have one of those papers, which belonged to my father, John C. Brown, and also, what I prize the highest, one penholder and eight buttons made out of the wood of that tree under which General Pemberton surrendered to General Grant. The tree was dug up and all the roots and even the leaves were carried away as souvenirs of that great event. My father belonged to the 78th Ohio infantry, company E, 17th army corps. He served under General Grant and helped also dig and put the powder under Fort Hill during the siege of Vicksburg. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea.

Francis M. Brown.

PRICES AND PRICES

Portland, Aug. 6.—To the Editor of The Journal—I read with interest the editorial page of The Journal regarding the farmer who brought the spring chickens to the city and was offered only 17½ cents a pound for them. About the same time I bought a little, poor chicken, hardly worth carrying home as a gift, and paid 45 cents a pound for the same.

Something rotten!

As to hogs, the producer is selling at 15 cents. The same pork on the market is so high that we have quit thinking about it, to say nothing about eating it.

Something wrong again, as it is not a shortage. My husband has stood on the street early in the morning and seen truckloads of spoiled meat being hauled away to the incinerator.

Not long ago I paid 8 1-3 cents a pound on the Yamhill market for little apples that my father-in-law would not have picked up off the ground before fruit inspection came into vogue. Verily, what is wrong?

A Journal Reader.

CALLS IT BARBARITY

Portland, Aug. 4.—To the Editor of The Journal—After reading the account of the capture of the five escaped prisoners at Pendleton and the subsequent jailing and means of extortion applied to compel the prisoners to divulge facts considered necessary by police officers, one is tempted to believe that there is abundant room for improvement in police methods of dealing with criminals. The after effects of war are blamed for many crimes committed at the present time, and we all believe that gradually the effects of brutality will finally give place to the softening influences of peace and bring our thoughts and actions back to a more sane basis. It is abhorent to think at this day that we adhere to such repulsive proceedings as applying ammonia, to a man's nostrils and, compelling him to inhale, while numerous other men beat his head against iron bars. Should this be condoned by law? I think not. And there are many who will agree with me.

These men have committed crimes, and now that they are in the hands of the law and are about to have justice meted out to them it ill becomes those in authority to adopt this means of torture. It sets a bad example to the law abiding citizens of Pendleton, who, although worked up to a high state of excitement, preserved their intelligence and went home content to let the law take its course.

J. W.

MAKE FIRETRAPS SAFE

Salem, Aug. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have read with much interest the editorial in your journal of the ninth instant relating to the Elton Court fire. Regrettable as was this incident I trust that it may be turned to a profitable end in securing public sentiment which will bring about such legislation as will render similar firetraps safe for human habitation. I cannot refrain from expressing my appreciation of the effective publicity work which your journal is doing in the fire prevention work.

A. C. Barber,
State Fire Marshal.

THE CHEAPEST PROTECTION

Gladstone, Aug. 7.—To the Editor of The Journal—It seems to me it would be vastly cheaper to have a watchman to see that fires and burglaries don't happen in large hotels and other buildings than to lament the loss to property, to say nothing about the loss of life. The best fire protection is a good reliable man to watch the place at night. I am a man partly disabled but have an unbroken record of five months as night watchman at the Crown Willamette Inn, West Linn, and there are no doubt others just as well qualified and need the position as badly. You see it's economy both ways.

Jack Hamilton.

TIME TO WAKE UP

Portland, Aug. 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—The tragic fire at Elton Court on Saturday morning should be a warning to those who are urging a revision of the building code to make the regulations more liberal. It is a terrible disgrace to our beautiful city that such firetraps are permitted to exist and be used as hotels with so little regard to human life. It is time for somebody to wake up to the hazards that now remain and to take some action to prevent other disasters of the same kind.

L. D. Bosley.

Curious Bits of Information for the Curious

Gleaned From Curious Places

Tidal wave has nothing whatever to do with the tides. Any great onrush of the sea that overwhelms the land is called a tidal wave. Such waves may be due to various causes. They may represent a heaping up of masses of water by a hurricane or wind; or an earthquake under the sea may be the cause.

Submarine volcanic eruptions are of not very infrequent occurrence, and earthquakes are liable to accompany them. Or a mere slipping of strata in the sea floor may cause earthquakes. If, incidentally to the volcanic or seismic disturbance, one part of the sea floor sinks or another part rises, there must be a consequent rush of water, which may assume the proportions of what is called a tidal wave.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

There is always room at the top, but the middle distances are crowded.

It is about as hard to live up to an ideal as it is to live down an error.

A man is never so easily deceived as when he is trying to deceive others.

The snow man quickly melts, but it's different with the heart of the ice man.

People who blame Providence for their crops are usually reticent as to the seed sown.

Every man you "hear something" about has probably "heard something" about you.

If you can't pay cash, then you have to hand out patience, courtesy, kindness and charity.

A bridegroom and bride know no such thing as doubt. What plants the first suspicion?

When a man takes his wife to the theatre he thinks it's up to him to go out between acts and telephone to see whether the house is still there.

SIDELIGHTS

At last! Banks has enterprising men who have provided for some of the house shortage. Now if you can't find a house to live in, come to Banks. We'll get you under cover.—The Banks Herald.

It has been said that this is not a Turkey Red year in Morrow county, so O. T. Ferguson, Sand Hollow farmer, thinks his wheat of that variety is making an excellent yield at 30 bushels an acre.—Heppner Gazette Times.

A vegetable doughnut is the latest contribution to the vegetable kingdom made by a Cottage Grove man. This time the contribution is a perfect doughnut-shaped tomato and the contributor is F. C. Coffman.—Cottage Grove Sentinel.

The Oregon census shows that our population has been increasing at about the normal birth rate. In other words, as far as the rest of the world is concerned, our state is making no progress. Instead of being proud of the census figures, we should be ashamed. We have been sleeping and don't know it. The state has wonderful possibilities and is letting them go undeveloped.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL

Random Observations About Town

Two hoary, grizzled prospectors had the big scare of their lives recently in the Rainier national forest when a huge falling snag missed them by only a few feet. P. H. Dater, district engineer of the forest service, brings back the tale of how the two men, riding along an old mountain road in a flivver with a camp attachment, drove off the road a short way to camp. The tent was attached to the side of the car. They had retired but didn't find their sleeping quarters exactly comfortable. Getting up they moved the car ahead a few feet. Only a few minutes elapsed before the huge snag, 150 feet long and six feet in diameter, came crashing over the identical spot where they had been lying. The incident so unnerved the two old prospectors that they built a campfire and sat up all night talking about it.

John Doyle, assistant secretary of the Port of Portland commission, is spending his vacation at Sea View on the North beach. During the absence of Doyle, Harry Campion is in command of the local office.

Sam C. Bratton, former commercial manager of the Portland Gas & Coke company and former president of the Portland Ad club, is again among us. Bratton, now a typical Wall streeter, is connected with the Electric Bond & Share company of New York. With Bratton is his wife and both declare that some day, not very far hence, they'll be back in Portland to live. In the meantime Charles F. Berg is showing the town over Mr. and Mrs. Bratton. They will remain in Portland about two weeks. En route west the former Portlanders spent a month in Texas.

Virtually shaken out of business by the earthquake temblors that kept Los Angeles stirred up two weeks ago, C. V. Everett, formerly manager of the Alcazar theatre, Portland, and Miss Mabel Wilber, his leading woman and a nationally known musical comedy soprano, are in Portland again after a rather costly experience at the show business in the "City of Angels." The company, known as the Wilbur Opera company, was going good, however, in musical comedy stock, such as Portland had at the Alcazar last winter, until the earthquakes started. The first night that the audience felt the temblor, most of the patrons left the house, and as additional earth quivers followed in days to come, it became more and more difficult to get the people in at all. Therefore the enterprise, which was starting out well, had to be abandoned. Miss Wilber is on her way east and Everett will look after local business interests.

W. Stokes Kirk of Philadelphia, owner of Kirk's Military shop, arrived from the East this week and is registered at the Multnomah hotel. Kirk maintains four stores on the Pacific coast and a large store at Philadelphia, handling all kinds of military equipment and clothing. His trip to the Northwest is purely for business purposes and coincident with his visit here it was announced that the local military shop will move on August 30 from its present location at Third and Stark to the building at the southwest corner of Sixth and Pine streets. The new location has been leased from the Corbett estate for a three-year period and alterations are being made to suit the new tenants. F. E. Angove, manager of the local store, was recently appointed manager of the four Pacific coast stores.

First of the Mazama party to the Mount Baker, Washington, country to return home, Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Koehler and Mrs. George B. Maxwell arrived in Portland Monday night. They were met in Seattle by Mr. Maxwell and motored across the Cascades and thence to the Columbia via Wenatchee. All report a delightful outing with the Mazamas, clouds of mosquitoes being the only drawback. Excellent roads and plenty of gasoline everywhere were encountered on the Seattle-Wenatchee-Portland trip.

OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS OF THE JOURNAL MAN

By Fred Lockley

The wealthy and the famous have no lack of chroniclers, but who gives a second thought to the men of the section gang? As you sit on the rear platform of the observation car you see them, grimy with sweat and dust, standing by the side of the track. You do not give them a second thought. Did you ever realize that the vote of any one of these section laborers counts for as much as your vote in the ballot box? Did you ever stop to think that the whole structure of our prosperity is resting on the farmer and laborer. With all your skill as a money changer or a teacher of psychology you would not be eating were it not for the sweat grimed men who raise the food and these others who build the tracks and operate the trains to bring the food to you.

I ran across an old-time section laborer a day or so ago. His name is James Brady and he hails from County Sligo in Ireland. His hair, once flaming red, is now white. He still has the rich brogue of the Emerald Isle. I shall translate his brogue and his picturesque railroadese into newspaper English. "I will be 72 come the second of next August," he said to me. "I was coming 19 when I came to this country. There were seven of us, but I was the first to leave the old home. I had no knowledge of how to get work in New York city, so I walked 50 miles to get a job on the railroad grade. It was the summer of '67. I got $1.50 a day, but when I was paid I found my greenbacks were worth but 40 cents on the dollar, so I really got but 60 cents a day. I quit and took a job at $2 a day shoveling sawdust away from the belts in a sawmill. There were two shifts. The day shift was 12 hours, the night shift but 11 hours. I stood in with the foreman so he let me go on the night shift every other night. That meant that every other day I worked 23 hours. In this way I put in 10 days' work each week all summer. That winter I got a job which, because it was dangerous, paid $3 a day. It was putting in a dam in the Susquehanna river. We worked in water from knee deep to shoulder deep. We were wet all day. Lots of the men got rheumatism and had to quit, but men were plenty and human life was cheap. The ice was running in the river and it was mortal cold work, but I was hanging on to every penny so I could send for my brothers and sisters to come to this wonderful land of freedom and opportunity.

"Soon I had enough to pay for steerage tickets for two of them. I brought three of my brothers and two sisters over, but no one knows how I worked and saved to do it. I heard wages were better on the Pacific coast, so I went by way of the Isthmus to California. I got work in the harvest field in Santa Clara valley. We ate breakfast by candle light, worked 16 or 17 hours and ate supper by candle light and went to sleep in the hay. Then I got work on the Central Pacific as a laborer at $2.25 a day, seven days a week. In the spring of '70 I went to work for Ben Holladay on the track between Albina and Dutch Town, as they called Aurora in those days. When that work was done I got work as a laborer on the track at Wallula. In 1882 I went to Pendleton. Next year I worked all summer at Hood River. At that time there was but one store and a dozen houses. Drink it is? Never a drop. I couldn't afford to. I was saving money either to bring my brothers and sister over or to support the old folks back home in Ireland.

"Finally I was made assistant roadmaster at $90 a month and my financial worries were over. Later I had charge of the division between Umatilla and Pendleton. I have served as assistant roadmaster between Portland and Deschutes, between Pendleton and Huntington, which is one of the longest divisions, being 174 miles long, and also other divisions. In 1890 I came to Portland to become construction superintendent on the City & Suburban railroad. Campbell & Swigert owned the street railway then. I superintended the double tracking on Grand avenue and built the line to Lower Albina and also to St. Johns. After 10 years with them I went to Skagway and helped build the Yukon & White Pass railroad over the mountains. I put in 10 hours a day and generally got in six hours' overtime so I made good money. I live in Portland now. Yes, it is hard scratching to get along; living is so high. No, I never saved much for I was always helping someone else. I guess you can classify me as a relic of bygone days. I am like an old engine that is in the junk pile. I have seen my best days."

Olden Oregon

The Genesis of the Oregon Agricultural College

The legislature of 1868 passed an act creating a board of commissioners for the location of the 90,000 acres appropriated by congress for agricultural colleges and to establish such a college. By this act a school already in existence at Corvallis was adopted as the agricultural college. Each state senator was authorized to select one student, not less than 16 years of age, who should be entitled to two years' tuition at the college. The president of the college was authorized to draw upon the state treasurer for $11.25 per quarter for each student, the money to be refunded to the state out of the sale of agricultural lands. The commission appointed to select the lands was composed of John F. Miller, J. C. Avery and I. H. Douthit.

The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader.

OREGON NOTES

The public service commission has granted an increase in rates to the Damascus Telephone company, effective August 1.

The Superior Dredging company of Nevada has received a permit from the state corporation department to operate in Oregon.

For a present on his eightieth anniversary Tom Smart, tyler of the Pendleton lodge of Elks, received a life membership in the lodge.

Extensive purchases of apples for foreign shipment are being made at Hood River and White Salmon, but prices are not being made public.

Three gillnetters have been arrested at Astoria for fishing during the Sunday closing period. They had 448 pounds of salmon, which was confiscated.

Carlton McFadden, who left the University of Oregon two years ago to enter West Point, has received a commission as second lieutenant in the regular army.

With the exception of one teacher in the St. Helens high school and one grade teacher in the West St. Helens school, the factulty of both schools is complete.

After a shutdown of 30 days to install additional machinery, the mill of the Columbia County Lumber company at St. Helens has resumed operations with a double shift.

A new record in dairy production in Oregon is that of a Jersey cow owned by L. A. McCormack of Tillamook. Tester reports for June show that the cow produced 1896 pounds of milk, with 115.66 pounds of butter fat.

WASHINGTON

A change of ownership has been made in the Columbia Shingle company at Kalama.

The Clarke County Sunday School association will hold a convention August 24 and 25 at Camas.

Timber owners have protested against the valuations made by the assessor of Cowlitz county to the county equalization board.

The Walla Walla farm bureau has taken charge of the first day of the Walla Walla fair, which will be held September 15 to 18.

The cost of educating Tacoma school pupils last year was an increase of $11.60 per capita. On 18,203 students the expenditure per capita was $71.54.

Miss Frances Blurock, a graduate of the University of Oregon school of journalism, has been appointed society editor of the Vancouver Columbian.

William Ferguson of Walla Walla will be presiding judge at the Frontier day celebration in September. He is a banker, stockraiser and wheat grower.

At the annual meeting of the Okanogan County Better Roads association a special committee was appointed to promote a new departure in county road management.

In continuation of the "know your state" campaign the resources and industries of the state will be taken up at a series of assembly lectures at the Washington state normal this fall.

The Thurston county superior court has sustained the order of the public service commission requiring the North Coast Power company to refund excess payments made by the city of Centralia.

IDAHO

Non-Partisans of Ada county have agreed on a list of candidates for county offices.

The Grangeville Commercial club is taking up the matter of a livestock show and border day celebration.

The state board of equalization is in session. Reports have been received from all but three or four counties.

Forest fires which have been burning in the Priest Lake district for the past month are now either out or under control.

Dr. E. E. Launaugh has announced his resignation as director of the bureau of public health service, department of public welfare.

The Spokane & Eastern Railway & Power company has started to break ground for the construction of a new $15,000 warehouse at Dalton.

Construction on the highway up the south fork of the Clearwater will begin soon, the first camp having been established two miles below Mount Idaho.

The public utilities commission has granted grain and warehouse companies of the state increases on rates for the handling of grain, seed, wool, beans and peas.

H. A. Lyon, director of the bureau of markets, department of agriculture, has filed protests against the quarantine rulings on the shipment of Idaho potatoes made by the state horticulturist of Montana.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

The way some of our high-brow and high-priced statesmen froths and raves over some people that goes to the ballot box fer a remedy might make you think they was blown-in-the bottle Bolsheviks. No matter how foolish or moonshiny a scheme is, them as b'leeves in it has a right to vote for it, and them as don't hain't got no right to stop 'em from peaceably assemblin' accordin' to the constitution. To make votes fer anything, go to persecutin' the people that advocates it. To make soldiers fer it, go to hangin' of 'em out of hand. The Abolitionists was built up, and the big Civil war come, jist b'cause some people didn't know any better'n to persecute and shut off debate.

Biscuits by the Million Are Baked in Portland. Of Many Varieties.

"Say, look here, what do you think I am!" exploded the manager of the biscuit company. "I'm no human adding machine. I'm in the business, not of counting but of making biscuits. If I had to count 'em I'd have no time for anything else."

Which is just another way of saying that Portland is by very much the biscuit center of the Northwest and that so many millions are baked and sealed into attractive packages that no one knows just how many there are. But the output of three plants which represent an investment of $750,000 is not less than $2,000,000 a year and between 350 and 400 workers are thereby given employment. More than 100 varieties of cracker biscuits are baked in the three plants. Some are square, some are long, some are oval, some are salty, some are sweet, some go best with soup and some dipped in chocolate or other confection most fittingly accompany dessert. The biscuit bakers tell the inquirer, and consumers confirm their statement, that the peculiar adaptability of western flour to biscuit making and the excellent methods used result in biscuits that are toothsome, that are delicate, that are satisfying and that are not excelled by any other biscuits produced elsewhere in the United States. One of the local biscuit plants is a member of a chain of plants on the Pacific coast, the cracker product of which has the third largest distribution in the United States. Portland baked biscuits are eaten appreciatively in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northern California. The biscuit companies say that the people of this region are very loyal to their branch of home industry.

The biscuit baking business is stimulative of grain growing and milling, for the three plants consume 20,000 to 25,000 barrels of flour a year.