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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Spurn not a seeming error, but dig beneath its surface for the truth.—Tupper.

A RAILROAD STRIKE?

IN BRIEF, here is the issue between the railroad managers and railroad brotherhoods.

July 1 a 12 per cent wage cut by the Railroad Labor Board went into effect. It takes $400,000,000 a year out of the pockets of the employes and puts it into the pockets of the railroads.

In addition, by a revision of a part of the working rules, the roads are given "many millions of dollars" taken from the wages of the workers, according to the statement of Ben W. Hooper of the public group of the Railroad Labor Board. The brotherhood chiefs claim that the revision of rules makes the total cut 30 to 40 per cent.

In spite of these wage cuts, the railroads made no cut in rail rates. Though the rates were the highest ever known, so high indeed that the movement of traffic was discouraged, the railroad managers made no suggestion of a rate cut.

Now, with a clamor insistent all over the country for reductions in rail rates, the railroad managers have served notice on the brotherhoods that they will ask for a further cut of 10 per cent in wages, and that if it is granted, they will reduce rates.

Though protesting, the brotherhoods accepted the 12 per cent cut and continued work. They declared at the time that if they accepted that cut peacefully, the managers would demand a further wage reduction. Because both they and the public expected that the original 12 per cent wage cut would be followed by a cut in rates that would help lower the cost of living and stimulate business, and because the railroads pocketed all the profits without reducing rates, the brotherhoods are now resisting a proposed further cut of 10 per cent in their wages. This is the point which has been reached in the controversy, which threatens to tie up the country in a disastrous strike.

The statement of the public group in the Railroad Labor Board says it is the duty of the railroad managers to show good faith by reducing rates through which the public will get the benefit of the original 12 per cent wage cut. And that is the exact view that the country will take. The $400,000,000 actual saving in wages and the added "many millions" saved by revision of working rules translated into reduced railroad rates would help renew the shipment of lumber, would encourage the shipment of agricultural products, would have a salutary effect upon economic conditions.

Railroad investment is no better than agricultural investment. There is no reason, when all the rest of the country is pocketing losses, why the railroads should be carefully protected from all losses. In no event is it just to expect that the brunt of rate reductions be borne by workers whose occupation is hazardous, whose time of service is limited, and on whom the company's exactions as to eyesight and other physical requirements make a job on the roads always precarious and early terminated by advancing age.

The contention of the Railroad Labor Board that the roads should cut rates to match the original 12 per cent reduction and withdraw any proposed further cut in wages, is sound.

An appeal by President Hibben to Princeton undergraduates to take a "firm stand for disarmament" has led to the invitation to 100 Eastern colleges to send delegates to a disarmament conference to be held at Princeton, October 26. There is one process by which the American people can require the conference to reach agreements on limitation of armaments. Princeton is pointing the way.

THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS

THERE was a time, when policemen were policemen, when robbers merely pushed revolvers into the faces of victims before robbing them. In those days, before policemen became politicians, it was more or less important that the professional crooks work rapidly. But since the era of policemen-clerks, policemen-janitors and policemen-politicians, the robbing industry has advanced to the point where the criminal fraternity deftly chloroforms the entire family, including the watch dog, and thereafter works in peace.

That was done in Portland Saturday night. After the occupants of the house were safely chloroformed, everything was easy; the burglars bundled up what loot they wanted and went their way in peace. Who knows who will be chloroformed next? Anybody may be the next victim at any time—except, of course, the police. The robbers apparently believe it is unnecessary to chloroform them.

But then, how can the police be expected to block the operations of the chloroformers? Don't those desks down at Second and Oak have to be manned? Isn't it necessary that the police building attendants keep the building as a building should be kept? Isn't it necessary that policemen-clerks do the clerking? And how could police politicians put another police officer in the hole if they had to spend their time keeping the public from being chloroformed?

The big annual conference of the Boy Scouts of the Northwest begins sessions in Portland today. The organization is perhaps the finest boy movement ever inaugurated. It is a character trainer and a manhood maker. An episode of recent history was a Boy Scout pleading with his mother to stop smoking cigarettes. If every youngster in America passed his boyhood in the Boy Scout organization, juvenile courts would have less to do and reform schools would have fewer inmates. And citizenship in the next generation would be on a higher standard.

IN OTHER DAYS

PERHAPS some day an improved American taste will demand a revival of comic opera. "Robin Hood," as given last week at the Heilig, is a delightful augury of conditions to be, if that revival comes. Song in its purity, chorus in its rippling harmony and ripping changes; music worth the interest of the millions; fun as clean as human mind can make it, made an evening free from the shoddy and tinsel with which so many amusements are of late loaded down.

There was a golden day when light opera had its triumphs and its ascendency. Those were days of fewer crimes and hangings and murders and less flouted law and human hate. Perhaps in the shifting currents and movements of life there will again come a taste for the gentler and lovelier stage productions, from which purer inspiration may be drawn and through which men and women may be soothed by song and sound into the genuine harmonies of existence.

Not in a long time has "Robin Hood" meant so much in its beauty, and never so much in the quality of its presentation.

Wanderlust led "Biddy," a Texas hen, to perch on the trucks of a Pullman sleeper and journey 600 miles to Sedalia, Missouri. Whenever the train stopped en route "Biddy" hopped off the trucks to stretch herself and pick up a bit of food and hopped on again when it started. At Sedalia a brakeman killed her and there perished with her the secret of what clime or country she sought to visit. She deserved a better fate.

QUITTING THE CABINET?

RUMORS that Secretary Mellon is to resign are not surprising.

The treasury head came to Washington schooled to manage big businesses in a business way. He had been the active head of several colossal enterprises. He had reported to his various boards of directors and been aided and sustained in his projects.

But the mind does not recall any instance where he has been sustained by congress. He has gone before committees and reported on the status of finances. He has asked for authority to fund debts. He has made recommendations and asked cooperation.

Congress has sent him back for further reports. He has been refused authority to act. His recommendations have been cast aside like chaff. He has been given nothing he requested. Treated like the office boy of congress, the man who is supposedly the financier of the administration has been gracefully but rapidly pushed into a position of impotency. And on top of congress' treatment of the treasury head, President Harding himself has finally deserted him in the matter of foreign loans by bowing to the demands of the legislative committee.

Of course, Mr. Mellon has made some proposals that, translated into law, would be a load for the party to carry in the next election. He is a little awkward as a politician. His training was not obtained in that school.

Perhaps the secretary will stay at his post. But his resignation would occasion neither surprise nor criticism of the secretary of the treasury.

A GREAT VISION

AMERICA is face to face with a tremendous business depression. The arms conference is in the offing. We have shipping problems. We have unemployment. We are about to experience a general strike among railway employes. The farmers are in trouble. European markets are in a bad way. Taxes are tremendous. We can't collect European debts. People are starving in various countries. No way has been evolved to stop war.

Never was there a time when there was such a demand for statesmanship at the national capital. Never was there a time when great deeds were more in demand from a government. Never was there a time when presidents, cabinet officers, congressmen and senators could render greater service to their country and the world. Never was there a time when there was more opportunity for big, wholesome and beneficial service by men in Washington. Never was the world in more pressing need of big men and big thoughts.

But, in the face of all the work to be done, all the tremendous tasks and problems with which the government is faced, and all the demand for statesmanship, here comes Senator Elkins of West Virginia, spending his time and the time of others at Washington, demanding that all Democrats be speedily ejected from government jobs and Republicans replace them. That is indeed a lofty vision of what is needed to put a crippled world back on its feet.

It is no wonder that a prominent government official, when he learned that Senator Elkins was to accompany the president on a trip to Florida, remarked:

"The president apparently desires mental relaxation."

All Portland churches are reported crowded as a result of the Go-to-Church movement for last Sunday. While the spell is on, it would be a good thing to make every Sunday a go-to-church day.

BRINGING BACK YOUTH

A FAIRYLAND of science is opened by the properties of radium, according to an address before the Convention of Therapeutics by Dr. E. Stillman Bailey of Chicago.

That it will prolong human life if taken internally is one of his claims. The renewed youth of men working in the uranium mines of Colorado attracted attention and led to investigations. During the "flu" epidemic, it was noticed that these workers were immune, according to Dr. Bailey. Rheumatism, gout and neuritis were unknown. It was concluded after investigation that the results among the mine operatives were to be attributed to the drinking of water charged with radium.

"Nothing short of marvelous" was Dr. Bailey's description of the results among people who took internally tablets made by radium rays caught in sugar and milk. These tablets prevent the hardening of arteries, and acute pains are made to disappear as if by magic. Jaded appetites become keen again and red corpuscles increase 250,000 within 48 hours after the treatment.

The possibilities of radium as a blood remedy, tonic and for other uses, Dr. Bailey insisted, are still undreamed of. Announcements of curatives are often premature and the alleged discovery frequently fails to materialize. The claims of this scientist are almost beyond belief, but they are from one of the foremost authorities on radium and were made before a highly reputable body of medical men.

People generally, and especially farmers, are compelled to agree with an eastern philosopher who has enunciated the doctrine that in these days the only pig that is profitable is the blind pig.

ACCOUNTING FOR CHARITY

THERE was a time when the cost of collecting funds for charity in this city ranged from $15 to $35 of every $100 given for the benefit of the needy. The Community Chest report shows that the cost of securing the fund for 36 beneficiaries in a single drive was $4 of every $100 or 4 per cent.

The subsequent cost of administering the chest, i. e., presiding over and supervising the disbursement of funds, is 90 cents of each $100 collected.

The total cost of the Community Chest to Portland's fund for charity is less than one-third of what was once considered a minimum charge for collection only.

An even more valuable contribution to the convenience of the city is the fact that since the advent of the Community Chest the daily and weekly drives for promiscuous purposes have been abandoned in favor of the concerted, united method of securing funds. Tag days, once a frequent irritant, have become little more than a memory. Hard headed business men have accepted responsibility for financing and keeping the cash book of this city's benevolences.

From all the beneficiary organizations in return have come testimony that they have been well and satisfactorily served. Of $589,394, net, in pledges, $394,737 has been collected, $288,434 has been paid to beneficiaries, $76,591 is the balance in bank and $194,656 is the amount yet to be collected.

Portland never had before such accounting or such accountability in connection with its contributions to charity. The Community Chest is justifying itself.

PAINFUL SURPRISE FOR MR. HARDING

Having Converted the Disarmament Conference Into Something Vastly Different From Its Original Purpose, He Finds the People Demanding Results Just the Same—Original Proposal Simple and Practical, in Contrast With Harding Program.

From the New York World.

To a Brooklyn woman who wrote to Mr. Harding asking him what he meant by "reasonable limitation on armament" the president replies that "by reasonable limitation I mean something practical that there is a chance to accomplish."

But what does the president mean by "something practical that there is a chance to accomplish"? We agree with him that "universal disarmament would be beyond the hope of realization," but he must have a definite plan or program or formula in mind, and it was that which his Brooklyn correspondent was undoubtedly seeking to ascertain. Mr. Harding's letter leaves her as completely in the dark as she was before.

* * *

The administration's disarmament efforts at present seem to be directed mainly to warning the country against expecting too much from the conference that Mr. Harding has called. The state department scolds the correspondents for referring to it as a disarmament conference and tells them to call it a conference for the limitation of armaments. The White House beseeches them not to let the American people think the conference will fulfill their hopes and informs them that such hopes are highly reprehensible anyway. Senators who stand high in the councils of the administration are as cynical as German junkers in regard to every specific proposal to end competitive armament. From time to time one of the administration's inspired press agents takes his typewriter in hand and permits the populace to know that the president is discouraging public expectations only in order to provide a fuller measure of national gratification when the work of the conference is finished.

* * *

In the meantime nobody has ever been able to find out the administration's own views on the limitation of armament or to ascertain what the president has in mind when he talks about "something practical." What is practical to one man may seem wholly unpractical to another, and the administration never ventures to say what the country has a right to expect from the conference.

Presumably Mr. Harding himself does not know what the country ought to expect or what he ought to expect. Having made the issue of armament subordinate to the questions of the Pacific and the Far East, all expectations must necessarily be vague. They might have been very definite and specific, however, if the president had adhered to the Borah resolution. Here was something wholly "practical," something that there was "a chance to accomplish." Instead of taking it, Mr. Harding fought it until he saw that he was beaten and then proposed a wholly different kind of conference.

* * *

It would not have been difficult to bring the United States, Great Britain and Japan into an agreement to suspend their naval building programs for a period of five years. In those five years much could have been settled in regard to the Pacific and the Far East, and it is safe to predict that at the end of five years none of the peoples concerned would have permitted its government to resume the race for sea supremacy. Competitive armament would have been dead in respect to navies, and something very practical would have been accomplished.

* * *

Had Mr. Harding adopted the Borah plan the country's expectations would have been limited to the possibilities of the Borah plan. Having dragged everything into the conference that could be dragged in, including his mythical association of nations, the president is now astonished to find that people have been taking him seriously and are disposed to hold him to a strict responsibility.

October

From the Spokane Spokesman Review.

October is a fine month almost anywhere, but residents of the Inland Empire of the Pacific Northwest have more than a little justification for believing that the beauties of Indian summer, its special qualities of sereneness and mellowness, are somewhat more generously given here than in other regions. It is a splendidly even-tempered season, summing up in a few weeks all the virtues of a climate that habitually does things in moderation.

The fineness of our autumns we owe largely to the startling richness of their color effects. Lacking though we do the flaming glory that the fall brings to countries where the maple and the oak predominate, there is still a warmth of color that harmonizes exactly with the warmth of the sunny days. The fields and hillsides appear a rich golden bronze, made doubly rich by contrast with the somber verdancy of the evergreens. The sunshine of this time of year has a strangely intensifying effect on the natural color scheme, softening it and bringing out admirably the deeper tones.

But our October stimulates more than the vision. The air we breathe is vintage stuff. It is dry and tingling, with an inimitable bouquet. It makes outdoor living a positive necessity, long walks a perpetual temptation, restful sleep a matter of course. Doubtless nature might have provided a more exhilarating atmosphere, but doubtless nature never did.

Neither is our autumn at its best a brief and niggardly season. It comes and it stays for weeks of golden comfort between the heat of summer and the dampness and chill of winter. These are days to be slowly savored, to be enjoyed deliberately, letting no morsel of their delight escape.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says

Down to Gresham a few bench whittlers told Ezry Millhaven when he was down there t'other day that they'd git in and boost like all creation if it wasn't that they're dead sure it can't be done, the hitchin' of Gresham on one side of the 1925 fair and Portland on t'other. Ezry told 'em that in early days him and Cap. Jim Kelley, now of Montavilla, went a-bear huntin' along about '52, and Ezry thought he couldn't climb a tree if a bear ever got after him; but when a bear did foller 'em tollable lively he shinned up a tree like a chipmunk. Ezry orated to a bunch of the Gresham woe prophets till he got so all-fired dry he struck out for a glass of cider and come home a-singin' "Glory Hallelujah!" about midnight, to the mortifyin' of all his granchildren.

CAN'T GET BY ALWAYS

From the Terre Haute Star.

The infant may function as a tax exemption for a number of years, but the government will take it out of him when he grows up.

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.]

"BE IT REPEALED."

Too Much Law, Too Little Free Human Will, Is Asserted.

Wilder, Idaho, Oct. 10.—To The Editor of The Journal.—As I read your comment on the statement of Judge Grant of the probate court of Boston on the drift of the increase of divorces, the applicants for which are mostly women, I could not but think that the increased earnings of women cause the desire for independence and maybe an aversion to home life and its cares and duties. But what shall we do about this? Surely not to ask for more prohibition, the abrogation of divorce, I am one of those unfortunates who sued for a divorce. Whom did I wrong in obtaining a legal separation from the woman who did not want me, and left me? What could the law do in a case like this, where the better half was dissatisfied with home and surroundings and with the man? Call the sheriff and bring her back? Handcuff her or hobble her to keep her from going away? Have her arrested for desertion? Sue for alimony? Nonsense! What is the tie that binds? Is it the marriage license or the wedding ceremony? I hold that the only tie is love. When this is lacking the result can only be disastrous and end in a separation, regardless of all law or ceremony. And why should I hesitate to give the freedom which the wife wanted, seeing that I could not win her love? Whom did I harm? Whom did she harm? None but I. And should I let her drift around until she found someone to urge her to make up a cruelty charge and sue for divorce and alimony? Why cause strife and bitterness? I gave her what she desired, and I am taking my medicine.

I can not account for this wave of intolerance—this "verboten" mania. What good can such waves do? We can not make the lazy industrious, the cruel kind, or the intemperate temperate, by law. These desires come from within. No prohibition law can make people temperate. Law can only punish, interfere, destroy. It can create nothing—except legalized monopolies.

The course is "about face." "Be it repealed"—that is the road to freedom and equality. The equal right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—that is the golden rule. Let's have our laws square up with this. Remove the legal restraints on the freedom to trade, to swap, to produce, to make and to own all that one produces. Give all mankind an equal right to the use of the earth, as God intended—not a purchaseable right. Unnecessary legislation is unjust legislation.

"Be it repealed" should be our aim until we have that freedom, the right to do as I please provided I interfere not with your right to do as you please, which is so clearly expressed in our Declaration of Idependence. Let us follow that, and not be led off into a wilderness of legal barriers, restrictions and obstructions. G. M. Paulsen.

AGREES AS TO NEWBERRY

But Disagrees With The Journal as to Another Historic Matter.

Susanville, Oct. 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—I hereby tender sincere thanks for the editorials on Truman H. Newberry and those who are diligently smearing him with whitewash. You have led several much-needed reforms to successful issues, and I hope you will succeed in making congress a respectable body of legislators; at present it is not. A few individual members may retain their self-respect, but it is hard to believe even that much. "Show me the company you keep and I'll tell you who you are," has been true of the human race since time began, and will continue to be true as long as time lasts. And when senators and congressmen not only associate with convicted criminals, but whitewash them, we may put all of them in the criminal class. Oh, the colossal effrontery, utter shame, and unmitigated disgrace of it!

The election in New Mexico simply shows that the tide of demoralization is still rising. But that is an indorsement of the Harding administration.

But as I have told you before, I do not like your editorials when they deal with history. You write according to the light you have, doubtless, but that light is derived from the bitterly sectional stuff that has been taught in the schools of the United States for more than half a century. I inclose an excerpt from an editorial in The Journal of October 7 and quote some recorded facts that show the Confederate war was not fought to free the negroes. Lincoln said: "If I could preserve the Union without freeing any slaves, I would do it; if I could preserve the Union by freeing all the slaves, I would do it. Whatever I do about the colored race, I do because I think it helps to save the Union." On September 22, 1862, Lincoln issued an emancipation proclamation, to take effect January 1, 1863, "unless the Confederate states should return to the Union by that date."

Now refer to the records, and find the above and many other things of like import are spread thereon.

Betty Smyer.

UNEMPLOYMENT CONSIDERED

With Remarks Concerning Shipping Board Ships and Military Burdens.

Portland, Oct. 13.—To the Editor of The Journal—The unemployment committee has surely made some brilliant suggestions, among which is that labor value and material value should be reduced. That means the landlord gets more and is thus enabled to shut out more labor by idle-land speculation. But the next suggestion is like unto the above, namely: "Suggestion of the breaking up of the shipping board's wooden ships, as a means of providing work." An American magazine recently contained the following: "An Associated Press dispatch dated Washington, which appeared in the daily papers of Monday, August 22, carried the following information: 'Bids of $2100 each for the 205 wooden ships, submitted by the Ship Construction and Trading Corporation of New York, have been accepted by the shipping board. Under its (contract) terms the board will receive 15 per cent of the total sale price of $420,500 in cash, and a pro rata portion of the balance on delivery of each vessel. The vessels cost the board from $300,000 to $800,000 each.'"

In another reliable American magazine appears the following item: "Today this enforced disarmament is seen to be the salvation of the German people. The load of militarism that had deformed a nation in body and soul through the long years has been transferred to the backs of America and the allies. Of all the great powers, only Germany is permitted to concentrate her energies and resources on 'productive activities.'"

The American people do not generally know that the shipping board has been making ships since the armistice was signed and is still making them and junking them and that our policy of preparedness costs us now more by half than the war indemnity Germany is paying the allies. And still we fill up on "bootleg" and step on the gas and run over more children every year than there were American soldiers killed in the late war. Who won the war?

J. R. Hermann.

ALL THAT GOES UP STAYS UP

From the Washington Post.

No new homes have gone up because gasoline did.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Poverty is absolute when there's not enough money in sight to buy gas for the final kick-off.

* * *

The fog is, after all, a beautiful thing, for it usually indicates a royal brand of sunshine to follow.

* * *

Among the many good works of the Bible its service in laying out a burglar probably will be unique.

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Now that the tourist season is over the only inconvenience of a rail strike will be the possibility of starvation.

* * *

If Mr. Crow is given a seat in the senate newspaper paragraphers will have fresh food for a thousand lines.

* * *

It is said that there's nothing in all the world so sweet as love's young dream—except the dream of love that is aged and gray.

* * *

Charlie Chaplin proclaims the French girls he met overseas as "more obvious." Yes, we'd discovered that in following the trend of French styles.

SIDELIGHTS

A man who is hen-pecked tries to conceal it, but a woman who is rooster-pecked tells the world.—Roseburg News-Review.

* * *

Seattle has a new daily paper with $100,000 capital; it will take much more than that to make a new daily succeed. —Pendleton East Oregonian.

* * *

School affairs seem to have reached a stage in which there should be still another demonstration, that is, one out in the woodshed with father as the demonstrator.—Bend Bulletin.

* * *

A learned European professor has just discovered a race of people in Sumatra who can neither lie nor steal. Naturally, they have hitherto remained in almost prehistoric obscurity among modern nations.—Sherman County Observer.

* * *

In Klamath Falls when the kingpin bootlegger gets in jail some kind friend saws the bars and lets him out. But Klamath Falls has not been charged with being over its old wild west days very long.—The Dalles Chronicle.

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL

Random Observations About Town

"Dug" Holton of Warren, Idaho, is a guest of the Perkins. "I am in the mining game," said Mr. Holton. "I like to get back to Oregon, for it is my birthplace. My father, Dr. D. S. Holton, came to Oregon in 1852. He went from Portland to the Jacksonville mines in 1853. In 1855 and 1856 he served as a surgeon in the Rogue River war. He also served in the Civil war as a surgeon and was stationed at Boise in 1863. I was born in Kerbyville, October 6, 1860. I lived in Portland 20 years. I used to have charge of the Perkins hotel barroom. Later I ran the Pantheon and still later the Lumberman's Bank cafe. The old time saloonkeepers have become restaurant keepers, hotelmen, farmers and mining men. We wouldn't have had the nerve to try to sell what the bootleggers are palming off as liquor in these eighteenth amendment days. A man is a fool to take a chance with the home brew, moonshine and other decoctions they are selling nowadays. Fusel oil, wood alcohol and all sorts of dangerous ingredients go to the making of the present bootleg liquor."

* * *

Webster Holmes, well known attorney of Tillamook but formerly a resident of the Capital City, is in Portland on business.

* * *

J. H. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. McNeil and Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Stone of Astoria are guests of the Multnomah.

* * *

Dr. A. C. McCowan of Union is in Portland to meet his fellow practitioners.

* * *

S. B. Crouch of Roseburg is registered at the Portland.

* * *

F. F. Williams of Eugene is registered at the Seward.

* * *

D. E. Nebergall of Albany is transacting business in Portland.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Fell of Eugene are Portland visitors.

* * *

Gladys McCourt of Albany is a guest of the Hotel Portland.

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W. G. Smith of Medford is a Portland visitor.

* * *

A. J. Derb of Hood River is transacting business in Portland.

* * *

G. C. Burke of The Dalles is at the Seward.

The desire for summer homes is so great at Yakima, Wash., that the United States forest service cannot survey sites on the Naches river fast enough to supply the demand, says F. H. Cleator, forest examiner. Cleator, assisted by Ranger William Lessinger and Forest Examiner A. A. Griffen, both of the Rainier national forest, has just completed the survey of 55 summer home sites on the Naches, applications for which had been received previous to the survey. Cleator and Ranger Blenkinship also made plans for summer home colonies on Lakes Ketchilus and Kaches on the Sunset highway leading out of Seattle.

* * *

R. Leppla, who has been keeping busy by the growth of Seaside, is at the Oregon. Mr. Leppla has a plumbing establishment in the summer resort capital of the Oregon country.

* * *

Among the medical men registered at the Benson are Dr. C. P. Higgins and Dr. G. G. Gordon of Baker, and Dr. and Mrs. C. D. Donohue of Eugene.

* * *

Robert Johnson, former foot racer, but now prune king of Benton county, is down from Corvallis.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Stokes of Nye, Umatilla county, are guests of the Multnomah.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Duerden of Toledo, county seat of Lincoln county, are at the Perkins.

* * *

L. F. Seitz of Dallas is here on business.

* * *

Ethel S. Wakeman of Newport is a guest at the Seward.

* * *

Mrs. F. M. Carter of Eugene is visiting friends in Portland.

* * *

L. L. Stewart of Fossil is a Portland visitor.

* * *

I. A. Royce of Seaside is a Portland visitor.

* * *

V. L. Strong of Grants Pass is spending a few days in Portland.

* * *

D. E. Hunter of Bend is a guest of the Benson.

* * *

Harriet Eckersley of Salem is registered at the Benson.

OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS OF THE JOURNAL MAN

By Fred Lockley

[Mr. Lockley quotes—though, of course, not with approval—the narrative of a man who has lived by his wits, though he himself admits that "easy ways" are not so easy in the long run.]

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A. Turtledove lives at Vancouver. He and his son Dave own the Detrick furniture store. A day or so ago while I was passing the time of day with Mr. Turtledove I noticed a man with a poker face sitting beside the stove. I watched him out of the corner of my eye while Mr. Turtledove was showing me a letter from the late Dr. Tilzer in which he had enclosed a check for $50 for the home for orphaned Jewish children. "Yes, sir," said Mr. Turtledove; "Dr. Tilzer didn't always tell his right hand when his left hand gave to the needy. Too bad you didn't write an article about him. My boy Dave can give you a good story. When he was in France he made a collection of coins. He met soldiers from all over the world and he got hold of some valuable coins."

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Turning to the man with the poker face he said, "Meet my friend Fred Lockley. He will put you in the paper." Sitting down beside my new acquaintance I said, "I didn't catch your name." He smiled a quizzical smile and said, "If you are going to put me in the paper, I reckon it's just as well you didn't catch my name." "What do you do for your living?" I asked. "Mostly I do everybody. I use my head and live by my wits. Very few people really think. They just think they think. They go through the motions of thinking, and unless they meet me or someone like me they manage to get by."

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"Tell me all about yourself," I said. "I'll leave your name out of the story if you prefer. Where were you born? From your drawl and the way you pronounce your 'r's' I judge you were brought up on corn pone." "I was born at sea about 10 hours out of Dublin," he replied. "My father had gone over there to take the thirty-third degree in Masonry. No, I am not a Mason, though I would give my right arm if I could be; but I took something I can't give back, and that bars me. Mother, with one child, went with father to Ireland. Father, who was Irish, wanted to take the thirty-third degree in his home country. He had to return to America, while mother went to Scotland to visit her people. He sent her transportation on a sailing vessel. She wanted to wait till I was born, but there was no other vessel sailing for a Southern port for some time, so she took passage on the American sailing vessel on which father had secured passage and I was born under the American flag June 2, 1872, 10 hours after we set sail from Dublin.

* * *

"I lived on our ranch near Paris, Texas, till I was 10 years old. My older brother and I had a fight and I thought he took advantage of his position as older brother to bully me, so I pulled my freight on a freight to Western Texas, where I landed a job working for my board on a cattle ranch. After two years there I got restless and jumped a freight and went to New Orleans. I slept in a park for a few days, and while I didn't really miss any meals I postponed them until several uneaten meals had accumulated. A Frenchman gave me a job wiping beer glasses in the St. Charles hotel at $2.50 a week and board.

* * *

"The St. Charles in those days was the hangout for old seadogs from the seven seas. One of these old sea captains, a German, invited me to take a trip with him. I went to Berlin and stayed there as his guest several months. In fact, I learned to speak German almost as well as I spoke English. I came back to the St. Charles, where I worked for the next seven years. While I was working there I took up the study of chemistry and learned to make and age whiskey. I could produce 10-year-old whiskey in 30 days.

* * *

"When they built the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf road I hovered along the Arkansas and Indian Territory line, making whiskey from sugar and corn at a cost of not to exceed 12 cents a gallon and selling it to the railroad section crews and railroad gangs at 12½ cents a glass. There are 128 glasses of whiskey, on an average, to a gallon, so you can see I made big money. I made my headquarters at Beaver Mills or Silver Hill, and when the revenue officers got too nosey I would buy a barrel of cider, add a peck of white corn, and 30 days later I would have 100-proof whiskey.

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"Later I went to Oklahoma City and went into the bootlegging business in a wholesale way. I built up a force of 19 selected men to do my bootlegging all through that country. They finally landed me and took me to Washington, D. C., for selling liquor to Indians, manufacturing it without a license and a lot of other charges. The charge they expected to get me on was counterfeiting a government label. I proved that the label was not a counterfeit, as it was printed from a government die which I had spent a pile of money to have stolen for my use. That charge fell through. I made a pint of whiskey in the court room to sustain my contention that it was properly distilled. To make a long story short, before I finally got clear it cost me all I had made, so I quit the business in disgust and went to Mexico, where they didn't poke into people's private affairs as they did on this side of the line.

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"Before long I had acquired a good ranch. Oddly enough, one of my best men was Pancho Villa, who later cost the United States many millions of dollars trying to catch him. He was a likable chap. His hobby was getting Mexico for the Mexicans. He wanted to break up the big holdings that had been stolen by rich American and Mexican thieves from the people, and restore the land to the peons. I raised cattle for a while. Then I got hold of a high grade silver mine. In fact, I still own a lot of valuable property in Chihuahua and when things settle down I am going back there.

* * *

"Feel my shoulder, or at least where my shoulder used to be." I felt, but there was a deep indentation into which I could put my fist. "That was one of the best surgical jobs I ever saw," said the man who had just been telling me that he lived by his wits. "A man became annoyed at me over a difference of opinion during a dog fight and let me have both barrels of a sawed off shotgun loaded with buckshot. I managed to draw my gun from my hip pocket after I fell and got him through the heart as he stood over me. The doctor fixed me up with some silver plates and silver wires, and unless I attract a person's attention to it it is never noticed."

* * *

He rolled up his sleeve and showed me where his arm had nearly been severed. Across his left hand was a white ridge from wrist to forefinger. "I got that grabbing a knife that was aimed for my heart, and here was a nasty knife wound," he said, as he showed me another long, ugly scar. "I have been shot a good many times and cut up in lots of scrimmages, but I have been lucky in that I have never been shot or cut in the face."

The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader.

OREGON

It costs $154.05 a year for each student in the Hubbard high school.

Announcement from Washington tells of the appointment of Peter Cook as postmaster at Rickreall.

Lane county post of the American Legion has started plans for an Armistice day celebration at Eugene.

A 53-pound watermelon, grown by W. W. Stafford on his Mill Creek ranch, is on exhibition at The Dalles.

According to reports from Umatilla county, coyotes are doing more damage to sheep this fall than they have for many years.

Ben Weathers is the only candidate for the position of postmaster at Enterprise. Lebanon has seven candidates and Newberg six.

Three-shift production at the Brooks-Scanlon mill at Bend, suspended a year ago as the result of market depression, has been resumed.

Capitalized at $250,000, the Imperial Petroleum company of Klamath Falls has filed articles of incorporation with the state department.

The circulation of University of Oregon library books for the first six months of this year was 100,302. The library now has a total of 106,700 volumes.

Thomas M. Miller of Oregon City, who has just celebrated his eighty-second birthday, has served as bailiff of the Clackamas county circuit court for 51 years.

J. C. McKern, manager for the telephone company at Yamhill, suffered a broken nose and other painful injuries when a spike pole slipped and struck him across the face.

Despondent because he was afflicted with gangrene appendicitis, Fred Weber, 45, a prosperous dairyman of Tillamook county, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a piece of glass.

Mrs. Mary A. Pratt died at Beaverton last week, aged 89. Mrs. Pratt crossed the plains in 1852, riding a little mule and helping to drive the loose stock that followed the caravan.

Forty-four members of last June's graduating class of the University of Oregon are now teaching in Oregon, the women mostly in the high schools, and many of the men as principals and superintendents.

Sealed bids will be received by the state treasurer December 1 for $124,825 of Oregon district interest bonds.

A chapter of the woman's auxiliary of the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen has been organized at Silverton.

WASHINGTON

The total tax for Chelan county next year will be $397,834, a reduction of $64,000 from 1921.

Fifty tons of hay belonging to Wallace Blake on his farm near Benton City were destroyed by fire Monday.

Spokane county certified seed potato growers have decided to market none of their first-class seed for less than $120 a ton.

The Pasco Chamber of Commerce has subscribed $50 to assist in the preliminary survey of the proposed Umatilla irrigation project.

H. B. Briggs, graduate of the University of Wisconsin, has been added to the faculty of the Washington State college as an instructor in physics.

A total of 55,771 visitors, among whom were 5985 persons living east of the Mississippi, visited the Rainier national park in the 1921 season.

The Oasis tavern, a bungalow resort near the river east of Yakima, was destroyed by fire of unknown origin a few days ago. The loss is $15,000.

Nile temple of the Mystic Shrine has united with other Masonic bodies in Seattle in indorsing the move to erect a $1,000,000 Masonic temple in that city.

Marvin J. Dickinson, Northwest pioneer, is dead at his home in Thornton. Dickinson lived in Salem in the early days, but had been a resident of Thornton for 51 years.

Harvesting machines may again be made in Walla Walla, the iron works announcing that at least 20 of the Coburn harvesters may be made in the company's shops this winter.

Mrs. P. G. Sutherlin of Spokane was elected president of the Washington division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy at its thirteenth annual session in Spokane last week.

Up to the close of the last biennium the federal government had spent $2,659,000 on 263.4 miles of highway in the state of Washington. This is much more than had been given to any other state in the union.

In an attempt to save her 3-year-old son from being run over by a train, Mrs. C. H. Thiemens, wife of the postmaster at Espanola, was instantly killed when struck by a Great Northern fast mail train.

IDAHO

Boise schools have an enrollment of 300 more pupils than at this time last year.

Farmers of the Gooding section are threshing wheat and harvesting their apples and potatoes. The yield this year was far above the average.

Alex Lewis and Dick Jordan are under arrest at Gooding, a large amount of stolen property having been found in their possession.

The Gooding school board has just sold $60,000 of refunding bonds to take up the outstanding warrants and indebtedness of the district.

The Buhl high school has been placed on the accredited list of schools by the Northwestern association of the secondary and higher schools.

The body of a hunter found shot to death last Friday near Conlin has been identified as that of Bud Trimblin of Sandpoint. Officers are searching