

THE OREGON STATESMAN

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THE ROMANCE OF THE POTATO

The Bible does not mention potatoes. Julius Caesar never saw a potato. Probably George Washington never ate one. Abraham Lincoln no doubt ate potatoes; but they were in his time only emerging into great popular use as an esculent from their lowly estate as feed for hogs and cattle.

Johnson's Cyclopedia says the potato is a native of the elevated tropical valleys of Mexico, Chili and Peru.

They were brought to Spain from Peru in the sixteenth century; they had been grown there, in the wonderful ancient gardens that would by comparison have made the hanging gardens of Babylon look like thirty cents; before the Incas rose to power.

Potatoes were introduced into Virginia from Florida by Spanish explorers, and into Great Britain from Virginia, by Sir John Hawkins, in 1565, though credit is usually assigned to Sir Walter Raleigh, who was never in Virginia.

They were brought to New England from Ireland in the 18th century—hence the "Irish" potato. The "Complete Gardiner," a work published in America in 1719, did not mention potatoes. In 1771 only two varieties were mentioned in the most important English work on Gardening, and they were considered chiefly as food for swine and cattle.

There are hundreds of varieties; there might easily be thousands—for a single seed ball may produce many varieties—and a particular variety can only be propagated from the tubers.

The potato (Solanum tuberosum) is allied to several powerful narcotics, such as tobacco, henbane and belladonna, as well as to other esculents, such as the tomato, egg plant and capsicum.

The English people use potatoes in more ways, perhaps, than the Americans—though they do not in this respect quite approach the Italians in their use of corn—for Charles A. Dana said the cooks of Rome knew 1000 different ways to cook and serve corn. The English raise potatoes in hot houses extensively, and contrive to have them fresh all the year through.

The gold of the Indies was the attraction that led Columbus to sail westward, that carried Cortez to Mexico and Pizarro to Peru. The Incas had large stores of the precious metal, representing, no doubt, the accumulations of many centuries. The capture of such a booty resounded throughout Europe. Spain became for a time the wealthiest, as well as the most powerful, nation of Europe, and this was ascribed to the gold of Peru.

But Peru held another treasure much more valuable for the nations of Europe than the golden booty of Pizarro.

Carrying the potato to Europe was an event of much more profound significance in relation to the subsequent history of the world than sending the Inca gold to the coffers of Spain.

But nobody understood the value of the potato, and its Peruvian origin was generally forgotten before the plant became well known. Instead of Peruvian potatoes, we call them Irish potatoes.

The potato was the basis of the ancient Peruvian nation and has attained almost the same importance in other parts of the world within the last hundred years.

The instinctive prejudice against new seed plants prevented any general utilization of the potato in Europe for over two centuries, and it did not begin to be grown as a crop until the period of the French Revolution. Even then it had to be forced on the public by the persistent efforts of the French philanthropist, Parmentier, who demonstrated its food possibilities by establishing a large number of soup kitchens for the poor of Paris.

Potato soup still bears the name of Parmentier—a homely memorial, but one that might not be ungrateful to a philanthropist.

Historically speaking, the general utilization of the potato is still relatively recent. Less than a century ago it was still considered as something of a novelty among the farmers of the United States. Thus, in 1856, we find in the American Agriculturist the following statement:

"I have worked a farm over fifty years, and have cultivated potatoes more or less every year. Fifty years ago little was thought of this root. A row or two were planted on the outside of corn fields, or in some corner of a lot unfit for anything else. Ten to fifteen bushels was an ample supply for a family. There is a great difference between then and now as regards this crop, for potatoes are now one of the most important branches of agriculture."

In 1916 about 400,000,000 bushels of potatoes were being produced annually in the United States, and the world's crop of potatoes was estimated at more than 6,000,000,000 bushels—which meant that if the potato crop of the world had been divided equally, there would have been enough to give each inhabitant of the earth about four bushels of potatoes.

By the same sign, the annual is now around 8,000,000,000 bushels. The value of a single potato crop much exceeds that of all the gold that the conquerors took from the Incas.

So much for the romance of the potato; or shall we call it the epic of the lowly spud?

But we are concerned principally with the potato industry in the Salem Slogan campaign as one of the fifty-two (or more) basic industries of Salem.

The best authorities say our growers should pay no attention to the thousands of possible new varieties—that, in fact, they should confine their growing to, say, five tried and wanted varieties: Late, Burbank, Gold Coin, Peerless, Early, Early Rose (pink), and Earliest of All (white).

The record yield of potatoes is over 2000 bushels to the acre, in Scotland.

Geo. R. Hyslop, Professor of Farm Crops at the Oregon Agricultural College, tells our readers in this issue that in their trial beds at the College last year the production ran from 17 to 288 bushels to the acre, largely determined by seed stock; too small seed pieces and diseased seed.

And he tells of the seed certification program of the College. Every potato grower, every farmer, in Oregon, and especially in these Willamette valley counties, tributary to Salem, ought to have this information; ought to profit by it. If the farmers in this district would take heed and profit by this program, it would be worth thousands of dollars annually to this district. We could

supply seed stock to Washington and California and other states, where they cannot grow their seed stock—and double the income from that part of our potato yield.

Arthur Girod, a grower near Salem, with an experience of twenty years, says he has made \$307.65 net per acre from his potatoes. F. E. Mangis, of Mangis Bros., buyers, agree with Prof. Hyslop on the importance of good seed; proper cultivation, grading and packing. With these essentials observed, they say we can COMPETE WITH ANY MARKET IN THE UNITED STATES.

In fact, the district surrounding Salem is by nature a great potato growing country. There is no good reason why we may not lead the world in this industry. And there is money in it; big money, for the men who will give it the intelligent care and work which its importance deserves.

PLAY SAFE WHEN SICK IS ADVICE OF PHYSICIAN

"Flu" or Not the "Flu" Question Now Confronting Salem Doctors

DISEASE LIGHT IN CITY

Dr. Pomeroy Says Influenza Is Becoming Fashionable as Epidemic Spreads

The "flu" or not the "flu" is the question that confronts physicians in Salem as well as in the rest of the country. Many think to be on the safe side and when in doubt say yes, and order a strict quarantine, but this is not always the best thing to do, according to Dr. R. E. Pomeroy, health officer.

The influenza situation has a number of complicating elements, according to Dr. Pomeroy. Influenza has become so "fashionable" that people cheerfully apply the name to indispositions of all sorts. One does not even need a doctor, now, to have the influenza. This has often resulted in what Dr. Pomeroy considers needless quarantine, with consequent hampering of industry and activities in general.

There is also a tendency to attribute to the influenza a number of deaths that are due, at least in part, to other causes. Of the four recent deaths attributed to influenza in Salem, two were reported on the death certificates as from pneumonia while the remaining two were caused by influenza with other complications. The number of cases of la grippe or influenza from February 13 to 17 was 25, and the number reported on February 18 was seven.

Instructions from the state health board specify that absolute quarantine is not required and will be resorted to only in case of a disastrous epidemic, but the city health officers want it understood that if anyone is really ill with the influenza they should be isolated and contact with them avoided by those whose work takes them out and about in public.

BETTER TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE

Nearly everybody at some time or other suffers from backache, sore muscles, swollen joints, rheumatic pains or other symptoms of kidney and bladder ailments. These may not be serious, but it certainly pays to be on the safe side. Foley Kidney Pills strengthen and invigorate kidneys and bladder and help them do their work. J. C. Perry.

FUTURE DATES.

February 18, 19 and 20—Salem Automobile show. February 19, Thursday—Children's eugenics test at Commercial club. February 22, Sunday—Washington's birthday. February 22, Sunday—French government awards, through American legion, memorial certificates to relatives of soldiers who lost lives in war. February 23, Monday—Federal inspection of Company M, National Guard of Oregon. February 25, Wednesday—High school alumni meet for organization. February 25, Wednesday—Cherry City bakery to entertain Rotarians at banquet. September 27 to October 2—Oregon State fair.



TWO IN ONE

For the middle-aged or elderly person who requires one pair of glasses for reading and another pair for out-of-door use, we recommend Invisible Bifocal or double vision glasses.

They are really two pairs of glasses in one—two lenses fused together without any visible joining. There is no prominent seam or joint to tell the public that the wearer is "getting along in years."

With Invisible Bifocals even your closest friends cannot detect that you are wearing double vision glasses. Call and see them.

Henry E. Morris & Co.

Eyesight Specialists 305 State Street Phone 239

ALLEGED RADICAL IS RELEASED BY COURT

(Continued from page 1)

same ground, and the court ruled adversely on all, excepting Faulkner Vanderveer, when the motion seeking dismissal of Elmer Smith was denied, asked that Smith be permitted liberty on bail. This the court also denied.

Faulkner was elated at his release, but no more so than his mother, who has sat in the courtroom daily, awaiting the outcome of the trial. She had no comment to make when she learned that her son had been set free, but her face showed her delight. Faulkner's comment was brief.

"I don't know just exactly how I feel," he said. "I've been in jail so long that it seems like home to me." He expected to return to his home in Centralia tonight or tomorrow.

ONE RESULT OF WINTER.

Life indoors with lack of exercise and heavy food is apt to throw the digestive organs out of order. Foley Cathartic Tablets are a wholesome physic that thoroughly cleanse the bowels without griping or nausea. They sweeten the stomach, invigorate the liver, banish headaches, biliousness, bloating, gas. J. C. Perry.

OLD LOVE STORY RETOLD IN PLAY

"Bird of Paradise" Wins Hearts of Responsive Audience at Grand Theater

Dusky maidens among luxurious palms, balmy breezes of the South Pacific, wafting soft strains of soulful music, pleasing landscapes, a volcano illuminating the heavens with the glow from its mighty lake of molten fire, these were scenes that, in turn, delighted and terrified those who witnessed the rendition of the "Bird of Paradise" at the Grand theater last night.

It was good many years ago when Oliver Morosco first staged this romantic play descriptive of life in dreamy Hawaii. Beattie Barricade, now popular as a screen star, was the first to act the role of leading lady. The play was a success from the first night of its exhibition. It has been presented in many cities since and frequently on return engagements.

"The Bird of Paradise" is the old story of romantic love of happiness, disappointment, sorrow and despair with the final conquest of right. The author, Richard Walton Tully, has given the romances of life a new and vivid interpretation by bringing out in sharp contrast the conduct of the degenerate Paul Wilson after his marriage to Luana, the beautiful native princess; as against the regeneration of an outcast beach-comber through the devotion and love of Diana Larned, an American girl.

The historical setting of the dramatic events in the early nineteenth century when the Americans invaded the peaceful island, took possession of the territory in the name of and for the United States.

The struggle for supremacy finally favored the Americans with the result that the natives, in their superstitious devotion to their beloved Hawaii, appealed to the princess to make the supreme sacrifice by plunging headlong into the seething, glowing fiery crater of the volcano.

The climax of the evening was the wonderful glowing reproduction of the yawning crater with its boiling lava, glowing fire and wreathing volumes of fumes and smoke.

PLUCKY WOMAN LEGAL ADVISOR

Miss Cecil Gavin, City Attorney at The Dalles, Passes Wednesday in Salem

Miss Celia L. Gavin, who probably has the distinction of being the only woman city attorney in Oregon, passed yesterday in Salem attending to legal matters before the supreme court.

Miss Gavin resides at The Dalles and has been active in civic and municipal affairs of that city for several years. She attended the university of Oregon and upon returning to her home at The Dalles took up the study of law. She later passed the required examinations and was admitted to the bar.

She has also acted as secretary for Mrs. Alexander Thompson representative in the state legislature from Wasco county, and in that capacity attended the last regular session of the lawmakers held here in January, 1919.

"I am much interested in my work," said Miss Gavin yesterday, "and I am surprised that more women do not engage in the practice of law. As in any other profession hard work and strict attention to duty are essential to success in following the practice of law." During her stay here yesterday Miss Gavin called upon a number of state officials with whom she became acquainted during the 40 days she passed here late in the year 1919.

The Biggest Constance Talmadge Hit Yet!



AT YE LIBERTY TODAY

WAR VETERAN IS AT AUTO SHOW

War Touch Given Peaceful Exhibition by Presence of Grim Warrior

Have you seen the Veteran of the World War now in constant attendance at the Auto Show? Like many another "Veteran" this one never saw the sunny vineyards of France nor the equally famous blood-stained fields of Flanders but no disgrace has accumulated to this veteran on that account.

If you haven't seen the veteran you will want to because it is just like every other Ford ambulance that went to France and it is the exact prototype of the little wagon that your friend took a ride in when he stood too close to Berlin. Though it never saw the war it breathes the very spirit of war. You will note that the cushions on the seats are strapped down. We have heard, though, that these straps did not always keep the seats on for there were ambulances that had no nice soft cushions.

The windshield is not of glass but of celluloid and there is no glass anywhere that might be shattered and cause injury. A very business like fire extinguisher is clamped onto the body convenient to the driver's seat. The whole is covered with a coat of paint of that serious minded O. D. color.

If your nostrils itch for another whiff of the smoke of battle just go and gaze upon this veteran of the battle of Detroit.

ROTARIANS TALK AT NOON DAY LUNCHEON

(Continued from page 1)

the others would cover virtually the Rotary will mean much to the city of Salem in the future and every member of the local club will find plenty to do in this wonderful club which promotes personal service to our fellow men.

INDIANS WIN IN HARD BATTLE

Legion Team Meets Defeat by Score of 34 to 26 Before Large Crowd

Chemawa quintet defeated the American Legion basketball team of Vancouver at Chemawa last night with a score of 34 to 26. At the end of the second half the score stood 25 to 25. Five minutes were played and as a result the visiting team lost to the Indian basket toppers.

The Chemawa team began play with a feeling that seemed to indicate a little overconfidence. The Legion team five was composed of players who matched up well with the Indians. The Chemawa gymnasium was filled with spectators and

To Prevent Grip Take

"Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets"

Be sure you get the Genuine Look for this signature

E. W. Grove on the box. 30c

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

LOST—ENGINE BATTERIES, COIL and box, going out of Salem on Oak Grove road, Eugene T. Prescott, Route 2, Salem. Phone 55F24.

the game was one of the fastest the Chemawa team has played this year. Downie, Bittle and Nix were the high men on the home team, with five baskets each. Shandling, of the visitors, made six baskets, some of which were tossed in remarkable style. Bishop, Norgren and Belviers played a promising game for their team.

Springer, of Salem, refereed the game and was well received. Chemawa's lineup was: Downie and Bittles, forwards; Sherard, center; Nix and Nichols, guards. The Legion team: Davis and Shandling, forwards; Norgren, center; Belviers and Bishop, guards.

"Among the memorable dates in history," wrote a boy, "was Antony's date with Cleopatra." — Boston Transcript.

INFLUENZA starts with a Cold Kill the Cold. At the first sneeze take HILL'S CASCARA QUININE BROMIDE Standard cold remedy for 20 years—in tablet form—safe, sure, no opiates—breaks up a cold in 24 hours—relieves grip in 3 days. Money back if it fails. The genuine box has a Red Top with Mr. Hill's picture. At All Drug Stores

THE KING 8

"The Car of No Regrets" Will be on exhibition at the Portland Auto Show. Don't fail to see it

We were unable to secure floor space at the Salem auto show and invite your special attention to our Portland exhibit

SILVERTON AUTO CO.

SILVERTON, OREGON Distributors for Marion and Polk Counties

HOW TO FEED YOUR FRIENDS IN EUROPE

FOOD drafts may be secured in this country calling for a specific kind and quantity of food to be delivered abroad by the great Food Depots established by the American Relief Administration in Europe.

The money of people having friends and relatives abroad will go five times as far as it would if the money itself were sent over.

The United States National Bank will gladly explain all details



United States National Bank Salem Oregon

Young Peoples Eyesight



There are many ideas current concerning the sight that are totally wrong. One of these, which occasionally has serious consequences, is the idea that a person, who has reached maturity without serious eye trouble, necessarily has perfect vision. This is not necessarily so, for a person may have very defective eyes, and yet remain able to see most distinctly.

LET US UNDERSTAND

What Defective Vision really is. It is not a matter of health at all, the conditions which cause it are inside the eye ball. Though neglected defects sometimes have an injurious effect upon the general health, a person with defective vision MAY be physically perfect in all other respects. Defects of sight are due to an imperfectly shaped eyeball. The eye is furnished with some

DELICATE MUSCLES

Which, when clear vision is not obtained, are unconsciously brought to bear upon the eyeball to enable things to be seen clearly. While the eye is perfect, these muscles are only used very rarely, which is as it should be, for they are but delicate. Then, from some cause, such as excessive use of the eyes for close work, the eyes become deranged or imperfect. This change is very gradual, and cannot be noticed for a long time because the muscles are making up for the eye defects. The person can see as well as ever before, but clear vision is being obtained in a different way—an unnatural way in fact.

THE DAWNING OF DOUBTS

Thus the strain upon these muscles is constantly growing greater as the eyes become more defective through neglect. Eventually the full muscular power becomes insufficient to give clear vision for any length of time. The eyes will ache or water frequently, and seek to avoid strong light. In reading, the print will seem to grow misty or blurred, and the eyes will need a moment's rest before they can resume work. Not until these symptoms have become a source of annoyance by their frequent recurrence is the state of the eyes questioned.

DR. L. HALL WILSON

Eyesight Specialist

Fits Eyeglasses Correctly

210-211 U. S. National Bank Building