

My garden, with its silence and the pulses of fragrance that come and go on the airy undulations, affects me like sweet music. Care stops at the gates, and gazes at me wistfully through the bars. Among my flowers and trees, nature takes me into her own hands, and I breathe freely as the first man.—Alexander Smith.

Mountain Water

EARLY in 1910, the people of Salem voted at a special election in favor of buying the Salem water works, by a good majority. The vote authorized the city council to proceed; to make the appraisement, the arrangements for buying and the terms. This was done.

An ordinance was passed June 27, 1910, covering the matter; providing for an issue of bonds to provide the money for the purchase price.

Everything was set. But Mayor Louis Laclumund vetoed the ordinance after months of suspense. The veto message was dated May 8, 1911. George F. Rodgers had been mayor when the proceedings for acquiring the property were started. The price then agreed upon was around \$400,000.

Two years ago the matter was again taken up, with a committee of the council and a large committee of citizens acting cooperatively. There was an appraisement of the property and tentative arrangements were made for taking it over. The price then was about \$850,000. The city had grown. The miles of pipe line had increased. Larger pipes were needed in many directions. More machinery and equipment had been added.

But the matter lagged. Some members of the city wanted to include in the program the immediate commencement of plans for bringing mountain water. Others wanted to wait for that; wanted to take over the system as it was and let it go at that until some future time.

The owners of the system had an offer to sell to the present company, and sold. Probably at a higher price than was contemplated in the negotiations with the city. So the matter stood.

Until now! There is a new agitation for city ownership, and for the bringing in of mountain water.

As the writer remembers it, the franchise or "going concern" value was not included either in the \$400,000 price in 1910 or the \$850,000 physical valuation of 1926.

So the price now would be more than \$850,000. It would be as much more as the additions have cost since that time, plus the going concern value. That value increases with the birth of every new baby; of the adding of every 100 to our population, or every 1000, and so on up. The courts in an appraisement would allow this.

The longer we wait, the more the going value; for Salem is growing and will grow faster.

But the city would have begun to make profits the moment it took over the system in 1910. The same, had it bought the system in 1926. That is, with good management.

The main reason was that the city could get money at about half the rate of interest that is charged to a private concern.

And the city can get cheaper money for improvements. It can afford to reach out; to build for the future; to put in larger pipe lines than are called for for the present needs.

That is the case now. The city should own its water system. It should go to the mountains for the supply. It should provide for selling power all the way down. It is losing money and prestige and many advantages by every day of delay. The cost will be higher every month and every year—to the extent of added improvements and the growing going concern value.

Dreams Coming True

THE state flax plant revolving fund has \$225,000 on hand in money and liquid assets. It has the 1928 crop of flax on hand, nearly all of it, for processing.

It will very soon have under contract 4500 acres of flax for the next crop, and there will be money to pay for it.

And to provide a drying process for the spinning and other tow, and all the new retting tanks and many other additions and betterments that will be required to handle the product of the 4500 acres. It was \$200 last year.

And enough to pay the cost of fire protection for the warehoused flax and the state flax plant; estimated at about \$20,000.

Already 22 flax pulling machines have been sold and 14 more bargained for, which, with the six already owned by growers will be 42 out of the 45 that will be needed for the next harvest.

And sales of the three are in prospect. Probably more than three. As many will be made as are bought.

And not a cent will be needed for the revolving fund from the legislature to convene January 14. Probably not a cent more will ever be needed; even to the expansion of the industry to the point of taking care of the product of 10,000 acres.

This is wonderful; almost unbelievable, in view of the struggles of the past; the discouragements; the slowness of getting into proper line.

This all looks forward to making the prison self supporting, and providing a wage for every inmate worker. All those in the flax industry are now paid.

This will mean that the Oregon state penitentiary will be reformatory. It will be living up to the ideals of the men who framed our constitution, calling for reformatory treatment and not vindictive justice.

In the institution out at the east end of State street, dreams are coming true; the dreams of such pioneers as Mrs. W. P. Lord.

And there are being laid the sure foundations of a \$100,000,000 annual industry for the Willamette valley.

And with the J. W. S. pedigreed flax seed you may have a larger vision. It will be a \$200,000,000 annual industry, and more, for we will compete with cotton. Can you get a faint vision of what that will mean? It will mean the use of every available acre in this great valley, from the slopes of the Coast Range to the lower reaches of the Cascades.

Wilson's Anniversary

PUBLIC opinion has a habit of being divided in its consideration of the hopes and achievements of public men, yet the breach between opinions narrows with the passing of time. Observance today of the anniversary of the birth of Woodrow Wilson is, of itself, important, but it serves as illustration, perhaps, of the truth of the statement that time heals the wounds that scar the flesh of mankind.

It will be interesting to see Woodrow Wilson woven into his proper place in the pattern of history. There are many things about his record that assure him a place of permanency second to few who have served this nation in its highest office. There may remain in the minds of some, very good reasons why he should not occupy a high place. As the record of his day is written under the calmer perspectives of future years it may prove that today's widespread observance of the anniversary of his birth was but a preface to the general acclaim his name will someday win.

Kellygrams

I FIND myself more and more impressed with the willingness of average members of the flourishing human race to pay the highest market price for discomfort. Look in any fashionable restaurant where victims are compelled to pay a so-called covert charge before they start to eat at all, and note how closely the tables are crowded together. If customers were seated comfortably would they feel like paying the same high prices? I have noticed, too, that no matter how many cheap restaurants spring up alongside of a so-called exclusive hotel, that hotel meets such competition not by lowering prices in its own dining room but by raising them. The manager knows that high prices will always attract a certain number who derive a pleasurable sense of importance and grandeur from paying them. I myself shall never forget to my dying day the morning I paid \$1.25 for a little slice of honeydew melon!

Guess Where the Blow Falls Hardest



Who's Who and Timely Views

ADOPTION OF NAVAL PROGRAM URGED  
By FREDERICK H. GILLET  
Senator From Massachusetts  
(Frederick Huntington Gillett was born at Westfield, Mass., October 1852. He was graduated from Amherst college and studied law at Harvard. He has practiced law at Springfield, Mass., since 1877. From 1879 to 1882 he was assistant attorney general of Massachusetts, later serving as a member of the state house of representatives for two years. He was elected to congress in 1893 and was speaker of the house from 1919 to 1925 when he was elected to the senate, his term expiring in 1931.)

THE senate should find no conflict in passage of the naval construction bill and ratification at the same time of the multilateral treaty for the renunciation of war.

I am confident that the senate will ratify the treaty, which I consider a great achievement and a substantial step toward universal peace.

But we must prepare for war as the other nations do. The naval program contemplates keeping up with our rivals rather than so far behind as to be defenseless.

This is the most helpful treaty ever made, but under stress it may be broken. We should urge a disarmament agreement, for armament reduction would be the best proof of the value of the treaty.

As a wealthy nation, we must be willing, as we were in 1921, to make sacrifices for disarmament, but we must be met halfway. A navy is our insurance, but we should reduce both the risk and the insurance.

The United States must not forget that the principal nations of the world are our debtors and that wealth makes an attractive prey. There is already a keen

One-Minute Pulpit

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.  
Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.—Proverbs xxxi, 30-31.

trade rivalry with Great Britain which promises to increase. I do not doubt the sincerity of British friendship. But England refuses to decrease her naval armaments down to ours; so the only course for us is to increase our navy.

Without the number of coaling stations Great Britain enjoys, the United States must, of necessity, have large cruisers with a big fuel capacity.

It is dangerous to shut our eyes in false security, thinking that treaties are self-executing. I agree with English statements that war between the two countries is "unthinkable," but declarations are sometimes forgotten.

Dinner Stories

A Matter of Inches  
When Bobbie was six, he was given a real watch, which, regardless of quality or accuracy, had a loud tick. Naturally, the little fellow was very proud, and he would stroll up and down the street, stopping every moment or two to draw the timepiece from his pocket and regard it gravely.

Every passerby smiled at Bobbie's performance, but the climax came when his little cousin, Betty, tripped along and asked him the time.

Bobbie regarded his watch perplexedly for a moment, and then replied with dignity: "Two inches to four!"

WEAVERS RETURN

HUBBARD, Ore., Dec. 27.—(Special)—Joe Weaver and family have returned from Goshen, Indiana. Mr. Weaver of the Weaver Trucking Company of Hubbard, left for the east last September to look after property there which he owns. Howard Pemble has had charge of the trucking business during the absence of the owner.

The Way of the World

By GROVE PATTERSON

Health  
A 37-year-old Dakota girl won the national health contest recently conducted by the 4-H clubs of the country. She is a blonde and blue eyed girl of Norwegian descent from North Dakota, a freshman in college. The champion among the boys is William Tobias, a Saginaw county, Michigan, lad in the eighth grade. It is to be observed that neither boy nor girl has any regular routine of exercise or diet. It is discovered they are accustomed to get plenty of sleep, are only moderately fond of meat, and drink no tea or coffee but lots of milk.

Countenance  
While on the subject of health one is reminded of the old quotation from Fielding that "a good countenance is a letter of recommendation." A good countenance is much dependent on health. All-night hours, five hours of sleep, dissipation, make a bad countenance. And in this world of competition the young man of bad color and droopy manners can not expect to go far.

On the Air  
"Interested in Religion?" asks Dr. Cadman, and then answers her own question. "Why, men were never interested in religion as they are today. Anybody, almost, will sit down and talk religion. Newspapers and magazines give space to religious subjects now in a measure which was never dreamed of a few years ago."

The more radio is developed the more we must be fascinated by its unlimited possibilities of it. Millions hear addresses, sermons and the like who rarely heard them before. What goes on the air becomes snorously important. There is a hunger to know, and the radio can feed the hunger. The problem is to get good food.

Well Dressed Thoughts  
Thoughts have to be well dressed if they are going to move in good company. Definite attention to the use of language is of more

importance than the average man or woman thinks. If you have no good clothes for your thoughts they will not make a good impression. Facility in the use of language is not a gift. It is to be acquired. It is within the reach of all. Lincoln became an expert in the use of language. And yet Lincoln had little schooling and little education in the commonly accepted sense of the term. He had few books but those few were of the sort that best taught him technique in the use of language—the Bible especially.

The Grab Bag

December 28, 1928



Who am I? What position did I formerly hold in New York City? Who succeeded me in office?

What are peanuts often called in the South?

What is the nickname of Massachusetts?

How wide is a standard gauge railway in the U. S.?

"Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity." Where is this passage found in the Bible?

JIMMY JAMS

OSWALD PHONED HE'D BE HERE IN 5 MINUTES



Today in the Past  
In 1856, on this day, Woodrow Wilson, 28th president of the United States, was born.

Today's Horoscope  
Persons born on this day are fearless, courageous and also diplomatic. They never offend those whom it is not wise to offend.

A Daily Thought  
"The great man is he who does not lose his child's heart."—Mencius.

Answers to Foregoing Questions  
1. John F. Hyland; mayor of New York City; James J. Walker.  
2. Gobblers.  
3. Bay State.  
4. Four feet, eight and one-half inches.  
5. Ecclesiastes, xii, 8.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks From The Statesman Our Fathers Read

Mrs. Anna Nichol, formerly local manager of the Postal Telegraph company, is here from Cape Nome, Alaska, visiting at the home of Mrs. Ida Babcock. Mrs. Nichol owns and controls a toll bridge across the Nome.

J. M. Shelley, representative from Lane county, has secured the names of all Oregon legislators to a petition asking that he be appointed on a national non-partisan commission which may be created for the Lewis and Clark expedition.

C. E. Budlong has purchased the Reynolds Brothers' grocery store on State and 12th streets.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

This is the snow season—  
When we have any at all, which is not usual or much, or long continued.

That is a big mark in the line of progress here, the doubling of the capacity of the cold storage establishment on North Front street, making a very large capacity for our fruits; especially for strawberries in cold pack. Also provision for the storage of eggs.

It is only a few years since there was contemplated here a large municipal plant for taking care of our fruit; especially, one year, our cherries when so large a proportion of them were cracked by the rains. As the matter is progressing, this is being taken care of by private enterprise, which is better.

Work in the plant of the Oregon Lumber Mills, Inc. will be much more pleasant as the putting in of dust disposal facilities progresses. This matter would have been taken care of better from the beginning, with more experienced builders. But our flax and linen industry cuts are growing up, and we will in time be the real linen city; the Belfast of North America.

The joint ways and means committee of the legislature to convene January 14th will not be bothered by the revolving fund of the prison. The industries there are taking care of that matter. But it will be pleasant for the members of that committee to go out there and see what has resulted from the wise generosity of former ways and means committees. It would be a great satisfaction for Alec LaFollette to be on hand and see what has happened. He was the watch-dog of the senate while he lived; but he had faith in the flax industry and voted for all the appropriations. That industry is growing up to the point of taking care of itself and all the cost of the rest of the institution to boot; and wages for all worker inmates besides.

A good many members of the legislature will be new to their work, but with Elbert Bebe and Jog Smith there in their accustomed capacities to show "no body can go far wrong"—Eugene Register.

According to end of the year estimates the production of the county for the year 1928 amounted to about \$44,000,000. If we didn't have to spend so blamed much to live and have what we want we soon could lay up money with it coming in at that rate.

One automobile manufacturing concern distributed \$44,500,000 in dividends to stockholders Christmas. Old Santa had a time carrying that load.

Down at Nogales, in Arizona, Christmas day, the international

Poems that Live

WHEN SHE COMES HOME  
When she comes home again!  
A thousand ways  
I fashion, to myself, the tenderness

Of my glad welcome: I shall tremble—yes;  
And touch her, as when first in the old days  
I touched her girlish hand, nor dared upraise

Mine eyes, such was my faint heart's sweet distress  
Then silence; and the perfume of her dress:  
The room will sway a little, and a haze

Cloy eyesight—soul-sight, even—for a space;  
And tears—yes; and the ache here in the throat  
To know that I so ill deserve the place

Her arms make for me; and the sobbing note  
I stay with kisses, ere the tearful face  
Again is hidden in the old embrace.

—James W. Riley (1853-1916)



High Pressure Pete

PETE—I WANT YOU TO DELIVER THIS PACKAGE TO THE ADDRESS I'VE WRITTEN ON IT

OH BOY!—A POCKET-BOOK WITH \$4.22 IN IT IF AIN'T LUCKY GUY MY NAME AINT ALBERT

SAY, I'M LOOKING FOR ALBERT

HECK! I AIN'T GOT NO LUCK AT ALL

DRAGONIT—I CAN'T FIND THE STREET—I'LL ASK THAT GUY IF HE KNOWS WHERE IT IS

QUEEN AVE

QUEEN AVE



By Swatt