

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Scays Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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Mergeritis

THIS is a new disease, but it has bitten America badly. Now the stage lines have formed a vast merger, and are planning to divide "all Gaul into three parts." And they have no lack of gall in doing it either. The wholesale drug houses have suddenly found the necessity of a "merger" although wholesale drug houses have always been prosperous.

Part of the tendency toward larger units in industry is the natural result of greater economy in mass operations. A lot of this "mergeritis" disease is spread by financial houses seeking big clean-ups in floating a lot of securities. Scouts of big banking houses have been scouring the country finding going businesses, utilities, etc., which they could "merge" into new concerns and peddle millions of dollars worth of securities to the public which is merger-crazed.

Those on the inside of the financial game can't help but wonder how it will come out. The proprietor of a business finds himself approached by some representative of a buying group. He is offered a big price to "come in", or the heat of bitter competition if he stays out. If the chap has made his pile and is about through anyway, he sells out. The buyers then do a lot of "window-dressing" on the financial statement and sell bonds and preferred stock or "Class A" stock to the dear public, retaining the Class B with full voting power and no money investment for themselves. If all goes well, they win; if things go ill, they do not lose.

We heard of one such case where a plant manager refused to stay under the reorganization. He said he would be expected to earn dividends on a greatly enlarged capitalization and it couldn't be done, so he didn't want to carry the responsibility.

It is going to be interesting to watch what happens when the next big upset in business comes. Unless many of these concerns have time to dehydrate themselves, there will be many a deluge to engulf the innocent investor.

Elsinore or Armory

IT is just too bad for the sweet girl graduates that they can't have their party just when and where they want it. 'Tis a pity to buy the graduation gown, next in girlish fancy to a wedding gown and then find that the evening affair is turned to morning (shall we say mourning?) occasion. We confess for a time we shared their resentment, but their plans should be frustrated by the powers that be.

But surely the beautiful Elsinore will be more appropriate for graduation than the bleak and dreary armory. Its facilities for illumination will make the gowns of white and pink, of crepe and georgette more showy than the bare bulbs of the boxing-match emporium.

Besides graduates and faculty historically disagree over the place for commencement, the time, the speaker, the one to give the baccalaureate sermon, the rehearsals, the honors, the cost and style of gowns, the program arrangements. Only when the great day comes everyone smiles, the principal says it is the finest class ever to graduate, the chairman of the board, embarrassed at his official task, hands out the diplomas, the parents beam, and the juniors suddenly feel old.

Talking to Mars

SCIENTISTS cheerfully assure us that there is still no chance of talking to Mars via the radio. That provokes interesting speculation. Presuming that Mars is inhabited by intelligent beings, what physical form do those beings take? We cannot conclude that their shape is identical with that of homo sapiens. In the processes of evolution on Mars intelligence may have come along some other branch of the tree of life than on the earth. Some hairy biped, some amphibious beaver, some flying eagle may on Mars have a brain. And what language would he speak, what sign does he use, what art, culture, tools has he developed.

The speculation is idle to be sure, but it is broadening. This man created on earth so little lower than the angels, what is he on Mars, or is he a man at all? When we leap in fancy to some far off planet and look back to earth with its pigmies scratching the surface, throwing up mounds of brick and mortar called cities, what a terrible shrinkage there is in our vanity and boastfulness!

Travel Loquacity

WHY is it that travel breaks customary silence. A financier can grind away in New York for a decade and never give an interview, but when he boards the Berengaria or the Homeric for a trip to Europe, he gets a half-column interview. A Portland broker returns from a trip to New York or San Francisco and his observations are solemnly set down. The result seems to be that the whole financial world seems to be traveling, the quotations and interviews are so abundant.

The real joke of it is that what they give out is veriest piffle, meaningless comments retailed from some curb wiseacre in a big town whose knowledge of the country is confined to tickers and tabloid. "Private information" stays private only a few hours, and it travels faster than word of mouth in these days of news-speed.

"Not Paid for Lack of Funds"

A FEW years ago Sherman Rogers burst on the northwest and on the country glowing like a new comet. He addressed luncheon clubs, chambers of commerce, dined well with magnates of industry, preached a new doctrine of employer-employee fraternalism, wrote engaging articles for The Outlook. He talked familiarly of logging camps and fruit orchards, of banquet boards and wobbly headquarters.

As suddenly he passed out of the picture. The public knew him no more. The other day a suit was filed in the Grays Harbor court for \$15,000 against Rogers and his endorser on a note. Alex Polson, wealthy lumberman of Honouliuli, Polson is quoted mournfully as saying "Evidently Rogers spared neither his relatives nor his friends." The unpaid note will surely testify to that.

The Three Trained Seals

THE three trained seals of Oregon newspaperdom are Hugh Hume of the Portland Spectator, C. E. Ingalls of the Corvallis Gazette-Times and Elbert Bede of the Cottage Grove Sentinel. From Hume to Bede to Ingalls or the other way round, they never let the ball touch the ground. No other editor, say Paul Kelly of the Eugene Register or Brother Putnam of the Capital Journal ever takes a swat and knocks the ball from into their own territory; so the trio have a private game to their own amusement and the regalement of their readers.

Can This Be A Hoover Economy?



BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Busy times ahead—

For Salem and the surrounding country, when all the proposed building operations get fully under way, and the diversified harvests come on, with canning and packing forces larger and busier than ever before.

But we still have an unemployment situation, a hang over from the rainy season. The Salem Y free employment bureau had 130 men and 25 women applying for work last week, and found jobs for 106 of the men and eight of the women. Not so bad, and it will be better soon—it will be the other way around before long, with more work than workers.

You will want to see that great community club parade Friday afternoon next, in Salem. It will show you by what forces Salem is backed in her business and growth.

There is no busier place than the Oregon penitentiary now. Not an idle man who is able to work. Flax retting is going on, and not a false move or any whiplow motion is permitted in or about that institution, which is now virtually a big industrial plant.

The Parrish Junior high school girl who won in the contest which the Salem Woman's club sponsored, by preparing the best essay on Salem's historic and beautiful trees, did very well indeed, for a ninth grader, as shown in the news columns of The Statesman of Thursday morning. Her work would do credit to any one.

But she made a mistake in saying "Salem has been the capital of Oregon since 1859." Oregon was admitted to the Union as a state Feb. 14, 1859. She is the valentine state. But Salem has been the capital of Oregon since January 13, 1851, when the territorial legislature in session at Oregon City removed the seat of government from that city to this.

That vote was the end of a long fight, and it did not end with that vote either. In the legislature of the provisional government for 1845, held at Oregon City, Governor Abernethy suggested that proposals be received for locating permanently the seat of government. This was followed by proposals from Lin City, across the river, and by a petition from Champoug (the present Marion) county, signed by 60 persons, asking that the matter be deferred. This was virtually done, by an act of the legislature of the provisional government ordering future sessions of that body to be held at Oregon City.

The long fight following the vote of the territorial legislature of January 13, 1851, was precipitated by the contention of Territorial Governor Gaines that the act was invalid, because it embraced two subjects, the location of the capital and the construction of the territorial buildings. This became a political question, the democratic party in favor of Salem and the whigs favored Oregon City. The record is too long for this column; and the issue too involved for a short article.

The next session of the territorial legislature after the vote locating the capital in Salem was held in this city, with the exception of five members who met at Oregon City, claiming that was the place for the meeting. There was a question where the territorial supreme court should have its sessions, as the law admitting Oregon as a territory said that body was to meet at the capital—and part of the members held that Oregon City was the place, and

the balance holding for Salem. So the majority in the supreme court for Oregon City, at one session.

In 1855, the territorial legislature at Salem moved the capital to Corvallis, but federal authorities refused to expend government funds elsewhere than in Salem, and back to Salem the legislature came, and the newly completed statehouse was occupied on December 18, 1855; but that building was destroyed by fire eleven days later; no doubt of incendiary origin. The burned building stood where the present capitol is located.

Those were bitter days in the political affairs of Oregon, and of the whole nation. Had not the claims of Salem been supported by Willamette university and its graduates, this city would not have remained the capital. That institution started Salem, and gave it its place as the official center of the commonwealth.

They Say ...

Expressions of Opinion from Statesman Readers are Welcomed for Use in this column. All Letters Must Bear Writer's Name, Though This Need Not be Printed.

Respectfully dedicated to those fine couples, who, after years of love and devotion to each other, still find life holding that joy and peace, which they so justly merit: The Old-Fashioned Couple. Yes, they call us real old-fashioned.

But Ma and me care not a whit; Life flows easy all around us, And we're willin' just to drift. When I look at Ma's sweet face, I always see her a girl, With her laughin' dan' in eyes, And a wreath of golden curls.

There were other beaux who wanted This dear sweet girl I won; And when she whispered "Yes" to me My head just fairly spun.

There were no autos then days, When Ma and me were sparkin' The highways were just mud and dust, With no restrictions on the parkin'.

Nigh unto fifty years we've travelled, Over roads both smooth and rough; Sometimes it's been easy sailin', And sometimes it's been pretty tough.

As all good shipmates do; We are old, but hale and hearty, And our hearts are still true blue.

Our nestlings have all left us, And now we're all alone; But we're happy and contented, Just awaitin' to go "home." Mrs. George H. Leavell, 1265 N. 21 St., Salem, Ore.

Salemites Asked To Lebanon Fete

An invitation for Cherrians and any other Salem residents to attend the Lebanon strawberry fair June 7 and 8, has been received by C. F. Giese, King Bldg of Cherrians. The strawberry fair is growing in attraction as an annual affair at Lebanon.

Opinions of Marion County Editors

ENDORSE COOPERATION Where would Mount Angel be if it were not for the cooperation of its people? To the extent that we work together we prosper. But cooperation works negatively as well as affirmatively. It may be used as effectively to hold up ill-advised projects as to forward worthy movements. None can sap to what uses the cooperative spirit it may or may not be put to use. Common sense and the instincts of citizenship must govern that problem. We do know, however, that unless individual ideas and ambitions are placed into the common ladder they can hope to become the realization of the community as a whole. Occasionally some one person is strong enough to make his impression upon the community or nation without sharing in the common ideals of the mass, but he constitutes the opinion with others.—Mt. Angel News.

AS OTHERS SEE US Salem in population is in the small class cities of the union, but large enough to own its water works system and have pure mountain water. Such a step would redound to its credit and materially add to its growth, population and standing. The time has come when it can longer progress with river water supply. As for bonds, the agreement with the taxpayers should be to pay the interest and principal with receipts from the water-users. This as well as the prospect of good spring water, should result in an unanimous vote favorable to the proposition. The majority of municipalities all over the land have pointed the way, but it should be understood that the owners or renters of properties would not be out of money, and there would be sufficient users to meet the indebtedness. It is full time to avoid an epidemic of typhoid and make the beautiful city more so and of more importance to the state and the nation. This is one and the sensible way in which to double the state capital's population. Woodburn could have done the same instead of placing the burden on the taxpayers, but it began with a \$25,000 debt that is now valued at \$50,000 with the bonded indebtedness all paid.—Woodburn Independent.

BILL BOARDS AND CURVES Last Sunday we had occasion to drive over the highway from Fleck-reall to Salem. At one point, not far from Salem, not less than five bill boards are caught in the range of the motorist's vision. They mark the view of the timbered hillsides. There are curves in the highway when the driver needs to put his whole attention to handling his car. It is to the interest of the state of Oregon to make the highways as attractive as possible for the tourist and promote every chance of safety by these glaring billboards his attention is momentarily changed from the road to the board. This moment may be just long enough to meet another car head-on. Why not get the billboards off the highways and improve the scenic beauties of the roads of our state. If that cannot be done then have them placed in the unsightly places and away from the curves.—Turner Tribune.

W. S. C. TRIMS IDAHO PULLMAN, Wash., May 18—(AP)—Washington State College led the University of Idaho 84 to 15 here today after 11 events of their dual track and field meet had been run off. There were four events to come.

Editors Say:

AMPLIFYING OUR REMARKS

Judge Sawyer, of Bend, told the editor last winter the trouble with Oregon was the "inferiority complex." That is only half the trouble. The other half is the "superiority complex," of which pioneer worship is a major symptom.—Salem Statesman. The Statesman probably did not mean that remark as ungraciously as it reads. Oregonians will not and should not be dissatisfied from honoring their pioneers and preserving pioneer memories and traditions. But if the Statesman meant, as is likely, that we need to look forward and not backward in formulating our course of present-day action, it is quite right. In western Oregon a disposition to cleave to ultra-conservatism and an outworn viewpoint. It is not so much a "superiority complex" that possesses us as an over-disposition to follow in beaten paths. We are set in our ways. Let us not become annoyed at ourselves about it, however. If we must have either, a "superiority complex" is preferable to an "inferiority complex."—Eugene Register.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

What shall be done for the young ladies who have taken a teacher's course of instruction and find that the supply of teachers all over the country is greater than the demand? They have been fitted for one purpose and are crowding the market to such an extent that it will have deleterious effect upon salaries. If there is no other solution of the problem, there is, of course, adding to the number of marriages, but even then many desire to pursue a pedagogic career, their husbands probably just out of college and not being able to support their wives. They have been taught to teach. Every spring school boards of directors receive large numbers of applications, do not desire to ignore the present facilities that have made good, yet are aware that the taxpayers are closely watching the market and their decisions.—Woodburn Independent.

MORE BODIES FOUND

One body found here, another there, and two or three more yonder. "Taken for the road," they say. Dragged into an automobile, shot, strangled or knifed, while the machine reels off the miles, and dumped in some lonely spot in the jungle of the city or its suburbs. The police haven't time to trouble with these "ride" murders. They know the gang responsible as a rule, or can find out with little difficulty, and know the very men who rode the death car, but gangdom with its influence; its perjurers; its hand-picked alibis; and terrorization of honest witnesses; is proof against court conviction in 99 out of 100 cases. We on the west coast have not been troubled to any extent with gang tactics as yet. The time is coming, and not far off, however, when this problem will be coped with.—Morning Astorian.

DEFENDING THE KISSING

The three Tom River ministers who see the mouth of hell engulfing their community because in a recent high school play 50 high school boys kissed 50 high school girls, need experience. Let the trio shave off the manly whiskers, don the junior corduroys and sweaters, and slip into the drama of members of the cast. They might get a thrill out of the experience, but we doubt if they would become immediate candidates for Hell's army. Such a matter of public and perhaps excessive, osculation appeals to us a matter of taste rather than morality.—Morning Astorian.

Governor Patterson, Urges

preservation of strips of natural timber along Oregon's highways. Give the highway commission power, he says, to negotiate agreements with owners of timber, and give the commission also a little money.

It is a fine idea. If you doubt it, get out in your car and drive at this season along a road bordered by the magnificent virgin timber of Oregon. Then picture to yourself what that same road would look like with the timber gone.

Do that just once and you will agree enthusiastically with the governor that the timber along our highways should be preserved.—Eugene Register.

DALLAS, May 18—A suit for

divorce was filed here by Grace M. Grow of Independence against Elmer A. Grow of that city. She charges cruel and inhuman treatment and states that she has struck her many times. She also charges that he failed to provide her with a home and made her live with his mother. She asks for the custody of their two children Charles aged 10 and Clara age six years, and for \$30 a month for their support.

Finds a Way to Stop

Attacks of Fits

Reports are received of an amazing treatment that epileptics state has proved successful in stopping their attacks. R. Lepo, Apt. 107, 895 Island Ave., Milwaukee, Wis., has been supplying sufferers with this treatment. He now wishes to reach all those who have not been helped and to do so is making the startling offer of a generous treatment free to all sufferers. Anyone afflicted should write for this free treatment at once, giving age—adv.

CALL FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received by the County Court of Marion County up to noon, May 20, 1929, for the construction of a fire escape on the court house as per plans on file in the office of the County Clerk.

Lay Sermons

"Let us go elsewhere into the next towns, that I may preach there also; to this and come I forth." Mark 1:38.

Some how the "next towns" always seem benighted. It was not so long ago that we were immediately impelled to share the Good Thing with Albany and McMinnville and Dallas, where we feel sure there is a dearth of Good Things. That is true of a senior play or of a superior golf team. Sometimes it is our experience that the "next towns" do not appreciate our good things so highly as we do ourselves, when we take them abroad. Sometimes we have to come home crestfallen, with lost laurels.

Religion in particular seems to be infected with the evangelistic spirit. When one has the "true" religion he does not lock it up in his safe deposit box for fear it will be stolen or that some one may share it. No! He becomes a propagator. He seeks to infect others with his faith. He becomes a missionary. A man can be a philosopher or a scientist and be satisfied with publishing his views or his findings and then defending them. Sometimes he may lecture. He seldom evangelizes.

Most of the great religions have been crusading faiths. Mohammed used the sword; Paul the sermon; Charlemagne drove the Saxons across a river to baptize them in the faith; modern Christian churches pour out money to redeem the world; Mormon churches send out their pairs to spread their belief. What if the religions of India and of China decided to "evangelize" in America? Probably they would if they had more money. Probably too if their wealth was much greater than ours they would win many converts in this land of money-worship.

The "next towns" are always inviting. The conqueror sees them as victims of his lust for power and booty. The merchant sees them as choice markets for his wares. The apostle sees them moving in a darkness his zeal can illumine. So we find it easy to become propagandists and evangelists, whether of creeds or electric

washing machines or political notions or gas mains.

For over a century now we have been invading the "next countries" with our program of religion, and have operated on a vast scale. Levies on the home base have "deployed armies on wide fronts on many continents." The phrase "evangelization of the world in this generation" glowed brightly a quarter-century ago, and missionary movements were at their height. The outpouring of men and money have not redeemed the world in this generation; and meantime there is defection at the home base. As a matter of fact nowhere do the flames of Christian zeal burn more brightly than on foreign fronts, and it takes the "returned missionaries" to kindle anew the fires on home hearths. Another significant fact is that Christians serving abroad are losing the narrow view of creed and custom. Denominational differences which they find they cannot explain to the "heathen" they find they cannot justify to themselves. The result is growing fraternity abroad which is finding a reflection at home. The faiths of other lands too are having their reaction upon those of the missionaries, who find that other faiths have germs of truth, that all faiths have things in common.

A day's drive banishes our provincialism. A visit to the "next town" shows that they are having waterworks and newspapers and talking pictures. And the missionary attitude of the churches is changing, finding expression in social uplift, in more brotherly relationship, and less in dispensing of sacraments long held in private proprietorship.

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- Small Top Sirloln Steak
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- VEGETABLES
- Buttered Fresh Asparagus
- Pan Browned Potatoes
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- Wild Blackberry Sundae
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Published each week by Gabriel Powder & Supply Co. Edited by A. Lamberjack Telephone 2248 or 728

No. 1 SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1929 Vol. 1

Banner Year Salem Growing Cost Small

This should be a banner year. With assurance of good crops building will develop in every line. Salem has built 2,457 homes in the past nine years. Also many business buildings, in various grades—theatres, etc.

Building permits in January 1, 1927, the half of the month of May have run nearly \$100,000 and there is every reason to believe this mark will be doubled this month. It was not long ago that the average cost of lumber for the average home will not exceed \$400 or \$500. A small item of the whole... Why not have the very best materials in your home? David T. Mason, a forest engineer of Portland, estimates that on January 1, 1927, the three Pacific coast states of Oregon, California and Washington contained a total of 872,000,000 feet of standing timber. Oregon school timber lands are being grouped together in all their sections in a rush of activity. When the warm days come present arrangement. One of the big timber stands for the schools will be south of the Umpqua river near Scottsburg.

It takes 5 to 6 thousand feet of lumber to build the average home. Salem has built 2,457 homes in the past nine years. Also many business buildings, in various grades—theatres, etc. Building permits in January 1, 1927, the half of the month of May have run nearly \$100,000 and there is every reason to believe this mark will be doubled this month. It was not long ago that the average cost of lumber for the average home will not exceed \$400 or \$500. A small item of the whole... Why not have the very best materials in your home? David T. Mason, a forest engineer of Portland, estimates that on January 1, 1927, the three Pacific coast states of Oregon, California and Washington contained a total of 872,000,000 feet of standing timber. Oregon school timber lands are being grouped together in all their sections in a rush of activity. When the warm days come present arrangement. One of the big timber stands for the schools will be south of the Umpqua river near Scottsburg.

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