

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."  
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## Flax Fiber Expansion Should Be Slow.

A sensible word of caution was spoken by Henry Crawford at the luncheon of the Chamber of Commerce Monday with respect to the expansion of the flax and linen industry in the Willamette valley. It has been demonstrated that flax may be grown here successfully and profitably. The prison plant has demonstrated that this flax may be retted and scutched and sold at a profit. The American markets can readily absorb all the flax and fibre which the Willamette valley is likely to grow. The trouble will not be with the market, but with the proper growing and processing of the fibre.

Flax culture and processing is highly technical. Col. Bartram has rightly insisted on rigid standards right into the fields. He refuses to renew contracts where crop rotation is not practiced. He requires clean cultivation of the fields so there will be freedom from weeds. The colonel has enough strength of character to impress this on the growers, and even then some of them grumble.

What would happen if there were a sudden and uncontrolled expansion of growing of fibre flax in the valley and establishment of retting and scutching plants? First a lot of farmers would jump into it without proper understanding of how to handle the crop and some without willingness to follow the best farming practice. Second, retting and scutching are highly technical, and no plants should be established without making sure of having competent skilled men to handle these processes.

Even yet one of the local mills has to import some of its requirements of fibre because it has not been able to get a large enough quantity of the grade demanded locally. It will be supplied in time as the quality of the flax improves and the skill in processing as well.

We do not want to repeat with the flax industry what happened to the loganberry industry. The marketing of a poor product from poorly manned plants would do as much to kill the market for Oregon flax fibre as occurred with the marketing of poor loganberry products injured the loganberry industry.

The Statesman does not wish to be misunderstood. We confidently believe that the flax and linen industry offers probably the greatest opportunity for agricultural and industrial development in the valley of any that now appear. Precisely because we want that development to be sound and enduring and permanently profitable, we approve of Mr. Crawford's advice to make haste slowly in its expansion.

There is one division of flax against which this warning does not apply, and that is flax-seed production. Farmers can grow flax for linseed oil purposes here very successfully. There is a fine market for the seed in Portland and the price this year has been very high, well over \$3.00 a bushel. It is handled just like a grain crop, the straw being merely threshed and the seed shipped. While not so profitable as fibre flax, which yields fibre as well as seed, it is a good-paying crop, and one the expansion of which would not be attended with quite the hazards of the fibre flax industry.

## Premier MacDonald Departs

RAMSAY MACDONALD goes home having accomplished whatever it was he came to Washington to accomplish. Just exactly what was agreed to between Hoover and MacDonald was not brought out, save that they agreed there should be another conference in London in a few months. The sociabilities of the meeting were properly carried out and the banquets and the speeches were in fine taste. The British premier has won the goodwill of America.

But as he departs we can't help but wonder just what it was all about. Has everything, or anything been settled on the question of naval parity, on the question of just how many and what cruisers each country is to build, on the question of the freedom of the seas? All that has been told the public is the rather indefinite assurance that an agreement was just about to be reached. That is important if true.

Perhaps the MacDonald visit was not designed to be more than a dramatic appearance, a gesture of friendliness. The premier may be imitating the great Henry VIII who crossed the channel and showed the king of France on the field of the cloth of gold the wealth and puissance of Britain's king. Only MacDonald came with another gesture in view, to reassure the American people that Britain genuinely seeks international accord and understanding not only with the United States, but as the premier said in his New York address, with other powers as well.

Blood cousins do well to cultivate each other's acquaintances, to test each other's hospitality. From that viewpoint the visit of Mr. MacDonald was a great success in spite of the paucity of signed and sealed parchment yielded by his visit.

## Charges Prove A Dud.

"Now comes George Joseph demanding that his arch-enemy, Thomas Mannix, be disbarred by the Multnomah County Bar association. It wasn't many months ago that Mannix demanded of the same body that Joseph be disbarred. The conviction is being forced upon us that the legal fraternity of the state would not suffer greatly and might benefit somewhat if each of these feudists were allowed to pass sentence upon the other."

The above from the Astoria Budget is typical of the reaction which is observed in the editorials of the state press, following the charges of George W. Joseph against Justice McBride. Most of the lawyers and editors of the state would probably agree with the Budget's solution of the Joseph-Mannix feud.

## Low Price for High Quality.

PORTLAND proposes to increase the price to dairymen 15c a hundred, giving them \$2.65 a hundred for milk. This is for 4% milk. It isn't enough. Tacoma and Seattle pay \$3.10 a hundred for 3.6% milk. How does Portland expect the milk producers to wrap their cows in silk in order to have perfectly pure milk, if they are only going to pay \$2.65 a hundred for the milk? No wonder many dairymen in the Portland milk-shed are going out of business.

## Why Not a Cafeteria?

The row over precedence at state dinners continues. The only way to settle it seems to be a "first-come-first-served" rule.—The Oregonian.

## Soviet Aviators Welcomed at Seattle Airport



Unable to understand each other's language, but joined by the common bond of aviation, the Soviet airmen and Commandant John D. Price of the Sand Point Naval Air Station, Seattle, were immediately fast friends. The Russian plane is shown in the background. From left to right: Dmitry V. Ruzaf, S. A. Shestakov, Commandant John D. Price, Boris V. Sterlingov, and Phillip E. Bolotov.

## BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Many beauty spots:

Are found in the country surrounding Salem, and numerous thrifty and prosperous appearing sections. Comparisons are all but invidious—Mrs. Malaprop would say "odorous."

But with an excuse of lack of space to mention in this issue more than one of them, the Bits man would call the attention of the reader to the Spring Valley section, and more especially the fringe of hills that surrounds that fruitful valley on the south, west and north.

Take the Wallace road by turning to the right after crossing the Willamette bridge at the foot of center street. Follow that highway till it turns off to the left as you reach the Wallace land. Follow that road westward to the Brush College picnic ground. A stop there will repay any lover of sylvan beauty. Take a drink of pure water at the spring that has no bottom. Then follow on past the Brush College, which is merely by the name of the fine public school house of the district. Follow on keeping slightly to the right, through woodlands that are in a state of nature, to the top of the hill, from which you will get a long to be remembered view of the broad expanses of Spring valley.

Pursue the road northward past the Henry farm, and the Crawford farm, and the others. Follow on around the range of hills northward, and then north-eastward, till you reach the road where it has three forks, one leading to the right to Salem, one to the left towards Hopewell and McMinnville, and the other going between the two last named towards the Wheatland ferry; the latter being the river road on the west side of the Willamette.

In that stretch among the hills that fringe Spring valley you will see more evidences of thrift and general prosperity than you will find in most like stretches of country in the Willamette valley. The farms and orchards are generally well tended. The dwellings are commodious and comfortable appearing, and they are generally surrounded with green lawns, shrubs and adorned with flowers and shrubs.

The roads are not paved, but they are graveled and smooth. There is a home like air about the farms. There are good barns, and fine cows and many flocks of sheep. You pass what was once the Zeena postoffice. Like most such neighborhoods, rural free delivery has taken the place of the country postoffice. There are telephones and radios. There are electric wires for power and lights. There are bath tubs. And, with at least one auto for every home, to say nothing of two or three for some of them, besides auto trucks and trailers, the people over that way are only a few minutes from the play houses and stores in Salem, or the canneries and packing houses and other markets.

In a very short ride, and without meeting many people, you see some of the best samples of up to date farming and orchard cul-

ture in the state. And you will agree that the trip is well worthy of the exploitation of the Salem chamber of commerce. It is likely that not more than one in 50 of the people of Salem has ever been over that road. If any one goes, on account of having read these lines, he will be thankful for having his attention thus called to one of Oregon's beauty spots.

The Portland Oregonian of last Saturday, under the heading, "To Prevent Prison Outbreaks," had the following in its editorial page:

"A reader and friend of the Oregonian offers what appears to us as a practical, humane and relatively inexpensive means of protection against occurrences such as that which darkened the record of Colorado's state penitentiary the other day. Our contributor would take a leaf from the book of the world war, but with suitable modifications, and would combine it with a device long employed to protect industrial establishments against fire. In brief, he would pipe the prison buildings somewhat as sprinkler systems are installed in factories, and he would connect the pipes with a central station from which tear gas, non-fatal but incapacitating could be delivered under pressure at the will of the operator. The sole flaw in the plan, otherwise very nearly perfect in theory, would seem to be precisely that which has made a number of recent prison uprisings possible. It is administrative, rather than physical. It is suggested by the reflection that with proper discipline dangerous criminals, for example, would not have had access to arms and ammunition at Canon City. Of what avail are any material precautions in the face of policies which ignore the primary function of a penitentiary as a place of restraint?"

The Oregonian writer means in the words, "the primary function of a penitentiary as a place of restraint," the mere keeping of prisoners. Or at least that is in line with past editorial articles in that newspaper.

It is admitted that that is the thing of initial importance. Men confined in a penitentiary must be kept there. They must not be allowed to escape. But the primary function of the Oregon penitentiary is to provide facilities for reformation. Our constitution directs this, and says penal servitude must not be retributive; it must be reformatory. Merely keeping a prisoner behind grim walls is retributive punishment.

It is a safe guess that the investigation at Canon City will show a system of retributive punishment, and also a lack of proper discipline. And it is not too much to say that proper discipline is a rare thing in American prisons. It is a rare thing anywhere.

A true disciplinarian is born, not made. There are only exceptions enough to prove the rule. There are very few men in prison work of the caliber of Jim Lewis, warden of the Oregon penitentiary. And it is anything but a soft job. It lasts 24 hours of every day. There is not a moment when its duties can be relaxed.

There is no point in good prison discipline for letting down. It must be constant. It must be strict. But this does not say that it must be unnecessarily harsh. It does not have to be cruel or inhuman. It must not be, in fact.

For the reasons given above, the Bits man believes all prison officials, all law enforcement officials from the highest to the lowest, ought to be trained. Penology should be taught in the schools of higher learning. It should be made a profession; clothed with the dignity of a calling.

There is a Jim Lewis in 10,000, who will make a near 100 per cent perfect prison man. But all the other 9999 men will be improved in their qualifications by training; by learning the rules of the game. Jim Lewis had them largely by instinct; came by them naturally, or has acquired them in the school of hard knocks. And the deputy warden, Eugene Halley, is not far if any behind in this respect. And the general management and organization of the institution, under the direction of Henry L. Meyers, superintendent, are enlightened future models for the schools, well up at the head of such institutions in this country or the world.

## OTHER EDITORS

### BANNING MONDAY SCENERY

Portland has decided to ban street advertising by means of banners and loud music. If that's the result of the big dinner recently held there and the adoption of a Washington made slogan, then we apologize for all the kidding we did about it. Hanging a wash out on the line to advertise the rose show, the state fair, the chaqueta and other bunk puts a town in the hick class if anything does. Just why a city should permit itself to look like Naples on wash day we never have been able to figure out. We hope the loud noise prohibition includes the Salvation Army, the Apostolic mission and other fanatics who pound their way into heaven on a bass drum. Just what yelling in the street has to do with religion is one of those mysteries that cannot be solved. All if ind-

icates is that the yelper is a nut. If he made that much noise for any other reason he would be put in jail as a public nuisance, which he is.—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

## Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

October 14, 1904  
C. J. Atwood was elected superintendent of the First Methodist Sunday school at the annual meeting, Dr. W. W. Selleck, the new pastor, was present for the first time. Prof. Mary Reynolds and A. Leg were chosen assistant superintendents.

The Salem Bird Study club will hold its first meeting at the Unitarian church, and will outline the program for the new year.

Frank T. Wrightman and L. R. Stinson are home from Seaside, where they attended the grand lodge of the Knights of Pythias. Both returned with honors. Wrightman was chosen member of the grand tribune and Stinson grand keeper of the records and seals.

Registration continues slow at the Marion county clerk's office, only 66 voters having registered since the books were opened September 20.

## IMMENSE DIRIGIBLE IS MOORED TO MAST

CARDINGTON, Eng., Oct. 14.—(AP)—Great Britain's 100 passenger dirigible R-100 which has been subjected to cross winds of criticism almost since the time it was decided to build her five years ago, was finally launched today in perfect calm and was moored to her mast expeditiously.

There was not a single hitch in the launching and if the airship has any weakness suggested in recent criticisms, they were not apparent to the cheering spectators as the craft soared a few minutes before pulled by the nose to the mast.

## KEIZER CLUB OPENS SEASON

Community Club Plans for Year's Work and Enjoys Program  
KEIZER, Oct. 14.—The Keizer community club held a very interesting business session at the schoolhouse Friday evening. Ray Betzer, the president, presided. Myrtle McClay is secretary and Mildred Gardner, treasurer.

Plans were laid for the activities during the coming year. Among these were a Halloween party and a special entertainment for the benefit of the club to be given in the early part of the year. It was decided to again serve the hot lunches for the school children, to begin as soon as the teachers deem advisable.

Several committees were appointed. The club voted to amend the by-laws and add a committee to greet the new members in the club and also welcome newcomers to the community.

During a short recess, Mrs. Nick Brinkley, formerly Jewell Gardner, led in a community sing of old-time songs, with Irma Keifer at the piano.

A splendid program is being prepared for the November meeting. Mrs. Thompson was again appointed reporter.

## BALLAS KIWANIS FETE MEMBERS

DALLAS, October 12.—Some 20 boys and girls engaged in club work in Polk county were luncheon guests of the Kiwanis club Friday noon, when the winners were announced for the three cups for outstanding work in judging at the Polk county fair.

The Jersey cup was awarded to Leslie Stewart of the Bethel district, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Stewart, both of whom are very active in the work of the boys' and girls' clubs. Donald McCaleb of Monmouth was winner of the cup for the angora judging. The announcement of these two winners was made by J. R. Beck, county agent under whose supervision these clubs come.

Josiah Willis, announced that Anna Prang of the Bethel district was winner of the cup for the cooking division. Presentation of the cups was made by Dr. V. C. Staats who was chairman of the meeting. The cups must be won three times although not successfully to become the permanent property of the winners.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Stewart were special guests for the luncheon as well as Mr. Beck and Mr. Willis. The Kiwanis club are also sponsoring a group of camp fire girls under direction of Miss Mabel Teal.

## JEFFERSON HUNTERS KILL TWO DEER

JEFFERSON, October 14.—Two large mule deer were brought into Jefferson Saturday by Joe McKee, Chas. McKee and Harold Knight to show for their hunting trip into eastern Oregon.

Mrs. Grady Farrington and two children returned Friday morning from a two weeks' visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mason in Portland.

We are sorry to learn that the West Coast Creamery company will discontinue its business in Jefferson after October 15.

Miss Marie Kiba attended the County Christian Endeavor convention at Salem October 11-13, as a delegate from the Christian Endeavor society of the Evangelical church in Jefferson.

NEW SERVICE OPENED  
BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 14.—(AP)—Radio telephone service with Spain was successfully opened this afternoon.


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