



AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

Published Daily and Semi-Weekly at Pendleton, Oregon, by the EAST OREGONIAN PUBLISHING CO.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES. Daily, one year, by mail, \$5.00. Daily, six months, by mail, \$2.50. Daily, three months, by mail, \$1.25. Daily, one month, by mail, \$0.50. Daily, one year, by carrier, \$5.50. Daily, six months, by carrier, \$2.75. Daily, three months, by carrier, \$1.37. Daily, one month, by carrier, \$0.63. Semi-Weekly, one year, by mail, \$1.50. Semi-Weekly, six months, by mail, \$0.75. Semi-Weekly, four months, by mail, \$0.50.

The Daily East Oregonian is kept on sale at the Oregon News Co., 323 Morrison Street, Portland, Oregon. Northwest News Co., Portland, Oregon. Chicago Bureau, 960 Security Building, Washington, D. C. Bureau, 501 Fourteenth Street, N. W.

Member United Press Association.

Entered at the postoffice at Pendleton, Oregon, as second class mail matter.

Telephone Main 1

Official City and County Paper.



THE SEXTON OF THE SEA.

You scatter flowers on the grassy mound That marks the spot where your loved one lies; You bring them emblems with never a thought For the dead beneath the sea. For every ship that the hands of men Have guided with chart and wheel, The bones of men in a hundred fold Are laid beneath its keel. A canvas shroud and an iron bar At the weary head and wasted feet, And to, from the deck they move away, From the hearts that throb and beat. Soldiers and sailors and captains grand, Babes from a mother's breast, Wet with the lips they will touch no more, Come down in my arms to rest. And I lay them gently alone to sleep, Where the bed of sand is clear, And none may wander, and none shall stray, For I keep them, oh, so dear! And hark! When the bell-buoy tolls at night, Above the waves where the fishes swim, You know that I keep my Father's watch, For the day I shall give them back to Him. —Dick Fargo, in the June Pacific Monthly.

THE BOYS OF '61.

In 1861 the country needed men to enforce the laws of the United States and to prevent the south from seceding. They came forth from New England, from Kansas, from Illinois, New York and all other states of the north and west. These men were then not old and bent as they are today. They were mostly boys. Some of them were under the legal age for enlistment and had to have their parent's consent to go or else fake a year or two onto their ages. Even the officers were young men, for the most part. In the northern army there were men who commanded army divisions while still in their twenties. General McArthur was a colonel before he was of age. There were lads of 15 in the ranks. In the southern army the age limit was even lower. The south had the hard end of the struggle and the gallantry of the boys was only surpassed by the heroism of the southern women and girls whose suffering is not shown in the battle reports. For four long years the two armies fought it out and when the end came all were ready to quit. Ever since that time the northerners and the southerners have had deep respect for each other and there has been no desire to repeat the civil war. On the other hand the men from the north and the men from the south have together followed the stars and stripes on newer battlefields and by doing so have shown there is no rancor left. This is the day for decorating the graves of those who fell in the big war. Years ago Decoration Day was a greater occasion than now for the ranks of the G. A. R. are becoming so thinned that the day is losing its prestige. But as long as this nation exists as a free and united country it will constitute a monument to those who went to the front when Lincoln called them. This is one reason why the republic should be maintained as it ought to be, "a government of the people, by the people and for the people."

TOO GRASPING.

Far-reaching is the steel trust now under investigation by congress. It not only handles steel but its tentacles reach out into many other lines of industry. In the rate increase decision by the interstate commerce commission Commissioner Prouty said: "It is also well understood that the

same men who are potential in the United States Steel corporation and the American Locomotive Works are influential in directing the policies of our railroads. Now if, to use the popular nomenclature, the steel trust is to determine the price which shall be paid for rails and for bridges; if the locomotive trust is to determine the price of engines; the car trust, the price of cars, and the labor trust, the price of labor; and if the railways have only to meet the demands made by these combinations, and charge over to the public by an increase of rates whatever is paid, a most unfortunate situation has developed."

John E. Lathrop in his Washington article to the Pacific Monthly for June says that not satisfied with controlling the output of structural steel the trust is laying plans to control cement. With the cement supply in its hands the trust will practically dominate the construction work of the United States. Steel and cement are the basis of nearly all structural operations these days.

Then if the trust sells steel rails and locomotives to the railroads at its own prices and so causes advances in freight rates where is the public to get off? One of these days the country is going to wake up with a fearful headache.

SHORTENING THE MALLEOT.

In the formation of the Short Ballot League in Portland there is hope. The objects of the league are worthy—to shorten the ballot by doing away with some elective officials and by keeping initiative and referendum measures down to the minimum. There is much to be done along this line in Oregon. Of the state officers the state printer and the food and dairy commissioner should be the first to go. These are positions requiring technical fitness and they should be appointive, not elective. Let the people give plenty of time to the selection of a good governor and then let the good governor, or the committee which board, name men for the positions now held by Messrs. Duhway and Bailey.

Aside from the printer and food commissioner there are other state officials who should be appointive rather than elective. Some of the county positions should also be changed from elective to appointive. The school superintendent is in this list. However, the Short Ballot League will probably make faster progress if it sets out to accomplish its reforms gradually, not all at once. Prune away the more glaring defects first and let the others wait for the time being. If the reformers try to do too much at one election the move may fall of its own weight.

The itinerant preacher who killed his wife at Kittitas because he had an "occult message" that his wife was unfaithful to him had the murder spirit in a slightly new form.

The Standard oil trust and the Tobacco trust are both illegal. Yet the supreme court does not seem to be doing anything towards making them give their money back. If they have been wrong they should make restitution.

With fewer elective positions on the ballot the common citizen will have an opportunity to exercise more care regarding those he does have to vote for.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY SKETCH.

Mrs. Alma V. Lafferty, who has had more legislative experience in the Colorado legislature than any of her suffragist sisters, and who is now serving her third term, has a birthday today. Mrs. Lafferty has accomplished so much that she thinks she is entitled to keep her age to herself and her intimate friends. Her work in the legislature has been limited chiefly to an eight-hour bill for wo-

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Who Owns the DOG

men, which she herself drafted. She has also framed an educational measure providing for 'humane and moral' teaching in the public schools. As chairman of the committee on education she has introduced other bills relating to educational conditions in Colorado.

Mrs. Lafferty might be picked anywhere as a typical club woman. Her gowns are modish and she lends a bit of color to the floor of the house. She is a skilled debater and a fluent speaker. It is said of her that defeat has never made her lose her temper. Perhaps that is why she is successful as a lawmaker. For Mr. Lafferty has secured the enactment of more laws than all the other women lawmakers of Colorado combined.

Two years ago five of her bill she came laws. Mrs. Lafferty is not a handsome woman but has a pleasant face and a charming manner. Her eyes are searching, yet kindly, showing that she is a sympathetic student of human nature.

LANGUAGE OF THE UMBRELLA.

"David Graham Phillips was a realist. He handled life with a biting humor. The ordinary, romantic novel, Phillips once explained, resembled the language of flowers, while Phillips' own novels resemble umbrella language." The speaker, a member of the Princeton club of New York, went on: "Phillips then quoted some of his umbrella language. It ran: 'An umbrella placed in the club rack in districts that it will soon change owners. 'An umbrella carried over a woman by a man who gets nothing but the drippings of the rain is a sure sign of courtship. 'When, on the other hand, the man carries the umbrella so that the

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woman gets the drippings, it is a sign of marriage. 'A cheap cotton umbrella placed before a fine silk one means 'Exchange no robbery.' 'To buy an umbrella means, 'Not smart, but honest.' 'To carry an umbrella to work in the morning means, 'It is bound to clear off.' 'To lend an umbrella means, 'I'm a fool.' 'To return an umbrella—but never mind what that means, for it is a thing that nobody ever does.'—Detroit Free Press.

Grande Ronde Apple Orchards on the INSTALLMENT plan. Talk with the Pendleton people who have visited these tracts. HILL & HIGBERD, OWNERS At the office of MARK MOORHOUSE CO.

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