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SPRING—THE TICKLE JADE

A few bars I'll sing to that husky called "Spring."
But nothing I'll say in her praise;
When callow and young, her glories (?) I've sung,
But now I am wise to her ways.

"Soft, gentle-eyed Spring!"—
tut-tut!—off you ring!
Why even that old wildcat March,
Gave one awful screech and fled from your reach
With his back in the form of an arch!

You blue-nosed old flirt, so lengthen your skirt
Until it shall cover your shin!
Stop winking your eye—let winter pass by!—
Such tricks at your age are a sin!

—B. Bertram.

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AT STAKE

WHEN the public lands committee in the house took action favoring 20 per cent of the land grant money for the school fund instead of 10 per cent previously agreed upon by the sub-committee a big gain was made by those working for the school interests and Congressman Sinnott is entitled to credit for his work in this connection.

As the matter stands the school fund is practically assured of 20 per cent, if not more, from the proceeds of the timber sales. Twenty per cent will mean between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000 for the irreducible school fund of the state. It will mean that much money to lend on six per cent farm mortgages in Oregon.

But Oregon should get still more. The 40 per cent arrangement fathered by Senator Chamberlain, if it succeeds, will double the amount. It will mean between \$18,000,000 and \$20,000,000 for the fund.

Meanwhile with the matter still at issue in congress every

message of support and encouragement is a stroke in behalf of the schools and in behalf of rural credits. It is noticeable that members of the delegation are moved to increased efforts when interest is shown by the people "back home." At the same time the greater the backing from home the more effective can the delegation work because they can show their people are with them in the fight.

Oregon people should be making a more vigorous, united campaign in this matter. A vast irreducible school fund will be of inestimable benefit to the state. Eastern Oregon is particularly interested in the school fund because we will derive nothing from the road money since that all goes to western Oregon counties. Yet the East Oregonian is the only newspaper in eastern Oregon making a fight upon this subject of supreme importance. The remainder of the press seems indifferent or asleep to the public interest involved. Few commercial clubs have taken any notice of the matter.

THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY NOT DISCREDITED

SOME standpat eastern papers—alert for government by political bosses rather than by the people—profess to see in present conditions a sign of reaction against the presidential primary. What they have to go on is the fact a number of possible presidential aspirants are not making use of the primary.

Plainly though the cause of this is something entirely apart from any weakness or strength in the presidential primary principle. Hughes for instance refuses to go upon any primary ballot because he says he is not a candidate. There are other republicans who keep off the primary ballot because they fear the possible consequences. They know that should they test their strength and lose it would injure their chances. In a field so shattered it is not unnatural the primary is not being brought into play as much as some might expect.

In normal times there are usually but two or three strong candidates in each party. It is under such conditions the preferential primary comes into good use, for it enables the ordinary voter to express his choice. By doing that it reduces the politician's power of manipulation and keeps candidates more closely in line with the wishes of the rank and file.

The argument that the present state of affairs discredits the presidential primary idea will have no weight with people who understand the political game.

OVERLOOKING AN OPPORTUNITY

GOVERNOR WITHYCOMBE says he believes our delegation in congress may be safely relied upon to guard the state's interests in the land grant legislation. Therefore he failed to make any plea in behalf of our school fund though invited by the house lands committee to do so.

But is the governor right about the delegation? The facts indicate he is not. One member, Congressman Hawley, has done absolutely nothing for the state. On the contrary he had a scheme of his own to give all the land to timber grabbers at \$2.50 per acre. Senator Lane is not on record to any extent in the matter. Congressman McArthur is upon the right side of the subject but he was late about enlisting in the cause. The real work has all been done by Senator Chamberlain and by Representative Sinnott. For a time even the position of Mr. Sinnott was in question, though it is now clear he is working earnestly and with sincerity for the school fund.

The Oregon delegation was not measuring up to requirements. The senators and congressmen needed encouragement and a little prodding up at times. The only attention they have had has been from a few independent newspapers, the East Oregonian among the number.

AN UNFULFILLED PREDICTION

JUST after the American forces were ordered into Mexico Senator Chamberlain made the prediction on the floor of the senate that Villa would become a national Mexican hero and this country might face a war with the whole Mexican people.

So far that prediction is notable for its lack of fulfillment. Villa has not become a "national hero." He is a national fugitive instead. The Carranza soldiers are apparently cooperating in good faith with the Americans. There has been no uprising against the "gringos." Ignorant and betrayed as they are the Mexican people seem to have confidence that President Wilson means what he says with reference to that country. They have faith in his sense of justice and fair play. Were it not for this good reputation we have made during the past few years the Chamberlain prediction would have come true.

ACROSS THE BORDER

(By Nettie W. Kopp.)
Under the starlit Heaven, where the nights are cold and still;
Where naught but the lurking coyotes are heard from yon distant hill,
They lie, the restless soldiers, awaiting the worst to know,
They lie in wait for Villa, cross the border of Mexico.

Over the sun-scorched desert, the soldiers make their way;
Over the sand-strewn prairies, they march the livelong day,
Their steps grow weaker and weaker, as on their mission they go,
In search of the bandit Villa, 'cross the border of Mexico.

In the wastes of this arid region, for miles no water is found,
And soldiers exhausted from thirsting, drop one by one to the ground,
While their suffering is tense from marching, 'neath the sun's hot piercing glow,
In their hunt for the lawless Villa, 'cross the border of Mexico.

Oh, pray for the ones who are suffering, that no war may spill their blood;
That the blood may not ooze from their life veins, the Mexican soil to flood,
And if they engage in battle, may they there defeat the foe,
May they slay the villainous Villa, 'cross the border of Mexico.
Pendleton, Oregon.

TO SPEND MILLIONS

(Continued from page one.)

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Line changes | 250,000 |
| Complete Vale extension from Riverside to Harri-man, Or. | 920,000 |
| Bridge renewals, miscellaneous | 200,000 |
| Passing track extensions | 125,000 |
| Miscellaneous improvements | 1,920,000 |
| Total | \$3,650,000 |

The item providing for rail renewals will be applied to various parts of the line between Portland and Huntington. The company is seeking to replace all its old and lighter rails with 90-pound steel. When this project is completed the entire O.-W. R. & N. main line will be equipped with 90-pound rails.

The shop improvements at Albana cover various parts of the company's shops and repair plants there, including the installation of some new machinery.

ELECTRICITY VS. OSTEOPATHY

(By Dr. E. R. Haslop, Pendleton, Or., Osteopath, Judd Building.)
"Do you use a vibrator and electricity?" said a patient one day over the phone? "Yes, I do at times, for certain local conditions are much benefited by use of such."
However, a patent treated with vibrator and electricity will testify that the stimulation makes them feel good for awhile, but it wears off quickly. Stimulation is only a superficial treatment. Osteopathic treatment is a deep treatment. The deeper muscles are relaxed and the deeper nerves and blood vessels are reached. Thus the lasting effects of the treatment are obvious.—Adv.

Road Work Calls for Great Care

(From the Portland Journal.)
While it is gratifying to sincere advocates of better roads to note the rapid growth of sentiment in Oregon as is evidenced by the discussion of bond issues in several counties, prudence asks whether or not the public mind has fully sensed what should constitute a good road and whether or not the counties concerned possess an organization which will be effective in securing a dollar's worth of road for every dollar spent.

In road building there are two basic elements. One is the education of the public in the value of good roads and the other is the education of men to build them.

The old injunction "know thyself," applies to the subject of roads as well as everything else in life.

A road, like any other important work, demands that it be planned and its construction supervised by trained men, men of skill and experience.

Good roads cost money, but they are the only kind worth what they ought to cost. They cannot be built, though, by unskilled men. Men who do not know cannot be efficient. Behind the trained roadbuilder should be an organization of public spirited men who have by personal investigation equipped themselves with the knowledge of what a road should be and are qualified to insure to the taxpayer full value for his money. It is through such men rather than through contractors, pavement promoters and road machinery dealers, that good roads can be secured.

The money spent on a good road, even though raised by a good bond issue, will, if the road is built within its real value by home material and home labor, come back to the taxpayers in three ways.

Money All Comes Back.
First, after it is built it will be worth its cost. Second, the county will have the road as well as the money it cost. Third, it will have at least a full dollar of increase of economic land value for every dollar honestly and economically spent on the road. In short, for the construc-

tion of a good road there is a return of real value three to one.

On the other hand if a poor or bad road is built it will not be worth what it cost. Much of the cost being profit or waste will pass out of the community in which it was spent and be a total loss. There will not be a cent of increase in land value, but instead a loss to the extent of the amount spent on the poor road.

Bonds should never be voted for road construction in advance of a definite plan, carefully worked out in all its details. The taxpayers should know what they want before assuming the burden of a mortgage or a heavy tax.

Multnomah Got Money's Worth.
During the past year Multnomah county has built what are regarded as good roads, that is, roads that are worth what they cost. These roads did not spring into being all at once but are the result of years of study and effort. They had their origin away back in what may be termed a road school started and maintained by advocates of highway development. To this school was added the missionary work of Samuel Hill. Then came along the Deanses, father and son, and John B. Yeon, who at their own expense traveled over the United States and made a study of road construction.

They believed in getting the experience of others and appropriating it rather than experimenting on new lines.

Here Are Preliminary Steps.
Before a county should enter upon an expensive road improvement the following preliminary steps should be taken:
First, a resolution not to endorse any plan that does not guarantee a full dollar's worth or road for every dollar to be expended.
Second, a determination to exact of contractors, in the case of pavement, a guarantee of work for a term of years without any expense to the county.
Third, the coming together of a number of taxpayers to act in an advisory capacity as a barrier to

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