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Oregon Observations

Astoria—Among the first Clatsop county men to announce his candidacy for nomination at the forthcoming primaries, is E. N. Hurd, Senator.

Seaside—By a vote of 217 to 20, the city of Seaside Monday bonded itself for \$263,000 for the construction of a pier into the Pacific ocean, a system of bulkheads on the ocean front and a mile and a half of concrete promenade along the seashore.

Corvallis—Alligators are not often sent through the mail and less often are they found in girls' dormitories, but there is one at Clifton hall.

Portland—The Mann-Titus company has been authorized to book cargo for the 11,000 ton steel steamer Steelmaker of the Ishman line, owned by the United States Steel Products company, which will open service to the United Kingdom this month.

Portland—Police inspectors and a special agent of the street railway company Thursday discovered 45 sticks of dynamite and ten bottles of glycerine concealed in an open house near the home of one of four youths now being held in jail for investigation in connection with a number of burglaries, robberies and safe blowings, the police department announced today.

Astoria—A. J. Partan and W. M. Rebo, editor and business manager respectively of the Tovar, a local Finnish newspaper, have gone to Portland to surrender to the United States marshal and begin serving a two year term in the federal penitentiary at McNeil's island.

Tillamook—The body of Walter Smith, son of a rancher of Miami near here, was found Friday in a garage owned by Charles Blum, a rancher who lives on the Miami road. The body had been covered with articles of old clothing and a trail in the dirt indicated where it apparently had been dragged about 300 feet from a spot where Smith's wagon was found wrecked and his horse badly injured.

Portland—In reply to the statement of Senator Hitchcock, democratic leader of the senate, to the effect that Max H. Houser and 16 other regional directors of the United States grain corporation are drawing salaries of \$25,000 a year each, Mr. Houser declared he had never cashed any of the vouchers, but was holding them until he decides to what charitable purpose he will apply the money.

Portland—Mayor George A. Baker of Portland and Henry E. Reed, assessor of Multnomah county, as chairman and secretary of the state advisory board of the aviation army home service program for 1920, have issued a call for a convention to be held in Portland March 17. It is expected that 150 business men of Oregon, representing every county, as members of the county advisory boards will attend.

BANK PLACES BAN UPON MARRIAGE OF EMPLOYEES
Chicago, Mar. 6.—A book of rules for employees of the federal reserve bank of Chicago, circulated today says "no male employee receiving less than \$125 a month salary will be permitted to marry while in the service of this bank, without first taking the matter up with the chief clerk."

Abe Martin



Folks that burst out just what they think wouldn't be so bad if they thought, "I want to look over the murders an' see if there's anyboddy I know," said Life Bud, 'Lay, as he heaved a newspaper.

INVESTIGATION IN ORDER.

THE PORTLAND TELEGRAM charges that State Treasurer Hoff has invested the trust funds of the Segregated Accident Fund from which are paid the annuities and benefits of crippled and injured employes by the State Industrial Accident Commission, in questionable securities at inflated prices and permitted excessive commissions to the bonding house of Morris Bros. Inc., through whom nearly all bond transactions have been made the past year.

In support of its charges, the transactions involving the purchase of bonds in the boom towns of Warrenton and Reedsport are recited in detail.

The treasurer is alleged to have purchased for \$263,880, city of Warrenton six per cent bonds of par value of \$242,000 paying a premium of \$9.87 per \$100, making an investment yielding 5 1/4 per cent. Morris Bros. Inc., had purchased the entire issue below par, cleaning up approximately \$29,000 on the transaction, or \$24,732 more commission than the ordinary bond house charges at 2 per cent on the transaction. Furthermore, the total bonded indebtedness of Warrenton totals \$535,000 upon an assessed valuation of \$2,224,514. Of the money paid by the state, \$135,000 went into private hands for the purchase of 100 acres of land for Warrenton. The validity of the bond issue has been attacked in the federal court by the Spokane, Portland and Seattle railway, and it is admitted that another city election is necessary to correct technicalities to validate the issue.

The treasurer is also alleged to have purchased \$100,000 of the six per cent bond issue of Reedsport, a town in process of creation on the lower Umpqua, paying \$108,339.90 to Morris Bros. Inc., a price to yield 5 1/4 per cent interest to the state. The bonds were purchased by the state two weeks before they were voted or issued. They were sold by Reedsport to Morris for 92.30 cents on the dollar, who, without advancing a dollar, turned them over to the state for \$1.08 1/3, or a profit of 16.04 per cent. The Reedsport bonds were purchased by the state treasurer October 28, the bond election to authorize their issuance was held Nov. 10, two weeks later, the bonds are dated November 1, and were delivered December 24.

The brokerage commission on bonds runs from 1-8 of one per cent to 1-2 per cent with most banks and bonding houses, and 2 per cent is the customary maximum—but Morris Bros. cleaned up \$38,772.30 on these two issues above the customary maximum commission. As a matter of fact, the state, being a large purchaser of bonds, can bid directly upon any issue deemed desirable, has done so frequently in the past, and does not need to pay exorbitant commissions or high premiums. Any of the cities whose issues are held would have been glad to sell direct to the state at par, instead of selling to bond houses far below par.

These bond issues were highly recommended by Morris Bros. Inc. as desirable investments, and the purchases were made, states the Telegram, through Joseph G. Richardson, deputy state treasurer, who was entrusted by State Treasurer Hoff with bond transactions and whose advice governed the treasurer.

The state may not be the loser in these and similar transactions, and the bonds may prove all that interested parties claim, but boom town securities do not sell at a premium and are not regarded as the safest investment—not the character of investment necessary to safeguard the funds upon which the maimed and crippled depend. Nor is the way the purchases were made very satisfactory to the public. In the desire to secure a higher interest rate, it is apparent that the value of the security was given scant consideration.

State Treasurer Hoff, whose integrity and intentions are above question, but whose financial management is questioned, should at once demand a full investigation of the bond purchases made by his office, in order to bring out all the facts—for only one side of the subject has been heard. If he does not, the governor should order a thorough investigation of the investments of state funds by those best qualified to make them.

The incident reveals a weakness in the state law and the necessity for a change. Investments of state funds should not be left to the judgment of any one man, for no matter how conservative that man may be, he may make a costly mistake, particularly when details are left to political assistants. A few years ago, all state funds were deposited in one bank, and when that bank failed it was necessary to recover from the bondsmen. To guard against such contingencies, investment of state funds should be subject to the approval of either a board created for the purpose or of the board of control.

The Telegram is given to wild accusations and vicious attacks upon public officials, founded upon suspicion and malice, and a desire to attract attention—hence its assertions are taken with a grain of salt. Investigation will prove whether it is another case of sensational journalism, mingled with bond-house jealousy and politics—and the public is entitled to learn the truth.

Rippling Rhymes

BY WALT MASON
GLAD TIDINGS.

is at hand. For long weary months we've been nourished on sleet and such hideous stuff; the backbone of winter has flourished, but now spring is calling its bluff. The breeze has a scent that is vernal, suggesting the tulip and rose; the sun, in its journey diurnal, is shedding some heat as it goes. The robin, reliable token of springtime, is seen on the lawn; the backbone of winter is broken, the season of blizzards is gone. Yes, March, as you say, is afflicted with weather we scarcely can stand; but then, it is promptly evicted, it whoops for a day and is canned. Though furnaces still we are stokin' at times, till the advent of May, the backbone of winter is broken, hurroo and hurrah and hooray! And soon we'll be planting the tater, and mowing the grass on the lawn; oh, say, is there ecstasy greater than that when the winter is gone?

LOVE and MARRIED LIFE
by the noted author
Idah McGlone Gibson

An Invitation to Dance
I was very glad to stumble into a wheeled chair for my return to the hotel. The board walk was swarmed with people, and much to my surprise Helen saw many of her old friends. Although they all knew the circumstances of her marriage to Bobby Gaylord, most of them were very cordial in their greetings.

SLEEPY-TIME TALES
THE TALE OF JIMMY RABBIT
BY ARTHUR SCOTT BAILEY

A FAST RUNNER
On Blue Mountain, and in Pleasant Valley as well, there lived many fast runners. And among the swiftest was Jimmy Rabbit. But he never ran very far. Whenever he was startled he would go bounding off like the wind; but pretty soon he would stop and listen to see if anyone was following him. And if it happened to be dog Spot, he always hurried to a hollow stump, or perhaps a woodchuck's hole—or a skunk's—and hid there until Spot went away.

Of course, there was some risk in going into somebody else's house. For if the owner happened to be at home there was likely to be a quarrel. Naturally, nobody likes to have some outsider burst into his house without even stopping to knock. Now, everyone said that Jimmy Rabbit could run fast—that is, all but Tommy Fox. He never would admit that Jimmy Rabbit was much of a runner. I should hate to say that Tommy Fox was jealous. But it certainly did annoy him to hear so much said about Jimmy's wonderful speed.



"My dear sir!" he said. "I could run that distance a hundred times while you were waddling it once. I don't care to race with you. It would be no fun at all for me."

When Mr. Turtle heard that, his heady little eyes snapped. "Don't be so sure!" he said. "I believe I can beat you. And I will beat you."

Jimmy Rabbit did not wait for him to finish. "Bet!" he cried. "I never bet! I'm not allowed to. My mother doesn't approve of betting. And if she heard you mention such a thing to me she would be very angry."

"I didn't mean to say that," Mr. Turtle told him hastily. "It was just a slip of the tongue. What I meant to say was this: If you win the race, I'll give you a fine new sled; and if I win, you can give me your wheelbarrow."

Jimmy Rabbit began to be interested. He had always wanted a sled. And by another month or two there ought to be good coasting. It certainly wasn't betting, he thought. And as for losing the race—and his wheelbarrow—he knew that such a thing could never happen.

"I'll race you!" he cried. "When shall it be?" "How would tomorrow do?" said Mr. Turtle. "It's a long way from the creek to Broad Brook—a good day's journey, I call it. It's too late to start today."

Jimmy Rabbit grinned. He knew that he could run that far fifty times a day. "I'll be at the creek early in the morning," he promised.

Again I let her think that John had sent the flowers, although I was more than sure that I knew whence they came. I really did not want to wear them, but I had no way of refusing to pin them on my gown because Helen, thinking they were from John, would mentally accuse me of being cold or ungrateful.

The flowers, dear innocent things, did add much to my costume, and Helen and I had the satisfaction of knowing that we created rather a sensation as we entered the dining room.

The food tasted the best to me of any I had had since my illness, and I was quite surprised to realize how happy I was in a how little the state of affairs with John affected me.

A man friend of Helen's and Bobby's made his way to our table and asked us if we would accompany him to one of the hotels to dance that evening. He said Bobby had sent him a long telegram that day, asking him to look out for us.

"I didn't know how much Gaylord was putting me in his debt," he said, with a courtly bow. "I shall be the most envied man in the hotel," he added.

It was so long since I had heard the little flatteries of polite society that my spirits leaped at the sound. "I will be happy in spite of anything that life may hold," I whispered to myself—an unconsciously cooing hand straying among the fragrant white violets at my belt.

Tomorrow—Helen's Happiness.

The Political Pot

Indianapolis, Ind., Mar. 6.—Petitions that place the name of Vice-President Thomas R. Marshall and Governor Edward I. Edwards of New Jersey on the preferential primary ballot in Indiana as candidates for the democratic nomination for president were filed before the time limit expired yesterday.

Helen, Mont., Mar. 6.—It was announced last night that petitions to place the name of Governor Sara V. Stewart of Montana on the primary of April 23, as a candidate for vice-president on the democratic ticket, were put in circulation today. The governor has announced that he would accept the nomination.

Missoula, Mont., Mar. 6.—Joseph M. Dixon, formerly congressman and United States senator from Montana and campaign manager for Theodore Roosevelt in 1912, has formally announced his candidacy for governor on the republican ticket.

Studebaker advertisement featuring an illustration of a car and text: 'If you wait until spring to place your order for a new car you cannot expect delivery for weeks and possibly months. The great Studebaker factories—one of the largest in the world—are not going to be able to produce enough cars to anywhere near meet the demand this year. We are getting our share of cars—but not enough to accumulate a reserve for spring delivery. Everybody will want "immediate delivery" in spring—those who place their orders now will act wisely. MARION AUTOMOBILE. This is a Studebaker Year.'

W. C. DYER INSURANCE AGENCY advertisement: 'Moved to 311-12 Oregon Building, Phone 224'

GOOD USED CARS

These Cars are in first class condition and we guarantee them
1918 Dort, 5 passenger, A-1 shape \$300
1918 Studebaker, 7 passenger, looks like new \$350
1918 Model 90 Overland \$300
1917 Maxwell, overhauled \$400
Cadillac Roadster \$350
Five-passenger tudobaker \$300
Ford 5-passenger body, only \$20
Do you need new tires? We are closing out some at list price with inner tubes free of charge

SALEM VELIE CO. 162 North Commercial Street

GMC Trucks advertisement: 'Your Eyes Do More Than Earn Your Living. Your eyes earn your living—but they do more. They are more than "the windows of the soul"; they are the doors through which nature sends her messages to the mind; they are the portals through which enter the messages of life itself. The eyes are your greatest source of comfort, of inspiration, of happiness. Without them—and their marvelous function of sight—man loses his most precious physical possession. Guard Carefully This Greatest Gift. Henry E. Morris & Co. Eyesight Specialists 305 State Street Shelltex Shur-on Spectacles will help. This Week's GMC Sales Were Repeat Orders WHY? GMC QUALITY and SERVICE W.E. BURNS DAN BURNS Not Brothrs—The Same Man High Street at Ferry, Salem, Oregon.'

LADD & BUSH BANKERS advertisement: 'Established 1868 General Banking Business Office Hours from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. CAPITAL JOURNAL WANT ADS BRING RESULTS'