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ALTHOUGH it is the old story, still every Oregonian, who reads the weather reports of the eastern states, notes the heat prostration, the people killed by cyclones, electric storms, and other atmospheric conditions, has ample reason for congratulating himself that he lives in the best summer climate in the United States.

THE country in general would approve his action if President Taft would decline to attend any of the numerous celebrations, fairs, anniversaries and other local and comparatively trivial public ceremonies to which he is invited. It is a matter resting entirely with himself, though a president certainly cannot attend scores of such affairs in a year and make a speech at each and very thoroughly perform the duties of his great office. Moreover, he is entitled to a summer vacation, like other hard working people, and he cannot get it unless he turns most of these invitations down, as he would be quite justified in doing. There is such a thing as being too good natured.—Journal

IN THE report of the school meeting last week we stated that the district issued warrants to the amount of \$15,000 owing to the fact that the building cost more than the architect's estimate. This may have been somewhat misleading and some seem to have gained the impression that the architect figured \$15,000 less than the structure cost, however, this is not the case. The district voted a bond of \$25,000 but \$5,000 of these bonds were never issued. The architect's estimate of the building complete and furnished was \$25,000, and we are told that it is a better building than either the Marshfield or North Bend buildings each of which cost several thousand dollars more.

THE customary crop of Republican candidates for governor is being sown throughout the state that promises, as usual, to ripen into a harvest of a Democratic crop to be housed at the State Capital. But Oregon Republicanism is never wise to its own interests. There are too many ambitious and selfish office seekers in the ranks to insure party success. There will probably be a dozen candidates, more or less, up before the primaries for Governor, one will be nominated and the rest, with few exceptions, will get revenge at the polls in the November election, when the old story of a Democrat walking up and taking the pie away from the whole Republican bunch will again be repeated. If the party leadership could centralize and agree on one man for Governor, then go to the polls and support him, there would be a different story to tell.—Eugene Register.

LAST week representatives of ten cities and many districts in the Yakima valley met to consider an irrigation canal project by which it is proposed to irrigate 300,000 acres. With this and another project under consideration, and the United States projects under way 1,600,000 acres, embracing portions of four counties will be reclaimed. Consider for a moment the vast im-

portance of this great work. The lands to be reclaimed are practically worthless and uninhabited. Reclaimed and irrigated, they will support probably 40,000 families, a population of 200,000 people. And what is being done in the Yakima valley in this respect can be done to a greater or less extent in many sections of Oregon. Reclamation of semi-arid lands wherever possible, and the irrigation of lands now more or less under cultivation, will in a few years double Oregon's population and products.

NO MEMBER of the United States Senate has a firmer intellectual grasp on the subjects that come before that body than Senator Gore of Oklahoma; no member discusses the various questions of public import with more vigor or clearness. In the tariff debate which has been dragging along for weeks, there has been no single Senatorial participant who handled the subject statistically, from memory, in the fashion Senator Gore handled it. This great mental feat of the Oklahoma Senator was upon the cotton schedule. Possibly it was the most marvelous exhibition of its kind ever witnessed in the Senate. But it is not merely by feats of mental gymnastics that Senator Gore is known, or will be known. He is a man of poise and character, who has made a place for himself among the statesmen of the country. Suffering from the physical defect of blindness that would bar most men from ambitious undertaking, and especially in public life, his success is the more remarkable. We understand the matter more clearly, and that without depriving Senator Gore of any credit, when we learn that behind him is Mrs. Senator Gore—a solecism that may be permitted under the circumstances. Mrs. Gore is the valuable other half. She serves the people of her state and the United States as well as her illustrious husband. To him she is all that he lacks physically, plus a companion in intellect, one entirely and invaluable in harmony with his work and plans. Mrs. Gore is a woman who is in public life in the best sense of the term, virtually a participant in one of the highest official positions in the country; yet, no one has heard of her as a suffragette.—Telegram.

IT is injurious to Oregon, says the morning paper, to say that Oregon is "bottled up," that it lacks railroad facilities, that therefore its development is retarded, that great areas are and will remain practically unsettled until railroads are built into them. The Journal, the probable object of criticism, has a clear, constant record as a booster and not a knocker, but in such a matter as this it believes in telling the truth and telling it plainly. It does not believe in deceiving eastern people on this subject, and probably could not if it would. The situation for more than a decade has been lamentable, humiliating, shameful, and the United press of Oregon ought to have been roaring about it this decade back, if for no other purpose than to arouse the people of Oregon from their lethargy and prompt them to action in their own

behalf—which they have now made some preparation to take unless railroads are soon built. But the Journal will also be foremost in announcing and rejoicing at the news of new railroad building, a little of which is now in progress, and more of which is apparently to be done soon. This paper cannot agree that the press for year after year and from one decade to another should keep supinely silent under a great wrong to the state; but none can outdo it in heralding the news of even the partial righting of that wrong, and the betterment of conditions in this respect.

THE editor of the Oregonian is, generally speaking, a well informed man, but he is decidedly weak and shows his extreme ignorance on some points, one of which is his attack on Secretary Wilson, of the department of agriculture in President Taft's cabinet. This is what the Oregonian says. "From Washington comes the pleasant news that James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, will retire from that office in December. The news will not be surprising to anyone who has followed the policy of President Taft in surrounding himself with men who were familiar with, or at least have some knowledge of the work for which they are drawing salaries from the Government. The administration of 'Tama Jim' Wilson would have been less ridiculous had the Secretary of Agriculture sufficient business sense to appoint assistants familiar with the important work which the department essays to handle. But Mr. Wilson at all times has seemed averse to having anyone in the employ of the department who knows any more about it than he knows himself, which, of course, makes it difficult for the public to realize on the heavy investment it has made in maintenance of the department. Mr. Wilson has remained in office for twelve years, and through all that period his crop reports, which have cost the Government millions, have been regarded as jokes. It was during his administration that 'leakage' of one of his carefully prepared crop reports enabled a coterie of Wall street gamblers to clean up a fortune in cotton. The immediate cause of his downfall, and undoubtedly the reason for his retirement, was his March crop report, showing such vast stock of wheat in farmers' hands that the Wall street gamblers who sold the market 'short' made millions before the ridiculous nature of the Wilson report was understood, and the market rebounded. It does not make much difference whom President Taft appoints to succeed Wilson. The change will be for the better." Now as a matter of fact, Mr. Wilson knows more about agriculture than any other man in the United States, and knows more in a minute than a thousand editors of the Oregonian ever heard or read about. When men or newspapers so completely show their ignorance or maliciously prevent all semblance of truth, which ever the case may be it is time that some take them to task. Mr. Wilson has done more for the agricultural interests of this country than any other ten men that ever lived in it.

OREGON has 350,000,000,000 feet of standing timber. Even at present stumpage prices this timber is worth \$175,000,000. If manufactured and sold at present lumber prices it would bring \$5,000,000,000 to the state for labor and supplies.

The figures show what an enormous resource the standing timber of Oregon has come to be. Oregon now sells \$20,000,000 worth of lumber per year. Of this amount \$14,000,000 is paid to wage earners who put it in local circulation, and every person in the state, directly or indirectly, shares it. Each year about a billion feet of standing timber in Oregon is destroyed by fire. On every 1000 feet burned, the stumpage owner loses \$2 and the community loses \$8 in wages. The figures in the foregoing are announced in a circular issued by the state board of forestry, in an effort to awaken in the public a realization of what Oregon's vast timber resource means to each inhabitant, and to stimulate an earnest purpose among all to prevent to the uttermost the destruction of timber by fire. The forestry board is spreading its printed matter broadcast, going even to the extent of having posters conspicuously displayed on mountain roads and wherever else they may be of service in spreading the gospel of protected forests. The billion feet of timber that is laid low by fire each year is literally \$8,000,000 in wages burned. It is literally \$8,000,000 snatched from the children of Oregon. It is a waste of substances that may well inspire each person in the state to be a sworn enemy of reckless fires and those who light and leave them to spread among the states gold bearing forests. It should inspire every hunter every camper, every traveler, never to throw a lighted match on dry leaves or rubbish, never to leave a fire until it has been completely extinguished, and never to light a fire until all the precautions of clearing away inflammable material from the vicinity of the blaze have been carefully attended to. But it is not in the value of the timber alone that the real wealth of the forest lies. There is the relation the forest bears in sustaining the flow of water courses, and the vital relation the streams in turn bear to the growth of crops. It is all a mighty consideration to this and the coming generations, a consideration to nerve every hand to devoted protection of the forests against the annual fire loss. The state board of forestry is a good leader for all the people in the state to follow in its activity for saving the trees, the streams, the crops and the wages for wage earners.—Journal.

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