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O. A. DEARING, EDITOR AND BUSINESS MANAGER

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Under the action of the Initiative and Referendum but two petitions, out of many started, have secured a sufficient number of signatures to entitle them to be submitted to a vote at the next election. These are the proposed Local Option Law, and the Direct Primary Law. Both these propositions will be placed on the ballots at the June election, and if they receive majorities, will become the law. Interested parties will take notice, and put in their work at the right time and place.

Strawberries are now on sale in the markets of Portland. Green grass covers the hills of the Willamette valley. The foothills are free from snow. Roses, hyacinths and crocuses are blooming in the gardens of this city. Sunshine and warm rains alternate. Life is worth living. On the same parallel all through the East and Middle West we read of blizzards, snow and ice, and a temperature far below zero. People exist in those countries. They can't live. And still there is lots of room in Oregon.

The two vital problems that science has got to tackle in the near future, and which they will eventually solve, are the invention and erection of sun-storage batteries, to furnish light, and heat at all times, wherever needed, and the artificial production of rain at will. Both these propositions are simpler than many discoveries that have already been made, and we look to a speedy solution. One will solve the fuel problem, which is soon to become a vital one in some parts of the country, and the other will make California inhabitable, and place her where she thinks she stands today—one of the favored spots on earth. Both are simply questions of mechanical ingenuity and we look to the bright young brains that are being trained in our technical schools today, to carry these problems to a solution.

Japan seems to be having her own way in the Orient. She has already disabled eleven of Russia's war vessels, blockaded the harbor of Port Royal so that the others cannot get out, and cut railroad leading to Port Arthur so as to prevent communication between that place and Vladivostok. Her vessels are guarding the north coast of Japan, and lying in wait for the expected attack from the north, when the Russian vessels can get clear of the ice in Vladivostok harbor. Take it all around the little brown men seem to be on top.

The latest reports, not confirmed, state that the Vladivostok fleet is not frozen in, but is free from the ice, and out on the war path. It is not known exactly where it is, but presumably looking for trouble.

When the House Committee report the Lewis and Clark appropriation to the House, they will make numerous changes in the bill. One of the most important of these will be the striking out of the Platt amendment requiring the closing of the Exposition on Sunday, and will substitute a provision recognizing the right of the State of Oregon to regulate the matter as it sees fit. The committee says that the state, under its law, having supreme jurisdiction, has full authority to regulate this matter regardless of any legislation Congress may enact, and it was declared that even if Congress should finally accept the Platt amendment, it could not be enforced. The House Committee claim that the Senate Bill was very loosely drawn, and owing to a conflict between State and national jurisdictions, Congress cannot legally make some of the appropriations called for in the Senate Bill.

As a result of the discussion this morning Mr. Myers looked for an appropriation of about \$500,000 for the Government building and the building for the Oriental exhibit; \$150,000 for the Alaskan, Hawaiian and Philippine exhibits; \$100,000 to defray expense of transporting the several Government exhibits, and \$100,000 for buildings for the Alaskan, Hawaiian and Philippine exhibits. He adds to this \$250,000 in gold coins, which will yield the State just that much revenue. These estimates may be increased or decreased slightly, but are believed fairly to represent the amounts which the subcommittee is willing to agree to. The House appropriations, though changing the class somewhat, amount as a whole to about the same sum as the Senate. Even if less, the open Sunday feature will more than offset in gate receipts, the loss in the appropriations.

The great problem of future timber supply is soon to be taken up by the United States Bureau of Forestry, on the lands of the Weyerhaeuser Company and the Northern Pacific R. R. Company. The president of the former company has addressed a letter to the Bureau, containing after a statement of conditions, the following query:

"Realizing the increasing scarcity of timber and the probability of a more economical use of forest tracts which we have, and understanding that your foresters lend assistance to land holders in the way of making surveys and plans for economical forest management, I would ask whether it would be possible for the Bureau of Forestry to make surveys and plans for this company, looking toward the forest management of its tracts."

The Bureau replied to the company, and completed an agreement with them to give them expert superintendence until the plans were perfected. The letter goes into detail regarding service and cost and says:

The Department of Agriculture, in pursuance of investigation in forestry, and in order to disseminate a knowledge of improved ways of handling forest lands, shall, after personal study on the ground by its agent or agents, prepare a plan for harvesting the forest crop and reproducing the forest on the land of the said Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, situated and described as follows: 1,300,000 acres, more or less, State of Washington. The said plan shall be prepared for the purpose of promoting and increasing the present value and usefulness of the said land to its owner, and to perpetuate and improve the forest upon it.

The experiment will be watched with interest by every person who is interested in the perpetuation of our timber supply.

OUR BRAINY CONTEMPORARIES.

"God, Right, and International Law are on our side," says the St. Petersburg Russ. The thought must be consoling, but it doesn't seem to affect the result much.—Oregonian.

After all, the mermaid discovered by Wexford Jones and photographed by Lute Pease—a scaly trick by the way—was only one of Salem's microbes escaped from its lovely environments and found by the prowling newspaper fiends in all the bloom and beauty of its maidenly perfection. Perfectly harmless, too.—Salem Statesman.

The Czar of all the Russias has joined the faith cure cult and is now hard at work practicing Christian Science on the war vessels at Port Arthur. He refuses to believe that the Japs have torpedoed his vessels and the rifts in their hulks he says is purely imaginary. While he has been praying in the Greek Cathedral at St. Petersburg the Japs have sent his warships to the bottom of the sea.—Roseburg Plaindealer.

It is the bad road that is the costly road. Better a piece of road work well done at a fair price than a makeshift effort destined to promote trouble through the winter. The unseen cost is the great factor. If a correct item could be made of the vehicle bill for Oregon largely based upon present bad roads, it would silence the most persistent advocates of the old methods. And the loss to the farming communities through being unable to market products at times when demand is active is very heavy.—Albany Herald.

The average reader pays for his monthly magazine in advance as a matter of course, as does the reader of the metropolitan daily. It is only when he hears home that he tightens his purse strings, grudgingly giving to the publisher of his local paper, his neighbor and probably his personal friend, the consideration that is so freely given the non-resident printer of metropolitan paper or magazine. There appears to be no valid reason for this. The small publisher of the local paper is quite as much in need of funds, quite as worthy, furnishes a news service quite as necessary, as the publisher of the distant metropolitan who ever demands his compensation in advance. It is a strange neighbor and friend who grumbles as he shows one the consideration that is granted the stranger as a matter of course.—Ex.

"And there is another little matter we want to write about and give a word of caution to the republican voters of Douglas county. There are professing republican candidates who openly boast that they can carry a big democratic vote and they depend on their democratic friends to urge their candidacy for the republican nomination. Right here we desire to state: The republican whom the democrats would assist in electing is either a democrat dressed up in republican clothing or is a man who has made a trade with the democrats to smash part of the republican ticket in favor of the democrats. In any event the republican who is supported by democrats is an unsafe man to nominate, for we never knew a man nominated by the good will of a supposed opposing political party who was not a traitor to the party traditions and members of the party who nominated him. Beware of such men be they republicans, democrats, socialists or pops, they are tail-mashers."—Roseburg Plaindealer.

Japan Wins Again.

TRAP IS CLOSED

Russians Shut up in Port Arthur and Fleet Holds Harbor.

SINK THEIR OWN SHIPS

A reliable authority says that three Russian torpedo-boats have been sunk by guns from the forts. They were mistaken for Japanese vessels.

RAILROAD DESTROYED

Viceroy Alexieff is practically isolated, direct communication between Port Arthur and Vladivostok being suspended. The railroad behind Port Arthur has been blown up and 6000 Japanese troops have been landed near Dalny.

CONTRABAND OF WAR!

The Japanese warship, Amaki has captured the German steamer Yokohama, which had a cargo including dynamite, for Port Arthur.

ELEVEN SHIPS STRUCK

The steamer Wenchow, arriving from Port Arthur report that 11 Russian ships were struck in Wednesday's engagement.

The cruiser Askold, with a big hole at the waterline has been towed into the inner basin and beached.

The battleship Sebastopol has a shell hole just above the waterline and is useless in rough weather.

The cruiser Novik has a hole in her after port side.

The battleship Retvizan is on the beach and her bottom has fallen out.

The steamer Palada was torpedoed abaft the engine-room.

The battleship Czarvitch which was also torpedoed, has been docked.

The others were chiefly damaged in their upperworks.

The whole of the fleet has been taken into the inner harbor and Port Arthur is depending for protection on her forts, which have been reinforced. There is frequent firing which is presumably drawn by Japanese torpedo-boats.

UNDER MARTIAL LAW!

Martial law has been proclaimed here. The Russians who have no provisions must leave within two weeks. If the port is blockaded every one must go beyond the 27 miles zone.

"One thousand Japanese will leave tomorrow."

Reductions for February

GROCERIES

Look our list over, see the reductions and save money while it rains.

D G Sugar, 100 lbs.	\$ 5 65
22 lbs A & L Rolled Oats	1 00
Padlock brand Peaches, 35c cans	25
Palo Alto brand Peaches, 25c cans	20
Extra Standard Corn, two cans	25
" " Tomatoes, two 3-lb. cans	25
Corned Beef, 20c. cans, 3 for	50
Dried Beef, 20c. cans, 3 for	50
3 Cans Fancy Sardines in oil	25
1 lb. Seeded Raisins in bulk	10
2 1-lb. Packages Seeded Raisins	25
7 Bars Daisy Laundry Soap	25
6 Bars Silk Laundry Soap	25
4 Packages A & L Soda	25
2 lbs. 15c. Coffee	25
3 lbs. 20c. Coffee	25
3 lbs. 40c. Coffee	1 00
"Young America" full Cream Cheese	17 1/2

When you see it in our ad it's so.

DISHES.

One set decorated Cups and Saucers	50
" " " Dinner Plates	50
" " " Soup Plates	50
" " " Breakfast Plates	40
" " " Pie Plates	40

For the month of February only.

F. L. Miller. We want your produce



THE PIONEER BAKERY



H. W. HALL

A fresh and complete line of candies, nuts and fruits kept constantly on hand. Our bread is always fresh. We carry a complete line of smokers' necessities.

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