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OVER THE CLOUDS

There Majesty of Aerial Perspective Can Be Realized.

Writer Describes His Observations on
an Airplane Trip—View Not to
Be Compared With That
at Sea Level.

The full majesty of the aerial perspective can only be realized, writes Edward P. Warner in the Yale Review, when one is above the clouds and the earth is shut off from view. In flying on an overcast day, when heavy banks of cumulus clouds lie at about 3,000 feet, it is possible to experience within a minute or two every

degree of fog and sunshine. When one is passing into the clouds the lower surfaces of which are almost perfectly flat, there is an instantaneous transition from shadow to complete atmospheric opacity, similar in appearance to a dense fog at the ground but differing somewhat from it in feeling, for the interior of a cloud seems to be "drier," the air less saturated with water vapor, than the fogs which are met with at sea or ashore. If the climb be continued a few hundred feet farther, the airplane passes again into clear air, but into air now of clarity and brightness worthy of Mediterranean skies and not at all to be compared with that at sea level.

Above lies an almost cloudless sky, a sky the perfection of whose azure tints makes one long for the brush and the skill of Maxfield Parrish to make permanent record where memory quickly fades and where photography cannot even suggest. Below, ahead, and all round, are the cumulus clouds, but they present a very different aspect from that seen from the ground. The lower surfaces are flat and uninteresting, but the upper parts are like colossal billows which are constantly changing, rolling, eddying, whipping to pieces, and forming again. The lower surfaces lie in shadow—a fact which often gives to the most innocent and fleecy of clouds the threatening black appearance of "thunder heads," but the upper surfaces are just enough shaded in spots by the unevenness of contour to afford relief, so that they are not utterly dazzling.

The clouds are so sharply defined against the sky, so opaque, that it is as difficult to believe that they consist of yielding vapor as it is for most people to believe in the reality of the ghosts of the traditional ghost stories—beings who retain all their earthly appearance and habiliments yet have no substance to resist a thrust or blow. A novice in flying is likely to

draw himself together and brace himself in his seat almost involuntarily in anticipation of the impact as the airplane dives at 150 feet a second toward the white mass ahead, a mass which seems at least as solid as a snowdrift. There is no impact, no hesitation when the cloud is reached, but the passenger suddenly realizes that he can no longer see the blue above, that he cannot even see the wing tips of the airplane, though he knows that in a few seconds he will return to the conditions of the ground dwellers, so far as their view of the sky is concerned.

Short Candle Burned Out.

Mannie Chappelle (Emanuel S.), a generation ago was a shining figure on Broadway who exemplified the art of joy living. He was agent for a brand of champagne which he distributed freely at dinners which he gave in order to introduce people to it. They had to be people of wealth and social standing to make it worth while for him. He earned big money, spent it freely, had a great gift of companionship, which constituted his chief equipment for his business, was immensely popular with the kind of people whose trade was desirable, and used to boast that for years at a time he never saw the sun. Daylight in New York wasn't worth while. Nothing happened. His wife was Billie Burke's sister. She divorced him. He has just died, at the age of fifty-five. No man had more good times in his life than he. We wonder if he was as happy as he made other people, and doubt it. Prohibition knocked out his business. He found nothing else worth living for.—Waterbury American.

Only a Snack!

After a frugal little lunch in a country hotel the millionaire who was touring the country in his sixty horse power car, called for his bill.

"Yes, sir," replied the waiter promptly. "Four sandwiches and a glass of cider, you had, sir. That will be—"

"Wait a minute!" interrupted the motorist. "There's my chauffeur somewhere. What has he had?"

"Oh, I know about him, sir," replied the waiter. "He says he's just had a snack—an omelette, grilled trout, lamb cutlets and peas, feed coffee, a half-crown cigar and a bottle of claret, sir."—London Answers.

Gasoline Substitute.

"Motor alcohol," a substitute for gasoline, made from molasses on the Hawaiian sugar plantations, which has been allowed to run to waste or burned for the recovery of potash, is a new automobile fuel which it is said gives more power, greater mileage, easier starting, and more freedom from carbon than gasoline. Hawaii has molasses enough available to produce 9,000,000 gallons of "motor alcohol"—enough for all the automobiles on the islands.

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To Read Your Ad in These Columns?

COST OR MARKET INVENTORY BASIS

Important Concession Is Made
On Income Tax
Returns.

Washington.—Merchants and manufacturers may adopt "cost or market, whichever is lower," as a basis for valuing their inventories for 1920 income tax returns under regulations issued by the bureau of internal revenue. The regulations also provide that the difference caused by the fall of prices during the year may be deducted in arriving at the value of stock.

Secretary Houston and officials of the internal revenue bureau were without estimates as to the difference in revenues which may result from valuation at "market" rather than "cost." The belief was expressed in some quarters that the difference would run into many millions of dollars. Internal revenue bureau officials explained that the law permits of a choice of basis and under present conditions "market" reflects more accurately the state of business conditions. To require inventories at a cost higher than "market," it was added, would be to put a tax on investment rather than on income.

Inventories of taxpayers on whatever basis taken will be subject to investigation, the revenue bureau announced, and taxpayers must satisfy the bureau of the correctness of the prices adopted.

WILSON SIGNS MINING BILL

Washington.—President Wilson signed the Ashurst mining bill, granting an extension of six months on the time in which the 1920 assessment work on mining claims can be done.

Under the old law the holder of mining claims would have had to complete \$100 work of assessment work by midnight Dec. 31. Although the time is now extended, holders of the mining claims must file notices with county recorders showing that they claim exemption under the bill which became operative at once.

Hundreds of mining claims in the west are affected by the measure and senators and representatives from that section have been overwhelmed of late with telegrams asking as to what action was to be taken in the matter.

IRISH HOMES ARE BURNED

Governor Orders Reprisal Because of Ambush of Police.

Cork.—Seven houses in nearby towns and their contents were burned by the military as a result of an ambush of the police near Middleton, it was announced. The story was related in a statement issued by military authorities.

"As a result of an ambush of the police at Middleton and near Glebe-house," it stated, "the military governor decided certain houses in the vicinity should be destroyed, as inhabitants were bound to have known of the ambush."

"A notice was handed each household stating why the houses were destroyed. Each resident was given an hour to remove valuables and the houses were then destroyed. Nothing apart from the houses and the furniture was destroyed."

Former German Chancellor Dies.

Berlin.—Dr. Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg, German ex-chancellor, died after a brief illness, on his estate at Hohenfinow, near Berlin. Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg was chancellor of Germany from July 4, 1909, to July 14, 1917.

Valera in Ireland, Says Secretary.

New York.—The mystery that for several weeks has surrounded the whereabouts of Eamon De Valera, president of the Irish republic, was cleared up here when Harry Boland, his secretary, announced that De Valera is in Ireland.

Meredith's Order Halted by Junction.

Kansas City, Mo.—A permanent injunction was granted in the United States district court here restraining the secretary of agriculture from enforcing his order restoring the wartime commission rate for handling livestock.

British Press Wants Navies Limited.

London.—Insistence on the desirability of restricting naval armaments and the holding of a conference on the subject by the United States, Great Britain and Japan has been renewed by London newspapers.

Two-Cent Fare Law Unconstitutional.

Des Moines, Ia.—Iowa's 2-cent railroad passenger fare law was held to be unconstitutional by Judge Martin J. Wade, of the United States district

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week
Briefly Sketched for Information
of Our Readers.

Eugene's estimated fire loss during the year 1920 was \$42,850.

The tax levy at Coquille for the coming year will be 72.2 mills and at Marshfield 69.2 mills.

A. J. Crigler, a resident of Umatilla county since 1869, is dead at his home near Freewater, aged 90 years.

Building operations in Eugene in 1920 were more than three times greater than during the previous year.

The Eugene Woodmen of the World are planning the erection of a new hall on the site of the present home.

Smallpox is increasing in number of cases in Pendleton, eight new cases being reported in one day last week.

Harry Laird, son of James Laird of Brewster valley, was killed by a fall over a cliff while hunting near Marshfield.

The iron foundry recently established at Forest Grove is now in operation, the first heat having been put on Monday night.

More than 200 of the 775 women who are registered in the University of Oregon held commercial positions during the summer.

L. D. Wilsey, a young Weston farmer, killed a hog the other day that dressed 420 pounds and yielded 16 gallons of lard.

The annual interstate convention of the Y. M. C. A. will be held in Salem January 28, 29 and 30. About 200 delegates are expected.

Condon wants a landlord. The city has a fine hotel of 50 rooms, with all modern conveniences, but it has been closed for some time.

County superintendents of schools from all sections of Oregon gathered in Salem Saturday on the occasion of their annual conference.

The state military department has finished the biennium with a surplus of \$5000, instead of a deficit, which was threatened last spring.

The Deschutes national forest expended \$18,151 in road construction and maintenance in the course of the calendar year just ended.

In the entire state there are 128,001 acres planted in fruits, berries and nuts, as shown by the 1920 annual report of the tax commission.

Gross returns of Hood River county during 1920 on fruits and farm products and from the Hood River creamery will approach \$2,500,000.

Bond claims an increase in population of 1000 over the 1920 census, the school census showing 1550 children between the ages of 4 and 19.

Morris Goggins, who has charge of the elk herd at Billy Meadows, reports three feet of snow in the pasture and the elk badly in need of feed.

The Oregon public service commission has authorized the Malheur Home Telephone company to increase its rates an average of 10 per cent.

The Willamette Valley Lumber company mill, erected at Dallas at a cost of \$150,000, began operation last week. Employment is given to 130 men.

The idea that fuel oil exists in Coos county has been abandoned. Three wells, sunk from 2100 to 2600 feet, have encountered no oil indications.

Anton Wintermeier, father of Judge Charles A. Wintermeier of Eugene, is dead at The Dalles, aged 83 years. Mr. Wintermeier settled at The Dalles in 1859.

Fruit shipments out of the Rogue river valley in 1920 were 787 cars of pears and 233 of apples, a total of 1020 cars, of the estimated value of \$2,000,000.

All the large mills in the Cottage Grove section are closed. Small mills are said to be offering their finished product at a half to a third of what it has cost them.

Preparatory to active road work next spring and summer all the road-building machinery of Linn county will be overhauled during the next two or three months.

Plans are under way for making the state convention of retail merchants at Marshfield on February 17 and 19 one of the biggest gatherings of the kind ever held in Oregon.

J. A. Churchill, state superintendent of schools, has returned from San Francisco where he attended a thrift conference of all state superintendents west of the Rocky mountains.

Jackson county has received a check for \$20,000 from the National Surety company of New York, being the amount of the surety bond furnished by Miss Blakely, county treasurer.

A. W. Stone of Hood River, general manager of the Apple Growers association, has just returned from the east and states that there is a better demand for apples at improved prices.

Only one fatality due to industrial accidents in Oregon during the week ending December 29, is reported by the state industrial accident commission, Jim Rimbley, a logger of Elgin. A total of 320 accidents were reported to the commission.

RESERVE BANKS CUT DOWN WAR PAPER

1500 Millions Decline to 1141 Millions, Says Federal Report.

Washington.—Holdings by federal reserve banks of paper secured by government war obligations declined from nearly 1500 millions at the opening of the year to 1141 millions on December 31, said the annual review issued by the federal reserve board. At the end of the year, out of a total of 2719.1 millions of discounted bills, about 42 per cent was composed of paper secured by United States war obligations, against 67 per cent of a total of 2231.2 millions held on the first Friday of the year.

The gold reserve, according to the review, shows little change at the end of the year, as compared with the condition 12 months earlier. Although considerable gold was exported to South America and to the orient early in the year, it is explained, gold shipments from England in anticipation of the maturity of the Anglo-French bonds on October 15 were responsible in a measure for a subsequent recovery. At that on December 30 the amount was only 3.3 millions below the total shown on January 2.

Increases in capitalization of existing member banks and accessions of new members were responsible in part for an increase in the paid-up capital of the federal reserve banks during the year from \$7.4 to \$9.5 millions. This corresponded to an increase of over 411.0 millions in capital and surplus of member banks.

FURTHER PRICE DECLINES NOTED

Washington.—Further decline in prices, coupled with increased unemployment, accompanied the continued progress in business readjustment during December, according to the federal reserve board's monthly review. The price decline was placed at 8.1 per cent by the board, which added that the decrease was mainly confined to commodities which had shown a decline previously rather than an extension of price-cutting to other commodities.

The decline was reported most marked in agricultural products, textiles, hides, leather and iron and steel products.

Reduced business activity, the board stated, cut operations in many lines from 40 to 75 per cent of normal and brought unemployment. The shrinkage of demand, the board reported, also was responsible for wage cuts as high as 25 per cent.

ROOSEVELT'S HOME SHRINE

Birthplace of Former President in New York Dedicated.

New York.—The house in which Theodore Roosevelt was born at 23 East Thirtieth street, in New York City, will be dedicated as a national shrine Thursday, the second anniversary of his death.

In the presence of foreign diplomats and Americans of many walks, Major-General Leonard Wood, a warm friend of the ex-president, laid the cornerstone and J. J. Jusserand, French ambassador, will deliver an address.

Irish Reprisals Shock British.

London.—Public opinion received a shock when the details of the burning of the Irish town of Middleton, Saturday, were made public. The shock was particularly felt in quarters where it had been supposed that martial law in Southwestern Ireland would put an end to such reprisals. Nowhere is there outspoken approval of the punishment meted out to the Irish village by Major General Sir Edward Strickland, and there evidently is some reluctance to endorse this method of keeping order.

Idaho House Officers Selected.

Boise, Idaho.—At the 16th legislative house caucus, Peter G. Johnston, Ringham county, was selected for speaker by acclamation; Dave Burrell, of Ada county, chief clerk; Arthur W. French, of Boise county, an ex-service man, was the unanimous choice of the caucus for sergeant-at-arms.

Dobbin Appointed to Highway Body.

Salem, Or.—Governor Olcott appointed Jay H. Dobbin of Joseph, Wal-lawa county, as a member of the state highway commission to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late E. E. Kiddle. Mr. Dobbin is a prominent livestock man of his section.

Lane Under Clinic Observation.

Rochester, Minn.—Franklin K. Lane, former secretary of the interior, is under observation of the Mayo clinic for a general breakdown, it was said here.

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