

THE EUGENE WEEKLY GUARD

AN INDEPENDENT PAPER
CHARLES H. FISHER, Editor and Publisher

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1908

PREMIUM PAPERS

We are again offering either the Oregon Agriculturist or American Farmer free to every subscriber who pays his subscription to the Weekly Guard one year in advance. For the free offer of silver and kitchen sets see advertisement on this page. You may have them while they last.
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COUNTRY LIFE COMMISSION

The Commission on Country Life, appointed by President Roosevelt, left Washington a few days ago and will visit several Educational centres of the West for the purpose of obtaining information on the condition of Western country life, whether anything needs to be done to improve it, and if so, what it may be. It is proposed to hold hearings at agricultural colleges so far as possible, as these institutions provide effective organizations for securing the attendance of persons who are well qualified to express an opinion on the country life question. In particular, the commission invites the attendance at these hearings of representative farmers, teachers, business men, physicians and others who live in the open country or have direct relations with it. Accredited delegates from granges, farmers' clubs or similar organizations as well as farmers and others who come on their own responsibility and who are likely to be helpful in the investigation will be welcome. The meetings will be public, but are not held for the purpose of making speeches. Full and free discussions of the various problems affecting the life of the farmer, especially those relating to the larger economic, social and sanitary questions of the open country will form the basis for these hearings. As the commission can meet only a short time at each place, a portion of the conference will be devoted to mapping out plans for further consideration and study of these questions, the results to be submitted at a later date for the use of the commission.

The whole idea of the administration is to bring the people of the country, and by this we mean the entire nation, closer together. Specialists will be employed to give them information concerning country life in other countries, and how to make the most of their opportunities and resources. The plan is an excellent one and will be the means of greatly improving the manner and methods of living.

CRUELTY TO PRESIDENTS

The Syracuse Post-Standard has begun a war on the senseless custom of presidential inaugurations in the United States. That paper asserts that one or more deaths usually follow every presidential inauguration by reason of exposure to inclement weather. The demand is made that for the coming inauguration of President Taft some of the glittering military display be dispensed with in the name of humanity. The Post-Standard says: "William Taft is a strong, healthy man, accustomed to all the climates of the world, excepting that of the Polar Circle, and it is not to be feared that the ceremonies of inauguration day will hurt him, no matter how inclement the weather may be. Yet a cold and windy fourth of March generally results in the death of some of those who attend, and four years ago resulted in the death of a prominent citizen from that cause alone. "It is the opinion of Julius Casar Burrows, of Michigan, that the inauguration ceremonies should be simplified by omitting a great part of the military display and confining the ceremonies chiefly to the oath of office, the address of the president, and a religious service. That might be better; certainly it would save expense.

"What is there in law or custom that makes it impossible for inauguration day to be moved over into April or May? The constitution seems to contain nothing that would prevent it unless it be the provision that a president must be elected to hold office for four years.

"But if Taft were elected to succeed himself, who would object to adding a month or two to his first term as a matter of prevention of cruelty to future presidents—Republican, Democratic or Prohibitionist?"

There is more than one "pace that kills," says the Fresno Republican. The debauchee, who eats and drinks too much, sleeps too little, works not at all, and wastes his physical substance in riotous excesses, soon pays the penalty. But we have been having some examples recently of another pace that kills—the paces of big business graft. Big business work does not kill. Great captains of legitimate industry thrive on it. But big business worry does, and there is no source of business worry like business wrong. Nearly every man exposed by Hughes in the life insurance investigations is now either dead or is a nervous physical wreck, and lately comes the news that H. H. Rogers is a nervous wreck. Harriman and Morgan are still physically sound, but let some corruption legislation touch them personally and they will age twenty years in a month. It does not pay. The debauching of the public honor is beginning to cost the same price that the debauchery of private virtue always costs. It is too high a price to pay, whether for pleasure, for money or for success. We shall soon be able to add to Ben Franklin's "honesty is the best policy" the newer discovery that "honest men can eat and sleep and work and grow old." Evidently the dishonest man cannot do it much longer.

This is a queer world! Not so very long ago a man who had retired from active business after he had accumulated a considerable fortune, committed suicide, because he did not know what to do with himself and life without some occupation did not seem

worth living. Now another man, who has retired on a competency, has written a letter to one of the New York newspapers, asking for suggestions as to how he should keep from dying of ennui. In answer to this letter, which was published by the accommodating editor, a perfect flood of suggestions has been sent in for publication in the same paper. Some of these suggestions are serious and fairly sensible, but most of them are too silly to deserve consideration. The poor rich man deserves universal sympathy. He supplies one of the most powerful arguments in favor of a college education. If that retired merchant had had the advantages of a college education he would not lack something to fill his life's sunset days; there is always baseball, football and boat-racing to interest a college man.

The Providence Journal, a leading Republican paper of New England, says of Oregon's senatorial situation: "An unusual situation exists in Oregon, where Senator Fulton, Republican, whose term expires next March, and who desires to be re-elected, is opposed by Governor Chamberlain, Democrat. Mr. Chamberlain won in the senatorial primaries last June, and is entitled to the office by virtue of the fact that a majority of the members chosen to the new legislature pledged themselves to vote for the candidate receiving the largest primary poll. Of course, the Republicans are irritated at the existence of a Republican legislative majority, whose hands are tied by such an ante-election agreement, and ways are being sought to prevent the fruits of his triumph from being enjoyed by the popular governor. The scheme, however, deserves to fail, and probably will fail. Oregon is a Republican state, but it cannot afford to go back on its word for the sake of keeping a Republican senator at Washington."

It is a fact not generally known that the people of the District of Columbia bear the most of the expenses of the presidential inauguration, but there is a growing feeling throughout the country, according to the Des Moines Capital, that the federal government should bear this burden. A presidential inauguration can certainly not be looked upon as a purely local affair. True, the hotel, restaurant and shopkeepers may derive the largest material benefit from the function, but all that is merely incidental to the event in itself. Even the District of Columbia is regulated by congress and is the capital of all the American people. The president is the chief executive of the whole United States. We think, therefore, that no murmur of disapproval would be heard if the movement contemplated by Representative Boutell of Illinois to shift this obligation from the district to the nation should materialize.

One of the chief features of the American Playground Congress, held in New York last week, was the spirited attack of a young Cincinnati woman, Miss Maud Summers, on the comic sections of the Sunday papers. Miss Summers, one of the best known story-tellers for children, was vigorously applauded when she declared that in the papers emphasis was placed on deceit, on cunning and on disrespect for gray hairs. "The comic supplement of the Sunday newspaper is lowering the standard of literary appreciation," said she, "and debasing the morals of the children in this country. It teaches children to laugh when boys throw water from an upper window upon an apple woman or outwit an old and infirm man. Humor has its place in the literature of childhood, and it would be well if gifted writers for children could be found capable of substituting genuine fun for the coarse vulgar type now so prominent."

The pastor of the Second Reformed Church in Jersey City gives out an interesting story of what he considers the efficiency of prayer. A woman of seventy-five was desperately sick about one month before the last election and there seemed little hope that she would live long enough to find out who was elected president. As she was greatly interested in the outcome of the election, she asked the members of her family to join her in prayer, that she might live long enough to see Mr. Taft elected. Her prayer was granted. She actually lived until the Friday after the election. The story is quite touching, but, without irreverence, one cannot help wondering whether her prayer would have been granted had she asked to live until Bryan was elected. If she had, what a long life the devout woman would have had before her, and what a mistake she made that she did not try it—if she really loved this life.

The Japanese may be experts along all mechanical lines, and perhaps they possess all the valor attributed to them in war, but they have been completely vanquished by Mike Fisher's baseball aggregation of all-star twirlers, who are over in the land of the Mikado for a winter's engagement. Big Bill Burns, of the Standard Oil town of Richmond, shut out the team of the little brown men the other day, and strive as they might they were unable to hit the popular southpaw's swift balls. But they are new at the game, and it will not be surprising if there are vast improvements in the Japanese team before the end of the season, for the Nipponese are not accustomed to being the under dogs in any of their undertakings.

Like every other thinking man in the nation, President-elect Taft recognizes that it is time the tariff laws of the country were amended. It is time that some of our "infant industries," which have long since outgrown their swaddling clothes, and have become veritable giants in strength and stature, should be left to their own resources and compelled to battle on an even plane with the world's commerce. The people have some rights and these, it seems, are to be recognized by Mr. Taft and the administration which will go into power on the 4th of next March. There are the paper trust, the meat trust, the flour trust, the steel trust and a hundred others that might be named which should be taken from the nursery and no longer recognized as incapables. Let the people, the consumers, have a chance for their lives for a brief period.

The Salem Statesman is kept pretty busy nowadays urging its readers to imitate Eugene's example. Here is a sample: "Eugene gets her \$50,000 Y. M. C. A. building, the canvass for the money having closed successfully. That is very good indeed, and friends of the Salem Y. M. C. A. will have to take notice."

MISS ELKINS' DUKE REFUSES TO ACCEPT TERMS

Rome, Italy, Nov. 30.—The Elkins-Abruzzi betrothal is now at an end for all time, according to information from a most trusted source. The marriage has been abandoned definitely and there is not likely again to be any question about it. All efforts to ascertain the exact reasons have been unsuccessful, but it is evident that they are based on family objections on both sides that cannot be overcome.

This information is confirmed by the fact that "Parseverenza," of Milan, the newspaper which is regarded as the mouthpiece of the Italian foreign office, declared the engagement is now off. The paper says: "It was the Duke de Abruzzi who decided to abandon the marriage when, after mature consideration, he became convinced that it was impossible. Not to speak of certain demands made on the Elkins side, the duke became certain that Miss Elkins' position at court would not be what it ought. Then he concluded that it would be best to abandon the marriage. The Elkins family concurred in the decision and then the duke's cable message closed the affair."

"Thus there remains of this unpleasant affair only an unpleasant memory of the indecent behavior of the yellow section of the American

ARTIST LEAVITT TO RETURN TO WIFE, SO HE SAYS

Paris, Nov. 30.—The Societe des Beaux Arts is arranging an elaborate collection of canvasses by its members to be sent to America early in 1909 for exhibition in the principal



MRS. RUTH BRYAN LEAVITT. pal cities. W. H. Leavitt, William J. Bryan's son-in-law, has been asked to take charge of the exhibition, and act as the American representative of the society. Mr. Leavitt, who is engaged in the completion of a large painting of "The Lord's Supper," has not yet accepted. Mr. Leavitt has announced that he intends to resume residence with his wife at Denver as soon as he finishes this painting.

AUSTRIA AND RUSSIA WILL AGREE

Vienna, Dec. 1.—It is held here today that the prospects of an agreement between Russia and Austria-Hungary in the matter of an international congress to settle the Balkan differences is more favorable, and consequently the political atmosphere is cleared.



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STATEMENT FROM SUPERVISOR SEITZ

Corrects Misstatements About Land to Be Opened

Eugene, Or., Dec. 1, '08.

Editor Guard:—Owing to many misleading statements made regarding the character of the lands to be eliminated from the Umpqua (now Siuslaw) National Forest, many deserving persons who have worked hard for their money and cannot afford to lose are liable, because of misrepresentation, to be hasty and to invest in worthless locations; hence, I desire to caution prospective applicants for such lands that most of the land to be opened is either patented or filed on, and that which is not is, in the main, valueless for timber. For these very reasons the land was eliminated from the National Forest. Had it been valuable for timber and not filed on, it would have been retained for Forest purposes.

The statement "choice farm and dairy lands will be opened to entry" is very misleading. Such lands are not to be found in any portion of the elimination, and I cannot too forcibly urge the public to first see the land offered them before investing any money as location fee or otherwise.

Very truly yours,

CLYDE R. SEITZ,
Forest Supervisor.

What Shall We Have for Dessert?

Try JELL-O, the dainty, appetizing, economical dessert. Can be prepared instantly—simply add boiling water and serve when cool. Flavored just right; sweetened just right; perfect in every way. A 10c package makes enough dessert for a large family. All grocers sell it. Don't accept substitutes. JELL-O complies with all pure-food laws. Seven flavors—Lemon, orange, raspberry, strawberry, chocolate, cherry, peach.

CHICAGO WHEAT MARKET

Chicago, Dec. 1.—December, \$1.31; May, \$1.08 5-8; July, \$1.02 3-4.

Daniel Daly, of Cottage Grove is in the city.

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Free Homes

92,000 ACRES OF TIMBER AND AGRICULTURAL LAND in the UMPQUA FOREST RESERVE, OREGON, to be opened to entry January 20, 1909. For lists, blue print maps with lands marked thereon, and full information regarding filing, etc., send \$2.00 to

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