

Eastern Clackamas News

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The Bergdoll Affair

It should be remembered, that the American detectives who tried to arrest Bergdoll, committed a breach of international etiquette, when they operated in German territory without the co-operation of the German authorities. Nations are punctilious in this respect, and if Canadian police tried to arrest a man on this side of the line, without due formalities, a howl would be raised. The American government can and should make a strong appeal to the German government for clemency, and it is probable that the men will be speedily released. As it is, reports say they are being well treated, and not like ordinary prisoners. But when it comes to demanding extradition for Bergdoll, it is difficult to see whether we have a case. For years we have been harboring Germans, Russians and others, who came here to avoid military duty. The U. S. Government has refused to deliver up such when demanded, on the ground of it being only a political offense. As Bergdoll got his passports in Canada by perjury and misrepresentation, the Canadian authorities could demand his being given up to them. Whether after being through with him, they would turn him over to the American government is doubtful, unless the countries being allies at the time when the evasion was made, puts a different complexion on the question. We would suggest that proceedings to get him be abandoned and he be left where he is. He is sure to become desperately homesick after a while, and if he thinks the agitation for his arrest has died down and is forgotten, he will make plans to return on the quiet. In the meantime keep watch, and then when the son of a Hun arrives on this side, grab him and give him his due deserts.

Easter was an ideal day and everybody rejoiced.

The Exposition Site

The location for the Portland Exposition in 1925, is now being seriously considered, and a number of offers and suggestions have been made. The one by the Sellwood Board of Trade and Community Club, is attracting a great deal of attention. This is Sellwood Park, the slough including the Oaks, and Ross Island, comprising in all, 900 acres. For convenience, accessibility and sightliness, it is unsurpassed. The slough which is surrounded by a crescent shaped bluff, affords a natural amphitheatre capable of seating half a million of people. From the summit, a magnificent view of the whole region is obtained, and no one can fail to discern the vast possibilities it possesses for landscape development. As the intention is that all such development be made permanent, Portland would have, if this site is selected, for all time, a park rivaling any city park in the United States. As an advertising asset, its value would be incalculable, as all travel from the south would pass through or in view of it. A stranger's attention would be immediately attracted, and he could not fail to see how easily and quickly it can be reached from the city. All things considered, this location seems to have been designed for this very purpose by old Dame Nature, who has a long head on her, and knows very well what she is about when laying out her grounds.

We print elsewhere a communication about the blue laws especially in relation to Sunday observance. We long ago came to the conclusion that the less Sunday legislation there is the better. The state has a right to insure a weekly holiday for all workers, but the religious observance of Sunday or any other day, is a matter for the individual conscience. The first Christians did not need any legislation to keep the day. They met together before working hours on Sunday for worship. It was not until the fourth century when Constantine closed the government offices on Sunday, that the day began to become a holiday for Christians as well as a holy day.

The state of Nevada will now execute criminals under sentence of death, by asphyxiation. The gas, not the mustard variety however, is to be administered while the condemned is asleep.

As an indication of business conditions, the mail order house of Sears, Roebuck Co. has failed to declare its usual quarterly dividend, owing to the slump in trade.

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