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Notes and Comment

By CHAD ALTON

Charge is made, and investigation may prove it, that liquors are sold on the Atlantic liner Leviathan on the European run. The ship belongs to the U. S. Shipping Board, and the government may be placed in the position of padlocking one of its own ships.

A Los Angeles judge has informed the world that if a woman submit to "extreme cruelty" from her husband for longer than four years the law contemplates she puts a wrong construction on it, and no divorce may be granted. In the case which brought about this decision the lady told the court she had put up with it twenty years. The law of limitation seems to apply in our courts of domestic relations.

"The days of the ox-cart are gone," leads off an ad urging the use of a patent nostrum or cureall. Indeed they have, and in many ways it were better that we return to them. In those ox-cart days people kept reasonable hours, ate plain and nourishing food, drank, when they drank at all, pure wines and liquors, and in all ways conserved their health and looked after their children. The ox-cart was slow but sure, never attempted to climb telephone poles or to rush a grade crossing.

Lawyers who prepare our laws for enactment by the legislatures employ phraseology which appears perfectly plain in meaning to the ordinary person. Then they go back to where their shingle hangs out and when a case comes up proceed to tear them all to pieces and give them an altogether different meaning. With them it is not how to administer justice, but how they may defeat it.

The pope at Rome has been presented with some wine from Spain said to be two hundred years old. Safe to say it will not be poured down the Vatican sewers.

OREGON NEWS ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Brief of Resume of Happenings the Week Collected for Our Readers.

The state supreme court adjourned Saturday night for the month of August.

Governor Pierce has returned from Cheyenne, Wyo., where he attended the governors' conference.

A total of 138 forest fires have been observed by officials of the United States air patrol at Eugene so far this season.

At a special school election Canby school district voted to unite with the union high school district by an overwhelming majority.

In a sudden fit of maniacal rage, Mrs. Inez Warren, young matron, shot and killed her mother, Mrs. Melissa Bolton, 71, at Canemah.

Astoria post of the American Legion and business men have combined to stage a drive to bring the 1927 state legion convention to Astoria.

The largest shipment of livestock to leave Heppner this season was shipped to Chicago last week and included 25 cars of cattle and 15 of sheep.

Peach growers of the Willamette valley met at Salem and organized what will be known as the Willamette Valley Peach Growers' association.

The hop situation near Mount Angel is not as promising from the standpoint of yield as 1925. The early or fuggle hops will not be worth picking.

Marksman of Oregon organized the Oregon State Rifle association with Dr. J. D. Sheehan as president, at a meeting held in the Portland armory.

Francis Marlon Collins, a resident of Polk county for 80 years, died at his home in Dallas after an illness of several weeks. Mr. Collins was in his 92d year.

Water shortage in the Reed and Hawley mountain and Weston mountain regions of Umatilla county is reported to be seriously endangering the crops.

Following a battle with five sharks while fishing off Coos bay, Joe and Louis Guedon of Astoria were obliged to take their 34-foot fishing craft ashore for repairs.

Work of scarifying and oiling the Mount Hood Loop highway having been completed, all the road equipment has been moved to the state highway shops at Salem.

Construction of a \$10,000 prune dryer by S. A. Cummins & Sons is under way at McMinnville to accommodate the bumper crop which will be harvested, beginning August 15.

S. G. Oxborough, who has Hood River valley's only commercial peach orchard, has started the harvest of this season's crop. His fruit is maturing earlier than in normal seasons.

Klamath Falls during July experienced the biggest building month in its history. Total building investment reached the sum of \$641,435, over double that of any month this year.

Oiling operations on the Old Oregon Trail highway, between La Grande and Sunset inn, several miles west of Meacham, are now completed, according to Oscar Cutler, state highway engineer.

Money has been raised by the Enterprise chamber of commerce for the purchase of land near Enterprise to be used as a site for the proposed plant of the Black Marble and Lime company.

Fire that ignited when the combine engine backfired into spilled gasoline destroyed 160 acres of standing wheat and 290 sacks of grain and a Holt combine on the E. R. Barzee ranch west of Moro.

Growers of Evergreen blackberries are now beginning the harvesting of their berry crop in Clackamas county. According to the growers of the county, this year's crop will eclipse any in its history.

Western woolen and textile mills are in better condition than those generally in the east, declared Chauncey Bishop of the Pendleton Woolen mills, following his return from a trip through the east.

A saw mill and about 600,000 feet of pine lumber belonging to the H. M. Maughan Lumber company in Powatka Ridge, near Willows, was completely destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at about \$17,000.

Agitation for the establishment of a landing field at Pendleton for airplanes has increased with the announcement that probably 25 or 26 airplanes would land at that city during the Pendleton Roundup.

Illegal and fraudulent procedure marked the progress of the first election held in Chillicothe, a lumber town of some 600 souls, according to a complaint registered with the district attorney's office by T. L. Snook, resident of the village, who demands a grand jury investigation.

CHEVROLET SCOUT PARTY GATHERS INFORMATION

The Pacific Highway, serving as the Main street of the Pacific Coast, is a veritable "Midway" with a thousand side show attractions along its paved length. Every few miles between the Mexican border and the Canadian line, some scenic gem, some wonder of nature beckons the motor wayfarer from the beaten path.

Just out of Grants Pass, near the California line, are the "Marble Halls of Oregon." These 140,000-year-old caverns, their weird architecture extending hundreds of feet into Cave mountain, present a sight that is at once awe-inspiring and educational, and well worth the side trip up a good mountain road. A Chevrolet scout party recently visited and photographed the fantastic grottoes while securing touring information along the Pacific Highway.

Buildings around the cave entrance have the appearance of a Swiss village clinging to some steep Alpine slope. Visitors gather at the rustic inn and at regular intervals a guide-lecturer conducts them through natural tunnels. Each person carries his own graphite lamp.

The Oregon caves are made up of immense chambers, connected by natural passages. The walls are marble in odd formations; ceilings and floors are fringed with stalactites and stalagmites that have been centuries in the forming.

All through the winding corridors nature has laid out a decorative scheme worthy of a royal palace. The effects are more artistically designed than if they had been conceived by the mind of man. Sturdy columns reach roofward while bulky portiers rear down from the shadowy top to meet them. Massive posts stand side by side with frailest tapestry. These are petrified forests, miniature statues, a Dante's Inferno and a Bird of Paradise on a marble perch.

One great chamber, far below the surface and larger than a good sized house, has a natural stone slab roof as smooth and even as though hewn by human hand. Not a ray of natural light has ever brightened this chamber.

As visitors file through the damp spectral passages every turn reveals flashes of fantastic splendor and the half light of flickering torches only adds to the unreality of it all. The U. S. Forestry service has widened the passages and provided iron stairways.

Elijah Davidson, who still resides in the territory, discovered the Oregon Caves in 1847 as he followed his dogs into the main cavern in pursuit of a wounded bear.

After having dispatched the beast, Davidson gazed about him by the light of a pitch torch and beheld one of the most amazing spectacles ever set before human eyes.

The frozen bric-a-brac and ghastly shapes caused the mountaineer to shrink back and seek the cave's mouth, fearful lest he be confronted by the unseen artist whose mouldings, drawings and carvings graced the fanciful walls.

Later Davidson returned with a party of friends and penetrated the Marble Halls, giving to the world the story of a subterranean palace with a hundred rooms each which had specially planned decorations.

The caves are located in the heart of the Siskiyou, 4,000 feet above the sea. They are 50 miles from Grants Pass and easily reached by a good mountain road from either the Redwood Highway or the Pacific Highway.

Much fuss is made about official corruption in enforcement of the prohibition laws. There is less official corruption at the present than at any time in the past fifty years. Any persons who has read the newspapers and kept in touch with public events during that time will vouch for the truth of that assertion. It is a matter of history.

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The reign of crime in Chicago may be the subject of federal investigation. It is charged that armed gunmen, chiefly foreigners, have destroyed free suffrage in that city. It is a fact many hesitate to admit that most of the lawless element now in the United States is made up of persons bearing European names.

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