

Published Every Thursday by the Washington County Publishing Co. Incorporated at Forest Grove, Oregon

CITY - OFFICIAL - PAPER

\$1.00 a Year in Advance.

Entered at the post-office at Forest Grove, Oregon, as second class mail matter.

Address all communications to Washington County Pub. Co., Forest Grove, Ore.

If the NEWS fails to reach its subscribers or is late, we request that immediate attention may be called to the same.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1905

MEMORIAL DAY

"On April 13, 1862, a Southern lady, Mrs. Sarah Nicholas Evans, with the wife and two daughters of Chaplain May, of the Second regiment Michigan volunteers, visited the newly made soldiers' graves at Arlington Heights, Va., and decorated the same with flowers.

That was the initiatory step towards the national holiday now known as Memorial Day.

The following year the same ladies made a similar visit for a similar purpose to Fredericksburg, Va., and others followed the worthy example there and elsewhere, and soon it became a regular custom in the south to devote a day each year to the decoration of soldiers' graves. The day selected was generally May 15—in some instances the 27.

From the south the custom spread to the north, but it was not until 1868 that decoration day became recognized as a general holiday, May 30 being fixed as the date, that being claimed to be the date of discharge of the last Union army soldier. The G. A. R. took the lead in making the observance of the day general throughout the country, Commander-in-Chief John A. Logan in 1868-9 issuing orders to that effect and naming May 30 as the date. In 1873 the observance of Memorial Day was made obligatory upon all G. A. R. posts and in 1874 the first attempt was made in congress to have that date set aside as a legal holiday, which effort, however, was turned down by the senate.

The day having become known in some sections as "decoration" day and in others as "memorial" day the G. A. R. at its encampment in 1882 adopted a resolution to the effect that henceforth the day should be known as Memorial day, its meaning having previously (in 1879) been defined to be the preservation of the memories of those who fell in the defense of national unity."

"Such, in brief, is the history of the origin and significance of the day on which we are called upon to remember that the liberty which we as a people enjoy today was purchased for us less than forty years ago at the tremendous

price of nearly three hundred thousand human lives, not to mention three thousand millions of dollars, and that the purchase price thus paid consisted of the lives of fathers, husbands, brothers and sons whose dependents and descendants are, many of them, with us yet. It is proper, therefore, that we, the beneficiaries of this dearly-bought boon of liberty, mingle our tears with the tears of those whom our fallen defenders have left behind, and help them strew flowers on the graves in which lie slumbering those who died in order that our Union might live."

**Marriage, Babies and Common Sense.** Sermonizing upon race suicide has become more than a mere weather signal, as seemed first intended, and the pros and cons are discussed in open meeting and around the fireside as though it were a vital present day problem. President Roosevelt's thesis for more babies is echoed far and wide, with an occasional voice to declare that not in numbers, but in quality of population, lies the future of a nation. On the side of quality is found Mr. Francis Galton, somewhat of an old school advocate of race culture by selection.

Mr. Galton's philosophy is very fine as a matter of theoretical wisdom, but no amount of preaching will lift the process of mate selection above the old plane where the price of corn relative to that of labor is the controlling factor. Couples will go on mating after the fashion of the jungle wooer and his dusky maiden—first, because "you lak-a-me lak I lak-a you." When the meal bag is full and the labor market steady, the maiden of civilization will change her name. As to the size of families, the race culturists are probably on the side of fact and common sense in saying that there should be no more children than the parents can maintain and educate properly. Couples who watch the corn and labor market before increasing the birth list may be depended upon to also keep tab upon the number of mouths the meal bag will feed, and so on to the end of parental responsibility.

A good, husky lot of boys and girls will make their own way and help fill the meal bag for late comers. Fewer boys and girls will aim higher perhaps, and the parents can lend a boost until the mark is gained. What this country wants from one end to the other are men and women with the brain and brawn, the heart and conscience of their forbears who carved states out of the wilderness and spread civilization over a desert. As the trumpet call for pioneering heroes dies away another for moral heroes is lifted up.

The wilderness today is in crowded towns and cities. The desert lies in human hearts, either wavering or clean astray. Corruption, social and moral decadence, selfishness, vanity and false pleasures are the barriers to be hewn down by twentieth century heroism and cast into the consuming fire of progress. So the more boys and girls the better, but of the right kind. And as the parents are, so will their offspring be. It is a truism found in the folklore of all lands that parental love is not born of much preaching—nature must put it there; also that children unwelcomed by parents will be unwelcomed by society and wish they had never been born.

Riley's Dialect and the Schools.

James Whitcomb Riley's dialect evidently worries Professor Shyrock of the Illinois State Normal university, who asserts, according to report, that it "cannot be taught in the schools without debasing the language." Part of the work of the schools is, or should be, the inculcation of human feeling and sympathy in the young, the sense of pity and of humor as well. For this human characters are needed, and in default of the real thing imaginative persons and situations must be utilized. With Riley human nature pulsates in the dialect, and the dialect is a forceful and admirable expression of a phase of American life, one to live as a classic. If Riley's dialect must go from the schools, it will not be banished from the book tables nor from the lips of millions who find it a vehicle for everyday echoes of the human heart.

What American boy or girl that will not be the better for a peep between tears at the honest, expectant face called up by the lines:  
Let's go a-visittin' back to Grigsby Station,  
Back where we ust to be so happy and so pore.

Russia's Transsiberian railroad has another test before it now that the fierce Siberian winter has set in. In spite of predictions to the contrary the road was fairly equal to the strain put upon it by the sudden outbreak of the war in Manchuria. This strain has undoubtedly weakened the locomotives and other rolling stock, which will now have to contend with frost and snow. And the burden will not be lessened even if there is no fighting at the front. The army needs re-enforcements and ammunition as well as extra supplies of food and clothing for the winter months.

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At the urgent solicitation of the Woman's Home Companion, Mr. Paul de Longpre, who is the greatest painter of flowers in the world, consented to make a painting of what he considered "The Three Most Beautiful Roses," and the painting is without doubt one of the masterpieces of this great artist. This magnificent picture is reproduced in all its original grandeur on the cover of the Woman's Home Companion for June. Although this cover is an accurate reproduction of a painting worth hundreds of dollars, yet the June number, which has this exquisite cover, may be obtained at any first-class news stand, or direct from the publisher for the trivial sum of only ten cents.

Mr. Paul de Longpre is justly styled the "King of Flower Painters." He not only paints roses, but every flower that grows, and is the highest authority on flowers. His paintings are found in the most select homes. Some have sold for as much as seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500.00).

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## Local Time Table

Trains on the Southern Pacific arrive and depart on the following schedule:  
GOING SOUTH  
No. 2 . . . 9 A. M. No. 4 . . . 6:21 P. M.  
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