

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Infor- mation of Our Readers.

War demands are putting new life into the lumber and logging industries in Benton county.

C. F. Williams, of Salem, has been elected president of the Oregon State poultry association.

Oregon's Thrift campaign is gaining ground. Sales of war savings stamps have reached \$232,764.

The total payroll disbursements to the two big sawmills at Bend for the year 1927 were \$1,357,494.

Assisted by Baker school teachers, 35 of Baker's prominent business men have formed a knitting class.

Two home guard companies were organized in Mitchell, one by the Moose lodge and the other by the Elks lodge.

Roy Campbell, 14, was shot and killed by his companion, Roy Norris, near Mount Scott, 25 miles east of Roseburg.

Secretary of State Olcott has issued a formal announcement of his candidacy for the republican nomination for the governorship.

Special investigation of capacity of all shipyards in the Portland district will be made at once upon orders from Vice Chairman Pizer.

The ship-knee industry is rapidly assuming big proportions in Clackamas county. The Molalla country also has become a big ship-knee center.

The San Dial ranch, north of Troutdale, is shipping turnips by the carload to the Wittenberg-King company at The Dalles, to be evaporated.

Efforts to locate Miss Mignon Swenson, a young woman who was teaching school near Halsey, and who disappeared mysteriously a few days ago, have been unsuccessful.

Cattle thieves have been operating in Lane county on a wholesale scale, according to Sheriff Parker, who will offer a reward of \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the rustlers.

Attorney-General Brown has prepared ballot title for an initiative petition filed by E. L. Walters, of Oregon City, which proposes to prohibit all trap, seine or fish wheel fishing in all the rivers of the state.

Alfalfa produced \$105 per acre on the Umatilla project in 1927, according to figures collected by the United States reclamation service officials. The maximum yield was seven tons and the average price was \$15 per ton.

The terms of the district attorneys of Deschutes, Wheeler and Clatsop counties expire at the end of this year and their successors are to be elected in November, according to an opinion given Secretary Olcott by Attorney-General Brown.

In a special effort to combat the spread of blight, Jackson County Pathologist C. C. Cate has established a class for instructing girls and women in the Rogue river valley in the art of cutting out this dread fruit-tree disease.

The Springfield flouring mill, owned by the Eugene Mill & Elevator company, started its machinery last week having been shut down several months, during which it was thoroughly overhauled and put in thorough up-to-date shape inside.

A chronology of election dates as applying to the primary and general elections coming up in the state this year, has just been compiled by Secretary of State Olcott and will be published for distribution within a short time to those interested.

In a written opinion given to Adjutant General Williams, Attorney-General Brown advises that the city of Marshfield's title to the block offered as a site for a new armory is not clear. He suggests that a suit should be instituted to clear the title.

Migratory birds have increased 50 per cent as a result of the new federal laws which now cover not only the United States, but Canada, according to a statement made by District Inspector Catron, who has charge of the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Organisation for Oregon's part in the third Liberty Loan campaign is under way with a state executive committee composed of Edward Cockingham, chairman; J. C. Ainsworth, George L. Baker, Franklin T. Griffith, William A. MacRae, A. L. Mills, Emory Olmstead, E. B. Piper and Nathan Strauss.

Within two years from now, highway commission officials predict, it will be possible for a man to ride between Salem and Walla Walla, Washington, without getting off of a paved road. Leading up to this the commission will probably award contracts at its next meeting for grading and macadamizing a road between the Morrow-Umatilla county line and Echo, and for grading and macadamizing a continuation of the road from Echo to Pendleton.

Porter Bros., the railroad construction contractors, are making preparations to open six camps in the spruce belt in the western part of Clatsop county to get out aeroplane timber for the government.

The first step toward the bulk handling of wheat in Union county was made last week, when the farmers of Imbler organized the Imbler Union Elevator company and instructed the board of directors to proceed at once with the erection of a 100,000 bushel elevator.

Representative Howley is urging the reservation by the government of a small tract of land, now embraced in a Northern Pacific selection, which embraces the intake for the water supply of Oregon City, in order that the water supply may be permanently protected.

Three of the 489 accidents reported to the state industrial accident commission during the week ending January 24 were fatal. They were: Al Haggeland, of Svensen, and L. Moeck, Knappa, killed in logging operations, and D. A. Busch, Dea, killed in lumbering operations.

Plans are being developed at the headquarters of the Southern national forest to restock a burned-over area on Battlement mountain this year. This tract is located about 10 miles north of Detroit. It is expected that 225,000 young Douglas fir trees will be required for the work.

With five counties still missing, and no apparent indication of their being received, the school census for 1927 shows a total of 184,196. The total for 1916 was 205,417. Giving to the five missing counties the same census as the last one available, the total for this year would be 203,419.

That drainage development in Oregon is well under way and is to make great strides the coming year is evident from the representative gathering and lively interest shown as well as the constructive program outlined at the annual meeting of the State Drainage association at Corvallis.

Negotiations were closed Saturday for the sale of approximately 7000 acres of timber in Columbia county by the Fir Tree Timber company to the Clark & Wilson Lumber company. The tract is said to contain approximately 400,000,000 board measure, largely ship timber, and the money consideration is upward of \$1,000,000.

After a little more than an hour of deliberation the jury in the circuit court at Pendleton brought in a verdict of not guilty for Cora Colwell and Lawrence Colwell, jointly charged with the murder last May of James E. Short, an aged rancher of northern Umatilla county. The boy admitted the shooting, but pleaded self-defense.

Secretary Lane has formally notified members of the Oregon delegation that he cannot approve the Malheur irrigation projects in eastern Oregon, saying there are no funds available. If congress will make available a further lump sum for building new projects, the secretary promised that the Malheur project will be among the first adopted.

Lumber orders placed in Oregon with mills at Portland, Rainier, Tillamook, Silverton and Dallas approximating 10,000,000 feet and which is said to be only "a starter," will play a leading role in the construction of the Hog Island shipbuilding project at Philadelphia, which is to be the largest plant of the kind in the world and will employ 40,000 men.

Anticipating, apparently, that legislation will be enacted by congress permitting the utilizing of water sites that have been withdrawn by the government, H. S. McGowan, of the state of Washington, has filed two applications for the appropriation of water from the Deschutes river. One calls for the appropriation of the stream in Wasco and Sherman counties and the other in Jefferson county. The estimated cost for the works of the first is \$2,000,000 and for the last named \$4,000,000.

That hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of the best land in the McKenzie river valley from Thurston to Cogswell's hill is menaced by the McKenzie river, and that unless immediate action is taken it will be swept away, is the statement made by C. E. Selzer, forest supervisor of the Cascade forest, who made an examination of the situation at the request of a number of the farmers. Already the river has washed away a number of good buildings, and is within 10 feet of one of the best barns in the valley.

"Oregon farmers must turn to the bulk method of handling grain," said J. C. Hawkins, of the United States department of agriculture, co-operating with the Oregon Agricultural college, who in company with a co-worker, W. B. Oldham, is spending two weeks in and near Heppner. "The United States government has commandeered 60,000,000 sacks for army purposes," continued Mr. Hawkins, "and last year there were shipped into this country from Calcutta only 39,000,000 sacks. I predict that grain bags will be selling for 25 cents a piece and I doubt if they can be had at that price on account of the shortage." Mr. Hawkins advises every farmer to hold on to all sacks he has whether first or second hand, and ship out all his grain in bulk.

FIRST HALL MARKS

Hieroglyphics Stamped on Gold and Silver in 1300.

Guild Formed in Early Days to Protect the Buyer in the Matter of Purity of Metal.

What are the strange hieroglyphics stamped on the back of silver articles in England, and what do these marks signify? This is a question which has often puzzled the inquisitive. A tedious and technical subject, you say. On the contrary, a most absorbing and appealing one. Read here what an expert in the matter of these markings has to say, and be convinced.

"The first hall mark was used in Paris in 1300. It was employed for both gold and silver, principally the former. Some goldsmiths had been underselling others and as there was no difference in labor or perfection of detail, it was obvious that much inferior metal was being used. So a guild was founded to protect the buyer in the matter of purity of metal. The guild specified the 'Paris touch,' which meant that a certain standard of metal was to be maintained.

"About 1327 a stir took place in England for a slightly different reason. Privateering off the coast was frequent, the result being that silver vessels were brought back and made either into coins or other vessels. As the product was of a lower grade than the English standard, a goldsmith's guild was established there also, with the rather awe-inspiring title of 'Ordn and Mystery of the Fellowship of Goldsmiths.' The guild specified that standard metal must contain 925 parts of silver and 75 parts of copper. Its members had authority to travel through the provinces of the United Kingdom assaying silver vessels, and if any specimen was not up to standard it was confiscated or a fine of double its value was imposed on the maker.

"When a piece was made it was the custom to send it to the guildhall. There it was assayed and if found to be of the proper proportion it was stamped with the English hall mark, or as it was then called, the 'guildhall mark,' commonly referred to as 'the king's touch.'

"A leopard's head was the first mark employed in England and the maker also was privileged to place his own stamp upon it, which generally consisted of the first two letters of his surname. As so few people were able to read, most of the tradesmen had signs which they placed on their productions, hence the modern trade mark. In 1459 the guildhall added a letter marking the year that a piece was made, but as the full alphabet was not used, the date is very difficult to determine. Later the leopard's head was changed to a lion passant, which in turn gave way to a lion's head erased with a figure of Britannia.

"The collector of old silver must look out for the method of 'glorifying' used by unscrupulous dealers who cut the hall marks out of old spoons or forks and fit them into a big piece to mislead the unwary. It is extraordinary that so much good old English silver has survived, considering the vicissitudes through which it has passed. In the Wars of the Roses, for instance, much plate was confiscated and melted into coins for carrying on the strife."

Stones in Form of Cross.

Staurolite is a curious mineral, or stone, found only in Virginia and North Carolina, not very valuable but interesting on account of a legend that attaches to it. The name is from the Greek stauros, a cross, or sometimes a double cross. Another name for the stone is the "fairy stone," and this also relates to the legend that the fairies living in the caves of the mountains, on hearing the sad tidings of the death of Christ fashioned these crosses as mementos of him. There has always been some commercial demand for the stones as curious and they are worn as watch charms or on chains with lockets.

Wouldn't Be Slighted.

The principal of a school once had occasion to lick a very refractory pupil. It was very meager punishment, but the child complained to his father when he went home that day. The next day the father paid the principal a visit. "I understand," said the irate parent, "that you licked my boy yesterday." "I did," was the reply, "but not severely." "Well," said the father, "I want you to know that I am one of the largest taxpayers in this place and my boy is entitled to as good a licking as any other boy gets. If you slight him again, you'll hear from me in no uncertain terms."

Rope Making.

The rope industry is largely dependent upon Russian, Italian, American and Manila hemp, the latter being far more used than any other. With the exception of Manila, all these hems are of the best fiber—that is, they are obtained from the bark of the plant. The hemp is cut, dried, and then stacked in bundles. Later, it is again spread out and exposed to dew, frost and sun, a process that rots the gums binding the filaments. The dry inner woody part of the stem then falls off and leaves the fibrous strips in condition to be cleaned and baled for transportation.

EGG OF PHOENIX IS FOUND

Product of the Historic Fung-Whang Ho-Ho Bird Procured in China by Naturalists.

Naturalists doing field work in China for American museums picked up an egg which the natives declared was the egg of the Phoenix—the Fung-Whang Ho-Ho bird. It has just been mounted and placed on public view in the Museum of Natural History in New York. Examination and comparison by the museum staff, says the Boston Transcript, have resulted in the decision that disregarding popular legend, the immense egg, 40 times the size of the egg of the domesticated hen, is that of a gigantic prehistoric ostrich. Two imperfect eggs of this fossil ostrich are in existence and are owned by museums in the United States, but this is the only perfect one known—"perfect," the museum announces, "with the exception of a small hole through which the original contents may have disappeared."

Its discoverer was a peasant in the Province of Honan, China, who one day found it sticking in the bank of the Yellow river and kept it as a curiosity, treasured it as the egg of that legendary Phoenix, which is still revered by designers of Chinese decorations. The fossil shell was filled with water when it arrived at the museum and was found to have a capacity of a trifle more than two quarts. Two quarts of albumen, yolk and protoplasmic material—say four pounds of foodstuffs—evidence that the high cost of living was one of the modern things ancient China did not invent.

No scientist has ever seen a bone or remnant of the biped which laid ovoids like this one from the mud of Yellow river. It may be imagined that the traveling naturalists had some difficulty in acquiring it for the Phoenix to which it was locally attributed stands in Chinese art and tradition as the symbol of immortality and resurrection. Farther west one of the legends of the bird has been that every 500 years it flew out of Arabia old and decrepit to Hollopoli, and there on an altar burned itself and rose from its ashes young and beautiful once more—no bad symbol for the China of the present hour.

Boloism.

Charles F. Murphy of Tammany said in a discussion of Boloism: "The spread of Boloism shouldn't surprise us, for money's corrupting power is immense."

"Let me tell you a story. A senator, while traveling in the South, attended a colored church one Sunday morning and put a \$20 bill in the collection plate."

"The collector gave a start. He carried the plate, with its little heap of coppers and nickels and its crisp yellow bill, up to the pulpit. There he and the preacher and a couple of elders conversed excitedly in hissing whispers for several minutes."

"Finally the collector tiptoed down to the senator and muttered in his ear: 'Boss, when yo' gwine to leave dis town?'"

"Tomorrow morning," said the senator. "Wall, boss," whispered the collector, "we uns have decided to pass her if you'll promise to keep still. Dere ain't a man in town can tell her from a good one."

An Operation by Telegraph.

An operation carried out under directions given by a surgeon 1,800 miles away and sent by telegraph saved a life in Australia recently, according to the Scientific American. The subject fell from his horse at Hall's Creek in northern Australia and suffered serious injuries, including a rupture of the urethra. An operation was urgently necessary and there was no doctor within 1,000 miles. The condition of the patient was described by telegraph to a doctor in Perth and he sent back, by the same means, instructions under which the postmaster at Hall's Creek with such surgical instruments as he could get, the chief of which was a razor, carried out the operation successfully.

Turkish Government.

The Turkish government is a hereditary monarchy, of which the sultan is both temporal and spiritual head. The succession to the throne, or sultanhip, goes in the senior male descendant of the house of Osman, of which the present sultan, Mohammed V, is the thirty-sixth sovereign in succession and twenty-ninth since the taking of Constantinople. Under the constitution of Turkey, the sultan does not marry, but all children born in the harem, whether of free or slave women, are counted legitimate and of equal lineage, the oldest male child always succeeding to the throne without regard to the status of the mother or the question of marriage, which really does not figure in the case at all.

Substitute for Coal.

Idaho State Fuel Commissioner Gooding is out with another warning relative to the scarcity of fuel in the state and asking the people of the state to use all care possible in conserving the supply.

Wherever it is possible to get wood it is requested that wood be burned instead of coal. Forest reserve officials have made it possible to draw on the supply of down and dead timber whenever it can be had.

Railroads are to sell old ties and bridge timbers at a nominal cost for fuel purposes.

BIG GAME PROBLEM

Meat Shortage Points to Need of Conservation.

Plan Proposed to Establish Sanctuaries for Wild Life in the National Reserved Forests.

Mr. Hoover predicts a meat famine which will last for years. As an offset to this, Remsen Crawford writes in Collier's, it is proposed to establish game sanctuaries in the national reserved forests, where all kinds of big game may breed unmolested, and bills legalizing such sanctuaries are pending in congress.

The general movement for a great increase of killable big game in America has come to be termed throughout the country "the Hornaday plan." It gets its name from Dr. William T. Hornaday, director of the zoological park in New York. Doctor Hornaday is foremost among the naturalists of the country, vice president of the United States Army league and trustee of the American Defense society.

For more than twenty years this champion of big game has been sounding a warning to the American people that wild life was becoming extinct and that some day our desolated forests would be looked to in vain for relief from a scarcity of home-raised meats.

Had congress and the legislatures of several states awakened to a realistic sense of the importance of protecting wild life ten years ago there might still be a food problem before the American public today, but it would be less of a calamity than it now is. Doctor Hornaday, a conservative, accurate man, estimates that several million head of big game would be available for the market annually if proper precautions had been taken a decade ago. He gives it as his opinion that even at this late day, if well-protected breeding places for deer and elk were provided throughout the vast area of the wild timber and brush lands of the United States, at least a million bucks might be slaughtered annually, leaving the does to go on multiplying the denizens of wild life in our forests.

This story of literally living on the fat of the land is no fable; this idea of going "back to the tall timber" to get our daily meat is no daydream. Where did the thousands upon thousands of Indians get theirs? It is a widely known fact in the Southern states that many tenants of the cotton lands live three months of the year on rabbits, squirrels and birds without buying a pound of Western raised meat. It is an equally widely known fact that in the extreme northern and western states land owners who are fortunate enough to be within range of our decreasing tribes of big game live by their rifles much of the time. There is nothing visionary in the Hornaday plan for food relief.

Meatless Mince Pie.

Meatless mince meat, another culinary triumph in the art of food conservation, has been brought to the housewives of the country by the national emergency garden commission as a worthy companion of pumpkin pie and gingerbread.

The new mince meat, officially described as a "camouflage," was tried on five hundred troops on a transport, who pronounced it perfect and called for more.

Half a package of seeded raisins, half a pound of prunes stewed with lemon juice and peel, one-quarter cupful sweet cider, four tablespoonsful brown sugar; chop the raisins and prunes together and the result is said to be a meatless mince pie which will accord with the food administration's meatless Tuesday.

Sleeper Tax Hits Porters.

However patriotic may be the motive of the traveling salesman and the general public who ride in sleeping cars, the negro porters assert they are bearing an unequal part of the new war tax, says the Kansas City Star.

Where the porter formerly received a tip of 25 cents for shining the shoes and brushing off his passenger, the negro says the tip now is only a dime.

"My tips have been reduced one-half," one porter said. The government since the first of November has added 10 per cent to the sleeper fare as a war tax. As it now stands it is the porter and not the passenger who is paying the tax.

Icelanders Are Intellectual.

During the crisis which has been virtually continuous since 1874, the people of Iceland have acquired a stock of political acumen, which, augmented by high national intellectuality and literacy, fully qualifies them for a conflict with Denmark, says a writer. Iceland is among the first countries of the world in literacy. Few in the island can neither read nor write, and one author has declared that every other man on the street is a poet. Literature is not confined to any particular class—one of the most lucid descriptions of the land ever written is the work of a guide, while many fishermen write poetry of merit.

Use Paper as Fuel.

Every household in Italy saves all the odd bits of paper. These are soaked in water and kneaded into balls, then put in the sun to dry. They will serve to give a little heat later on. Walk down a fashionable street in Milan and you will see pyramids of these paper balls in the balconies of the houses of the rich—Exchange.

WHEN MASEFIELD FIRST SANG

Author of Many Songs as a Youngster Often Lulled His Boss' Baby to Sleep.

In the hidden recesses of Paradise alley you may see a service flag with one star. But how are you to see Paradise alley? It is in Greenwich village. The entrance is through a hole in the wall in Sixth avenue, between Jefferson Market jail and Eleventh street, recalls a writer in the New York Mail.

In Paradise alley there is a row of quaint dwellings that seem to slant in outrageous fashion. In fact, everything in Paradise alley is strange to the point of queeriness. But once within the alley you forget the world and its bustle. You are in a land far away.

Around the corner from Paradise alley is Patchin place. If memory does not serve ill it was in this queer back water spot that John Masefield ate and slept and rocked the cradle of a man child in the days when he "tended bar" in New York town. A queer lad was John Masefield. A thousand songs struggled for birth in his brain. The world knows many of these songs today, for he ranks in the second flight of living poets.

But when John Masefield "tended bar" in Greenwich village and ate and slept at the boss' home in Patchin place, the only part of the public that got the benefit of his poems was the boss' baby, for Masefield, while he waited for the boss' wife to cook a meal or "set" the table, had to rock the cradle and sing to keep the child from raising the roof with his walls.

The babe never cried when John Masefield sang. It is the testimony of that good wife of the boss that she never could make head or tail out of the songs the queer youth sang—they neither had rhyme, nor reason, nor things that songs should have. They were like chants, she says.

But the baby seemed to make them out, even if his mother could not. Never a wail came from him while John Masefield sang.

Value of a Good Look-Out.

Speaking of the value of a careful lookout as a protection against the submarine, the first lord of the admiralty, Sir Eric Geddes, said that if a submarine is sighted by the lookout on a vessel—whether the vessel is armed or not makes no difference—it is seven to three on the ship in favor of its getting away. Out of every ten attacks, when the submarine is sighted by the ship, seven of them fail, but of every ten attacks when the submarine is not sighted eight ships go down. In this connection we note that Sir Alfred Yarrow offered, some months ago, a monetary reward to the first seaman on any merchant vessel to detect the presence of a submarine. In the case of the American destroyer, recently sunk, it will be noted that the presence of a submarine was not known until the ship was torpedoed. Will some American offer a similar bonus for the seamen on our ships?—Scientific American.

War Beer in Germany.

Reports from Berlin recently received in London show that the Kaiser's subjects are facing a further reduction in the supply of beer, says the New York Times. The amount of malt available for brewing has just been fixed, and, whereas the amount for the last year was 25 per cent of the peace quota, the amount for the next year is to be only 10 per cent in North Germany, and 15 per cent in Bavaria.

When the requirements of the army and of the munitions factories—which in Germany get precedence—have been met, there will be enough malt to provide the civil population with about one-third of its consumption in peace time, but the beer is only the thin "war beer." The barley harvest in the rest of Germany has been bad, and there is now a great increase in the proportion of barley that is used for food.

After the War.

"I shall want some money today, dear," said George Pipwhistle to his wife before the latter set out for business one morning in 1927. And Mrs. Pipwhistle, grumbling the while, handed out the chips and waved her hand from the garden gate as she made a dash for the eight-nineteen.

Three hours after Mrs. P. had returned from the city, George Pipwhistle came in. He had a mountain of parcels in his arms and the light of triumph in his eyes.

"Yes," he panted, as he untied the parcels and disclosed four corkscrews, a stuffed owl, an assortment of paint brushes, a remnant of a cloth-bound "Uncle Tom's Cabin," six walking sticks, a toasting fork, a brace of tin openers, and a roasting jack. "Such a scramble! It's just about the best bargain sale that ever was!"

Crop and Drug Plants.

One of the projects outlined by the committee on botany of the national research council is the search for wild plants which may be used as wartime substitutes for the more costly crop plants. During the Civil war Dr. John Porter, a Southerner, published a book giving a list of plants of the South which could be substituted for much-needed food and drug plants. It is suggested that information might be obtained from hunters, trappers, foremen, farmers, Indians and the foreigners, who pick up considerable food from the countryside. Similar information is desired concerning plants that can be used in medicine.

The supreme court has set November 13 and 14 as dates for hearing arguments in the Hyde-Benson land fraud cases.