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ATHENA, ORE., MAR. 3, 1911

Simultaneously with the decline in wheat prices in this country appears an increased demand for flour for Oriental shipment, observes the Portland Oregonian. Since the Oriental flour trade reached proportions of consequence, this feature has been quite noticeable. So long as wheat flour is within the reach of the Oriental with his limited purchasing power it will have a big demand. But the Orientals' purchasing power is so small in comparison with that of other nations that even a difference of a few cents per barrel may make a difference of several hundred thousand barrels in the amount that will be bought by the Chinese. With modern civilization gaining a foothold in the Far East economic conditions may change and the consumption of flour greatly increase. By that time the Manchurian wheat fields will have become formidable competitors for the business or perhaps our own demands will take up so much of the American surplus that there will be none available for shipment to the Chinese.

The Portland Labor Press says of the Rogue River fish bill, which was vetoed by Governor West: "The Rogue River fish bill was passed by the people because they were tired of giving the Hume estate a practical monopoly of the salmon fishing on the lower half of the river. This estate owns 14 miles on both sides of the river banks and will not allow free fishing on the river. Its hirelings drive off campers, tourists, cruisers and fishermen. The vast estate, mostly grabbed through violation of land laws, is held in a tighter hold than the estate of any English duke. That is why the people gave 16,000 majority to shut up the salmon fishing on the river since the Hume estate has shut up the river to everybody else. It is not an important nor fundamental matter; but it is an indication that the people of Oregon are pickling rods for land grabbers."

If a measure which was introduced in a recent session of the New York legislature eventually becomes a law commission merchants of that state will have to put up a bond of \$5,000 each as a guarantee of square dealing with customers over the state who may have an assurance of their integrity beyond claims made in newspaper advertisements or reductive circulars. Should the law pass it will mean that to start in the commission or jobbing business or continue in it a \$12.95 typewriter, a batch of cheap stationery and a few bunches of penny stamped envelopes will no longer suffice. This law will put the shark and shyster out of business. To cure these commission swindles, which are country wide, a federal law of similar character should be enacted.

Crop statistics are sometimes interesting in that they shed side lights on fundamental agricultural conditions. To illustrate the point, the average yield per acre of winter wheat for the ten year period 1900-1909 was 14.3 bushels per acre. For the preceding decade it was 12.9 bushels. This shows an increase of 1.4 bushels per acre for the later period. In both instances, however, the average yield is so low that it pays a mere pittance in interest on money invested after cost of production, taxes, etc., have been paid. An increase in yield per acre means little unless it stands for a better system of farm management which keeps in view a maintenance of the fertility of the soil.

The Oregonian's proposal to merge the Oregon University and the Oregon Agricultural College will not be taken seriously. In the past the Portland paper has strewn its pathway with evidence of opposition to higher education and used its influence to kill the normal schools in this state. Friends of education are skeptical regarding any suggestion coming from the Oregonian pertaining to state educational institutions. Up this way its suggestions are eluded with the clannish and absurd opposition met with among the Yamhill county truck gardeners and the Marion county sheep raisers.

The sympathy of the Press is hereby extended to Mrs. Maldwin Drummond, the lady who lost \$140,000 worth of jewels on a trans Atlantic liner the other day. But mayhap our sympathy is not needed, for Mrs. Drummond is doubtless able to scrape up another \$140,000 for another set of jewels. Then, too, she is ahead in all the no tories through the advertising she received. It's sure worth something to have people point one out and give the information: "There goes a woman who once had \$140,000 worth of jewels stolen from her."

As an ax-wielder, Governor West appears to be an expert. And in each instance where he chopped the head off a bill, he gave his reason therefor. There is biting criticism from some sources, but in the main the governor seems to be sustained in his vetoing crusade.

The result of the recent elections in Seattle tends to demonstrate the truth of Judge Lindsey's dictum that there is one corrupt woman in politics to 100 corrupt men.

Who says that the sight of his shadow by the "ground-hog" doesn't determine the length of the winter?

What's the use of talking about "back to the farm," if a fellow has no farm to go back to?

It will require the skill of the most expert safe picker to pick the deadlocks of the legislatures.

There are regular and irregular verbs as well as regular and irregular republicans.

Wild-oats is a crop that harvests itself and the harvests always make one poorer.

It won't be long before the hen will be "laying" for the egg trust.

WHISTLER AND MOORE.

Two Versions of the Famous Caning Incident at Drury Lane.

It was in his capacity as editor of the Hawk that the late Augustus Moore, a journalist and playwright of no little notoriety, enacted an unrehearsed comedy with Whistler that created no end of a sensation at the time. It happened in the vestibule of Drury Lane on the first night of the production of "A Million of Money." Whistler, it appeared, had been annoyed at sundry references to himself in the Hawk and, coming up to Gus Moore, who was calmly smoking a cigarette, struck him across the face with a cane. A struggle followed, and, although opinions varied as to the actual course of the conflict, there was no doubt about Whistler having ultimately to pick himself up from the floor.

Each of the protagonists afterward gave his version of the incident. "I started out," said Whistler, "to cane this fellow with as little emotion as I would prepare to kill a rat. I did cane him to the satisfaction of my many friends and his many enemies, and that was the end of it." "I am sorry," wrote Mr. Moore for his part, "but I have had to slap Mr. Whistler. My Irish blood got the better of me, and before I knew it the shrtvaled up little monkey was knocked over and kicking about on the floor."

The notion, however, that he was knocked down was characterized by Whistler as "a barefaced falsehood." He contended that Mr. Moore never touched him. "I am sure," he added, "I don't know why, for he is a much bigger man than I. My idea is that he was thoroughly cowed by the moral force of my attack. I had to turn him around in order to get at him. Then I cut him again and again as hard as I could, hissing out 'Hawk!' with each stroke. Oh, you can take my word for it, everything was done in the cleanest and most correct fashion possible. I always like to do things cleanly."—New York Tribune.

CARRYING PIG IRON.

The Way Scientific Study Increased Results and Wages.

No work seems more simple, more unlikely to be subject to scientific study, than the art of carrying pig iron. This, however, has been subjected to the most careful scientific study. Men at Bethlehem, Pa., were loading pig iron on cars at the rate of about twelve tons a day. Certain pig handlers were given extra wages for doing this work under special direction. An attempt was made to ascertain the relation between the amount of horsepower which each man exerted and the fatigue which he incurred. Long continued experiment furnished a vast amount of information, but apparently no law. Finally F. W. Taylor, who was conducting the experiments, handed the data over to an associate who was apt at mathematical problems. Very soon he reported that he had discovered the law—that fatigue varied in proportion to a certain relation between the amount of load and the period of rest—for example, a man carrying a ninety-two pound pig had, in order to avoid fatigue, to be at rest 58 per cent of the time. The discovery of this law involved a great amount of data, including certain physiological facts concerning the poisonous effects of waste tissue upon the blood and difficult mathematic formula, including the plotting of curves. As a result the pig handlers were directed exactly how to lift and carry their loads and when to rest, and the amount of pig iron handled by each man every day increased from twelve and a half tons to forty-seven. Of course the men received a great advance in wages.—Ernest Hamlin Abbott in Outlook.

Plumber.

Mulligan, the contractor, put up a church building. Dunn was building inspector then, and when he saw the church he said, "Pat, it isn't plumb." That made Mr. Mulligan pretty mad, he climbed right up and began to take measurements. Having squinted down the plumb line in a dozen different places, he was ready to report. There was a ring of triumph in his voice. "Mr. Dunn," he said, "come and look at it y'rself. Plumb, eh? By th' piper that played before Moses, it's more than plumb!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It Worked.

There are a great many ways devised for avoiding jury duty. The story is told of a man who was noted in the county because of the badness of his son. Finding that there was no way of escape from serving, he had an obliging friend telegraph him at the courthouse. The telegram read, "Your son is no better." The judge was so amused at the ingenuity that he let the man off.—Judge.

A Cool Soldier.

A French grenadier who was exasperated at some injustice that had been done him by a field marshal pointed his pistol at the marshal and pulled the trigger, but it did not go off. Without moving a muscle the veteran cried, "Four days in the cells for keeping your arms in a bad state!"

Where the Joke Was.

"All the publishers in the country have turned my song down." "Cheer up. Think what a laugh you have got on the fellow you stole the music from!"—Tribune Blade.

He Told Her.

"Why did I ever leave home and mother?" sobbed his wife. "Chiefly because your family was too stingy to take us in," he answered bitterly.—Life.

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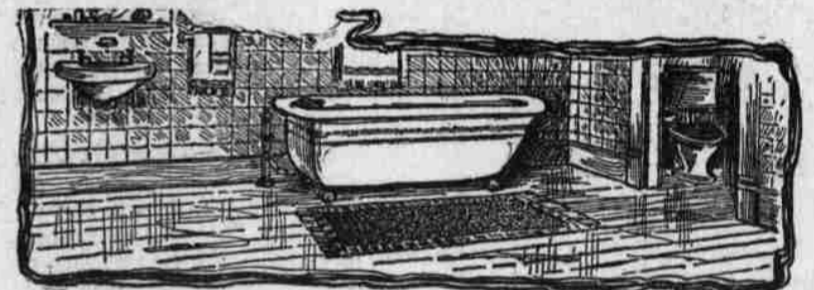
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