

The Observer.

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FRIDAY, Sept. 3, 1909

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Gov. Benson is expected to return to the State capital tomorrow. The governor is in excellent health and enjoying his vacation.

The incubator baby continues to make more of a noise in this old world than a thousand babies being brought up on mother's milk.

Trade of the United States with its noncontiguous territory in the fiscal year 1909 exceeds that of any previous year, and was more than three times as much as a decade ago.

Another Kentucky feud has been fought at a church door, this time in Casey county. The question of what use are the churches is being answered in some part of Kentucky nearly every week.

We may as well dismiss that story about Speaker Cannon's retirement, upon the thought that, while he, Uncle Joe, is a big gun, he is not equipped with a disappearing carriage.

Japan ridicules the idea that she is indebted to America for her progressive business spirit, and yet it was an American, Commodore Perry, who first opened the Japanese doors to universal commerce.

An epidemic of fraud resulting in the collection of large sums of money on worthless checks, signed by irresponsible but well dressed citizens indicates that the era of confidence is at last with us again.

Of course the temperance people will make as much use of the fact that Mr. Harriman has not restored Mr. Harriman's health as the other fellows made of the fact that his physician had told him to drink it.

Along with the stories of Harriman's colossal wealth comes the diagnosis of an eminent physician that what is the matter of him is "underfeeding." The vanity of great riches was never before so eloquently put into one word.

Twelve hundred and perhaps more people perished Friday night and Saturday in the floods which swept a large portion of Monterey, Mexico. Conservative estimates place the property loss at \$20,000,000. Fifteen thousand people are homeless. More than 500 bodies have been recovered. The river has fallen considerably, and while still high, the danger is over. Seventeen and a half inches of rain fell during Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Sutton incident is closed. The public is no longer interested in it. The affair was only a drunk row among students which happened to result fatally. Who was to blame, or just how Sutton came to his death, will probably never be known; perhaps the participants were all too drunk to realize just how it happened themselves. There have probably been many similar occurrences at the naval institution but they haven't been investigated.

Changing lights are being seen on Mars nearly every night now, as the red planet draws nearer the earth. If the Martians are signaling us now, they must have been doing so in 1891, the year of their last previous near approach, when similar lights were seen, and will discover that we are as benighted now as we were then.

OREGON APPLES IN CHINA.

It is not generally known that the first commercial shipment of apples to China was made from Grants Pass, Or., Hon. Henry B. Miller was appointed consul general to China and stationed at Nanchang, during the early part of the Boxer rebellion. Owing to the disturbed condition of the country he did not proceed immediately to his post of duty but spent a number of months upon special assignments and a large part of the time in the southern provinces. At the close of the Boxer war he proceeded to Nanchang and took up his duties. Consul Miller and his brother Frank, were both interested in an apple orchard at Grants Pass, and as a result of Henry Miller's travels it occurred to them that there ought to be a market in China for Oregon apples if they could be properly packed and shipped. A test shipment was made and particular attention was paid to the manner in which the different varieties stood the test of travel and climate. One hundred boxes of all the standard varieties, with the day of picking, packing and shipping noted, were shipped direct to Shanghai. In packing the precaution was taken to leave the apples under the trees until the following day. They were then taken in upon a large straw floor and graded by hand. Every box was shipped within two weeks of picking and no apples picked later than the last days of September. Contrary to the prevailing opinion among growers, the Ben Davis stood the test of shipment and climatic conditions better than any other variety and it was proved conclusively that it should be picked before maturity to obtain best results. The Miller brothers continue to supply apples to the China trade for from seven to eight years after the first consignment, with profit and satisfaction. The Chinese like a large, highly colored and cheap apple and the Ben Davis met those requirements better than any other. In the large cities and in the seaports where there is a considerable European population there is a demand for fancy and high grade apples as well.

The condition of Mr. Harriman, now at his castle near N. Y. City, is almost hopeless. His malady is of the incurable kind, though there may be a slight chance for his recovery. While he has been the subject of much severe criticism, some of it well deserved, much can also be expressed in admiration of his wonderful career, and the country would help him to get well if it could. America is full of prematurely old men who have destroyed health and are bringing their lives to a close before their time in a mad rush to be rich, and then richer, and then to amass still greater and greater fortunes. It would be useless as well as senseless to inveigh against ambition to make wealth. If it is made honestly and without undue haste it is a commendable ambition. But all the wealth of all the millionaires will not compensate a man for destroying his health in the midst of his career at a time when rational enjoyment of wealth becomes best possible to a rational man.

The S. S. Ohio recently wrecked in Alaska waters was the vessel in which Gen. Grant made his famous round the world tour, but she then sailed under another name. She has an interesting history, having been made famous by noted writers in their tales of Alaskan life. Latest reports say all passengers were saved, but in their efforts at rescuing others, George Eccles, the wireless operator, and Master A. O. Anderson and Purser Stevens were drowned. Two other members of the crew and two steerage passengers are reported to have been drowned, making the total seven. The vessel was considered too old to be seaworthy. The value of wireless telegraphy in the event of disaster at sea was again demonstrated in the fact that the ship's passengers were all safely landed through this means of bringing passenger crafts to their relief.

S. S. McClure unhesitatingly asserts that the British Empire is in momentary danger of destruction at the hands of Germany, and that to escape that dilemma is ready merely for the asking, to accept the dominance of the United States, and see its capital removed from London to Washington. He thinks that the separation of the United States from England in 1776 was a disastrous mistake. He quotes Lord Rowbery as saying that if the colonies had remained loyal the seat of government would long ere this have been transferred to the New World.

Chancellor Day has quit defending John D. Rockefeller and is now inviting public attention by predicting the early dissolution of the British Empire.

At Spokane last week Senator Chamberlain stated that he is now ready to retire from public life at the end of his present term as U. S. Senator for the state of Oregon.

The N. P. Ry. Co. has ordered 3,500 new freight cars and is securing figures on 100 locomotives and 100 passenger cars. These orders indicate a tangible foundation for the optimism recently expressed by Mr. Elliott.

The wireless station on the Eiffel Tower, Paris, has received several messages from the new station at New York, and it is announced that a regular service between the two cities will be possible this month.

As might have been expected the Chinese government has come to the Japanese terms by agreeing to "afford Japan every assistance in the reconstruction of the railroad from An Tung to Mukden." A memorandum to this effect was signed at Mukden, by representatives of the two governments.

Miss Anita Stewart is the name of an American heiress who is now to marry a sprig of royalty and invest him with several million dollars of American money. Paul Morton's suggestion of an export tax on money of this kind is certain to grow in favor after the first laugh is over.

There are 4,000 bee colonies in Yakima valley which, according to present estimates, will average 20 pounds to the colony. In 1908 the honey output was about 200,000 pounds. This year it will be about 80,000 pounds. Adverse weather conditions, high winds, and non-development of clover flowers are the reason for the slump.

The Lane county vetch growers' association has sold its pool of vetch for \$3.50 per bushel. This is the best price yet received for vetch, and the growers are greatly pleased at their first efforts in pooling their vetch. Vetch is not only a profitable crop, but it restores the soil and a crop is equal to a good treatment of fertilizer.

The Pacific Northwest

COTEMPORARY TALK.

Antelope Herald: The first load of railroad steel ever seen in Antelope was hauled through town Tuesday, being taken to Paisley to be used in track work on the extension of the Kalamath Falls railroad.

Capital Journal: Most newspapers at least will rejoice when the Seattle fair is over, the amount of slop, absolutely devoid of spirit, dished out by the promotion kindergartens in charge of its press bureau come under the head of cruel and inhuman punishment to the telegraph editors.

Prineville Journal: Louis Miller, who lives on the Lafayette place set out strychnine to kill coyotes but his dog got some of it, and while frothing at the mouth slobbered on a cake that the child was eating. The youngster got enough of the poison to make it deadly sick, but timely arrival of a physician saved the child's life.

Silver Lake Leader: The new gasoline launch of Silver Lake & Lester has been brought in and in a few days will be launched on the lake. The boat will carry 12 passengers, and is fitted up with three horse power gasoline engine. The seats are cushioned and the interior as well as the exterior of the launch is finely finished. From the design she will sit upon the water as graceful as a swan. The proprietors have not yet named the new craft but will do so before launching and upon that day some one of our fair young ladies will have the honor of breaking the bottle of wine over the bow of the first boat to be run by an engine on the lake. In the bright days to come many a merry boating party will skim over the lake's surface, their bright laughter echoing, and re-echoing over the glassy waters of beautiful Silver Lake.

Silver Lake Leader: We have in our office, early and late cabbage heads as large as a water bucket, cauliflower that will measure ten inches across, and potatoes that would fill a quart measure, all raised on the farm of S. A. Lester. Max Thell is the manager of the farm and this stuff shows what can be raised if a man understands his

business. Not alone is Mr. Lester's garden fine, but his grain crop as well. This same farm where things grow so luxuriantly was a few years ago considered worthless, several persons starting out on it, and when Mr. Lester purchased it he was considered foolish, throwing his money away. Time has shown that Mr. Lester's judgment was right, and in a few years more knockers will see their mistaken ideas of this country more plainly unless they become entirely blind.

Astorian: Now some fellow is to the front with a theory that the killing of the sealions off this coast, is responsible for the absence of the royal chinook salmon. It is hard to reconcile the multitude of conflicting theories incident to the fishing business; they are nearly as confusing as the laws that we pile up to govern the business.

Morning Oregonian: Some student of the salmon situation at the entrance of the river, announces a theory that the present shortage in the pack is due to recent killing of such large numbers of sealions off the ocean shore near the Columbia. According to this theory, the salmon only come into the river to avoid being eaten up by the sealions. The theory suggests the possibility of taming a number of the big salmon eaters and sending them out to round up a school of salmon and drive them in, as a dog drives sheep. The sealion is easily tamed, and, if this new theory is correct, we may expect in the future to witness the novel spectacle of the gill-netter starling seaward with his gasoline boat, accompanied by a couple of trained sealions to round up the salmon. Or, better still, the big sealions could be taught to tow the boat out to an advantageous location, and save the expense of the gasoline.

Harney County News: We often hear reference to a live wire, but do not often see a live telephone pole. That, however, is the regular thing in the Diamond ranch. Mr. Hanley has a phone line, the poles having been cut from big willow growth along the Blitzen river, and practically every one of the poles for miles is shooting out healthy sprouts from every joint, so that in a few years there will not only be a telephone line but a willow hedge to guide the traveler on his way up the Blitzen valley. At Sod House ranch, some miles southeast of Harney, as the sun rises on a clear morning, a beautiful panorama is spread out over and across Malheur lake to the northward. The entire settlement of Sunset valley, 20 miles away, stands up in plain view, every house visible and looking like quite a little town. The strangest feature of the phenomenon, however, is an apparent long train of box-cars which seem to skirt around the north bank of the lake, the phantom cars painted in the various colors which are noticeable in similar trains in real life. This glowing picture is held there several minutes and until the sun's rays dissolve the mist and brings the observer back to earth's practical realities. Mrs. Morrison declares that the last features of the picture mentioned is but the prophetic vision of what will be seen in the near future as the iron horse skims along the very path of that image with its trains of cars loaded with the products of this rich valley.

Our Literary Budget

THE MAGAZINES

Everybody's. Mosie was a typhoid convalescent. He had been in the hospital seven weeks, but in all that time no one had succeeded in winning the faintest smile from the little fellow. Perhaps the sorrows of Russia were still too vivid a memory. And then one day the nurse tickled him playfully under the chin. He looked up with a pitiful little smile. "Oh, so you are ticklish!" said the nurse laughing. "No, ma'am," he replied. "I'm Yeddlah."

McClure.

An American guest spent a night at an inn in Sterling, Scotland. In the morning he complained that the bed was hard. "It was like sleeping on a board," he said. The person in charge replied with cold austerity: "The great duke of Wellington once slept in that bed." "No wonder they call him the Iron Duke," remarked the guest.

Goldenale.

Goldenale, noted for its distinctive flies, had another one Sunday. Looking up one entire block at \$28,000 loss above insurance.

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