

The Observer.

More City Official Paper.
OFFICIAL PAPER OF SHERMAN CO
MORO, OREGON.

D. C. IRELAND, Editor.
C. L. IRELAND, Manager.

FRIDAY, Sept. 10, 1909

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This time Mr. Harriman is really taking a rest. There are no wires running from Wall street into the room where he is doing his resting.

Did Bacon write Shakespeare? Did William Tell shoot the apple? Did Marcus Whitman save Oregon? Did Cook reach the pole? Are we in an age of skepticism?

After all of the learned talk about Mars and the possibilities of its superiority to earth, we find that it can be eclipsed by the man in the moon as easily as the earth.

Mrs. Black, the famous transmigration teacher says that after Roosevelt departs this life he will return again as an insect, or some small, inferior jungle-loving animal.

The excitement to be caused by the arrival of Roosevelt with a cargo of wild animals can only be compared to that produced by a man driving into a country town with a wagon load of fresh fish.

Judge Gary of the steel trust said at a London banquet that he would favor free trade for this country when all other nations adopt it. Free trade, in that way, is just as near at hand as universal disarmament.

Senator Aldrich thinks that the postal savings bank plan can wait until after the monetary commission reports and its report acted upon. Of course, it can. But the monetary commission itself must not wait too long.

That the republican party has so long tolerated the breed of Fowlers whose record is one of ignorance or cowardice, or a disgraceful hybrid of the two, is a great surprise; and all loyal republicans must just get in and smash the ground with the whole batch of them, from Teddy up to LaFollette, and be done with a dirty job.

The president's determination to recommend the postal savings bank scheme is nothing more than the country has a right to expect, since such a plan was made a part of the platform on which he was nominated and elected. Other parts of that platform, we may now hope, will be regarded by him as equally binding.

Maupertius, a French philosopher mentioned by Voltaire, had a theory that there was a great hole through the earth from pole to pole, and Semmes, of Cincinnati, Ohio, wrote a book endorsing this position. From this Cincinnati was long known as Semmes Hole. Cincinnati can now discard the nickname. "There is no hole."

The railroads favor Uncle Sam's land grabbing schemes, and why not? The Spokane, Coeur d'Alene and Flathead grabs netted them over \$5,000,000 in car fares—almost equal to finding it. The same authority estimates that an additional \$1,000,000 will be similarly expended by those who drew prizes. Further information is that in many cases, the lands drawn are of little value as an asset for remunerative endeavor, and the upshot of the whole incident is a wide conviction that a colossal blunder has been made by those were in charge of affairs for the government. It has met, as it ought to, with condemnation by the press throughout the country.

THE NATION'S FOREST.

"The total yearly drain upon our forests, not counting losses from fires, storms, and insects, is some 20 billion cubic feet," says R. S. Kellogg, assistant forester in charge of the forest statistics, in a publication just issued by the forest service on the timber supply of the United States. Our present forest area of 550 million acres may be roughly estimated to consist of 200 million acres of mature forests, in which the annual growth is balanced by death and decay, of 250 million acres partly cut and burned over, on which, with reasonable care, there is sufficient young growth to produce in the course of time a merchantable, but not a full crop of timber, and 100 million acres of more severely cut and burned over forests, on which there is not sufficient young growth to produce another crop of much value.

Taken as a whole, the annual growth of our forests under these conditions does not exceed 12 cubic feet per acre, a total of less than seven billion cubic feet. That is, we are cutting our forests three times as fast as they are growing. There is menace in the continuance of such conditions. While we might never reach absolute timber exhaustion, the unrestricted exploitation of our forests in the past has already had serious effects, and it will have much worse if it is allowed to continue unchecked. White pine, for instance, which was once considered inexhaustible, has fallen off 70 per cent in cut since 1890, and more than 45 per cent since 1900. The cut of oak, our most valuable hardwood lumber, has decreased 16 per cent since 1900, and that of yellow pine 22 per cent. The same story will be told of other woods if they are not conserved.

The fact that timber has been cheap and abundant has made us careless of its production and reckless of its use. We take 250 cubic feet of wood per capita annually from our forests. Germany uses only 37 cubic feet; and France but 25. On the other hand, Germany, having learned its lesson, makes its state forests produce an average of 48 cubic feet of wood per acre. We have as fast-growing species as Germany, or faster, and as good or better forest soil if we protect it.

The necessity for more farm land may eventually reduce our total forest area to 100 million acres less than it is at present. It is entirely possible, however, to produce on 450 million acres as much wood as a population much greater than we have now will need if all the forest land is brought to its highest producing capacity and if the product is economically and completely utilized. But to reach the necessary condition of equilibrium between timber production and consumption will take many years of vigorous effort by individual forest owners, by the state, and by the National government. None of them can solve the problem alone, all must work together.

Although the United States is at peace with the whole world he is spending \$300,000,000 annually on his army and navy. Except for this expenditure, however, he might be at war with somebody all the time. Preparedness is a great peacemaker.

Although a Cincinnati doctor declares that benzoate of sodium is as good as table salt, we still have doubts; though we might agree that the government has licensed the sale of car loads of foods fit only for the sewer. Ben Zo ate one of them.

The head of Lincoln will probably appear on the new silver half dollar. A bust of Cleveland will be on the \$10 gold certificate and that of Grant on the \$50 ones. We will get a sight of Lincoln now and then, and may occasionally scrape acquaintance with Cleveland, but good-bye Grant.

Hon. B. F. Mulkey is undecided whether to enter the race for congress in the 1st district. He says: "If I were a wealthy man, I could answer off hand, but being poor, I do not know as I can afford to run." That pretty closely confirms The Observer view, that the argument that the primary law, so-called, made an election easy for a poor man, is all a lie.

It is peculiarly appropriate that the kindly features of Abraham Lincoln should adorn the copper cent. It was he who said that "God must love the common people because he made so many of them." The penny is the coin of the masses and if Lincoln himself had been selecting which one his face should be on he would undoubtedly have chosen the penny.

Dr. Elliott, writing to an Indianapolis attorney, who had ventured to criticize his new religion, makes this statement: "I venture to add that I am not at the hold of any proud world whatever; 2d, that such little part of the world as I am best acquainted with loves the lowly Nazarene and does not hate him; 3d, that I have met during my life most of the sorrows which are accounted heaviest; 4th, that Jesus will be in the religion of the future not less, but more, than in the Christianity of the past." The spirit of this reply is more to be commended than its clearness. So far as a revelation of the temper of Dr. Elliott goes, the statement is admirable and beautiful. As an explanation of a religion, new or old, for even religion needs some explanation, it leaves considerable to be desired. Religion, a real religion, is not a grouping of more or less ghostly emotions and impressions. It is a life furnished or an idea, a definite idea and a definite life, too.

The announcement was made at the conservation congress that the Taft administration is not to be disrupted on the lines of the Pinchot-Ballinger controversy. A week or two ago there was some reason to fear that it would be, owing to what was then the indication of the president to become the champion of one of the parties in the case against all opposition. So long as Mr. Taft continues capable of learning, he will continue to find much to learn.

The married teachers of New York city declare that the time has come when it's no one's business but their own whether they are married or not. And as for being discriminated against in the matter of promotions, that must be stopped too. There is certainly justice in their position. The attitude of the board of education casts a grave aspersion over the whole marriage state.

There appears to be a "popular" error midst the knockers of Dr. Cook. One says, "If he stood on top of the world with an unfathomable depth of water beneath him, what is to prevent the ice flowing away with the flag he left there?" Read aright the report says, "On a dreary and barren waste of snow-covered land he found the top of the world."

Mayor Simon and members of the board of health settled for all time the responsibility for inspection of the milk supply of Portland when they took upon themselves as city officials, the responsibility and did not seek to shift it to other shoulders. Aided by Dr. Wheeler and his staff, they will proceed with the effort to secure pure milk for residents of the Rose city.

The proposed dinner to be given by the city of Portland to President Taft upon his visit to that city October 2d will be set at the uniform price of \$25 per plate. The chances are that the president will not meet many of the common people on that occasion. The bill of fare has not yet been given to the public, but it is supposed that it will be in keeping with the price.

An unbeliever says: "Of course Cook has the say about his discovery of the North pole; the only spectators in the two days he spent there were two Eskimos." Who could you expect to be there as witnesses? Wellman? Peary? a military band? Those two Eskimos were quite a crowd there on the 21st of April, 1908.

When the Hill lines announced five days ago that they would lop ten hours off the fastest time between Chicago and North Pacific coast points they inaugurated a speed war that has now spread over the entire transcontinental railway map.

The official report of the Smithsonian Institute on the Roosevelt collection says: "The specimens were in salt and in much better condition than skins usually are." The thoroughness of the colonel's work in skinning is now understood.

Suffragettes have paid one dollar a head for admission to the Vanderbilt marble mansion at Newport. Of course it was all politics, but at the bottom it was enough of a social function to be dear to every woman's heart.

The hot spell here this week extends all over the continent. In Chicago death takes a heavy toll from babies. Mortality is 32 per cent of total, 13 times higher among infants than rate at all other ages.

The Observer Book Store, Moro.

LOOKS LIKE BUNCO.

Operations of a Man Named Crawford Netted Him About \$2,000.

Evening Telegram. Operating under various aliases, but usually under the name of Crawford, a very smooth "friend of the farmer," is said to have made a sweeping clean-up of real money in the Oregon wheat counties. It is understood that his operations in Wasco, Gilliam, Sherman, Morrow and Umatilla, all of which he has visited within the past few weeks, will net him close to \$2,000. The State Ry Commission, the freight department of the O R and N Co., and some of the shippers and warehouse men have shown interest in the present whereabouts of the glib Mr. Crawford. It is greatly feared that he will not be found within a fair sized radius of the scene of his reputed financial conquests.

According to the line of investigation that is being made, this alleged "come on" artist, appealed to the weak spot in the wheat grower's make up. He had a sure enough scheme whereby "dollar wheat" was no dream, but a large rosette and golden reality. This savior of the down trodden tiller of the globe was going to organize the Farmer's Alliance, a mutually protective union, which would guarantee the farmer his inalienable rights, Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of "dollar wheat." It was going to cost each farmer the trifling sum of \$2.50 to be initiated into the secrets of the proposed order, and that once on the inside the wheat-grower could command his own price for wheat. He could under the projected co-operative plan get control of a string of warehouses and "not be rebuffed through exorbitant storage charges." He is said to have no trouble in convincing several hundred farmers that they were victims of a complete system of highway robbery. The exporters and the railroads were in the conspiracy as well as the warehouse men. All that was to be done away with when the Crawford plan had been consummated.

"By Jingo, that's a darn good idea," is apparently what a majority of the wheat barons thought as they passed over the \$2.50 and things went swimmingly for a while until one or two of the less emotional victims began to inquire into the details of the plan. From what evidence is to be had here, the plan didn't look so glorious at close range. Whether the facts already brought to light will justify criminal procedure in case the elusive Mr. Crawford is located cannot be learned here, for the investigation has been conducted with utmost secrecy and most of the farmers who coughed up, it is alleged, do not know that they have fed their money to the birds.

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Can There be any Better Investment Than First Class Farm Lands?

Investors often do well buying city property, mining stock, timber land or by going into the mercantile business, but they must admit there is a certain amount of risk, but who can say there is any chance in buying good farm land under \$20.00 per acre. Land that will raise from 25 to 60 bushels of grain per acre as well as being adapted for growing all kinds of vegetables, fruit, berries and hay.

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Frank Menefee Attorney - at - Law. Office in the Vogt Block upstairs THE DALLES OREGON

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