

The Observer.

MORO, OREGON.

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C. L. IRELAND Manager.

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China pheasants liberated last fall in Crook county have wintered in good condition and a start has been made in having a game bird of recognized quality native to Oregon in the central part of the state.

Reports from all parts of Baker county are that hydrophobia is rampant among cattle, hogs, dogs and coyotes. The coyotes are believed to have spread the infection to dogs and cattle and the dogs which have been infected have been biting hogs and infecting them.

The Government is now considering bids for new star route contracts and it is certain that the compensation asked by bidders will far exceed amounts paid in the past. It is anticipated that in an effort at economy the Department will either postpone the letting of new contracts or will reduce the frequency of service and in some instances expects to discontinue service altogether. If the department made a mistake in establishing too low a rate for parcel post it should not try to avoid the consequence by reducing or discontinuing service. People who have gone out on the frontier to make homes and develop latent resources of the country are entitled to all the encouragement and assistance the government can give in the matter of mail service and patrons of star routes should not suffer any diminution of service on account of too hasty enlargement of the parcel post service or any unwise acts of administrative officers of the government in putting the service into commission.

At a mass meeting of the Farmer's Unions of Morrow county held last week definite action was taken towards a reduction in freight rates on wheat from the Heppner branch to Portland; a committee was appointed to confer with similar committees from Sherman, Gilliam, and Crook counties to the end that freight rates from all this territory be investigated at the one time by the state railroad commission. It appears to be the general impression that freight rates on the branch roads are higher, with shorter hauls, than from Walla Walla and Pendleton. The Morrow county farmers are also building elevators to care for their wheat this year, which is expected to be a factor in the price received this fall for their grain.

Food and Population

A century ago Thomas Robert Malthus, an English writer and theorist put forth the prediction that the population of the modern world was increasing so rapidly that the time would come when it would be impossible with the products of human labor to feed its people.

Nobody today is scared at any such prospect, nevertheless it seems nearer at hand than is commonly supposed. Already the United States, with an area of three and a half million square miles of the richest farming land in the world, is confessing to the difficulties of its food supply by importing beef, corn, potatoes, eggs and other food products from Canada, Argentina and other countries. It is not strange that the European countries are forced to import food, for they are overcrowded with population and their lands have been cultivated for thousands of years. But that a vast new country like ours, that can contain five times its present population and should be able to support them, has to import bread and meat for its population, seems a shame.

Re-seeding Old Range

A serious decline in the carrying capacity of western grazing lands is due largely to the fact that stockmen failed to give range plants a chance to keep growing is the statement made by the department of agriculture in a bulletin recently issued on range improvement. Excessive grazing in the spring before the forage crop matured and grazing continued year after year are the main causes of range deterioration.

The remedy suggested for the deterioration is deferred grazing. Under such a plan an overgrazed portion of the range, sufficiently large to supply the forage from the time of seed maturity until the end of the grazing season, is protected from stock until the seed crop has matured. Upon maturity of the seed crop the land is grazed but not to the extent of injuring seed plants. The same area is protected in the same way during other seasons, or until new plants have been securely established. When the area has been thoroughly reseeded it can again be grazed early in the season.

Official Notice to Pay Income Tax

Only a few days left in which to file your income tax statement. Applications for blanks can be made to any bank or county treasurer or to Milton A. Miller, collector internal revenue, Portland, Oregon.

Penalty of \$20 to \$1000 for failure to file returns on or before March 1st.

Fine not exceeding \$2000 or imprisonment not exceeding one year or both at the discretion of the court for making a false or fraudulent return.

Every person having a net income of \$3000 or over for calendar year, \$2500 for year 1913, must make a return; a single person is allowed an exemption of \$3000 and a married person \$4000. For year 1913, March 1 to December 31, the exemption allowed is \$2500 or \$3333.33.

All payments due on your income may be remitted at once or you can have until June 30 in which to pay. Payment must be made by certified check, money order or draft. Personal checks cannot be accepted.

Partnerships as such are not required to make income returns, but the members comprising the firm providing their individual incomes reach \$2500 for 1913 or over are to make returns.

If in doubt regarding any part of the law or regulations write for information to M. A. Miller, collector, Portland, Oregon. For year 1913, the law operates only from March 1 to December 31 so the incomes, deductions and exemptions are figured accordingly.

A farm hand in Kansas sued his employer for \$15,000 because of injuries he received to his stomach when served a boiled dinner. The trial court allowed him \$1,000, which has been carried to the Kansas supreme court upon appeal. The suit is based upon a claim that the dinner gave him a pain, similar to indigestion.

Forestalled

By JOHN G. LARNED

During the reigns of Louis XIII., XIV. and XV. of France dueling was so prevalent that at one time it began to appear that all the bravest men in France would be killed. While Louis XV. was on the throne a young graduate of the College of New Jersey went abroad for the purpose of finishing his education by travel.

Paris in those days was a favorite resort for the few colonists of North America who ventured to cross the Atlantic, and young Mathewson made quite a sojourn there. The principal reason for his doing so was Mlle. Hortense de Boyer, a dashing girl, who was setting the young bloods of the capital wild. She was considered the most graceful dancer and the best horsewoman in Paris and had so far practiced the art of self defense as to stand well as a handler of the fof.

One evening after a ball, at which Mathewson had paid marked attention to Mlle. de Boyer, he was addressed by a young army officer as follows: "I am the bearer of a challenge to you from Count Gaston Vaudelais, you having during the evening brushed against him in the dance."

Mathewson knew very well that the challenge was but a pretext for the challenge and concerned himself only about the latter. Moreover, he knew that he must either accept it or leave Paris, followed by the contempt of all who had favored him by their good will. He suspected that the true reason for being called out was that he had paid marked attention to Mlle. de Boyer. He replied by referring the officer to a friend, then went to his apartments. The friend joined him soon after, and upon consultation it was determined to put off the meeting so long as possible in order that the American might prepare himself by practice, for he had no skill whatever with any weapon. The best, however, that could be done was to defer the encounter for ten days. Then Mathewson began to practice shooting with a pistol.

The next evening after the ball while Count Vaudelais was dining at the cafe where he was used to taking his dinner a lady handsomely dressed, but wearing a veil that she did not raise, entered the place and took a seat near him. To lady was in those days ever seen to enter a cafe unattended by an escort, and the veiled woman at once arrested the attention of every one present. Presently she spoke in an indignant tone to Vaudelais, accusing him of staring at her, threw a card on his table bearing the name of Albert du Plessis and left the cafe.

Vaudelais, astonished, picked up the card, supposing it to bear the name of the lady's husband. Since its being given him was tantamount to a challenge, he waited for a friend of the gentleman to arrive. Presently a man entered and said that he represented Du Plessis and made arrangements for the duel to take place the next morning at sunrise.

Vaudelais now had two duels on his hands on successive mornings. This did not trouble him, for not a year passed that he fought fewer than half a dozen. But he did not like fighting the husband of a woman on a charge that he had stared at her, and he was not satisfied as to the status of the woman herself, since she had been in a public cafe unattended. He belonged to the court circle and to fight any one except a gentleman would detract from his social standing. He endeavored to discover who was M. du Plessis, but found no one who had ever heard of him. However, thinking to suffer less by declining to fight, he concluded, so long as the affair would not interfere with his meeting with Mathewson, to let it proceed.

He went on the ground the next morning waiting for M. du Plessis, who had not arrived, when a carriage drove up and out stepped a lady attended by a maid. She drew aside her veil and revealed the features of Mlle. de Boyer. Vaudelais was thunderstruck.

"How long, M. le Comte," she said, "since you constituted yourself my guardian, with the right to say who shall and who shall not pay me attention?"

"Hortense, what do you mean by such words?"

"I mean that I have heard that you, whose brains are in your limbs, have, under pretext, challenged a man whose brains are in his head because he danced with me several times at a recent ball. I propose that you shall first settle with me for accepting his invitations, after which you may settle with him for giving them."

Throwing off a long cloak, she revealed a fencing costume. Vaudelais did all in his power to avoid fighting a woman and succeeded only by pleading himself to withdraw his challenge to Mathewson, admitting the true reason for having given it, with an abject apology.

Mathewson was in a shooting gallery when he received the count's withdrawal. He endeavored to discover the reason for its reception, but Mlle. de Boyer had pledged every one concerned, not to reveal the truth. When Mathewson left for America he would have taken Mlle. de Boyer with him as his wife, but she was related to the royal family, and to marry a commoner and go to the "American wilderness" was not to be thought of for a moment.

"Back to the Land," Noah sighted Ararat. "I am certainly heading that movement," he cried.—New York Sun.

A PRAYER.

Give us the strength to encounter that which is to come, that we may be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune down to the gates of death loyal and loving one to another.—Stevenson.

Winged Creatures of Borneo.

In Borneo winged creatures are encountered where one would least expect them. Flying fish the size of herrings are found in all the waters, and there is the flying fox, the well known fruit eating bat, which the Malays call "Kuaning." They may be seen almost any evening winging their steady flight often at a great elevation well out of range of a shotgun. The flying squirrels as evening twilight comes are also seen. They glide down from one lofty tree to the base of another, up which they scramble to the level they started from. Wide expansions of skin between the fore and hind limbs act in parachute fashion and sustain them in their glide. They are of some size, but are quite harmless. The flying lizard is seen in the heat of the day in the jungle gliding down with a flash in much the same manner as the squirrel. But he is much smaller and it requires a quick eye to detect him. The natives kill him with a clay ball shot from their blowpipes.—North Borneo Herald.

Spiders That Hunt Fish.

There are certain large sea spiders two feet from toe to toe, called Colloseids, which live in the water and feed entirely upon mollusks and worms.

The voracious wolf spider, an amphibious inhabitant of the tropical regions of South America, is said to prefer a fish diet, though it is not averse to eating mice, young birds and even snakes, resembling in this respect the theropodids, or bird catching spiders, of India and Queensland, some of which equal a rat in size.

The colloseids is the most formidable specimen of the spider family, measuring six inches around the body and possessing twelve long, hairy legs, with which it grips its slimy prey. It attacks fish several times larger than itself and after biting them through the back and stinging them to death gluts itself by sucking the juices from the bodies of its victims.

Enterprises.

A well known business establishment recently sent out a circular to the trade with which it has dealings announcing the death of the head of the firm. To the astonishment of the firm, there was received from a printing house the following reply to the circular:

"Gentlemen—It is with deep regret that we learn by your circular of recent date of the great loss sustained by your firm, and we respectfully beg to express our heartfelt sympathy.

"In this connection we observe that your circular is printed by Messrs. Blank & Co. We feel confident that had you placed this order with us we could have quoted you cheaper and better terms than any other firm; consequently in the deplorable event of a future bereavement we trust that you will afford us an opportunity to make you an offer in this regard."—Exchange.

How Caterpillars Build.

Many clever caterpillars which dwell habitually in company build a common nest for the common benefit. Of these is the famous American tent caterpillar. The tents are really nests of silk spun among leaves and twigs. In them the caterpillars dwell when young, and to them they resort for shelter in rainy weather even when larger grown. Allied species which pass through the winter in the caterpillar state construct winter sleeping quarters which the bookish folk call hibernaculum. These are often conspicuous among the branches during the cold months of the year. If torn open they reveal a surprising thickness of spun silk, forming a dense nonconductive wall. At the center of the mass lie from thirty to fifty tightly packed caterpillars waiting for the return of the warm weather, when they will resume their feeding.

Why They Quarreled.

"I hear that you quarreled with Harry," said one young woman to another. "Is it so?" "Yes, I did," replied the other girl. "He is a horrid thing. He asked me how old I was, and I told him twenty-one, and he wouldn't believe me!" "Indeed!" said the first. "Well, you should have referred him to Bob Yates. He could swear you told him the very same thing four years ago."—Detroit Free Press.

Where He Got It.

Teacher—Now, Willie, where did you get that chewing gum? I wait the truth. Willie—You don't want the truth, teacher, and I'd rather not tell a lie. Teacher—How dare you say I don't want the truth! Tell me at once where you got that chewing gum. Willie—Under your desk.—Exchange.

Illustrative Dances.

"Dances used to originate from tribal customs."

"Well, doesn't it seem possible that some of these popular dances tend to illustrate the movements of persons dodging a flock of motorcars?"—Washington Star.

How to Treat a Wire Cut.

Never let a wire cut on your stock go unattended. Clean out the wound with soap and water, wash with peroxide of hydrogen and apply a good healing ointment.—Rural Farmer.

Just a Suggestion.

He—What! Another new dress! That's enough to make me jump out of my skin! She—Why don't you try? Then I can have a belt and hand bag made of it.—Elk.

A man's future is his own. He makes it himself every day as he goes along through life.

Sure Sign. "Yes, you're married." "Why do you think so?" "Didn't you hear him say when he asked him to call a taxi that he thought it would do them both good to walk?"—Chicago Record-Herald.

His Inference. Mr. Quoter—Solomon has said "The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong." Mr. Gamesport—I suppose in his time the sporting competition was pretty crooked.—Brooklyn Life.



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