

### Willamette River Improvements.

In its issue of December 31st the editor of the Portland Journal makes the following comment on the proposed improvement of the Willamette river between Portland and Eugene:

"The long dream of a Willamette river freed to commerce will soon come true.

"The abstract of title has been approved in the office of the United States district attorney at Portland. It goes direct to the attorney general of the United States at Washington for the formality of final approval.

"In all private deals in realty the approval of the abstract of title by the purchaser's attorneys is a final step. It is the signal for payment of the purchase price and delivery of the deed. It is the same in this great public transaction in which the privately-owned Willamette locks will pass into public ownership, to be operated by the federal government, with tolls on commerce forever abolished.

"Within a comparatively short time the title will be turned over to the war department and the locks pass under the direction of the United States engineers, who have already prepared the plans for so improving the locks that their efficiency will be largely increased. There should be an immediate response in lowered freight rates on account of the 50 cents a ton that has been exacted in lockage fees for more than thirty years.

"The next step should be the deepening of the channel from Portland to Eugene. The feasibility of such project has already been announced by the engineers, with assurance that the river can be prepared for all-year navigation.

"It is an enterprise that the population of the region should never abandon. They have won a free lock and can win a deepened channel.

"With a deepened channel and free locks the Willamette river will be one of the most effective railroad commissions in the world."

### In Defense of Mr. Teal.

Several days ago the Democrat editorially submitted to the friends and admirers of J. N. Teal, a list of questions dealing with his corporation affiliations, and incidentally with his record as a progressive democrat.

These questions were asked in the best of faith and in the hope that the clouds of uncertainty might be lifted from this distinguished candidate for Secretary of the Interior. We still harbor a faint hope that they will be fully and fairly answered, but after reading an able, but rather evasive editorial, in yesterday's Oregonian, are forced to the conclusion that the questions are unanswerable.

The Oregonian editorial is as follows:

"The Albany Democrat is anxious to be enlightened as to the claims of Mr. Joseph N. Teal upon the Democracy of the state and Nation for a place in the Cabinet of a Democratic President," and it directs a series of questions, mainly designed to disclose his unorthodox political record and antecedents.

"Possibly it is not important, though some Oregon Democrats think it is, to trace Mr. Teal's political activities, if there are any Teal political activities; but common sense has it that he is a Democrat, and supported Mr. Wilson for president in 1912, and various other Democratic candidates prior to that election, though he was diverted to the fusion ticket for governor in the memorable year (1898), when Mr. King, the rival claimant to the Secretaryship, ran for Governor as a Populist and as a Democrat. In the dark days of 1896, when Mr. Bryan was calling on every loyal Democrat to stand by his silver-mounted guns, Mr. Teal may or may not have wavered between partisan duty and plain common sense. We do not know. That was the year, we believe, when Mr. King got lost in the Populist forest, and emerged with an election as State Senator—as a Populist. These things are not mentioned in the spirit of reproach or of controversy; merely to indicate the qualifications of your true Democrat.

"What is a Democrat? How long must one have been a Democrat to be eligible to a Democratic job? Must he have been faithful to the losing cause during the lean and hungry years when no Democrat could hope for anything, unless he commuted with the disaffected wing of the Republicans, as Chamberlain and West, and even our Harry, the embryonic Senator, did? Or may he profess to be a Democrat and a non-partisan at the same time, for which there is distinguished precedent in the case of Hon. W. R. King in his candidacy for the Supreme Bench in 1910?

"Apparently the Albany Democrat is under the strange impression that the Democrats alone carried Oregon in 1912 for Mr. Wilson. If Mr. Wilson had received only the votes of the Democrats who voted for him, he would not have carried Oregon."

### DUN'S REPORT ON THE BUSINESS CONDITIONS

The following report on business conditions during the week is reprinted from Dun's Review:

"The notable development at the close of the year is the tremendous expansion in exports, which are breaking all previous records, the movement from the port of New York for the latest week amounting to \$26,376,000—\$4,136,000 larger than in 1911, \$17,175,000 larger than in 1910, and \$6,007,000 in excess of imports. This expansion in exports is due to the increased foreign demand for the products of the soil and the mills; it is not accompanied by a decline in imports, which as a matter of fact are about \$4,000,000 greater than in the two preceding years. There is some slowing down of domestic operations in the closing weeks of the year, as is usual, due to necessary readjustments and taking stock, yet the current statistics of business continue almost as noteworthy as those of foreign commerce. Bank clearings (about the best measure of activity available) increased this week 11.9 per cent as compared with 1911 and 17.8 per cent as compared with 1910, and railroad gross earnings for the first half of December gained 3.8 per cent. The problem of the railroads is not so much how to get new traffic as how to provide means with which to secure additional terminals and cars to carry the great traffic pressing upon the transportation lines.

Retail holiday trade was of imposing proportions, and this exhibition of buying power on the part of the people, as the result of agricultural fruitfulness and of fully employed and highly paid labor, has a favorable effect on wholesale trade and on industrial lines. In the dry goods departments conditions at the close of the year are very satisfactory, both for cottons and woolsens. Mills have large orders running months ahead, and jobbers, who have experienced the customary slackening at this season, are anticipating a large increase in demand. In the iron and steel trade the chief feature is the continued heavy purchases by the railroads. There are shorter holiday suspensions of work this year than is usual, owing to the insistence of demand. Coke is very firm, due to the inadequacy of supplies to meet the extraordinary movement. New England shoe factories are working on full time with present orders, but new business is seasonably dull. The decline in hides is having a weakening effect upon leather. The grain and cotton markets show continued large domestic movement and exports. Interest in the financial markets is still keen as to the result of the Balkan peace negotiations in London, but a holiday quietness generally prevails.

"Liabilities of commercial failures, so far reported for December, amount to \$13,274,569, of which \$4,842,217 are in manufacturing, \$7,052,835 in trading and \$1,379,517 in other commercial lines. Failures this week numbered 265 in the United States against 281 last year, and 25 in Canada compared with 39 a year ago."

A particularly sad death occurred near West Stayton at about 5:45 Monday afternoon, when Miss Louise Williams died from the accidental swallowing of carbolic acid, says the Mail.

The unfortunate girl was but 17 years of age.

It appears that Miss Williams, whose parents reside near Aumsville, was working at the home of C. C. Bruce, who lives on the Henry Von Behren place below West Stayton. Early Monday morning the girl set out for a day's visit with her folks. While there she had an attack of toothache, and was given a small vial of carbolic acid, to apply in case the pain continued. Her mother warned her to dilute the acid before using.

A strike is reported to have occurred on the Oregon Electric Railway this afternoon among the laborers employed by the road on construction work and 100 men are said to have quit work on account of a reduction in wages.

### GOLDEN WEDDING IS CELEBRATED TODAY

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Ross Observe 50th. Anniversary of Their Marriage in Albany.

WERE WEDDED AT DOUBLE CEREMONY IN CANADA IN 1862

Aged Couple Guests of Honor at Dinner Tendered By Their Children This Afternoon.

Continued from Wednesday, Jan. 1.

Fifty years ago today, while the Civil War was in progress in the United States, a double wedding was solemnized in the little village of Farnham, Province of Quebec, Canada, when the Rev. Mr. Thornton of the Methodist church of that place united in marriage Miss Cynthia E. Truax and S. W. Ross and Miss Anna Harvey to Mortimer W. Ring, a cousin of Miss Truax.

The wedding was a quiet affair and was witnessed by only four other young people besides the contracting parties.

Since that happy New Year's day, half a century has passed, and today Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Ross of this city are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary, surrounded by their children and grandchildren. The couple are in excellent health and are happy and contented.

This afternoon at 3 o'clock, Mr. and Mrs. Ross were guests of honor at a dinner tendered to them by their children and served at the Palm Cafeteria which is conducted by their son-in-law, M. J. Monteith.

The following were in attendance at the dinner: Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Ross, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Monteith, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Ross of Moro, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Ross of Albany, E. F. Truax of Albany and Mrs. Catherine Allen of Quebec, Canada, brother and sister of Mrs. Ross. Mrs. Hattie Bartholomey, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Ross, of Roseburg, was unable to be present.

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Ross, who celebrated their golden wedding today, came to Albany in May, 1881, from Compton, P. Q., Canada, where they resided for six years prior to coming to the Pacific coast. Upon their arrival in this city, they bought a piece of property at what is now Fifth and Calapooia streets.

Here they erected a modern and comfortable home where they resided continuously until recently when they erected a residence in Central addition at the corner of Elm and Tenth streets where they now reside.

Mr. Ross was engaged in blacksmithing for some time after his arrival in Albany, working for Sam Althouse, now deceased. Later he engaged in reaming and followed that occupation for twenty-five years, retiring from active work two years ago.

With the exception of one year which they spent farming near Soda-ville, Mr. and Mrs. Ross have lived at Albany 31 years. Mr. Ross was born in Granby, Province of Quebec, Can., on October 10, 1840, and Mrs. Ross was born in Farnham, Quebec, on July 2, 1842.

The couple have five children, as follows: Mrs. Alice R. Monteith of Albany; Mrs. Hattie Bartholomey of Roseburg; Jed E. Ross and Fred W. Ross of Albany, and Lorenzo W. Ross of Moro. Mr. and Mrs. Ross also have eleven grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Ross have the best wishes of their many friends in Albany and Linn county.

L. F. Smith, of Tangent was transacting business in Albany today. Mr. Smith is a rural mail carrier out of Tangent.

### NEW ADDITIONS MADE TO THE DECEMBER POEM

Since the publication of a verse several days ago at the request of a subscriber, others have added a few lines to the first contribution. Here is the poem in full. No other contributions will be accepted owing to lack of space.

I would I were a little bird,  
And pinned on Mary's hat;  
Then I'd be safe from kitty's claws  
Because she wears a rat.  
  
I'd go with her to church some day,  
And sit quite near some boys;  
I'd watch them casting sheepish eyes,  
And hear them make some noise.  
  
Then the sexton 'ud turn them out,  
And we'd not linger near;  
At any time of year.  
  
What makes the bird stick to Mary so?  
The sexton used to say;  
Oh! Mary sticks to the bird you know,  
She wears it every day.  
  
And you each feathered birdie now  
May wear upon your hats;  
There they'll be safe from kitty's claws,  
If only you wear rats.  
  
I would I were a doctor man,  
All buttoned up in a Ford;  
I would not care how bad the roads,  
Nor how the weather roared—last Sunday.

### A WEALTHY NEW YORK WOMAN WILL STUDY LAW

Will Acquire Legal Knowledge to Protect Estate of 12 Year Old Daughter.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—In the hope of safe-guarding the rights of her 12-year-old daughter to a share in the estate of her husband, Mrs. Lucius Hopkins Smith, widow of a wealthy cotton man of New York and Pasadena, who, while in Los Angeles last summer reported to the police that an attempt had been made here to kidnap the little girl, has taken up the study of law at Columbia University.

Mrs. Smith complained at that time that her rooms at the Smith apartments, near Westlake Park, were broken into and valuable papers taken and later an attempt was made to kidnap the little girl, Ruth.

Believing that she was being followed by some agent of her late husband's family, she went to San Diego, and, when an attempt was made there to seize the little girl, returned to Los Angeles and took rooms in a downtown hotel.

Early in July she came to New York and told officials that a mysterious man had followed her across the continent. From here she went to Europe, determined to place her daughter in a closely-guarded French boarding school.

Since her return she has mapped out a complete law course at Columbia University, and intends to carry her studies out in order that she may protect the claim of her daughter to the father's large estate, amounting to several hundred thousand dollars.

"I was never aroused to a woman's need for such training until I became a widow," said Mrs. Smith. "Immediately I found myself in the vortex of the courts. My ignorance of the courts made me helpless. True, a woman may employ lawyers to protect her interests, but after all there is nothing like understanding the thing yourself."

The legal contest over the Smith estate involves the legality of the adoption in Germany, of the little girl, Ruth, who is Mrs. Smith's daughter by a former marriage. Sidney A. Smith, brother of the late cotton broker, contends the child was not legally adopted and accordingly he claims \$100,000 of the estate of his deceased brother.

### TANGENT GRANGE HELD AN INTERESTING MEETING

D. M. McGregor Elected Master; Other Officers Elected for Ensuing Year.

The regular meeting of Tangent Grange was held last Saturday with good attendance.

Visitors from Sand Ridge and Western Star granges were present. The third and fourth degrees were conferred upon a class of two, who will make a valuable addition to our membership.

A fine lunch was heartily partaken of by all present, and the remainder of the noon hour was spent in visiting.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: D. M. McGregor, O.; N. G. Smith, L.; M. F. Wood, A. S.; E. R. Allen, C.; L. S. Blevins, T.; — Brown, Sec.; Marie G. Allen, G. K.; A. Blevins, C.; Hattie Blevins, P.; Emma H. Smith, F.; Midred Allen, L. A. S.; Frances Driver, organist; Mrs. M. F. Wood.

The question of the state appropriation money for the Panama Exposition was discussed at length. Also the appropriation for the bridge across the Columbia river at Vancouver. The questions were referred to a special committee and will be taken up at the next meeting.

We missed the pleasant smile and familiar voice of our riverside friend, and he missed a good dinner. Installation will be held the fourth Saturday in January, when we hope to meet many visitors and spend a pleasant day.

The installation will be held in the afternoon, which will be open to the public. J. H. SCOTT.

### TANGENT NEWS

Mrs. M. C. Morgan visited her daughter, Mrs. Mary Jenks near Tangent this week.  
Miss Georgia Blevins of Corvallis visited with her parents near here on Christmas.  
J. E. Ownbey and wife to Albany spent last week in Tangent.  
John Powell of the county bridge gang, visited his father and mother here last week.  
Miss Frances Driver of the O. A. C. spent the holidays at her home near here.  
B. F. Scott of Aberdeen, Wash., and his daughter, Miss Mabel, visited with his brother near Tangent last week.  
Wm. Ellingsworth and family of Shedd visited with the family of G. C. Stellmacher a few days, last week.  
Fred Filkins has moved with his family from his father's farm to Albany to reside.  
Elias Berwick has moved to the farm of W. E. Parker where he expects to spend the next year.

### ALBANY FIREMEN ATTEND TOURNEY

The Corvallis Fire Department Treats Visiting Delegates Royally Yesterday.

LOCAL TEAM LOSES HOSE RACE BY NARROW MARGIN

Memorial Monument to Dead Fire Chief Is Dedicated By College City Folks.

Assistant Fire Chief Horsky and a number of the members of the Albany fire department returned home from Corvallis last night where they were the guests yesterday of the Corvallis fire laddies at the big fire fighters tournament which was held in that city.

A parade was held at 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning which was composed of Corvallis fire boys and their new apparatus, and the visiting delegation from various cities of the Willamette Valley.

Following the parade, the firemen attended the dedication of the memorial monument recently erected at Corvallis in honor of George P. Wren, ex-fire chief of Corvallis who gave his life in the performance of his duty. The monument was erected by the members of the fire department as a tribute to their former chief.

The dedicatory exercises lasted over an hour and were very impressive. Music for the occasion was furnished by the O. A. C. military band and prayer was offered by Rev. Sherman.

Walter H. Kline, one of the leading merchants of Corvallis, officiated as master of ceremonies and in an impressive speech, presented the monument to the city. Mayor J. Fred Yates accepted the gift on behalf of the city and paid a fine tribute to the dead fire chief, George P. Wren.

A fine dinner was served to the members of the Albany and other visiting departments at noon at the Hotel Julian. At 1:30 o'clock the program of events scheduled for the afternoon was begun. The program included hose races, ladder climbing, coupling contests, water fights, rescue work, etc.

The hose race between the fire departments of Albany and Corvallis was the most exciting event on the program and was witnessed by a large crowd of people.

The race was won by the Corvallis boys in 22 1/2 seconds, Albany finishing second in 30 seconds. Chief Engineer Warner of the Albany department won two prizes in the hose coupling contest.

The program was completed at 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon and was followed by a banquet and dance at the city hall. The Albany boys are loud in their praise of the courtesies extended them yesterday and of the splendid hospitality of the Corvallis firemen.

The following members of the Albany department were in attendance at the Corvallis tournament: Assistant Chief Ed. Horsky, Chief Engineer John Warner, John Spooner, Earl McTimmonds, Fred Woods, Herman Stokes, Clarence Reed, C. N. McKee and Adrian Moore.

### \$43 ENOUGH FOR LADIES SUIT SAYS THE JUDGE

New Jersey Court Has Decided Ideas As to the Cost of Womens Apparel.

New York, Jan. 1.—Forty-three dollars is enough for any woman to spend for a suit of outer clothing; or, possibly, \$44, if \$2 is to be spent for a "really magnificent pair of corsets."

This is the private and judicial opinion of Vice-Chancellor Lindley A. Garrison of the Court of Chancery of Jersey City, whose wife is one of the handsomest and best-dressed women in Hudson county.

Mrs. George G. Holton, seeking alimony from her husband, who is seeking separation, exhibited a letter of credit from her husband in court today, in which he specified that she should not buy a suit to cost more than \$20, a coat for more than \$18, no more costly shoes than \$4 nor corsets for more than \$2. These prices were absurdly low, Mrs. Holton contended, but Judge Garrison agreed with her husband.

"I have seen plenty of suits advertised for \$20, and they looked good and amply becoming when worn," he said. "Eighteen-dollar coats look fine. Four dollars will buy a pair of shoes good enough for any woman. For \$1 corsets can be bought that will set off a woman's figure most engagingly. For \$2 a really magnificent set of corsets can be purchased."

Mrs. F. P. Nutting has been confined to her bed for several days with a slight attack of neuralgia.  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wright of Moscow, Idaho, who have been spending their honeymoon in this city at the home of Mrs. Wright's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Craft, left for home yesterday.

### AGED JUDGE WINS A FORTUNE OF \$100,000

Twenty Years of Litigation Settles an Estate in Favor of Man Now 79 Year Old.

New York, Jan. 1.—After a fight in the courts extending over more than 20 years, Probate Judge John Kenneally, of Idaho Falls, Idaho, is recognized today as the heir to the \$100,000 estate left by William A. Kenneally, who died in Brooklyn fifty years ago. Judge Kenneally is now 79 years old. An order awarding him the estate was signed by Supreme Court Justice Page. More than 100 claimants have tried during the last half century to prove their relationship and get the fortune, but all failed except John Kenneally.

William E. Kinneally's name differs slightly from that of the successful claimant. The testimony shows that Judge Kenneally based his claim upon the information his mother had given him. He said that many of the relics, papers and other things that would have shown his father's identity were burned in a fire that swept Cleveland in 1840.

### STOCK COMPANY RETURNS TO ALBANY FROM CORVALLIS

To Present Ethel Barrymore's Play "Sunday" Here During Remainder of Week.

Ethel Barrymore's comedy-drama success, "Sunday," will be presented by the Seibert & Lindley players at the opera house Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week.

The company is playing a stock engagement here and at Corvallis dividing the week between the two cities, playing Corvallis the first three days of the week and Albany the last three. The plays they are to produce are all good ones and they more than made good when here before. The play "Sunday" is first class in every way and one that Miss Barrymore made her first N. Y. hit in. It is one of heart interest and yet has lots of comedy running through it.

The company was well received in Corvallis and their stay here will be a treat to all those who like good clean plays. The prices are within the reach of all and the shows compare favorably with any of the road shows now on the coast. Prices, reserved seats 35c, gallery 25c.

### A LITTLE BOY LEAPS OVER A MAD BULL

Jumped Over His Head, Slid Along His Back and Escaped All Harm.

Cincinnati, Jan. 1.—Gerald Hopkins, nine, this afternoon performed a feat that would make the terrors of old Spain and Mexico jealous.

A wild bull which had broken loose from its stall in a stable in the neighborhood caused a reign of terror in Mount Auburn, Avondale and Walnut Hills, the fashionable suburbs of Cincinnati.

The Hopkins boy got directly in the path of the maddened animal. People held their breath and watched the frightened youth. Taking a quick step the lad jumped clear over the head of the bull and played "leap frog," slipping over the animal's back and running into a house before the bull could turn around.

Miss Bernice Hall returned from Brownsville this morning where she has been visiting with friends and relatives.

### ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned administratrix of the estate of Charles Kiefer, deceased, has filed with the County Clerk of Linn County, Oregon, her final account in the matter of said estate and the County Court has appointed Monday, the 13th day of January, 1913, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon of said day, at the County Court room, in the Court House in the City of Albany, Oregon, as the time and place for hearing objections to said final account, if any there be, and for the final settlement of said estate.

Dated this 10th day of December, 1912.  
MARGARET KIEFER,  
L. M. CURL, Administratrix.  
Atty for Admrx. D13-J10

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned administrator of the estate of I. F. Conn, deceased, has filed with the County Clerk of Linn County, Oregon, her final account in the matter of said estate, and the County Court has appointed, Monday, the 20th day of January, 1913, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon of said day at the county court room in the court house in the City of Albany, Oregon, as the time and place for hearing objections to said final account, if any there be and for the final settlement of said estate.

Dated this 13th day of December, 1912.  
ELVIRA CONN,  
Administratrix.  
L. M. Curl,  
Atty for Admrx.  
Dec. 30—Jan. 17.