

# The Lane County News

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## PROSPERITY SPREADING

In a general review of business conditions throughout the country, President Wm. Sproule of the Southern Pacific Company, upon his return from a month's visit in New York, predicted that when the war is over the United States will find itself in a strengthened condition commercially and financially with respect to the rest of the world. President Sproule said: "I found business in the east in a flourishing condition. The general story is all hotels crowded to the limit, theaters doing an overflowing business and restaurants everywhere gay."

"Trade in war supplies has stimulated the steel, copper and ammunition business to an unexpected extent. This trade has brought a great deal of money into the country with expectations of a great deal more. There has always been an active market abroad for food-stuffs. All this is stimulating to the activities of this nation everywhere, including the Pacific Coast, for when the east is busy and prosperous, the markets for the products of this coast are active. The general commercial business of the coast is also stimulated for when the rest of the country is busy we by sympathy and interest are busy."

When the war is over (speed the day) there will doubtless be some readjustment following it, but even then the indications are we will find ourselves in a strengthened condition commercially and financially with respect to the rest of the world. I do not mean that we can jump into the imperial position the optimist predicts. The optimist is of value, however, because he leads us in the right direction, though it would not be safe to follow him too far.

"An important part of the improvement is because of the confidence business derives from the improvement in railroad earnings. These earnings seem to be large only because they follow years of such serious shrinkage in earnings that the contract becomes striking. It is to be remembered that while the earnings were shrinking capital was being added to the property and if the present earnings upon present capital were, for example, to be compared with 1912 and the capital of that year and the failure of earnings be considered for the two intervening, it will be found that there is nothing unusual about the present earnings and that the railroads need them badly."

"Speaking of the good will of the public, it has been evidenced in their attitude with respect to the suit to separate the Central Pacific from the Southern Pacific. My visit east was in the first place to attend the final hearings before the United States District Court which sat in St. Louis in the first week in December. It is needless to say the Court gave our side a full hearing, as it did also to the Government. We found nothing in the proceedings to modify our conviction that the Defendants in this case are in the right and right will prevail."

"The Eugene Guard is having a lot of fun criticizing the Eugene water board for its action in buying the distributing system of the Oregon Power company. No great amount of interest seems to have been raised as yet."

## NEED SOME AMUSEMENT

The county fair board is considering very seriously the matter of eliminating the racing program from the attractions, on the ground that the expense is too great. The move seems to be a wise one. It is true that a lot of people are interested in horse racing, but on the other hand there are others who do not care particularly for this form of amusement.

Some diversion, however, ought to be provided. Fair time is holiday time, and the people who go, do so, partly for the purpose of observing what others are doing, and learning from the exhibits, but many more go because the crowd goes, and to see and do the things that others are doing.

We recall one of the most successful of the industrial exhibitions, held in Portland along in the 90's. High class musical and athletic attractions were staged in the central music hall, and they were attended by people in thousands. Later in the evening these people traveled back and forth through the long aisles of exhibits, watching intently the machinery displays in motion, and taking a like interest in the still displays.

Just a suggestion in regard to the matter of fire alarms: Suppose the station man at the power plant were instructed not to blow a fire alarm until he had been informed definitely the street intersection near the fire. Knowledge that these were the instruction would discourage the giving of such an alarm as "Tom Jones' house is on fire," with the firemen left in the dark as to the real location of the fire. An alarm by wards, as in the past is too indefinite for real use now that the wards are so large. Firemen would have a hard time locating an inside fire in any one of the wards. What they must have is definite information as to the location of the fire, and that as early as possible—before it has broken out the roof if possible.

There he discovers that the victim was killed with fumes from a volatile poison of the east. He is about to make known his discovery when he decides to withhold it and use the same poison to kill Campbell, that he may possess Jane. On his return to New York he finds through careful tests that he can saturate a letter with the poison and thereby bring about the death of whoever reads the letter.

Jane and Campbell have been living happily, until Campbell receives the poison intended for Campbell. Strong becomes partially paralyzed and Campbell picks up the letter. It states that Strong has been intimate with Jane. Campbell becomes infuriated and is about to strike Strong when the latter topples over, striking a chair and sustaining a fracture of the skull. A maid hearing the altercation, and seeing Campbell start to strike Strong, summons a policeman. Campbell is arrested for murder, tried and convicted.

Jane learns of the poison that Ross used to kill her husband, and steals incense from which the poisonous vapors arise, and laboratory notes from the Ross apartments. That night she invites Ross to her home, after a spurious confession of love for him. She secretes a police captain and doctor in her home and tells them she intends to prove turns home unexpectedly and finds Henry Strong and Jane in a supposedly compromising situation, which they explain away. Ross telephones Jane of his arrival and she invites him to a dinner party to be given her husband. An hour before he leaves for the Campbell home Ross despatches a letter addressed to Campbell. Jane receives the letter and asks Strong to take it to her husband, who is mixing a cocktail in the dining room. Jane joins Ross and the other guests. Campbell asks Strong to open the letter, which he does, and reher husband innocent. When Ross arrives she lights the incense in a bowl. It has the same perfume as the poison, but not the deadly effect. Ross tries to escape from the room, but finds all doors locked. In the madness that overwhelms him he confesses his guilt and is arrested.



"The Final Judgment." "The Final Judgment," produced by the Rolfe Photoplays Inc., and starring Ethel Barrymore, the gifted dramatic actress will be shown at the Bell Theatre on Sunday matinee and evening, Jan. 16.

The story of "The Final Judgment," which was written by George Scarborough, the brilliant dramatist, is briefly as follows:

Jane Carleson, an actress of note, is loved by three men, Murray Campbell, an assistant district attorney; Hamilton Ross, a noted chemist and criminologist, and Henry Strong, a multimillionaire. Campbell wins in the suit for her hand. Disheartened, Ross accepts an offer to assist in unraveling a mysterious murder in Moscow, Russia.

The Baptist College at McMinnville will on March 1st celebrate the 10th anniversary of President L. W. Riley's connection with the college. Many of the leading educators of the Northwest have accepted invitations to deliver addresses on this occasion. It bids fair to be one of the most noteworthy educational functions ever held on the coast.

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# ANNOUNCEMENT

I take great pleasure in announcing to the people of Springfield and vicinity that I have purchased the stock of Nice & Miller of this city, and respectfully solicit your patronage.

My Foremost aim will be to carry dependable merchandise only at the very lowest price.

R. H. KNOX  
Successor to  
NICE & MILLER