

# THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1926

### WORDS FROM THE LIPS OF GREAT MEN

"Success consists not so much in sitting up nights as being awake in the daytime."—Anonymous.

### IN THE "BACK WOODS" OF LANE COUNTY

A candidate for office at the last election made a house to house canvass throughout the county and tells us that he found many people who did not know who the members of the county court were or any other of the county officials with the possible exception of the sheriff and assessor. In this enlightened era one would only expect to find such uninformed people in the backwoods but the backwoods of Lane county is often on some of our main streets. People living back in the mountains many times are better informed about governmental matters than those living in town. They read their newspapers closer and have not so many other diversions.

The lack of knowledge is of course due to a lack of interest in governmental affairs. Especially is this true to a large extent among the women, who are now qualified to vote. It cannot be derided too far because it is often evidence of general satisfaction with the way things are run at present. Let some tyrant take the reigns of government or some rank injustice be done and everybody will be informed and ready to act.

"Shall stock run at large" is the issue that gets the biggest vote in the county precincts. All other measures fade in the distance. We advise the politicians to look into this matter and produce a candidate on the platform "Stock Running at Large." He would sure bring out the vote.

The Port Orford News is the latest newspaper to start publication in Oregon, Number one, volume one, coming out last Tuesday. It would seem that Southwestern Oregon should present a promising future field for a newspaper. A new lumber enterprise has started at Port Orford and bids fair to make it a hustling little town.

Drunks in jail at Dover, Ohio, are made to consume a gallon of water a day. This may be regarded as a water cure but it would take more than water to cleanse most of their souls.

We have been told about a wedding where the groom "caught the bride in his arms." If the story continues he will probably catch her in his pockets later on.

Observing all health rules will probably add 20 years to a persons life. But who would want to live under those conditions.

Doctors and burglars favor sleeping the year round with the windows open.

Some people don't mind campaign lies so long as they are in their own party.

The president of Andorra gets \$25 a year. Democracy in Europe doesn't pay very royally.



## DR. FRANK CRANE SAYS

### I DON'T KNOW

The three words in any language hardest for the average person to say are:

"I don't know."

If you doubt this observe the distinguished foreign visitors who arrive to investigate our fair land.

At the pier they are interviewed.

They answer questions on religion, politics, art, morals, music, history, literature, biology, philosophy, clothes and the younger generation without batting an eye.

They proclaim with the gravity of a Delphic Oracle undisturbed in the slightest by the evident fact that they don't know what they are talking about.

The late Joseph Conrad, the writer of sea stories, is the one refreshing exception in recent memory. When plied with questions requiring an omniscient mind to answer, he simply stated: "I am a novelist and of course lay no claim to authority on such subjects."

Consider also the octogenarians, septogenarians and centerarians who fill the papers with absurd secrets for long life.

One old woman says smoking a corn cob pipe did it; another says scrubbing floors was responsible. One man says riding a horse gave him longevity; another never getting more than a few hours' sleep.

After a while the truth begins to dawn that they know no more about it than anyone else, but they can't admit it.

The old negro who said the secret of his long life was "Because I was born so far back," gave as valuable, and a much more honest answer than most old people who divulge the secret of their longevity.

Also consider the distinguished fellow citizen, the specialists who have become famous in a single line, the inventors, automobile manufacturers, millionaires and novellists who gave oracular worthless opinions on education, history and religion, whether they have ever given them any study or not.

Why is it that so few people are able to admit the self-evident fact that they don't know.

Having time to think it over I am able to admit that I don't know.

But, if some day a reporter pulls out a pencil and interviews me suddenly on the subject undoubtedly I will be able to give a number of plausible, fine-sounding answers.

### Editorial Comment

#### WHAT DID SEATTLE GET?

The question has been asked: Who made Seattle's street car problem? The answer is: The politicians who wanted the city to own the lines, and who got the people to buy them on a theory that the city could operate them cheaper than a private company.

While the politicians are responsible for the problem, the people will have to pay the bill for this political experiment which cost \$15,000,000 to start with; on top of \$3,500,000 lost in taxes since the city owned the lines. Other taxpayers have had to make up this \$3,500,000, besides paying one of the highest street car fares in the United States—10 cents a ride or three rides for a quarter—instead of five cents as promised by the politicians.

It would be hard for anyone to point to one single advantage which Seattle has derived from this costly experiment. The disadvantages which have resulted are so apparent that they should be an object lesson to every person who can profit by the experiment of others.

### 1925-26 CITRUS CROP SMASHES ALL RECORDS IN VOLUME & RETURNS

Exchange Annual Report Shows \$98,023,031 Returned To California

Los Angeles, Nov. 18.—California's citrus industry, during the 1925-26 season marketed its largest crop with greatest returns ever made to the state, and did this in the face of an abnormally large production of practically all other competing fruits, again demonstrating the advantageous position of California growers due to their many years of aggressive sales and advertising campaigns, according to the annual report of General Manager Dezell of the California Fruit Growers Exchange released today.

Based on Exchange returns, the total California citrus crop amounted to \$98,023,031 f. o. b. California, with a delivered carload value of \$135,218,641, the difference of \$37,195,610 representing freight and refrigeration charges. The Exchange alone did a delivered business of \$97,662,552, with returns to Exchange shippers amounting to the record sum of \$79,744,728. Total shipments for the state equalled 63,644 carloads.

Mr. Dezell calls attention to the unusual combination of maximum production and maximum returns to growers made by this cooperative organization during the past year in which the agricultural situation has been one of the serious national problems.

Exchange shipments for the season totaled 46,593 actual carloads, 34,083 cars of oranges and grapefruit and 12,510 cars of lemons. This is an increase in Exchange volume of approximately 4,000,000 boxes over last year, and about 1,000,000 boxes over the previous greatest year, 1923-24.

This record year brings total returns to Exchange shippers for the past 23 years to the tremendous sum of \$737,000,000.

### CHINESE CRUEL PEOPLE SAYS LIEUTENANT R. O. T. C.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Oregon, Nov. 18.—(Special)—The Chinese are the cruelest and most heartless of peoples and have no pity for any one, not even members of their own race, believes Lieut. George Herbert, formerly of Baker, assistant professor of military science at the University, after witnessing a Chinese execution. Lieut. Herbert, who spent three years in China, was transferred to the local R. O. T. C. this fall.

In describing the execution, Lieut. Herbert said that four Chinamen, representing themselves as members of the military forces, tried to steal a cart. They were sentenced to punishment the next morning.

"The men were paraded in carts on which was a placard announcing that they were atrocious criminals who would be executed at ten o'clock in the morning. Showing absolutely no emotion, the convicted men acted as if the whole affair was a mere joke," Lieut. Herbert said.

After the parade, they were taken to the execution stand in the center of the city. They were forced to kneel and the executioner drew a knife which was two feet long and about four inches wide and very heavy and sharp. Without hesitation he severed the heads of the criminals. More than 20,000 persons witnessed the execution, and great cheers arose at each stroke of the knife. Through some clever manipulation of the executioner, the head of the last victim was tossed several feet in the air," Lieut. Herbert said.

The cheers aroused by this feat could be compared with applause that greets Babe Ruth when he hits a homer, according to Lieut. Herbert.

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