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GENERAL NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST TO HEPPNER PEOPLE

Roseburg—Owing to several recent incidents endangering citizens' lives, for the past 12 months have totaled over \$500,000.

Due to the enterprise of the Bell system, the whole United States may be enabled to hear President Wilson's inaugural speech on March 5, over the long distance telephone.

Portland—Improvements on the North Bank, Oregon Electric, Oregon Trunk and the United Railways lines

Gresham—The fruit cannery here is to be rebuilt and is also to handle vegetables.

Eugene is to have a cheese factory if the quantity of milk is available.

Astoria—The port commission is to build a new dredge, to be used to improve the Skipanon river.

Heavy Snowstorms Often Cause Bent and Twisted Trunks.

To the person who is not versed in forest lore the grotesquely bent tree trunks that are to be found in almost all woods are a mystifying, and wonder is often aroused as to the cause.

Foresters will tell questioners that in the case of trees in mountainous country and other sections where the snowfall is heavy the weight of snow is responsible in most instances for the queer twists they assume.

When a tree is young the weight of snow that falls on its branches often bends the trunk over until it is flattened to the ground. Sometimes it is buried under six or eight feet of snow and held in that position so long that when warm weather comes the tree fails to spring back into its normal position.

The summer sun causes the tip of the young tree to turn upward, and if it manages to withstand the weight of the snow of the next winter that portion of the tree will, as a general rule, continue to grow in a normal way. "Hatpin" bends and other odd shapes result.

A curious tree stands on the top of Tunnel hill, Johnstown, Pa., about four miles from town. It is a sugar maple about 100 years old, which has prolonged its own life by grafting a branch into a much younger tree.—Popular Science Monthly.

VAMPIRE BATS OF PERU.

These Bloodsucking Animals Have Bulldog Heads.

On the morning after our arrival at San Miguel bridge (Peru) the pack mules nearly all showed blood blotches on their withers and backs, where they had been attacked during the night by vampire bats which had fed on their blood. This bat, *Desmodus rotundus*, is plentifully distributed throughout Peru in altitudes below 10,000 feet.

It is one of the most highly specialized species of existing bats. The lower jaw is decidedly undershot, and the head, with its short cropped ears and broad muzzle, has a strikingly bulldog appearance. The legs are well developed and rather heavy, enabling the animal to move fairly rapidly on the ground, in which situation it is by no means the shuffling, helpless creature like many other bats. If molested when thrown to the ground it will turn and bite savagely.

The teeth are a highly modified cutting apparatus for making incisions in the skins of mammals and birds.

In habits they are sociable and are commonly found living in caves or tunnels, suspended from the ceiling in clusters often of immense size.—National Geographic Magazine.

MISSISSIPPI: HAD MELS.

When It Was a Sandy Desert With a Tropical Climate.

The geology of mountain regions is generally more difficult to master than that of plains, because the rocks have been more broken and tilted about, but the geology of certain parts of Mississippi is almost as difficult as that of a mountainous region, because certain widely distributed formations bear few definite identification marks, particularly remains and impressions of plants and animals that lived at the time the deposits were formed.

A peculiar sandstone, which geologists have called the Catahoula sandstone, has been studied with care by G. C. Matson and E. W. Berry of the United States geological survey, department of the interior, who have been able to identify and follow the sandstone by means of the remains of plants.

Among the plants found were pines, ferns, leaves of date palms, tropical myrtles, figs, and a tree closely related to the present day Mexican and Central American sapota, from which most of the material for chewing gum is obtained. These fossil plants show that at the time the sandstone was formed—perhaps 5,000,000 years ago—the climate of this region was tropical, and bones of camels found by other geologists in the region and the similarity of the sand composing the sandstone to certain tropical desert sands have a similar implication.—Geological Survey.

THE KNOTTY FOOD PROBLEM.

A Scientist Finds Its Solution In a Nutty Proposition.

Leave it to the bewhiskered old boys of science, they of the square spectacles and ear muffs, and this world will be pulled through its rather precarious existence. Some time ago somebody who needed the money wrote an alarmist article for a magazine, stating that in a very short time—in fact, within 8,000,000 or 9,000,000 years—the earth's food supply would be entirely exhausted.

This set all the scientists going like gyroscopes, and in the dizzy whirl of investigation some very interesting things came to light. It was up to the scientists to find something for the people to eat 8,000,000 or 9,000,000 years hence. It was not wholly a new problem. Scientists long ago evolved the scheme of sawing up timber into breakfast food and said that a man could go forth with a bucksaw and get enough sawdust out of a fence rail to keep himself and his family supplied for some time.

One learned scientist thinks that he has solved the problem for all time. He says that the nut trees could in a pinch supply food for the entire world. This knotty question has become a nutty question and one which he has apparently solved. Those who are on earth now should be of good cheer. They will not have to starve 8,000,000 years hence.—Topeka State Journal.

Like a Scene From the Middle Ages.

The oldest and largest university in the world is El-Azhar at Cairo. Founded in 975, it has been from the start a national institution, the khedive being the rector. The minimum age of entrance is fifteen, and the applicant must know half the Koran by heart—if blind, the whole Koran—and be able to read and write. The curriculum consists of virtually nothing but theology and canon law, the final examination fifteen years after matriculation being upon these, together with traditions of the prophet, Grammar, etymology, rhetoric and logic. It is the same instruction which has prevailed for centuries, and one who goes into the great court where the circles of students are sitting at the feet of their Gamaleis looks upon a scene preserved from the middle ages, "a perfect specimen, living, breathing and entire."

A Request.

"I shall never forget," says the eminent man of wealth during the course of his little speech on "How to Become as I Am," "I shall never forget how I saved my first hundred dollars."

At the juncture a weary individual in the audience, who has heard this story many times and has read it many times more, interrupts:

"Well, if you can't forget it, for heaven's sake give the rest of us a chance to."

Why He Did Not Know.

"Papa, what is a bricklayer?" asked Harry.

"Now, what a silly question!" said his father. "What makes you ask questions like that, son? Any fool would know."

"Yes; but, papa," said Harry, "I ain't a fool."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Individuality.

To each intellect belongs a special power. We belong to ourselves, and we lose control of our own when we try to be some one else. The original mind is a magnetic center for the attraction of other minds. But the lone stone loses nothing by attraction. It remains the same.

Boys and Raize.

"Everybody emits rays. An angry man emits violet rays; a contented person emits pinkish rays."

"Sounds interesting. I wonder if my boss would emit a ten dollar raise of salary?"—Exchange.

Opposites.

Wigg—I suppose we "ould all marry our opposites. Wagg—no, but there is no reason why a man with a future should marry a woman with a past.—Philadelphia Record.

SEED BARLEY FOR SALE

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At the Eastern Oregon Jack Farm, seven miles northeast of Lexington, a few sacks of this late, improved hulless barley, which I am anxious to get a few sacks each into the hands of as many Morrow County farmers as my limited supply will furnish. An article in another part of this paper, telling of my experience with this grain, will convince all of its peculiar adaptability in Morrow County, where it surpasses all other grain in yield and has no equal made into hay. Address,

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CURIOUS COINCIDENCE.

Story of a Lucky Stone and a Trio of Accidents.

George F. Kunz, the well known gem expert, relates this little story of a lucky stone and the adventures of its owners: "Some years ago a meteorite was given to Edward Heron Allen, the famous writer on palmistry and the violin, and this gifted man always wore it about him. One morning he awakened to find that the entire roof above him had fallen in except just that portion over his bed.

"He told the story to one of the best known ladies in Boston, one who is known for her public spirit, her love of art and her faultless manner of entertaining. This lady successfully urged Allen to give her the meteorite. "A few days later while out driving a great truck with two runaway horses attached to it struck her carriage. Instantly she raised her muf to protect her face. The muf was almost cut in two, but the lady was not hurt. A few days later while she was walking under some scaffolding it fell, and the open part where the hoists went up proved to be just where she stood. Although surrounded by ruin, she remained unharmed."

Whether the stone was a factor in averting disaster to its owners in their moments of peril is, however, a matter apart from the facts in the case.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

HE KEPT THE TOOL.

And Prized It Because It Had Never Done Dirty Work.

"I was throwing up dirt from an excavation in the pavement one day," said an old laborer, "when a little old chap with white hair stopped to look on. I was as big as two of him. After a minute or two I rested on my shovel and looked up at him. Said I:

"If you had to do work with a shovel for your living you'd starve to death before you could make a trench deep enough to bury you in."

"I thought that was a smart thing to say, and I laughed. Then he answered me. He was a slow speaking man with a sort of drawl.

"I might starve—as—you—say," he said, "and yet I—have—a—trade—in which I use—a—tool very much—like—yours. In fact—many people—who—work at my trade—use—the—tool—to—shovel dirt and fill—with—as—you—do—with—yours. This—is—the—tool!"

"He handed me a steel pen.

"Is it a joke?" I asked.

"It—is—a—tool—to—make—them—with," he nodded. "That—is—part—of—my—trade. My name—is—Twin—Mark Twain."

"I have the pen yet," concluded the laborer, "and no dirt was ever shoveled with it."—New York Globe.

Rulers of England.

The first to rule over all England was Egbert, king of Wessex, who united all the various petty kingdoms and became king of England in 827. The greater kingdom was disrupted from 878 to 928 when the Danes ruled north of the Thames. In the latter year King Edward reunited the kingdom, and since that time it has never been partitioned. Between Edmund Ironside (1016) and Edward the Confessor (1042) three Danish kings ruled all England—Canute, Harold I. and Hardeknute. The first king of Great Britain was James I. (1603). The first king of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was George III. From the conquest of Ireland in 1172 by Henry II, the kings of England were styled lord of Ireland until the assumption of the title king of Ireland by Henry VIII, and thereafter this title was used until the act of union in 1801. The imperial sovereignty of India was assumed by Queen Victoria.

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- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Five Head of Mares, | One Wood Frame Harrow, |
| Four Head of Work Horses, | One Gang Plow, |
| Two Cows, | One Disc, |
| One Steer, Yearling, | One Fanning Mill, |
| Twelve Mules, | One Chop Mill, |
| Three Wagons, | Three Sets of Harness, |
| Two Racks, | And various other small tools |
| One Hack, | And Implements. |
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