

FIRE MARSHALS ON INSPECTION VISIT

The fire situation in the town of Gresham is being investigated this week by three deputy fire marshals sent out from the office of A. C. Barber, state fire marshal. Geo. W. Stokes is in charge of the work of examining the fire department equipment, testing the water system, and examining all the fire fighting facilities. Mr. Stokes is a man of wide experience in this line having been for a number of years a captain of one of the Portland fire departments.

Gilbert Allen will investigate the legal phase of the situation, examining the town ordinances, making such recommendations as may be needed.

In charge of the educational side of the question is Horace Sykes who will speak in the schools on the subject of fire prevention. Mr. Sykes has a home questionnaire which will be used in connection with the schools department. Parents are urged to help the children in filling out these questionnaires. It is to the best interest of the town, for every one to cooperate with these men for the bettering of conditions of fire prevention.

A state law requires that the fire insurance companies operating in the state pay a small percentage of their receipts into a fire prevention fund which is used to keep up the office of the state fire marshal.

This office sends deputies out to every town and city in the state to inspect and recommend improvements in local fire fighting facilities. There is no expense to the town, all expenses being paid from this fund and it is a distinct benefit to have men of such wide experience inspect conditions here and make their report.

"Every dollar burned is a dollar lost." This is a slogan that should be used extensively. Every piece of property that is burned is gone forever from the wealth of the land. In the state of Oregon \$300,000 is being lost every month by fire, most of which is preventable.

"Uncleaned flues and carelessness in handling of gasoline" says Mr. Sykes, "are two of the most preventable and frequent causes of fire. The facts is, carelessness would prevent almost all of the \$317,000,000 annual fire loss of the United States."

Every one is aware of the danger of chimney fires but still flues are left uncleaned until they become a menace not only to the individual property but to the surrounding buildings. As gasoline is coming more and more into general use for many purposes, it is becoming one of the greatest fire hazards of the present day. "Familiarity breeds contempt and people are so used to handling gasoline that they forget that it is a dangerous explosive. One pint of gasoline, vaporized is sufficient to wreck a large building if it should be ignited."

Carelessness in leaving matches in reach of small children cost the life of 35 small children in the northwest states during the year of 1918! This is a statement that should strike home to every mother in the state."

According to Mr. Sykes the per capita fire loss in the United States is \$2.72 as compared with \$5.3 in England, \$32 in France, \$22 in Germany, and only \$0.8 in Austria.

While the use of lumber in construction, is a factor contributing to the higher figures for the United States, it is significant that the fire hazard diminishes as public sentiment becomes approved. In Austria where the fire hazard is the lowest it is considered a criminal offense to have one's house burn. It is a common law among those countries having the lowest fire loss that a man whose house burns should pay all the public expenses connected with the disaster unless he can prove, to the satisfaction of the officials that it could not have been prevented. Thus it is, that prevention becomes a keyword in those countries.

The Meaning of the Changed Calendar.

"The Meaning of the Changed Calendar" is that the irresistible instinct of the world recognized the birth of Christ as the starting point of its higher life. "Only one event towers high enough above the horizon of history to serve as a landmark and a time-measure for all civilized races." This is a sign that the centuries belong to Christ, and a prophecy of the coming hour when all that time represents bear His signature.

The Christmas season turns all our thoughts to that great event. The best preparation for Christmas is that of heart. Find your way to the church to worship the Christ.

The Sunday morning sermon will be on: "The Incarnation, the Pivotal Point in Human History." Miss Mary Hansen will sing a solo at this service.

The Methodist Episcopal church, the Home Church that Serves the Community.

Mrs. Joe Douglass and two children, of Estacada, are visiting with Mrs. L. Arthur and Mr. and Mrs. Claude Stockton.

VIOLETS CAUSE OF ORDER FOR FERTILIZER BOOKS

The Library owns a violet bed—set out several years ago through the generosity of Mrs. Parsons.

"Those violets should be moved," quoth the librarian. "I must get some fertilizer."

She approached a dairyman. But he shook his head.

"Need it all myself."

Then she tried a small farmer. Again a shake of the head.

"Used it all on my corn patch."

The next was another farmer.

"Sorry, but can't let you have it. Could use twice what I've got myself."

Still undismayed the librarian sought out the agricultural teacher at the high school.

"Tell me where do you get fertilizer?"

"Down the road at Mr. ———'s," was the reply. "But it was full of clover seed."

"I don't care if it has a bushel of clover to the cubic yard. I must have some," cried the librarian.

Forth to the phone she fared to try Mr. ———. But again the old refrain,

"Could use more than I have."

The librarian hung up the receiver and snatched a book on fertilizers. She is asking for more books on fertilizers. If this county cannot spare a wheelbarrow load for a violet bed it is time we all become informed on the subject of how to get more fertilizers.

FARMER MAY HAVE ELECTRICAL PLANT

Hessel's Machinery company are agents for the Fairbanks & Morse Morelight plants for home use. There are a number of these electrical plants in eastern Multnomah giving very satisfactory service and with the many improvements which have been made this year indications are that a great many new plants will be installed next year. Storage batteries are used which are charged with a small kerosene engine 1½ horse power. The mechanics has been so perfected that the engine starts by pressing a button. With this plant installed on a farm it brings all the conveniences of city life to your door. The first cost of \$3.50 is very moderate considering the convenience and the up-keep is very small.

No longer need the farmer's wife do without the vacuum cleaners, electric lights, irons, etc., which she has envied her city sister. Electricity, the wonder worker, will be at the farmer's command in the future.

Another of the modern labor savers which Hessel carries is the Case and International tractors of which almost a score are already in use near Gresham. This machine is used for any field work as plowing, harrowing, disking and any belt pulley work. As the engine is controlled by a governor this machine is adapted to any work where an even power is required.

With many other attractive lines of machinery the Hessel Machinery company is ready to meet the demands of the year to come.

NEW BUSINESS FIRM AT OLD LOCATION

After January 1 the general grocery and feed business now being conducted by A. W. Metzger in his fine new building on Powell and South Roberts avenue will change to the ownership of A. W. Metzger & Co., the other members of the firm being W. C. Metzger and W. B. Thorne.

No apparent change will be made in the conduct of the business, however, as both Will Metzger and Mr. Thorne have been employed in the store for many months. Indeed, Will was practically the head of the business during the months when his brother was in the service in France.

NEWS OF WEDDING SURPRISE TO FRIENDS

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Peterson are receiving the congratulations of their friends upon their marriage which occurred in Hillsboro, Nov. 29. News of the wedding was not discovered until this week.

Mrs. Peterson, who was formerly Miss Grace Underwood, has been employed in the local telephone all fall. She is the daughter of Mrs. Nichols of Stevenson, Washington, and has been living until recently at the home of her grandfather, Jim Hite, of Boring.

Mr. Peterson is well known among the younger set in Gresham. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Peterson.

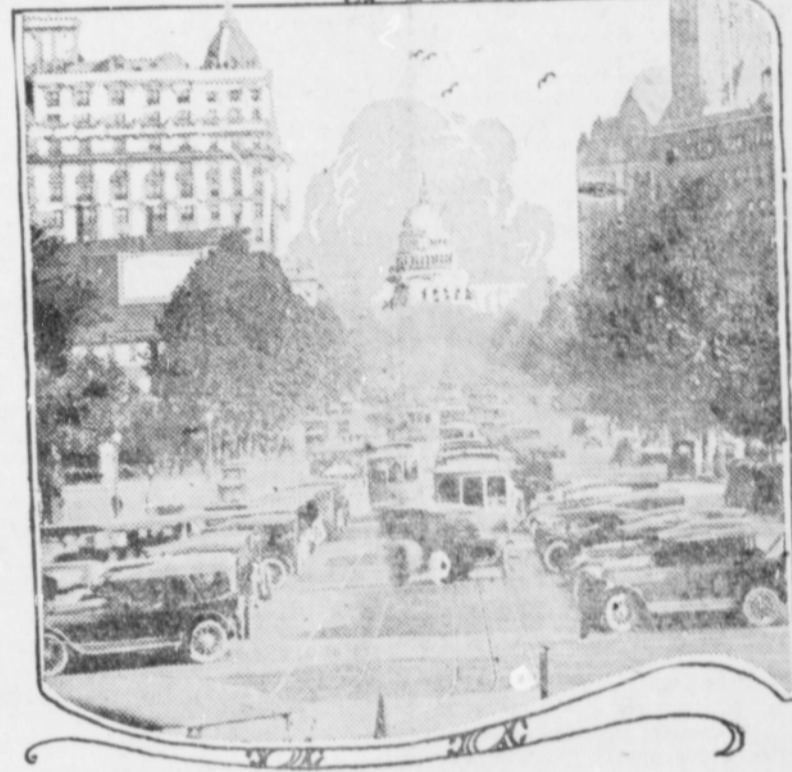
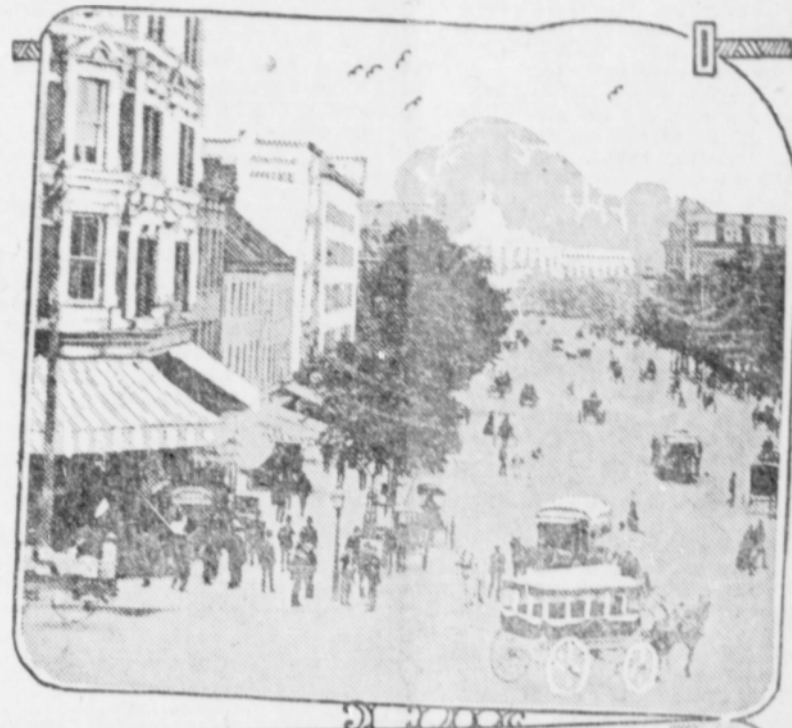
Mr. and Mrs. Peterson will make their home in Gresham where Mr. Peterson is employed by the Standard Oil Co.

A few extra copies of the Christmas Outlook may be had for the price of 5 cents each. Speak early for they won't last long.

You can't expect to spend all your life making dollars and expect to "make" Heaven.

Refer to the Christmas Outlook when you do your Christmas shopping.

Growth at Capital Between Wars



Here are two interesting pictures which show development in civic life in the last twenty years—Washington, D. C., being an example. The upper picture was taken at the close of the Spanish-American war—about 1899. The lower picture is a new one—the same street—famous Pennsylvania-av—at the close of our world war. Both pictures were taken from the steps of the United States Treasury.

GRESHAM WOMAN DIES AT KENNEWICK, WASH.

Word was received last Friday, December 12, by Arza Smith, of the death of his mother, Mrs. Charity Smith, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Sarah E. Dorothy, at Kennewick, Washington, after a brief illness.

Mrs. Smith was a familiar figure in Gresham for several years past, where she has spent the summers at the homes of Arza Smith and Lester Spencer. The winter climate of western Oregon was trying on her health, and she has been accustomed to go to eastern Washington to remain with her daughters during the winter months. She has been in feeble health for some time and a week before her death suffered a fall which is thought to have hastened her end. She was loved by all who knew her here for her gentle disposition and consistent Christian life.

Funeral services were conducted at the Kennewick Methodist Episcopal church last Sunday and the remains were laid to rest in the River View Heights cemetery at that place. The following obituary was read at the funeral:

Charity Maria Cooper was born in Mercer county, Ohio, April 13, 1841. She was converted and joined the United Brethren church at about 13 years of age. She transferred her membership to the Methodist church about 30 years ago.

While still a girl she moved to Missouri with her parents. She was married March 21, 1858, to J. S. Smith, and soon afterward moved to Monroe county, Iowa, where they lived on a homestead until 1885. Then they came to Washington territory and took up a claim in Yakima county between Mabton and Bickleton. Mr. Smith died there in November 1897. Since that time Mrs. Smith has made her home with her children. She died at the home of Robert Dorothy, Kennewick, Washington, December 12, 1919, at the age of 78 years and eight months.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, of whom one died in infancy, and another, Mrs. Hattie Spencer of Gresham, Oregon. The surviving children are Mrs. Sarah E. Dorothy of Kennewick; Mrs. Emma Randall of Walla Walla, and Arza Smith of Gresham, Oregon. She is also survived by one sister, Mrs. Mahala Murphy of Walla Walla, one brother, William Cooper of Lake Bay, Washington, and by nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

YOUR UNCLE SAM URGES INVESTMENTS FOR XMAS

To the Editor Gresham Outlook: A communication from the director of War Loan organization states that government statistics show that the people of the United States are spending daily in Christmas shopping for luxuries \$165,000,000. For the shopping days of December this would approximate the appalling sum of three and one-half billion dollars. The government views such a terrific squandering of money at this time as a serious menace to our economic and social stability.

We are asked to take up with newspapers and to lay the facts before them and the attitude of alarm with which the leading financiers, bankers, economists—and business men of the county view the present orgy of extravagance. The government strangely recommends the giving of War Savings Stamps and Treasury Saving Certificates as Christmas presents.

The First State Bank has disposed of over \$5,000 War Savings Stamps and Treasury Savings Certificates during the month of December and urges its customers and others to use Treasury Savings Certificates as Christmas presents. Extravagance will not make conditions better in this country; economy and savings will.

FIRST STATE BANK, Gresham, Oregon.

SWEEPSTAKES WON BY LOCAL POULTRYMAN

D. T. Williams, of Greenacre Poultry Farm, near Pleasant Home on a Boring route, exhibited two dozen eggs at the Oregon Poultry and Pet Stock show held in Portland this week and now finds himself the owner of three high awards. One blue ribbon for the best dozen commercial eggs, second place in the freak eggs division and the most important premium of all, the sweepstakes offered by the association.

Mr. Williams says he did not expect any such awards but entered the contest because he felt that the poultry show should be encouraged. He did not know of the honors which his fine flock of Leghorns had brought him until Thursday when he visited the show and found himself the object of much congratulation. Upon looking up his exhibit he found a card signed by Professor Brewster of O. A. C., declaring that entry the best dozen eggs of the lot.

Mr. Williams started his poultry farm about five years ago and now has about 700 layers. These hens were trapped last year and are selected stock. They are of the Cyther strain from Buffalo.

Now that they no longer teach German in the schools, what would be the chance to get them to teach English?

CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR ARMENIANS

To save the lives of 800,000 people in Armenia and other western Asian countries and to care for more than 250,000 orphans who are homeless these former President William Howard Taft, Henry Morgenthau, former ambassador to Turkey, and Alexander J. Hemphill, the New York banker, as members of the Executive Committee of Near East Relief, the former American Committee on Armenian and Syrian Relief, have issued a Christmas appeal for continued support of this organization and its work.

Near East Relief is now operating under a government charter and is practically alone in the western Asian field, the Red Cross several months ago having announced its withdrawal.

The Christmas letter, a classic of its kind, is as follows:

"Dear Friend—Another little child has shriveled up and died. The mother, creeping back, gaunt and cold, from the desert, has put down the thin little bones with those that strew the road and has sunk beside them, never to rise again. Only a little child and a mother out on the bleak Armenian road! But what is that vision hovering there and what is that voice the cold winds bear to the ears of our souls—I was hungry and ye gave me no meat; I was naked and ye clothed me not."

"Today—yes, today—while we are preparing our gifts for Christmas, many more of these little children—not a hundred nor a thousand, but 250,000 of them—are still wandering uncared for and alone in that dead land, their weakened skins clinging in fear to their rattling bones; and they are crying out with gasping breath, 'I am hungry, I am hungry!' And the voice of one who watches us as we prepare gifts to celebrate his birthday comes again to the ears of our souls—I am hungry! I am hungry!! I am hungry!!!"

"Now, the children and the mothers in Armenia are dreading the winter. Just human remnants they are, not protected, many of them, from the elements by even the dignity of rags. The most favored have merely shrunken rags. How shall we sing our Christmas songs and laugh and light the candles and give beautiful gifts while that pleading voice cries in the ears of our souls, 'I am naked and cold—naked and cold?'"

"But we can feed and clothe these perishing ones—some of them—before it is too late. Herbert Hoover has called from the Caucasus. 'It is impossible that the loss of 200,000 lives can at this day be prevented, but the remaining 500,000 can possibly be saved.' They need not starve and freeze and die if we will save them. In the name of him who saw the multitude as sheep not having a shepherd and was moved with compassion toward them, who exclaimed when his disciples would turn them away, 'They need not depart, give ye them to eat!' open your heart and purse and give to these Christians whom he loves, who are suffering for him and with whom he is suffering. They need not die. Give ye them to eat."

"Fifteen dollars a month will provide food, clothes, shelter and education toward self support for one orphan child. Ten dollars a month will provide food, clothes and shelter for one orphan child. Five dollars a month will provide food for one orphan child. He fed 5,000 hungry people in the wilderness and said to his followers, 'The things that I do shall ye do also, and greater things than these shall ye do.' Today nearly 800,000 destitute Armenians—his people—need food and clothing."

"He took little children in his arms and blessed them. Today will you take one or more of these sad, cold, hungry little children of Armenia into your arms and heart in his name and give them food and warmth and life? What a joyful Christmas it will be when with your songs and your laughter you hear a voice of wondrous sweetness speaking to you, 'O, ye blessed of my Father, I was hungry and ye gave me meat, I was naked and ye clothed me; inasmuch as ye have done it to these, my brethren, ye have done it to me.'"

"In his name. Faithfully yours, WILLIAM H. TAFT, ALEXANDER J. HEMPHILL, HENRY MORGENTHAU."

For Executive Committee, Near East Relief.

Ellsworth Raker was the unfortunate victim of a peculiar accident a few days ago. A piece of the wood which he was chopping, flew up striking him over the eye, inflicting a severe cut. It was necessary to take several stitches to close the wound.

Christmas Turkeys.

All neighbors of Camp No. 77 W. O. W., having requisitions for Christmas turkeys, and all others requiring poultry for Christmas are requested to place their orders early. BROWN'S GRESHAM MARKET.

If you put all your eggs in one basket and take it to market take along another basket to bring home the money.

A painted face is often beautiful—if it's on canvass.

A FEW DON'TS FOR CHRISTMAS

- Don't court indignation.
- Don't grumble, whatever you do.
- Don't half fill the kiddies' stockings.
- Don't give presents which will be useless.
- Don't forget the mistletoe. Romance still lives.
- Don't forget that it ought to be a merry Christmas.
- Don't deny the little ones' ideas about Santa Claus.
- Don't worry about unpaid bills—at any rate until tomorrow.
- Don't scoff at the lingering superstitions of the good old days.
- Don't for the show of things, buy presents which you can't afford.
- Don't expect too many presents. Take what you get and be thankful.
- Don't, if you get up on your wrong side, make everybody else miserable.
- Don't forget to think at least once during the day what Christmas really means.
- Don't give a present unless you want to. Better not give at all than give insincerely.
- Don't forget that the giving of Christmas boxes, like charity, should begin at home.
- Don't, if you are a girl, stand under the mistletoe until you see the right chap approaching.
- Don't kiss somebody else's best girl, even though she is under the mistletoe. There might be a row.
- Don't work on Christmas day if you can avoid it. If you have to, however, don't make a song about it.
- Don't give Johnnie a trumpet and Peter a whistle and expect to have a quiet time. It's unreasonable.
- Don't put off buying presents until the last minute. You'll get better value and avoid the crush if you shop early.
- Don't send an electric runabout to a freezing widow with five starving children. This is like throwing a rope of pearls to a drowning man.
- Don't look pained when somebody tells a fifty-year-old Christmas story. That's one of the unavoidable circumstances of the festive season.
- Don't give a new song to some one who doesn't sing; but be still more certain that you don't give a new song to some one who imagines he can sing.
- Don't refrain from giving because you can't afford to give much. The intrinsic value of a gift counts for nothing. It is the thought which prompts the matter.
- Don't let the wife give you a Christmas present in the form of cigars. If she persists in doing so, don't smoke—give them away again, without letting her know about it, of course.

CHRISTMAS PEACE AND JOYS.

By BERNARD MULRINE.

"Christ is born," the angels sing,
"Hasten to Bethlehem far away,
Rest not, tarry not, tidings of joy,
Is borne from heaven to earth.
Star of the east points the way,
There you will find a king,
Mankind is truly blessed, for there
A babe in wondrous state,
Shall gladden your eager eyes."

Perhaps the shepherds who heard the news,
Exclaimed, "Can this be true?"
And turning, Eastward gazed,
Crept from their flocks amazed,
Echoed the angel's strain.

And lo! they came to a stable old,
Noting with great surprise,
Down in the manger a lovely babe,Joined they in chant of praise,
Only a dream of hope fulfilled,
Yet gazing in raptured bliss,
Swifly kneeled and prayed.