

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Manager

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SWORN CIRCULATION: Daily average for eleven months ending November 30, 1911, 271.

Full Leased Wire United Press Dispatches.

The Mail Tribune is on sale at the Ferry News Stand, San Francisco, Portland Hotel News Stand, Portland, Bowman News Co., Portland, Ore., W. O. Whitney, Seattle, Wash.

MEDFORD, OREGON.

Metropolis of Southern Oregon and Northern California, and the fastest growing city in Oregon.

Population—U. S. census 1910—8840; estimated, 1911—10,000.

Five hundred thousand dollar Gravity Water System completed, giving finest supply pure mountain water, and 17.4 miles of streets paved.

Postoffice receipts for year ending November 30, 1911, show increase of 14 per cent.

Banner fruit city in Oregon—Rogue River Spitzenberg apples won sweepstakes prize and title of "Apple King of the World" at the National Apple Show, Spokane, 1909, and a car of Newtowns won First Prize in 1910.

at Canadian International Apple Show, Vancouver, B. C.

First Prize in 1911 at Spokane National Apple Show won by carload of Newtowns.

Rogue River pears brought highest prices in all markets of the world during the past six years.

JOLTS AND JINGLES

By Ad Brown

Spring "Come-Backs."

The joyous lay of hermit thrush; Anemones in shaded spot; A treedoad piping on a rush; And flies to swat!

—Youngstown, Ohio, Telegram.

The drowsy hum of honey bees; The daisy and the buttercup; 'Tis sweet to see the glad brook's sheen.

And then catch cold. —Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

The bright sun shines throughout the day; The fairies linger in the "holier;" Pan pipes a tune of melody—

By Jinx! There goes another collar. —Chico Enterprise.

A blaze of poppies in the grass, A wealth of slender bluebells too; One wanders happythen, alas, He finds a fox-tail in his shoe.

Our Vaudeville Show.

Ladies and gentlemen, the next number will be a song by Teddy Roosevelt entitled, "If you don't like the party that turns you down, then form a little party by yourself." This is one of our best little acts. Be sure and remain seated until the conclusion.

We Don't Believe It.

The Chicago Record-Herald opines that here and there one may meet a politician who doesn't believe he resembles Lincoln.

The fact that it was so hot in Tarrytown as to cause John D. to remove his straw hat and fan himself, is chronicled in 18 lines in the San Francisco Examiner. Who says we aren't a nation of hero worshippers?

With worlds to conquer, Like as not, The youth's excuse is "It's too hot."

Our Prize Contest.

Today we inaugurate a grand beauty contest, open to the ladies of Medford. What we wish to decide is whether the models in Ahren's window are more beautiful than those in Mann's. Don't overlook the blond in Kentner's nor the saucy brunette in Meeker's before turning in your answer. There is also a stately girl in the Golden Rule east window that should be considered. To the one who sends in the most votes we will give a handsome picture of an automobile (cut from the catalogue furnished by the maker). Get busy, this is your chance to win.

PLAN LONGEST AERIAL RACE AT LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, June 5.—The longest aerial race ever attempted on the Pacific coast to be held June 16 on a circular course around Los Angeles, is being considered today by Los Angeles and Long Beach aviators. The course would be over Los Angeles, Long Beach, Venice, Santa Monica, Ocean Park and San Pedro. Martin, Champion, Siffes, Carpenter, Williams, Dougherty and other birdmen probably will compete.

THE HIGH COST OF MEAT

THE federal government has begun inquiry into the high cost of meat, which is now retailing at a higher price than any time in the history of the United States, with the possible exception of the civil war period.

It costs more to live today than ever before. Prices average ten per cent higher throughout the nation for everything than a year ago. Trusts and the tariff are partially at fault, without question, while shortage in yields and increased consumption also play a part.

A New York dispatch asserts that food products are the highest on record. Meat, eggs, butter, fish, potatoes, coffee, tea, sugar, salt, molasses, rice, beans and peas average 22 per cent higher; wheat, corn, oats, barley, flour, etc., 33 per cent higher. Fruits are the only eatables cheaper, but are higher than in 1910. Leather products cost 12 per cent and chemicals and drugs 13 per cent more than a year ago. Textile goods, however, are a trifle cheaper.

The average increase in food products is nearly 20 per cent. The biggest advances have been in meat prices—beef, 26 per cent; hog products, 40 per cent, and mutton over 50 per cent.

At the Union Stock yards, Portland, choice steers bring \$6.75 to \$7.00; hogs sell at \$7.50; lambs at \$6.50 and ewes at \$3 to \$4.

In the Medford market, cows bring \$5.50, fancy steers \$7.00, pork \$6.50, veal, dressed, \$8.00, mutton \$3 to \$4, lambs \$5 to \$7.50.

The price fixed by the Union Meat Company to retailers for dressed beef at Medford is 12 cents a pound, but most of the local butchers kill their own livestock. Under the accepted scale, a beef averages 17 per cent loin, 10 per cent ribs, 26 per cent round and rump, 30 per cent chuck, 8 per cent plate, 3 per cent shank, 6 per cent trimmings. Under prevailing market quotations, the cost and selling price of beef per pound in Medford is as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Item, Wholesale, Retail. Items include Loin, Ribs, Round and rump, Chuck, Plate, Shank, Trimmings.

The retailer then sells at a gross average profit of \$50 on a 1000 lbs. of beef, or approximately 40 per cent. Out of this must come his rent, his delivery, his payroll, his taxes and his loss. Whether or not the margin is too great, and the net profit excessive, is something only the butcher himself can determine.

It is manifestly unfair to use the public market for the sale of meat except to the actual producer, for that was what the market was built for. To permit any professional butcher to enjoy its privileges to escape payment of rent and taxes is unfair to the established meat market.

Shortage is alleged as the cause of the increased cost of meat. But the producer does not seem to be getting his share of the increase. There is a wide margin between the 5 1-2 cents or less the producer receives and the price paid by the consumer.

The beef trust is without doubt, partially to blame for the present conditions. They bear the producers on the one hand, and raise the retailers on the other, and their example is followed by all the small slaughter houses in the country.

The meat sales at the public market shows that there is a great demand for cheaper prices in meat. If such a reduction is possible, the local butchers should make it, for high prices work a genuine hardship upon the public.

The Magazines and Current Topics

(From the International)

The technique of the scullery and the language of the kitchen hold sway among the mighty of the land and the art of government becomes subject to the tailor's measurement, to the sentimental essayist on friendship, to the avestruke tones of modern astrologers, and to loud shudders from protagonists of things as they have been. The odor of the Hun-dawg's kennel and unctuous soles invade our attempt to come to any clear understanding of the work with which we as citizens and electors are confronted. In consequence, the public and its obsequious servants, the magazines, have come ominously to discuss questions of bread and butter quite apart from the claims of the advertising association known as political parties.

Much of the comment on the candidates for presidential nomination and election is like the legendary appeal posted in a western saloon: Don't shot the pianist, he's doing his best. E. S. in the Atlantic finds in Mr. Roosevelt most of the things that other people have found in him, only less so. They include the preacher, the politician, the typical American, the partner of God in the possession of truth. He concludes in the manner of H. G. Wells in "The Future in America" with a reference to fighting hard and clean, etc. "Should Old Acquaintance be Forgotten?" is the touching caption of William Allen White's prose elegy in the American, one of a swarm of similar treatises on the temperament and its variations, what you owe to the man who got you the job, etc. Frank Parker Stockbridge in the World's Work characterizes Champ Clark as being accustomed to think in terms of Pike County, as friendly, alive to the value of advertising, and dead to the most important of the political and economic issues. McClure's tells of the Forests Behind Taft, the wholly alliance with the forces of anti-conservation and Senator Crane, and undue pressure on office holders. Hamp-

ton's prints a review of Governor Wilson's administration and the advanced legislation brought about by his efforts.

The most serviceable of these reviews of candidates is that in Everybody's, a short characterization of each of the six men, Wilson, Taft, Harmon, Clark, Roosevelt, Underwood, and a record as complete and as impartial as possible of their political achievement—from which it appears that a mere list of the formidable criticisms of President Taft makes bulky reading.

"The judicial history of our country presents a dignified, gradual unfolding of principles, a safe, stable, wise exposition of human rights, perhaps wrong in a few instances, but as a whole exhibiting great wisdom, justice and equity." Amen. God is good and the world is beautiful. The foregoing, incidentally, quoted from a plea in the Century against the Judicial Recall, is typical eulphous solace to a conservative soul such as joys in the awful word "menace" and trembles for the health of business. For the decisions "of learned judges, based upon facts elicited from sworn witnesses who have personal knowledge" one can turn to the fourth of C. P. Connelly's articles in Everybody's on "Big Business and the Bench." Wherein it appears that if labor were tried under the same terms as are accorded capital, the McNamara's would have been given, instead of a prison sentence, a gentle admonishment against further excesses of dynamite. Wherein, also, it appears that some of the supposed great victories against the robber barons of our industries were mere palaver; that there is an intimate connection between certain senators, the railroads, the tariff, and the high cost of living; that the Commerce Court sustains the relationship; that, according to our law, it is more economical for the railroads to kill foreigners than to injure them; that congress donates generously to the rail-

ART OF POISONING

Toxicology Made a Record in the Seventeenth Century.

SECRETS NOW HAPPILY LOST

It Was in Trying to Rediscover Them That Sainte-Croix, the Accomplice of the Notorious Mme. de Brinvilliers Met His Tragic Fate.

The basis of most poisons in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was arsenic. It was extremely easy to procure, the tests were easy to hide, and until Marsh's test was discovered about a hundred years ago its traces were difficult to discover. In the seventeenth century toxicology reached heights that it has never since attained. The laboratories of the poisoners in France and Italy contained secrets happily lost today.

The preparation of the poisons used during the reigns of Louis XIII. and XIV. may be briefly described. An animal was doctored with a dose of arsenic. After death the liquids of the body were carefully distilled, and the resultant was of extreme virulence, being composed of the virus of arsenic and the alkalis of decomposition. When the animal thus killed was credited with a bodily venom the distilled liquid was a concentration of three poisons instead of two. For this reason the toad was the favorite subject of experiment. This was the poison used by Mme. de Brinvilliers. Against it medical skill was almost helpless.

MYSTERY IN A CRATER.

An Arizona Puzzle That the Geologists Cannot Solve.

About forty miles from Flagstaff, Ariz., in the midst of a great plain, there is a saucer shaped hollow about three-quarters of a mile across and 900 feet deep. The rim of this strange crater rises between 150 and 200 feet above the surrounding plain. Rocky fragments are scattered for several miles around the crater. Among these rocks many fragments of meteoric iron, some containing minute black diamonds, have been found. The inner walls show that the crust of the earth was broken when the crater was formed, yet no volcanic rocks exist there.

Geologists have offered several theories to account for this singular phenomenon. One is that an immense meteorite made the hole and that the meteoric fragments just mentioned are remnants of the falling star.

Another theory ascribes the origin of the crater to a tremendous explosion of steam in the rocks beneath, and a third combines the first two by suggesting that the blow of a falling meteor, striking the earth's crust at a point where subterranean water had accumulated in the neighborhood of heated rocks, was the cause of the explosion.—New York Press.

Plants Breaking Up an Island.

The layman would scarcely associate great strength with so delicate and fragile a thing as meadowland fern, yet if its roots have not sufficient room they will break the pot in which the plant grows. Blades of grass will force the curbstones between which they spring up out of their place, and in a single night a crop of small mushrooms has been known to lift a large stone. Indeed, plants are on record as having broken the hardest rocks.

The island of Aldabra, to the northwest of Madagascar, is becoming smaller through the action of the mangroves that grow along the foot of the cliffs. They eat their way into the rock in all directions, and into the gaps thus formed the waves force their way. In time this will probably reduce the island to pieces.—London Telegraph.

Shaving the Bridegroom.

The shaving of the bridegroom on his wedding day is a Bulgarian custom which, handed down from pre-Christian days, is still observed with due formality, especially in country districts. While the barber is at his task a dancing crowd of young folks surrounds him and the bridegroom. As the latter's hair is cut the snippings are carefully collected by some of the girls for preservation in one of the bride's chests. The barber, when his work is done, receives a small white linen cloth as a present and also a trifling sum of money from each person there. Then the bridegroom kisses the hands of the girls, washes his face and dons his wedding dress, which must first be carefully weighed three times by one of the boys.

The Boston and New York Mail.

The first mail between New York and Boston was established in 1672. The letters were carried by a messenger, who was directed to "go and return as often as once a month." This monthly service seems to have been sufficient for some thirty years, when it was changed to a fortnightly service. In 1693 a well organized system of postoffices was established in Pennsylvania and in other localities.—New York American.

Brief Manual of Training.

A high school freshman wrote to a juvenile publication, earnestly inquiring what he should do to win a coming event in school athletics—the 100 yard dash.

"Run a little faster than the other fellows," wrote the editor in reply.—Youth's Companion.

No Chance.

"Mrs. Brown's husband tells his wife everything." "Maybe she makes it easy for him. You won't give me a chance to get a word in edgewise."—Detroit Free Press.

To accept good advice is to increase one's own ability.—Goethe.

Medford Printing company carry a full line of legal blanks.

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The list of monarchs whose deaths were attributed by popular gossip to the effect of poison is a long one. Catherine de' Medici was a known poisoner, surrounded by poisoners, and her two sons, Francis II. and Charles IX., were probably hurried to their end by the administration of drugs as well as by their feeble state of health. There are some grounds for the assertion that Louis XIII. died of poison. His mother, Marie de' Medici, was said to be the greatest poisoner of her age. The comment in Paris was that the king was well or ill as he agreed or quarreled with the queen mother. The state ministers ran desperate risks. Richelieu suffered from many curious illnesses. He knew his danger and took every precaution. Mazarin's death cannot wholly be explained by natural causes. The death of the sister of Charles II. of England is also a matter of mystery.

The chief accomplice of Mme. de Brinvilliers and perhaps actually the instigator of many of her crimes was Gaudin de Sainte-Croix, with whom a more sinister scandal does not cross the pages of the century.

He was sent to the Bastille, liberated and met his death before Mme. de Brinvilliers herself was brought to trial. The accounts of his end are conflicting and illuminating. According to one of them, Sainte-Croix was endeavoring to discover a poison the emanations alone of which would be able to kill. He had heard of the poisoned naphth with which the young Dauphin, elder brother of Charles VII. had wiped his face while playing at tennis and the contact of which alone was sufficient to kill. Then there was the gossip about the gloves belonging to Jeanne d'Albret, which had been prepared by one of the Italian poisoners in the train of Catherine de' Medici, a crime which was never brought home to its instigators. The secrets of these poisons had been lost, and Sainte-Croix wished to find them.

There came to pass one of those strange events which seem rather to be a punishment from heaven than an accident. At the moment when Sainte-Croix, leaning over his stove, watched his fatal mixture reach its highest state of intensity, the glass mask which covered his face and preserved him from the mortal exhalations which escaped from the liquor became unfastened and dropped off.

Sainte-Croix fell to the ground as if struck by a thunderbolt. After the death of Sainte-Croix Mme. de Brinvilliers took flight and found a refuge in London and afterward in the Netherlands. Her arrest was effected by stratagem, and she was brought back to Paris to stand trial. The most damaging testimony against her was that of the tutor, Braineourt, who had been in a measure her unwilling accomplice. In one part of his evidence the episode must have suggested to Dumas one scene between D'Artagnan and Lady de Winter described in "The Three Musketeers." Mme. de Brinvilliers was condemned and a full confession of her crimes was wrung from her by the application of the torture from the water. She remained seven hours in the torture chamber and she avowed all her crimes, but denied that she had any accomplices.

The trial, torture and execution of Mme. de Brinvilliers served as a useful lesson. Poison did not disappear, but its practitioners were taught to curb their unevilsent enthusiasms. The pursuits of astrology and alchemy waned for a time to reappear in the next century in the richest fruition in the person of that astonishing arch impostor, Cagliostro.—Bookman Review of "Mme. Brinvilliers and Her Times."

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