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Smudge Smoke

Prof. Long of Oregon State was here Thurs.-Fri. He was here last year, when Edward Carleton asked him 700 questions, and he answered them all correctly, as far as Edward knows.

The eves and morns are getting rather frigid around the edges, causing early rising citizens to step lively.

The bird shooting terminated Thurs. 43 Chinese pheasants were slain, and many barns wounded, in the fray, not to mention livestock, wood-peckers, and "No Hunting" signs.

Wall Street got its long and greedy fingers into several local wallets last week.

Hallowe'en passed pleasantly, without a home or hospital being dynamited. Hallowe'en comes but once a year, which seems to be enough.

Wm. Bates of the Clean Cut Cut-off shoppe is still debating the feasibility of becoming a golfer. Mr. Bates has been considering the matter for a year, and refuses to be rushed.

The weather continues congenial, and is being appreciated by all who have relations with it.

A flashy sign with a parrot on the east end, is punctuating the night to the great delight of H. Fiewher. Like all signs, it has a little red in it.

Bert Lageson has acquired a new igloo, where he plans to abide.

A few of the tougher house flies are still amongst us.

The high school football team drank the bitter dregs of defeat for the first time in six years last Saturday, a week. It was a bitter pill, but was staved off a long time. Like the Republican party, it was thought they were unbeatable. It ought to help the attendance, as many did not like to go and see Medford win, all the time. It was painful. The objectors can now go, and have the agony of coming out the little end of the horn, mixed with their pigskin. On the other hand, some like to see the home team win 1000 to 2, if they can.

Ed White has a new set of duds throughout, and looks nice.

The 4d headlights seen on the hill, se. of town, turned out to be an air mail beacon.

Sneezing and coughing has started, but has not become general yet in the theaters.

Over Nine Million Wash'gton Monument Visitors 14 Years

During the forty-one years that the Washington monument has been open to the public, 9,098,118 persons have visited it, recent figures show. The daily average has been 615 persons since 1888, and the greatest number in one day was 10,078, who went to the top on April 1, 1929. More than 2,500,000 energetic sightseers climbed to the top, while the remainder took the elevators.

TALENT SUNDAY CLASS HAS FAREWELL PARTY

TALENT, Ore., Nov. 2.—(Special.) A surprise party was given Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Commons at their home in Talent, Oct. 30, by their Sunday school class. Mr. and Mrs. Commons left Nov. 1 for their old home at Halsey, Oregon, for the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Newbry and wife and Earl Newbry and wife are in Portland this week where they are combining business with pleasure.

COLORADO FLIERS DIE IN CRASH OF AIRPLANE

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Nov. 2.—(AP) Charles Peterson, flying instructor for Ike's Peak Air Commerce, Inc., and Lamont Stoltenberg, student flier, were killed today in a crash near Granfield, Kan., telegraph information reaching here said.

Both men took off here today in an Eagle Rock plane for St. Louis.

Alaska shipped $17,885,850 worth of salmon to the United States in August of this year.

BUDGET COMMITTEE ACTION SHOULD BRING GOOD RESULTS

THE CITY BUDGET COMMITTEE should be something more than a mere rubber stamp to O. K. department appropriations. In cutting down the appropriations by $30,000, and bringing into sharp relief the administration of the city water commission and the city market, we feel the budget committee rendered a useful service. Public attention is now focused sharply upon these two important questions, and as a result the people will have a clear understanding of them both, which should lead to a more satisfactory situation supported by an informed public opinion.

By this we do not mean the budget committee recommendations should be blindly followed. In fact, in our opinion, the more the situation is studied, the more apparent it will be that the city market does not need elimination, but a complete reorganization; and that nothing should prevent the water commission from continuing its established policy of paying off and retiring water bonds, as every principle of good business management demands.

* * *

HAD the budget committee merely OKed the appropriations, however, without investigation or drastic action, things would probably have gone on from bad to worse, until the public market would have been forced out entirely, and prejudice against the water commission would have increased to a point where its usefulness would have been seriously impaired.

Now, however, with all the cards on the table, and the issues clearly joined, the City Council can act as intermediary and final judge, with the selection of a workable program, mutually satisfactory to both sides of the controversy, highly probable.

* * *

WHICH is all to the good. Politics, personal or local, should not enter this situation. It is entirely a business proposition and should be settled along business lines. We feel this will be the manner of final settlement, for the people of Medford will have no patience with any faction that places its pet schemes above the welfare of the city as a whole.

WATER BONDS MUST BE RETIRED

AS is usual in such situations, there are conflicting views, proceeding from the same facts. With all the facts determined, however, it should be possible to satisfactorily adjust the differences. And on matter there is—or should be—general agreement, namely:

THAT NOTHING SHOULD INTERFERE WITH THE REGULAR RETIREMENT OF OUR WATER BONDS.

The water commission maintains that these bonds can't be retired per schedule if this $30,000 reduction is made. For a portion of the money necessary for this retirement,—and which was allowed by the budget committee—will have to be used for carrying out certain contracts, particularly the purchase of real estate contiguous to the pipeline. They also regard the $14,000 appropriation for this year's contribution to the construction of the new city reservoir as essential.

* * *

NOW if this is true,—if the $27,000 reduction can't be made without preventing the retirement of water bonds—then, in our opinion it SHOULD NOT BE MADE. Any curtailment should start from absolute agreement that this bond payment and retirement must go on without delay or interruption.

Then from this common starting point, all expenditures which are not essential at the present time, or which can be delayed for another year, without material sacrifice, should be eliminated.

Within this category comes the new reservoir project. The water commission declares it is needed as necessary fire protection. The budget committee says it isn't so needed at the present time.

We believe final decision as to which is right can be safely left with Mayor Pipes and the City Council, acting as an intermediary between the conflicting groups.

RETAIN THE PUBLIC MARKET

ON another matter there should be almost as unanimous agreement, namely:

That the public market should not be abandoned at the present time, or until two alternative plans have been thoroughly tried out:

First—A complete reorganization of the market, under city control, or

Second—Transfer of the market to the County Grange, under its control.

A public market is not a money making proposition. It is a convenience to the public on one hand; and a help to local producers on the other. It should, however, be more nearly self-sustaining than has been the case in the past few years.

* * *

THERE was a time when merchants opposed the public market idea, on the ground of competition,—sometimes "unfair" competition. But that attitude has been pretty generally abandoned.

Successful public markets in other cities have not worked out that way. They have brought country people into the city, answered a demand not met by the established retail trade, and by passing cash around helped both the merchants and the truck gardeners.

We believe that either by reorganization or transfer to the Grange such a public market can be maintained in Medford. At least before the market is abandoned entirely, these alternative plans should be tried.

Hunters: Spare the Birds

This is the duck hunting season. Ten with guns are abroad. Wardens are watching them, but there are many, many hunters to each guardian of the law. Some of the hunters are ignorant of the laws; some are stupid. Too many, out to kill, and having poor success with ducks, shoot anything that flies. And as this is the migrating season not only for ducks, but for many birds that feed on destructive insects and weed seeds, these fall victims to the hunters' lust to kill.

Ralph Hodgson said it all in a few lines—the results of this witless slaughter:

I saw with open eyes
Singing birds sweet
Sold in the shops
For the people to eat;
Sold in the shops of
Stupidity Street.
I saw in vision
The worm in the wheat,
And in the shops nothing
For the people to eat;
Nothing for sale in
Stupidity Street.

Exactly. Nature's balance has already been upset by man's slaughter of his allies, the birds. In consequence our fields are ravaged by insects which the birds are too few to check. We import many of these pests from Europe, where indiscriminate killing has continued so long that birds are scarce. Thus we have the European corn borer, the Mediterranean fruit fly, the Japanese beetle and other pests foreign to America while our birds were numerous. Our small enemies who kill our trees and eat our crops propagate by the thousands and millions while our birds raise usually but one family a year. We have shot and trapped our birds, or driven them away; now we are using sprays, and importing parasites to prey on our insect enemies, and still the destroyers of our orchards, our forests and our fields multiply.

To kill our natural allies, the birds that destroy insects, is not only stupid; it is a long step toward human suicide, as scientists who study the bugs and their depredations have pointed out. Don't kill the birds; we need them; without them we are in danger, eventually, of losing the battle for man's supremacy on earth.

Ye Poet's Corner

AUTUMN FROSTS

Beautiful garden with blossoms so fair,
That fills my heart with delight;
Shall the frost-king come with ruthless hand,
And lay thee waste in a night?

Shall the buds and blossoms that fain would be
Kissed by the sun's bright ray,
Yield up their lives to the demon Frost,
And fade and die at break of day.

My heart will be sore when thou art gone,
Sweet friends of summer and spring.
Many, many hours you've whiled away,
And sweetest comforts did bring.

Mrs. C. Carey.

MISSISSIPPI DREDGE RESTS ON BOTTOM

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov. 2.—(AP)—The United States dredge Gamma, pride of the government's Mississippi river fleet, rested on the bottom of the river today near New Madrid, Mo., with one of her crew missing and the 39 others aboard probably owing their lives to the quick action of a passing river steamer in launching lifeboats.

The Gamma sank in 50 feet of water six miles north of New Madrid late yesterday. Captain John B. Brassell, master of the boat, in his report to the district headquarters here of the United tates engineers corps, said the cause of the accident was not immediately apparent.

Medford—Crater Lake Gateway.

Press Comment

SLY DIGS

As we understand the analysis of the football game here Saturday as given by the Oregonian sports writer, O. S. C. was able to win largely because Oregon university team had knocked Idaho into a cocked hat the week before and the Vandals had never recovered either their strength nor their spirit. It shows a fine spirit of cooperation, an "Oregon for Oregon" spirit, each for all and all for one, and when the little brother up at Corvallis is about to go against a big fighting machine like Idaho, why, the university just steps into the breach a week or so before and knocks the college adversary into a state of coma so that it can't come to in time for the O. S. C. game. We are very sorry the university team had not played Stanford the 12th instead of the 5th, for by the time O. S. C. got there on the 19th, Stanford seemed to have recovered from the jolt Oregon University gave it and put up a game fight. Of course, the same Portland authority who also predicted so much for Bagshaw's team, said that part of Idaho's handicap here was a soft field, but, of the two, we take it the bump given them by the university was the severest blow, but that the two were Too Much.

But it's fine to see this spirit of friendliness between the two schools which must be credited to the joint board of regents. Too bad the University didn't play Washington State last Saturday instead of playing Washington University. That would have left W. S. C. too dazed and dispirited to win from Oregon State next Saturday when the two teams clash in Portland. Now that the Oregon University has reformed and shows a friendly interest in O. S. C., we suggest that the next year's schedules be all arranged so that O. S. C. may have this big Oregon University team as a buffer thruout the season,—a sort of shock troops organization to go ahead and do the hard work which is rightfully theirs. To be sure, we would want something besides Pacific University, Willamette University and the University of California of L. A., which the Seattle P. I. said looked like a "set-up" schedule for Oregon, but, perhaps that could be arranged.

In the meantime, we resent the criticism of the Seattle paper's sport writer in which he said that in spite of the score against Washington U., "all that Oregon showed was a bunch of green sweaters and Johnny Kitsmiller." Oregon has a good team,—one of the best it has had in years and it will have a good one next year if it has to hire the late coach of Medford and get his five star players to come with him.—Corvallis Gazette Times.

The driving park near Memphis, Tenn., where Lou Dillon, famed trotting mare of 25 years ago, stepped a mile in less than two minutes, is no more. A factory will be built on the park.

Highest Bridge to Span Royal Gorge

With an altitude of 1,052 feet, the bridge now being constructed over the top of the Royal Gorge, near Canon City, Colo., will be the highest suspension bridge in the world, reaching more than twice the height of its nearest rival, which is in southern France, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. The length of the main span of the Grand Canon bridge will be 880 feet, and the total length, 1,260 feet.

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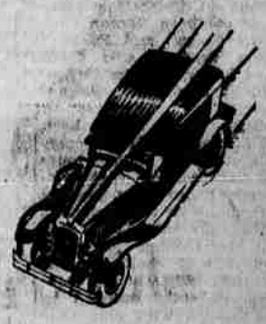

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