

State Press Flashlights.

The assertion by a prominent physician that alfalfa is good for the blues and to eat it means a long and healthy life, is referred to Engineer Galvani of the P. P. & L. Co. for judgment, he's a connoisseur on that dope.—Astorian.

Bryan's reference in the United States as "the big brother of the nations" is sort of out of keeping with his peace talk. When we were kids we used to look at our "big brother" to do our scrapping for us, and the fact that he could scrap and did, saved many a ticklish situation for us.—Astorian.

While it may violate no law for American manufacturers of munitions of war to sell their product to European nations, every true American would prefer that the money thus coming into the country would come to pay for something to sustain life rather than destroy it.—Telephone Register.

Oregon annually pays a large toll of life to the water. Young people, who are most inclined to take risks because they are ignorant of the danger, should be constantly reminded that the water is the most dangerous of all elements. Don't take chances, it's the golden rule of safety.—Polk County Observer.

The reason why some farmers test their cows is: To locate the unprofitable animals; to find the return of the feed given and determine results in changes of feed; to secure information which can be used in selection of animals for breeding purposes with a view of improvement of offspring; to demonstrate to the public which can be secured through selection and breeding.—Pacific Homestead.

While confident that the foot and mouth disease, which has been epidemic among the live stock of this country for the last six months virtually has been wiped out. Department of Agriculture officials declared today that they would not relax their efforts to prevent a future recurrence of the scourge. Altogether more than 124,000 animals have been killed, because of the epidemic, at a cost of between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000, the expense of which has been shared equally between federal and state governments.—Ione Journal.

There are some funny combinations that bob up in Hillsboro's big eastern neighbor. The Portland Chamber of Commerce News crews over the installation of an infant industry, it being a fireworks factory with a payroll of \$200 per week. A day or two ago the police reports of the dairies of the same city told of a rade on the establishment of a Chinese merchant and confiscation of his stock of noise-makers. Simmered down, the big town is glad to have a factory to manufacture a product it will not permit its own merchant to sell.—Hillsboro Independent.

It is apparent that Bryan is looking for a war of words with Roosevelt. Inasmuch as both colonels are amply equipped with verbal munitions the public should maintain strict neutrality and let them fight it out. Whatever may be the outcome the people will be returned winners. Plutarch relates that Philip, being arbitrator between two wicked persons, commanded one to fly out of Macedonia and the other to pursue him. There are many patriotic Americans who would hail with delight a finish fight between Bryan and Roosevelt. They both are lagging on the political stage.

The eastern dispatches in Saturday's dailies captioned by double heads, announced that Baby Sayre cried a part of the night when his grandpa, President Wilson, was at the Sayre home up in New Hampshire on a vacation and it didn't disturb Grandpa Wilson a bit. Now we must all take off our hats to the daily newspapers for publishing so immensely an important piece of news. No doubt the armies engaged in the pastime of killing each other over in Europe, paused to reflect upon the tremendous importance of the startling piece of news about baby Sayre's bawling.—Itemizer.

Governor Withycombe has his own ideas of the way in which the O. & C. Co. lands should be disposed of. Former Governor West's plan for the state to purchase them does not look good to him as he says it would be too speculative. And we agree with Governor Withycombe. Mr. West still loves to play to galleries. The telegraph wires that brought the Supreme Court decision had not cooled off before he was out with his "great" plan for taking over the lands. Of course he has a right to his ideas, as has every other citizen, but it strikes us that it would be more becoming if the late governor would step out of the spot light for just a minute, and give the present state officers an opportunity to at least receive a copy of the decision before he calls on them to adopt a plan of handling the problem. But modesty was never a part of the character of the late governor.—News-Times.

According to dispatches from Berlin, the socialists of that city have issued a manifesto calling on the government to begin negotiations which may result in peace. They ask this in the name of "humanity and Kultur," and state that it will be taken up with their brethren in the other belligerent nations. The surprising part of this is the fact that it has been allowed publication and circulation, when it is considered that the strong element of the socialist party has given the war its assent by standing back of the government since the early days of the war. Of course there have been individual protests, and by a whole the socialists have given a patriotic defense to their fatherland. If there is no mistake in the dispatch coming

from the German capital, and there has been no attempt to suppress it, the manifesto will be a great strength in stimulating the talk of peace that must come first before the reality.—Unpqua Valley News.

In a recent issue of the Saturday Evening Post Owen Wister quotes from the speeches, toasts, rantings, prayers, and ravings of the Kaiser, as follows:

"We Hohenzollerns take our crown from God alone. On me the Spirit of God has descended I regard my whole . . . task as appointed by heaven. Who opposes me I shall crush to pieces. Nothing must be settled in this world without the intervention . . . of . . . the German Emperor. He has listened to public opinion runs a danger of inflicting immense harm on . . . the state. When one occupies certain positions in the world one ought to make dupes rather than friends. Christian morality cannot be political. Treaties are only a disguise to conceal other political aims."

The man is mad, and the pity of it is that there is at present no power strong enough to restrain him and no mad house secure enough to hold him. It is written: Whom the Gods would destroy they would first make mad; and surely the gods did not make this man mad merely that he might destroy millions of his fellow beings.—The Spectator.

The West has many things to which to be proud, and one thing of which to be ashamed. We have the most fertile fields of the nation, the grandest forest, the mightiest peaks and mountain ranges, the most magnificent of food products, the grandest scenery, and the most contemptible grafters. We have gamblers who play with fortune wins our admiration on account of its daring and risks, we have robbers whose boldness softens our hearts towards their misdeeds, we have politicians of such surpassing cunning and skill that we are forced to admit that they are "the limit," we have peace officers whose bravery in the face of peril is truly heroic, and we have the meanest class of bunco and con men extant. We have the stamp of man, unfortunately, for whom lynching is too good. We have the cowardly, petty, sneaking crook who fears to face his victim and who does his dirty work by mail with his dupe in the East. We have the thing in man's attire who sells imaginary agricultural lands hands to the unwary and trusting 2,000 miles away, and who covers his trail so craftily that punishment comes to him but rarely.—Oregon City Courier.

Oregon Dairymen Should Raise Their Own Calves.

"There is only one practical way for the dairyman to increase the herd and that is to raise his own calves," said Professor C. H. Eckles, professor of dairy husbandry, University of Missouri, when speaking before the dairy men's convention during the farmers' week at the Oregon Agricultural College. "You can't buy good stock. Heifers should be raised with a good deal of care and attention. You say it costs too much. But I believe that under any ordinary conditions you cannot afford not to do it. "They say about one cow out of every three is not going to be a profitable animal. But success of the dairy farmer depends to no slight extent upon the careful rearing of the calves. The careful dairymen see in every heifer calf the possibility of a cow that will not only replace a discarded member of his herd, but help to raise the average production. By the proper care in the choice of a sire, and by careful attention to the rearing of the calves, the dairyman who is compelled to start with a herd of ordinary quality may, within a few years, raise the average of production of his herd to a marked extent. On the other hand, carelessness in breeding and in calf raising is bound to result disastrously to a herd, or at least to keep it at a standstill as far as improvement is concerned."

Why is It?

Alex. Stewart is the observant and sagacious marriage license clerk of Detroit. We are made aware of this by his observation of the fact that more men than women are inclined to make more than one venture in the matrimonial field. He cites one of the marriage license clerks of Chicago, where divorce as well as death runs riot, as a corroborating witness.

Alex. Stewart discusses at some length what he believes to be the causes of man's greater propensity toward the married state. But in getting beyond his realm of actual observed facts, with which his office makes him familiar, he gets as near nowhere as any of us can. He talks of widowers with children being impelled to remarry for domestic reasons, and points out why widows, of this day and age, can both support their families and look after their households.

The argument is well so long as it runs, but it does not run nearly far enough. More men of all classes than women of all classes, are willing to remarry, for the simple reason that man gets a great deal more out of the married state than women do. Some joys they share in common, but the man who has ever had a home in which even a fair degree of compatibility reigned, will discover, soon after losing it, what a shield and anchor against many storms it was for him. And his experience with women not having embittered him against the sex he will be willing to try again, while one experience in married life with the average man is enough for the average woman. The presumption must be that the remarrying men have to marry women without experience in the matrimonial state. That is a very interesting point with which Mr. Stewart does not deal, but it may explain the frequent unions of male autumn with female spring.

RURAL CREDITS.

Congressman Hawley, of the Congressional Committee, Gives His Views.

Congressman Hawley is a member of the Congressional Committee which will draft a Rural Credits bill for consideration of the next session. He has been making a deep study of the subject, and while he has prepared no written article or speech embodying his ideas, he has been discussing the subject informally before audiences of farmers in his district. Anything he says on this subject is of interest, and we trust ere long he will commit his ideas to writing so they can be presented in complete form says the Oregon Voter.

Of all the reports of his speeches made in this district, we believe that just published by the Albany Herald is the most complete. According to the Herald, Mr. Hawley said:

"By rural credits is meant a system under which a farmer may at any time secure a loan at a low rate of interest, for a long period of years, if he so desires, so that he may have capital to improve his farm, purchase stock, and otherwise increase his production and income.

"For instance a farmer has a farm of 160 acres. He applies for a loan. His farm will be valued and he will be entitled to borrow up to a certain per cent of the valuation, which I think will be established at 50 per cent—that is, if his farm is valued at \$8,000 he could borrow up to \$4,000. For convenience let us suppose he borrowed \$1,000 to clear up a part of his farm. While the committee has not finally decided upon all of these matters, I believe he will secure the loan on a basis of a total yearly charge of not more than 5 per cent, which will be divided as follows: interest at four per cent, and of the other one per cent a small fraction will be used for operating expenses, and the remainder will be credited on the original loan.

"That is, the farmer will pay \$50 per year on each \$1,000 borrowed, and this will be all he is required to pay in any year. He pays each year a part of the principal, and interest on the principal still unpaid. Paying in this way over a long period of years keeps the interest paid up and gradually pays off, or amortizes, the principal, in some 30 years. He will also be allowed to make advance payments if he finds himself able to do so.

"Contrast this with present conditions. If a farmer now borrows \$1,000 he can get it only for a short time, say three years, and will have to pay eight per cent. The first year he must pay at least \$80 interest, \$80 also the second year, and the third year \$1,000 principal and \$80 interest, and ordinarily the returns from farm betterments will not be sufficient to meet a total payment of \$1,240 in three years from an investment of \$1,000.

"There are some \$2,000,000,000 of mortgages on farms in the United States, bearing from eight per cent to 12 per cent interest on their face. The farmers are paying some \$200,000,000 mortgage interest every year, and as the average of the mortgage loans would not exceed two years, they must pay one half of the two billion dollars' principal every year or a total payment on account of mortgages of \$1,200,000,000 per year, and the business of farming cannot stand it.

"This great burden is responsible for a large part of the movement to leave the farm.

"Under the proposed system, if all of the present mortgage indebtedness of two billion dollars was taken up by it, the interest charge would be reduced to \$80,000 annually and the combined payment of principal and interest on the 30 year basis would be less than \$150,000,000 per year, or one-eighth of what it is now.

"The proposed system will greatly increase the opportunities and returns from farming and be of the utmost importance to all the people of the United States. The farmer is indispensable in a government like ours, and whatever promotes his welfare and prosperity benefits all.

"At first, we may have to advance from the treasury of the United States money to inaugurate this system, but the funds that will finance the system will come from the savings institutions, which have some seven billions of money looking for such investments as mortgage bonds, or debentures, will provide. There will be adequate money to meet the demands at all times, I think.

"This system will not only benefit the farmer, but will increase the prosperity of all; the merchant the laborer, the manufacturer, the commercial banker will have an increase in business, in this country since this has been the result under such a system in Germany, France, Italy and elsewhere."

Let Us Brag a Little.

Let us brag a little. In the present European war the Germans and Austrians combined have destroyed or captured less than one British boat a day, while during the war of 1812 our valiant sea rovers did such damage to English shipping that the appalling sum total at the end of the war that the figures are scarce believable—something over 2000. With the material we have on hand we can lick the world, but what's the use? It is doing itself up as fast as it can.

It is the unexpected that happens—and quite as often that expected. "One continuous round of pleasure" is only endurable up to the age of about 18.

Whose were the brilliant minds that designed the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente, certain promise of catastrophe? The only league that Europe needs is one that includes all.

Theatre programs are still free, except in New York; though who cares to know what's going to happen? Life's little surprises should include a few at the theatre.

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Is the day of big strikes over? No sooner do they threaten than a blight falls on the idea. There's a better way. At first, eugenics said all that it wanted was persuasion. Now it asks for prohibition. All lids begin the same way.

We refuse to be further stirred up over the gem theory. The latest attempted jolt concerning the restaurant loaf sugar bowl disturbs us not, isn't there some sort of one thing or another on every door knob, every handrail, every piece of furniture and so on ad infinitum a nauseum?

Nothing worth while is ever said over the telephone, that is, almost nothing.

Could a man have a house built to suit him, the furnace would be just outside his bedroom door.

It is said that he swallow a music box it would be asked to be admitted to the ornithological orchestra.

J. P. Morgan, it is announced, owns the original manuscript of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Shades of the late Mr. Scrooge!—Valued Exchange.

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