

What the Editors Say.

Pendleton is urging pay rolls. Pendleton is also promoting a branch State Normal for itself. Pendleton prefers public pork, having had a taste in the form of a state sanitarium.—Mt. Scott Herald.

Why all this talk of distress in Poland and Armenia when we have appalling food conditions here at home? The price of baked beans in Boston has gone up from 8 cents a quart to 25 cents a quart.—Telephone Register.

The Portland West Coast Railroad & Navigation Co. has sat in a little game with the Valley and coast towns now for three or more years—and bluffed until some have dropped out. But game little Newport has stuck and has finally called for a showdown. Newport was not to be bluffed out. She has \$25,000 in the pot and will soon know now whether the company is a four flusher. Woe be if it is!—Sheridan Sun.

California has some pending legislation of interest because of the grape industry there. Two bills are to be voted upon this fall, one calling for state-wide prohibition; and another for abolishing the saloon. People who really know the situation in the neighboring state, believe that the latter will carry because most conditions complained of can be corrected by abolishing the saloons.—News Reporter.

The New York medical fraternity has agreed that infantile paralysis is caused by insanitary conditions in the tenement houses—by bad air, filth, sewer gas, foul odors, in ramshackle buildings. Then why don't the authorities protect the poor from the results of their own poverty and tear the insanitary buildings down, every one of them, and build sanitary tenements? Couldn't that be done, and the lives of those babies saved?

The French-British offensive in the west started on June 27 and now enters its sixth week. It has settled into grinding out the slow destruction of the German forces. It has stopped the vicious violence of the Teutonic struggle for Verdun. It prevents Austria-Hungary and Germany from reinforcing the troops contending against Italy and Russia. It strains the resources and nerve of the Austro-Hungarian and German governments to the limit. It bruises the spirit of the Austrian, German and Magyar peoples. In these indirect effects it tells most.—Spokesman Review.

When the Democratic administration went into office there were many folks of simple faith who exclaimed "What a fortunate thing for Oregon that we have elected democratic senators. They will be right in the swim. Oregon will get anything she wants." Poor fellows, they knew not what they were talking about and grievously were they deceived. What have our democratic senators done for Oregon? Compare the work of the Oregon delegation, for instance, which is democratic, with that of the Washington delegation, which is republican, and you will see how fortunate (?) Oregon has been. Washington got just about everything it wanted and Oregon got what the little boy shot at—and is still getting it.—Astorian.

Realizing that a discussion of just what four years of Democratic administration has done to these United States would be calamitous, newspaper defenders are solidly lining up in an effort to cloud the issue by pretending that while one party stands for peace and the other for war, even a few people will be fooled. No one man nor party can involve the United States in war, and should war come it would be in response to a popular demand. McKinley used every effort for peace and yet he could not stem the demand that we intervene in Cuba and the Spanish war followed. The Wilson administration has meddled and muddled in Mexico and Republican speakers have pointed out those mistakes just as they will point out economic mistakes, and argument that a Republican administration would have waged war instead of meddled will fool nobody. It would have met the problem just as it has met others of like nature, notably the Venezuelan question.—Hillsboro Independent.

If liquid fire is to become an accepted weapon of war, the United States will be in a position to surpass all other nations in the deadliness of that which it can use. This has been proved by tests at the Frankfort, Pa., arsenal of the invention of Julius Doliges, a Philadelphia chemist. It can be turned on the enemy in the form of a liquid fire that cannot be extinguished and will continue to burn for days. It can be employed as a cloud of heavy black smoke that effects the lungs and causes those who inhale to choke; or it can be combined with chlorine or cyanide and result in a terrible devastation to an enemy while remaining safe to the men handling it. It can be mixed and combined with poison and kept in air-tight containers ready for use. It can be shot through hoses under air pressure and can be controlled so as to ignite after a given period. It will burn on the water, and tanks have been made to carry it on aircraft. It can be dropped on warships with disastrous effect, for it melts metal. It can be made for 25 cents a gallon and a representative of the British government is said to have offered \$500,000 for the invention.—Oregonian.

C. C. Chapman (etc.) has tackled the important question of financing highway improvement, and has settled upon a plan that is plausible and may become quite popular with many automobile owners, who are tired of poor thoroughfares and are willing to pay extra for added pleasure and what would really be a great saving in pocket to them. The proposition is

that auto license fees be increased and the proceeds expended by the state government for permanent improvement of through roads. The idea is for legislative enactment to this effect and that these license fees be "the basis of providing interest and sinking fund payments for bond issues for permanent highway improvement by the state." The number of autos in the state will never be less, the farmers will certainly object to this scheme provided there is more than a "basis" raised through such means. It should be first learned what would be required yearly to meet the interest and sinking fund on the bonds voted and then make the auto license increase accordingly. This we think, Mr. Chapman desires and has no "nigger in the woodpile." Only farmers and other citizens with automobiles are to meet the interest and sinking fund obligations. Are we right, Mr. Chapman?—Woodburn Independent.

STRANGE FISH IS FOUND.

Dallas Man Makes Discovery While at Netarts.

With each recurring season strange tales are sprung upon an unsuspecting public by persons visiting the seaside, the evident purpose being to gain publicity for these places of hot-weather gatherings. This coast has, however, strictly adhered to the truth permitting the chips to fall where they may. To this latter class belongs the strange discovery made by A. S. Campbell, who last week returned from an outing on the Tillamook coast at Netarts bay, where he caught a fish the likes of which had never before been seen by the oldest inhabitant. He has the jaws of this member of the finny tribe, and although he has diligently searched many works on fishology he has failed to find anything that applies to this new one. The fish was about four and a half feet long and was devoid of scales. It had long silk like fins and was dark green in color. Its head was long and tapering and its mouth was armed with long spear-like teeth, somewhat similar to those of the shark. Now name it.—Polk County Observer.

This is a good joke on Bro Cates. The critter was a Dallas bed bug.

Wasco County Road Bonds.

A compromise between the farmers of Central and Southern Wasco County and the business men of The Dalles has resulted in a new plan for bonding the county for roads. The DuPar Dispatch, which opposed the former proposed bond issue on the ground it was "too much Columbia Highway," says of the new plan: "The agreement finally reached and the bonds which will be asked for is \$260,000. Of this amount it is proposed to spend \$135,000 on The Dalles-California Highway, or between The Dalles and the Jefferson county line, and \$125,000 on the road across the northern part of the county. "By the terms of the agreement the southern part of the county gets the larger portion of the good roads money and gets enough to make a good road entirely through the county. "It is not expected to construct a hard surface road but the road bed will be graded and then in all probability gravelled. And in the road that is to be constructed across (or partly across) the northern part of the county, a part of it which included in the estimate, is a road that will have to be constructed anyhow and is one that is badly needed by residents of the Mosier section. "There is but little doubt but what the bond issue will carry for the roads are badly needed and about the only way to get them is through the medium of a bond issue."—Oregon Voter.

The Titanic Case Ended.

Four and a quarter years after the Titanic disaster, the admiralty branch of the Federal District Court of New York has just given judgment that the officers of the steamship company were not guilty of negligence, and that prosecution of suits for damages based upon the allegation of neglect of duty cannot be undertaken "in any court of any country or jurisdiction." The company stood to be sued for some \$18,000,000 damages; but under the decision will pay to those who accepted settlement pro rata; the amount to be divided among those claimants being \$899,000. The decision is valuable as history, for it must be regarded as resulting from a very long and careful investigation into the Titanic disaster. The belief that reasonable care on the part of the officers would have prevented the collision with the iceberg has been fostered by very circumstantial reports. The court's decision, however, must prevail. It wholly absolves the officers from blame. A judgment from such a quarter is entitled to acceptance.

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STATE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Jackson County Gave the Editors the Time of their Lives.

(Contributed.)

It will be many a day before the last word of warm praise for the hospitality of the people of Medford and Jackson County has found expression in the press of the state. The entertainment offered the Editorial Association made the recent convention the most successful in its history. A lasting benefit to the association must result. This fact as well as admiration for the public spirit shown by the good people of that county has won for them a secure place in the regard of news paper men from every section of Oregon. One feature, entirely incidental and, we believe, never occurring to Ben Sheldon and his assistants who arranged and carried out the entertainment program, was the interest created in the ambition of the people of that section to have Ashland's normal school re-established. Discussion of the pending measure for a normal at Pendleton, brought to the matter to the editor's attention. The fine impression created by Ashland's new Lithia Park and the fact of her abundant ability to make good with a normal school located in her midst, so strongly impressed upon the editors during their visit there, will work to the advantage of the Southern Oregon school whenever their effort is renewed.

Ben Sheldon campaigned the state for that school two years ago, but we doubt if he ever did anything that will help its cause more than the bringing of these newspaper men to Ashland and Jackson County, which was largely due to his individual work.

One of the "asides" under heated discussion at the convention of the State Editorial Association recently held at Medford was the proposed Normal School at Pendleton. Bro. E. B. Aldrich of the East Oregonian and Fred Lockley were on hand to uphold the affirmative side of the question, with Clark Wood, of Weston as vigorously battling for the opposition.

Ben Sheldon of Medford, the man who was responsible for the convention's going to Southern Oregon and who had charge of the entertainment was brought into the discussion more or less as he is looked upon as one of the spokesmen for the people of Ashland and the southern part of the state who are anxious to see the normal at Ashland reopened. Sheldon campaigned the state for that school two years ago.

Incidental to the discussion, we would like to raise the remark that one of the best things ever done for the cause of Ashland's Normal was the bringing of the editors of the state to Jackson County. Both the magnificent entertainment provided by Sheldon and his assistants and the culture, public spirit, love of the beautiful; in fact every element going to make up a fine little city of good homes, and good schools, evidenced by the people of Ashland, left an impression on the large and representative group of Oregon editors assembled there which will not soon be forgotten, and will undoubtedly be reflected in their attitude toward any effort to place her normal school on its feet again.

One of the most important men in the state, who was with the newspaper men at their recent convention at Medford and Crater Lake, stated to a group of Medford men gathered round the big fireplace in Crater Lake Lodge: "This is the most valuable piece of community advertising in one 'stunt' ever pulled off in Oregon."

We are not certain but that the facts warrant this statement, strong as it is. In the first place, the general impression of the people of Jackson County, taken home by these newspaper writers from every section of the state, is extremely complimentary. They certainly made good as hosts. Secondly they demonstrated that Jackson County had built, out of her own funds, one of the finest mountain roads on the coast which, by every right should be considered a state road and a state job. The trip corrected a false idea held by many of the visiting editors, that Jackson County had built up the north side of the Siskiyou Mountains and California up the south side. The Oregon line is six miles the other side of the summit, which means that Jackson County has built up both sides of the range.

The fact that Crater Lake is a wonderful asset to the state, if made readily accessible, was impressed on these men most forcibly and any proper move to secure aid for the improvement of roads to the lake will have the hearty sympathy of the newspaper men of the state.

Again, the impression gained in the little city of Ashland convinced us all that she was abundantly able to make good in maintaining a normal school when the one which was once there shall be reopened by the state. That school will have a host of friends among the "opinion moulders" of the state when it again comes up for consideration, especially if, as two years ago, its plea is carried over the state by Ben Sheldon, of Medford, through whose efforts the success of the convention's entertainment was almost entirely due.

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