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CENSUS FIGURES AND OLD AGE

"Figures will not lie." That is where "figures" have nearly every thing else mundane backed off the map, and have the field to themselves. The United States Bureau of Census has just issued a report of the death rate in the cities with a population of 100,000 or over according to the 1910 census. According to this the death rate of Portland in 1914 was 9.1 per thousand. This was a decrease from that of previous years, the rate being 9.5 in 1913 and 10.3 in 1910. This is taken from the list in the Oregonian, which fails to give Seattle or Spokane for 1914, but the rate in the former was given in 1913 as 8.4 and the latter as 8.9. A foot note in the Oregonian list says the rate for 1914 was not available, but Seattle says the rate for 1914 was "8.1, the lowest in the United States." This difference of opinion and statement was not the reason for the assertion that "figures" were lonesome in their truthfulness. The reason for it is that it puts a condition up to us for belief that is hard to assent to.

If only 9.1 out of a thousand die in a year the average of life would have to be about 110 years. As many die in infancy and many more at an early age, it follows that some would have to live well above 200 years to make this death rate possible.

Of course Portland people may be older than they look, but while there are supposed by some to be plenty of mossbacks in that village, it is hardly possible that they could conceal such a crop of moss as would naturally gather in our somewhat moist climate in a couple of centuries. "Figures will not lie," but we are compelled to believe that figures will, and do, even though they hold government jobs.

Caretaker Hackett, of Seward Park, Seattle, is a great stickler for the law. A cougar has taken up its quarters in the park and Mr. Hackett says he "could have shot it several times, but it is against the law to shoot in the park." If a burglar should enter his house and he had a gun, and the drop on the other fellow he could not shoot until he had called up the authorities and got their permission. The burglar under these conditions would probably have refused to wait. If that cougar should attack him he would have to depend on his legs for safety, or furnish the animal one Hackett for dinner.

Senator Chamberlain has a plan for getting at the actual conditions of trench fighting. He would have a division of the army assembled near Washington, there to dig trenches in order to see how it is done, and what tools are needed, and also to have these trenches shelled so as to get the effects of big guns and to learn just what is needed in that line. If the trenches were filled with senators and congressmen before the shelling began it might not be an entire waste of ammunition, or a wholly bad idea.

The Portland Rose Celebration committee is wrestling with the job of selecting a slogan for next year's festival. Last year Mr. Cooper of Independence furnished the sentiment and walked away with the prize with the slogan: "The whole world knows the Portland Rose." It always seemed to us that if the slogan was true there was no use to advertise the rose further.

It seems to be the general idea that the next presidential campaign is to be fought largely on the tariff question. It is unfortunate that this is so, for if the warring nations of Europe should learn that "the foreigner pays the tariff" they are liable to fix their tariff rates so the United States will have to pay all those big war debts they are now piling up.

Mme. Jeanne Jomelli sang for the prisoners in the Multnomah county jail Christmas. Her audience was pretty tough but they were all polite and stayed until the program was completed. Here is a hunch for beginners in the musical line.

LADD & BUSH, Bankers
Established 1868
CAPITAL \$500,000.00
Transact a General Banking Business
Safety Deposit Boxes
SAVINGS DEPARTMENT

The Capital Journal has had two or more editorials on such subjects as the weight of a billion dollars; a billion bushels of wheat; and the weight of rainfall. It is rather bewildering to study into such everyday things, but although requested to do so it refuses to try to make any estimate as to the number of times the statement was made the day before Christmas and on that day, to the effect that: "It is not for its intrinsic value." You know the rest.

Portland is to have a postoffice building that will cost \$1,000,000, work on it to begin next March. One of the most pleasing things about it is that there will be no "pork" in it, not at least until the postmaster takes possession.

Probably General Villa believes that a more northern climate will benefit his health just now.



CRITICISM

No odds what kind of work you're doing, your friends, with scorn your efforts viewing, will say your wires are crossed; they'll stand around you criticising, and reprimanding and advising, and make your life a frost. You paint your pump, and all your neighbors will come to contemplate your labors, and show you where you're wrong; they'll say your paint is punk in color—it should be gaudier or duller—and kick the whole day long. If you are wise you let them chatter—the words of boneheads little matter, they're worth a cent a ton; and while those words the air are tainting, you keep on painting, painting, painting, until the pump is done. The man who listens to the speliing of critics always hits the ceiling upon some bitter day; be sure you're right—twas Davy said it—than go ahead and gain the credit, nor care what neighbors say.

A SUITCASE SHORTAGE
Chehalis, Wash., Dec. 27.—A suitcase famine exists in Chehalis, merchants report. People coming into the city from surrounding dry territory to stock up with "wet goods" before a state-wide prohibition becomes effective January first have bought most of them.

Oregon Corn Growers Highly Complimented

(Capital Journal Special Service.)
St. Paul, Dec. 27.—If the boy corn growers of Oregon continue the progress they have made in the last year this state soon will be in front ranks as a producer of juvenile agriculturists, according to Prof. R. R. Moore, of the University of Wisconsin, who today finished judging the boys' exhibits at the First National Corn Show held in the Mammoth Hill railway building, this city. Trophy cup awards valued at \$5,000 were given by the First National bank and the Northwestern Trust company. An exceptionally high quality of corn was raised by the boys of Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, the Dakotas and Minnesota for exhibition in this show. These "future greats" in the corn raising field are rapidly putting the Northwestern states on the map as a new and wonderful corn belt. "Why, the corn laid down here for me to judge has proved the most surprising in quality that I have examined in the long years of my association with grain," said Prof. Moore. Considering Prof. Moore's great reputation throughout the United States, as a corn judge, this statement by him spells the highest tribute that could be paid to boyhood effort in this country.

There were no sweepstakes in the show, the competition of the boy corn growers of the seven states being confined to the boys in the districts of their state. Following are the prize winners: In Oregon, District No. 1, first prize, Louis D. Telo, Riverview; second, Fred Bender, Ontario. Third, Howard Hatch, Parma. District No. 2, first, Wm. Blasko, Salem. Second, Hansen, Albany. Third, Leland M. Charley, Brownsho. Fourth, John A. Butler, Eagle Point.

Sawmill Worker Is Killed at Springfield

Struck on the head by a heavy timber at the Booth-Kelly sawmill at Springfield yesterday forenoon, Edward Bradley, a laborer, aged 40 years, died at the Eugene hospital about 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon from his injuries, never regaining consciousness. Bradley was struck on the head by a square and several feet long, the timber falling from a temporary conveyor at the mill. He fell unconscious to the ground and a physician was called. It was seen that the injury was serious and he was rushed to the Eugene hospital. The surgeons found that the man's skull had been fractured. Bradley leaves a wife and two children, Lydia and Lyman. The family lived in Eugene for some time previous to going to Springfield and resided at 311 Fifth avenue west. They have been at Springfield for two months past. The remains will be sent to the

THE STATE HOSPITAL STAFF HOLDS LIVELY XMAS COON HUNT

Thirty-One Salem Residents Capture Two Coons In Mission Bottoms

An old-fashioned Christmas 'coon hunt was staged yesterday by Dr. John C. Evans, of the Oregon State hospital staff, in Mission Bottom, which was "enjoyed" by 31 Salem residents, a brace of hounds and four coons. Almost every one remembers the ancient coon hunt which called for an early morning stir with a light blanket of snow on the ground on an evening hunt with the blazing fire at the base of the coon tree when the champion coon dogs of the neighborhood were turned loose upon the hapless raccoon who was stirred from his slumbers with a willow pole. Then the fur flew. After a turmoil of advice to the dogs and the yelping of the pack the raccoon was held up by the tail by the owner of the dog who had the honor of being the slayer and the kill was always pronounced the biggest one that had been killed that year.

The 1915 coon hunt lacks the long tramp and the muzzle loading squirrel rifle and is supplanted by the repeater and the automobile. The party mobilized by Dr. Evans left Salem in autos yesterday for the Mission Bottom region where they were met by Late Savage with his pack of hounds. Several trees were felled and one proved to be the bonoior of three coons. The coons skinned around among the guests and the dogs and two were captured alive. Mr. Lewis made a daring capture of a coon after swimming 200 yards down an old logoon and finally drowning the little animal by clasping it to his breast and diving. The coon evidently considered that it had one of Davy Crockett's descendants after it and also one who had his ancient ancestor's flint lock faded by up-to-date submarine tactics.

Among those who made up the party were Dr. John C. Evans, Lute Savage, Cliff Evans, Ben Olett, Curtis Cross, James Young, Frank Spears, Don Byrd, Dr. Prince Byrd, Walter Thompson, Armand Steiner, Dr. Ross and Dr. Bates of the hospital staff, Ray Richardson, Sam Parks, Earl Simmons, Andy Cameron, S. S. East, Dwight Misner and wife and Walter Thompson.

An enjoyable time was had by all those present. The remains of the coons were taken to the old home in Michigan for burial. The remains are at the Gordon and Veatch undertaking chapel, where they will be kept until the time of sending them to Michigan is determined upon. There will be no inquest.—Eugene Register.
(A sister-in-law of the deceased, Mrs. Jessie Bradley, resides in Salem.)
One explanation of the statement of the mayor of Detroit made in New York that though there are 40,000 automobiles in Detroit nobody is run over, is that everybody rides in automobiles and there is nobody left to run over.



A Galley o' Fun!

HAD IT HAPPENED IN 1911.
As the sculptor left the studio and locked the door after him, the newly-finished Venus de Milo gave a critical glance at her reflection in a mirror on the opposite wall. She seemed greatly disturbed. At last she spoke: "What frightful hips! And they are too, too solid to reduce! Oh, that wretch of a sculptor! What shall I do?"
Frantically, and in wild despair, she massaged her hips until her weary arms fell off. There was no improvement. Once more there came a cold, stony look, as of marble, upon her lovely face, and she spake no more.

IN THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.
"And thou hast been to the alchemist?" said the lady of the scornful mien. "Is it true that he hath discovered the elixir of youth?"
"Nay," said her acquaintance; "but he hath discovered a marvelous complexion wash. I warrant if thou wilt use it thou wilt not look a day over thirty-four."



AN AMIABLE MAN.

Josh—You don't find many men as good-natured as Silas.
Hiram—No, indeed! I never heard him say a hard word about anybody—not even about Congress or Legislature.

WHITE AND YELLOW.

Two stalwart men of different race smiled at each other, face to face.
One said: "I'll do thee, friend, no harm."
And marked the sinews of his arm.

"Your servant, sir," the dark one said
And studied long the other's head.

Said One: "Our ways together lie,"
And noted his companion's eye.

He answered "We will walk in peace,"
And saw the other's pace increase.

"You run!" said One, with smiling face,
And watched the dark one's easy gait.

"A friendly race!" the second cried,
And noted how their strength was tried.

"Let's rest awhile," the white one said,
S.eeing the other was ahead.

"With joy," the dark one did reply,
And slipped into a wood nearby.

The fair one drew his gun and said:
"There may be enemies ahead."

"Within these woods is danger rife,"
Said Number Two, and drew his knife.

Said One: "The best of friends we are,"
And laid his gun across his knee.

"True," prompt reply the other made
And sharpened his long, keen blade.

Then raised his arm without a word—
This story's end I have not heard.

AN OPINION.

"These roof gardens are delightful."
"Yes, indeed! Without them the city would be as dull as some of the Summer resorts."



CRITICISM.

First Messenger Boy (wonderingly)—Say, Muggy is purty light on his feet, ain't he?
Second Messenger Boy (contemptuously)—He must be purty light in his head to be sprintin' like dat in his business!

The World Has Confidence in Thrifty People

The men and women who cultivate the saving habit not only lift themselves into prosperity eventually, but they command the confidence of their employers, of business men and of friends. Employers encourage the banking habit among their employees, business men recognize it among their patrons and friends admire it among their associates. A bank account is the best evidence of thrift.

The UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK particularly welcomes the accounts of the wage-and-salary-earner. Our advice on any business or investment matter is theirs always for the asking. The terms in our Savings Department are most liberal and the protection here is ample. Close, careful attention of the Officers and a careful and able Directorate together with U. S. Government Supervision and vast resources furnish you a Bulwark of Safety for your Money. Start your account now with \$1.

INTEREST PAID ON ALL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

United States National Bank

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Prune--Loganberry

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Or a paper wrapped sealed 10 lb. box of our fancy
PHEASANT PERFECTION PRUNES
You can't beat it for an appropriate reasonable gift to your eastern friends. While the box lasts it will speak to them every day about Salem, Oregon. See display in Roth Grocery Co.'s window, or at our office. Thousands of them are going, order yours today.

Willamette Valley Prune Association

Always Watch This Ad—Changes Often

FOR THE WOODSMAN
We have all kinds of Axes, Sledges, Wedges, Saws and Equipments for the woods.
All kinds of Corrugated Iron for both Roofs and Buildings.
A good \$800.00 Laundry Mangel, slightly used for one-fourth original cost.
\$15 AND \$20 NEW OVERCOATS AT \$5.00.
I pay 1-2 cents per pound for old rags.
I pay highest price for hides and fur.
H. Steinbock Junk Co.
The House of Half a Million Bargains.
302 North Commercial Street, Phone 808.

STATE NEWS

Medford Sun: During the winter Bill Stewart has been riding a horse the other day while he was riding by the rifle range of Company 7, there came a valley and the horse fell to the ground. Stewart thought the equine had been hit by a stray bullet and while he was removing the saddle, the horse arose. A half mile further another valley was fired and the horse again dropped. After a couple of kicks and a snort the horse arose and trotted on its way. Dr. Helms forgot to tell Stewart that the animal was formerly in the moving picture business, and had been trained to die when he heard a shot. He was purchased from a band of gypsies last summer who secured it from a moving picture outfit.

Medford Mail: A lad of fourteen regaled his companions, the other day, with a narrative of his experience in killing snakes on the farm during the summer and autumn months. He had destroyed many. The boy did not know, possibly, that he was killing his father's friends in the field. Only venomous snakes should be destroyed, and there are very few of them in this valley. Snakes live on field insects and field mice. Insects and field mice live on further crops. The bullsnake, garter snake, bluntnose and other reptiles of the kind are not poisonous and ought not to be killed. They do the farmer a friendly service.

Albany Democrat: Several farmers have been putting in air power water systems, one that delivers the water direct from the well under a constant pressure. Among them are Everett Archibald, of Plainview, and H. T. Riders, whose place is in Benton county. Other improvements being made are acetylene lighting systems. C. Koos, of Plainview, has just installed one. A. O. Ramsey is doing the installing.

The Astoria Budget, while admitting that the storm which has swept along the coast during the past few days has been an exceptionally severe one and that the rainfall since the first of November has been heavy still asserts that Oregonians have much to be thankful for. "The weather has been mild," says the Budget, "the winds coming direct from the sea have brought the purest of air, and when one reads of the terrific blizzards with freezing cold in the east and middle

HERE FROM EUGENE

A. I. O'Reilly, county school superintendent, has gone to Salem to spend Christmas with his family.
Judge L. T. Harris, of the supreme court, arrived last evening to join his wife. They will spend Christmas on their ranch near the Coburg bridge.
Chet Huggins, varsity track man, left last night on the Oregon Electric for Salem, where he will spend Christmas with his parents.

Dr. S. M. Kerron, of this city, with offices in the I. O. O. F. temple, left yesterday afternoon for Salem, where he will spend Christmas with relatives. Mrs. Kerron went down earlier in the week.—Eugene Register.

Don't Want Ads are Lucky ads for those looking for a position they long to secure. Our Help Wanted Column and full Situation Wanted ad. in to-day.