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CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF GOOD TIMES

The most gratifying evidence of returning prosperity in the northwest is contained in the daily dispatches which announce regularly the sale of some sawmill and the statement that it would start up in a short time. It shows confidence is returning and that the purchasers see a chance for money in the lumber business.

While Oregon is largely an agricultural state, her lumber industry is the greatest of all her manufacturing businesses, in fact is about the only large manufacturing industry.

Under average conditions Oregon's lumber trade amounts to around \$30,000,000 a year. As it has been practically dead for a couple of years the loss of this vast sum has been felt keenly in all other branches of business.

A large proportion of this sum is expended for wages in the mills and in the timber, and this means employment at good wages for a small army of men. This in turn means the putting into circulation from the labor side of the business alone a sum that keeps the wheels greased and business moving.

It is this condition it seems that is again to be with us. The most satisfactory feature of this is that it will come to stay. The demand for lumber in foreign countries, already large, is bound to increase once the war ends, and the world must turn to this country for its supply.

While the southern states are still furnishing great quantities of lumber the forests there are rapidly disappearing, and before long the West will have the market largely to itself. Under these conditions it may well be doubted if the business will ever again have so long and so serious a depression.

As a matter of fact every mill in Oregon would have been running full blast long ago had the Panama canal remained open, and had there been ships available for carrying our lumber to market. The lack of ships is still handicapping the business, and will continue to affect it for some time yet. It will be a glad day for the state when the government either builds or assists private capital in building an American merchant marine. This has to be done before we are independent of foreign shipping for carrying on our business, and the sooner it is done the better. When it is done Oregon will come into her own.

When a person or community wants a thing, it can readily find many reasons why it should have it. This is the case with the proposition to build a first-class road around the border of the United States. Since the proposition has been broached there are new reasons why it should be done coming to the front daily, all clamorous for a hearing. The main one is that a good hard surfaced road as suggested would be a great thing for the country in case it was threatened with invasion. There is another reason that is not mentioned and that is that it would furnish an ideal trip for the owners of autos and Fords.

Death lurks in all places and in all kinds of contraptions. In San Francisco Wednesday, a woman mysteriously disappeared and only after several hours search was it discovered that a folding bed she was trying to get in place, due to broken springs, had fallen on and killed her. When one's bed gets in an assassinating mood, where can one turn for safety?

A dispatch yesterday read: "The ice dammed waters of the Feather river today backed up through the Sierra valley and is threatening many houses there." This is no way for waters to act, of course, but the emphasis used in describing them was unnecessary.

The senate having confirmed the nomination of Alexander T. Vogelsang as solicitor of the interior department, there should be entire harmony in that branch of the public service.

The secretary of agriculture joins the crowd in saying Oregon grown flax is the equal of any. This makes it practically unanimous.

MAY OUT-CLASS ENGLAND

Rear Admiral Charles A. Badger, of the United States Naval General Board, says the American navy ranks third, with England first, and Germany second. France is a close fourth. He added for the information of congress, that it would take four years to make the navy equal to Great Britain's, but that this could be done in two years if the armor could be secured, which under existing circumstances it cannot, but can be in four years. He also stated the policy of the board was to keep the American navy superior to that of Germany. The board suggests that the American navy should be stronger even than that of England. To accomplish this would require 22 more ships of the dreadnought class, and a total of 15 battle cruisers, 25 swift scouting craft, 200 submarines and 250 destroyers. From the present temper of Americans it is highly probable we will yet have a battle fleet superior to that of England and this within the next seven or eight years. It is probable when this is accomplished America can indeed almost compel peace for the world.

Portland proved itself a good loser yesterday when hundreds of her prominent men went to Astoria to join in celebrating the granting of that city terminal rates on freight from the Inland Empire, and this, though the victory, temporarily at least, is a setback to Portland.

Senator Root wants to be president. In a recent speech he said: "We want a president who will use more than words concerning Germany." This being the case do the German born citizens of the United States want Root for president?

Women are getting as technical as Thaw's attorneys. Mrs. Ella F. Murry Warren, an heiress, wants her marriage annulled because she was married without the formality of a license. She was married New Year's day.

Senator Gore announces he will insist on his right to speak in favor of warning Americans to keep off armed merchantmen. This is one American right none of the belligerents can ride over rough shod.

As appropriate in connection with the discussion of county agriculturists, we note the New York World remarks: "Agriculture is what colleges teach; farming is what men do for a living."

The Macon (Georgia) News expresses a mournful truth in the brief sentence: "Some women can live on their husband's incomes, but it doesn't leave anything for the husbands."

The new style of woman's headgear may be all right from the feminine view point, but to the other sex it looks about as lovely and charming as a wart on a dill pickle.

No doubt if the immortal George had been forced to listen to all the inane things said about him yesterday, he would be glad he passed away in the remote long ago.

The Turks are destroying the towns they evacuate, but unfortunately they cannot destroy their decidedly bad names.

Mrs. R. T. Stewart in her will left an angora cat \$1,000. This shows a woman's will is as inexplicable as her won't.

If Salem's lady candidate for representative fails to become a legislator she can at least be a Page.



METHUSELAH

Methuselah, that grand old gent, saw centuries pass by; the generations came and went, and he refused to die. No doubt among the ancient ranks the faddists drew their breath, and he was told by health board cranks just how to sidestep death. I seem to see them at his side, and hear them give advice. "Eat predigested hay," they cried, "that has been kept on ice. Sleep out of doors, in rain or gale, or you'll be on the blink; boil all the air that you inhale, and fry the things you drink. Eat less than half of what you wish, put sawdust in your bread; if you are fond of beef or fish, eat liverwurst instead." The faddists sprung their spiels and died; Methuselah shed tears, but would not take them as a guide—and lived nine hundred years. His voice across the distance calls a cheering word to me: "I ate ice cream and codfish balls, and was from sickness free. I filled myself with scrambled eggs, and steaks from slaughtered steers, and pranced around on active legs for near a thousand years."

News From Jefferson

(Capital Journal Special Service.)
Mr. L. Bulgin made a trip to Salem Monday.
Mr. and Mrs. Halley, of Salem, visited in the neighborhood Saturday.
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sheppard were in Salem Saturday.
Mr. Monroe Wye, candidate for county commissioner, was in Salem Saturday.

hood attended the box supper at Cloverdale school Saturday night.
Mr. Douglas Minto was in the neighborhood Saturday looking after his orchard interests.
Mr. and Mrs. Halley, of Salem, visited in the neighborhood Saturday.
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sheppard were in Salem Saturday.
Mr. Monroe Wye, candidate for county commissioner, was in Salem Saturday.

RUSSIAN DESERTER TELLS OF HARDSHIPS

Official Russia Overrun With Graft—Prisoners In Serbia Starving

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 23.—Stripped of his last dollar by a Russian deserter, a man who is declared to have cleaned \$6,200,000 aiding deserters to escape, Alexander Nemirovsky, aged 25, was in Los Angeles yesterday, looking for a job.

He asserted he was charged \$3,000 for 30 passports which enabled him to flee the czar's army and reach San Francisco, after undergoing many hardships and viewing terrible sights "behind the scenes" in Siberia.

Nemirovsky said the average price for an escape was \$5,000, although some very wealthy men in the army had paid as high as \$10,000. The agency, he avers, connives with high Russian officials.

"I was called to the colors in Odessa," said Nemirovsky. "I served three months in the trenches and was promoted for bravery to a sergenty. I saw awful things at the battle of Przemysl."

"The rank and file of the men do not know for what they are fighting. I know that hundreds of them have been shot. It's fight or death."

"The agency through which I escaped gained freedom for myself and seven other men. It was gold, gold, gold, wherever we went. Graft permeates the Russian government from top to bottom. We used forged passports. Sometimes we rode but more often we walked. As a Frenchman I walked from Siberia to Japan. The thermometer registered 70 degrees below part of the time. The plight of Russian prisoners of war beggars description. They are hungry, ragged and in dire straits and trying to get word of their condition to the outside world. They want help."

"All the passports were taken up by the last Japanese agent with whom I dealt, to be sold over and over again. The average price for an escape is \$5,000 and I have known it to run as high as \$10,000. There are probably 20 agencies at work in Russia, conniving with high officials."

FRUIT MEN GET BUSY

Big Meeting Planned at Dallas For Saturday, March 4.

The Polk County Fruit Growers' association is planning a big meeting for Saturday, March 4, when C. A. Malboeuf, manager of the Western Oregon Fruit Distributors, will be present and deliver an address on "Co-operation," and when also the agricultural college will be represented by one of its most able experts. Mr. Malboeuf is a most interesting speaker, and being deeply interested in the fruit problem has studied the question of marketing the Oregon product in all its various phases. Therefore his discussion of co-operation will be from one of the best-informed growers on the coast. The college representative will discuss the question of brown rot, which is just now receiving considerable attention among prune and cherry growers in this valley, as well as elsewhere in the Pacific northwest. It is barely possible that the government's expert, who has been ordered to this section to investigate and eradicate brown rot, will have arrived here by that date and if so this authority, too, will be present at the meeting, which will be held at the court house during the afternoon.

The Polk County Fruit Growers' association has issued a general invitation to orchardists of this section to attend this gathering, and hopes to make it the largest and most profitable meeting yet held under the auspices of that organization. Secretary Robert Ewing is now getting in touch with the growers of the county, urging upon each and every one to be present on this occasion, believing that only through concerted action in matters pertaining to the industry can the best results be attained. Since the organization of this association much good has been accomplished, yet the membership is not as large as it should be, and an effort will soon be made to increase the enrollment so as to include practically every fruit grower within the county. Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month, at which time matters of interest to orchardists are discussed. Especially are the business men of the several towns of Polk county invited to attend the meeting announced for March 4. Mr. Malboeuf believes that their co-operation is worth while, and will in his address explain wherein they can do very materially in enhancing the good of the community by giving support to the fruit men. The secretary has asked the various commercial organizations of the county to urge attendance upon the meeting by all within their jurisdiction, and if they

respond as they should the gathering will be one of the largest of the kind ever held in Polk county.—Dallas Observer.

Supplementary articles of incorporation were filed at the office of the corporation commissioner today for the "Estate Vollmer Unterstutzung Verein."

NOSE CLOGGED FROM A COLD OR CATARRH
Apply Cream in Nostrils To Open Up Air Passages.

Aha! What relief! Your clogged nostrils open right up, the air passages of your head are clear and you can breathe freely. No more yawning, snuffing, mucous discharge, headache, dizziness—no straining for breath at night, your cold or catarrh is gone. Don't stay stuffed up! Get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm from your druggist now. Apply a little of this fragrant, antiseptic cream in your nostrils, let it penetrate through every air passage of the head; soothe and heal the swollen, inflamed mucous membrane, giving you instant relief. Ely's Cream Balm is just what every cold and catarrh sufferer has been seeking. It's just splendid.

Feature No. 5.

MOOSE LODGE ALL STAR VAUDEVILLE SHOW THURSDAY, MARCH 2 GRAND OPERA HOUSE



BERRY & BEN-ON

Will present one of their favorite comedies called "The Country Girl and the Legit." This is a bit full of comedy, and good songs. Mr. Berry has a deep bass voice and was formerly in grand opera work, while Miss Benson starred in several big eastern productions. Berry and Benson are known from Maine to Seattle and throughout Canada, having covered the circuits many times. Miss Benson has supported six well known New York stars and has herself starred in a number of productions. She is best known for her work in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." Mr. Benson also toured the big time circuits with a Trans-Atlantic Quartet for many years. Berry and Benson are now calling Salem their home. Next feature will appear here Saturday.

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