

Editorial Page of The Daily Capital Journal

THURSDAY OCTOBER 8, 1914

THE DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY

CAPITAL JOURNAL PRINTING CO., Inc.

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PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAY, SALEM, OREGON

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Daily, by Carrier, per year \$5.00 Per month .45c
Daily, by Mail, per year 3.00 Per month .25c
Weekly, by Mail, per year 1.00 Six months .50c

FULL LEASED WIRE TELEGRAPH REPORT

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LIGHT ON BATTLE PSYCHOLOGY.

A question frequently heard nowadays from people who have been reading one of the more detailed accounts of the battles taking place in France or Austria is: "How can human beings endure without going mad the sights and the almost more dreadful sounds, the constant expectation day and night for weeks of violent death, the agonies of equally prolonged hardships that mark these colossal struggles?"

The inquiry is natural enough, as is the implied disbelief of those who make it that they could not themselves long stand such frightful strains. And not all the soldiers on either side do stand them, for there have been not a few references in the dispatches to men thus driven insane, while a considerable number of letters from those newly at the front have been printed that showed the writers then shaking in the grasp of just such horror as we at home think we would feel if there. The subsequent experience of the great majority, however, is presumably that recounted by a Russian soldier in one of the Petrograd papers.

He says that the roar of battle no longer troubles him any more than did the incessant city sounds with which he was familiar; that he is so wonted to the spectacle of fields strewn with dead and dying that it now excites in him no strong emotion; that the dangers which fill all his hours have no more effect on him than the petty perils of ordinary life. He can even see not a little to admire in the ebb and flow of battle, and all his standards of what men should and should not do have, for the time being, at least, been changed.

This is not evidence of an acquired callousness, or even of war's brutalizing influence; it is simply an illustration of the fact, known to every psychologist, that to any stimulus continuously or frequently applied human nerves soon cease to react, or react only weakly. Every doctor develops, and to be of any use must develop, a like modification of sympathy as regards the sufferings of his patients, and the nurse who faints at her first operation soon views them with a composure superficially much like indifference. The Russian soldier shrewdly notes, too, that he now views as commonplace deeds that formerly would have stirred him deeply as noble or heroic. He has come to expect such things from everybody, instead of seeing them as exceptional and exciting.

Mr. A. Davis Fleet criticises the Capital Journal's editorial in Monday's issue, in which the action of English war ships in stopping a Dutch vessel was discussed, in what Mr. Fleet calls "a very swashbuckling manner." Mr. Fleet misses the whole meat of the matter. The Journal did not say a word about the "right of search" one way or the other. It in fact spoke of the very thing which Mr. Fleet points out as being the cause of the war of 1812, or a thing that involves the same principle. It called attention to the assertion that the British ships not only stopped the vessels and searched them, but rifled the international mails and helped themselves to mail sent from one neutral country to another on a neutral vessel. Here is one thing the Journal commented on, and it is of a piece with the taking of neutral persons from neutral vessels. It may be "swashbuckling" to call attention to this and to warn England that she is treading on dangerous ground, but call it what you please and the fact is still patent that neither England nor any other country will be allowed to swipe Uncle Sam's mails under any pretense whatever.

The dispatches Wednesday said Sheffield factories were working night and day filling an army contract for 500,000 razors; and yet nothing has been said about any of the warring nations recruiting among the colored folks down south. If "Rastus and his razor" gets into the fight, there will be some real war news.

The trend of Italian sentiment is shown by the fact that the people are now clamoring for war, and insisting the government take sides with the allies. As Italy was allied with Germany and Austria this shows how much of a row Italy's king would have had on his hands had he undertaken to fight France.

The Ashland Tidings, a republican paper, is out in support of Hollister for congress. This is the natural result of the ignoring of Southern Oregon by the republican party. That section of the state has never had a state official and has been treated politically like a bound boy at a husking bee. It made a hard struggle to get a republican congressman named from that section, but was turned down. That part of the state is to be reckoned with and it deserves and should have representation in both state and national offices. Without going into the merits or demerits or politics of any candidate, it is safe to say that if Southern Oregon is to be turned down by one party continuously it will turn to the other. Not only will it do so, but it apparently has.

It looks as though the haughty and unapproachable streetcar companies are to get theirs through the autobuses which are in several cities giving them quite a tanning. South Commercial street residents are talking about trying this remedy the next time they are deprived of their usual service, as they were at state fair time. In Los Angeles there is quite a war on, started by the autobus owners.

The startling statement came over the wires Wednesday that the Japanese had taken possession of the island of Yap in the Caroline group. Only the day before it was announced the same Japs had taken possession of the island of Jaluit in the Marshall group. No one will object to their acquisition on the island of Yap, especially if they acquire all the Yaps at the same time.

The English dreadnaughts seem to dread nought so much as the German fleet. As specimens of naval architecture they are great, but whether they are good for actual service remains to be discovered. England should try one of them out just for educational reasons.

There may peace come out of the coming meeting of Villa and Carranza, but the place they have selected for it does not give one any hilarious hopes of it. They are to meet at Aguas Calientes, which in plain English means "Hot Water."

Some of the political editorials in a few of our exchanges force the belief they have become infected from the dispatches from Europe about the war. They seem to be about as reliable, and some of them almost as foundationless.

England may be a mistress of the seas, but, if so, she is surely a kind mistress to the German fleet. So far, her fleets have distinguished themselves by remaining where they would not be in danger.

According to a scientist, the light of the sun exerts a pressure of 70,000 tons on the earth. Wonder if he made a rebate for losses during Oregon's state fair week?

THE ROUND-UP

Many farmers of Baker county have already begun sowing their winter wheat. The average will be much larger than ever before, as unusually high prices are anticipated.

The Point Adams live-saving crew picked up a disabled sloop at the mouth of the Columbia Tuesday night and both sloop and lifeboat were towed to safety by the tug Walrus.

Columbus day, October 12, will be celebrated in Portland by the Knights of Columbus by services at the Lincoln high school.

Albany has 1048 children attending school, 520 boys and 528 girls. At this time last year she had 1058, 522 boys and 536 girls.

Great activity is reported in Eastern Oregon mining districts, especially in Baker county.

Baker county farmers are filling the warehouses along the railroad with hay. The yield this year has been far above the average, and the congested condition of the Portland market has caused the storing pile.

Portland women lifted the registration list Wednesday by taking their girl help to the registration office in my lady's auto.

Two fishermen trolling for salmon just outside the bar at Astoria Tuesday were drowned by their boats being carried into the breakers. A heavy fog was the cause of the accident.

Dodging Duty

It is a shame that high class men for office will not stand in line; though asked, again and yet again, this duty all of them decline. The offices all go to skates, to patriots who want the money, we want good men as candidates—alas, the good men will not run! We was not a good man with honest hearts, strong men abhorring shams and tricks, brought up in offices and in courts, and not in stews of politics.

And if perchance they ever rise, responsive to our eager calls, we'll battle them with campaign lies, and rattle them with hoots and hawls. We'll show that they are only big in self-esteem, their virtue slim; we'll prove they stole a widow's pig, and swiped a soldier's wooden tank. We'll deal in fury and in scorn until, disheartened, they retire; we'll hire cheap sleuths to rake around and dig their records from the mire. We'll quietly jolt them from the groove in which they spend their quiet lives; with affidavits we will prove that every day they beat their wives. Why don't our good men save the realm, and bleed and die in proper style? The country needs them at the helm—we'll surely make it worth their while!

OXFORD UNIVERSITY OPENS SESSION TODAY

Oxford, Oct. 8.—Oxford opened its annual today, despite a great decrease in attendance due to a big part of the student body having joined England's army. The total enrollment at the school is not expected to exceed 1000.

The supreme court of Pennsylvania has decided that the amount of damage collectible on growing timber set on fire through negligence is not only the value of the wood destroyed, but also the injury to the property as a whole through the destruction of the young growth.

What's On Your Mind?

Advertisement for 'What's On Your Mind?' featuring illustrations of people using a product and text describing its benefits for skin and hair.

KEEP THESE THREE AT HOME

(Portland Labor Press). Booth for senator, McArthur for representative, and Whycombe for governor, are entitled to no support from labor. All are entitled to its most vigorous opposition.

It is in keeping with a well-known labor slogan to "oppose and defeat" the enemies of labor and of progress, and all enemies of labor are enemies of progress.

It is sometimes difficult for a publication like the Labor Press to actively support any certain candidate for an important office when another candidate has an approximately equal following among the voters represented by it.

McArthur's well-known opposition to various laws that were presented by organized labor to the legislature of which he was a member is enough to insure that no sane man will cast his vote for him.

Whycombe favors admission of Chinese to compete with Americans in the labor market. He would have admitted them to clear land, he says, but after that, with increasing numbers of them on our hands, what? He leaves the subject there and thus shows clearly the extent of his capability to deal with vital industrial problems.

CONDITIONS IN GREECE

The area of Greece, previous to the late war with Turkey, was 25,010 square miles, and its population was 2,670,000. As a result of the war, the territory was increased 19,900 square miles, and 2,130,000 people were added.

Closely following the war on Turkey, Greece became involved, by alliance with other Balkan kingdoms, in a war on Bulgaria. That Greece came through those wars as well as she indicated the financial and economic soundness of the country.

Recuperation since the second Balkan war has been rapid. Bank rates, says the American consular report, varied during 1913 from 6 to 8 1/2 per cent, but money at no time became excessively "tight."

The political-territorial changes will have much influence on the newer Greece. Instead of having only Turkey as a neighbor, Greece has now, on its frontiers, Serbia, Albania and Bulgaria. The trade of Serbia doubtless will find an outlet through Salonica, now a Greek port.

When eggs were much cheaper. Hood River, Ore., Oct. 4.—(To the Editor.)—If the new tariff has brought everything down, why can't we fellows that have to earn our bread by the sweat of our brow get things cheaper? I have been reading much in the Oregonian about the egg market being ruined; so I thought I would run down and get a dozen. You could have knocked me down with a feather when I asked the price and was told: they were 37 1/2 cents per dozen.

Late Yesterday

At London.—Mary Garden announced she was about to join the Red Cross.

Mount Kisco, N. Y.—His doctors pronounced J. Borden Harriman in a dying condition.

At San Francisco.—F. J. H. Rickon, contractor, shot himself dead in his downtown office, presumably on account of ill health.

At Los Angeles, Cal.—Harry Richlin, proprietor of a second-hand store, was attacked in his store and robbed of \$250.

At Los Angeles, Cal.—Aviator Glenn Martin announced that he will enter the government aerial competition at San Diego beginning October 20.

At New York.—"My idea of politics and the campaign is to keep my mouth shut," said Richard Croker, in response to a reporter's question.

At Los Angeles, Cal.—One hundred representatives of the Los Angeles chamber of commerce started for San Francisco and Oakland to visit similar bodies there.

At Los Angeles, Cal.—The Merchants & Manufacturers association, the leading Los Angeles commercial body, appealed to voters to defeat statewide prohibition.

At Dunsmuir, Cal.—The body of W. Thornton, San Francisco, missing a week, was found in the Sacramento river, all indications being that he was robbed and murdered.

HELPFUL WORDS From a Salem Citizen. Is your back lame and painful? Does it ache especially after exertion? Is there a soreness in the kidney region? These symptoms suggest weak kidneys. If so, there is danger in delay. Weak kidneys get fast weaker. Give your kidneys prompt attention. Doan's Kidney Pills are for weak kidneys. Read this Salem testimony. A. W. Lobach, R. F. D. No. 1, Salem, says: "A strain weakened my kidneys and I was laid up for two weeks. I tried several remedies, but got no relief. On a neighbor's advice, I began using Doan's Kidney Pills and one box made me well enough to go back to work. Doan's Kidney Pills did more to fix me up in good shape than anything else I ever tried."

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