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BUSINESS NOT SO BAD.

Trade of the United States in 1913 with the 20 Latin-American republics, both in sales and purchases, exceeded in volume that of any other single country, according to John Barrett, director general of the Pan-American Union. It was the first year, he says, the United States has achieved this, but it is only the beginning of established supremacy.

Reports from leading men in various lines of business all over this country, received by a large commercial house in New York, are more than comfortably reassuring. Optimism is the tone everywhere.

The best volume of business, both in quantity of orders and amount in dollars and cents per order has been coming from the agricultural district west of the Mississippi. This section seems to be prosperous far beyond the average, due, no doubt, to the very good crops in the past two or three years.

From Massachusetts comes a report from the president of a rubber shoe company: "The capacity of our factory is 6000 pairs of rubbers a day, but by working many of our departments night and day we are now turning out 9000 pairs a day, as compared with 6000 pairs a day in December, 1913. Our actual shipments from January 1, 1914, to November 1, 1914, are 38 per cent ahead of the same period in 1913."

The secretary-director of the Greater Des Moines Committee says: "The great prosperity of Iowa and the continued increase of business among our jobbers and manufacturers convinces them that the business future is bright."

In the hundreds of letters received by the New York house in answer to its inquiries, not a single discordant note comes from anywhere.

The fellow who has hard times ahead of him is Old Pessimism.

THE HIGH COST OF WAR.

Four years of war cost this country \$4,000,000,000, and this not counting the cost to the South. Forty years after the war we had more than a million names on the pension roll, which reached its highest cost last year with \$174,171,660 paid out. The cost of the European war is estimated at \$20,000,000,000 a year, and if it continues for three years, as Lord Kitchener intimated it might, there would be the stupendous debt of \$60,000,000,000 for Europe to pay. The interest on this alone, even at four per cent, would be \$2,400,000,000 yearly.

Of course Europe cannot pay pensions, as this country has done, even if it desired to do so. The struggle to meet the interest alone without reducing the principal will be a terrible one that will tax the patriotism and resources of all the nations to their limit. The debt of \$60,000,000,000 is more than four times all the gold taken from the mines since civilization began. It represents the entire farm production of the United States, cattle and other livestock included, for ten years. Even with the war lasting but a year, it would represent the entire production of our farms for four years, and when the destruction of property and the loss by destroyed industries and commerce are taken into consideration, it would represent that production for five years. With one year's war and the cost as estimated, \$20,000,000,000, it would mean that it would take 22,000 tons of gold to pay the bill, and with interest at four per cent it would require 1280 tons yearly to meet it.

Captain R. W. Collins, of the U. S. Coast Artillery corps, in his report to Adjutant General Finzer, shows that he is himself an example of the danger of militarism. He asserts that those who do not believe in bigger armies and preparing for war are undesirable, and intimates they should be run out of the country. It is inferred from the tone of his remarks that he would like the job of doing this in great land there are men of all beliefs and the same division of opinions. His rabidness shows that he is of the most dangerous class of these, for he would deprive the citizens of having or expressing an opinion about military affairs, and probably about any others unless they did their thinking with the captain's thinker.

There was a gathering in Washington recently of twenty representatives of governments on the western continent, all except Canada and Mexico being represented. This gathering was for the purpose of taking steps to protect the rights of neutrals. As a beginning, the broad doctrine was laid down that "the rights of a belligerent ended where the rights of a neutral began." The old idea that because one nation was at war with another it could interfere with the business of the balance of the world was declared obsolete. It is a notice that warring nations must refrain from wrongs on sea and land which interfere with the business and affairs of peaceful countries. In other words, it is maintained that because a nation goes to war that is not sufficient excuse for it turning pirate and preying on the commerce of its neighbors.

It is reported that Nikola Tesla has invented something that will stop war. This is the discovery recently noted, that ammunition can be exploded at a distance. If this discovery is what has been claimed for it, it will surely put an end to the present style of "civilized warfare." When all an enemy's ammunition can be exploded at a distance of twenty or more miles, the only way to continue fighting will be for the armies to provide themselves with war clubs and go to it. It is sincerely hoped the discovery may prove all that is claimed for it—and more.

Judging from the estimates for the cost of carrying it on, the Oregon Agricultural College is growing rapidly. In 1911-12 it cost \$649,053.78, and for extension service \$5,000. For the years 1913-14 the cost was \$803,164.82, with extension cost of \$87,290. The estimates for this year are \$954,543, with extension cost \$194,106. The total for this period is \$1,148,649.

A lady who admits she is twenty-six years old says the men are hard creatures to please. "If a girl pretends to doubt a man's bare-faced flattery, she is called a cynic, and if she pretends to believe it, he thinks her a fool." On top of this she alleges all men are flatterers, or worse, in talking to women and hence mournfully asks: "What can a poor girl do?"

With the Oregonian's editorial staff so profoundly informed as to the needs of the army, the navy, finances and foreign affairs, it is too bad that they cannot be transferred to Washington and placed in charge of the nation's affairs. Then all would be lovely and the national goose would honk high.

One of the paradoxical things in Eastern Oregon is that skating on Hot Lake is reported good. However, those Eastern Oregon fellows do all kinds of stunts not known on this side of the range.

Postoffice department officials estimate that 100,000,000 parcels were delivered during the Christmas rush. This is about right, as that would mean one for each person in the United States.

THE ROUND-UP

Morshfield reports placer mining has taken a new start near there, the miners finding their principal pay in platinum, taken from the old worked-over mines. The pay is said to be good.

Albany is to have a meat packing plant with a capacity for handling 2000 hogs a year. Later other livestock will be worked up.

Mrs. Mary Donk died at the home of her son at Pleasant Ridge, 15 miles south of The Dalles, Christmas day. She was more than 100 years old, having been born in August, 1814.

Catherine May Semester Gross, a pioneer of 1852, died December 19 at Brownsville. She was born in Gilliam county, Missouri, Christmas day, 1838. She was the mother of 11 children, six of whom survive her. There are 20 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren.

After crossing the plains together in 1853, "Uncle" Burns and "Aunt" Jane Yeatch have passed nearly 61 years in or near Cottage Grove. Thursday was their 60th wedding anniversary. He is 80 and Mrs. Yeatch 83. A reception was given them in the Presbyterian church Tuesday, and another at the home of their son, O. Yeatch, Thursday. They have seven children living, all but one in the Cottage Grove neighborhood.

W. J. Turner, who lived about five miles northwest of Pilot Rock, was found dead at his well Thursday. Death was caused by paralysis.

La Grande reports a snowfall of several inches, which began Christmas night. It is thought this will relieve the water famine from which that city has been suffering for several weeks.

Corvallis is wise and tests every load of asphalt placed in its street paving. Result, good pavement.

The Baptist church at Enterprise, burned two weeks ago, will be rebuilt. Money enough has been subscribed that, with that coming from insurance, provides \$7000 for the purpose.

Baker Herald: The Eagle Valley News of Richland says two bonding companies have signified their willingness to float the bonds for a railroad to Eagle Valley as soon as \$200,000 of the stock is taken by Baker county people. The News adds this threat: "Now let the Commercial club of Baker get busy, or if they don't bustle

Despotism

For years we cheap teetotal cranks have tried to slay the Demon Rum, and from our spigoted ranks all sorts of shrieks and prayers have come. Such weapons as were at command we have employed, as best we knew, and every corner of the land has heard our loud howling-do. We gain a little every year, small triumphs follow every slump; a village here, a county there, cuts out the booze and hits the pump. But, oh, it is a weary task, this talking onward stage by stage, while Harleyeorn, with jug and flask, still poisons Youth, and murders Age! But in this country of the free, we cannot burn the boozing hen, or lock the door and lose the key—the beast most linger in its den, until the Law, that's halt and lame, can be persuaded of the truth, and urged to bill the thing of shame that battens on the nation's youth. Enlightened Russia knew the way, great Russia, with her tyrant czar; he twists his wrist, and in a day, the lid is placed on every bar. The wish is treason, much I fear, and I am shaking in my shoes—I wish we had a despot here, just long enough to kill Old Boozet



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the enterprising citizens of Haines and vicinity will find the terminus of the line at that point.

The matter of building a bridge across the Willamette river at Harrisburg is held up until it can be learned what the legislature will do about changing the boundary line between Lane and Linn counties at that point, where the channel, it is alleged, has changed until the line is marked by a slough, instead of the river.

"The total of stamp sales for 1914," says the Budget, "will nearly reach \$40,000, which is the amount of business required to place Astoria among the first class offices."

The singing of Christmas carols in the streets is an innovation enjoyed by the people of The Dalles this year, thanks to Mrs. Carlton P. Williams, who trained a band of some 60 singers for this exercise.

CAPTURED FRENCH ARMY SURGEON INSPECTS WOUNDED FRENCH PRISONERS IN GERMAN MILITARY HOSPITAL



Wounded French prisoners in Germany. Many are here seen lined up before the chief German surgeon of the detention camp and a French army surgeon who was captured. The latter was permitted to inspect the French prisoners. This practice is followed in all the German military hospitals. In the picture the French surgeon is the one with the black beard and dark uniform.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY WOULD CONTROL STATE

Election of Selling for Speaker First Step Toward Reapportionment Bill at Coming Session.

"The total population of the state, according to the commercial club's figures, is 795,587. Multnomah county, then, has a little more than one-third the population of Oregon within its borders. "Under the present system—with a total of 90 members in the legislature—Multnomah county should have 30 senators and representatives."—Portland Oregonian.

A bill to redistrict the state for representation in the legislature "probably will be proposed at the forthcoming session," according to a Portland Oregonian story, which thus gently breaks the news of how the Multnomah county machine expects to attain easy control of future legislatures. The above quotation from the same Oregonian story shows what the machine would like to have.

The single city of Portland now sends 29 men to the state legislature. It has 12 members of the house and six members of the senate. In addition, it has the Multnomah-Clackamas-Columbia joint place in the senate, which two members not only represent Portland but nearly always actually live in Portland.

If under the proposed redistricting the "injustices" to Multnomah county is removed by giving Portland 30 legislators instead of 29, or one-third the entire membership of house and senate, the additional 10 will have to come off the up-state membership. For example, if all counties were to be reduced to the same basis of representation as that given Multnomah as her present basis in the Oregonian's table, six legislators might have to represent Marion and Linn counties, instead of, as at present, 12. For here in substance is the left Portland argument.

"We have 277,183 population and only 20 legislators. This is one for every 13,859 of population. Marion county has 40,919 people for seven legislators, and Linn county 23,685 and 5,137 respectively per legislator. "If, now, Marion and Linn counties are brought down to the Multnomah basis of representation, that of one for each 13,859, their combined populations will give them six legislators, or five less than they have at present."

"Multnomah county legislators point out that Multnomah county is discriminated against by the present districting plan," reads the Oregonian story. In 1912, the Portland machine named the president of the senate. He was a Portland lawyer. The Portland machine named the speaker of the house. He was a Portland lawyer. The Portland machine named the chairman of the senate ways and means committee. He was a Portland dentist. The Portland machine named the chairman of ways and means committee in the house. He, too, was a Portlander. And of most of the other important senate and house committees, the chairmen were named by the Portland machine, and in each case the holder was a Portlander or an outsider who had been pulled into the organization.

One of these men has again been set aside this year to become president of the senate, for, know, gentle reader, that the Portland machine is not overlooking control of the 1915 legislature. For speaker of the house the Portland delegation has united on Ben Selling, the Portland clothing merchant. Selling's only opponent is Allen H. Eaton, representative from Lane county since 1907. Mr. Eaton's platform calls for a reduction of 25 per cent, and more if possible, in the expense of running the legislative session. It calls

THE MANICURE LADY

By William F. Kirk.

"Some gent that was in here to have his nails did was saying the other day that Monte Carlo is closed on account of the war," remarked the Manicure Lady.

"It's been closed some time," replied the Head Barber. "I used to think that some day I would go over there and break it but now there ain't much likelihood of it ever opening again. I am afraid this war is going to change Europe more than people realize now."

"If you couldn't play the wheel any more likely than you play the horses," said the Manicure Lady. "I don't think you'd ever break no Monte Carlo bank. Wilfred was talking about the war the other night. He thinks some of going over and offering his services, the way Lord Byron offered his services to Greece. It gave father a great laugh, and that didn't make my brother feel none too happy and merry but the old gent ain't humoring Wilfred much these days, mostly on account of the kid not coming across lately with no hard money. It seems Wilfred was reading something about King George issuing a moratorium, which means that for the present debts in England need not be paid. It wouldn't make no difference to my brother if he lived over there, as he is the original moratorium kid anyway, but since he heard about issuing that declaration he ain't had even the faintest notion of settling for nothing, and that's why father don't look at him these days with tender and undying affection shining out of his dear old eyes."

"I wouldn't blame the poor people over there for not paying what they owe during these terrible times. The war will leave them without a cent anyway, so I don't suppose moratoriums are necessary. Gee, George, it seems terrible to think about folks having each other in these civilized times."

"Times ain't so civilized, it seems to me," said the Head Barber. "Folks was just beginning to think we was civilized when along comes this fierce big disturbance, and all the civilization and kindness men have talked about is thrown into the discard and forgotten. This war may not take very long, but it will take a long, long time to get over the effects of it."

"Wilfred says he hates to talk about it because he is a poet and it makes him sad. I always thought other people could be sad too, but he says dreamers see so many things in the future that other people cannot see. The old gent said he wished he could see far enough into the future to know when brother would get something to eat, and when Wilfred started to read a poem that he had wrote about the greatness and grandeur of glory the old gent told him to take it out on the fire escape and read it to the old eldhus man that was hollering down in the court. All I remember was

"The greatness and grandeur of glory are most in our minds today; And many a wonderful story Will come from the war, I darseny." "I wish he could take a little run over there and get a job with some of them powers," said the Head Barber. "Men are getting shot there for less than writing that kind of poetry."

In after years a girl with Auburn tresses became a red-headed woman.

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