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C. S. BARNES, President; CHAS. H. FISHER, Vice-President; DORA C. ANDRESEN, Sec. and Treas.

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FULL LEASED WIRE TELEGRAPH REPORT

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COUNTRY FACING MEAT SHORTAGE.

According to the annual report of the Portland Union Stock Yards, just issued in pamphlet form, this country is facing a shortage in meats. It is figured out there is an apparent lack of eight pounds per capita, and that the supply is diminishing while the demand increases. The report puts the situation as follows:

Figuring the population of the United States at 100,000,000, each inhabitant is short approximately eight pounds of meat, compared with the year 1913. The leading livestock markets of the West, which are Portland, Chicago, St. Joseph, Omaha, St. Louis and Kansas City, show a shortage for the year of 3,515,161 meat animals, a decrease of approximately 800,000,000 pounds of beef, pork and mutton, compared with 1913.

Notwithstanding the immense shortage in livestock during the year, the wholesale prices of packers to local butchers are in some cases the same and in many instances lower than a year ago. While the prices of cattle on the hoof, excepting choice steers, are lower than a year ago, and hogs are lower, it is patent that, had the demand for meat been normal in face of the big decrease, live prices for meat animals of all kinds would have been at a much higher level than at the present time.

Receipts of cattle this year at the six big markets are the smallest in 15 years. Not since 1899 was the total less than this year. Compared with 1907, the banner year in cattle receipts, the year 1914 shows a decrease of over 2,000,000 head. Hogs show big decreases. The sheep supply is the smallest since 1910. Portland is included in these totals only since 1909, because previous figures are not available.

The shortage in livestock is due, it is said, to the disappearance of the great ranges, the sacrifice of cows, heifers and calves, droughty conditions which have prevailed for the past few years, to the scarcity of feed, financial pressure, and for other causes.

FAILURE OF FORTIFICATIONS.

In the days of primitive man it was the biggest giant with the biggest club who won the fight. In the age of highest ancient civilization it was the biggest army that won the battle. Science and genius have done wonders since in the way of guns, projectiles, armaments and fortifications, through which intellect was supposed to have gained mastery over more brute force.

But already it has been clearly demonstrated in this war that for every armor plate there is an effective projectile and for every fortification there is a sufficiently heavy gun.

It was Elias Johnson, an American, who invented the projectile that pierces a 14-inch Harveyized steel plate, almost as if it were tissue paper. He simply put a soft-metal cap, or collar, on the projectile's point, which prevents it from flattening. Thus armaments costing millions upon millions are turned into scrap heaps.

The photographs of the ruined Belgian works show clearly that the term "impregnable fortification" is but an empty sound.

And once more, as of old, the issue turns upon the size of armies, the power of brute strength.

Germany seems to have realized the futility of defenses and has done little to fortify her borders. Her dependence is upon her marvelously effective army; upon this she has relied from the first and must rely even if forced back upon her own territory.

Not a single fortification has proved to be a strategic point in this war. It is being decided from first to last in open battles, just as in the days of old.

How futile, after all, in the supreme test, is the long and much discussed armament.

Senator Reed Smoot, apostle of the Mormon church and its representative in the national congress, spoke eleven hours without intermission in an effort to talk the pending shipping bill to death. Evidently the shipping trust, which opposes the measure, insisted that he earn his rearies?

"Billy Sunday Hits Booze"—Headline. Sorry to hear it. Thought he cut it out when he went on the sacred vaudeville circuit.

The Medford Mail Tribune thinks it is poor economy to cut off appropriations for the support of the state's eleemosynary institutions, branding such action as an instance of placing the dollar above humanity. It holds that it is no fault of the management of the state institutions that the inmates are increasing out of all proportion to the increase in the state's population. Insane asylums, feeble-minded institutions and prisons are the fruitage of our civilization and should be properly maintained. The 1626 inmates of the state hospital for the insane, for instance, should have every possible comfort and care. The Mail Tribune concludes: "While the people seek economy, there has been no waste shown in the management of any of the state institutions under the business administration of the present state board of control, and they do not want it at the expense of the helpless state wards. Emergency measures, saddling extra judges onto the taxpayers and other measures pending offer plenty of opportunity for legitimate economy, without punishing the unfortunate."

Senator Lodge, in a speech on the floor of the United States senate declares that the Panama canal is "miserably and most inadequately protected against being blown up and blocked for months by agents or spies of a hostile nation." Col. Goethals, the builder and boss of the canal, tells congress that the Panama defenses, both men and munitions, are adequate to withstand any attack. Which expert are we to believe, asks one of esteemed contemporaries.

The lower house of the legislature has passed a bill prohibiting advertising signs along state highways, including the Pacific highway. The Medford Mail Tribune, commenting on this action, says: "This is the first requisite toward beautifying the highway. Next will come the planting of shade trees, which the ladies of Jackson county have undertaken."

The rule of the United States senate allowing a member to retain the floor, once he secures it, as long as he can talk or read on any subject, whether on the measure under discussion or not, is one of the absurd rules of a custom-ridden body. It makes the senate impotent to transact business and ridicule in the eyes of every citizen of the republic who possesses a grain of common sense.

Looks like the legislature was going to cut off the home for wayward girls but let Game Warden Finley go on spending \$137,000 a year, or as much more as he can get his hands on. Protection of game and fish seems more important than protection of the girls—or is it because the lobby is stronger?

The rumor that the Southern Pacific company will build a new depot in Salem this year has been revived. Let us hope that it will progress beyond the rumor stage this time.

Portland's population, according to its latest city directory is 275,735. But it was issued before the lobbyist contingent moved up to Salem.

The Panama-Pacific exposition is an assured success, now that the Cherrians have recognized it officially.

If you are thinking of building at all, why not build now?

Butte court here came to light today when James Rice, of Biddle, filed a declaration in which he bequeathed all of his money and property to the children of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Nichols, of Biddle. The Nichols children were bequeathed the money and property of Mr. Rice with the understanding that they should care for his "dog-puppy" as long as it lived. The will was prepared by Mr. Rice, and was filed in the probate court by Attorney J. C. Fullerton, acting as his attorney.

Medford Mail-Tribune: The warm weather of the last 10 days has caused many of the housewives of the city, to begin planting sweet peas, and thinking of spading the ground for garden. Monday the mercury rose to 59 degrees, the highest it has been for several weeks, and there is just a faint sign of spring in the air. The snow is melting in the foothills, and the waters of the streams show a slight rise.

Eugene Guard: The Lane County Jersey Breeders' association was permanently organized at a meeting in the commercial club this afternoon. Officers were elected as follows: President, P. B. Chase; vice-president, C. A. Swartz; secretary and treasurer, C. W. Swartz. The directors elected are: Wm. Stuedel, for one year; H. C. Peterson, for two years; and G. N. Bertelsen, for three years. H. T. French, professor at Oregon Agricultural college, spoke before the organization.

Not a True Indicator. Smith, who lived in the west, left his home town early in his youth. Returning after several years he was met by an elderly acquaintance whom he had not seen in the intervening time. "Glad to see you, my boy," greeted the elderly one, "but you look as if you had not stuck to grape juice and soda water as closely as you should." "You mean judge by appearances, uncle," smiled Smith. "I have never taken more than two or three glasses a day in all my life." "Um, I see," responded the other. "Probably your face is like some gas meters; it registers more than you consume."

A word to the wise is said to be sufficient—but did you ever notice about how many people use it talking to you?

SIDE LIGHTS ON THE LEGISLATURE

Senator Bingham spent the week-end at his home in Eugene gathering data on the State Board of Forestry which he proposes to wipe clear off the map. He says the tide has turned since the first telegrams sent at the request of members of the board arrived and that he is constantly in receipt of data from different timbermen of the state that will assist him in securing the bills.

Colonel Mercer, the sergeant-at-arms in the senate is an exceptionally efficient officer. He understands fully the duties of the janitor, the mailing clerk, the pages and sees that each gives his work proper attention. In addition whenever the minister selected by the Salem Ministerial Union fails to appear to open the morning session of the senate with prayer, the colonel also performs that duty.

Dan Kellaher has announced his intention to purchase a small auto horn and clamp on the under side of his desk. When ever in his estimation the steam roller is in action he will toot the horn that all may have ample warning of what is taking place.

Senator Garland while speaking upon the bill giving women the right to serve on juries stated that he did not vote for woman but he was going to vote for this bill to keep peace in the family. Senator Bingham speaking on the same bill said he was glad woman suffrage was in force as he now controlled two votes instead of one.

The senate chamber was the scene of a neat fight when Senator Bingham's secretary and one of the officials from the state foresters offices got into a warm conversation recently. The official was mad because the secretary had called at the office for some data and they used it to belittle the work of the office in statements prepared for the press.

LET'S WALLOP THE EARTH.

(Oregon City Enterprise.) Let's build the biggest navy and establish the largest army on earth. Think of it, the British, the Germans and the French exceed the fleet of the United States! To defend ourselves against invasion and to take our proper place in the progress and the growth of the world we must be ready to fight.

Let's make every able-bodied male citizen serve two years in the army, say between the ages of 18 and 25. Let's put a tax on window glass, on transportation, let's add to our income tax, increase our corporation tax, demand stamps on theatre tickets to secure funds to build the bigger ships, equip the largest guns, make forts which cannot be destroyed, and extend our power.

Let's decrease the work of the interior, agriculture, labor and postoffice departments. They are a waste of money which could be better spent on guns and ships. Drop all plans to build great federal highways, forget the great irrigation projects, ignore the plea of the people for better waterways. Such things are immaterial. They are a waste of government funds. Be prepared for war. We will probably have to fight the Japs or the British or the Germans or someone else in the next few years. Be ready for them. This talk that the man with a loaded gun is bound to shoot is all "hunk" and the people who chant it are traitors and socialists. If these nations won't fight us and we are powerful enough then we can declare war on some convenient nation which we are sure we can lick. There is nothing like a war for filling a country with a true loyalty.

Then humanity will crawl in a South African hut and pull in the hut after her and Hope, Love and Charity will commit suicide, and Justice will beat out the brains of Brotherly Love and fall on her own sword.

Being Ready

"Let preparations never cease—the strongest guaranty of peace is readiness for war." So we've been told by statesmen great, who navigate the ship of state, that we pay taxes for

if we'd feel safe we must prepare with airships, we must fill the air, and stock the sea with ships; we ought to blow a billion yen to drill and train a host of men, if we'd avoid collapse. And even now, while Europe rooks beneath her armies' mighty shocks, our statesmen talk the same: "We must be building battle boats, if we'd preserve our sacred goats, and sidestep grief and shame." And it was Europe, gentle niece, that guaranteed a last-see peace by loading up for honor. Whenever she acquired some man, she blew it for a wet skin gun, till she had guns to spare. And Europe's sons, for countless years, have totted in agony and tears to pay a brutal tax; to pay for "guaranties of peace" they labored till Death should release the burdens from their backs. The peaceful man won't carry arms; he has no use for war's alarms, his quiet way he goes; but once you arm him to the ears, with boomers and guns and spars, he'll surely twist your nose.

Those were good old times when it was possible to become superexcited about a Kipling poem or an opera by Wagner.



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PONTO, GENERAL GRANT'S DOG. (By George B. Ritter, in Our Dumb Animals.) Ponto was the St. Bernard dog who enjoyed the confidence and friendship of no less a celebrity than General U. S. Grant, who brought him to this country from France, in 1877, when he was but a few months old. As it was against the rules of the ship to accommodate dogs among the first-class passengers, the general carried the pup on board in his coat pocket, intending to keep him hidden in his stateroom until New York was reached.

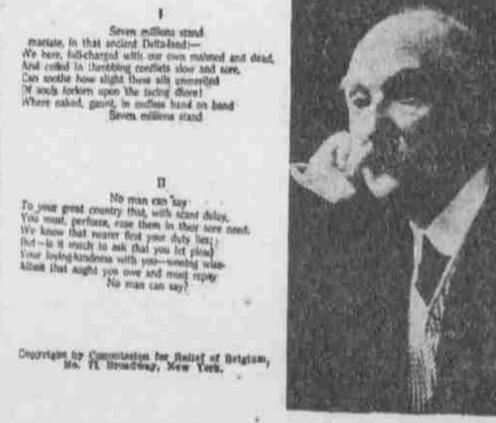
But the captain learned of the dog's presence shortly after leaving the port and it not been for the earnest protests of the general and the other passengers, Ponto was given the freedom of the ship and completely won the captain over with his graceful antics.

He was General Grant's constant companion for eight years, or up to the time of the latter's death, in 1885. He accompanied the general on his walks, and when the latter became so wasted and weakened by the disease that caused his death that he could not leave the piazza of the cottage he occupied at Mount McGregor, Ponto passed whole days dozing and watching beside the chair of his dying master, as if he realized that they soon must part and was determined to remain faithful until the end.

After General Grant's death Ponto began to mope, and, having no suitable place to keep him, Mrs. Grant sent him to the country place of General Adam Badeau, at Haines Falls, in the Catskills. He became the companion and friend of his new master who left instructions at his death that when Ponto, in his turn, passed away, he should be buried by the roadside, in what is now Outcrop Park, and that a monument with a suitable inscription should be erected to mark his grave. The lettering on the stone shows that the dog was born in Chamouni, in 1877, and that he died in Tannersville in 1898.

An Appeal to America On Behalf of the Belgian Destitute

By THOMAS HARDY. The following poem by Thomas Hardy was written for The Commission for Relief in Belgium, which is the general shipping and clearance house for this relief work, and the only one recognized by the Powers at War.



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