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Non-Partisan League Has Queer Platform.

No, this is not a George Chamberlain League. For George's sake let us remind Oregonians that he has no copyright on the word "non-partisan" and neither has Oswald West. This non-partisan organization is that North Dakota movement and one of their principles advocated is an eight-hour day.
Can you think of a farmer advocating an eight-hour day? Can you imagine a farmer not going broke who adopts an eight-hour day? And yet this league, which is said to be a farmer's organization, has for one of its cardinal principles an eight hour day.
Nothing more ridiculous has been heard in all political history. It is not even a good camouflage.

Would Suppress Publicity of Business Matters.

That one-time champion of the blue sky law, the Portland Journal, published by C. S. Jackson, reputed head of the single tax propaganda in Oregon, is now an advocate of the suppression of publicity in the transaction of legal business. Jackson, or the tax lien speculators of the state who are interested in the success of his scheme, paid for the circulation of the initiative petitions which placed two measures on the ballot to be voted upon next month, remarks the Salem Journal. One of these measures repeals the law for the publication of the delinquent tax list, and the other fixes the price of legal advertising in all the counties of the state, except Multnomah, where Jackson's own paper is published. The Oregon Voter sized these measures up pretty well in a recent editorial when it said:
"The essence of C. S. Jackson's tax publication bill is that it does away with notice to the public of the names of property-owners whose taxes are long past due. The property-owner may postpone tax payment indefinitely as far as any fear of publicity is concerned. Mr. Jackson's measure puts an end to printing the delinquent tax list.
In one important way the measure is deceptive. It calls under the camouflage of substituting a mailed notice for the published notice. In effect, the bill proposes no such substitute, for already each property-owner whose post-office address is on file with the tax collector is notified when his taxes are due. The only substitution there will be in effect under the Jackson bill will be to send another notice by mail to follow the ineffective first notice. Instead of publishing the list in the county paper where the public may read it and ascertain who the delinquents are. The Jackson bill in

effect substitutes suppression for publicity.
"It is notorious that the bill originates in Mr. Jackson's desire to punish the country press of the state by depriving it of the little revenue that has come to it by annual publication of the delinquent tax list. If the measure is understood by the taxpayers and the public, it will be defeated on its merits. Were the motive behind it generally understood, it would be turled by an overwhelming negative majority as a rebuke to the bullying tactics employed by a wealthy publisher to bend the small country papers to his will or break them as punishment for their independence of his dictation."

Our Water System and Its Heavy Expense.

The water system of La Grande is not a good one. This opinion is forced by the constant fixing and the prevailing feeling of an inadequate water supply during the summer season. Just why it is not good dates back to the time of installation and the questionable judgment used in procuring a water supply.
The latter features, however, are ancient history, and what La Grande people must meet is the existing condition. If it was a poorly built system, as it was, the question is how can it be repaired now to do its work.
From J. D. McKennon's report to the commission it would seem that it is next to impossible for the Commission to get work done on the system that will stand. He says openly that the money spent on the intake has been poorly spent and that value has not been obtained. As he is one of the commissioners and was a commissioner at the time the work on the intake was done it is obvious that either the inspector was not on the job or correct reports of the work done were not forthcoming for the commission's consideration.
La Grande would be greatly pleased to know just what must be done to the city water system to make it dependable and the next move will be to do it. Further experimenting is useless, however, and we do not believe the people will agree to permit it.

Ben's 'Book' Is Tame This Year.

Ben Oleott is sending out his little "book." It is the secretary of state's production for the benefit of all candidates for office. This year it is thin—poorly fed, and lacks the glow and luster of years gone by when candidates rushed into print with all their ideas and aims.
Charlie McNary has his cut—the side-view cut—properly located in the top of column position and surrounded by very frank and correct statements by Tom Tongue and John Cochran of the Republican state central committee. These two officials of the Republican party also attach their names to the good words in the pamphlet sent for Governor Withycombe. They also take a couple of pages to tell Republicans a few facts and

incidentally say a piece for O. P. Hoff for state treasurer.
The Democrats are equally modest, for Harvey Starkweather, as Democratic chairman, extolls the virtues of Walter Pierce in a couple of pages and also tells of some man by the name of David P. Mason, who is reported to be running for state treasurer.
The only thing that looks really familiar is Ben's autograph signature and his "foreword," which he has written from time to time and now has it committed to memory. Will the pamphlet do good? It will not. It is a useless waste of paper and expense, especially so during this war period.

After the War—Then What Will Happen.

The war is near its close. No one can doubt it if they have read the papers carefully. Germany is licked and about out of the game. This being true, what about after the war?
As a nation we will have a lot of things to do. As a state Oregon will have many things to do, and as a county Union county will have plenty to occupy her mind. One of the first things is to get everything in shape for practical, energetic farm work for with the close of the war the food campaign is not finished by any means. Belgium, Serbia and Russia will need food for some time. The reconstruction of Russia alone will require all of the statesmen of the allies and all the energy that America can spare in the furnishing of supplies.
Our armies will not be disbanded quickly. It will be a slow process, necessarily, for if the entire military strength were disbanded at one stroke nothing short of a panic will follow. In the first place the boys cannot be brought from Europe as quickly as they were sent across. Boats will be carrying provisions and some commerce. They will be needed in Europe in large numbers to see that all peace treaties are properly executed, for before this whole matter is finished America will have to exercise her policy of fairness in almost every land.
At home after the war the one great aim should be, aside from doing what the government asks, to make preparations for those who have gone to the front. Every soldier of this nation should have first consideration when he returns.

France Should Dictate the Victor's Terms.

The one nation that should say, or at least should have the most to say, whether Germany should be permitted to have peace on our terms, that is, unconditional surrender, is France, says the Spokesman-Review. Serbia and Belgium next, but France, first.
More than England, Italy or the United States, even more than betrayed Belgium or assassinated Serbia, France has the right to stand in judgment upon Germany and to pronounce the verdict of humanity. France was felled by the leap of the German beast in 1870, when Bismarck by lying provoked the Franco-Prussian war, and France



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Should Oregon Have Normal Schools?

The Question is Answered in the Following Paragraphs.

President Wilson has specifically and earnestly asked that the schools of the nation be kept up to a high standard as a war time and post-war time necessity. In providing trained teachers for our schools, we are simply complying with a war-time request of our commander-in-chief, hence the great popularity throughout the state among the people of all classes—for all loyal Oregonians are patriotic—of the measure to be voted on November 5th providing for the construction after the war of two normal schools, one at Ashland to serve Southern Oregon and one in Eastern Oregon at a

point to be chosen by the Normal School Board of Regents.

The Portland Central Labor Council, representing 46 unions with 87 delegates present at its session October 10 passed a resolution endorsing the Normal School measure to be voted on at the coming general election and in addition instructed its delegates to the State Federation of Labor to take a similar stand at that conference.

As an economic measure the Normal school bill is a winner. It costs \$50 a year to instruct each pupil in the public schools of Oregon; 20,000 fall to make their grade each year. State Superintendent Churchill says that 40 per cent of the failures are due to poor and untrained teachers, thus \$400,000 is spent annually in re-teaching these children. The millage provided in the measure would pro-

duce about \$75,000, hence the state would save the difference between \$400,000 and \$75,000 by having trained teachers.

The Oregon State Woman's Christian Temperance Union, in convention assembled in Portland, October 11, passed a resolution for the erection of a Normal School in Southern Oregon and one in Eastern Oregon. The resolution stressed the fact that there is this year a shortage of 500 teachers in Oregon, hence the imperative need for additional training facilities for teachers.

There are 6,000 teachers in Oregon grade schools; there are over 1,000 new teachers employed each year, the average teaching life of a teacher being six years. Our one normal school, at Monmouth, is turning out 300. This year Ore-

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