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STATE DEBATING TO SOON BEGIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS JUST OFF PRESS OF UNIVERSITY

Subjects of Public Interest Have Been Chosen for Discussion.

Announcements of the Oregon High school debating league, for the school year 1918-1919 are off the press at the University. The league, which is fostered by the university, arranges debates between the high schools of the state and announces the district questions, which will decide the district champions. The final debate championship will be held in Eugene May 9.

District questions for debate in the league are announced as follows: For the Coos Bay, Southeastern Oregon and city of Portland districts, "Resolved, That the United States should substantially increase its permanent restrictions upon immigration after the war." For the Southern Oregon, Umatilla and southern Willimette districts, "Resolved, That the states should employ a uniform system of compulsory health insurance for wage earners, (constitutionally conceded)." The question assigned to the upper Columbia and west side districts is, "Resolved, That states, counties and municipalities should not bond for public improvements." The lower Columbia, South-Central Oregon, northern Willamette and Eastern Oregon districts will debate upon "Resolved, That the United States should establish a system of military training for boys from 16 to 20 years of age."

Discuss League of Nations

The question to decide the championship of the state will be phrased from the general subject: "League of Nations." The precise proposition will be announced in time for full preparation of material for inter-district debates.

Salem high school won the state debate last year over Marshfield. A trophy, "The University of Oregon Cup," given by the Laurean and Euxaxian societies of the University and by Professor E. E. DeCou, founder of the league, is presented annually to the state champions and will become the permanent property of the school winning it three times. The cup has been won by the following high schools: Albany, North Bend, Pendleton, Salem (twice), Crook county at Prineville and Joseph. The "regents' cup" passed to Grants Pass in 1911 when they had won it twice.

Officers of the Oregon High school debating league for the 1918-1919 are George W. Hug, superintendent of schools, McMinnville, president; R. W. Prescott, chief of bureau of public discussion, University of Oregon, Eugene, secretary-treasurer. These men, with P. L. Campbell, president of the University of Oregon; J. A. Churchill, superintendent of public instruction, and Cornelia Marvin, state librarian, form the executive committee of the league.

Peculiar Articles of Commerce.

Dried lizards are said to be an article of merchandise regularly imported into this country. They come from China, to supply a demand by Chinese residents in the United States. They are supposed to possess much medicinal virtue when ground to powder and mixed with certain other curative substances. The Chinese used dried toads for a tonic, salted scorpions for smallpox and fossil crabs as an antidote for poison.

Tunnels and Geology.

Geologists owe much of their knowledge of the Alps to the tunnels which have been bored through these mountains to make railway routes between the northern and southern parts of Europe. There has been no more important discovery made in this way than during the construction of the Loetschberg tunnel. This was the unexpected piercing of a great coal seam in the center of a mass of much younger Triassic stone.

Mangroves Destroying Island.

The island of Aldabra, near Madagascar, is being wiped off the map by the action of the mangroves that grow along the foot of the cliff. They eat their way into the rock in all directions, and into the gaps thus formed the waves force their way.

His Great Task.

"I want to get some information," said the tired man with three children. "Why don't you apply to the bureau of information?" "I'm working up to that. First I've got to get information as to how I can find the bureau of information."—Washington Star.

Wanted Information.

While I was upstairs, our little Elizabeth called that the cat wanted to get outdoors because she had been teasing him. I replied: "I will be down in a minute and let him out, but don't tickle him in the meantime." When I got down she had been tickling him all over, and said: "Daddy, where is his meantime?"—Chicago Examiner.

The Difference.

Said the occasional observer: "There may be a lot of differences between the old-time writin' feller and a book, but one of the chiefest is a pocketbook, so I think that just a plain class job printing, The Observer, Main 37.

LIKE YANKEE SPEECH

Expressions Used by the American Fighters Charm English People.

The American soldier's appearance, social conduct and conversation, to say nothing of his military prowess, have endeared him to all classes in France and England. French newspapers tell of his chivalrous attitude toward the fair sex generally, and his kindly paternal way with children in war-racked villages; the English dailies print columns about his alert, military bearing and the charm of his native slang. This last characteristic draws forth the following letter on "What Sammy Says," which is taken from the London Daily Mail:

Cheerful in the Ward.

Sammy is in my ward, and I like him. His face he describes as "one of the sort that only a mother could love," but somehow, lantern-jawed and high-cheeked as it is, it appeals to me.

Even more than his face I like his conversation. His experiences during the war are, I suppose, much the same as those of other men, his mode of relating them is peculiarly his own. The picturesque imagery with which he adorns his speech may be an old story in "God's country"—to me it is a thing of wonder and a joy forever.

He came over "the big drink" some months ago. He had a pleasant voyage, saw no "tin fish," and had plenty to eat—"six meals a day, three up and three down." On arrival at the port they got into "the dinkiest little train ever." Before it started the captain asked for a key to wind it up with. Sammy says that personally he intends to take one home as a charm to hang on his watch chain.

Quaint Description of Tea.

They went into camp, where they spent their time "hiking" about the countryside. The "eats" here were not very good. They were given tea "which tasted like the last water Noah kept afloat in" and fish "that was never caught, but must have given itself up." However, they made their motto, "Work Like Helen B. Happy," and stuck it out bravely. The one thing that really "got their goat" was having to sleep on "terra firma." That, Sammy says, is Latin for "terribly hard."

Ultimately he and his companions crossed to the front. The country pleased him, but he found the language difficult and the French people slow of comprehension. On one occasion he wanted a pair of duck shoes so he went into a bootmaker's shop and quacked—but he couldn't get the old dame "wise" to it.

For the fight that put him out of action he says his lieutenant was responsible. "He was sure tired of his position and crazy on becoming a captain or an angel." Sammy was ready enough to help, but a hoche shell intervened and insisted on sending in his name with an application "for immediate transfer to the flying corps."

Joys at Home.

It is my duty to give out his letters, and today, as he read a voluminous epistle his face brightened to such an extent that I was forced to inquire what good tidings had arrived. He hesitated, then grinned. "I don't mind telling you, nurse," he said, "It's my wife writing, and from what she says I calculate when I get home there'll be something beside a fence prowling around my little place in Seattle."

He goes tomorrow, and I shall miss him badly. He himself is all anxiety for an early return to a front where he anticipates a real good time for the Yanks and a correspondingly bad one for Jerry. The latter is assuredly up against the "straight goods" at last.

And the Hobo Left.

"Semper fidelis," announced the hobo. "Dat's me." "Sic semper," chirped the head of the house, and the bulldog promptly responded.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Reputation and Character.

Reputation is what men think you are, character is what you are. Both are important, but character is indispensable to success. Without character you are not likely to have a good reputation—very long.

Taking Things.

Take things as they come if you know what to do with them when they come. If not, make them come in the manner or quantity that you can handle them.

Valuable New Metal.

A white metal, which takes a brilliant polish and holds it on exposure to the atmosphere, and claimed to be possessed by an alloy of bismuth, mercury, tin, zinc and copper, has been covered by a patent.

What Our Heirs Think.

"Our lowest ambition should be a life of ninety years," says a noted physician. Well, it is sort of a low ambition, just merely to hang on.—Boston Transcript.

The Picture Month.

October is the opal month of the year. It is the month of glory, of fullness. It is the picture month.—Henry Ward Beecher.

Bobolink Restored to Favor.

By reason of its depredations on the rice fields, the bobolink was formerly rated the most destructive feathered creature on the continent. But the rice has moved away from the path of its migration, and on this account it has become almost charmless. Henceforward we may admire the bobolink without qualification. Unprotected against its only important enemy, man, it will doubtless become a much more numerous species.

PEACE ON EARTH

Good Will to Men

With the blessings of the day's cheer we wish you all

A MERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS

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Store Open Until 8:30 p. m. Monday and Tuesday

All Called On to Show Courage.

Whatever your sex or position, life is a battle in which you are to show your pluck; and woe be to the coward! Whether passed on a bed of sickness or a tented field, it is ever the same fair play and admits no foolish distinctions. Despair and postponement are cowardice and defeat. Men were born to succeed, not to fail.—Thoreau.

Queen of Qualities.

Amiability cannot atone for lack of force. Girls who are smiling and agreeable, but limp and inert in the presence of difficulties, do not command respect. The queen quality is force, and the other graces of character are the maids-in-waiting. One who cannot hammer her way through difficulties falls below the measure of womanhood, no matter how great her personal charm.—Pennsylvania Grit.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the stockholders of the United States National bank of La Grande, Oregon, is called to meet in their directors' room on Tuesday, January 14, 1919, for the purpose of electing a board of directors and transacting any other business that might come before said meeting.

T. J. SCROGGIN, Cashier.

12-14-30t

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the La Grande National Bank will be held at their banking house in La Grande, Oregon, on Tuesday, January 14th, 1919, at 3:30 p. m. At this meeting a Board of Directors will be elected, to serve for the ensuing year and until their successors are elected and qualify, and such other business will be considered as may properly offer.

F. L. MEYERS, Cashier.

Daily from Dec. 13 to Jan. 14.

The Observer furnishes and prints Butter Wrappers.

THE PALACE CONFECTIONERY

We just got in a large shipment of Hoefler's chocolates, one, two and three pound boxes. We also have a nice assortment of Christmas candy, 40c and 50c a pound. 12-23-2t

Butter Wrappers printed at the Observer office.

An Eastman kodak would be a very fine Christmas present and you can find them at any price to fit your pocketbook at d21-tf

Silverthorn's

FAMILY DRUG STORE

LA GRANDE, OREGON.

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JARDINIERES
CHINA PLATES
CHINA CUPS AND SAUCERS
POCKET KNIVES
SCISSORS
RAZORS
PERCOLATORS
CASSAROLES
DINNER SETS
THERMOS BOTTLES
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