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"My Country 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty"

A Message From the People.

The legislatures of western states soon to meet have had a message. It has been written and delivered at the polls to the members-elect of the legislature in the form of election returns. The instructions were to the law makers and the state administration. These bodies were told:

That they must encourage development.
That they must invite immigration and capital with a guaranty that both will be protected.
That they must keep administration free from everything that savors of socialism and give the state a straight-up business deal—safety and progress the motto.
The people have instructed the incoming state government to avoid radicalism, to keep the ship of state in safe waters and to keep it moving.

Why Not Advertise Under Government Control?

In pre-war days the railroads were one of the newspaper's best advertisers. Under government operation railroad advertising in newspapers is cut off.
Now in Director General McAdoo's "information for the press," which of course is for free publication, newspapers are advised of railroad excursion rates to different parts of the country in order to build up traffic.
[Freight and passenger rates have been increased 25 per cent—more than private management ever thought of asking.
The newspapers are wondering how long it will be before the director general uses legitimate advertising to build up the trade the roads now need.
Why not advertise a little, Mr. McAdoo? The war is over and the newspapers have advertising space for sale and advertising is a legitimate expense of any up-to-date business.
There was something significant in the seating of a king and a president with their backs to a throne.
Every one of the world powers is willing to abolish big armies and navies—after the other powers do. And there you are!

"Dove of War"—A Glorious Work Performed.

A little has been heard about the work of the carrier pigeons at the front in Europe and in many of the hotter scenes of conflict. There is still more to hear, and when the whole truth is known some one will be wishing to decorate the birds for distinguished service.

On the western front the French were the first to employ pigeons as messengers. In March, 1915, the first English pigeons were put into action. They proved so valuable that their use was soon established in Egypt, Saloniki, Mesopotamia and wherever the British troops were fighting.

Pigeons were particularly helpful to the tank battalions. They were the tank crew's only means of communication between battlefield and base. Neither gas clouds nor artillery fire prevented the messenger birds from doing their work. Airmen have been rescued through the pigeons. The birds were even carried behind the enemy's lines and from there carried important information back to the allied armies.

There are three branches of pigeon war service, the naval, the military and the air. Pigeons did necessary work in home defense, too, but it was at sea and on the battle fronts where the work seemed most marvelous.

About 20,000 of these carriers were added to the service every year. In a war in which so much highly developed machinery was employed, it is more remarkable to read of the work of these feathered members of the army. The carrier pigeons have won deserved honor and respect in the past four years.

The United States army must be going to clean up Europe, all right. The war department has bought 119,000,000 bars of soap.

FORUM

COMMISSIONER GRANDY REPLIES

The Editor of the La Grande Evening Observer, Dear Sir: With the understanding that the Forum of your paper prints verbatim all articles which are submitted to it, I wish to answer the article appearing under the caption, "Is It Right?" in the issue of January 4th.

You have evidently been misinformed about some matters pertaining to the flu ban. Let me say that the city commission did see fit to accept the views of the physicians of La Grande, who, in common with physicians of other cities, were unanimous in saying that because of the flu being a germ disease, business should be carried on under restriction, with an unnecessary crowding, and that only essential business should be allowed to continue until health conditions had materially improved. The fact that from the 28th of December to January 4th, when the ban was to have been lifted, the quarantines have been decreased in number from ninety-one to thirty-nine, leads one to think that the ban has done some good. But the fact that there have been seven deaths from the flu within the last six days (which is a high percentage for a town the size of La Grande) shows that precaution is still necessary. It has been generally conceded by the best authorities on the subject that the dance halls and picture shows are the most dangerous from a health standpoint. Is it then more necessary that places of amusement be allowed to open or that lives be saved? Those persons who are not entirely blinded by the "almighty dollar" think that lives are more precious than dollars. We have found the majority of the business men and many others who have given the matter considerable thought, to be in accord with these ideas. We are not acting with the desire to cause anyone any financial loss, but are acting for what we think to be the best interests of the

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people.
Having some knowledge of the way other cities are handling the flu situation, I wish to bring to your attention the fact that some drastic measures have been found necessary in all the places where any check has been placed upon the disease. The evidence from many cities shows that the flu has made considerable headway, after any large gathering of people has been held, which leads one to suspect that where any crowd is assembled the danger is greater. In fact, in last Thursday's issue of the Oregonian, the chairman of our own state health board gives conclusive data in regard to Portland, stating that a very material increase in the cases of flu—with deaths following, has occurred after each occasion where a crowd has assembled. These views have been endorsed by the member of the state board of health who lives in our city, and who has had occasion, very recently, to meet with the board and get the latest ideas of the situation. It would seem that such expert testimony is of

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more value than that of some persons outside of the medical profession.
Do resolutions made out by four or five members of the Commercial club (I believe there were that many members among the seven men present at the meeting to which you refer) constitute "the advice and consultation of the public?" I think not.
I feel that you have not stated the

real facts of the case correctly and that your article is extremely unjust.
(Signed)
W. D. GRANDY.

Y. M. C. A. Educational Department. Short-hand and typewriting. Day classes, 10:00 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Night classes 7:30 p. m. to 9:30 p. m.

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- Eloped—
- Divorced—
- Embezzled—
- Left Town—
- Come to Town—
- Had Twins or Colic—
- Sold a Cow or Lost an Auto—
- Laid in a Stock of Whisky—
- Stolen a Dog or His Friend's Wife—
- Committed Suicide, or Murder—
- Fallen From an Airplane or—
- Fallen Into a Coal Hole or—
- Fallen Into a Legacy?
- Had a Fire—
- Had a Baby—
- Had a Party—
- Sold a Farm—
- Been Arrested—

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Evening Observer

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