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A Kansas Drouth in Oregon This Year.

The brown hills, the hot winds, the heavy clouds of dust, the hot night—all tell the story of severe drouth, something that Eastern Oregon is unaccustomed to.
 In fact, the present period resembles very closely a Kansas drouth. All that is lacking to make it typical of Kansas is the absence of a political campaign, a congressional district convention where delegates meet and drink out of the same bottle behind the old-time livery stable.
 How the "fellows" did sweat as they made up the slate and decided who was to handle the destinies of the state. The warm weather was terrific, but the mind was switched to what seemed important state affairs and the delegates sweltered through

the day and into the hot night, without criticizing the weather and without wondering when it would rain. The crops turned up to be sure, but that was an occasional happening and those people who had good partners, so they immediately began anticipation of what they would raise the next year.
 We have the same conditions, might the politics in Eastern Oregon at the present time. The crops are burning, yes, they have burned; the dust is so thick that automobile parties hesitate to leave the pavements; the streams are dry or nearly so, and the usual camping places are covered with dirt, mosquitos and flies. The cool, invigorating Oregon air is missing and every night the blast of hot wind comes off the dry, hot foothills with a seeming desire to consume man, beast and vegetation alike.
 This is hyphenated weather—it is Kansas-Oregon weather, with that part of the name predominating.
 But, cheer up, the change will come and before long you will be getting up in the morning with the old Oregon elasticity in your step. You may not pay off as many debts as you expected this season, you may not be able to build the new house or the barn, but you have your automobile and it is paid for. Gasoline is still within reach, so what's the use mourning about weather conditions. This happens to be the first time Grande Ronde valley has been hit, but we will now know better how to appreciate the position of the other fellow who gets one of these dry years every once in a while.

Water—Water—Water.
 As the sailor said, "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink." La Grande has not water everywhere, but the city has some water, yet not a drop fit to drink.
 That's the condition. Now for the remedy. Nero fiddled while Rome burned. La Grande must use caution else we may be in the same position as Nero, not from choice but because we cannot help ourselves.
 In the Forum many solutions of the water problem have been offered, but the only way to get water is to get it. No large construction problem can be figured just now to help this emergency, but something should be done. The man who tries at this time will have the support of the people, no

matter what he does.
 Let the commercial organizations of the city appoint some men to confer with the city officials on this matter. It is of sufficient importance that business can be suspended for a short time and all have a turn in need help.
 If a conference of the citizens decides to put down some wells let us all be for the wells—any part in a heat storm like the present.
 Undoubtedly the city will insist on having duplicate parts to the chlorination plants on hand in the future. Few big corporations run so important a part of their plant without having duplicate parts to be installed at a moment's notice. This will help some, for it has been determined with the chlorination plant working the water is freed from disease germs.
 But to get water for La Grande and get plenty of it will require extensive building to the present plant.
 An engineer has been engaged for some time to report on what is needed, but like so many of the learned professions he is taking his own sweet time, and as yet no report has been placed in the city's hands.
 Everyone familiar with the upper country says there is lots of water going to waste; that the dam is faulty and the water is being lost under it; that the intake is not receiving the water that is possible; that the pipe line is filled in places so that it only carries a third of its capacity. These are assertions and we understand that was what the engineer was hired for, to settle these points and tell the city the truth about its water plant.
 La Grande is patient, but patience is about exhausted and there will be a ringing demand before long that something be done and done at once, regarding the water conditions.

Courtsnip On the Rhine Has Hardships.
 There is sweeping and wailing along the Rhine. Or perhaps it should be characterized as swooning and wailing. The swooning is done by doughboys, and the wailing by sadhearted girls—if one may be permitted to coin such a designation.
 The woe comes from the ban placed by the American military authorities on weddings between American soldiers and German damsels.
 Many of the doughboys, it appears, are eager to contract such alliances, and the parties of the second part seem nothing but. Applications for permission to marry began to pour in at army headquarters as soon as the treaty was signed at Versailles. The men thought the war was over, and they wanted to get married preparatory to taking their brides home with them.
 The hard-hearted authorities in the Judge Advocate's Department thereupon handed down a decision declaring that such marriages under present conditions are not permissible and are illegal if contracted, because the United States is still technically at war with Germany. Any soldier guilty of violating the order is to be tried on a charge of "communicating with the enemy" or of "disregarding fraternization regulations."
 Courting, no less than marriage, would seem to come under one of these criminal heads. Can the army authorities stop the courting?
 It is a hard task. But it may comfort and strengthen them to know that they have the enthusiastic support of American girls.

What the War Has Done For Labor.
 Writing on "Everybody's Business," in the Saturday Evening Post, Floyd W. Parsons has this to say of the new attitude of workmen toward their work:
 "As for the lessons the war has taught labor, none exceeds in value those that have taught workmen generally to abandon old ideas of restriction of output. Even in Europe the union leaders themselves have taken a decided stand against these old theories. Only the radicals who are seeking to revolutionize society continue to hold to the belief that in increased production is wholly for the benefit of the capitalist. The level-headed workmen are spreading the gospel that the nation must produce in order to live. They have mastered the most important fundamental, which is that the employe cannot share in what is not produced. It is dangerous to cultivate the idea that by doing less one can have more."
 It is true that the old policy of organized labor generally seemed to be based on "the idea that by doing less one can have more." Stated now in so many words the fallacy is self-evident. It was not so evident, however, in the old days, when it was generally believed by the workers that all the profit went to the employer. Holding that belief, it was not unnatural for the workers to advocate holding down production, partly with a view to providing more days' work for themselves and partly through desire to cut down the employer's exorbitant profits.
 There has been enlightenment on both sides. Employers are becoming more willing to share with their employes, and employes are really gaining a new view of the essential partnership of labor and capital in industry.
 It is a partnership which, like ex-

LIVE IN STRANGE ABODES
 Dances and Hollanders Would Seem to Take Big Chances in the North Sea.
 The world's strangest dwelling places are to be found in the North Sea, not far from Heligoland.
 Connected to the sea by a long and prosperous tunnel, province, called Nordstrand, off the coast of Schleswig-Holstein, Storm and earthquake destroyed it one Sunday night, and nearly 5,000 people were drowned.
 In course of time, however, high mounds emerged from the waters, and ultimately settlements. Hollanders built their villages on the summits of these mounds. By sowing land and wild duck, collecting eggs, oysters, and seals, they managed to pick out a living.
 The strange mounds are known as "holligen." Except in Oland, the largest, there are no trees or fields, except that obtained from submerged beds of peat, and no fresh water except rainwater collected in huts.
 Nevertheless, adventuresome Danes and Hollanders, attracted by the prospect of wild food and fish, continue to live on the "holligen," in spite of the fact that four months in the year the storms drive gale winds, so which make it impossible to live. The make water. Sometimes all is swept away.

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Read to Wealth.
 We've often thought what a pity it is that a man can't dispose of his expertise for as much as it is cost him.—Eskridge Independent.

Butter Wrappers printed at the Observer office.

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Model Brassiere

FORUM

SAYS WE ARE NOT FREE

Mr. Editor:—Will you kindly favor me by publishing just a few kind words and do hope a few of our wise law makers may have the pleasure of reading same.

Mr. Lincoln may we put a few drops of milk, and a little sugar and hops in our water when we boil it? I note by the paper of this city all were asked to boil the drinking water. Fine water we want. But it in our homes we desire to make a little of home brew wise law makers in. Who said this was a free country? Freedom is being taken away day by day by a few "hot rich quick" law makers. Not for any one's good is this being done, but to fill their own pockets with cash by taking honest American's liberties from them. Ask yourself, reader, the question: Is this a free country? And if you are honest you must admit, if you are honest you must admit that the word freedom is fast losing its hold on what was at one time the land of the free and is becoming German rule. But in the meantime hold your drinking water.

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