

# THE POLK COUNTY POST.

A Semi-Weekly Newspaper.

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CLYDE T. ECKER, Editor.

You will note by looking at the casualty list that officers are being killed and wounded. They are sticking with their men in good American style.

The profiteers seem to misunderstand the meaning of "give till it hurts." They are acting as tho they thought that the word "give" meant "take."

The Willamette valley will have good crops part of the time and fair crops the rest of the time, but when irrigated in the right manner it will have bumper crops all the time.

A bet of \$50,000 was made in New York City one day last week that the war would be over by January 1, 1919. It will be a big job for the Allies to finish it up within six months, especially when the Kaiser and his junkers must be so thoroly trounced that never again will they even threaten to fight anybody, but the bet is not such a bad one. It's a fifty-fifty shot anyway.

All Oregon mourns with its distinguished junior senator, Mr. McNary, in this sad hour. The good woman, so suddenly taken away, was an inspiration, a comfort and an aid to the senator. Her life was full of love and kindness. No words or acts can in any way lessen the grief of Senator McNary; he can only be assured that the people of the entire state, whom he has so faithfully served, feel for him to the depths of the heart.

The publication of the names of those who for various reasons failed to contribute to the Red Cross or buy bonds or war stamps does more harm than good and does not add a dollar to the sum total. It brings about discord in communities, causes the brand of disloyalty to be misplaced, and unjust insinuations to be made. In very few of the places where the names of the delinquents were published will the mistake be repeated. No committee of citizens is qualified to correctly estimate the financial condition of any one. A man may be seemingly well to do, yet be badly ensnared in debt; a man may have to meet obligations on a certain date; either one of these conditions may make it impossible for him to help to the amount of one cent at a particular time, yet probably he is more patriotic than some one who responded with a thousand dollars. Creditors insist upon payment regardless of how much debtors may aid or wish to aid patriotic causes. Instead of publishing the names of those who don't, publish the names of those who do. Show the acts of patriotism rather than ones—real and alleged—that are not. Promote optimism rather than pessimism. It is far better that twenty slackers escape the searchlight of publicity than unjust and untruthful charges be made against one loyal, patriotic citizen.

## LET HIM KID HIMSELF ALONG

(By Lee Shipley.)

Don't stop a man from kidding himself	Many a player has wished to quit
If it puts in his heart a song	When the umpire saw things
For mighty few folks could do their best	wrong
Without kidding themselves along.	Kept playing and strengthened all the team
	By kidding himself along.
Many a fighter hard pressed and weak	And many a man with excuse to die
Has lasted until the gong,	Has lived to outstrip the throng
And won out a round or two later on	And win the respect of all the world
By kidding himself along.	By just kidding himself along.

## STAR BEAMS

(Kansas City Star.)

The familiar wash tie seems to have derived its name from the fact that it always needs washing.

The Wall Street Journal takes occasion to speak of "Henry E. Ford" of Michigan. The E. evidently stands for Elizabeth, hence the Lizzie.

In case the yellow paint supply runs out, most husbands will offer no objections to the substitution of mayonnaise, the supply of which never runs out.

Mrs. Freda Kuppel, the short grass widow, recalls that the alternative of work or fight was put up to her several years ago and she decided to work.

Austria probably would like to have the world believe she is good and sick of Germany, but is in the same house "merely for the sake of the children."

## ON TO BERLIN.

"On to Richmond," was the favorite cry during the Civil war, and it was kept up until Richmond was captured. Now the rallying cry should be "On to Berlin!" and it should be kept up until that citadel of Prussianism tumbles, says Ohio State Journal. The force of public sentiment upon this matter would soon penetrate military duty and give it purpose and strength. It really looks as if we won't have peace until we reach Berlin. That is the headquarters of Hunnism. When we get there the terms of peace will be easy. The United States does not want any portion of Germany, but there would be great justice in dividing it up among France, Belgium, Italy, Serbia, Poland, Roumania and those nations which have suffered the most. If Germany keeps up the war until the bitter end, that is liable to be the result. It would at least give Germany a taste of her own medicine. The world could better get along with Germany off the planet.

Thomas A. Edison was not particularly good as a train "butcher." In fact, he is said that when, as a boy, he sold papers, candy and such stuff on a railroad in the middle West, he was pretty near to being no account. As a telegraph operator he had ability, but was negligible. When it came to inventing the phonograph, the quadruplex and a hundred other things Edison was without a peer. We cannot all be Edisons, but there is a lesson for all in Edison's career. The right man and the right job came together when Edison took to the study of electricity, says Boston Globe. Many men never find the job for which they are best fitted. Many men could find it if they gave earnest attention to the subject.

The stage is doing its bit nobly for the country. Actors have sacrificed handsome profits to enlist; they have come promptly to the aid of every patriotic and war-aid enterprise; have given unsparingly of their time, talents and money, and have considered it a privilege to put aside their own interests to supply the much-needed element of amusement for the soldiers at home and abroad. Their patriotism, self-sacrifice and valuable service deserve grateful recognition from the nation at large.

In the first three months of this year 114 American railroads received an operating income of only \$54,000,000, compared with \$144,000,000, or nearly three times that amount, for the corresponding period in 1917. A year ago, it is true, they were under private direction, while this year they were operated by the government. However, unusual weather was one of several causes contributing to this year's dolorous result.

The total estimated value of all farm products, including animals and animal products, for 1917 is given as \$19,443,840,381, as against \$13,406,364,011 for 1916, and \$9,388,765,799 for the five-year average (1910-1914). These valuations are based upon prices received by producers, which are applied to the total output regardless of whether the products are consumed on the farms or sold.

We want the ladies to have good luck with their first political efforts, says Houston Post. This is why we advise the ladies' executive committee to be sure and not send an old maid or a married woman without immediate descendants to electioneer with the mother of four singles and two sets of twins.

The anemic-looking fashionable girl who seems about to drop from exhaustion after walking seven steps can dance from 3 p. m. until 5:40 a. m. without more than a minute's intermission and roar because the festivities can't go on for the balance of the week.

When the war-risk insurance rate on American steamers passing through the war zone to British and French ports is reduced from three to two per cent it serves as a fair index to the effectiveness of the campaign against the Kaiser's U-boats.

The bolsheviks have decided to allow the ex-czar's family 300 rubles (about \$150) per month for food. Somebody ought to send Nick one of those American programs on living on 11 cents per day, and doing your own washing.

The central powers will discover that it is a most difficult task to win out with a batting rally when all the best hitters have quit the team and their places have been filled in with recruits from the minors.

One of the difficulties of keeping in touch with current opinion in Japan is that the Japanese papers are so hard to read.

As a household hint we suggest that all good wheat savers should consider the merits of open-faced pla.

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM.

Freedom as a privilege is not fundamental. The duty or obligation to be free is the essential thing. I take it that the community is so related to the college and the college so related to the professor that the community makes a demand upon the college, writes Alexander Meikeljohn in Atlantic Monthly. It says: "I demand of you that for the sake of my welfare you may see to it that the study of my scholars and the learning of my children be free." And the duty, the obligation of the professor is to the college just as the obligation of the college is to the community. In order to do its service, he must be free; he is a trickster and a fraud if he is not free. When he speaks of freedom he is not playing with his own perquisites and possessions; he is facing his master and the commands of his duty are upon him.

President Wilson says our ideals of justice, humanity and liberty shall in the end prevail. The moral forces were never so strong in the world as they are today, and the old ideal of brute force can nevermore rule the world. The truth emphasizes the president's declaration. It is morally impossible that Germany should win this war.

The war has taught men who had begun to think of themselves as "getting on" that they need not be side-tracked. It is up to them. Men who have made good are being called to positions of influence and importance, and years have nothing to do with their service or their value to the country in the places to which they have been assigned. Charles M. Schwab, who is to superintend the building of United States shipping, is fifty-six; General Maude, whose dying injunction to his men was to "carry on," not lose the goal they had won, was fifty-five. Sir Douglas Haig is fifty-seven. Each has passed more than two-thirds of the scriptural allotment of life. The same is true of thousands of others who in various capacities, in army, navy, business or civil life, are demonstrating that though this is the young man's age, the middle-aged and even the elderly, are not on the shelf as has-beens.

In proposing exchange of prisoners with the Russians, Germany wants the able-bodied and offers Russia the useless ones. In proposing rates of pay for prisoners Germany wants the United States to pay German prisoners equal rates with American soldiers, while American prisoners are to receive the smaller pay of German soldiers, says the Baltimore American. The Teuton seems incapable of the least idea of fair play, and never offers a bargain in which he does not seek to overreach his neighbor.

One observer says the great battle has settled down to a grim race in killing men. A bloody and terrible price is being paid for peace, but it must from this very fact become a peace which will prevent for all time such an attempt by tyrannical and sinister forces to reduce the best part of the civilized world to the slavery which it was thought had forever been abolished.

Some day, when peace is at hand, let us have a monument to the women of America who are giving so much of service and self-sacrifice through knitting, making surgical dressings and the thousand and one ways of personal contribution toward winning the war. Wherever the need is, there is a noble American woman!

Get the size of the job in your head: To lick the Germans we must get into action about two men to their one and about \$6 to their one. It requires that much more weight and money to overcome their superior efficiency, practice and preparedness.

"Not one centenarian in a thousand can hear easily," says a writer in a medical publication. That's not strange. After a man grows up, marries and lives to be a hundred, the chances are he has listened so much that his ears are entirely worn out.

Captain Persius, German naval expert, is beginning to see the truth when he explains to his countrymen that no amount of victory can force the rest of the world to like Germans after the war or to deal with those it does not like.

The Baden chamber of commerce now wants to make a deal that there are to be no hostile air raids outside the zone of military operations, thus showing once more that it makes a whole lot of difference whose ox is gored.

England will include men up to fifty-five years old in her new draft. It may be a young men's war, but it is knocking the props from under that old Osler theory.

To quote London, a good man's wartime boot as now standardized sells for \$5.25. But what will a boot for an ordinary man sell for?

The man who knows the comfort of a good-tasting chew sticks to Real Gravelly Chewing Plug every time. Lasts longer than ordinary tobacco, too.



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## More Safeguards Needed

(Portland Oregonian.)

The deplorable accident by which Mrs. McNary, wife of the Oregon Senator, lost her life shows again the narrow margin on public highways between safety and danger for all automobiles and automobilists. Often—in most cases; perhaps—an accident to a motor car and its occupants is due to carelessness or inexperience or panic; but there are no signs that any of these common causes was present in the McNary tragedy. The driver, Mr. Boise, is of known carefulness and dependableness, familiar with the usual risks and vicissitudes of highway travel. He would take no needless chances anywhere or at any time, and none at all in any circumstances not forced on him by an emergency. Yet an automobile in his charge is upset and one of the passengers, a relative, is killed. Perhaps he mistook the character of the road; or perhaps he made a slight miscalculation as to the space he must give to a passing car; or perhaps the wheel slipped momentarily from the hands; or perhaps the ground gave way unexpectedly under the wheels. Any of these mishaps may have been responsible, and any of them may happen to any driver, however prudent and cautious.

Not any automobilist can regard himself as immune from accident. Many things may happen which are beyond his control. A railroad crossing has its unsuspecting victims; and it is a wonder that a hundred collisions do not happen every day at street crossings. One may know that a car is safe in his hands, but he never knows it about the other fellow. Nor is every highway as secure as it appears to be.

More and more it will be necessary to safeguard dangerous places on roads and at crossings. The grade-crossing anywhere on any well-traveled highway is a death-welcomer; and highway fills and curves should always be fenced or bulkheaded. The time will come when the public will demand of roadbuilders that they not only make roads sound and passable, but safe in all questionable places.

## Must Come To It

(Benton County Courier.)

The loss of crops in the Willamette valley in the past two summers would have paid for a great irrigation system.

Old timers tell us this is the second crop failure in the valley for 40 years, but this should serve as a warning rather than a vindication. The same old-timers tell us that the seasons are changing.

Oregon used to be dubbed the "Webfoot" state, because of the excessive rains, but the rainfall statistics for the past three years show this state has had less moisture than New York state, but the moisture in New York has been much more evenly distributed.

As the state settles up and the timber is cut off rainfall is going to become less. We might as well look it in the face, that the time is coming when we must irrigate to get full and certain crops, and we should realize and grab the means before we are beaten to it by eastern capitalists grabbing the water.

This great valley has abundant water supplies in the mountains on either side to irrigate its millions of acres, and even in favorable years greatly add to crop production.

To be sure it would be a great undertaking, this harnessing and storing of the waste waters of the rivers and

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## The Independence National Bank

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Twenty-Five Years

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