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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CLYDE T. ECKER, Editor
NINA B. ECKER, Associate

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Independence, Oregon, Friday, January 5, 1917

Montana elects a woman to congress—the first one to be so honored in the United States—which is a credit to Montana if the lady congressman has the ability to make a creditable representative. But many people in Montana are not particularly proud of the lady-elect, Jeanette Rankin. We quote from a letter recently received from a resident of that state:

"I believe in women holding office and if a good sensible lady had been elected it would have been all right. But Jeanette Rankin is one of those flighty suffragettes who is glib of tongue but lacking in general brains. As an example I am told that when she started out to make suffragette speeches a year or two ago there was a meeting in her home town at which Jeanette was billed to speak. When she came on the stage her friends were amazed and disgusted as she wore a very rich dress with a train fourteen feet long carried by a boy. One term of Jeanette will be all that Montana will ever stand."

If Jeanette is of this kind and we have much evidence that she is, the state of Montana has greatly injured the cause of equal suffrage by electing her to congress. Perhaps the statement of a certain Montana citizen was apt when he said: "The men gave the women the ballot thinking that it would be made good use of. The women turn around and elect the most hysterical suffering suff on the range to congress, who will be the 'horrible example' for years to prevent other women from being elected to the same office."

Did you ever think how the government discriminates against certain patrons of its postal service? A part of them have their mail delivered to them without cost but at considerable expense to the government. Another part receive their mail at the general delivery window, which requires much time in handling and sorting. A third part have individual boxes and their mail reaches them with the least work on the part of the postoffice employees. The last named class, which pays a rental for the use of the boxes, is the only one that directly pays for the service. This method of the postal department is unique inasmuch as it is just opposite from the usual way that public utilities and business concerns serve the public. Then the postal service receives most of its revenues in the sale of stamps from the class that pays for being the least trouble and expense.

It is to be hoped that those of influence will have strength enough to prevent militarism from being forced upon this country until the European war is over. After that, not even the most rampant dividend patriot will be able to buy any "sentiment" favorable to a large standing army and compulsory training. The world will then behold the horror of militarism, realize what it really means, and have no more of it.

With Jim Withycombe, Tom Kay and Gus Moser all in the race for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, there is hope for the people. With a divided opposition, some good man may win.

Over in Yamhill, the people took control of the budget meeting and voted out two superfluous officials. It is to be regretted that the same bunch cannot take a whack at the Polk budget.

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Washington.—The treasury department received a contribution for the "conscience fund," consisting of what had been three \$100 gold notes and four \$50 gold notes. The sender wrote that for "duties withheld" he desired to make restitution of the sum of \$500. He said he had cut the five notes in two and when he should see in the newspapers that his communication had been received at the treasury department he would send the missing halves to the collector of the port of New York.

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