

THE ONTARIO ARGUS

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W. C. MARSH



J If you want to live in the kind of a town
Like the kind of a town you like,
You needn't slip your clothes in a grip,
And start on a long, long hike,
You'll only find what you left behind,
For there's nothing that's really new,
It's a knock at yourself when you knock your town,
It isn't the town—it's you.

REAL towns are not made by men afraid
Lest somebody else gets ahead,
When everyone works and nobody shirks
You can raise a town from the dead,
And if while you make your personal stake
Your neighbors can make one, too,
Your town will be what you want to see,
It isn't the town—it's you.

—Stockholder Herald.

WAR IN THE DARDANELLES.

The great Russian victory in Poland is most important, and most dangerous to Austria-Hungary. It practically opens the way for Russia to advance upon Hungary and is a fierce menace to the Austria-Hungary empire.

But in some respects the most important present operations of the war are in the Dardanelles.

It is 402 years exactly since Mohammed II was completing his investment of the Christian capitol of the east, which was when the siege closed on the 22nd day of May, 1513, with the death in battle of the Emperor Constantine II; the extinction of the eastern Roman empire; the fearful looting of the city and the establishing of the Ottoman power in Europe, a most graphic description of which is found in Lew Wallace's "Prince of India." The fleets of the Allies are slowly forging their way through that historical channel, and unless turned back will do for the Moslems what the Moslems did for the Christians then. The Mohammedans will be driven back into Asia, their power utterly broken and probably the czar will make of the ancient capitol of the first Constantine, his winter capital.

But with that city captured and all restrictions for the passage of Russian warships from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean removed; the conquest will include the Balkans and the great military and commercial power of southeastern Europe will be Russia.

This has been a Russian dream for two hundred years. It was practically accomplished in the Russo-Turkish war but Bismarck and Disraeli cheated Russia out of her legitimate spoils in the treaty of Berlin.

Now Great Britain is so involved that she has probably agreed to permit Russia to have her way in that region, and when we reflect upon the advantages it will give to Russia, the fact is at once apparent, that the blow it will give German naval and commercial power in the south will be the most effective thus far delivered in the war.

It shows, too, how great a mistake the western nations of Europe made when they permitted their quarrels to culminate in a war, for all combined are not too formidable to prevent their absorption by the mighty power of Russia.

It will be recalled that the great Napoleon feared that in 50 years all Europe would be Cossack. He did not count on what steam and electricity would do to thwart that onward march of the Colossi of the east, but when Constantinople shall be captured and an unhampered way through the Hellespont shall be made for Russia's navy, his foreboding will be recalled by thousands of people in western Europe, for the Russians are of Asiatic stock and the Russian government is as pitiless as Fate itself in carrying out its designs.

It was a most unfortunate day for civilization when Germany and Great Britain engaged in war.

THE NATIONAL GAME.

Baseball is the great American pastime which is responsible for late dinners in American homes, and punctured bronchial tubes and frayed lungs in American husbands. One close ball game, running into the thirteenth inning, can wear out 25,000 perfectly good male windpipes and an equal number of hair-trigger female tempers, besides causing the gas company to put on an extra shift to keep 50,000 waiting pork chops heated to 123 degrees Fahrenheit.

Baseball is played by eighteen men in as many stages of senile debility and acute charley-horse. The men are goaded on by an umpire who wears a chest protector and a trick coat of dignity to ward off the crushing abuse and sharp language hurled at him by the crowd. A sun-dried baseball fan will sit through a long afternoon patiently hoping that the next in-shoot will pin the umpire's diaphragm to the grandstand, and

then go home to pray that that official's house and barn will burn during the night, incidentally cremating the family cow.

Early in the year, while father is still feeding large sections of his income to the furnace and thawing out the hydrant in the front yard, the baseball teams hike to the southern training camps. Here the players, who have spent the winter hibernating on the front seat of a laundry wagon or putting up ice, are supposed to become accustomed to the rigors of outdoor life. With the team always goes a press agent equipped with a typewriter, the imagination of and Edgar Allan Poe and the vocabulary of a Victor Hugo.

Then from the camps come daily stories which prove that fiction is a more accomplished and abandoned liar than truth. The recruits are all phenoms, old standbys already have their batting eyes, the pitchers are in midseason form and the manager wears an open-faced smile, which is only limited by the area between his ears, eyes and breast bone.

These type dreams are offered to cheer the fan along and bolster his flagging spirits. Sometimes they even make him rush forth and bolster himself with a flagon of spirits. But on opening day, when the aggregation hobbles onto the diamond with the first baseman in a plaster cast and the star pitcher in an invalid's chair, the bleachers immediately become incased in a gloom so thick the lemonade boys have to blast their way through.

Nine of the eighteen men participating in the game always constitute the home team. This home half is extremely popular with the assemblage, and its individual members might run for office with considerable chance of success. Anything they do of a spectacular nature is an excuse for an explosion of cheers that tears large holes in the adjacent landscape. The other nine are the visitors, who are browbeaten and reviled until they wear an air either of cringing cowardice or desperate criminality.

If one of the home team knocks out a base hit while a brother is crouching on second, there is an impromptu parade of all nations, accompanied with abundant vocal fireworks. But should one of the visitors inadvertently accomplish the same feat, he will at once be the butt of a thousand coarse jests, with much unfavorable comment on his ancestry and predictions as to where his eternity will be spent.—New York Telegraph.

STATE NEWS CONDENSED
FOR OUR BUSY READERS

The Eugene water board is now receiving bids for the construction of a reinforced concrete reservoir of 2,500,000 gallons capacity.

Plans and specifications have been prepared for Astoria's first public market. It will be one of the most modern markets on the coast.

Priests from La Grande, Pendleton and all other cities of eastern Oregon have gathered at Baker to take part in the holy week services.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce completed a four days' campaign with a membership of 4207—the largest chamber of commerce in the world.

The C. A. Smith Lumber company of Marshfield, has opened a large logging camp between Marshfield and the Siuslaw river, employing 1000 men.

Ashland will have a merchants' association, steps having been taken to perfect the same at an early date. It will start out with a membership of about 50.

Statistics show that the women's clubs at the University of Oregon have a higher average in scholastic standing than the highest group-grades made by the men's clubs.

Plans are developing rapidly for the organization of a Growers' Co-operative association for Linn and Benton counties, which it is expected, will be effected by the middle of April.

Improved business conditions in Oregon are reflected in several items of the combined statements of state and national banks of Oregon, made March 27, according to State Bank Superintendent Sargent.

Advices have been received by State Engineer Lewis, that the three members of the newly-created California water commission will arrive here April 1, to make a study of the water code of this state.

Twenty-one days after it had been attacked and bitten by a rabid coyote, a \$225 work horse owned by D. E. Brannon, of Oro Dell, near La Grande, fell a victim of rabies and, after hours of suffering, was shot.

With people present from all parts of the surrounding country, Albany Saturday celebrated its second monthly public sales day. It was declared a great success and it is estimated that about \$1500 worth of property changed hands.

A junior commercial club, composed of 150 Eugene boys, to form a training school for the developing of a future Eugene "spirit" and to carry along the work of the commercial club in future years, has been proposed at Eugene.

Orchardists in the district lying

south of Medford, alarmed by the continued drought which threatens to repeat the disaster of 1914, have organized an irrigation system of their own and expect to have water on the land by May 1.

The waxlike deposits found in the beach sands just north of the entrance to Nehalem Bay have been declared to be beeswax by the geological survey report just issued. This is contrary to the theory held by many that the deposits were some form of petroleum.

Secretary of State Olcott has announced that there was an increase in the motor vehicle licenses issued this year of about 43 per cent over that for the same period in 1914. The total number of licenses issued this year is 14,900, not including motorcycle licenses.

Libby, McNeil & Libby, packers, have decided upon The Dalles as the location for their proposed Pacific northwest plant and will start construction at once. The plant will cost \$50,000 completed. Employment will probably be given to about 300 persons during the fruit canning season.

Forty-three accidents, none fatal, were reported to Labor Commissioner Hoff during the week. Eight of the accidents occurred in paper mills and seven in machine shops. Thirteen accidents occurred among those engaged in the sawmill or logging industries, while seven were hurt on railroads.

James S. Winters, of Portland, submitted the lowest bid for the construction of the postoffice building at Pendleton, for which an appropriation of \$122,000 has been made. His figure for limestone was \$84,487 and for sandstone \$84,387. The building will be two stories of fireproof construction.

The Mazamas of Portland now have a sister organization recently formed in southern Oregon and known as "Grizzlies." The new club will follow along lines similar to the Mazamas and will foster the idea of verifying historical events and locations, and of marking the latter with suitable monuments.

The Coast Artillery Corps will hold its coast defense exercises at Fort Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia for 12 days, beginning June 16 and ending June 27, according to an order issued by Adjutant-General White. The drill will include practice in the use and firing of the big 16-inch and 12-inch guns at the fort, under the instruction of the men of the regular army stationed there. The various calculations in higher mathematics, by means of which the guns are aimed to sink vessels out of sight of the land, will also be a feature of the drill.

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