

CROOK COUNTY JOURNAL

BY GUY LAPOLLETTE

Entered at the postoffice at Prineville, Oregon, as second-class matter.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

Price \$1.50 per year, payable strictly in advance. In case of change of address please notify us at once, giving both old and new address.

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POOR SPORTS

The seventh annual track meet for central Oregon schools was held Saturday in Prineville for the first time, and was a marked success.

There were two outstanding features of the event, noticeable to those who have attended the meets in the past. One was the fact that Bend and Redmond both for the first time failed to have teams in the events, and the other was the lack of "squabbles" over the decision of the judges.

Whether the one was responsible for the other we do not even wish to infer, but the truth is that the event was noticeable for those reasons.

Jefferson county was present with good teams and also was Terrebonne which enabled the events to fill, and every man in the contests proved himself a true sportsman.

It is indeed regrettable that the Bend and Redmond men were not encouraged or permitted to enter by their instructors or leaders, and many of them were present and expressed themselves as very much disappointed that they were not in the meet.

The excuses for lack of entry into the meet were on the ground that the war demands the time of the men at work other than athletics. In the face of the fact that the government is urging these things more than ever before.

These were but excuses however, and were never considered as anything else by the men in charge of the track meet, or the people in the towns mentioned above, who were versed on the circumstances.

The plans for the meet this year were made in the usual manner, were agreed to by officials of all the schools in the district and it was not until after the medals had been ordered and the advertising matter provided for that the Redmond and Bend schools started to back down from their own propositions, and the damning evidence is to be had in letters written to Madras in a frantic effort to make the affair a total failure, for some reason that is best known to officials in the disesteemed towns.

Madras of course would not be a party to such tactics, and the successful meeting resulted.

The students, and most, if not all, of the people of Redmond and Bend saw the mistake after it was too late to make a change in the plans, and both Redmond and Bend papers were outspoken against the baby tactics of their officials, the Bend

Bulletin of May 18, saying editorially as follows:

"It is to be regretted that the Bend high school is not to take a more prominent part in the track and field meet to be held in Prineville on Saturday. It is unfortunate, in the first place, that the Bend students are taking so little interest in athletics that they have no team to enter the meet. Physical training never meant more than it does now and should be encouraged in every possible way. It is equally unfortunate that no team will go to Prineville because of the lack of reciprocation that will be suggested. Prineville sent a good team here last year and is going to considerable expense to hold the meet this year. Surely our schools might have met them half way."

It is to be hoped that the men who are responsible for this blunder will be eliminated before another event, or at least superseded, and when the 1919 meet is held in Jefferson county, as it no doubt will be, that all will be back in the game.

In conclusion, it is only fair to the Prineville men in charge of the 1918 meet to say that this little editorial was not inspired by them.

**—W. S. S.—
BRAVADO AND THE WAR**

Robert Grant's Timely Word of Caution

(Written for the war service of the Vigilantes.)

Recently during an intermission at the movies a performer came out and sang with gusto a song, which pleased the audience, about "Perishing crossing the Rhine." Every few days one reads headlines in the newspapers proclaiming that nine Americans have repulsed or vanquished 33 Germans. This is halcyon talk. Our delay in the production of ships and aeroplanes and guns may have been unavoidable, seeing that some people are thanking God that the United States entered the war unprepared, but we should at least refrain from bravado, stop boasting of what we are going to do and recognize the gravity of our undertaking. I heard an American officer high in command say not long ago: "If our troops ever reach Berlin, when they come to a certain building—the quarters of the German military staff, let them lift their hats." He spoke from the point of view of military prowess.

It is meet for Americans to bear in mind that all other wars which they or any other people have fought were child's play compared with this, the most terrific and relentless contest in history, and that their part in it has only just begun. Let us cease to hug the delusion that our troops are "over there" to show the others how to fight and that all will soon be over but the shouting. Let us open our minds to the grim truth that this war which we have pledged ourselves to win is likely to be a supreme test of American energy, endurance and self-sacrifice and to cost thousands of American lives. We are all of the belief that no man is braver than an American, but it is indispensable that we appreciate the quality of the foe against whom we are pitted; that he is the arch fiend of military competency and power, the ruthless, unwearied embodiment of masterly force and resistance, a monster of resourcefulness such as the world has never seen.

The prophecy that Pershing will cross the Rhine had better be postponed until he arrives in sight of it, and the confidence that two of Uncle Sam's soldiers can handle three of the enemy be put in cold storage until a later stage of the conflict.

—W. S. S.—
The grand lodge of Oregon, A. O. U. W., is certainly showing the right spirit in these times, when

money talks so loud. That body has so far invested in \$16,000 worth of Liberty Bonds.

—W. S. S.—
Don't forget that there will be a total eclipse of the sun on June 8. It is scheduled to take place soon after four o'clock in the afternoon.

—W. S. S.—
The Oregon Agricultural College stands at the head of the class, when it comes to service flags, they having a flag containing 1,056 stars. The flag was made by the girls of the domestic art department of that great institution. We understand that this is the largest service flag on record.

—W. S. S.—
Oregon is yet in the lead—the state has sent in more soldiers and sailors than any state in the union in proportion to her population. This is one good reason why we are all proud of the state which "flies with her own wings." It is a matter of some importance that the war department knows this—and Oregon is immune from the May drafts.—Hillsboro Argus.

—W. S. S.—
Chief Forester Pinchot—Now, is this the 943,231,914,123,789,456,321,654,987,843d tree, or have we lost count?

Washington, D. C.—The house committee on census has been asked by Chief Forester Pinchot to recommend to the house of representatives the passage of a bill appropriating \$250,000 for the taking a census of all the standing timber in the United States.

—W. S. S.—
A law has been introduced in congress to compel the publication of all newspapers in the English language. Mighty good idea. Those who are not willing to learn to read the English language can easily stay where the language they prefer is printed. Nothing will help along the melting pot more than to make it necessary for immigrants to become proficient in the language of the country of their adoption.—Cottage Grove Sentinel.

—W. S. S.—
LES MISERABLES

Victor Hugo's Masterpiece Will Be Shown at Lyric, May 22 and 23

There is something enchanting in the quaint scenes of Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables", the Pathe super-feature at the Lyric Theatre, May 22 and 23. Hugo indulged in his literary pursuits against the wishes of his father, who cut off the lad's allowance. Hard work and the vicissitudes of poverty inspired the great mind to write of the characters who now became part of his life. Biographers agree that Marius, the poor student of "Les Miserables", is no other than himself at that time.

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