

Lauds Mr. Lewis

From the Portland Optimist:
A few days ago the Optimist man had occasion to call at the law office of State Representative D. C. Lewis, 317 Board of Trade Building. At the entrance he was met with that same old familiar smile which generally illuminates the countenance of the distinguished son, with the greeting, "Hello! Come in. Be seated. How are you?" After a little while the scribe queried: "Mr. Lewis, if you wished to punish an enemy, what would be your course of procedure?" "Be good to him. Be good!" "And such is the philosophy of one who has faithfully served the public as its representative in the legislature for two terms. It was he who introduced and had passed the bill that brought about the annexation of St. Johns to Portland and gave a vast waterfront, worth millions to the city, and which has resulted in the location of the wheat terminals and coal bunkers at St. Johns, together with other activities of immense value. In fact, the annexation of St. Johns put that region on the map.
Mr. Lewis is an enthusiastic advocate for the improvement of the Columbia slough, and also coal ships for Alaska and is now working up data and making investigations so as to be able to urge extensive improvements along the Columbia slough water course. He says that if Germany had such a harbor as Portland possesses, combined with a Columbia slough, that in a short time ships would sail to Troutdale.
Ex-City Engineer Dieck proposed sewerage improvements for the Peninsula district that would have placed a burden on the property holders to the extent of \$5,000,000. Mr. Lewis says if this amount was expended it would cut a canal from the mouth of Columbia slough to Troutdale, 90 feet in width and 30 feet deep; construct an eight foot aqueduct from some possible point on the Sandy to the slough and give a municipal lighting plant with the power created; also furnish a fresh current of mountain water for flushing purposes, besides aiding materially in the reclamation of 8000 acres of the finest land in the world and thereby place Portland in the center of an agricultural gardening region richer in its productiveness than Holland.
The Optimist man heard him say these things at the East Side Business Men's club and the audience agreed that he was right. It is to be hoped that the people of Oregon will keep him in the legislature until his dreams become a reality and the measures that he is advocating, namely, ships for the Alaska trade and a ship canal to Troutdale.

All-Star Football Team

In picking out timber for a mythical all-star foot ball team, Frank Bartholomew, sporting writer of the Oregonian has the following to say that concerns St. Johns players:
An odd condition exists in picking the stars this year. All the best players appear to be holding down the same position on their respective teams, while the best players of other positions are only mediocre and would never make the all-stars in any other year where there was real competition for the place. There are four good centers this year, although none are world beaters. Sanders, of Lincoln, is placed first, principally because he was the hardest worker. Hazelip, Franklin's side passer, is probably the most finished player of the four, and takes second place. Johnny Wolf and Sam Strohecker, the giants of the league, also were good men, especially toward the latter part of the season.
There was not much competition for guard positions. Thomas, of Franklin, undoubtedly was the class of the association. Day, of James John, while he played at both guard and tackle during the year, did especially fine work at the former position. The hardest job of all is to pick the ends. First place is given to Charlie Snackman and "Hoody" Smith, the fleet-footed youngsters of James John. They probably are the speediest men in the league, and their ability to catch almost impossible passes was what ran James John up into second place. On defensive they also played fine games; it will be remembered that only one team succeeded in solving the James John line. It's nip and tuck between Charles Brown, of Franklin, and William Schroeder, of James John, for first place at quarter. The honor is given to Brown for being just a shade the more versatile field general. Schroeder is a wonder at open play.

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With Paris Boulevard echoing with "vives" for American troops our interest in the welfare of our ally vastly increases, and the facts are not lacking to encourage the belief that she is already on the road to recovery from the blow of invasion by a ruthless enemy.

One of the most important developments in the announcement that one of the largest banking institutions in America concerned with foreign trade, the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, has opened a Paris branch to handle the rapidly increasing volume of French business. This action may surprise many persons who had thought of France as



SOLDIERS IN THE VERDUN SECTOR REPAIRING A RUINED CANAL bowed under a calamitous invasion. The bank, however, gives figures indicating that France is not only meeting military and civilian problems with a stout heart and never failing courage, but is re-establishing her export business with this country.

In 1914, the year of the outbreak of the War, imports from France to this country totaled \$141,446,252. This total was reduced to \$77,158,740 in 1915, but last year the value of French imports to the United States rose to \$102,077,000.

"A nation that can achieve such a commercial recovery while her territory is being ravished by the invader," says the Trust company's statement, "possesses recuperative powers which justify the belief that she will emerge from the present conflict prepared to meet and solve triumphantly the problems which confront her."

The commercial and industrial record of France, following past wars, indicates that she should recover quickly from the actual physical destruction inflicted in the present conflict. The reconstruction of railroads, the erection of factories to replace those destroyed, and the replacement of the mechanism



IN THEIR RETIREMENT FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY THE GERMAN ARMY DESTROYED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

of industrial activity that will be required and that is in part already planned, offer a peculiarly inviting field to American capital and enterprise. Tentative steps have already been taken by representatives of American engineers and business men in this work.

Aside from its attractive business aspect, the enlistment of American money and effort in the great task of reconstruction that will remain at the end of the war will tend to cement still more closely the ties that bind the two great Republics together, and will enable Americans to discharge in part the debt they owe to France for her friendly interest in the welfare and progress of the United States from the beginning of its life as a nation.

In judging the industrial status of any nation, its production and consumption of coal, iron, and steel and the growth of its transportation systems are highly significant factors.

In 1900, French industries consumed 21 billion tons of coal, of which 13.5 billions were taken from home mines. In 1912, the consumption was 31 billions, of which 41 million tons were taken from home mines.

In 1909, the French output of cast iron was 1,380,000 tons, and of steel, 1,000,000 tons. In 1914, France produced 5,311,000 tons of cast iron and 4,655,000 tons of steel.

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The increasing activity of her railway system is similarly demonstrable. In 1890, there were in France 10,743 miles of railroad track; in 1912, there were 31,546 miles.

Between 1869 and 1912, inland navigation increased 150%; while the traffic of her mercantile marine had amazingly expanded. The tonnage entering French ports in 1902 is set down as 11,000,000 tons. In 1912, this had been increased to 53,000,000 tons.

Leaders in American finance ascribe the solidarity of the French republic to three influences: first, a thoroughly sound banking system, centralized in one of the greatest banking institutions of the world, the Bank of France; second, the ingrained thrift and frugality of the French people as a whole, together with a national economic vigor not elsewhere surpassed; third, wise supervision, and patriotic cooperation by the government with banking and business interests.

The government does its part to warrant and retain the confidence of the holders of its securities. One of its wise policies is to impose new taxes to defray the interest charges on new securities issues. It began this practice after the Franco-Prussian War, and is today following the same rule in regard to securities issued to finance the present conflict. This continuity of purpose, doubtless, will prove reassuring to all holders of French government securities.

The Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1871 taught the French people the meaning of thrift and economy. So well did they learn this lesson, that the whole sum of the indemnity demanded by Germany, \$1,000,000,000, was raised within the republic's com-

monwealth by its own inhabitants and paid off more than one year before the time stipulated by the Germans.

The habit thus acquired has never been forgotten by the French, and to-day the aggregate number of investors purchasing the French war loans has reached the amazing total of 4,500,000 individual subscribers. Perhaps no other country, in proportion to its population, can make so good a showing.

France is particularly fortunate in that her small investors prefer "safe" investments rather than offerings which promise high returns. Government securities, in France are perpetual, and this characteristic seems to obtain for these government bonds increasing favor in the eyes of the French people.

The points of sympathy between France and America are too many to enumerate, but the spirit of liberty and its resultant democracy are, today as always, the major ideals of both nations. Seeking no victories but those of peace, no territory except their own, no sovereignty except sovereignty over themselves—the independence and equal rights of the weakest member of the family of nations are to the people

of the United States and of France entitled to as much respect as those of the mightiest empire. In defense of these principles, France is engaged in a death struggle with militant autocracy and ruthless aggression, and it is not surprising to learn that she has loaned to her allies and to other friendly states 2,000,000,000 francs with which to further the cause of democracy. It is in keeping with America's traditions that since the date on which we formally allied ourselves with France and her allies in the great struggle, our Government has lent to France \$50,000,000.

It is eminently fitting that America should now be fighting on French soil to make the world safe for democracy. The liberty that America has enjoyed for 140 years France helped her to achieve. The sword of Lafayette and Rochambeau, aided by the guns of the Grasse upon the high seas, assisted in cutting the foreign ties that bound the American colonies prior to the War for Independence, and from the private purse of King Louis himself came the first loan to America—unsecured and unconditional—to finance that historic undertaking. It was with entire justice that Washington wrote to Rochambeau, "To the generous aid of your nation and to the bravery of its sons is to be ascribed in a very great degree that independence for which we have fought."

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