

# THINGS NOT TO BE WRITTEN OF

## LEAVE ARMY OUT AND WRITE OF CLIMATE AND THINGS

### SOLDIER RESENTS CRITICISMS

#### Vigorously Objects to the Side Lights of Army Life as Portrayed

Years ago when the great oil wells were struck at Beaumont, Tex., I went to Spindie Top and wrote up actual conditions, warning the people not to invest in a pool of oil that was bound to run dry, and incidentally showed up the big interests that were handling the "blue sky" deal and HOW they worked the bunco.

The daily newspapers took it up and said if Brown ever returned to Beaumont he would get tar and feathers.

A few months' experience proved the articles and predictions were dead true—for the big gushers ceased to gush, and thousands of men were beautifully swindled.

I wrote of conditions of the army and navy from Honolulu. I knew I would hear from it, and I have, from far off China, from the Philippines and from the Hawaiian Islands.

They are a mighty patriotic bunch on the Sandwich Islands. They say every resident of the Pacific coast belongs to the Order of Boost, but the Hawaiians have the 32 degree—they are Shriners.

Sitting on the balcony of a hotel one night I remarked to a visitor there were two big objections to the islands, the foreigners and the sun.

A fellow sitting so far away he would have needed an ear trumpet at once broke in: "Where do you live, young man?"

"Oregon," I replied.

"Oregon—oh, yes; that is where the dogs bark at the sun when it shines."

And I let it go at that. Following is a letter received from Honolulu. It is reprinted exactly as written, and following it are a few comments:

Schofield Barracks, H. T. Sept. 22, 1914.

A few days ago an extract from the Courier came into my hands which was such a gross injustice to the City of Honolulu in general but the enlisted men of the Army and Navy, who are stationed on the Island of Oahu in particular, that I would like to try to put things before your readers in a somewhat different light.

I have been absent from Oregon City since 1911 but before that time I was in Oregon City for about five years and if the present management of the Courier is the same it was at that time, I can hardly understand how it is that such a slanderous article appears in your paper, on a subject which you certainly have been greatly misinformed upon.

As for the beginning of the piece, which deals with the actions of the Oregon and Washington naval militia, I will pass over, as I am very poorly informed on that particular part of the article and I intend to say nothing in this letter which I cannot personally uphold.

For my beginning, your article states as follows:

"In the evening these sailors go to the park, (they call it a park) and there, mixed up with soldiers, they pack over from nearby saloons great quantities of beer in quart bottles, lie on the grass and drink. They have wrestling matches, fights and all sorts of sailor and soldier sports and no cop ever molests."

As for the park in question, I will not attempt to deny that it has a very unsavory reputation. Oahu park is the park in question but I will ask you if nearly every city of any size in the United States has not some park in its domain of which it is not proud?

Was Oregon City very proud of Canemah park about three years ago, and perhaps at present?

As for the soldiers and sailors, if there is one soldier there, they are ten Chinese, Japs and Portugese.

As for fights, etc., among the men of the service, it may be that it happens once in a while but it is by no means the rule as your article gives us to understand.

Again you say: "The soldiers are not as bad as the sailors as the restraint is more. It means guard house and loss of pay to them if they get too bad; yet they are a bad lot."

"They tell me there are about 8,000 on the Island of Oahu and about 90 per cent of them are soldiers because they had been failures at something else."

"I talked with one of the men and he said that nearly every private was there for some bad cause, getting into trouble, drink, failure; that they were the down-and-outs, young fellows who enlisted as a last resort."

My personal opinion of a man who would write such a statement for publication is that he has about as much respect for his country and for the army which stands ready to defend it as an ordinary lap-dog and that if the time should ever come when the United States needs men to defend it, that the most likely place to look for men of his stamp would be in a hollow tree somewhere out in the thickest timber to be found, or else down in the cellar covered up in the potato bin.

I have been in the army for three years and to my knowledge about 90 per cent of the men in the army today are clean, intelligent, and more or less well educated young men, many of them fully capable of holding positions of skilled laborers, carpenters, firemen, tinners, etc.

I have known several men with college educations, and men with

less than 6th or 7th grade schooling are very rare.

I do not try to say that there are no "failures" and "down-and-outs" in the army but I know that instead of being in the large majority they are far in the minority.

I am not in the least afraid to assert that if you should go into any city in the United States and pick 8,000 men from all parts of the city—pick them indiscriminately—and compare them with 8,000 soldiers from this island or any other post and I am certain that you would be forced to admit that the soldiers were the best men mentally or physically, or both.

Once again, your article quotes a shooting scrap of which I happen to have heard the particulars.

In the first place this shooting took place right in the heart of the red light district, and if this author was looking for material for an article on Honolulu as a city, what was he doing in that part of town?

He states that he was an eye witness, and I ask him here if he were writing an article on San Francisco would he go to the "Barbary Coast" for his material, or would he go to the Bowery and give his experiences there as New York city?

There are plenty of respectable places of amusement in Honolulu without going to that part of town at all.

As for the soldiers he saw in that district, they were some of the undesirable who wander into the Army and just because he saw twenty or thirty uniformed men who were misbehaving, why should he say that 90 per cent of the entire 8,000 on the Island were "a bad lot"?

He states that he talked with one man and eventually took his word for the character of all the men on the island.

I have often noticed, both in Honolulu and in San Francisco where I was a soldier for some months, that a bunch of six or eight men may come down the street in civilian clothes and be staggering drunk and making a show of themselves in general, and if any notice is taken of them at all it will merely be a smile or shrug with possibly the remark that "That bunch is well lit up."

But let one soldier come down the street showing the effects of liquor at all and half of the people who see him either say or think, "that's what our army is composed of."

Perhaps the very man who says this may have seen a dozen soldiers who were perfectly sober and well mannered, but a few minutes before he did those soldiers get any credit?

Far from it. If any notice at all is taken of them, it is merely "There goes another bunch of those awful soldiers." Going to get tanked up is "guess."

As for this man's remarks upon the climate, the impression he gives is a great exaggeration, and as for his "hail storms," I am sure I have never seen one since I have been here. The storms he saw in the mountains were nothing but light rains.

Now there are a number of other things in that article which I should like to speak of but I will take no more of your time now. However, Mr. Editor, since you used considerable of your valuable space to give the City of Honolulu and the soldiers in its vicinity a very black eye don't you think you could use a little space for this letter and give the soldiers of the Hawaiian Department a chance to have a word said in their defense in response to a slanderous attack made behind their back?

I am not, however, criticising the "Courier" nearly as much as I am the author of the letter and now before I close I will speak a word of myself in case you print this as I sincerely hope you will.

I only know of a few Oregon City men of any prominence at all who may remember me, but of those few, I will name the following: Dr. Miesner (I am not sure of the spelling of his name, but if I remember right his offices were near the end of the bridge), Mr. Fred Metzner of the Oregon City Woolen Mills, Mr. Arthur Rehfield, of the Willamette P. & P. Co., or Mr. Joseph Beaulieu of the Hawley P. & P. Co.

It also happens that my enlistment in the army expires soon and I expect to come back to Portland about the last of November.

I shall then be glad to give this my attention in person if there is any need.

Hoping to hear from you on this matter and to hear that you have given it your attention I am,

Yours very truly,  
Private Bert H. Blosser,  
Troop "E," 4th Cavalry, Schofield Barracks, Hawaiian Territory.

Why pass over the militia incident? He was there in the city. If the comments on the soldiers were false, perhaps that was also.

As to whether other cities have such parks as the one written of, I was not making comparisons. I was writing of Honolulu, not Oregon City or Pittsburg.

As to the drunkenness and brawls in the park being exceptions to the rule, I did not have "the rule. I wrote of what I saw there."

I did not confine my talk to ONE soldier, but to dozens of them. I met them in the small parks during the days, at the beach, and I never talked with one but who was counting the days to get out of the army.

They were dissatisfied, rebellious and complaining, and Mr. Blosser has but to look up the files of the "Hawaiian" of July to find a strong article along these lines. They were complaining of their quarters, of the arrogance of the officers and the ostracism of the people of the city.

On the Main street of the city I saw an officer stop two privates in the center of a crosswalk, command them to "attention" and bawl them out before the eyes of probably one hundred people.

What the cause was I did not learn, but the spectacle was most humiliating, and when the West Point snob had left the soldiers cursed him.

I saw an officer come out of a saloon, drunken and cursing, with his

hands full of paper money which he was waving. The bartender had refused him another drink.

These things I saw. They occurred.

Mr. Blosser asks what I was doing in the red light district when a soldier was shot?

Did he think I would go to a Christian Endeavor meeting for a slum story?

The shooting occurred in a public street. That was where I was. And by the way, what were the soldiers (a mob of them who tried to kill the policeman) doing there?

I wrote of Honolulu and conditions as I found them. There are many beautiful things to be seen there, which I have written of, but on the other hand there are conditions there which would not be tolerated anywhere else in the United States—and I wrote of them as they are and as I saw them.

If Mr. Blosser (as he intimates) will give this matter PERSONAL attention on his return to the States in November, he won't have to hunt to find the writer—and if he thought the threat would scare out a retraction of things written—well he has one more great big thing coming to him.

M. J. Brown.

### GLEN ECHO

More rain—Oh well, let it come. We said last summer that we would never complain about rain again, and now we have got to watch out or we will forget.

War and politics, politics and war are about all we hear on our street corners and homes. The politics are alright, but when will that terrible war end?

News is scarce in the vicinity as Mrs. Gossip has not been around lately, but we are up in arms fighting booze. Mrs. Ed Andrews was here registering last week, getting ten names before breakfast. Wasn't that pretty good?

Mrs. Moran entertained the W. C. T. U. union last Friday, fifteen ladies being present, and five new members came in. You see we are in earnest and mean business and are going to do our part in voting Oregon dry. Our dry posters are torn down, but what of that, we have more, and besides we can yell Oregon is going dry so loudly that those wet fellows will turn pale, then we will yell again. They say that we won't yell so loudly after election. Well, we are going to risk it anyway and yell while we can. I for one would like to give a yell for the Courier and if I can't yell I can say that we have a paper to be proud of. It stands for right and principle, and we wish all success to the Courier.

Oregon 1914  
Dry! Dry! Dry!  
Who'll make it so?  
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EAGLE CREEK  
Mrs. J. P. Strahl was pleasantly surprised last Tuesday afternoon when about 14 ladies called to spend the afternoon with her in honor of her birthday. After a social two hours or so together a luncheon of coffee, sandwiches and pie was served.

Walter Douglass, accompanied by Mrs. Will Douglass, made a trip to Portland last Friday.

Mrs. R. B. Gibson was the guest of her sister, Mrs. S. J. Eddy of Portland, last Friday.

Mrs. Viola Douglass was an Oregon City visitor last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Benson of Logan, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Douglass Sunday.

Ed Douglass butchered some hogs and took them to Portland the first of the week.

H. H. Hoffmeister made a business trip to Portland the latter part of last week.

TRADE  
If you wish to trade your farm near Woodburn, Mt. Angel, Hubbard or Aurora for a good 48 acres near a good town, one mile from carline, 3 miles from high school, R. F. D., cream route, and phone in house, 40 acres in cultivation, 4 acres in orchard 8 acres in timber. Pasture. 3 springs in pasture. Good 7-room house, two barns 30x50 and 38x50. Granary, prune dryer, wagon shed, chicken house, hog house, 8 cows, two good horses, 5 hogs, 60 hens, two wagons, mower, rake, binder, plows, harrow, disc and seeder.

Want to get in German settlement would prefer near Catholic church. For particulars see Dillman & Howland, 8th and Main St.

Hot Lake Manager Would Like Notice of Arrival in Advance  
Persons contemplating a visit to Hot Lake Springs, Oregon, who require the service of a wheel chair or other special convenience, are requested by the management to give notice of arrival in advance, so that proper care and attention may be assured.

(Paid advertisement.)

C. E. SPENCE, MASTER  
OREGON CITY, R. 3

MRS. MINNIE E. BOND, LECTURER  
EUGENE

MARY S. HOWARD, SECRETARY  
MULINO

H. HIRSCHBERG, TREASURER  
INDEPENDENCE

Executive Committee  
MASTER, EX-OFFICIO CHAIRMAN  
C. L. SHAW, ALBANY  
B. G. LEEDY, CORVALLIS, R. 3

OREGON STATE GRANGE  
OFFICE OF MASTER  
OREGON CITY, OREGON

Legislative Committee  
MASTER, EX-OFFICIO CHAIRMAN  
E. A. BOND, IRVING

Oct. 12, 1914.

## PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION AMENDMENT

Ballot Number 348 X Yes

To the Voters of Oregon:—

On behalf of our several organizations, the undersigned ask you to vote for this measure, because we believe it will result in electing better representatives in the legislature, who will make better and fewer laws, and it will increase the People's power over the legislature.

There are sixty representatives in the legislature of Oregon. This amendment assures the election of any and every candidate who is voted for by as many as 1-60th of all the voters of the state who vote. It is absolutely certain under this measure that no county or district can fail to elect its local candidate if the people of that county or district, where his name is printed on the ballot, will give him as many as 1-60th of all the votes cast in the State. It is just as certain, under this amendment, that any group of voters, no matter how widely they may be scattered over the State, can elect their representative if they write in his name on 1-60th of all the ballots cast in the State.

In Denmark Proportional representation has been in use more than fifty years. The laws of that country are so good that the Danes have not had an "unemployed" problem for many years; 89 per cent of the farmers own their farms and only 11 per cent are renters. The Danes exported more than ninety two million dollars' worth of butter, bacon and eggs in 1908. Denmark has only about one-sixth as much land as Oregon, and her summers are so short that the cattle grazing season is only fourteen weeks. For more information on Denmark see the Valley Farm of March and April, 1914, and the Youth's Companion of Sept. 24, 1914.

The condition of Denmark is proof that proportional representation gets better legislators than the American plan of plurality elections; that such legislators make better laws, and thereby more general prosperity for all the people. The wealth of Denmark is probably greater per capita than that of any other country in the world, and it is very evenly distributed. The very poor and the very rich are few and far between.

This amendment is bitterly opposed by the Daily Oregonian and other opponents of the People's Power in the government of Oregon, and especially by the "Non Partisan League" of Portland, which is advertising very extensively against its approval. All its opponents know as well as we do that adoption of this amendment and abolition of the State Senate will give the voters almost as direct power over the Legislature as the Initiative and Referendum gave the people over law making outside of the legislature. It will allow equal power to all voters instead of the present injustice of allowing some electors to vote for 13 representatives, while others can vote only for one.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. SPENCE, Master of the State Grange.  
J. D. BROWN, President of the Farmers' Union of Oregon.  
W. W. GRISENTHWAITE, President Farmers' Society of Equity.

Oregon State Federation of Labor by T. H. Burchard, President, and E. J. Stack, Secretary  
People's Power League, by C. E. S. Wood, President and W. S. U'Ren, Secretary.

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## The Want Column

WANTED—A horse. Rev. E. A. Smith, Oregon City, would like a good driving horse for his keep for the winter. The horse must be safe and sound and will receive good care.

FOR SALE—Cheap, two private telephones and wire. Address Alon Shevman, Milwaukie, Rt. 1.

FOR SALE—Two houses and three lots in Canemah. Will be sold cheap. Address J. W. Plummer, Canemah.

FOR SALE—3 head fresh Jersey cows.—K. C. Reitsma, Maple Lane.

FOR SALE—Pony, 10 years old, 800 pounds, grey, gentle, broken to ride or drive, price \$25. G. F. Knowles, Oregon City.

FOR SALE—House and four lots. Price \$950. Will take Oregon City warrants or bonds to \$700. Bal. terms. Macdonald & Van Auken.

8 per cent—1st Mortgage—8 per cent \$1500 mortgage for sale; security, real estate valued at \$7,000. U. S. Mortgage Co., 17 Beaver Bldg., Oregon City.

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Popcorn crisp machine, nearly new and will be sold cheap. James Conover, 709 Eleventh street, Oregon City.

LOST OR STRAYED—A large deep red 2 year-old heifer from Viola belonging to Rev. C. C. Coop. Any information leading to whereabouts will be suitably rewarded. Notify H. H. Coop, Estacada Rt. 3, or A. B. Coop, Oregon City.

FOR SALE—25 head of good grade Lincoln sheep. Address W. F. Harris, Rt. 3, Bx. 72, Oregon City.

## RAILROADS WILL HELP THE FARMER

Common Carriers Will Co-operate in Marketing Farm Products—Middle Men Charge Higher Rates for Handling Farm Than Factory Products.

By Peter Radford,  
Lecturer National Farmers' Union.

The leading railroad systems of the nation will establish market bureaus to assist the farmers along their lines in marketing their products. Many roads have acceded to the request of the Farmers' Union and announced their willingness to enter into active co-operation with the farmers in marketing their products.

The express companies have surveyed the field and the Federal Government, through the parcel post, has demonstrated the possibilities of the common carrier as a useful agency in marketing farm commodities.

I consider the action of these giant business concerns in determining to co-operate with the farmers in marketing their crops, to be the greatest product of human thought on the Western hemisphere during the past year, and it demonstrates that the educational work of the Farmers' Union has brought the nation to a clearer understanding of the real problem of the farmer.

To give information on marketing is far more valuable than to give advice on production. There is a mutual interest between the railroads and the farmer which cannot exist between any other lines of industry. The railroads are the teamsters of agriculture, and they are employed only when there is something to haul. Good prices will do more to increase tonnage than any other factor, and railroads want tonnage.

Agriculture has many inherent disadvantages which require combined effort to overcome in marketing. There are millions of producing units working independently and selling without knowledge of market conditions. The harvest is once a year, while consumption is pretty evenly distributed throughout the entire year, and most of the farmers, through custom and necessity, dump their entire crop on the market as soon as it is gathered. The problem of organizing and systematizing the markets is one in which the farmers invite assistance of all lines of industry friendly to their interests.

Farmers Bear the Burden.

The business of the manufacturer lends itself more readily to organization and the facilities for studying the markets are more easily available. The result is that the merchants are compelled to handle most staple manufactured articles at very little profit, and as a consequence the merchant must look to products which he buys direct from the farm for his profits.

The reports of the Federal Department of Agriculture show some very interesting information and enable a comparison between the cost of marketing products of the farm and those of the factory. A few items will serve to illustrate the general run. The cost of getting sugar from the refinery to the consumer is 9 cents on the dollar; the cost of getting tobacco from factory to consumer is 14 cents on the dollar. In selling a dollar's worth of eggs the middleman gets a profit of 50 cents on the dollar. In selling a dollar's worth of potatoes, the middleman makes 70 cents on the dollar; in selling a dollar's worth of fruit, the middleman gets 84 cents on the dollar, and on cantaloupes 82 cents.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 570, published by the United States Department of Agriculture, in discussing this subject, said:

"The high price paid by consumers ranging from 5 to 500 per cent, in some cases, more than the farmer receives, indicates that there is plenty of room for lowering the cost of farm products to consumers and at the same time largely increasing the cash income per farm, without increasing farm production. This condition is undoubtedly a marketing problem which will have to be solved by better organization of farmers and improved methods of marketing."

Large Shippers Influence Rates.

In railroad rates the inequalities are equally as glaring. Rate making in its primitive stages was largely influenced by demands and arguments of large shippers, but the farmers were unorganized and seldom appeared before rate-making bodies, and the burden of expense in transportation lies largely against the raw products of the farm.

In banking, our securities are discriminated against, as compared with the products of the factories and mines. The farmer is entitled to a square deal. The farmer is more interested in good prices and efficient service than he is in rates.

\$100 Reward, \$100

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Cat