

OREGON CITY COURIER

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E. R. BROWN

EDITOR

THE OPEN RIVER

It is now possible to ship freight from Corvallis, Oregon to Lewiston, Idaho, by boat, without unloading and reloading, and without paying tolls for passage through any privately-owned canal.

It is cheaper to ship freight by water than it is to send it by rail, and it is about as quick.

Such being the case, there ought to be a great impetus given river commerce in the Columbia and Willamette basins; and there ought to be a profitable interchange of trade between the grain and stock ranches of the Inland Empire and the agricultural and manufacturing districts of the Coast region.

But will there be?

Portland's waterfront is tied up by the railroads. Portland's municipal docks are pretty pieces of engineering and carpentry, but they are not convenient for present-day river vessels. When Portland docks were planned they were designed to serve ocean-going vessels, which enthusiastic dreamers imagined would come rushing up the Columbia as soon as the docks were built. The waterfront of every town on the Columbia river is neatly padlocked by railroad tracks and yards. In the valley of the Willamette conditions are somewhat better as regards the railroads, but there are few communities that have anything like serviceable docks.

It appears, then, that before river commerce can take advantage of the open river some docks will have to be constructed that will be of use to river steamers. Arrangements will have to be made to get over or under or around railroad property, so that freight handled by boats can be delivered in river communities. And shippers will have to be educated to patronize river service.

Probably most of these things will come to pass and probably, also, the railroads will reduce local tariffs so as to meet river competition. The outlook is favorable for the states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho—but there is more work concerned with the favorable outlook than was intimated in the grandiloquent speeches and addresses delivered at the various celebrations of the consultative of open river plans.

SOMETHING TO DO

Oregon City having been "dry" pretty nearly a year and a half now, an interesting change in conditions has come about. And the fact that a majority of the voters have decreed that the entire state of Oregon shall go "dry" the first of next year—now but seven months away—this change in conditions is all the more interesting. The Courier refers not to any variation of life or effort as a result of the "dry" laws, but to the new condition which confronts the church in general, and such organizations as the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

The Demon Rum having been defeated—and reports of the chief of police seem to indicate that the demon is pretty dead in these quarters—the churches in general, and the W. C. T. U., will find a splendid opportunity to turn their influence and powers to accomplishing other reforms. There is no particular use in the local W. C. T. U. bewailing the fact that whiskey, rum and gin are still freely imbibed in Chicago and New York, for in spite of their excellent intentions, the noble women of Oregon City cannot do anything at all to remedy conditions in other cities. Neither is there much use of our local churches bewailing the shocking tragedy of the war in Europe, or the great increase of poverty in India; for while there is no question of the willingness of the local churches to do what they can to help things to a better plane, there is not very much they can do that will either lessen the horrors of war or enrich the poor of Calcutta.

Oregon City has had considerably over a year now to get used to being "dry." It was perhaps mete and proper that the first year of reformed conditions should be spent in singing hallelujahs, and in organizing the

SMILE



THE world takes off its hat to the man with a smile. It turns a cold shoulder to the individual who is sour as a lemon. We all love the man with a hearty laugh. He is our friend, the ray of sunshine for which we yearn, and success perches on his cheerful shoulders. But you say, "It's hard to work up even a sickly grin when you're dead broke and up against the cold old world." We will agree with you. Here's the remedy. It is no trouble at all to laugh when you have money in the bank. Start a bank account with your first earnings. Add to it. Form the saving habit. Watch the account grow. The smile will grow with it.

The Bank of Oregon City
Oldest Bank in Clackamas County

body politic so that the "drys" should control the balance of power. These things now having been done to a sufficiency, it appears to the Courier that it would be a very excellent idea for the winners in the fight against the Demon Rum to once again gird themselves in armor and sally forth to seek another victory. Progress in civilization is only attained by constant effort, and a year is long enough to pat oneself upon the back for any victory.

There are quite a number of things in local "dry" territory that might well be given the attention of the excellent organization which for years carried on the fight against the Demon Rum. This organization includes the churches, the various temperance organizations and all the societies and clubs that like to say they are engaged in "uplift" work. They did well in winning their battle against whiskey, rum and gin; and now they may do as well again in other directions.

For instance there is the little matter of play for the children of this community. It has recently been brought to public notice with some force that "there is no place for boys to go except the streets or the pool halls." One of the great things that put energy and vim into the prohibition campaign was the desire to "save the boys." Now that the boys have been "saved" by having the saloons taken away, are the reformers going to let the male members of the rising generation develop into unhealthy, weak muscled, weak-minded and purposeless men?

It appears to the Courier that there is still work to be done. A public gymnasium and gathering place, where the boys of this community could spend the rainy days in sanitary and interesting surroundings, where they could build up muscle and brain by gymnasium work or by reading interesting books, and where they could play games of chance and skill without the tendency to gamble and smoke cigarettes that is always found in the pool hall, would, this paper believes, be an effort in which all the local "uplift" groups might well unite.

It is true that reformers prefer to tear down things or banish wrongs. They like to abolish the saloon, bar the cigarette, tear down the blind pig, close the pool hall, clean out the gambling hell, etc. But it would be just as good work to BUILD SOMETHING GOOD. And a public gathering place, a recreation center for our young people, boys and girls, would be one of the finest things that could be done for Oregon City by its well-meaning citizens.

Efforts to establish a Y. M. C. A. building in this community died because of jealousy between certain church cliques, none of which could yield to the other in having control of the work. Similarly an effort to establish a non-sectarian gymnasium and meeting place was talked to death, because certain influences wanted to exclude a proportion of the population who differed from them in religious dogma. The campaign recently started against the pool halls struck a snag when the local pastors differed as to how the affair might best be managed.

This is alleged to be a Christian community. It would, therefore, be a bit of Christian work if the churches and the W. C. T. U. and other organizations would look at things in a Christian way, and unite in an effort to do something for the "boys and girls whose futures were imperiled by the saloon." Skids have been put under the saloon in this community and state; but there is yet to be found quite a bunch of peril lurking in the way of the younger generation. There is an adage that says "Satan ever finds mischief for idle hands to do." The chief trouble with life for the younger generation herabouts is that there is too much idleness. Two tennis courts provide a minimum of amusement for the girls. As for the boys, athletic sports are handicapped by the lack of a convenient athletic field. Muscular development for both girls and boys is handicapped because there is no general gymnasium which all might attend. Mental recreation or entertainment is confined to the movies and the shop-windows. And the schools, while very good as schools go, might be greatly aided by the establishment here of a trade school.

It is a mistake to think that just because the saloon has been put out of business that "the boys and girls have been saved." There is still a lot of work that ought to be done. It seems to this paper that there is a golden opportunity awaiting the "uplifters" here in our midst; and that as things are now a great deal of energy is being wasted in celebrating the recent victory and in looking for trouble in foreign lands. WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF THE MORAL FORCES IN OREGON CITY GOT TOGETHER AND DID SOMETHING FOR THEIR OWN PEOPLE?

AS TECUMSAH SAID

The Courier desires herewith to apologize for not recently having presented its readers with an editorial upon the war. We realize that every well regulated newspaper these days should have at least two stock editorials—one on the war and one on the political situation. However, to take our readers into our confidence, we will plead guilty to laziness in this matter. However, we now have a nice new typewriter, so to make up for the past we will now

try to dash off an editorial upon the war.

Every war editorial should contain somewhere within its profound thought reference to the words of W. Tecumseh Sherman, one of the best little war-makers that the United States ever produced. Gen. Sherman said, you know, that war was very unpleasant. Now that war has paid due tribute to the hero of the "march to the sea," we will settle down to the more serious work of commenting upon the present war in Europe.

Many months ago the editor of this paper coined the phrase "the war of the Seven Nations." We used it proudly in referring to the European slaughter-fest. However, we are somewhat handicapped now, because more than seven nations are engaged in making widows and orphans. Maybe it would be better just to refer to what is going on as "the war." With this preliminary, we are now off, and will say the following about the war.

The European war continues to hold the center of thought throughout the civilized world. Men and women are untiring in deploring the terrible slaughter; and not contented with this, the women have met in a special conference to do some extra deploring on their own account. And this is quite the thing for them to do, for it is woman who pays the price of war.

When General Sherman made the remark that he is generally credited with, we do not know whether he meant that war was hell in general or hell in particular. The present European war, however, is proving that war is hell for women—and that is about all it is proving. The soldier in the trenches does not have such a hard time of it. He has his tobacco, and his card games between battles; and even if he does shiver in freezing slush or get his anatomy scattered about the landscape by bursting shrapnel, he has the enthusiasm of his fellows and the curses of his officers to make him forget his troubles. And if he is killed he is dead, and if he is merely fatally wounded, he has a brief period of ease in a hospital, with a foreign nurse to care for him, and princesses and queens to bring him flowers.

But the women have none of these things. They have only days of agony and suffering and want. It makes no difference whether they are in the battle-zone or whether they are at "home"—life is much the same. Their menfolk are away and they have to do the heavy work and drudgery. Their sons, brothers, fathers and husbands are out there somewhere, offering themselves as food for cannon. The women scan the papers eagerly for news of those they love, and no news to them is just as bad news as seeing a familiar name in the casualty lists. Uncertainty is the portion given woman in the war—uncertainty as to whether her loved ones are dead or maimed, or captured, uncertainty as to the future, uncertainty as to her very safety. The news of a great victory brings no joy to her, for every woman knows at what cost such victories are won.

Women are the mothers of the world. Every man that is at the battlefield has caused some woman not only hours of pain and travail, but years of self-denial, sacrifice and ceaseless care, to bring that man to grown estate. And every blast of a gun in the war may mean the death not only of one man—but off many men, that have been reared at such cost by womenkind. To them war is surely hell—hell of a more dreadful sort than was ever imagined by religious enthusiasts in painting the tortures of the damned.

Some of us may have sympathies for one side or the other in the conflict that is making a charnel house of the Old World. We may cheer with glee as we read of the success of this or that commander, and of the defeat of the "enemy" with a loss of thousands. But such sympathy is misplaced. All of us once knew the loving care, the gentle caress, the soft kiss of a mother. And every one of us should look at this war through the eyes of that same mother. Then there would be no cheering, no glamour of victory, no pride in conquest—only a shocking realization that war is the undoing of the work of womenkind, and that war is truly what General Sherman said it was.

WHERE THE TREES GO

Oregon and Washington, not yet having realized the value of trees as decorations to the landscape—to say nothing about their value in conserving the annual water supply and preventing the erosion of hills—regard our forests chiefly as sources of lumber. We trust blindly to the Federal government to retain enough trees for actual needs in forest reserves, and as for the rest of the forests, we point to them with pride as representing so much intrinsic lumber-wealth.

Hence some recent government figures on what is becoming of the timber in the Northwest may be of worthy of consideration. The report deals with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914. It may be of interest to the people of the Northwest to know that of the total amount of fir exported from the United States, (880,580,000 ft.), Oregon and Washington furnished over 580,000,000 feet.

It may be of still further interest to know that nearly 200 million feet of this fir went to Australia, New Zealand and the Islands of Oceania, over 145 million feet went to Asiatic ports, nearly 120 million feet went to South America, and approximately 23 million feet to Panama. European countries took not quite 40 million feet, England leading with 27 million feet and Germany ranking second with 2 million.

According to the report, Canada and Mexico, our nearest neighbors on

the north and south, took the bulk of the railroad ties exported from this country, the former taking approximately three and one-half million and the latter about half a million. South America ranks next in the quantity of ties from the United States, using over 360,000. The countries of Europe evidently prefer their own ties, for France is the only nation who takes from us an amount worthy of record, and that amount is only 592 ties, valued at \$404. Of the total amount of ties exported (over five million), the State of Washington alone furnished nearly half a million.

In the matter of American shingles used, Canada and Mexico again take the lead, the former importing from the United States nearly 34,000,000 and the latter over 2,000,000, valued respectively at \$70,000, and \$6,765. Australia and the Oceanic Islands, ranked next in quantity of shingles from the United States, nearly 5,000,000 being shipped to part of the world.

But when it comes to the use of wood pulp from the United States, Europe springs into prominence with over eighteen million pounds to her credit, ranking next to Canada, who leads with approximately twenty million pounds.

THE LUSITANIA

Senator Stone, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, in the statement he issued the day following the torpedoing of the Lusitania, cautions the American people "not to rock the boat." As the senator says, there are aspects of the latest marine disaster that should be considered by Americans before they follow the "call to arms" so immediately issued by Col. Roosevelt.

The Lusitania was a British auxiliary cruiser, carrying reservists for the British army. She sailed from New York in the face of a warning issued by the German embassy. Americans who embarked upon her did so at their own risk. While officially warning the world that "enemy vessels" were liable to destruction in the "war zone" about the British Isles, Germany unofficially boasted that she would "get" the Lusitania—and she made good her boast.

The Lusitania carried contraband of war, her manifest showing that over \$200,000 worth of ammunition, besides a quantity of materials for the manufacture of high-explosive shells. As such she was legitimate prey for Teutonic attack.

It is true that she was a passenger ship, and that she carried American citizens. But her passengers embarked upon their voyage after they had been specifically warned, and knowing that even aside from this warning they ran a considerable risk. Probably the bulk of her unfortunate people believed that the British government would make special efforts to protect the vessel, and so they were willing to take the risk.

It appears that the British made no effort to protect the Lusitania. Lord Charles Bessborough has already demanded of Premier Asquith why no such protection was offered. Probably the British officials thought the Lusitania's fleetness would be sufficient protection—and their error, as much as German aggressiveness, was to blame for the slaughter of the innocents in the disaster. Under the rules of war the Lusitania was an auxiliary British naval cruiser carrying contraband; and it was as much the right of Great Britain to protect the vessel as it was the right of the Germans to attack her.

All this should be borne in mind by the American people in passing judgment upon this most shocking incident of a most terrible war. And in considering these facts, Americans have cause to pause and proceed slowly in following any appeals like the one voiced by Roosevelt.

It is, of course, deplorable that such a tragedy as this could come to pass. It is but further proof of the absolute abandonment of former standards in the Old World. Europe has gone mad with war, and has no more sense of ethics than the average insane being. The sinking of the Lusitania is the epitome of the war in a single incident—the slaughter, the maiming, the agony, all in the name of war. And the sinking of the Lusitania will bring this fact home to all the world.

With the exception of hay, staple crops in Oregon are considerably ahead this year of the records made in 1914, and prices offered for grain show a marked advance over the ruling quotations for the past year. Such is the showing of the May 1st report of the Bureau of Crop Estimates of the Department of Agriculture; and as a result Clackamas county farmers and ranchers should have a banner year, both as to yield and profits.

Figures compiled for the state of Oregon show that the probable total production of winter wheat for 1915 will be 15,300,000 bushels. The total production for 1914 was but 13,684,000 bushels. Wheat in May, 1914, was quoted at 82 cents a bushel, but the price this year is 34 cents higher, or \$1.16 per bushel.

Rye also shows an improvement this year over last year's record. On May 1 the condition was 99 percent of normal, while on May 1, 1914, the condition was only 96 percent normal. Pastures this year are also well above the average, the condition being 98 percent of normal, while the ten-year average ending May 1 last year was but 95 percent.

Spring plowing on May 1, 1915, was 92 percent complete, according to the government report, while May 1 last year it was but 84 percent done. This shows the Oregon farmer has been more expeditious in his work this year, and is in better shape to take advantage of generally high prices. Spring planting was 86 percent done May 1, as compared with but 79 percent last year.

Prices to producers of staple farm products May 1, 1915, show a very

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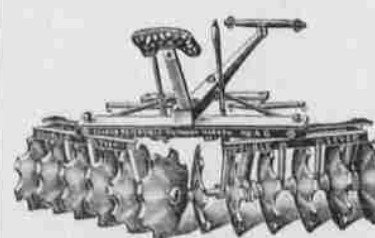
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general advance according to the government report. Figures for this year and last are as follows:

Product	1915	1914
Wheat	\$1.16	\$.82
Corn	.89	.69
Oats	.51	.38
Potatoes	.77	.37
Eggs	.19	.18

Hay is the sole crop that shows a reduction in price, and this in spite of the war demand. It is quoted in

government figures at \$9.50 a ton for May 1 this year, while May 1, 1914 it was ten cents higher. However, there was on hand May 1, 1914, 173,000 tons of old crop on hand, while May 1 this year there was but 120,000 tons of the old crop remaining.

Ruling prices and conditions for the United States at large show an even better condition than the special report on Oregon. Wheat this year is quoted at 56 cents advance

over last year's average, while the estimate of total production shows an advance of nearly ten million bushels.

The government figures, as given in the crop report, show prove harbingers of a general prosperity that even republican manipulation cannot stop.

Let us figure on your printing.—Courier.