

# OREGON CITY COURIER

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### MORE ABOUT WAR

The Courier's last "war editorial" was received with such general praise in all sections that we are emboldened to make some further remarks about the great conflict now occupying the minds of twelve European nations. We observe many things in the press of recent date, and not having any war correspondent of our own, we are forced to rely upon some of the big dailies to keep us informed. This, however, does not prevent us from commenting on the war—in fact it makes it easier for us to comment, for we have absolutely no first-hand knowledge of the matter to warp or bias our ideas.

We note from Harper's Weekly that Willie Randolph Hearts is up to his old tricks, and is "ghost dancing" his war news, and putting the names of imaginary correspondents over his "dispatches" from the front. And we note that the Portland Journal prints the Hearst service, too—so the Journal's war news is apt to be peculiar.

We also note that some gink in Great Britain has discovered that the only protection London has against Zep raids is the well known London fog. We further note that a scientific person at San Francisco has invented a machine to abolish fogs, and we presume that Germany will shortly buy this, so that it may drop bombs on London at any time. The British don't seem to mind the "Zeps" very much, except those who are related to the victims. Naturally they object to being bombed—but the reliable Portland Journal shows a picture of other Britishers standing round watching the skies for the next fatal visitor. This picture, by the way, is a Hearst feature—part of Hearst's service to the reliable Journal.

It is also to be noted by the press that the British, who haven't done a whole lot in this war so far, are considering withdrawing their men from the Dardanelles, after having had some 99,000 of their soldiers shot to pieces by the Germanized Turks. Somehow the native Britishers don't seem to "cotton" to the war very much, though the Canadians and Australians and other colonials are behaving like brave men.

Further more we note that the Russians have commenced another drive, and that the Kaiser is busy with his railroads in transporting troops from one front to the other. It must be joyous to be a German soldier, there is so much travel connected with it. Before the war Americans with lots of money used to flock to Germany every year to travel up and down the Rhine—but now the Kaiser's soldiers are getting these sight-seeing trips free and are being paid two cents a day as well. And the German soldiers don't have to tip everybody in sight, as the American tourists had to do.

Aside from these observations and opinions, we gather that the war is still going on, that it is much worse than any previous war, and that great reductions are being made in the population of all countries concerned. From all this we are led to believe that two things are true; first, that war is all and more that General Sherman said it was; and secondly, that as all but one of the nations in the fight are "Christian," something must be seriously the matter with "Christianity" as practiced in their midst.

We come to this last conclusion because the First Christian is reported to have remarked, once upon a time when He was laying down the rules of life, "Thou shalt not kill."

### AND WHY NOT?

The day of fifteen-cent movies is with us, we are told, and in the not distant future it may be necessary to spend two bits to get into a flicker shop.

At first this comes as a shock to us, so long have we been accustomed to seeing automobiles drop over cliffs and heroes drop from airships to freight trains for a nickel or a dime. But when we pause and think the matter over the shock disappears, and we wonder that we have not been asked long before this to pay more for the "silent drama of the screen."

Theatrical men curse the movies from one side of the continent to the other, and say that the little theatres are ruining business in the big houses. And the big houses charge a dollar or more, and usually offer a less attractive show. In the old-style theatre many an actor or actress "got by" because of his remarkable voice or her remarkable hair; but in the movies the actor that gets applause must rely solely upon his ability. So the movies have drawn from the ranks of the thespians those who could really act, and have left behind for the big houses chiefly those whose voice was funny, or whose hair was used to advertise a tonic, or those like Cohan, who have to wave the American flag to get applause.

The real talent of the profession has gone over to the movies, and on the screen in even the smallest hamlets are to be seen masters of histrionic art that formerly never ventured west of Chicago, and who mostly performed for the edification of the favored few who lived in New York, Washington or Boston. The movies have brought real actors to Podunk Corners, they have made theatre-goers everywhere familiar with the art of Bernhardt, of Southern, of great comedians and of great tragedians. And the movies have also developed their own stars—Chaplin, who probably would be a frost in anything but comic opera, Mary Pickford, whose chief point of favor lies in her winsomeness. And the movies have brought many old-timer "stock actors" into their own, as in the case of Maurice Costello, who is at heart so much an actor that he preferred the drudgery of "stock" work to the easier life of the star in one play for a season.

Is it any wonder then, that we are asked to pay fifteen cents or even twenty-five to see these masters of acting? It is no more than fair, and it speaks volumes for the public-spiritedness and liberality of the movie men that they let us see them for that price—see them everywhere, even in the most remote hamlets, where the movie house is open only on Saturday and Sunday. No right-thinking person should begrudge the increase in movie admissions, for with the advent of the greater actors and actresses the movies are increasing their educational and entertainment value, and at no matter what price they are offered they are giving more than the money's worth.

### A POOR IDEA

Councilman Templeton wants an amendment to the city charter doing away with the publication of city ordinances, franchises and other such formal notices. Mr. Templeton says he is moved to do this for reasons of municipal economy. If this is so, Mr. Templeton's "economy" is as shortsighted as some other brands of councilmanic saving.

The Courier, being a weekly paper, has no anticipations of getting the job of printing city notices. It has seemed to the present council, and to other councils, that a daily paper was the best medium for these publications; and so the Courier has got past expecting this share of the city business. Hence its remarks may be taken as being unprejudiced.

The Courier does not believe that discarding the publication of the city business would be a wise move. Instead, this paper believes that more of the city business ought to be published. It particularly believes that the monthly financial report of the city should be published, so that the voters and taxpayers who do not attend council meetings may know where the public funds go. The Courier also believes that the ordinances enacted by the council ought to be published, and that all franchises ought to be published.

Publicity is good for city affairs. It is a safeguard against the "slipping over" of things. Posting orders, names, franchises and financial reports on three lamp-posts in the city is not sufficient publicity—there are too few people who will stand on the corner to read such notices. But if they are printed in a newspaper—even one of limited circulation—there is sufficient publicity given to safeguard

the public. If Councilman Templeton, for instance, had been compelled to publish in plain and understandable English the inside facts relating to the improvement of Fifth street some time ago, there would not be the very general suspicion that "something was slipped over" in connection with that incident.

Whenever a cry is made for less publicity regarding the city affairs and municipal management, the public naturally gets suspicious; even when such an honest man as Mr. Templeton suggests the plan. And Mr. Templeton says he is the only sincere and honest councilman now in office. It will cost the city no great sum to continue publishing its public affairs, and the money thus spent is insurance against any weird and unseemly things being done in hasty sessions. Economy of the nature that would save the small sum it costs to print municipal notices might prove very, very costly if some future councilman or city official, hiding under the protection of secrecy, slipped over a deal that would defraud the city of rightful revenue.

And, to quote another Templeton instance, publication of the Templeton "public utility vehicle law" probably more than anything else has resulted in the movement to do justice in the jitney matter to both the jits and to the city.

Publicity pays.

### MORE DRY STUFF

A little over two weeks from the time when our loving brother down the street reproved the Courier for having directed a part of the statewide prohibition campaign printed "wet" advertising in its columns, The Enterprise springs a three-column

liness that we wonder how the Enterprise can square itself for its policy of one day playing up the new Methodist preacher to the skies, and the next day giving even more prominence to an attack upon the statewide prohibition law—which had the special support of the Methodist church in this community. Truly, it is an interesting situation.

### ON MAKING BUDGETS

We note by the last issue of the Sandy News that the thriving and busy little city in the northeastern section of the county expects its expenses for 1916 to be \$975, that it has some \$700 in its treasury, and that in order to raise further moneys to meet its expected outlay it will have to tax local property. F. E. Beckwith, Sandy's recorder, in a report on this matter published in the News, sums things up as follows:

"Balance to be raised by taxation, \$275.00; estimated valuation of property within Sandy, \$55,015.00; TAX LEVY NEEDED TO PRODUCE DEFICIT, \$400.57."

That should be interesting news for Oregon City's council. In Sandy, according to the recorder, it takes only a five-mill levy to "produce a deficit." In Oregon City we have had a ten-mill levy, and with it have produced one of the loveliest deficits ever seen. Plainly this is a waste of money, and reform should be started at once. Mr. Templeton, who wants a fifteen-mill levy, is working the wrong way—if Sandy can produce a deficit by a five-mill levy, Oregon City ought to be able to do it.

Hence the Courier is in favor of reducing the levy to five mills. The county seat ought to be able to get a

things, and it is not surprising that the council likes to discuss them in secret sessions.

But aside from that the main thing is this: if Sandy can produce a deficit on a five-mill levy, Oregon City ought to be able to do it, too.


### WHAT HAPPENED ABROAD

It is always comforting to read about the sins of others, so Courier readers will doubtless enjoy this offering from the American Economic League, of Cincinnati:

"American communities are not the only ones that give away valuable natural resources to private monopolists. An example of municipal folly, worthy of the most stupid of corrupt American cities, is reported concerning a German village in the issue of August 20 of the Berlin magazine Bodenreform.

"The village of Wolzig in the district of Beeskow-Storkow owned a magnificent lake from which it drew considerable revenue. On the opposite shore lies an estate that belongs to a member of a family of millionaire farmers. The owner of the estate liked the lake and bought it of the community for the low price of 2400 marks. Then he rented out the fishing privilege for 5000 marks a year. The high rent necessitates most severe exploitation. Neighboring inhabitants whose land reaches to the shore are not allowed to go boat riding or to bathe in the lake. They cannot even buy fish at retail from the tenant since he sends his entire supply to the Berlin markets.

"So with a supply of fish at their very doors, the people of Wolzig had heard in time of the land reform idea



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of your skill as a baker if you use SNOWDRIFT flour in the making of bread, cakes or pastry. For your baking will be so good that your friends will be asking you for recipes and if you took special lessons in baking. Think of it. Try a sack of our flour and you'll be convinced.

**Portland Flouring Mills**  
Oregon City, Ore.

fully and more tritely by saying "Hell is freezing over."

Climatic conditions in the Enterprise office must be very trying on the editorial force—one day the paper is "wet" and the next it is "dry."

Love is a dream and marriage is the awakening, sayeth the adage. In that case we suppose divorce is the rolling over again for another snooze.

An exchange informs us that "the wise man listens while the fool talks." The guy that wrote that must have attended an Oregon City council meeting.

Now that the democrats have decided that \$400,000,000 is needed for national defense, we suppose the republicans will begin to yell "extravagance."

There were two free shows in the county seat last Friday night—one at the Commercial club and the other at the council session. The latter was by far the fannier.

Far be it from the Courier to criticize John Stark, but it seems to us that it would be a pleasant change if John would suggest some remedies for the ills about which he kicks every week.

Progressive West Linn citizens are in favor of a charter amendment prohibiting secret sessions of the council. West Linn's council must be getting as silly as the one that graces the county seat.

A contemporary, trying to be sage, tells us that "the hen gets the worm because she gets up and scratches for it." Around here hens scratch for pebbles, with which to digest the worms they have picked up.

Wouldn't it be funny if some of these "wets" who are yelling for absolute prohibition finally had their way and got it; and then the supreme court decided that absolute prohibition of booze was just as legal as absolute prohibition of opium?

Owing to the vagaries of the linotype machine, the Courier last week said that "Oregon has 9.3 percent of its road surfaced, and Pennsylvania 4.5 percent." The figures should be reversed—Oregon has the 4.5 percent and makes the poorest showing.

**BURGLAR WANTED TIME**

Tried Twice and Finally Got a Good Watch Worth While

Judging by reports reaching the Courier office, and more or less substantiated by Chief of Police Ed Shaw, there was a burglar in Oregon City last week Wednesday night at about council meeting time. And apparently the burglar wanted a watch—not an Ingersoll, but a real watch. This conclusion is reached from the following facts. Somewhere near nine o'clock in the evening of Wednesday a week ago, the home of E. E. Brodie, publisher of the Enterprise, was broken into and thoroughly ransacked. Nothing was taken, and as all members of the Brodie family were away and were wearing their watches, the burglary has an interesting aspect. Sometime later the home of Mrs. Williams, on Molalla avenue, was broken into, and the house ransacked. A gold watch of more than ordinary value was the only thing stolen. The second robbery was reported to the police, but news of the first was suppressed.

Hence it would seem that a burglar, seeking a watch, first broke into the Brodie residence; and not finding what he (or she) sought, continued the search with success on Molalla avenue.

The Courier has a full line of Legal Blanks for sale. If you are in need of Legal Blanks you will find that it will pay you to come to the Courier.

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