

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1914.

NAVAL STRENGTH. While the German military tidal wave is sweeping down upon France and ruthlessly brushing aside French, English and Belgians in the first heated stages of the war, the question naturally reverts to the naval situation which, in the wholly obscured from the eyes of an expectant world, what Germany is in a military sense England is in a naval way.

WHY A WAR TAX?

The Oregonian finds in the Washington correspondence of the Boston Transcript an exceptionally interesting item about the investment of the government under the present Administration. The departmental expenditures for the single month of August as shown by the pay-roll made the following extraordinary showing:

On this they raise an immense quantity of potatoes. The yield for 1913 is shown to have averaged about 200 bushels to the acre. The very best we can do is 110 bushels to the acre. Some Americans do better than that, but many do worse and 110 makes the average. Conditions do not favor the potato in Ireland more than in the farming districts of the United States.

A RECORD OF MISREPRESENTATION.

One phase in the campaign of the promoters of the U'Ren measure that deserves severe condemnation is their failure to stick to facts in their arguments. Among these promoters Mr. U'Ren is perhaps the worst transgressor. The other day in a speech he declared that diamonds have at present been exempt from taxation. Yet the facts are that only diamonds in use are exempt. "Invest" in relation to financial transactions, always means the laying out of money with the expectation of deriving profit.

A MERE TECHNICALITY, HE SAYS.

Mr. U'Ren Used Wrong Word in Referring to Tax Exemptions. OREGON CITY, OR., Aug. 26.—(To the Editor)—Referring to your editorial criticism of the U'Ren measure, I would like to say that I believe it would have been technically correct.

OUR LESSON FROM EUROPEAN WAR

Need to Foster Home Industry Becomes Planter as Conflict Progresses. PORTLAND, Aug. 25.—(To the Editor)—While the American people are, of course, intensely patriotic and the drift of speculation seems to be more particularly as to whether or not that war will help or hinder the home European war commercially.

Half a Century Ago

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Reports that British armies have been defeated will cause the world no surprise. The British fighting man has machless courage, spirit and grit. But from the standpoint of organization and numerical strength the British army is nothing more than a military toy. Its fate will be the fate of the French army, which is unable to support its own weight.

BACK TO HIS POST AT LAST.

It would be pleasant to believe that Mr. Lafferty's sudden withdrawal from the scene of his campaign activity was due to his strong sense of public duty calling him to Washington. It would assuredly leave an agreeable impression with his constituents, if he were to make it clear to them that his obligation to perform a public service, and not any acute alarm about his pay check as a Congressman, was responsible for his change of plans.

THE DEATH OF MRS. FAIRCHILD.

The death of Mrs. Fairchild in a hospital two hours after being hit by a motorcycle emphasizes the need of vigilance in crossing a street. The rule to look first to the left and when past the middle to the right is simple and safeguards the pedestrian when followed.

PEASANTS IN BELGIUM WERE COMPELLED TO HAIT THEIR WORK AND DIG GRAVES FOR 2000 SOLDIERS.

And that sort of work has barely commenced. If Kitchener is right and the war lasts three years Europe will be a shadow of itself when the thing is finally ended.

THE OUTCOME OF THE PENDING ELECTION IN OREGON IS FIXED IN THE PUBLIC MIND.

Interest in political matters waned with the war and will not be revived until it is ended. Germany is arming boys from 16 to 19 years of age and Austria has called out even her old men.

DIAMONDS ARE GOING TO BE DEARER.

Another obstacle in the way of Fall engagements. The men are led on by the lust of fighting. The real bitterness falls upon the women.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE ANNUAL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE

held in session at Astoria, Ore., last week. The following are the appointments made by the conference: Portland, Ore., J. J. Adams, Moderator; J. J. Adams, Secretary; J. J. Adams, Treasurer; J. J. Adams, Steward; J. J. Adams, Collector; J. J. Adams, Deacon; J. J. Adams, Elder; J. J. Adams, Minister.

THE GERMAN INFANTRY ADVANCE.

British military experts who were sitting at German infantry tactics a few days ago must have revised their opinion by now. Perhaps they are able to see some virtue in the depth and density of the German firing line. The German advance is based on the most aggressive principle, with the grim aim of gaining and maintaining fire superiority. The cost

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