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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, 1914.

DIPLOMATIC SHORTCOMINGS.

Reports that the German Chancellor and the German Minister of Foreign Affairs have been compelled to resign because of the inefficiency of German diplomacy in the present situation lack official confirmation. Yet no confirmation is needed of charges that German diplomacy fell short in approaching the present crisis. The fact is tremendously apparent. Other wise Germany's new stand in the position of facing the greater portion of the world on the field of battle. Her allies might have been more in number and her foes fewer.

The attitude assumed towards Great Britain by von Jagow, the Foreign Minister, was exceedingly imprudent. He advised the British in a curt note that they might as well keep out of the fight, since their influence would be inconsequential. No doubt von Jagow thought he was fortified by British internal dissensions and the British distrust of the Czar, who covets Constantinople, the key to the East. But his scorn of the British prowess aroused resentment throughout Great Britain and served to stiffen up the British lion. A true diplomat might have found a way of soothing England and of compelling France to force the breaking of Belgium's neutrality, and thus have left the German fleet free to operate against the French and Russian naval forces.

Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Chancellor, apparently slipped on the arrangement of an iron-clad agreement with Italy. Evidently Italy would suffice and failed to take into account the true state of Italian sentiment, a condition that could have been checked up easily by the practices of shrewd diplomacy. On paper matters are easily looked well enough. Germany, Austria and Italy against France and Russia, France to be crushed immediately while the Austrians and Russians held the Serbians and Italians in check, and while the German and Italian combined fleets would annihilate the sea. This was an arrangement that even a Bismarck could hardly have made more perfect. But perhaps Bismarck would have taken less for granted and looked more deeply into the strength of the links in his diplomatic chain.

Very strongly in contrast is the German diplomacy of 1914 with that of 1870. Then German diplomacy measured up in degree of effectiveness to German military force. Napoleon III sought to gain the co-operation of Austria and Italy. Bismarck astutely contracted the French intrigues, and when Germany finally went to war with France she had a free hand. Furthermore, although the Germans had been preparing carefully for this same war, but Bismarck sought to declare war. By carefully editing and publishing a French diplomatic telegram which made demands on the Germans which could not be complied with, Bismarck gained the united support of the Germans in the war. Thus Germany embarked upon a series of brilliant campaigns the foundation for success of which had been prepared by careful and masterly diplomacy.

German triumphs of 1870 might have been duplicated without a hitch had a man of Bismarck's diplomatic sagacity attended to the details of preparation and alignment of forces for the great struggle that is now on. Had England been kept free from the struggle, Japan would not have entered. Had the arrangement with Italy been wisely handled, the campaign would have been able to control the seas, since the French fleet would have had no match for the combined naval force of Austria, Italy and Germany. A few German squadrons could have dispersed with activity the Russian fleet. Thus Germany would have been free to draw on the world for those supplies that will become of the highest value should the war extend for a period of more than one year. Not even the violation of Belgium's neutrality, which precipitated England into the fray, can impress the world as even strategic justification for a condition which keeps the German fleet bottled up at Kiel. And if Germany falls in the present war, it will be the whole blame will be laid at the doors of German diplomatic shortcomings.

MAKING A RECORD.

As an abstract proposition, nobody will dispute the assertion of Dr. C. J. Smith "that state business can be transacted like private business." As a journalistic admirer says, it is absolutely sound. But what is more important is the question, will it be so transacted if Dr. Smith is elected Governor?

During the period Dr. Smith sat in the State Legislature his efforts were not directed along that line. He now admits the veto record of Governor Chamberlain. Dr. Smith helped make that record possible. He aided in passing most of the appropriation bills if the veto had not been raised, obviously Governor Chamberlain would have had no veto record.

Dr. Smith now promises to emulate the record of Governor West—a record which bristles with superficial economies and is studied with astonishment. It is not like private business to veto appropriations because of pique toward individuals. That is the West veto method.

A DANGEROUS MEASURE.

The Oregonian has heretofore pointed out the dangers attending an attempt to legislate for one locality by the passage of laws that are state-wide in scope. That that danger exists in the water-front amendment on the November ballot is a fact which is pointed out in the article by Mr. J. W. Bennett reprinted today from the Marshfield Record.

The amendment is primarily intended to recover absolute and complete title for the state to certain navigable lands and is not subject to municipal regulation in the interests of commerce and navigation. But the promoters of the amendment were not content with seeking municipal regulation. They have asked for a state-wide enactment, which Mr. Bennett says will imperil the lumber industry wherever mills use tide or submerged lands for booming purposes.

While, as heretofore suggested by The Oregonian, the amendment cannot be retroactive, the observation made by the supreme court in a case instituted by the Portland Dock Commission that the state has the power to regulate use of tide lands raises the question whether the amendment is not a regulation that would prohibit the use of tide lands for booming purposes even where the state has actually conveyed title.

In any event its adoption would curb new milling operations on tide-water. Lumbering is one of our most important industries. Its development should not be threatened nor existing investments therein made uncertain.

HINTS ON ETIQUETTE.

Florence Howe-Hall has written a book which she names "Good Form for All Occasions." The Harpers publish it. There are some situations which we have never seen treated in a work of this kind and we hope Miss Hall has tackled them openly and courageously. If she has, her work will be of monumental value.

Here, for example, is a question which no writer on etiquette has dared to answer, "What is it proper for a man to say and do when he has slipped on the rug at the drawing-room door and fallen headlong?" Unless adequately met, such a situation contains embarrassing possibilities for his hostess. Is she expected to call the butler to help him up or should she ignore his plight until he has resumed a vertical position by his own energies?

Again what is the proper formula to employ when one has kicked the hostess'soodle dog thinking it was her baby? If it had been her baby the kick would not have mattered. Very likely she would have been secretly if not openly grateful. But the dog is another affair. She probably is obviously necessary. How can it best be tended?

WAR AND LITERATURE.

The American book business is likely to be benefited by the European war. British publishers, it is said, are not planning to put out many new works just at present and English authors may be driven to seek new connections in this country. They will likely be driven to the firms which they happen to favor, or which will happen to favor them, because people will still want to read, no matter how desolating the ravages of war may be. No doubt the European conflict will stimulate a demand for books of history and there is no reason why American authors should not produce them. With both the domestic and the English market demanding their wares our poets, novelists and more "solid" authors ought to experience great prosperity for the next year or two. There may be a real "boom" in literature upon our shores. The relation between demand and supply is not quite so obvious in poetry, perhaps, as it is in the beef and wool markets, but still it is undeniable that a demand for good verse stimulates a supply. When poetry is popular it will be produced.

In this connection it is pleasant to remember that really great poetry, with some notable exceptions such as Milton's, has always been made for the people and not for a chosen few. It may not be extravagant to hope, therefore, in view of these considerations, that an increased demand for literature in the United States may not merely increase the supply, but improve its quality. One consequence of the war may possibly be an American hegemony in letters and if the impending famine in tenors and sopranos should cause us to appreciate our domestic singers we may compose operas of our own and may

find ourselves on the way to genuine artistic independence before we are aware of what is happening.

OCULT WEATHER MAKERS.
 The earth's inhabitants see a good deal of space as they fly round the sun, but there is also a good deal which they never see. Those who live in the northern hemisphere are out from the southern sky by the earth's globe which lies under them. The southerners, for their part, know nothing of our northern sky with its Dipper and Polaris, though they have beautiful constellations of their own.

The earth itself does not venture upon any excursions through unknown regions of space. It stays always in a single perfectly flat and variable plane which astronomers call the Plane of the ecliptic. We can look across this plane in every direction as we are carried round in the daily rotation of our planet and we can look upward from its surface, but there our explorations must end. Everything else is cut off by the firmament, our terrestrial abode. The consequences are that we know by positive experience very little about the contents of space. Outside of the flat surface where we pass our existence it may be full of the most wonderful objects.

Such objects would escape our knowledge entirely if they emitted no light, since we never can by any possibility approach them. Of course the chances of a collision between the earth and wandering bodies of this kind are vanishingly small. A vagrant star would have to be erratic indeed to come into our path and actually strike us. Halley's comet, passed excitingly near us in 1910, but as far as anybody knows, it did no harm.

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UNITED STATES FINANCIALLY STRONG.

Arrangements now being made by the New York bankers to meet obligations of this country in Europe and to reopen the exchange for sale of bonds are a proof of the financial strength of the United States and of this country's ability to bear the strain put upon the finances of the world by the war. Since the credit of this country and of its business concerns is unimpaired by the war, do not forget the Visiting Nurse Association, which relieves suffering at home.

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Each group of warring nations being determined to fight until the other is decisively beaten, the prospect is that the close of the war will find nearly all Europe in a state of financial and industrial prostration, while it will find the United States with credit improved, industry active, merchant marine restored and commerce widely expanded. Wise statesmanship on the part of our rulers and energetic but sagacious pushing of trade on the part of our business men at this crisis may transfer the financial supremacy of the world to the United States and may make this country the source on which Europe will draw for money to repair the devastation of war.

The cause for wonderment about the action of the British fleet in making a clean sweep of the North Sea is not that it was made at all, but that it was not made sooner. The only possible explanation of the inaction of the British navy while the German cruisers scoured the North Sea were occupied in conveying transports loaded with troops. With the main German fleet cooped up at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven and with a vast superiority on the side of Great Britain, it is surprising that the North Sea was not sooner cleared of hostile vessels.

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It seems superfluous for the Turk to take the trouble to tear up the treaties which happen to oppose his present bellicose feelings. He might just as well continue his habitual behavior, which is to ignore any treaties that he does not care to observe. Turkey has probably the poorest memory for international obligations to be found in Europe.

Tobacco is a product of the stronghold of Democracy and will not have an additional tax if the House ways and means committee's plan is adopted. The bulk of the wine, beer and freight business of the country is of the North. There is politics in everything.

The Butte barber who refused to take the hair of a soldier, it is believed, who sent him to jail for sixty days.

Never a war is fought wherein one combatant does not accuse the other of using dum dum bullets. We know how to classify such stories in political campaigns.

While subscribing to Red Cross funds for relief of sufferers by the war, do not forget the Visiting Nurse Association, which relieves suffering at home.

The British censorship has been somewhat relaxed. Censorship has such grave disadvantages that a general modification is inevitable.

Carranza has ordered the destruction of Mexican pulque. That's striking at the very heart of the revolution industry.

Italian reserves of the 1832 classes are being held ready for mobilization. Rather an ancient vintage for war.

The most needy of sympathy are the 20,000 Canadian troops detained at the mouth of the St. Lawrence.

Evidently the war censorship has reached Cooz Bay since the last great naval battle was fought there.

Greece appears to be able to keep out of it since acquiring those two big American fighting ships.

An indication of how it is going is given in removal of British censorship of war news.

Easy victories of Russians over Austrians suggest disaffection in the Austrian ranks.

Wouldn't it be a serious joke if the two Bostonians had to play the world "serious"?

Junction City is mobilizing the punkins for her show next week.

What has become of the hostile craft on the Pacific Coast?

John Fleming Wilson finds prosperity has its tribulations.

We are going to have to pay well for our war thrills.

This is the weather that makes Oregon famous.

Austria's move for peace is referred to Serbia.

"Muckle" McDonald has been tagged.

Oregon has its Autumn sky once more.

Austria is beating on the rocks.

Pity the German women.

Europe's paper money may have to stand a discount.

As the upbuilding of the American merchant marine under the new shipping law progresses, a larger proportion of the ocean freight money which has hitherto been paid to foreigners will be kept at home. At the same time our exports will increase by reason of Europe's preoccupation with war, the diversion of its ships to military purposes, the necessity that South America buy from us those commodities which Europe has ceased to supply, and the work done by our ships in promoting our commerce. This cause will start a flow of gold from a new quarter to help make good whatever payments we make to Europe.

Each group of warring nations being determined to fight until the other is decisively beaten, the prospect is that the close of the war will find nearly all Europe in a state of financial and industrial prostration, while it will find the United States with credit improved, industry active, merchant marine restored and commerce widely expanded. Wise statesmanship on the part of our rulers and energetic but sagacious pushing of trade on the part of our business men at this crisis may transfer the financial supremacy of the world to the United States and may make this country the source on which Europe will draw for money to repair the devastation of war.

The cause for wonderment about the action of the British fleet in making a clean sweep of the North Sea is not that it was made at all, but that it was not made sooner. The only possible explanation of the inaction of the British navy while the German cruisers scoured the North Sea were occupied in conveying transports loaded with troops. With the main German fleet cooped up at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven and with a vast superiority on the side of Great Britain, it is surprising that the North Sea was not sooner cleared of hostile vessels.

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Stars and Starmakers

WALTER GILBERT says that there are a lot of good surgeons in the German army, but as yet he has heard no noise of their having cut off the allies' retreat.

Madame Caillaux is running a connoisseur's kitchen in Normandy, says a headline. Out of the soup into the soup.

"Doll" in Salem writes to ask if "He Fell in Love With His Wife" is a comedy. No, Doll, it is an impossibility.

Juliette Dika is to be featured with Fletcher Norton and Maudie Earle in their vaudeville offering, "The Last Tango." Mr. Norton is best known to fame as the dancer who was Yatekka. She had a fit of pique at her regular gentleman friend and grabbing Fletcher out of the chorus one morning she hastened with him to a minister and was wed. That afternoon she and the regular made up and Fletcher was divorced as soon as the law could arrange it.

Martin Beck has gathered in Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Crane, of San Francisco, who have been dancing all Summer on the New York Theater roof. They will begin a 30-week tour of the Orpheum circuit last next month.

Raymond Hitchcock played in his home town, Auburn, N. Y., one night last week and made himself solid with his fellow townsmen and patrons by recalling happily the days when he was a bootblack in the barber shop under the town clock. It is only the top of the ladder actors—or others—who feel safe in referring to the obscure boot-black early days of their career.

Five thousand actresses threaten to parade New York's streets in what they are pleased to term "a silent protest of the European war." Silent actresses! It can't be done.

A quartet of old Baker players, not old in years but old in affection, will be with the Eastern company of "Help Wanted." Franklyn Underwood and his wife, Frances Blossom, are two, although really they are one, and Alice Patek and George Allison are the others. Miss Patek spent a short vacation in her home at Denver, where Mary Edgett Baker and she enjoyed several spells of reminiscing.

Speaking of Mary Edgett Baker, that young actress has learned so many of the newest dance steps that she seriously considered accepting an offer made her to exploit it in vaudeville. Her teacher was a native born Buenos Ayres dancer and the list of steps that Mary knows sounds like calling of stations from here to Ottumwa, Iowa.

Raymond Wells and his wife, professionally known as Grace Lord, are with the Huntington Stock Company at the Shubert Theater in Minneapolis.

James Hester is going out with one of the "Potash and Perimeter" companies.

Another Baker player, Louis Leon Hall, is managing his own stock company in Roanoke, Va., with Dorothy Hall, Mrs. L. L. Hall, featured. The company opens today.

Nancy Duncan is going to join a stock company in Seattle.

That gay little blonde Dame Rumor is busy with the names of Edward C. Woodruff and Ruth Bigelow. According to messages they either are married or are to be soon. Mr. Woodruff is leading man with a Des Moines stock company, the same one by the way who plays Fay Bainter in leading woman. Miss Bigelow, who sang professionally last year in Portland, is visiting her mother in an Iowa city near Des Moines.

Al Woods, theatrical producing manager in New York, has contracted to take over the management of the new play, "Kick In," is going to be sketched out into a life-size play.

One of the "Peg o' My Heart" companies is going into New York, where Laurette Taylor, manager of the play, is to play. Lois Meredith, a San Francisco actress, will have the title role. Peggy O'Neill remains with the Chicago company.

Fritz Scheff is to star in Oliver Morosoff's musical comedy "Pretty Mrs. Smith," in which Mrs. Gordon created the name part last year in Los Angeles. After Kitty played Portland her company stranded and the staturesque Kitty, sister-in-law to Lord Decies, accepted a place on the Morosoff force. Charlotte Greenwood, of vaudeville fame, will appear in support of Fritz, the incomparable.

Jacob Wilk, who is now in charge of the publicity work of the World Film Corporation, is a graduate of the William A. Brady staff. A few weeks ago he was in Portland on a honeymoon. For the past five years Mr. Wilk has been with the famous producer acting as business manager and representative and he so frequently reaches Portland. During the Summer Mr. Wilk has managed stock companies in Duluth and Denver.

Lillian Kemble Cooper, who numbers