

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, DEC. 8, 1914.

MR. WILSON'S OBJECTION.

President Wilson's objection to Representative Gardner's proposed inquiry into the Nation's unpreparedness for defense is as flimsy an attempt to avoid a great public duty as could be imagined. He considers Mr. Gardner's plan "an unwise way of handling a question which might create very unfavorable international impressions."

NEW YORK'S SCANDALOUS BIRTH RATE.

Our wise men are worrying again over New York's birth rate. It is disgracefully low, so much lower than those of Berlin, London and Paris that the whole country ought to be scandalized over it.

OUR WATCHWORD.

A group of anxious American citizens waits upon Secretary Bryan, and lays before him the facts about ravaged homes, murdered men, ravished women, tortured priests, violated churches, blackened banks, wasted fields, ruined villages, despoiled cities, an oppressed and helpless people and a devastated and revolution-torn country—Mexico.

MR. BRYAN'S VIEW OF HIS OFFICE.

Certain conclusions are justified by the synopsis of the office which is published in another column. Mr. Bryan does not regard public office as a public trust, to quote the words of a greater Democrat than he.

BENEFITS OF BREATHING.

The long-cloistered Mrs. Potter Palmer has returned to Chicago society. The light of her countenance again shines upon the friends whom she bereft of it years ago in order to meditate in solitude upon the vanity of pink teas and bridges.

AUTO TRUCKS AND ROADS.

The action of the Washington County officials against auto trucks is an extraordinary thing. It requires comment. Very likely the authorities had the best of reasons for the order virtually banishing auto trucks from the Washington County highways.

WHOSE DUTY?

The United States is making a conscientious effort to remain neutral, in name and in fact, between the warring nations of Europe. It is an aspiration. The Oregonian commends it and it calls all its readers to witness that it has been an impartial observer of and commentator upon the events of the world's tragedy.

PUBLIC INTEREST FORGOTTEN.

Inquiry into the Colorado coal miners' strike by the Industrial Relations Commission has brought to light the extremes to which each party to the controversy has gone. There are respects in which one is as unreasonable as the other.

WAR LOSSES.

A conservative, but even so an appalling, estimate of the toll of the European war has been prepared by Edward Bunnell Phelps, editor of the American Underwriter.

AMERICAN ART ESTEEMED ABROAD.

It has solidity and style purely modern, says Mr. Teullinger. PORTLAND, Dec. 7.—(To the Editor.)

GERMANS WHOLLY CONFIDENT.

—In The Oregonian I find certain statements to have been made by a person coming from Berlin stating that the Germans know that they will be ultimately defeated.

AN IMPORTANT "TIP" TO THE JURY.

The great John Phillip Curran was once asked to give a jury an important case. During his speech he observed that the judge shook his head.

LOSS IN BATTLE OF SEDAN.

Of 267,000 men in the battle of Sedan, 25,970 were killed or wounded.

MILLION EGGS LOST IN BREAKAGE.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 7.—The New York market loses a million eggs a year by breakage.

LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE OWING.

And then Greece roasted Turkey. The livestock show is a live one.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING—AND THEN TAX DUTY.

Really it keeps us busy during the season.

BARBERS IN NEW ZEALAND.

London, N. Z., Dec. 7.—Barbers in New Zealand have a minimum wage scale of \$14 a week.

THEN AND NOW.

Thirty-eight years ago Sunday the first scientific cremation in the United States took place at Washington, Pa. The pioneer cremator was Dr. E. Julius Le Moine.

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