# The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, DEC. 24, 1914.

### THE BOUNDS OF NEUTRALITY.

Some persons inspired, consciously or unconsciously, by partiality to one party to the present war and other persons inspired by an excessive anxlety to preserve the neutrality of the United States are endeavoring to put a strained construction on the term neutrality. The class first named sees war material exported almost exclu sively to the anti-Teuton powers, and charges partiality because Germany and Austria receive little or nothing from this country. The latter class tutes neutrality and imagines that, in order to remain neutral, we must either see that both contending parties have equal facilities for procuring war material from us or that no arms or munitions at all are supplied to either party.

The ability of the anti-Teuton alliance to procure war material from us is due to causes entirely beyond our control. It is due to the maritime supremacy gained by the allies-to the fortune of war. The inability of Germany and Austria to do likewise is due to their failure to obtain control of the sea-also the fortune of war. Were the United States Government to forbid export of war material to France or England because Germany was unable to import like materials from this country, we should be de-priving the allies of an advantage they have won in open fight and should be, in effect, siding with Germany. Under color of strictly observing neutrality, we should be violating neutrality. Germany is just as free as are her enemies to buy war materials in this country. She does not buy them openly for the simple reason that they would no sooner be on the sea than capture by her enemies would be a conviction. But many of them had an moral certainty. When they are on board ship in the open sea, they are subject to capture according to the states voted dry, and from the wet customs of war, with which this country cannot interfere.

American citizens are free to sell material for use in war to either belligerent without impairing the neuwas laid down by a unanimous opinion contended that we were not bound to startled the country by declaring: sell contraband of war to a belligerent. That opinion, written by Justice Story, contains this dictum:

No neutral state is bound by any canon No neutral state is bound by any canon of international law to prohibit the exportation of contraband articles, and the United States have not prohibited it.

The sending of contraband of war from a neutral country to the belligerent port for sale as articles of commerce is unlawful only as it subjects the property to confiscation on capture by the other belligerent.

Placing of a commodity on the contraband list by a belligerent does not oblige a neutral country to prevent its export on pain of being treated as an enemy. It is simply notice to citizens of neutral states that they will sell contraband to the other belligerent at the risk of its capture and confisca-The risk is taken by the merchant or is probably transferred to the purchaser, as the merchant no doubt protects himself by exacting paymen as soon as the goods are delivered to purchaser on shipboard. our Government to act on the theory that a neutral is bound to prevent export of contraband, it might find itself in a difficulty when the United States was at war and needed to buy arms and munitions abroad. In our present position of unpreparedness we should probably experience this need most

An exception is made against fitting out and dispatching ships of war from a neutral country for the service of a That is considered an belligerent. armed expedition in the service of a beiligerent and is a violation of neutrality. We invoked this rule in the Alabama case and were sustained by the Geneva arbitrators. Hence we are the more bound to observe it strictly It is under this rule that Charles M. Schwab has been induced to cancel the contract for \$50,000,000 worth of sub-The submarines were to be ships of and the fact that they were to be shipped in parts and to be assembled in a foreign country does not affect the principle. President Wilson has been berated for leaning backwards by some New York papers, which were chagrined at the loss of hem Iron Works, but it is better in such a case to err on the safe side.

A real or professed desire to hasten the end of the war has inspired some of our statesmen to propose legislation forbidding export of arms and munitions. Such legislation would contribute to the success of the alliance against which such exports would be the alliance which had the opportunity to buy them. Hence it would liged to buy for their children are an as to the general result, and any peace be a breach of neutrality. Such a law would aid Germany to win speedily, in depend upon textbooks a great deal stage of hostilities would, in all probathe opinion of a German writer, but 't more than any other literate nation bility, be a mere truce, used by the might simply prolong the war far be youd Lord Kitchener's estimate of three years and still not prevent victory for the allies. Moreover, the time to change the laws of neutrality is not when war has begun, for change cannot fail to affect the fortunes of war; the time is when peace terests of no nation can be affected.

when a certain tiger was at our

forgotten. Nine Americans out of ten feel kindly to England and do not level. want her empire shattered.

OUR PLEASE-DON'T POLICY. The New York World, which is for President Wilson but against Secretary Bryan, finds itself out of accord with the strange naval practices of Secretary Daniels. The other day it had the following:

As Colonel Goethala, Governor of Pan-ama, has twice asked for torpedo-boat de-siroyers to assist him in the enforcement of the neutrality of the isthmus, why should anybody in authority at Washington hea-itate to grant his request? Is he expected to repeat it hour by hour? Must a man un-der whose direction hundreds of millions of American money have been seen produce nerican money have been spent produce dorsers when he asks for help? Is an of-ter of the Army likely to be heard from the Navy Department except upon busi-ms? Colonel Goethals has not complained dolations of neutrality at the isthmus thout cause. He He ought not to ask for

Evidently the Administration did not believe Colonel Goethals when he said majority. he needed help. The Administration finds it convenient not to hear or heed the calls of any American citizen who is abused or outraged in a foreign

But in this instance it was not a forit was not done, for fear of "international complications."

Fearing trouble, the Administration inevitably runs from trouble-the surest way to meet it coming another way. No President can get far, in his dealings with other nations, by a please don't policy.

THEY STRIVE TO PLEASE. During the stirring days of free-silver agitation, back in 1896, when Oregon had recovered its balance from its has hazy notions about what consti- decided leaning toward fiat money, a Republican convention to nominate a ongressman was held at Albany. In the height of its deliberations a prominent candidate, who had raised his voice for silver, but who had made the painful discovery that the pendulum had swung the other way, caused a message to be read saying he "would stand on any platform the convention

would adopt." Now free silver has given way to prohibition, and another Oregon Congressman-Mr. Lafferty-has sought to solve a knotty problem for himself by declaring that he would vote in Congress in whatsoever way his constituents directed. He had no convictions he could not accommodate to any situation. The Lafferty district (Multnomah County) voted wet, but

lo! when the Hobson resolution pressed upon him the accommodating Lafferty went dry. He had been convinced by word from home that is the way they would have declared themselves if the Hobson amendment had been a direct issue. We fancy he was right.

We use the Lafferty incident only to say that his case is typical of the average Congressman. We do them no injustice in saying that not all of them
voted for or against the Hobson resolution out of a deep sense of personal
conviction. But many of them had an
eye out for the political weather vane.

The same all summed in having something to hological moment, when some decisive victory disposes the defeated to say and saying it.

SMASHING AN IDOL.

It is agreeable to observe some bold attempts to smash the idolized four
age that his case is typical of the aversize of the some decisive victory disposes the defeated to listen to reason and inclines the victors to end an exhausting struggle before the fortune of war turns against them. President Roosevelt seized that
and will be voted on soon.

This amendment is creating a decided interest and certain party leadcided interest and certain party leadcided interest and this question is receiving more atthem. President Roosevelt seized that
the same all summed in having something to hological moment, when some decisive victory disposes the defeated to listen to reason and inclines the
victors to end an exhausting struggle before the fortune of war turns against the polytical weather vane.

It is agreeable to observe some bold attempts to smash the idolized four Representatives from the dry

states as a rule voted wet. The resolution passed a Democratic House by a bare majority, but lacked the necessary two-thirds. Yet a majority of Democrats went on record trality of this Nation. That principle against it. They followed the advice of the agile and uncertain Bryan, who of the Supreme Court in the days of is for prohibition, but against Hob-Chief Justice Marshall, when France son's plan. Not long ago Bryan

The Democrats have an issue to face and they may as well prepare for it. . . Democracy is the Nation's hope in political and economic questions—let it not, by taking sides with the liquor interests, repel those who put moral issues first. Here is a moral issue that Bryan for some reason was willing to have wait.

## OUR OUTGROWN ARMOR.

ness for war in his recent speech. Exgress, presented in another column, indicate that his outburst was not one be exactly four, just as a boy in choosfigures of a most accusing nature.

a few weak spots in our armor. Rather of the incantation is lost. he makes it coar that our whole armor There is too much of th is decadent, outgrown and all but usess as a protection against possible

Throughout his address, which is ticular idol perhaps somebody else unreadiness for emergencies, but they are unable to make themselves heard except through the medium of some such patriotic citizen as Mr. Gardner.

## FREE TEXTBOOKS.

elaborateness. Senator Day expresses neutral countries in "an entirely ever, that life itself is a great deal for discussions about peace," this lucrative contract by the Bethle- prepare children for life they must ment. grow with the world. The old-fashioned curriculum of the "three r's" and nothing else would offer but a and trades of our day. It would be disastrous if reformers of the schools

should forget facts of this nature. But on the other hand, no strictures permanent peace seems possible until upon the wasteful textbook system can either the Teuton or the anti-Teuton sed and would injure the chances of be too severe. The long lists of rubbishy volumes which parents are obintolerable imposition. We Americans that might be arranged at the present and our schools are the worse for it.

One remedy for the textbook imposition is greater dependence upon the believe that such a peace with such living voice of the teacher. The Danes a sequel would be with their model public schools would calamity to the world than would be the be astonished to witness our slavish prosecution of the present war to a helplessness apart from printed texts. decisive end. What we try to get mechanically from prevails and when, therefore, the in- the dead page they get in living fact peace in Europe is the division of from the teacher. Another remedy is countries in disregard of national free textbooks. Were the necessary lines. This artificial system of boun-William Watson gives the United textbooks provided for all pupils in daries will continue so long as they States a good scolding for remaining the regular school library the expense are fixed by the superior military neutral when "the tiger from his den to taxpayers would probably be diminsprings at thy mother's throat." Eng- ished by half. The books, properly war, rather than by the free vote of land was something less than neutral cared for and sterilized, would be the inhabitants of each province as

and all pupils would be on the same

None need fall behind the class for want of books. Most of the changes of textbooks are senseless. In some branches like geography and history ccasional revisions are unavoidable, out our arithmetic is essentially the mus learned Latin from the schoolbooks of his day a great deal better the books she happens to use.

The Oregon law as it stands permits failed because private schools were in- gain cluded in the proposed measure. If

HOW TO WRITE. An ambitions young reader asked as the dress begins to attract attention now or never with each of them. from the thought, beware. The style is then becoming "literary" and there are rocks ahead for the young writer.

Great literature, though it seems paradoxical to say so, is never literary, just as a man of good manners is never Turveydrop mean that it is not beautiful.

bat can ever hope to rival.

rule is to say it with the fewest possible contortions. The rule for adjectives is to go over your work and cut out most of them. Then go over it again and cut out the rest. Leave superlatives to Marie Corelli and gushing By learning whatever they can as to Then go over it learn the tenses of the English verbs. of each, they can ascertain approxi-Do not say "John has gone to town mately how nearly these demands can adverb denoting past time. There are to permanent peace which we have dea few rules of this sort that may help scribed. They can marshal the forces a person learn to write well. But they of peace, ready to move at the psy

attempts to smash the idolized four years' college course. President Hyde of Bowdoln, an adventurous young missionary, seems to have begun the new iconoclasm. No doubt he will soon marshal a band of followers. In President Hyde's opinion it is policy to hold bright college students back in line with the idle and stupid merely in order to force them all to graduate in the same class. Classes and class spirit and class standing are subsidiary images surrounding the four years' course. The sooner they are all disposed of the better. The aim of the college should be to give a youth his education promptly and thoroughly.

two years, what costs another four years, so much the better for him. He ago. should be allowed the full advantage of his ability and industry. Representative Gardner put his fin- a common superstition that some esoger on some very sore spots in our sys- teric benefit is imbibed by a four tem of military and naval prepared- years' residence in academic shades. Three years would not be enough to cerpts from his address before Con- achieve the magic work. Five years would be too much. The number must of mere oratory. He used facts and ing up at baseball must say his "hickory, dickory dock" in the exact ritual-It is not his contention that we have listic order. If he does not, the virtue

There is too much of the incantation spirit in much that the colleges do Their work is saturated with outworn assault. He points to the weaknesses ritualism of which the sacred four not only in the United States Army, years' course is only a sample. There but in the citizen soldiery and the are dozens of others. If President Hyde succeeds in smashing this parpresented in full by the Congressional be encouraged to break a lance against Record, he shows a broad grasp of his the rest of them. Thus in the course subject and an understanding of de- of time the colleges may be made modtails which suggests that he had sub- ern instead of medieval institutions, and a traitor to the State of Matristantial help from the General Staff But by that time, alas, the world will mony. at Washington in preparing his bom- have moved on and left them again so bardment. Those sagacious gentle-that some new President Hyde will men know too well our pitiful state of have to begin it all from the beginning

## POSSIBILITIES OF PEACE.

Undaunted by the rejection of Pope Benedict's proposed Christmas tru the leading newspapers of Holland, Some of the current criticisms on headed by H. Van de Riviere, editor the public schools are well taken and of the Provinciale Groninger Courant, some are not. It is perfectly natural have invited The Oregonian to join marines for an unknown belligerent. to find fault with the schools for their the other principal daily papers of a prevalent view when he says that and hence a probably impressive dem-"the schools have too many trim- onstration in favor of peace and at mings." We must not forget, how-We must not forget, how- the same time to open a possibility more elaborate than it was fifty years lishing articles on that subject simulago. It becomes more complex every taneously, or nearly so. Twenty-two day and if the public schools are to Dutch newspapers Join in the move-

> The Oregonian believes that the most essential feature about any peace treaty that may end the present war meager preparation for the business is that it shall insure permanent peace, so far as that is possible by any hu arrangement. The issues involved in this war are so fundamental that no nations are decisively beaten. fighting so far has been indecisive belligerents to gather their forces for a renewal of the conflict. We firmly

The greatest obstacle to permanent power of nations, as demonstrated in when a certain tiger was at our passed on from one class to another. to which nation they choose to join. No one wou throat, but never mind. That is all Changes would become less frequent So long as there remains under the snow tonight.

rule of any nation large territory, a considerable majority of the popula-tion of which remains subject to that nation against its will, there will be danger of further wars. The independent, self-governing part of any nationality will constantly scheme to unite with it those fragments which same as that of Archimedes, and Eras- are subject to alien rule, and its schemes' will be alded by the most estless and high-spirited of those held than we do from ours. The cry of in subjection. Removal of the obstacle "improved methods" and the like is mentioned would require recognition all humbug. Improvements in meth- by all the belligerents of the Ameriods depend upon the teacher, not upon can principle of "consent of the governed," which is denied by most of The Oregon law as it stands permits the powers in question. These powers people of any district to adopt still adhere to the divine right theory free textbooks if they wish. The re- and would abandon it under compulcent attempt to apply it in Portland sion only or with a view to substantial

Involved in the war also is the ques the proposition were limited to the tion of naval and commercial suprempublic schools, as it should be, no acy as between Great Britain and doubt it would carry by a considerable Germany. The former nation considers its very existence bound up in this issue, and with good cause. the Kansas City Star what was meant would be at the mercy of the nation by a "literary style." That valued which became supreme. Germany has eign country. Colonel Goethals sent a paper did not attempt to answer di-peremptory call for the President to rectly. It contented itself with citing the stake is so great and the conseperemptory call for the President to rectly. It contented itself with citing the stake is so great and the consetrant transfer American point for an example or two by way of warn-one American point for not the stake is so great and the consetration and example or two by way of warn-one American point for not the stake is so great and the consetration and succeeded. Last Sunday night trous and so humiliating that she is they took the train for Wallingford and Charles James Fox' famous dictum not likely to pause until completely that when people told him "his speech triumphant or crushed beyond recovread well" he knew he had failed, ery. Great Britain now has allies on Lyman Abbott's rule is that his sermon whom complete reliance could not be is chaff when the congregation tells placed in a future war. The same him "It was a fine effort." As soon statement is true of her allies. It is

For these reasons The Oregonian considers the present time inoppor-tune for any direct attempt to bring about peace, but much may be done by the neutral nations in paving the way for negotiations. The belligerents are so enraged with each other "Bleak House" was highly mannered, that each group of powers accuses the but he was not a gentleman all the other of desiring its utter destruction, mules in three days. Mr. Thompson, the information shows also, showed same. So a style that puts forward its This is doubtless an exaggeration or airs and graces is seldom good. The all hands. Even if the desire exists, best writing is simple, which does not the power seems to be lacking. Did the power exist, the military and wealthy citizens in this state.

For simplicity which is at the same financial resources on the two sides not begin by keeping a bank. time perfectly beautiful read the par- are so nearly balanced that the victors son's description of his new home in would almost destroy themselves in "The Vicar of Wakefield," Goldsmith completely destroying their antagoncould go straight to his goal with an ists. The war has served to convinc exquisite grace that no literary acro- all these nations what valuable serv-The first rule for a good style is to and how much they would injure have something to say. The second themselves by destroying any one of their number.

The opportunity, then, is open to the neutral nations by concerted acdebutantes. And above all things the real designs and the least demands vesterday," a wretched blunder that is be met and what points of difference becoming distressingly common. Al- remain. They can learn what prospect ways use the British agrist with an there is of removing the great obstacle psychological moment in the Russo-Japanese war after the battle of shima Strait and he brought about peace. The neutral nations, with their military and economic forces unimpaired, could, if speaking with a united voice, compel attention.

farseeing and discriminating people.

help prevent such a tragedy. Now the Russians are advancing in East Prussia. That Eastern battle is growing more and more like the pen-

dulum of a clock.

The men in the trenches will not get Christmas boxes today. The luck will be theirs if they do not get the long box.

wife a present is a heathen, a villain Not a single case of drunkenness in

Petrograd for four days. Petrograd has had very little to get drunk over

Turkish atrocities on Jewish victims will yet incite a Christian nation to wield the sword of wrath. If you don't believe there are plenty

of persons in need of your ald just ask your butcher. He knows. No doubt the armies tomorrow, will

exchange little tokens of war on earth, bad will towards men. Happy is the man today who has

rranged to make someone else happy tomorrow. Do your Christmas shopping early, We refer, of course, to Christmas of

Watchful waiting seems to have een replaced by a policy of "please

The greatest problem of all is geting the children to bed this evening. However, Old Selfishness will get

nothing refreshing out of Christmas. What a lot of blessed old frauds will pretend they are Santa Claus!

The spug, of course, buys his wife a nice box of cigars for Christmas. What if the purse does look tonight

as if a mastodon trod on it! Santa Claus will be on the job in

few hours now. No one would object to a flurry of

## Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian, December 23, 1889. Carl Abraham has been appointed ostal agent between Portland and Airie. Mr. Abraham is of Roseburg.

New York-Ex-President Cleveland announced today, in holding off a solic-tor for financial aid for some chari-able institution, that he would like to belp every institution worthy of aid, but that the heavy demands for such has sapped his finances and that he cannot afford it now. In one particular instance, he begged the solicitor to allow him time to confer with Mrs. Cleveland, All solicitors use the argument that his same at the head of second nent that his name at the head of a ist of big contributions adds prestige. ex-President Intimated that feared he would have to leave New York, as he found it inconvenient to refuse, but that he could not afford the drain.

New Haven, Conn.-Richard H. John this issue, and with good cause. If it were to lose naval supremacy its supply of food and of raw material for its industries, also its export trade Johnson is a Yale freshman, and is rifle range? only 19. One day last September, while walking up the street, he saw Miss Kitty Ashdown and it was a case of love at first sight. He strained every were married before the Justice of the Peace. It is against the rules for a student passing through college to wed, and this probably means that Johnson will be expelled and complicathat tions arise at home.

The Walla Walla Union has taken Smith S. Johnson, son of the Propri-etor, into partnership.

Some fellow at Oregon City has been furnishing the paper there with the life history of Hon. D. P. Thompson. The data shows that Thompson in his early days was a crack mule shoer, and tha himself to have the real stuff in him by heiping to build the cells in the Ore-gon City Jail. There are a number of wealthy citizens in this state who did

It is a common thing for servant girls to refuse a situation because the family had too many children, no hot water botiers, or stationary wash tubs, etc., but the latest to come to our view ice they render to each other in peace is one who refused a good place beand how much they would injure cause the house did not have an incandescent lighting system, and used coal oil lamps instead. Truly this is an age of progress.

R. Holman has a radish weighing 11 counds, which he intends to send East o show what Oregon can produce.

### WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE IN CONGRESS. Treatment as a National Question Is

Proper, Says Correspondent. PORTLAND, Dec. 23.—(To the Edi-or.)—The amendment which is generally known as the "Susan B. Anthony amendment," granting National equal suffrage to women, will be discussed in the lower house of Congress today. It

ever received in the history of the agitation for equal suffrage.

This amendment has been before Congress since 1875; it was discussed

at the Sixty-third Congress for the first time since 1887. It has just received a favorable committee report in the Senate for the first time in over 20 years. The French are inclined to refuse Japanese help, contending that the Japs, sending in a few corps, would claim credit for any victories that might be gained. The French are a of the parties recommend this amendment in their next National platform. It is true that President Wilson has

Be patient today with the young woman who waits on you. Any discomfort is chargeable to you, for the buying might have been done weeks believe that the Democratic party will be compelled to introduce in their next platform an equal suffrage plank, and Little rumors of international fric- it is only a matter of a few years until tion in the Canal Zone are nothing we will have National equal suffrage, compared to what we may wake up some day to find staring us in the face.

Women were disenfranchised by men Then there is the lad who will wake because it was in their power to do so. up in the morning to find only a hole or at least they usurped the power in his stocking. That is, unless you there never was any more reason why There never was any more reason why women should be disenfranchised than men. Women have the same right un-der our laws as men. They are compelled to obey the laws equally with men, without any voice in the passage of these laws, but these questions have been discussed for many years, and there is no argument that can be made against this assertion.

Now the question arises: What is the proper method of righting this wrong? In my opinion it is a National question, and it is the quickest and easiest way settle this very important question that confronts all of the states. Every year there are large sums of money and The man who neglects to give his great waste of energy expended on the part of the advocates of this ques tion—making it a state right—and jus-tice demands of our National repre-sentatives that every state in the Union should grant the franchise

Accuracy of Author Doubted. NEWBERG, Or., Dec. 22 .- (To the Then there is the man who will recall along about To o'clock tonight that he hasn't done his Christmas shopping. Jefferson Davis "exerted his influence upon the war while he was chairman of the Senate committee on military afairs." This must be an error. Davis was an officer in that war and was too young to be a member of the United States Senate. He filled the office States Senate. He filled the office mentioned at the outbreak of the Civil

despised Lincoln, but consented to stay in the new Cabinet," is likely to be generally received with distrust. I think that a careful reading of the history of that period will make quite clear that Seward was the one man of the Cabinet who really appreciated Lincoln's masterly ability and who came to hold him in the highest exteem. A letter printed in the Official War Records, which Mr. Seward wrote his wife early in his relations with Mr. Lincoln as a member of the Cabinet, referred to the President in the most complimentary terms.

JOHN T. BELL.

Marriage Under Assumed Name. PORTLAND, Dec. 23.—(To the Ed-tor.)—(1) If John Smith marries Matilda Evans, under the name of Henry tilda Evans, under the name of Henry James, and with her knowledge, is she the wife of John Smith?

(2) Before such time as the relationship might be termed a common law marriage, could, John' Smith repudiate the ceremony and marry another without committing bigamy?

(3) If John Smith dies shortly after the marriage, can Matlida Evans prove claim to his property? the marriage, can claim to his property? A SUBSCRIBER.

2. No. 3. Yes.

## Plan of "Working" Father.

way through school.

GARDNER ON NATIONAL DEFENSE Excerpts From Representative's Speech

in Favor of Public Inquiry. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt advised American people to look carefully into the system of compulsory military training which the Labor party in Australia has ordained for all Australians. Franklin D. Roosevelt has taken this occasion to tell the country that our modest Navy is already 18,000 men short, and that there are more defi-ciencies to follow when the vessels now under construction are completed.

Secretary Garrison, in the teeth of the President's message, has recom-mended an increase of 25,000 men and 1000 officers for the United States

Does the President realize that there are only 128,000 militiamen in this whole nation? Does he realize that of that unpretentious number 23,000 dld not show up for inspection last year? Does he know that 31,000 did not appear at the annual encampment? Is he aware of the fact that 44,000, or 40

. . . According to the last report of the chief of staff, we are short 516 field guns and 1,322,384 rounds of ammunition necessary to equip our militia in

Last year General Wood asked to enough guns and ammunition to bring the United States up to the standard of Bulgaria. That immodest demand was gently but firmly rejected.

Even the President cannot expect his trained citizenry to fight with their Creek fists.

The report of the chief of staff shows that for coast defense mortars we have ammunition enough to last for

I am in favor of 25,000 additional men for the mobile Army, as recom-mended by your Secretary of War. I am in favor of enlisting 11,000 men for our coast defense, masmuch as the re-port of General Weaver, Chief of Coas-Artillery, shows that we lack the number to man the coast fortresses.

We want to build up our Army and Navy, which can no longer be impro-vised in a few months as formerly, so as to be ready to defend this Nation We must be ready, or we may be attacked or the Monroe doctrine violated at some future time after this war i

No nation ever yet was stopped by lack of funds from going to war. Wheard how the bankers would nevelend the money for a war, yet the in ternational Peace Conference at the Lac de Constance a few days later was caught in the vortex of the German mobilization.

We are 10 battleships short of safety We are 49 submarines under the stand-ard. We have no navy in the air at all-only 12 aeroplanes or so, and of those 12 only about seven can get out of their own way. Not one of them is armored.

all those things, to report to Congress ow the Army and Navy and the coast lefense may be brought up to date and may be made to co-operate with each All p'mnade, an' may the devil other; to estimate the men and equipment necessary for our defense, and to Gents sashay an' do it lively. report to Congress a definite policy for our future guldance. Instead of ap-proving this commission of inquiry, the

Do you really think that four com-mittees of the House and three committees of the Senate, all acting independently, can recommend a policy for our defense which will command the confidence and support of the coun-

Arbitration! What a grand word! Yet the two Hugue peace conventi nd the declarations of London have ill been torn to shreds. Had Belgium, like Switzerland and

Holland, put more confidence in her troops and less confidence in arbitra-tion and "scraps of paper," she might today be free from the agonies of in

Yet every "scrap of paper" to which America puts her sign manual must be redeemed to the last cent, cost what t may, and whether or not every other nation on earth repudiates its obliga-But suppose that while adhering to its agreements finds its path beset by nations with smalle consciences and bigger howitzers? How is it going to be then?

I can dream of the day when the or ganization of society will be such that burglars will no longer exist. Meanwhile I live in the country, three miles from the station and half a mile from the nearest neighbor, and I propose to continue to keep a watchdog. Further nore, in my absence my wife has a oaded revolver in her room and, by the way, I have never noticed that he eparedness for war has manifested self by a murderous desire to pracmilitary efficiency on the

## MUTS PERFORMING NOBLE WORK.

They Are Demonstrating Practica Christianity, Says Vlcar of St. Johns. PORTLAND, Dec. 23 .- (To the Ediwords in regard to the activities of that splendid, result-producing organization, the Muts. While their name the has probably fared as well as the may be abbreviated, their efflations. ter.)-Kindly permit me to say a few words in regard to the activities of may be abbreviated, their efficiency in house dog or family cat, followed by serving humanity certainly is not. The tolerance and indifference. The mother, vast amount of good they are doing presents a welcome exhibition of pracpresents a welcome exhibition of practical Christianity; and one striking feature of it all is the immense power for good that energetic, enthusiastic limited.

The stepfather should fulfill the obcess to so many civic enterprises in the purseholder and her means are limited. cess to so many civic enterprises in ligation he assumed, all the more if Portland, has been made to be when there be a boy of "boylsh" age and dedirected into the channels of humanistics. He listens to his schoolmates tarianism pure and simple. With the discussing the cheer of the season and interest and energies of such men more the grip on his heart is fierce and last-generally enlisted, the gospel would be ing. He knows his condition is not his would proceed with remarkably accumulating results. Society needs the service of men of their stamp, who know how to organize and achieve, and the cause of humanity could not welcome more capable allies.

Here is hoping that the Muts will preserve their organization. They have the right spirit and they are on the right track. It is not need to sob and suffer.

It is to be hoped there are few such cases, if any. If there be, this is a day done. The stepfather may be old some day and the small boy of this Christmas may then be the provider.

the right spirit and they are on the right track. It is but a logical step from what they are doing to the next stage of service, that of using their talents, influence and enthusiasm toward the securing of conditions that will give to every bread-winner a better brand of justice and a earn a living. What the Muts have done already cannot help operating for a better understanding between man and man and a firmer faith in God and humanity. May they keep their good work up, and may Christmas be as full of happiness for each one of them as they themselves are making it for so many needy people in Portland. JOHN D. RICE. Vicar, St. John's Church, Sellwood.

## Definition of An Escutcheon,

"Papa, what is an escutcheon?"
"Why?" "This story says there was a blot on his escutcheon." "Oh, yes! An escutcheon is a light-colored vest. He Exchange.

Working father is the favorite employment of those who must work their bad probably been carrying a four

### Half a Century Ago

Opitz, Sharf & Co., of the Oregon Bakery, announce to the public that they have installed their new crackerbaking machine and are turning out crackers by the millions

Dr. Crane, late of the Sixth Horse Guards, has taken the stables on Third street, opposite the public square, and will treat alling dogs, horses and cat-

Charles S. Gourley, late of Springfield, Ill., and Miss Mary Frances Stew-art, daughter of P. G. Stewart, of Portland, were married yesterday, the Rev. G. H. Atkinson officiating. The printers acknowledge the compliments of the happy couple.

James M. Moore, of Oregon City, is ust down from The Dalles and says that the river froze over Saturday. The Oneonta broke her way through the river ice for about six miles and passengers boarded her from wagons when she began her ice-breaking trip. The Oneonta was heavily planked to allow her to plow through the ice without damaging her hull. After six miles, however, she was compelled to lay up, as the ice was cutting her bow.

The Legislature of Idaho Territory has located the capital for that grow-ing territory at Boise City.

Amida Frerie, of Walla Walla, has just had delivered to him from the Monnastes foundry machinery and complete equipment for a first-class sawmill to be erected in the vicinity of Grand Ronde Valley, on Eagle

S. G. Reed, vice-president of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company, has published a notice asking all persons having accounts against the company one-half hour, and for coast defense to present them at the company office guns we have ammunition enough to on the first and second days of each month and that payment would be made on the fourth and fifth.

> On motion of Mr. Frazer the Common Council last night proceeded to elect E. J. Northrup to the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Hurgren.

Richard Bowater, a gay soldier of Captain Powell's company, while saun-tering around the Pioneer wharf yesterday afternoon, accidentally stepped off and was precipitated about 40 feet into the river. On hitting the water Mr. Bowater casually struck out and made for the hawser on a boat ne

## CHRISTMAS EVE ON ROARIN' RIVER

Christmas eve on Roarin' river! No use talkin', pard, it's jest to start a streak o' music dancin' through a feller's breast Jest to think 'o them old shindys when the boys an' gals 'd meet Fur to pound the creakin' lumber with their agitated feet! Start the dance at candle lightin', keep it up till day 'd break, Weltin lumber till our trotters got too weary fur to shake, Master o' the ceremonies Sacramento

River Goff, Texas punishin the fiddle, Bronche Billy callin' off: I have proposed that an independent Bunch 'em fur a hot quadrille; ommission be appointed to investigate Make yer manners to yer pardners;

Every Jack salute his Jill; Balance all an' hit 'em heavy; Swing an' throw 'em back in place; Ladies smile an' foller suit

Swing 'em twice an' hold 'em to 't; President relegates us to the pitiless publicity of hearings behind closed doors.

Right an' left an' keep a-goin'
Till you hit yer pards agin;
Swing 'em off their underpinnin';
Make their sussy noggins spin. Ladies change an keep a-steppin';
Back to pardners an repeat;
Knock the splinters from the lumber;

Hit 'er plenty with yer feet; Bunch an' run away together Shake the music from yer spurs Pick yer sagehens up an' whiri 'em; Silde yer chin 'longside o' hers; Bunch the helfers in the middle; Form a basket 'round yer darlin's;

Kiss 'em if you git a chance Swing an' promenade, you critters; Grab 'em tight an' off you go; 'Round agin like frisky lightnin'— Seat yer sweets an' let 'em blow. Chris'mas eve on Roarin' river! Pard, the whole world cain't beat the only sort o' winter pleasure that is fit

to wear the name; Boys an' gals a-feelin' frisky, ol' folks full o' ginger snaps,
Sage chicks in their meetin' dresses,
boys in ol' wool shirts an' shaps, Rounded up the gods o' frolic, bunched 'em in that ol' ranch room, Never heard sich jolly racket, never will till crack o' doom,
Master o' the ceremonies Sacramento

## River Goff, Texas punishin' the fiddle, Bronche Billy callin' off. —James Barton Adams. A FEW WORDS TO STEPFATHERS They Should See That Children Have

a Real Joyful Christmas. PORTLAND, Dec. 23.—(To the Editor.)—The hard luck of the orphan has been exploited with assurance that he will have a measurably cheerful Christmas. If he does not it will not be the fault of the many good people who have given of their time and means.

There is another victim, however, of misfortune, traceable more to neglect, and that in the half-orphan, the little chap whose mother has married again whose motives in remarrying must not

f humani- aires. He listens to his schoolmates With the discussing the cheer of the season and He knows his condition is not his

### As You Act' So Do Others

When you find a circular under our door-you throw it away. Yet you welcome your newspaper s an important and influential

In a sense the newspaper holds a direct commission from you and every item in it is of greater or less importance.

Perhaps you think you read only the news and not the advertise-ments. Yet if you will investigate you will find the purchases in your home are largely influenced by the

Your home is only typical of every other home.

Apply these facts to your own selling problems—when you have goods to sell advertise in the