

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 1915.

STARVATION AS A WEAPON.

Britain's action in following up the German government's seizure of the empire's food supply by declaring foodstuffs absolute contraband and Germany's threat to retaliate by destroying merchant ships destined to British ports are accepted as evincing a plain purpose by each to reduce the other to submission by starvation.

NOW AND THEN.

The present Legislature, with only a few days more until adjournment, is committed to a policy of economy and administrative reform. The outlook for redemption of pledges for lower direct appropriations is good.

GOES TOO FAR.

The Prohibition State Committee and the Oregon State Federation of Labor have collaborated to produce a new amendment to the state constitution which is designed to combine the incongruous principles of proportional representation and local representation.

PREPARE FOR FAIR CROWDS.

The rush from the East to the San Francisco and San Diego expositions has begun. On one day twenty trains, carrying over 3000 persons and having a total length of nearly two miles, arrived in Los Angeles.

THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE COUNTRY MERCHANT.

In the letter referring to the relations between farmers and country merchants which is printed today, one point is stated a little too positively. The writer suggests that those merchants "controlled by large central combinations."

lently using the latest means of warfare both under the sea and in the air, Germany may hope to sink many transports carrying troops and supplies to France, to inflict the same paralysis on British industry as Britain has inflicted on hers and to make John Bull feel the same pinch which she feels.

It is inconceivable that the British Admiralty has not profited by the experience of the last 26 months to devise some effective means of warding off some of the attacks and of taking the offensive against under-water craft.

It cannot be possible that the Legislature has fallen victim to the blandishments of the Statehouse machine. The associated job-holders and fat-fryers, who are for the most part holders from the recent administration, are interested chiefly in themselves.

When the Legislature adjourns, leaving on the pay-roll all the beneficiaries of the strong political pull and all the survivors of a hybrid political reign, a great chuckle will go up from the triumphant Statehouse ring.

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Editors of German newspapers who say this country cannot fight, should show the right spirit. Would anybody in Oregon to aid in the work of development?

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business and naturally will pour still more money into the neighborhood. This means a vital impulse to all good work. It implies better schools, a more prosperous church, more road building and happier homes.

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Not much has been heard lately about the proposed consolidation of the Commercial Club and the Chamber of Commerce, but the Oregonian assumes that the project has not been dropped. It should not be. It is not too big, if the largest interest of Portland is to be considered and the sentiment of the community is to be consulted.

The Scientific American says a submarine was detected at great depths from an aeroplane 3000 feet in the air. Hence the obvious defense against the monsters is an air fleet to signal their presence. They can be easily shunned when their whereabouts is known.

The gunpointer of the Texas who made eight straight hits with his fourteen-inch "baby" at a moving target twelve miles away is commended to attention of rulers of foreign navies that essay to have a "baby" in this country. There are more of them, too.

The fun-makers who prattled about the grave possibilities for wives and husbands to get at sword points over politics must find consolation in Mrs. Carter Harrison's decision to take the interest of Mr. Harrison's Chicago Mayorality campaign.

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Half a Century Ago

(From The Oregonian Feb. 17, 1865.) General Sheridan was 31 years old September 6 last. A correspondent of the New York World, writing recently from a personal interview, speaks of the sterling General as being of medium height, compactly built, very active and with gray, expressive eyes, set in a face not handsome.

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WHERE THE FARMER LOSES OUT

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Twenty-five Years Ago

(From The Oregonian Feb. 17, 1890.) London—John Burns, the organizer of the great dock strike and leader of the English workmen, in an interview yesterday said: "I am a Socialist to the bone and look upon the concessions that the Emperor of Germany has been making to the democracy in the same light as I view the charitable contributions of wealthy Englishmen to the dock strikers, as merely a 'top to Cerberus.'"

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