

The Oregonian

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WHY ITALY DELAYS.

No doubt remains in the minds of men who have watched the course of events in Italy that that country intends to intervene in the war on the side of the allies, but the question arises: Why does she wait? One suggested answer is that she does not wish to take the risk, until she is sure of fighting on the winning side. Italy surveys the field and sees German armies in almost complete possession of Belgium, firmly entrenched in France and fighting on Russian soil along the eastern front.

WOMEN AND SUFFRAGE.

We are apt to swallow a little too readily the common assertion of the "anils" that "women themselves do not want the suffrage." No doubt there are women who do not want it, just as in plantation times there were slaves who did not want to be free, but the chances are that a great majority of the sex if they felt at liberty to speak their minds would favor the right to vote. To bring this question to something like a scientific test the New York World took a straw vote the other day, asking hundreds of women in all parts of the country to indicate whether they wanted the right to vote or not. All classes were included in the canvass and pains were taken to distribute the inquiries impartially.

REVALS IN SLAUGHTER.

The worst effect of war is the indifference to the sanctity of human life which it generates. In men who in times of peace would shrink with horror from the thought of killing a fellowman, an Irish soldier picks off one by one the eight men composing a German machine gun crew, and the feat is recounted with praise in official dispatches and the Irishman is decorated. And we are told that a trench in storms and every man in it slain, with as much pride as a fisherman shows in boasting of his string.

SURGERY AND BULLETS.

The art of surgery in the European hospitals seems to keep up fairly well with the progress of the modern construction of European battlefields. Shattered arms and legs that would have been amputated a few years ago are now patched up so as to be more or less useful. Perforated lungs can be healed and wounds of the intestines that were always fatal in older wars are now curable if they are taken in time. Where wounded men lie for days piled six or eight deep in the mud and rain they are not apt to be benefited much even by the most modern and scientific surgery, but if help comes promptly it seldom comes in vain.

OR, FORGET IT.

Major Bowley may be given full credit for honesty of purpose; but the assumption, and indeed the open declaration, of his sole journalistic purpose that he has been removed because he is an honest man, and because the road contractors demanded it, is false.

THE HELPING HAND.

The Oregonian has today a letter from a worthy citizen, Mr. Tucker, who inquires, with every evidence of good faith, why the county as a whole should pay for paved roads, while the property-owner in the city has been personally taxed for the street improvements.

THE USUAL HULLABALOO.

The usual hullabaloo has arrived over the "impure" shows at the San Francisco fair. The noise may be for advertising purposes, since the study of "impurity" attracts certain classes of people. It is useless for anything else. The shows in question are grossly vulgar, but decent people will shun them in any case and those who relish them are past injury.

THE SIN OF DANCING.

It is probably useless to argue with a man who speaks of dancing as a "sinful pleasure" which "arouses the evil passions in man" and who believes that "dancing is the first step toward those chambers of death that the Bible speaks of as the habitation of sinners." The language we have quoted is from a letter to The Oregonian published today in another part of the paper.

AMERICAN INVESTORS DECEIVED.

Portland, March 30.—(To the Editor.)—I wish to call your attention to the big fraud on Americans by Vancouver, B. C. money lenders. For years, as they call themselves, who a year or two ago flooded the American cities with letters offering mortgages for sale paying high interest rates, were personally giving their guarantee in case both principal and interest is not paid when due.

WHEN YOU WANT SOMETHING

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Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, March 31, 1865. A London correspondent of the New York Tribune reports that Queen Victoria will not open Parliament in person. Her friends and advisers have urged her to try to open the session as brilliantly as possible, but her condition, physically and mentally, just at this time is considered critical by some.

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Writer Argues County Highways Should Be Built by Local Assessment. PORTLAND, Or., March 30.—(To the Editor.)—I have always been pretty well satisfied with your views on economic questions, and my neighbors and I are needing information on two questions of which we have not noticed much comment in The Oregonian.

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Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian, March 31, 1890. Mark Twain's new book, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," is, indeed, a strange conceit. It is quite up to Mr. Clemens' good standard and the class of reading he has led us to expect.

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