

The Oregonian

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STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY.

President Wilson's reply to German war aims proclamation, February 4. "The commanders of German vessels of war should act upon the presumption that the flag of the United States was not being used in good faith, and should destroy on the high seas an American vessel or the high seas an American citizen, it would be difficult for the Government of the United States to view the act in other light than as an indefensible violation of neutral rights which it would be very hard indeed to reconcile with the friendly relations now so happily existing between the two governments.

ITALY ON THE BRINK.

After halting long between two opinions, Italy seems now to be on the verge of a decision which will place the scales in favor of the anti-Turkish alliance. Her hesitation may be ascribed to several motives. While she could not, consistently with the sentiments of her people, aid Germany and Austria in what she considered a war of aggression and could not take the field against her traditional friend, Great Britain, she shrank from turning actively against her former allies. Although national sentiment prompted her to take from Austria the unredeemed provinces, she could not disguise the fact that a war for that purpose would be frankly a war of aggression—the very thing which she had refused to aid her allies.

KNOWLEDGE.

An official connected with the department of public safety deprecates the fact that newspapers have given prominent publicity to several recent attempts at suicide by young women, claiming that the publicity is an impressionable minds of girls who have read with morbid interest the accounts of the attacks on their lives by Ida Bonora and Helen Carruthers will be responsible for similar further attempts.

GOOD ROADS POLICY.

The road policy advocated by State Master Spence in his address to the conflict assumes the existence of a conflict between the interests of counties and localities and the interests of the state at large. No such conflict exists. The only primary "scenic highway" or "pleasure boulevard" is that part of the Columbia Highway in Multnomah County. The people of Multnomah County, in their own interest, should make it as valuable as possible as a valuable asset which is well worth development. They have constructed it almost entirely at their own expense and have voted, two to one, to pave it entirely at their own expense.

DOES SUBMARINE WAR PAY?

Sinking of the Lusitania is the greatest success so far scored by Germany in her submarine war. It shows the gradually increasing efficiency of the submarines in speed, radius of action, accuracy of aim and ability to avoid capture. When the campaign began, the vessels attacked were mostly small, local freighters, which were too slow to run away and too unwieldy to maneuver and dodge missiles. The first passenger vessels of considerable speed which were sunk were the African liner Falaba and the steamer Agula, both on March 28. The number of deadly hits scored against ships has averaged about one a day, two or three on one day being followed often by two or three days without a hit, but recently demand also that all trunk highways be paved. We have progressed from the old farm wagon to the twenty-ton auto truck and from the buggy to the passenger automobile. Motor-driven vehicles are no longer mere pleasure toys for the rich; they have become a necessity of business to the farmer as well as to the city man. No great

THE PRESIDENT STARTS RIGHT.

President Wilson seems to have risen to the occasion in his treatment of the Lusitania massacre. He has called Germany to account for that violation of American rights as well as for the offenses against international law involved in the attacks on the Alabama, Cushing and Guilford. Germany has been morally and financially, for the wrongs done to American citizens and must give guarantees for good conduct in the future. No mere money compensation will suffice; no mere expression of regret. Atonement cannot be made in dollars alone for the slaughter of Americans and for the outrage on the American Nation. There must be an admission of wrongdoing and a solemn pledge that the offense will not be repeated.

MR. FARRELL, THE OPTIMIST.

The message of good cheer which President Farrell, of the United States Steel Corporation, brought to Oregon is eloquent of the rising spirit of optimism prevalent in the East. His message is based on concrete facts, such as the doubling of steel production since the year opened. No man is better qualified than he to speak of the future of our foreign trade, for he built up his corporation's export trade with success in the past. He caused his promotion to the presidency. Therefore, his predictions that tremendous expansion of trade will follow the war, that American manufacturers will control the world's markets and that the American dollar will become the trade standard of the world are the conclusions of one who knows.

PIPELINE, NOT METER, NEEDED.

"Pet" Water Plan Held Economic and Hygienic Necessity. PORTLAND, May 11.—(To the Editor.)—If a double pipeline is not sufficient to meet the demands now being made upon it by the water consumers of Portland, would not a more direct and expeditious way to meet the situation be to lay another water pipe? Water meters may and undoubtedly do curtail the use of water, when in abundant nature. We can supply more water to the City of Portland than it is now receiving through the existing system. The water is overtaxed water and greatly increased cost of purchasing the water alone will not affect the charge. It is absurd to suppose that by regulating meter rates two or three can be made to perform the services of three. It is likewise idle to argue that the water supply is not a rapidly growing population like that of a rapidly growing city. The water supply is not a rapidly growing population like that of a rapidly growing city. The water supply is not a rapidly growing population like that of a rapidly growing city.

THE NATIONAL MOTHERS' CONGRESS.

The National Mothers' Congress, working in close alliance with the Parent-Teachers' Association, has done a great work in the United States. Its purpose is to improve the condition of children at home and school and to obtain legislation suitable for that end. The Parent-Teachers' Associations have brought parents into closer relations with the schools, and they have broken up that unfortunate isolation which caused many schools to lose their interest in the living world. Through the work of the associations parents know a great deal more about the schools than they formerly did, while teachers find the co-operation of outsiders especially helpful in their difficult positions.

DOES SUBMARINE WAR PAY?

The head of the Weather Bureau of this Nation is due in Portland within a few weeks and it is nothing but done about it. Just let it rain. A man who has carried a card for a generation says the only way to rid Washington Park zoo of rats is to unionize the inmates. Smokers can burn only their indignation on the rear seats of open cars, as the Council tabled the petition. Principals Dinwiddie and Stafford rather put one over Superintendent Alderman and the Board. Of course the price of sugar would go up again with the advent of the berry season. Now, then, General Kitchener, this May 13. When do things begin to crack? The Italian hen is bound to be off the nest in a few days.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, May 13, 1865. I Struggle the bird fancier of No. 3 Front street, has just imported 200 fine singing canaries and some goldfinches. There is an immense crowd of emigrants, going to Mexico, where we understand each is to have given to him a piece of the great Texas land, and out amazingly in the Mexican land speculation and threatens to play out Gwin and the Emperor, and also the French gentleman at the Tuilleries. It is very probable that Mexico will forget Emperor Max and take kindly to Juarez when Rosecrans arrives with those 2500 Western agriculturists who are fortunately to be provided with "arms of defence." Fortunate thought that last Grant took with him the Mexican Minister who represents Mexico, but not any Emperor. Enlistment offices are opened everywhere and we insist upon the reborn soldiers should have an even show to "emigrate" with the rest. The whole business is being done according to international law, of course it is, but when those 2500 veterans get to Mexico there are some chances they will backslide and go to fight for the Emperor. When they commence, international law will be nowhere and so will Maximilian.

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So Says Father Gregory in Justifying the Lusitania Tragedy. PORTLAND, May 11.—(To the Editor.)—Your first editorial article in The Oregonian, Tuesday, in warlike and inflammatory terms, and in which you want any war, and so likewise Germany wants no war. She never wanted to have a war and least of all this one. Germany cannot be blamed for the destruction of American lives on the Lusitania. They were warned, they hoisted and jeered at Germany. Germany did not do an unlawful act against our Government. Germany is innocent and friendly towards the United States and the American people. I was in Germany during this war, with some other 100,000 Americans. We all would feel it an unwarranted indictment against Germany. If we were to impute that it was not directed against us, it is not courteous to any of us; on the contrary, it with a childlike fondness, craved American sympathy and friendship. It is with this reprehensible and an influential paper to advocate hostility to this powerful and friendly people who must fight for their existence.

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From The Oregonian, May 13, 1890. Washington—Senator Delph, of Oregon, is the only member of the Northwest delegation who is not in favor of free coinage of silver and he will make a speech against the inflation idea. He says he is in favor of the enhancement of silver and bringing its value to that of gold.

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