# The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1915.


## WHOSE PERIL?

There was no loss of life in the sinking, or attempted sinking, of the American freighter Nebraskan, supposedly by a German submarine, else the occurrence might easily have aggravated greatly the already inflamed condition of public opinion in America.

The American people are patient, most patient. They have suffered enormously through a war not in any way of their making. They have had to stand by and see the whole world put awry by the angry and murderous contentions of fighting peoples. They have tried as best they could to adjust their affairs, external and internal, to the unparalleled conditions surrounding them; and they have striven by a strict course of determined neutrality to remain on friendly terms with all the combatants. It has not been easy.

But the duties of a neutral do not require it to remain silent when its citizens are slain or drowned, or its commerce destroyed by the deliberate act of a belligerent. The United States is neutral, but it is not denationalized. It is a non-combatant, but it has not always been, and it may not always be.

Doubtless we shall hear from Germany that the attack on the Nebraskan by a submarine was a mistake, and the torpedo was intended for an enemy vessel. Yet it is clear that it was fired at a neutral ship.

It is not sufficient for the Germans, or for any American copperhead, to say that the Nebraskan was in the war zone at her peril. The United States has a right to carry on commerce, so long as it is not contraband, with any nation, at this time, or at any time. If any American vessel is attacked, it ought to be made clear that it will be at the assailant's peril, not ours. That is what government is for.

## ITALY'S CASE AGAINST AUSTRIA.

Italy's statement of her reasons for war against Austria shows how delicately balanced was the equilibrium of power in Europe. No sooner did Austria send her ultimatum to Serbia than the whole structure fell to pieces, and Italy considered herself released from obligation to Austria and Germany and began to care for her own interests. In order to restore the equilibrium, which she expected to be destroyed by Austria's threatened subjugation of Serbia, Italy demanded the cession of territory by Austria which would strengthen her boundaries and her position in the Adriatic and which would bring all the Italian people into the kingdom.

Italy's retort to the charge that she has violated the treaty of alliance and has turned traitor to her allies is that Austria violated the treaty by sending an ultimatum to Serbia without consulting Italy and without obtaining her consent. She affirms that the treaty was defensive and was violated by an act of aggression on Austria's part. She indicts Austria for drenching Europe in blood by rejecting the response of Serbia, "which gave to her all the satisfaction she could legitimately claim" and by refusing to listen to the conciliatory proposals in which Italy joined other powers. Austria is accused of having thereby violated the treaty which forbade any of the contracting parties "to undertake without a previous agreement any step the consequence of which might impose a duty upon the other signatories arising out of the alliance or which would in any way whatsoever encroach upon their vital interests."

Holding herself absolved by Austria's own acts from all obligation to consider Austria's interests under the triple alliance treaty, holding that treaty to have been annulled, Italy set about protecting her own interests. She cites a number of long-standing grievances against Austria, growing out of a deliberate and persistent effort to de-Italianize the provinces of the Adriatic and Trent, ruled by Austria, though largely peopled by Italians. Holding that Austria's distress had been brought upon herself by her own acts, Italy considered herself free to take advantage of Austria's necessity to right these wrongs once for all, to gather all Italians under her flag and to expand her borders so that she might be safe against aggression, might be queen of the Adriatic and might become one of the dominant powers in the Mediterranean.

Italy's address to the world and her present course are a pregnant warning to nations not to put their trust in treaties. Belgium trusted in a treaty and is now crushed by one of the nations which guaranteed her security. Austria trusted in the triple alliance treaty to secure a free hand in chastising Serbia, but is now called to account and attacked for violating that treaty by another party to it. France and Russia had a treaty, but they united in war upon Germany and Austria because they were confronted by a common enemy and because the interests of both called upon them to make common cause against the enemy. Britain found in the invasion of Belgium an excellent cause for joining them, but her interest in preventing the aggrandizement of Germany was so closely identical with theirs that her leading newspapers and statesmen admit that she would have taken the field with them had Belgium not been attacked. The four allies—Russia, France, Britain and Italy—have joined in a treaty binding them not to make a separate peace, but history right down to the present day teaches us to expect that, if any one of these nations should find its interests to require a separate peace, it will break that treaty.

The American Nation needs to take to heart the lesson of this present war, that its safety lies not in treaties, but in its own ample power to uphold its rights, honor and interests. Treaties too often restrict a nation's right to care for its interests and offer it the alternative between sacrifice of those interests and a national breach of faith. We see now that Austria and Italy each imagined that it had safeguarded itself against the other by binding the other to a treaty, but that, when a crisis came, each looked after its own interests and each charged the other with bad faith. Treaties do not bind nations to a bargain which conflicts with their interests, but when they have a common interest they act together without a formal treaty. A time may come when the nations will combine their forces in support of international law and against any nation which violates that law or is false to its treaty obligations, but that time is not yet. A nation must do as a man does in a community where law has not yet become supreme—rely on its strong right arm.

## VAIN PROMISES.

If Portland wants abundant water for use at low cost, let the people vote for meters.—From a meterized newspaper.

The kernel of the whole case for meters is that the people must use less, not more, water. Else why meters, which are to be put in to "save" the water and stop the "waste"?

What waste? The waste over the spillways, or in the sewers, or the unused millions of gallons at Bull Run?

Water on the lawns, or in the parks, or in the factories, or on the streets, or in the household, is not wasted. But water not used is waste. It is worse than waste if any part of it might have been turned into the mains for general use by the people.

If Commissioner Daly will direct his energies and experience toward a policy of water distribution, designed to give to the public the maximum use of available water, he will be a benefactor. But instead he proposes a check upon every water-user, which takes the form of a universal meter system. It will cost from $450,000 to $500,000 and many thousand dollars each year for repairs and for inspection.

If there shall be universal meters, the cost of operation will be increased, of course, and the bubble of lower rates will burst. How can there be lower rates when greater revenues are necessary?

## FARMERS' FISHPONDS.

The Department of Agriculture has begun to take quite an interest in farmers' fishponds. It suggests that any small stream may be caused to form a pond with a little trouble and ingenuity and will produce an annual crop of fish of appreciable value. Trout, of course, is the variety to be raised if profit is considered. There are trout farms in Northern Wisconsin which ship their product to market as regularly as the dairymen and to quite as good advantage.

Fish are always desired by housewives and the cost of growing them is not heavy. Several points must be looked after in selecting a site for a pond. It must be protected from freshets and not subject to contamination. The surface dirt from neighboring fields is as fatal to fish as any other foreign matter. Lack of capital to build the necessary dams and excavate the ponds probably accounts for the neglect of this industry. An adequate system of rural credits would put it on its feet and give the farmers a new source of reliable income.

## FUSS AND FIDGETS.

The celebrated Dr. Osler brought down a deluge of ridicule upon his head a few years ago by intimating that most men are as good as useless after the age of forty. They may still live on, as Whittier says, with everything gone that makes life valuable, but it were better, upon the whole, if they quietly submitted to be chloroformed. Dr. Osler did not say he would actually perform the lethal operation if he had the chance, but he strongly hinted that it would be for the best.

Now comes Dr. Charles E. Jefferson of the Broadway Tabernacle in New York, a divine of National renown, and says the same thing as Dr. Osler, only he naturally, on account of his sacred profession, puts it in milder language. Americans, both men and women, says Dr. Jefferson, wear themselves out in the middle of their lives by too much fuss and fidgets. We remember hearing the same notion expressed by various apostles of the New Thought school. They tell us that worry is the great enemy of life and happiness and that it originates in fear. Get rid of fear in all its hideous forms, say the New Thoughters, and your life will be long and happy with all the prosperity you can reasonably ask for.

The fear that haunts the American business man is that he will be left behind in the great race of hustling. He must be at his post early and late and toil breathlessly every minute of the day lest some competitor should get ahead of him. These men comfort themselves by thinking they are racing toward success. They are really racing to the grave and far too many of them reach the goal long before they should. Death reaps his finest harvest among well-to-do Americans of middle age. Just at the time when they ought to be getting the most enjoyment out of life and doing the most for their fellow-men, along comes the Fury with the abhorred shears and cuts their thread. Down they go into the dark waters and everybody wonders why the Good Lord took them home so soon. It was not because he wanted them. The Lord prefers ripe fruit to the unripe when he can get it. These men and women die because they have not learned how to live. They wear themselves out, as the Broadway Brother says, by fuss and fidgets. They are so ravenous to get ahead of the rest of mankind that they run into Death head foremost and the grim monster binds them into his sheaves before they know what has happened to them.

"There is a time," says the Preacher, "to every purpose under the heaven, a time to keep and a time to cast away." And "what profit hath he that worketh," continues the wise old philosopher, "in that wherein he laboreth" if he has to die and leave it all just at the moment when he is ready to enjoy it? Better rest ere the long night cometh. Better slow down the pace. "American life is geared so high," remarks a writer, "that slowing down is unpleasant and often dangerous." So it is, but not so unpleasant as a total breakdown and not, upon the whole, so dangerous as dying.

The vacation habit has grown upon the country of late years, but not half enough. Those who need vacations most are not apt to take any at all. They pride themselves on keeping their noses to the grindstone and lives that should have lasted a century are quenched in the early fifties.

## WAR'S TRAGEDIES.

The total number of killed in the European war is, according to expert calculation by military mathematicians, about three-quarters of a million, and the wounded two and a quarter millions more. The latter is just about the number of men engaged for the Union in our war of the rebellion.

The London Chronicle, which can hardly be considered a disinterested authority, but which nevertheless gives the German records as the basis of its estimates, says that the total German losses—men and officers killed, wounded and missing—are about 1,725,681. The ratio of officers to men is about 2.7 per cent, so that 46,593 German officers have been killed, wounded or captured.

The proportion of deaths to the total of casualties among officers is about 35 per cent and among the men 21 per cent, so that approximately 16,307 officers have been slain and 352,608 men. The German army on a peace basis had, in 1913, 36,304 officers and 754,681 men. The available war strength of the army is figured at 5,500,000 or 6,000,000 men. It would thus appear that there has been a serious decimation of the German forces; but it is to be remembered that a large number of the wounded—probably the greater part—get well and go back to the front.

If Germany with 65,000,000 people can put 6,000,000 men in the field, the United States, with 100,000,000 inhabitants, has a potential war strength of 9,000,000 men. Let us suppose the United States to be engaged in a great war, and that within nine months 2,500,000 of the men had been killed, wounded or captured. We should then realize, as we cannot and do not now, what a horrible tragedy war is.

## RUSSIA'S LATEST REVERSE.

Russia's reverse in Galicia is in some respects a parallel to that of Germany at the Marne, but is probably due to the same causes as the alternate advance of both Germany and Russia in West Poland. The sanguinary battle in the Carpathians must have cost Russia so dearly that it exhausted the offensive power of her army. Russia's attention was so concentrated on this battle that she did not watch closely enough the movements of the enemy behind other parts of the front.

Germany's splendid railroad system enables her to concentrate troops at any point with a rapidity and in a force which cannot be equaled by the Russians, who are deficient in railroads and must move a large part of their forces on foot. As in East Prussia, the Russians appear to have been deficient in reconnoissance by aircraft. It remains to be seen whether the German statement is true that the Russians have been forced to abandon all their hardly won positions in the Carpathians.

A stand is being made on the San River by the Russians, who are bringing up strong reinforcements. If they should be driven farther back they would lose Przemysl, which they won after a long siege and which is the gate of the Carpathians. We may now witness a deadlock similar to that which has held the Germans on the Vistula and Bzura Rivers, only thirty miles from their goal, Warsaw. The Austro-German offensive may, however, exhaust itself on the San, and we may see another turn of the tide.

This exhaustion of the offensive is one of the striking characteristics of the war. It seems to be due partly to the disproportionate loss suffered by an attacking as compared with a defending army, partly to the extended lines on which armies now operate. An army on the offensive becomes so worn down in strength that it is no longer capable of attack and must yield the offensive to the enemy, or a successful attack by the enemy at another point compels it to abandon ground which it has won at enormous cost. The Germans thus wore out their offensive power on the Yser last October and November, but the inundation, the Winter and lack of sufficient troops prevented the British from doing more than hold their positions.

There has been a wide difference in character between the fighting on the eastern and western fronts. The western line has been firmly planted in approximately the same place since November, neither side having made more than local gains of a few miles. The eastern line has swung to and fro over scores of miles of territory several times, this being the second time the Russians have been driven far back in Galicia. Their success in renewing the offensive will probably depend on their ability to bring up fresh troops, and particularly to reinforce their artillery, which has been deficient from the outset and which has suffered severe losses in recent battles.

## YOUNG JOHN D.'S CONVERSION.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., does not appear in a favorable light under the inquiry of the Industrial Relations Commission. He shows a belated interest in the welfare of the Colorado miners, an interest which would better have been shown before the quarrels between them and the local officials of absentee mine-owners had burst into the flame of insurrection. His pretence that he left affairs entirely to the operating officials has been shattered by the publication of his letters, which show him to have taken an active part in influencing Governor Ammons and in giving publicity to the operators' side of the quarrel. He now professes a deep interest in the welfare of the miners and a belief in labor unions, which contrast with the acts of officials in his companies.

Certain facts seem to have been proved beyond question. The coal companies were active in politics and controlled absolutely the elections in several counties, and had a powerful voice in, if not control over, the State government. The laws for the protection of labor were a dead letter and employers could not be held liable for injury to workmen. Men who attempted to organize the miners were driven out, and secret organization alone was possible. When the strike began, hired gunmen were imported and were incorporated in the militia, together with clerks and officers of the companies. The militia thus became servants of one party to the quarrel. When blood is shed under such circumstances it is immaterial which party fires the first shot; responsibility really rests upon the party which produces the condition causing the conflict.

The proceedings of his company and other like companies having brought upon them heavy loss, a political revolution and much notoriety, Mr. Rockefeller is now seized with remorse and professes attachment to an idealism which was formerly foreign to Colorado mine-owners. We must be excused for doubting the complete sincerity of a conversion which came about under such circumstances.

Mr. Rockefeller seems not yet to have attained the right point of view. His tone is that of a superior bestowing favors. It should be that of an equal recognizing rights. He may consider his new policy a matter of humanity, but it is really good business. He admits that his company has been losing money. If its employes were treated more like men their good will might be won and might help the company to earn profits. Others have succeeded by those tactics; why should not a Colorado coal company?

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Jefferson High School seniors have limited the cost of their bouquets to $1.50, but the bouquets will be just as pretentious and beautiful, no doubt, as those of seniors in other schools who will spend an extra dollar. Jefferson High girls voted to go out in the woods and pick enough bachelor buttons or whatever flowers they chose to put with roses, the latter only to be purchased. Besides the economy of the thing, there must be a lot more sentiment in a bouquet of that nature.

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The War Department has denied application of a railway company to lay tracks across the Vancouver military reservation because they would cut up the parade ground. Very good; but if the War Department wanted a right of way across a citizen's farm it would be taken mighty quick and the man jailed if he objected strong enough.

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No doubt some good motive attended the recent distribution of "hot apple pies" at the San Francisco fair, though we cannot imagine what it could have been. It is sad to think that Spokane, the donor of the pies, wanted to give the whole country dyspepsia, but it certainly looks so.

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Life, supposed to be a humorous weekly, is more excited over the Lusitania than any other paper we have seen. It goes so far as to say in its wrath that the Kaiser is no gentleman. If this does not make the haughty Hohenzollern sue for peace and mercy, we miss our guess.

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Twenty-five years ago the Pan-American countries, including the United States, were talking of taking advantage of the opportunities for mutual benefits in the way of an exchange of commerce. The opportunity was never more propitious for action than now.

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The Maharajah of Kapurthala is coming to Portland and is going to bring his wife, says the news account. Bear in mind when you gaze on his mysterious majesty that he has selected the one wife out of twenty in his harem that he dares bring to the United States.

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It is natural that Congressmen from near the midrib of the continent should declare war, for the German guns cannot carry that far. The only way to placate them is to grab a dachshund and cleave its tail.

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In leaving the Methodist pastorate, which has been his calling for years, to sell life insurance, Dr. McPherson is, one might say, abandoning theory for practice. It all depends on the view of the hereafter.

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Intrigue by the belligerents in the Balkan states is becoming so intense that those states may unload on the great powers as the price of help the entire debt incurred in the two Balkan wars.

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It's a good thing for that cow up in Coos County that gave birth last week to three calves that she is of Holstein blood, otherwise she would be yelling for help at mealtimes.

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The boys who stole an auto and the girls who rode with them have learned that many a joyride ends in jail. Some end in the hospital, others in the morgue.

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Knowing Denver's architectural topography, it must be bitter dregs for the single-taxers to know that city lambasted single tax three to one.

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The five Mexicans due to swing in Arizona tomorrow may snap their fingers at justice. Old Technicality is to be invoked in their behalf.

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That breach of promise suit based on a proposal by mail probably will throw unadulterated fear into the hearts of many scribblers.

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When the present generation of children is old and gray, bona fide settlers may still be suing for a share of Oregon land grants.

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There are those of us who still believe that the dried codfish was a distress signal—for the members of the crew of the Orient.

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Knowing the value of clear heads, the locomotive engineers in biennial convention indorsed state and National prohibition.

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A hen lays an egg of abnormal size because she cannot help herself, and is not entitled to glory. Her owner absorbs all that.

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Old Raisuli is again raising a ruction in Morocco. Somebody must wave the Stars and Stripes at him. He has not forgotten.

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A codfish may be a sign of distress on the Pacific Coast, but on the Atlantic Coast it is the badge of aristocracy.

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Portland is becoming the Mecca of Governors and Mayors, and we send them all away with armfuls of roses.

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Villa's lieutenants have their good points. One of them executed two leaders in a bread riot in Sonora.

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Somehow or another the Bull Moose bellowing lately has more the sound of a hungry calf.

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Attorneys probably will grow groggy arguing the liquor clause of the prohibition law.

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This Coast is evening the balance by shipping butter to the Antipodes just now.

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Venetian nights have lost their soothing placidness.

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The microbe no longer can inhabit local ice cream.

## European War Primer

By National Geographical Society.

### Riga.

RIGA, the most ultra-Western town in the whole Muscovite Empire, a city of merchant princes, of bursting warehouses and miles of crowded docking, of vigorous Teutonic architecture and cosmopolitan organization, with a hurrying, tense business life that finds its counterpart in New York and Hamburg, lies near the head of the Gulf of Riga, a few miles northeast of Mitau, or just back of the struggling Russo-German lines in the Baltic provinces. Riga is a great commercial city. It stands third among Russia's seaports, and second among all the ports upon the Baltic Sea, where commercial cities have been growing and building for centuries. The city is 363 miles southwest of Petrograd, and is filled with the spirit of modern business. It is a main gateway into vast Russian hinterlands, and is, probably, the most up-to-date city to be found from Vladivostok to Libau.

This great Russian port has sprung into prominence with the most recent German campaigns.

Riga is second only to Petrograd in population and industry. German merchants of the 13th century laid the foundations of its commercial renown. It was founded in 1201, and many German colonists soon found their way to the new city, attracted thither by the many commercial privileges granted by its founder. Riga became a powerful, flourishing member of the Hanseatic League, the great merchant trust of the middle ages. With Hamburg, Bremen, Luebeck, Stralsund and scores of its fellow-banded cities, Riga grew in wealth and trade connections; boats from all parts of the world ran in and out of its river harbor, and it enjoyed the proud development of a German "free city."

Near the middle of the 16th century, Riga passed into the power of the King of Poland. The headlong Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden brought up in his course of conquest with a shock before its walls in 1601, and only after a long, hard siege was he able to take the city. Riga passed to the control of the Russians in 1710, and has since played an important part in the development of the mighty northern empire.

Riga has none of the happy-go-lucky Slavonic air about it, and so, for the tourist, it is disappointing. Before the war, German was the language of its business, and German was the idiom of its streets and homes. Official Riga was Russian, and, as Riga is the seat of the Governor-General of the Baltic provinces, this official element was of much significance.

A strong and varied industry has grown up in the port city. Machinery, railway cars, lumber, leather, candles, tiles, glass, tobacco and other products are turned out in its numerous factories. The annual value of the articles manufactured in Riga exceeds $30,000,000. As an industrial center it has been becoming more and more prominent year by year, and its future seems to be one of almost unlimited promise.

The average value of Riga's exports is well over $35,000,000. Its imports total about $20,000,000 each year. The exports include cereals, flax, flaxseed, eggs, lumber and butter. Its chief imports are machinery, cotton, coal and groceries. It has a thrifty, well-to-do population of more than 300,000.

### Memel.

Memel, East Prussia, was recently destroyed by the northern invasion.

Memel is land's end for the Germans. It is the most northerly town in the empire, lying but a few miles from the Russo-German border. Before the war, Memel was a city of considerable consequence, a city rushed with commission business and a port whose harbor was always filled with sail and smoke columns. The port is midway upon the Baltic Sea, a port conveniently placed for trade with Stockholm, Sweden, to the north; with Riga and Petrograd, Russia, to the northeast; with Copenhagen, Denmark, to the west, and with the many north German ports. It has an excellent harbor, well improved, protected by two lighthouses and by forts toward the open water.

Memel was the center of the Baltic lumber trade. Great rafts of logs, hewn in the forests of Russian Poland and Western Russia, were floated down the Niemen River and the Koenig Wilhelm Canal every year, and the lumber product of the city's mills was distributed by the busy Memel fleet to every Baltic port, much of it going to Russia, Pole, Russian, Lett and German, during the years of peaceful effort, fraternized in Memel's coffee houses, beer gardens and in the tidy, pretentious little inn, Nimmersaat.

Tilsit, a military and commercial center, is 58 miles south-southeast of Memel, while Koenigsberg, capital of East Prussia, lies 91 miles to the southwest. Memel had a well-to-do population of about 22,000 a few months ago, though now, according to dispatches, it is numbered in the list of dead, charred and deserted cities found on every battle-front where invaders have rolled past. A city without poor and without a millionaire, Memel possessed a thriving trade in transit goods, agricultural and manufactured produce in international exchange.

Memel had a growing industry, iron foundries, ship-building yards and factories for the output of chemicals, machinery, soap and amber ware. Its most important business, however, was its export of grains and timber. It shipped each year timber to a value of more than $5,000,000.

Before all else Memel was a growing seaport.

Memel, as many of the well-placed cities of these northern coastlands, was a foundation of those crusaders of the Middle Ages who took their way north and spread their faith among the outlying people by brand and sword. It was founded by Poppo con Osterna, grand master of the Knights of the Teutonic Order, who fought the natives of Prussia, the Letts and the Finns through generations to bring them within the fold of the Christian Church. When founded in 1252, Memel was first called New Dortmund, and, later, Memelburg.

The advanced Christian fortress early acquired an important trade, and became a member of the merchant trust, the Hanseatic League. Its place upon the borders of several unrelated peoples, however, while possessing the same advantages as today, possessed also, the same disadvantages. It was burned several times by hostile forces during the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. After the crushing defeat administerd to Friederick Wilhelm III of Prussia by Napoleon upon the field of Jena, the German monarch retired to isolated Memel, and here, in 1807, the treaty which was to have such far-reaching results was concluded between Great Britain and Prussia.

### The "Spite Fence."

PORTLAND, May 26.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me if the "spite fence" ordinance has to go to a referendum or to the Legislature, or does the city ordinance control?

SUBSCRIBER.

The "spite fence" ordinance as passed by the City Council some time ago was held by Circuit Judge Morrow to be unconstitutional.

### Confidence and Advice.

Exchange.

Don't put too much confidence in advice; look at the mistakes the Government makes.

### Disposition and Temperament.

Exchange.

It is possible to cultivate a mean disposition without developing the artistic temperament.

## METER SYSTEM IS SOCIAL DEFECT

### Public Spirit, Like Lawns, will Dry Up If Daly's Plan Is Perpetrated.

PORTLAND, May 26.—(To the Editor.)—My grassy lawn and blooming flowers gladden the eyes of my neighbors and add "social increment" to the land values of the vicinity and of the whole City of Portland. Benefits from my garden are "realized" more by others than by myself. In truth, I keep the grass green and the flowers abloom because I think myself a "good citizen," contributing my share to "social" improvement and uplift.

For this civic beautification I buy water from Mr. Daly's office at a flat rate. But I serve notice here and now that I will never buy water for civic beautification through a meter at so much per pint. When Mr. Daly attaches one of his meters on my house and lot, my public spirit will dry up immediately; also my grass. My choicest flowers—a few for my own buttonhole—I will irrigate with a bucket.

It is sufficiently unjust that I pay a flat rate for delectation and land profit of my neighbors and for improvement of the city. To the worse injustice of paying for the extra pints I will not submit.

And there are many "good" citizens of Portland in this frame of mind.

Our Plaza park, Summer long, is kept green and fresh by use of Mr. Daly's city water. But the "bums" who infest that park and preach socialistic indolence and enjoy the exclusive pleasures of that spot, pay not for the water through a meter nor even at a flat rate. Nor do worthy citizens, who on Sunday throng the more genteel parks, pay for their verdure pleasure through a meter; they pay at a flat rate, through the medium of taxes, and are never charged for the extra pints that the park keeper may waste.

Mr. Daly and his corps are impregnated with the new-fangled idea that land values are created not by individual thrift and industry but by "social" or "collective association." Many of the schemes which he has brought forth show the fatherhood of this idea.

Now it is a poor rule that will not work both ways. I know full well that my flowers are not made to bloom by "social effort," but by my own spade-work, with the aid of Providence and Bull Run water. The community owes me water for those flowers and for the social beautification thereof, certainly as much as it owes the North End idler a job or a living or free standing room for his soap-box on a pavement that cost $1.50 a yard.

It is wrong, grossly wrong, to tax the garden makers of this city for water by the cupful. If they use a few more pints on hot days, does not the collective community get the benefit? Does not the increment accrue to the whole people, to the Rose City, to the City Beautiful? Is it not better to supply the overplus water of Bull Run to the grass and the flowers than to the sewers?

ROSE CITY.

## DRAWBACKS OF MODERN CLOTHES

### Fastidiousness and Hygiene Would Be Served by Change, Says Writer.

PORTLAND, May 25.—(To the Editor.)—The editorial in The Oregonian, May 25, tells about the good features of clothes. Perhaps a word or two may be permitted about their drawbacks, for, like most things in the world, they are neither all good nor all bad.

One undesirable fact about civilized man's habit of wearing clothes undoubtedly is that the normal activity of the pores of the skin is interfered with. A greater burden of elimination of waste is, therefore, thrown upon the kidneys, and may be one of the causes of the seemingly increasing prevalence of degenerative diseases of those organs in civilization.

Another obvious fact that cannot be denied is that clothes prevent the healthy, direct contact of air and sunlight with the skin. Sunlight is a great tonic. This is now recognized by practically all physicians, and in many of the leading sanitariums sunlight baths are regularly employed to restore patients to normal vigor.

It has been established beyond doubt that the naked skin has the power of directly absorbing energy from sunlight and storing it up in the body. This explains the remarkable reserves of physical energy which all travelers report primitive races as displaying in emergencies. Their naked, or semi-naked, bodies in constant contact with sunlight, provide a source of strength for all the tissues that civilized man and woman, with their carefully protected skins, miss entirely. Missionaries often do savages an injury by insisting upon clothing them.

This value of air and light for purposes of health is not, indeed, anything especially new. The ancient Greeks and Romans understood the fact pretty well and applied it. Benjamin Franklin knew it. It was his custom for many years to spend daily at least an hour naked, with the windows of his chamber open, to derive the benefits of an air and light bath. In his autobiography he ascribes the vigorous health he enjoyed throughout his long life to this habit.

A final objection to clothes is that they are dirt-catchers. Most of us try to make our clothes last as long as they have a presentable appearance. We may keep the same garment for a year or two. By that time we may be sure it is full of dust and germs. It would be better if our outer-garments were washable, just as our undergarments are. Both fastidiousness and hygiene would be served by having a change of fashion in this regard.

E. P. S.

### Meter Campaign Misplaced Energy.

PORTLAND, May 25.—(To the Editor.)—The water supply seems to be a very serious matter in the mind of Mr. Daly. And so it should be, if he has in mind the good of the people of Portland and the natural benefits that flow from a plentiful supply of God's gift to man.

An unlimited supply of water. If Mr. Daly would give his efforts to applying the large sum of money which would be required to furnish meters, to furnishing a larger supply of water to the people of the City of Portland by which they could make the grounds surrounding their homes green and beautiful, instead of parched and unsightly, then, and only then, will the people of Portland have cause to feel grateful to Mr. Daly and his colleagues.

Mr. Daly would say to the man dying of thirst: You can take a sip from this overflowing Crystal Lake, but you must not take enough to allay your thrist, for the lake may run dry some day and you would have none to drink. Which would die first, Mr. Daly's lake or the man with the thirst?

D. M. O'S.

### Examination for Children.

PORTLAND, May 25.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me through the columns of your paper what day in the week I can take my children to the Courthouse to have them tested under the eugenics contest.

AN INTERESTED MOTHER.

You must register your children by calling at room 551, Courthouse, or by telephoning to Marshall 235. You will later be notified to bring the children to that place on some date to be fixed by the examiners.

### To Steal What?

Exchange.

Burglars make some mistakes, but they rarely break into a newspaper office.

### When a Man's Hair Goes.

Atchison Globe.

A man ceases to worry about his hair after it is gone.

## Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of May 27, 1890.

Representative Hermann, of Oregon, was today in consultation with the public land committee as to the forfeiture of the Northern Pacific Railway grant land between Wallula and Portland, Or., and his committee, which previously reported a bill for forfeiture, will consider and report favorably to the Senate a bill which is now before the committee and which is to be passed before the close of the week.

The City Hall bonds to the amount of $175,000 were yesterday turned over to Mr. D. F. Sherman, cashier of the Oregon National Bank, who purchased them for New York parties, he paying the City Treasurer $179,156 for them, with accrued interest.

The poles put along the streets by the Electric Light Company are being painted, and the public are anxiously looking forward to the time when the crossarms will be put on and the wires strung and the host of poles of all sizes which they supersede shall be removed.

Governor Pennoyer and State Treasurer Webb arrived in the city yesterday and were met at the depot by Senator Chandler and Robert C. Carter, chairman of the central committee, and conveyed to the hotel in a carriage.

Mrs. H. W. Scott and her son, Leslie, arrived home via the Union Pacific yesterday morning after a four weeks' sojourn in Chicago visiting friends.

The Hon. D. P. Thompson, the Republican candidate for Governor, has taken the wind out of Governor Pennoyer's sails. In a speech at Eugene City Saturday night he answered all of the Governor's charges contained in the speech he has been delivering throughout the state.

## Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of May 27, 1865.

South Carolina must have turned in its coffin when William Lloyd Garrison and George Thompson stood free and fearlessly in the midst of the ruins of Fort Sumpter and walked about the streets of Charleston.

We have before alluded to the excellent artist now in our midst, Mr. J. F. Brink, and to some of his magnificent paintings which do credit to Oregon. Our attention is now called to Mr. Taft, a local artist of fine taste, who has just returned from a visit to Wallula, and brings a portfolio freighted with some beautiful views of scenery on the Columbia River.

The members of Protection Engine Company, No. 4, had their machine out upon trial at the corner of First and Washington streets last evening. They attracted quite a crowd to witness the drill.

The pirate Shenandoah is reported to be cruising in the western Pacific Ocean, and it is quite likely to make its appearance on the track of California steamers. The corsair left Melbourne last February and it is known that she has captured and burned the ship Dolphin since that time.

On Wednesday, April 19, the day of President Lincoln's funeral obsequies, the American Telegraph office in Washington city transmitted 75,000 words of reports to New York and elsewhere. All this was done from 7 o'clock A. M., being at the rate of 12,000 words per hour. This is a feat in telegraphing said never to have been equaled. The expense account amounted to about $2000.

### Judiciary Personnel.

PORTLAND, May 25.—To the Editor.)—Please answer the following questions:

1. What are the names of the Justices of the Supreme Court of this state?
2. The names of the Judges of Circuit Court in this district?
3. The names of the District Judges of this city?
4. Have District Judges jurisdiction for the recovery of damages exceeding $250?

READER.

1. Chief Justice Thomas A. McBride, Associate Justices Henry J. Bean, Frank A. Moore, George H. Burnett, Robert Eakin, Henry L. Benson and Lawrence T. Harris.
2. Circuit Judges, in the order of their departments, are: J. P. Kavanaugh, Robert G. Morrow, Henry E. McGinn, George N. Davis, W. N. Gatens and C. U. Gantenbein.
3. District Judges, J. W. Bell, Joseph H. Jones and Arthur C. Dayton.
4. District Courts have jurisdiction in cases for the recovery of damages up to $300.

### Foreclosure and Crop.

PORTLAND, May 25.—(To the Editor.)—To settle an argument, please answer the following questions in The Oregonian:

1. A forecloses a mortgage on B's farm. How long can B hold possession?
2. What length of time has he to redeem his farm?
3. Can B hold growing crop at time of foreclosure?
4. Can B remove crop after redemption has expired?

PERPLEXED.

1. B can hold possession until the certificate of foreclosure is issued by the Sheriff.
2. A has one year from that time to redeem his farm.
3. No, not unless some stipulation or agreement exists between the two parties as to the disposition of the crop.
4. No.

### The Winds That Bring Rain.

PORTLAND, May 25.—(To the Editor.)—How is the fact explained that the north wind usually brings clear weather and the south wind rain?

L. C.

This is explained by the fact that air coming from the north to the south, where it becomes warmer, has its capacity for absorbing moisture increased. Air coming from the south to the north has its capacity for taking up moisture lessened at it falls in temperature, and, when the point of saturation is reached, precipitation occurs. This is, of course, true only in the northern hemisphere. Below the equator the contrary is true.


## Millions More for Home Travel

Americans spend scores of millions of dollars in Europe each Summer.

Not only are great sums spent in traveling, in hotels and in luxuries, but fortunes are spent for merchandise.

This money stays at home this season, and that means more business for us.

Just another straw which shows the blowing wind of prosperity.

Business will be good this Summer for those who go after it—and the names of the present "live ones" will be found in the advertising columns of The Oregonian.