

The Oregonian

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Portland, Wednesday, July 7, 1915. ANOTHER WEST POINT NEEDED. The American Nation seems to have very generally awakened to the necessity of increasing our means of National defense. The only exceptions are those purblind pacifists who believe that because the United States would never begin aggressive war on any other country, no other country would make aggressive war on the United States. The numbers of these dreamers have been materially reduced by the logic of the war, and they have been reduced still further by the bombardment of facts to which they have been subjected. We may, therefore, assume that Congress will respond to public opinion by enlarging the Army, by providing an Army reserve and by adding to our supply of artillery and ammunition. The time is ripe to pass from generalities to particulars. One of the most important particulars is the supply of officers, for they are the framework upon which an army is built. The success of an army depends, among other things, on the efficiency of its leaders from the commanding General down to the fledgling Lieutenant. A body of soldiers without trained officers is liable to degenerate into a panic-stricken mob, not because the individual men lack courage, but because they are at a loss what to do. There have been occasions when the best of our officers have been killed or wounded and when a born leader has sprung up from among the non-commissioned officers, but it is not safe to trust to such a chance. Such an impromptu leader is liable, through lack of training, to lead his men to disaster. By comparison with officers, men in the ranks can be trained in a hurry. Secretary Garrison says that "by intensive military training any young man of good health and average mentality can be trained in a few weeks to order in twelve months, and in fact has been so made," but four years are needed to make a man into an efficient officer. We might make shift to stand off an invader for a year with the regular Army as it is, but we could not stand off a second invader, while we trained 1,000,000 volunteers to drive him into the ocean, but it would be very risky to attempt to stand him off for four years while we trained officers to train the volunteers. Even if we could stand off, it would be enormously expensive in both men and money. The only wise course, then, is to have enough trained officers to command not only the regulars and reserves, but also the volunteers. Officers we might need in an emergency. Having the framework for the largest army we were likely to need, we could reduce the number of both officers and enlisted men in active service to the minimum needed for peace and for maintaining the reserve up to the required strength. Basing our calculations on Mr. Garrison's proposal that the mobile Army be increased to 50,000 men, and on the figures given by the estimate that 450,000 additional men would be needed to withstand an invader, and on the further estimate that 1,000,000 volunteers would be needed to back up this Army and fill gaps in its ranks, we should need enough officers for 1,500,000 men, at least one officer to every twenty enlisted men. If we need 50,000 officers to enable us to put 500,000 men in the field at the outbreak of war, and to put another 1,000,000 in service at the end of the year, we need a year ago the regular Army consisted of 4701 officers and 87,781 men, but only 24,602 of these were available for a mobile Army. Mr. Garrison proposes to recruit existing organizations to full strength, and to add 25,000 men. He also asks for 1000 more officers, which would be a scant supply for the additional men when we consider that 20.43 per cent of the line officers were away from the ranks in 1914. Mr. Garrison's estimate of 1,500,000 men would have been paid to the ranks to fill gaps. Our need of officers has obviously outgrown the capacity of West Point and of all other sources to supply them. Mr. Garrison has established student military camps to train volunteer officers, but a surer and steadier supply is needed. Ex-President Taft showed the way when he proposed the establishment of a second military academy in the city of Washington, West Point. A second academy would have the advantage of training officers in a different environment from that of West Point, with a different field to practice in. Only a small proportion of the trained officers would, under the plan described, be under full pay at any one time. After passing through the academy and serving for a limited time with the active Army, they would pass into the reserves under small pay and would be called out for practice with their commands for only a few weeks in each year. They would pass into

PROHIBITION, THEN WHAT?

Prohibition has been charged with many evil effects, but some new one comes to light nearly every day. The latest accusation is that it has caused the price of fresh beef to advance. The explanation given by packers to the New York World is that prohibition has hurt the distillers to such an extent that there is not enough whisky refuse grain to fatten the usual number of cattle in the Middle West.

Still the prohibitionists can derive some comfort from the statement, inasmuch as it tends to destroy the argument that just as much, if not more, whisky is consumed under prohibition than under the liquor license policy. Furthermore, the inquiry naturally arises as to what becomes of the grain that would otherwise have gone to the distillers. It seems indisputable that widespread prohibition will create economic problems as a result of the surrender of public revenues and the diversion to other uses of the materials that now go into alcoholic liquors.

FOOD MAKES BIG TRADE BALANCE.

Food has been the principal element in building up the huge American balance of trade which has put all the world's exchanges out of joint. In the eleven months ending May 31, 1915, our exports of breadstuffs were \$159,538,753 against only \$144,109,253 for the eleven months ending May 31, 1914. Cottonseed oil, which is extensively used for food, was exported to the value of \$19,903,909 against \$13,270,786, and meat and dairy products went abroad to the amount of \$172,464,586 compared with \$122,991,077. These increases more than sufficed to offset the great decrease in cotton exports from \$591,725,524 to \$360,370,125, and the decrease in mineral exports from \$137,604,771 to \$118,460,072, besides a decrease of over \$500,000 in livestock exports. Upon the United States has fallen the largest part of the task of feeding belligerent Europe, the other chief markets being Canada, Mexico, China and India. Australasia supplies a large proportion of the meat, but a drought has made the great Antipodean continent an importer of grain instead of an exporter, as it usually is. Though unfavorable weather may reduce our wheat crop, it is estimated that 1,000,000,000 bushels of it, the yield, the higher the price which Europe will be compelled to pay, so that the net result is likely to be the same.

INTELLIGENCE TESTS.

Some of the time ordinarily spent by the New York schools in worthless routine examinations has been devoted this year to ingenious "intelligence tests" which bring out the capacity of the pupil to act on his own initiative. The usual examination tests the child's verbal memory and nothing else. The "stunts" set for him in this new experiment tested his quickness of wit, his ingenuity, his ingenuity, his ingenuity, his ingenuity, in fact, whether the pupil has a brain that would serve him in emergencies or betray him when it was most needed. Some critics have called these tests "fads," but in our opinion they are of the highest value. The public school has just about lost its power to frighten anybody, since it has been applied indiscriminately to every improvement in the public schools for a generation.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS IN NEW YORK.

The Mothers' Pension law is now in effect in New York, but administrative delays will probably prevent any payments under it before the first of next January. The new law will restore to home and mother care about 2000 children who are now supported in charitable institutions of one sort and another. The payments to their mothers are not allowed to exceed the expense of boarding them in the asylums, which is about \$10 month. The relief under the law will only be granted to mothers whose families without it would be broken up by poverty. In counting his chances of final victory the Kaiser might have had some doubt that he would have welcomed a peace move at the present juncture—an unofficial suggestion which would furnish the enemy an opportunity to speak. But the manifesto was not pitched in the right tone to suit him. It contains these passages: "Must this terrible drama, which has no parallel in the history of the world, go on indefinitely? Must the nations be completely exhausted? Germany, which has successfully defended itself against superior forces, and which has frustrated the plan to bring it to

THE TRAP THAT THAW BUILT.

It is popularly assumed that in America there is a milder brand of justice dealt out to the rich than to the poor. But if we have a proper understanding of a letter published today, the writer, Mr. S. D. Allen, contends that the Thaw case is a striking illustration that the reverse is true. Of course it is only a matter of opinion, but we cannot agree with Mr. Allen that, were it not for the Thaw millions, Thaw would have been freed from prison. It is strongly asserted, however, that he would have received the deserved obscurity, via either the electric chair or the exclusive confines of a penitentiary or insane asylum.

It does not relieve American jurisprudence of the scandal of the Thaw case that thousands of others have been freed of murder charges on various pretexts. The ease with which murderers escape justice in America is a book of scandal to which the Thaw case has added an important chapter. Cumulative incidents of scandal and each incident a scandal in itself. As for the part the death penalty plays in miscarriage of justice, it is only necessary to point to the only surer justice of England, where the death penalty is also imposed.

EDISON'S LACK OF NEUTRALITY.

Incredible to Write That He Proposed Boycott in Idea of War. WALLA WALLA, Wash., July 5.—(The Editor.)—I have read with no little interest the account of certain statements credited to Thomas Edison, the inventor, in an article published in the Oregonian under the heading "Edison's Lack of Neutrality." While most every thinking person among us, regardless of his or her political or religious opinions, would agree that the present European war, must realize the complete neutrality of the United States, it is not possible to see, even in a misnomer, how it is possible that so eminent a man as Edison should so publicly advise further un-neutrality in helping Germany's enemies. Can such a course, even if it would increase loyalty and patriotism at home, or prestige and dignity abroad, be a wise and dignified method of politicians and corporations promote National security and honor? Will it not rather, feed the fires of distrust and discontent already smoldering dangerously within our National edifice? The Oregonian states that Edison has been misquoted. J. ROBERT EBERERT. Inasmuch as Mr. Edison's plan was offered solely as a substitute for war in event open rupture with Germany results from the Lusitania disaster, we fail to discover whether Mr. Eberert derives his astonishment from the fact that Edison proposed a boycott of the Lusitania disaster, or from the fact that Edison proposed a boycott of the Lusitania disaster.

ON TALKING TOO LOW.

Louise Closser Hale in July Century. We Americans are of two kinds; we are in two tiers or two low, particularly in public places. A European family will sit down in public without feeling the necessity of putting up a barrier of voices and retreating a foot behind a wall. They are not noisy, they do not talk on in their homes, but they say what they wish without the least concern for the ears of those who are not their intimates. Let us be brave and be ourselves, for nothing can be better than that.

Twixt Hay and Grass.

This is the season when the merchant, as the farmer puts it, is "twixt hay and grass." Summer business in heavier lines is well towards an end and Fall business has not begun. There is a large demand for warm weather requisites. During odd moments the wise merchant elicits his own and small retailers and lessens prices. He thus clears stock and stimulates trade. Incidentally, this state of affairs being duly reflected in his newspaper advertising makes the advertisement more attractive than ever.

European War Primer

By National Geographical Society. After weeks of silence, the news comes that the persistent little army of Montenegro has taken to itself Scutari, the principal city and fortress of Albania, which fell before the victorious Montenegrins in the first Balkan War, and from which the soldiers of the Mountain Kingdom were compelled to retire by action of Austria-Hungary. The Montenegrins have had considerable practice in attacking Scutari through their 800 years of intermittent struggle with the Turks, and all of the problems involved in an advance by the side of the Lake of Scutari to the city between the mountains are doubtless thoroughly known to the present military leaders of the tiny state. Scutari has military value as commanding Northern Albania, and being a key position on the northern head of the plain that stretches from the town into the country's interior. It is situated on the southern shore of the Drin and Boryna rivers, the Adriatic more than 100 miles to the west. The greater part of the Lake of Scutari, since the settlements brought about by the First Balkan War, is contained within the Montenegrin borders. The city of Scutari lies just across the Montenegrin boundary, and about a half-hour's walk away. The lake is surrounded by mountains, the waters are brilliantly clear, the growth upon its banks luxuriant, while the long lines of cypress which give it a setting like a gem in a sea of green, are greatly increased by the picture. There are numerous heavily populated growing villages, and the shores for aquatic fowl, and by its shores is well stocked with fish.

The remarkable sand dunes southeast of Lake Michigan are among the natural wonders of the United States. The movement to level them for commercial purposes would deprive the country of one of its attractions to tourists and obliterate one of the reasons for selecting America first. Chicago is trying to save the dunes. Good Americans will help her all they can.

His Wealth is Thaw's Handicap

But for Millions, Murderer Would Now Enjoy Obscure Liberty. EUGENE, Or., July 5.—(To the Editor.)—In your recent editorial on Thaw's case, you state that the scandal of American jurisprudence is that a murderer, sane or insane, and he should be treated as such. You refer to the legal court as should receive a verdict of insanity, and you refer to the legal court as should receive a verdict of insanity. The issue found at the murder trial was not his present condition, but his condition at the time of the killing. To declare him insane then is to deny the basis on which all work for the cure of insanity is based. The State should issue certificates yearly issued by a competent authority that persons once adjudged insane have recovered their sanity and are ready to resume their ordinary lives. Thousands now at large simply because they were once adjudged insane. Even Thaw is entitled to a hearing regarding his present mental condition. It is frequently said that Thaw never was insane; that he got off on a subterfuge. He certainly is not much of a fellow, but the man killed was a man of great intelligence and of mature years. You say that Thaw was immoral with young women, and I can easily imagine that the jury did not care to decree the taking of even his life. It is a disgrace that Thaw, in their own minds they in a measure justified. It is one of the grave objections to capital punishment that it will not decrease the death penalty when there is any considerable justification for the act of killing.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian, July 1, 1865. The steamer Colonel Wright made an unsuccessful effort last week to navigate the Upper Snake River. The Wright succeeded in reaching a point 50 miles above the mouth of the Snake, but further up Snake River than had ever been navigated before by steamer. But from then on the river for a good distance was so shallow and so full of eddies and curves that navigation seemed impracticable. From inlets around the river when the steamer had to give up the effort it was found they were within about 30 miles of Burnt River, the goal. The Colonel Wright turned back at this point, and a half hour before the steamer passed her bow for 25 feet being carried away and a bulkhead had to be built to keep her afloat. At one point four and a half hours were spent in making twice the length of the boat. The opinion prevails that the best way to navigate the Snake River is to build a steamer on the spot, and it is presumed there will be machinery and material shipped overland soon and a steamer built up there in the coming few months. General Averitt, the distinguished cavalry officer, has resigned, it is reported officially. Interesting and varying accounts of Jeff Davis' resistance when he was incarcerated are arriving. One account says that Davis was manacled, he attempted to kill a guard, but was engaged in the task and did almost obtain a bayonet, apparently to use with the guard. He was held in a cell and ironed closely to the bed in his cell and ironed closely to the bed in his cell.

Lesson in Finance.

Has Brown a comfortable income? "Large, but not comfortable; his wife knows just how much it is." "Does any one think your son has a future?" "Yes; the life insurance company."

PLAY DEPICTS HISTORICAL PAST

Production Objected to by Colored Folk Not Present-Day Drama. PORTLAND, July 6.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian there appears a protest from the secretary of a society of colored people in Portland against the production of "The Clansman" film in this city. It will be remembered that these same colored people vigorously protested the production of this same film in the same stage here a few years ago on the ground that it shows the "worst side of the negro character."

Let me say that these societies of colored people could better defend the history and race characteristics of the negro by adopting different methods. If the drama is a vicious representation, why do they not calmly and dispassionately show wherein it is such, instead of trying to secure suppression? As is well known, "The Clansman" is an historical production of a long ago, and it is based on the same title. It is a true picture of conditions as they were during the reconstruction period, and it is not even exaggeration, to say nothing of false representation. It is the most exacting film ever photographed in America, and it is not a dramatic critic (not press agents).

Twixt Hay and Grass.

Major DeLashmutt occasionally takes his friends out to Witch Hazel farm to view some of his fine horses. Hon. Richard Williams went out a few days ago, and was much interested in the colts. He finally went into the enclosure where they were and had occasion to pet a handsome mare, giving her some of his own apples and a glossy mane. At that moment Mr. DeLashmutt called Mr. Williams to the side of the enclosure, and Mr. Williams turned around. The mare also turned, and before anyone could say Jack Robinson, she raised Mr. Williams about the neck, and he fell and pitched him some 15 feet. Consequently the mare was not a curve for any medicinal means we shall exclude the citizens of the United States from the Chinese Empire.

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