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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, AUG. 4, 1915.

OUR OWN RESPONSIBILITY.

If President Wilson has called representatives of Latin-American nations into conference for the purpose of obtaining the approval of those nations for measures which he has himself decided to adopt in Mexico, no objection can fairly be raised on behalf of the American people. Their support of his policy in advance would remove any cause for suspicion that the United States was serving its selfish ends under the pretext of pacifying Mexico.

But if the President's purpose be to divide responsibilities with the Latin-American nations, he is once more on the wrong tack, for that responsibility rests, and must continue to rest chiefly upon the United States. The United States proclaimed the Monroe Doctrine and is responsible for its maintenance. That doctrine places upon the United States the duty of seeing that Mexico respects the rights of Europeans, in order that Europe may have no ground for intervention. The United States, as the nearest and greatest neighbor of Mexico, has suffered more injury from Mexico's troubles than any other nation. The United States by ineffective meddling has aggravated Mexico's disease and is morally bound to undertake alone the duty of curing it.

If the President, addressing the Latin-American diplomats, should say: "This is what I intend to do. I ask your approval and co-operation," he would add strength to his policy. If he should say: "What shall I do?" he would shirk responsibility and would weaken his position. It is for him to decide what the United States shall do, with the approval of other American nations if possible, without that approval if it should be withheld. By submitting his quarrel with Huerta to the A B C conference, he has already tried joint action, and the result was a miserable fiasco. While the diplomats were talking, the armies of Carranza were fighting and they eliminated Huerta before the conference reached a decision.

Even if it were advisable, an attempt to obtain from Latin-America a mandate for the intervention of the United States in Mexico would probably prove equally futile. The diplomats would have in mind the danger of creating a precedent for the grant of a similar mandate for intervention in internal troubles which may break out in their own countries. They would picture to themselves some future conference to which a strong and peaceful Mexico would be a party and at which Mexico would cite her own experience as a precedent for granting a mandate to the United States to intervene in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay or Guatemala.

All of these countries, except Guatemala are so remote from Mexico that they have slight interest in her tranquillity, and they would be moved rather by consideration for their own safety from foreign interference, for the heightening of their own prestige, than by consideration for the welfare of Mexico. Guatemala as Mexico's southern neighbor and as a far weaker state would fear to stir up the rancor of that country. The case of Mexico calls for vigorous action by this country, but no Latin-American country is likely to become openly a party to it.

It is quite sufficient for Mr. Wilson to inform the Latin-American republics of the emergency which calls for action by the United States in Mexico, of the nature of the action which he intends to take and to assure them that this Nation has no design of conquest or of permanent occupation. If they approve and give their moral support so much the better. If they withhold approval, it is still incumbent upon him to go ahead with the measures which he deems necessary, regardless of their opinion. Let the event prove the sincerity of his pledges and the wisdom of his action.

The President has repeatedly said in most felicitous language that he proposed to do something to ameliorate Mexico's condition. His wealth of words has been accompanied by poverty of deeds. The time is long past when deeds should replace words, and they should be deeds of the United States, not of any combination of American republics.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR WAR.

The ability of the belligerent nations to finance a war, the cost of which is beyond precedent, has already belied the predictions of great financiers as to its possible duration. A year ago it was declared that there could be no such war as is now being fought because there was not enough money in the world to pay for carrying it to a decisive conclusion. That statement was based on the false assumption that a nation's ability to continue fighting is measured by its supply of gold.

Financial power is not measured by gold but by credit, and credit is measured by wealth. As an individual's financial resources are not exhausted until he has borrowed the last dollar for which he can mortgage his possessions, a nation's resources are not exhausted until it has pledged its aggregate wealth to the full extent as security for loans. The wealth of a nation consists not merely in gold, but in natural resources, commodities, houses, land, factories, ships and debts due by citizens of other nations.

The war is not consuming money; there is as much money metal in the world now as there was before the war began. The war is consuming the commodities used and the property destroyed in the course of its operations. Payment for this consumption is made, not in money but in credit secured by the wealth which remains. Thus it is that in the last year the United States has imported only $68,500,000 in gold, though the balance of trade in its favor is nearly $1,100,000,000 for the year ending June 30. The difference has been made up by cancellation of credits which Europe held against this country, by means of sale of American securities to Americans and by borrowing in this country.

Measured by their wealth, the ability of the belligerents to continue the war is far from exhausted. The national wealth of Great Britain is estimated at $85,000,000,000, of Germany at $80,000,000,000, of France at $50,000,000,000, of Russia at $40,000,000,000, of Austria-Hungary at $25,000,000,000 and of Italy $25,000,000,000. Not until the credit obtained against these sums approaches the amount which bankers and their customers are willing to lend upon them will the nations have reached the limit of their ability to fight. Before that point is reached, some of the belligerents may have drawn so many men from productive industry to the fighting line that they will not be able to produce or to buy abroad the materials necessary to continue the war. This is probably what Mr. Lloyd George had in mind when he said that victory might fall to the party which could raise the last £100,000,000.

AT THE RUINS OF ARMAGEDDON.

Mr. Roosevelt believes a vast army of commentators from an apparently unending task by defining his own political status. He is a Progressive and will remain a Progressive.

Many anxious and not wholly disinterested persons have for some time thought otherwise, but Colonel Roosevelt ought to know. "Holding the convictions I do," he says in a public statement, "it will be impossible for me to take that step" (rejoining the Republican party).

If Mr. Roosevelt's convictions will not permit him to be a Republican it is to be assumed likewise that they will prevent his becoming a candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination. It is clear that he has definitely set himself outside of consideration as an actual candidate. Perhaps that is what he intended to do.

When he was in Portland the Colonel said that if any one would tell him what are to be the political conditions of 1916, he would state exactly what he will then do. There can be no doubt that he would. Meanwhile, so far as 1915 is concerned he is quite clear as to some things he will not do.

UNHORSING HAWLEY.

The Oregonian notes that its rising contemporary, the Oregon Coast Daily Tide, printed at North Bend (Coos Bay), laments volubly the early withdrawal of Louis J. Simpson from the Congressional race. "We feel," remarks the moaning Tide, "that had Mr. Simpson entered the race at this time, or a little later, he would have succeeded in obtaining the nomination at the primaries to be held early next Summer." The regrets of our interesting contemporary are made all the more poignant by the reflection that the "Coast country will not come into its own without representation" and that "Congressman Hawley is really a Portland man."

The Oregonian would not discourage Mr. Simpson or any other live and honest man, from Coos Bay or anywhere else in the First District, from entering the lists against Representative Hawley. It is a free country and the direct primary is admirably devised to give any citizen, anxious to learn, full information about his exact standing in the regard of his fellow citizens. But we will not refrain from commending Mr. Simpson's discretion. He is a young and very useful man and is said to be rich. He is going to save a lot of money and be happier than if he tempted fate by going into Congressional politics.

A citizen of Roseburg last year had a tryout in the primaries with Mr. Hawley. Result: Hawley, 27,463; Roseburg, 10,056. Later a very energetic lawyer from Coos Bay, having obtained the Democratic nomination for Congress, and being persuaded that it was a good Democratic year, tested the Hawley mettle in the election. Result: Hawley, 51,295; Coos Bay, 32,636. There have been other years in which the same valiant experiment of unhorsing Hawley has been essayed, but without avail. We wouldn't for the world intimate that it can't be done, but it is certain that it has not been and the prospect is not encouraging.

Mr. Hawley is not a Portland man. The lower Columbia River is in his district. He deserves no reproaches for doing all he can for that great waterway. A Congressman from Coos Bay should do no less. We doubt if he would do more for Coos Bay than Hawley has done.

OBEYING THE WHITE MAN'S LAW.

Sergeant Brown, Garfield Jack, Simon Isaacs and Stonewall Jackson are names which cover a wide field of ethnological suggestion; but they are Klamath Indians. Where they got their names is no matter, except that they are honest names, honestly bestowed upon these civilized descendants of an aboriginal race.

The four joined in a letter to The Oregonian printed yesterday. It is a letter which every man and woman in Oregon ought to read. It is an eloquent defense of the good name of the Klamath tribe, and it is an appeal to their white brothers to recognize the patriotic and Christian purposes which have ever guided the Klamaths in their dealings with their neighbors and their relations with both church and state.

The occasion for the public address is a homicide in which Joseph Brown, an Umpqua Molalla Indian, had stabbed to death Eugene Isaacs, a Klamath. It is significant that the four Klamaths, one of them a brother of the slain Isaacs, express themselves as desirous that the law take its orderly course. They have no vindictive desire for revenge against the Umpqua, but they are anxious chiefly that the public understand that for fifty-one years—from the date of the great treaty of 1864 which gave their tribe the Klamath reservation as their heritage—they have sought to obey the white man's law and they feel that they have succeeded. In that time there have been twelve homicides on the reservation, half of them due to liquor, which the white race also gave to the Indian. Of these murders, five were by men not by blood Klamath Indians.

It is a remarkable record for a race but recently emerged from a condition of savagery and superstition. It is to be recalled, too, that less than half a century ago that section of Oregon was desturbed by a most remarkable war between the Modocs and the authorities. Treachery, assassination and all the cruelties of savage and bloody strife marked this particular struggle; but through it all the Klamaths remained loyal and steadfast. They have kept the faith for over a half century, and it may well be believed that they will keep it so long as there is a tribesman left. They crave the fair opinion of the state, of which they are an industrious and worthy part. They are entitled to have it for what they have done for themselves no less than for what they have done for law and order.

THE HAPPY WOOLEN TRUST.

Woolgrowers by war have been given the protection of which they were deprived by the Democratic party, the war having caused an abnormal demand for wool to clothe soldiers. So long as war continues, they may remain prosperous, but for their prosperity they will have to thank Mars, not Democracy.

But woolen manufacturers have the benefit of protection both by the tariff and by war. Their happy situation is thus tersely described by the Boston Transcript:

> Wool men are saying that the outlook for the mills is exceedingly favorable, as war conditions have built up a veritable Chinese wall around the industry. With free wool, and foreign manufacturers barred, while the war continues, the domestic makers of worsted and woolen fabrics have all the advantages of a high tariff, without most of the drawbacks.

If the stimulating effect of the war on demand and prices were withdrawn, the manufacturers would still have the benefit of protection by the tariff. Added to this, they would have the benefit of free wool at prices no longer enhanced by war. Thus the manufacturer stands to win in war or peace, while the grower has only the temporary shield of war against the competition of foreign growers.

The professed purpose of the Democracy in revising the tariff was to strike off first the exorbitant benefits derived by the trusts. The woolen manufacturers are organized in one of the tightest trusts in the country, but they are still protected by the tariff. The woolgrowers have no such combination; they do business in open competition, but they have no tariff protection.

OUR OWN SCHOOL BOOKS?

It is impossible to withhold a certain measure of sympathy for the proposal of the Salem Typographical Union that school books be printed in Oregon and the great sums annually sent abroad be kept at home. School books cost too much. There are too many of them. They are changed too often. It sometimes happens—it may be surmised that it frequently happens—that books are required to be bought at the beginning of a term and are not used. Altogether, the school-book burden is not a light one. Yet parents, who are anxious that their children be educated and are fearful that they may drop behind in their classes, submit to the school demands, though half the time they do not know what some of the books are to be used for.

But one may nevertheless be dubious about the local printing of textbooks. Education is not a state but a universal matter. A state standard as distinct from a National or general standard would be an absurdity. There is no parent in the state who will be satisfied if his children get anything short of the best. What has Oregon to offer in the way of superior authorship for textbooks? To be sure, there are Oregon authors, but they compete in the general educational field, as they should, and not in the state alone.

It is possible that promoters of the plan porpose to adopt standard textbooks, but merely to require that they be printed in the state. If it can be done, and if the cost to the buyer is not thus increased, there can be no objection. But it may well be supposed that publishers of textbooks would not easily accede the demands that they print their works separately for the various states, though to an extent they adopt that policy for particular states. But there is a central publishing house.

When we have an Oregon literature, an Oregon arithmetic or an Oregon grammar distinct from the great body of standard literature or mathematics or grammar we may wisely have our own textbooks, and not before.

LEAGUED FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE.

Maryland has stepped to the front as a leader in the movement to organize the Nation for defense. A meeting was held recently in Baltimore, in response to an address to the people of Maryland, and organized the Maryland League for National Defense. The address is itself an unanswerable argument for the cause on the behalf of which it was issued and was signed by men, without regard to party, who stand in the front rank among Maryland's citizens.

More than 300 of the state's representative men assembled and launched the organization on such plans and with such purposes that every patriotic citizen, rich or poor, powerful or humble, can become a member. The nonpartisan character of the organization is emphasized by the fact that it was born in the stalwart Democratic city where Woodrow Wilson was nominated for President.

The need of such an organization was impressed upon the meeting by Judge Henry Stockbridge, of the Court of Appeals. He said that aggressive organizations were being formed in various parts of the country with the avowed purpose of sending a formidable lobby to Washington next Winter to prevent, if possible, any action being taken that would put the Nation in a position properly to defend itself and to oppose any large appropriation for strengthening the Army and Navy. He cited as proof of his statements the recent peace meeting at Madison Square Garden in New York, which was addressed by W. J. Bryan and similar meetings in other cities. He read the resolutions adopted at one of these meetings, which some of his hearers said were "pretty close to treason." He said that shrinking from the duty of putting the country in a condition to defend itself was "little less than treason."

The league intends to be as aggressive as the peace-at-any-price agitators. Unlike the organization formed in New York, it does not recommend the expenditure of any specific sum by Congress, but it trusts the President and his advisers to formulate the details of a programme for the defense of the country. It will urge the perfecting of a plan as soon as possible and will use its influence to secure the adoption of such a plan by Congress. The outlines of the programme it favors are:

> Increased enlistment in the Army and Navy and adequate armament and equipment.
>
> A definite naval and military policy.
>
> An expenditure of Army and Navy appropriations in such a way as will prevent their use for political purposes and will secure a full return for the money spent.
>
> The creation and maintenance of an organized reserve, trained and fully equipped.
>
> The building up and strengthening of the National Guard, "a well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state," as is stated in the Constitution.

The league has received the unqualified endorsement of that staunch old Democratic newspaper, the Baltimore Sun, which is true to the best patriotic traditions of the Democratic party and has not been seized by the delusions of the new Bryanic Democracy. It terms the opponents of National defense vicious forces working strenuously and in conjunction with the foolish non-resistance, peace-at-any-price fanatics.

The address to the people of Maryland is published in another column, but some passages are so forcibly epigrammatic that they will bear repetition for the benefit of those who dream that neutrality can save the United States from being drawn into the war and that our own love of peace is a sufficient protection. These passages are:

> In a conflict like this the neutral has no friends.
>
> The more strictly we preserve neutrality the more likely we are to incur the ill will of the conqueror in the European struggle.
>
> It requires two to make peace; it needs only one to make war.
>
> We cannot have peace at any price if the other party does not choose to name a price.
>
> He may prefer war at any price and refuse to give us the option.

The example of Maryland is commended to Oregon for emulation. It is time for those who desire to see their country protected against aggression by the only effective means—a sufficient Army and Navy—to set themselves apart from those who would confide our National safety to bulwarks of paper and high-flown sentiment. We have seen in the case of other nations how worthless were such bulwarks.

S. Benson is a business man and his proposal to run the city and save $1000 a day has the sound of business; but it cannot be done. There are too many laws and near-laws to be observed, too many places to be filled and too many men to fill them.

There may be something in what the osteopath says about defective walking and bad feet. The bow-legged person toes in and is not troubled by corns. But all do not become bow-legged and the "Charlie Chaplins" must continue to walk and suffer.

Germany has four millions on the battle lines and nearly three millions making munitions and quartermasters' "stuff." Every growing boy is hoping for the time when he shall be big enough, and the war is a long way from the end.

Professor G. Stanley Hall, of Clark University, has good ideas on punishment. He says spanking is best and is best done when the spanker is "warm." Delayed punishment is the essence of cruelty.

Parading Federal inspectors in handcuffs in Chicago shows the tensity of the Eastland affair, but is ridiculous. The real criminals in the disaster are likely to get away in the squabble over ethics.

Of course Mr. Bryan will not be surprised that Alton B. Parker favors National defense. He regards Mr. Parker as a reactionary plutocrat and will not grudge the additional title "jingo."

Among the State Court, the Federal Court and the Department of Commerce, Steamboat Inspectors Reid and Echlift will be fortunate if they come out of the Eastland inquiry alive.

Every time the Turks lose a thousand men on the Dardanelles they console themselves by killing a few thousand Armenians, who are always the goats.

When a man in an automobile is hurled one hundred feet by a locomotive it would seem that the iron horse was going at a pretty fast rate.

How easy it is for a man to forget his political and business grudges when he has retired with so ample a fortune as that of Thomas F. Ryan.

A red sweater is handy to put on and becoming, but is not a garment to be worn in a region where "the gentleman of the herd" is loose.

The Duma is for continuation of the war to Russian victory. The members could not be for anything else and keep out of Siberia.

One American and thirteen Mexicans were killed in the latest border brush, and the proportion of the American loss is too great.

The Bersaglieri met the Kaiserjaegers and ate 'em alive. The Bersaglieri, be it understood, are the great Italian fighters.

Any person who suffers from a deficiency of expletives should take lessons from the lawyers in the Dodge trial.

Fair Commissioner John F. Logan is as enthusiastic about the loganberry as though it had been named after him.

London has women mail carriers and women will be in all lines of active endeavor before hostilities cease.

Two women are out for the Senatorial succession in Kansas. That is much better. One would be a joke.

When Admiral Caperton has disarmed the Haytiens, they will have nothing to do but work.

The young Italians starting from here for the war zone are patriotic, but rather foolish.

They aren't blanketing the cornstalks in Iowa as yet, but there's no telling.

How about fire sales on candy and booze slightly damaged by smoke and water?

Now famine threatens that chocolate republic across the Gulf.

Germany seems ready to fight as long as she has a copper.

How dearly do all the nations love Bulgaria these days!

The British submarine now has its innings.

MARYLAND SPEAKS FOR DEFENSE

League Declares for Armed Preparedness in Ringing Declaration.

The following address to the people of Maryland has been published by the Maryland League for National Defense, which is headed by business and professional men of all parties and which was organized at a meeting of more than 200 representative men of Baltimore:

The war in which all the principal nations of the Old World are now engaged is without a parallel in history.

The military and naval forces on each side are vastly greater than any that ever before faced each other in battle on this planet.

The victor in this great conflict will, or at any rate may, possess a power of offense so great as to place any country which is not in a condition of reasonable preparedness against war entirely at his mercy.

It is not possible to foresee with any confidence what the feelings of that victor may be toward the United States of America.

Up to the present time the Government of this country has exerted its every effort to maintain an attitude of strict neutrality. We have manifested entire impartiality in our dealings with the contending powers, and yet it must be evident to all that we have not succeeded in avoiding the arousing of some very fierce antagonisms.

The truth is that in a conflict like this the neutral has no friends. It is impossible for him to have any.

This is not a war between monarchies or governments. It is a war between peoples, in which the whole people on each side believe themselves to be fighting for a just cause, for their dearest rights, and indeed for their very National existence.

One side believes that it is fighting for the "freedom of the seas," and that we, who have heretofore so often proclaimed ourselves the champion of that freedom, ought now to be on that side.

The other side believes that it is fighting for the freedom of mankind, for the preservation of civilization and the prevention of a return to methods of barbarism in war—that it is fighting our battle and that we are false to our highest duty to humanity in not coming to the rescue.

Under such circumstances, the more strictly we preserve neutrality the more likely we are to have the ill-will of the conqueror in the European struggle, whoever he may be.

It requires nothing but the exercise of the most ordinary common sense to see that we ought to be prepared to defend ourselves, if necessary, against the great power which we shall thus have aroused to anger against us.

The fact that it will not have been our fault furnishes no guarantee whatever of immunity from attack.

To illustrate: In the year 1805 Napoleon entered upon his celebrated campaign against Austria and Russia, which resulted in the complete overthrow of the combined power of those allies in the crowning victory of Austerlitz.

During that war the kingdom of Prussia remained absolutely neutral—neutral but unprepared—unprepared, at any rate, for the tremendous attack which was made upon her by the victor of Austerlitz in the following year. The attack resulted in the annihilation of the Prussian military power at Jena, the dismemberment of the kingdom, the loss of one-half of its territory and the subjection of the remainder to the condition of a dependency of France, a condition in which it remained for seven years.

The idea that we can be assured of having peace by remaining peaceful ourselves and unprepared for defense has no warrant whatever in human history.

It requires two to make peace; it needs only one to make war.

We cannot have peace at any price if the opposite party does not choose to name a price.

He may prefer war at any price and refuse to give us the option.

All military and naval authorities concur in the opinion that the United States at this time is not prepared to defend itself against an attack by any first-class power. That it ought to be so prepared is a proposition which would seem to be too plain for argument.

In order to be so prepared it will not be necessary, according to the opinion of the most competent experts, to establish or maintain a standing army of dangerous size, or to increase to any material degree the burden of taxation.

It has been demonstrated that if the money which we are already spending upon our Army and Navy were applied as judiciously as that which is now spent upon the armies and navies of France, Germany and England, we could have all the naval and military equipment which we require at very little additional expense.

A definite military or naval policy should be decided upon and put in force without delay.

Our standing Army should be of such size as those most competent to judge such matters advise to be essential for our safety, when taken in connection with the proper system of military training for our citizens.

The President has said that our main reliance in future, as in the past, must be "a citizenry trained and accustomed to arms."

There is no pretense that we have such a citizenry at this time. Manifestly it is the duty of Congress to see that there shall be no delay in taking measures to secure such training. The idea that the establishment of such a system—a thoroughly up-to-date Navy and standing Army of moderate size, backed by a vast body of citizen soldiers—men whose business is not war, but who have been trained to the use of arms so that they will be available as soldiers in case of need—is not militarism; it is simply common sense. A system of this kind will furnish the best security against war that the human wit can devise.

And there is one fact which appears to have been developed by the present war that is most encouraging to those who are desirous that our country should be insured against being exposed to the horrors of war. It seems to have been demonstrated that in war, under modern conditions, with the use of modern arms and scientific agencies of all sorts, such as the repeating rifle, machine gun, barbed-wire entanglements, aeroplane, telephone, etc., the position of the defense is so much stronger as compared with that of the offense, or attacking party, than it was in former times that it has become practically impossible to overrun any country which is in a reasonable state of preparedness against attack.

It is believed that even so small a country as Switzerland could not be successfully invaded at this time by either of the gigantic combatants except at a cost which would be practically prohibitory.

All that it would seem necessary for the United States to do, therefore, in order to secure to its people the blessing of continued peace, is to place itself in a similar condition of preparedness against attack. This has been accomplished by Switzerland without militarism in any shape or form. We are strongly disposed to believe that a system of a similar character ought to be adopted in America.

Winding Up a War-Talk.

Life.

Herr Hammerschlegel (winding up the argument)—I think you iss a stupid fool! Monsieur—And I sink you a polite gentleman; but possible, is it, we both mistaken.

Idea of a Roaring Business.

Club Fellow.

"He does a roaring business." "What's his line?" "He blows the megaphone on a sightseeing bus.

Twenty-Five Years Ago

From The Oregonian of August 4, 1890.

St. Petersburg—Danger of serious trouble in the east of Europe seems to be somewhat increased by the recent occurrences in Constantinople and the action of England in persuading the Sultan to grant berettas of investiture to the Bulgarian bishops in Macedonia. The Czar is astonished and greatly excited over the Porte's defiance of the St. Petersburg government and its utter disregard of Russia's protest against this course.

The machinery in the power-house of the Waverly-Woodstock electric motor line will be running in a few days and the superintendent expects to be ready to run cars from the foot of Morrison street to Woodstock by the 10th inst. The track is ready and the wires are strung but there have been so many delays in getting this line started that people will not believe that cars are running until they see them run.

As soon as everything is in readiness for beginning work upon the Vancouver bridge, a large force will be put at work in the Butte quarry to get out rock for the massive piers of the bridge. As the foundations of those piers will be sunk far down in the bed of the river and the piers will be large and a good many of them, a large amount of rock will be required.

Vice-President W. H. Holcomb, of the Union Pacific, is at the Portland. He is here to attend the meeting of the Northern Pacific Terminal Company, which will be held today to perfect organization.

The Willamette River claims another victim as its own. Charles Clayson, Jr., the 23-year-old son of Charles Clayson, proprietor of the Pacific Livery Stable, at the corner of Front and Salmon streets, was drowned while out swimming with two companions near Powers' furniture factory about 4:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The amount of money contributed to sufferers by the Johnstown flood and accounted for by the treasurer of the fund was $4,116,801.48. The most careful estimate made of the number of persons lost by the flood puts the total at 2142. Loss of property, as nearly as can be estimated, was $11,872,605.

The famous play, "The Old Homestead," which from its remarkable three years' run in New York has become noted in stage annals, will receive its first production in this city at the Marquam Grand tonight.

Half a Century Ago

From The Oregonian of August 4, 1865.

The loss of life occasioned by the sinking of the steamship Brother Jonathan has caused much sorrow in this community. The pain of mind produced at the loss of friends is hard to be borne at any time, but when an event as calamitous as this has been strikes down those among us who were loved and respected for their virtues, it is cause sufficient for the whole community to grieve that their earthly career was so suddenly and disastrously terminated.

The present is a most opportune period in the year for a trip to the seashore. The city is boiling with heat, dust in powder penetrates everywhere, people get sick of home, the business disposition languishes and nothing is more invigorating to the system than the thought of an excursion to the seaside.

Messrs. Haight & Newby obtained a judgment in Circuit Court yesterday for the sum of $1400 against the delectable swindler, champion Chiv. and would-be pirate—Benjamin R. Brown, Esq. Brown is at large in consequence of a loss of power to prosecute his case by repealing the late law in such a manner as not to save the clause for punishing certain offenses committed prior to May 1, 1865.

Chief Engineer Buchtel, whose diligence and promptness in attending to the duties of his office and whose suggestions, if practically carried into effect by those having the authority to do so would save much valuable property in time by prevention of fires, has lately submitted a very able report of the workings of the Portland department for the past year. It is full of interest and contains words of caution to everybody.

The circus troupe expected yesterday did not arrive on account of a detention in reaching The Dalles from Umatilla with the baggage wagons and pavilion, the party coming overland. The delay cannot be long, however, and the company will shortly appear as advertised in this city.

One of the many curs frequenting the streets of Portland was run over by a heavily loaded wagon yesterday, the wheel passing directly over his body. It was a most unfortunate circumstance that the dog was not killed.

SUCH IS LIFE.

"Hurrah!" cried the Exclamation Point,
"I'm going to start something in this quiet joint;
How stale and unprofitable reading would be
If authors should try to write without me!"

"Is that so?" the Question Mark pertly inquired.
"Either take that back or consider you're fired;
I'm the emblem of progress and 'twould be a poor world
If in it my banner were never unfurled."

Said the Colon. "That's false; all things follow me,
Wherever I am. I'm a leader—'most a colonel, you see.
It's natural, therefore, that I should feel nettled,
But it's all over now, Mr. Question, you're settled."

"'Go to', as the immortal Shakespeare so oft repeated,"
Said Quotation Mark, in a manner quite heated,
"I'm over all literature, you must agree;
If you're greater than I, you'll have to 'show me.'"

"Yes, yes, yes, you all think you're smart,
But to make reading easy is the nobler part,"
Quoth the Comma. "Though my work's never finished,
Through my efforts poor reading is greatly diminished."

"Stop right where you are," the Period said.
"Your silly contentions are hurting my head.
How you came by such notions I can't comprehend.
When you know to them all I can put an end."

Then Parenthesis rose and threw in a word,
Though his voice in the place was not often heard.
(He's pretty exclusive, you know), simply stating,
"You're tiring me quite with your envious prating."

And then—the Dash—came in—and said—"Boys"—he said—
Here he choked up a bit—"Boys—the devil—is dead,
And say—boys—when the feelings—are deep—and there's little—to say—
That's where—I—come in. Every dog—has—his day."

MARY H. FORCE.

WAY OF DOING BUSINESS WRONG

Mr. Cummings for Home Trading, but Thinks Principles Should Be Changed.

HEPPNER, Or., Aug. 1.—(To the Editor.)—I did not see A. E. Greiner's letter until last night. I know nothing about the conditions in Echo. In my former letter, I confined my remarks to my own personal experience. There are quite a number of men in Heppner that work for a day's wage. I do myself at times, and when I am working for others I have been put to much inconvenience by the Heppner stores' closing at 6 o'clock sharp. I have often remarked that if one man in each place of business would keep the place open 20 or 30 minutes it would be a great accommodation to these people.

A local editor came down last night to know who I got the bucket of and if we had used it, as merchants don't take back merchandise that has been used. I don't think it was over 20 minutes from the time I got the bucket until I took it back. I explained to the merchant that I was sent to buy a dishpan; that the boys sent me back with the bucket. I had no doubt that he would have taken the bucket back in exchange for other goods, but he positively refused. I then went up and explained to Frank Gilliam, of the firm of Gilliam & Bisbee. Mr. Gilliam sold me a large granite dishpan for 90 cents, and told me if it did not please the boys he would take it back and refund purchase price. The pan was just what was wanted, but I was compelled to keep an unused bucket I did not want.

My family is living in Portland. I have been here two and a half months. Am baching. I have paid the business men in Heppner during this time over $50. The pair of shoes of Sears-Roebuck, the leather belt my wife bought on Front street, and the two rolls of poultry netting of Jones Cash Store are all I have bought outside of Heppner during this time. My gasoline and distillate and oil, and all other supplies I have bought in Heppner. The belt and shoes could not be bought in Heppner, and I tried to buy the poultry netting here but it was priced at $5 a roll. I got the same kind of netting of Jones Cash Store, laid down in Heppner, for $3.55 a roll.

Mr. Greiner says the Echo merchants are selling as cheaply as the mail-order houses; I ask why in the name of good business don't they advertise the fact. If the Echo merchants will send me a list of the goods I need at such prices I pledge them all of my patronage. There is $100,000 and probably $200,000 sent out of Morrow County every year to pay for those things the consumer would gladly buy of the home merchant if he could buy them for nearly what he can lay them down here for. Send me placards seting forth the facts, and I will post them in the most conspicuous places. If we can't build up our own town we will make Echo famous.

Mr. Greiner says I take those things that I am sure of the prices. Practically everything I have shipped in the home merchant did not have in stock at the time. I can effect a large saving on quite everything I buy by sending off for it, but I have tried to help the home merchant, but I think the time has come when he must apply business principles.

This controversy is distasteful to me. All that I have written is absolutely true. I am not a cat's paw for any mail-order house; no person dictated any part of what I have written or knew I was going to write it.

HARRY CUMMINGS.

BUY AT HOME, ONE-SIDED POLICY

Writer Accuses His Local Merchants of Violating Principle.

HILLSBORO, Or., Aug. 2.—(To the Editor.)—As the subject of trading at home is public property I make no apology for adding a few words to the Cummings-Rowland controversy which appeared in The Oregonian Wednesday and Saturday. This is not a reply to either. To argue with a man who glibly admits that he knows nothing about the facts he disputes would be futile.

I nearly always trade at home. The theory looks good to me. But like all other questions, preaching and practicing are two different things. Now those who plead with us to trade at home or try to bluff us into it are generally looked upon by us suspicious hayseeds as hypocrites. We ask of ourselves, "Why in Sam Hill are those fellows so awfully worried about us being 'took in' by the mail order houses and seem to care so little about any other kind of bad luck that happens to us?"

Now to get right down to business. I have a friend in Washington County who told me one day of his success in getting advertising in his paper from Portland business houses. I remember especially a leading clothing house of Portland that, at his solicitation, gave him an ad. While the ad was still running he printed a "write up" in his paper condemning trading out of his home town, thus "killing," as it were, the city advertisement that he had solicited.

I have lived adjoining Hillsboro for several years. We eat baker's bread. We have two home bakeries here. I do not know either baker by name nor by sight. I like their bread. I want to patronize especially what is made at home. Every merchant in the city says that is the patriotic way. But they all sell Portland bread. Some don't handle home bread at all. I have to specify and watch or they all will put up Portland bread for me when I buy of them.

In everything else they do the same way. When they put up a building they send to the city for workmen of the mail order house price and quality, although when we buy goods at home our merchants send the larger part away to the wholesale houses, while if they would pay their money for home labor or goods the whole "wad" would stay at home.

We have three canneries, one large and two small ones, in the county, and our merchants do not try to get us consumers to buy that which is grown and put up at home; hence before they gain the confidence of us consumers, the mouth that cries "Trade and keep your money at home" must not be filled with outside products which are readily obtainable at home. In other words, get the spirit into your heart to help the other fellow and your town and the co-operation that will follow will make further need of talk unnecessary.

THOS. H. BROWN.

Notice to Vacate.

HOLBROOK, Or., Aug. 2.—(To the Editor.)—If A rents a house from B and the rent is paid until August 19 and B serves written notice on July 27 to vocate on or before September 1, under the Oregon laws must A vacate on September 1 or can he stay until September 19?

SUBSCRIBER.

"A" must vacate on September 1. Ten days' notice is all that is necessary.