The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland, Oregon, Postoffice as second-class matter.
Subscription Rates—Invariably in advance.
(By Mail.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$8.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months	4.25
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	6.00
Daily, without Sunday, six months	3.25
Daily, without Sunday, three months	1.75
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.60
Weekly, one year	1.50
Sunday, one year	3.50
Sunday and Weekly one year	3.50

(By Carrier.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	9.00
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75

How to Remit—Send postoffice money order, express order or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at sender's risk. Give postoffice address in full including county and state.

Postage Rates—12 to 14 pages, 1 cent; 16 to 22 pages, 2 cents; 24 to 30 pages, 3 cents; 32 to 40 pages, 4 cents; 42 to 48 pages, 5 cents; 50 to 60 pages, 6 cents. Foreign postage, double rates.

Eastern Business Office—Verree & Conklin, Brunswick building, New York; Verree & Conklin, Steger building, Chicago; San Francisco representative, R. J. Bidwell, 742 Market street.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1915

THE CALL OF PILGRIMAGE.

A correspondent writing to The Oregonian Sunday suggested that the thought which inspires the Ford peace party is that which inspired the men of the middle ages to go on their crusades. If the writer had likened the inspiration to the psychic contagion which impelled 100,000 children to embark on a project to "carry the cross beyond the sea and baptize the Mosiem infidels," the comparison would have been happier. In the Children's Crusade in the early part of the thirteenth century there was the same blind faith that some miracle would be performed to make their project successful, the same trust in the efficacy of a tendered olive branch to people steeped in barbarism that is noticeable on board the Oscar II.

The real crusades of the middle ages were not peaceful expeditions. Particularly during the period when the sixth crusade was preached did bishops and priests repeat the scriptural declaration, "I come not to bring peace but a sword." It was in that period that Pope Innocent crowned an appeal for the rescue of the Holy Land with the exclamation "Sword, sword, start from the scabbard and sharpen thyself to kill."

Much of the history of the Children's Crusade is clouded by the obscurity of time. Then, as now, the world was in the throes of widespread warfare. Young Frederick, of Sicily, was contesting with Otho IV for the crown of Germany; Philip of France, profiting by the weakness of King John, was engaged in recovering large parts of his realm which had long been provinces of England; holy wars were in prosecution against the Prussians and against the Saracens in Spain; Simon de Montfort was engaged in the persecution of the Albigenses.

It was in this period that Stephen of Cloyes began preaching the Children's Crusade. Stephen was not a wealthy mechanic, but a poor shepherd boy. He had no money for ships or conveyances. He told a story that Christ had appeared to him as he tended his flocks and commissioned him to rally the children to retrieve the Holy Land from the infidels.

Stephen carried his story to St. Denis, five miles north of Paris, a center of pilgrimage. Made eloquent by the fire of zeal he drew the worshippers from the tomb of Dionysius and became the saint of the day. Pilgrims told of him in other climes and children who had accompanied them became obsessed with the idea that for them was reserved the honor of rescuing the Holy Sepulchre. The contagion spread rapidly. In Germany another boy, Nicholas, assumed the role of guide and leader.

Probably 140,000 children and adults finally began the march southward. One expedition was led by Stephen from France, another by Nicholas from Germany and a third by an unknown youth from Germany. The majority of the pilgrims were about 12 years of age. Of their number many were sincere in their belief that they would reach Palestine and restore Christian rule without bloodshed. Others accompanied the expeditions for various reasons. Some of the children desired to escape parental restraint; others, fired by stories of the beauties of the East and tales of exploit, sought adventure. We may here digress long enough to observe that the composition of the Ford expedition is in a striking way similar. But Mr. Ford is doubtless not hampered, as were Stephen and Nicholas, by hangers-on, who embraced the opportunity to invade new lands and steal and pillage.

One of the promises of the boy leaders was that when the sea was reached its waters would part and that they would be able to go singing on their way to Jerusalem dry shod, just as the children of Israel escaped Pharoah between the emerald walls of the parted waters. The route of Nicholas' army lay along the Rhine, through Switzerland and over the Alps via the pass of St. Cenis. It was a tattered and decimated army that finally reached Genoa. Children had fallen from exhaustion; had been swept away by mountain streams; had been captured by barbarians, or had deserted in despair. At Genoa they were diverted by the sea which, despite faith and promises, continued to present its placid barrier. Some progressed to Rome; others turned back; many, attracted by the sunny clime, remained.

The German army under the unknown leader followed another route, and likewise diverted by the Mediterranean, pressed onward to the lower tip of Italy. Like Nicholas' army, countless children perished by the way or were taken into captivity.

But it was Stephen's army which suffered perhaps the saddest fate. This expedition made its way to Marseilles and was there halted by the smiling waters of the sea. Declining faith in Stephen was revived, however, when two merchants offered to provide ships to carry the little pilgrims to the Holy Land. The offer was received as confirmation of the promise that God would provide a way to conquer the water barrier. Seven vessels embarked one late Summer's day, carrying perhaps 5000 souls. Singing and rejoicing, they passed out of sight and hearing. Not one of the youthful multitude ever returned. The Godly merchants had betrayed them. They had sold them into slavery to the Moslems.

Two of the ships were wrecked in passage and everyone on board was drowned. None of the others was heard of for eighteen long years, and the fate of the children during that period remained a mystery. Then an aged priest, who had sailed on one of the ships, made his way back to France and told the story of their captivity. If the children ever heard of the crusades undertaken after their departure, the knowledge brought them only vain hope. As slaves they died from disease, cruelty or old age in an alien land among a people of alien faith.

It is with no expectation that the fate of the Children's Crusade will overtake the modern expedition of peace that the sad tale is related. Its recounting serves merely to illustrate that faith does not always conquer. If the Ford party is equipped with anything else it has not been revealed. There is, perhaps, a psychology in the enthusiasm with which intelligent men and women have departed upon this actually aimless journey. Inbred in human nature is the call of the pilgrimage. From Pagan days, when the notion prevailed that sacredness was localized, men have journeyed far to attain the shrines or halls of sanctity. Through the descending ages the practice has been maintained. Moderns still visit in multitudes the sanctuaries of Lourdes, La Salette and Paray-le-Monial. Organization in pilgrimage is not so common now as it was in other times, but the impulse is there. The undefined feeling that if one were only at some favored spot he might accomplish good for himself or extend aid to others surges upward from out the blood of long dead ancestors.

It was the impulse of pilgrimage brought down to them from the ages that inspired the members of Coxey's army to journey to Washington. It was the same impulse that caused women to plod to the National Capital in the interests of woman suffrage. How like the self mortification, the trouble and pains which made religious pilgrimage a pious duty and meritorious act were the hardships they invited in their journey afoot through the Winter's snow.

At The Hague a peace shrine has been erected. In point of miles it is nearer the fields of conflict than Detroit, but in the matter of accessibility to them and those who rule them it is as far away. Mr. Ford could not conceive a peace conference at the home of his automobile factory. He must take his followers to the sanctuary of The Hague. What he is going to do when he gets there he does not know. But with the faith of the children of seven centuries ago that the sea would part to give them passage on their mission, Mr. Ford rejoices in the full expectation that through the miraculous he will "carry the cross beyond the sea."

GRAMMAR BY EAR.

The Chicago papers report a feeble sensation in the educational world over the address of a New York lecturer who recommended that instruction in formal grammar be abandoned in the schools. It is a waste of valuable time, he says, for the practice of speaking good English, which is grammatical English, may be more readily and surely acquired by ear than by rule.

The pedagogic grammarian, who reduces language to system, sentences to rule and words to narrow definition, is a bore. He is worse. He is a nuisance, a foe of true vocal expression and felicitous literary thought. But grammar by ear or language by sound? Nonsense. Why not return to the old days of spelling according to individual taste?

There lies before us a valued contemporary which has a learned article on a subject of importance. A conspicuous sentence is "To we of Portland who," etc. That is grammar by sound. And we know of another well-dressed, slow-speaking gentleman who had correctly applied "have done" and "have seen" all his life until he met a very elegant lady who had learned to speak through continuous conversation with other illiterates. So he now spreads along his trail "have did" and "have saw" and he knows it is right because his lady friend sets the example, and she knows it is correct because it sounds good to her.

When every man is his own grammarian the world will be a bog of fractured speech and dislocated English, to say nothing of French, German and all the rest. We would just as soon think of learning music by ear. Sooner, for everybody knows music is no better than it sounds.

PORK ALLIED WITH PACIFISM.

The statesmen whose horizon is bounded by the selfish desires of their districts rather than by the needs of the Nation are not content with holding that which they have. They want more, even if not one dollar additional be expended on the Army and Navy. The most vociferous demand is made on behalf of waterways. The publicity bureau of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress sounds an alarm at an attempt "to defeat the whole policy of waterway improvement," and that body is to meet in Washington on December 8, 9 and 10 to make its demands on Congress. It will lay special emphasis on equal development of waterways, highways and railways as essential to prosperity and will try to catch some of the National defense wind with its sails by urging waterway and harbor improvement as indispensable to that policy. Suggested repeal of unexpended appropriations for public buildings which have not been begun has raised a storm.

Assertion that an attempt is to be made "to defeat the whole policy of waterway improvement" is not warranted by the facts. Those members of Congress who have opposed worthless schemes favor development of real waterways. Such men are Representatives Frear and Treadway.

There is also Senator Kenyon, who will continue the fight in which he has been Senator Burton's first lieutenant. The game of the pork-grabbers is to obtain the aid of those whose waterways can win on their merits by representing that all alike are attacked and that all must make common cause.

PROSPERITY NOT ALL DUE TO WAR.

The most encouraging feature of present discussion of the business situation is the statement that expansion has gone far beyond war business; that buying is now active for purely domestic use, and in the West exceeds that of 1913, the last year which was not disturbed by the war. This healthy normality of the prevailing prosperity is illustrated by the condition of the steel trade in particular.

The forward movement in that trade began with war material, but soon showed heavy demand for such steel commodities as reflect strictly domestic activity. More recently has come a notable increase in the demand for structural shapes, such as are used in bridges and buildings. This indicates a heavy demand for steel for domestic consumption, which manufacturers expect to continue after the war is closed, for the United States will be so prosperous as to spend freely while supplying material for reconstruction in Europe. Exports this year show only the normal increase for years of peace, and the largest source of new business has been the United States. Call for structural shapes is so active as to indicate much building next Spring and Summer; in fact, negotiations are now under way for material which cannot be delivered earlier. Many mills are said by the Engineering Record to be sold up to capacity for three or four months ahead, and not a few have sold their entire output until the second half of next year, while prices steadily rise. That paper advises engineers not to delay letting contracts for next year's work, lest they suffer severe penalties in the shape of high prices and loss of time.

Such prosperity in the trade which is the country's trade barometer is a sign of stability which should set at rest any misgivings as to whether the present business revival is an artificial product of the war or is a normal improvement of internal trade to which the war has merely given added impetus.

POOR MR. CARNEGIE.

Andrew Carnegie is no longer rich. The announcement comes with his eightieth birthday. He has distributed his millions in spreading education and the cause of perpetuating peace. Just at present he is not able to point to an especially bountiful harvest from his seeds of peace. But that is of little consequence. Mr. Carnegie set out to get rid of his fortune, and he has succeeded. The mere fact that all his bequests have not turned out very well is of minor consideration. Giving money away is a difficult task unless one sees fit to reimburse ruined competitors of earlier days and surely this would not be the highest order of philanthropy. Hero funds, peace movements and libraries are much more exalted and substantial.

After he had succeeded in gathering what little of the world's wealth had escaped the clutches of Rockefeller, Morgan and the Rothschilds, Mr. Carnegie set about spending his fortune. It had been great fun gathering his tons of golden eagles, but the fun of spending was even greater. He was able to turn the details over to interested humanitarians, so that he had merely to exercise a rubber O. K. stamp and sign checks. Even this kept him busy, for after one gets a few hundred millions the income is something frightful to behold. Industry without end is required to avoid the golden inundation. The pumps of philanthropy must be kept going full shift.

Soon after he had saved up enough to pay off the National indebtedness, had he seen fit, Mr. Carnegie announced that he was going to get rid of it as rapidly as possible. He proclaimed that it was simply disgraceful to die rich, an expression which has been quoted as often perhaps as anything Shakespeare ever said. Up to the present he is said to have given away $324,657,399. A neat sum. Possibly not quite enough to insure world's peace, as Mr. Carnegie had hoped fondly, and yet ample to run the present war a full week. Yet he did the best he could, for he spent his all in the goodly cause.

Today he is a poor man. He says so himself. At least he is no longer rich. He has left only a niggardly $20,000,000 to support him through his declining years. Perhaps as he surveys that slender hoard he may feel a slight measure of self-reproach at having reduced himself to such abject penury. Why not have saved enough at least to live on comfortably during the remainder of his life? But no matter. He need not worry. The world is a kindly old place and if it comes to the worst we can take up a collection for Mr. Carnegie. As the end draws nigh think of the solace he may find in the consciousness of having escaped the disgrace of dying rich.

CONGRESS.

The session of the sixty-fourth Congress which opens today promises to be given up chiefly to legislation and discussion growing out of the war. National defense, the merchant marine, increased revenue, extension of foreign commerce and protection of domestic industry against dumping by foreign competitors—all are subjects which have been brought to the front by the war. So also are the measures needed to preserve our neutrality and to punish those who commit crimes in the interest of belligerent powers. Congress is likely to give these subjects right-of-way over all domestic legislation which has no bearing on the war. Much time also will be devoted by the Senate to discussion of the President's foreign policy, particularly his handling of the German submarine, British blockade and Mexican affairs.

The fiercest legislative battle of the session promises to be fought over the ship-purchase bill and over cloture as a preliminary in the Senate. An almost united Republican opposition will be joined in both houses by a considerable number of Democrats, who will make the vote very close, if they are not numerous enough to defeat the Administration. Democratic opponents of the bill showed their strength by renominating Senator Clarke for President pro tem against the Administration forces. Their success portends a losing fight for the advocates of cloture, which is obviously designed to silence an expected filibuster against the ship-purchase bill. The battle over cloture will begin early in the session, and in it the Administration will have to contend with the proverbial conservatism of the Senate and with the fear of Democrats that any weapons which they now forge against the minority may be used against them in the next Congress.

The President will be embarrassed in his cloture and ship-purchase fight with the Republicans by the necessity of enlisting their support for his military and naval programme. There is so much Democratic opposition to that programme among the Bryan, pacifist and pork-barrel elements, that its adoption by Democratic votes alone seems impossible. It cannot have general Republican support unless its weak points are strengthened to meet criticism, especially that of the continental army scheme.

The great party battle is likely to rage over questions of revenue. Republicans will show that the deficit is due chiefly to the failure of the Underwood tariff to raise sufficient revenue and to the extravagant appropriations of the last Congress. They may be expected to demand that the deficit be made good by retaining the present sugar duty, by imposing duties on wool and lumber and by a general increase in other duties, and that not until these means have proved insufficient is Secretary McAdoo's proposed increase in the income tax justified. They may urge that funds for National defense be provided by sale of the unissued canal bonds, which would bring back to the Treasury the Republican surplus expended on the canal. As that course would bring the Democratic deficit into vivid contrast with the Republican surplus, Democrats may be expected to stand firm against bonds.

Discussion of revenue and of bills for the promotion of foreign commerce will surely bring to the front the wisdom of establishing a tariff commission. As that policy is indorsed by ninety-six per cent of the business organizations and ninety-two per cent of the newspapers and has strong support in both parties, it cannot easily be shelved, and will bulk large in the next Presidential campaign.

When each of the highly controversial subjects mentioned has received due attention, little time will remain for the host of other bills for which the Administration and various individual members stand sponsor. Though new issues may crop up at any time in this epoch of surprises, the record of the Administration promises to be made up by Congress of what is done on foreign policy, the merchant marine, the Army and Navy, foreign commerce and the revenue.

The managers of the poultry show announce that a charge will not be made for admission of children who accompany their parents. This is an educational opportunity that should not be neglected. The boy, or girl—for girls develop into the best "poultrymen"—who begins early in life by taking an interest will in time become a factor in an Oregon industry that has not fairly started its growth. There is pet stock also for their attention. Guinea pigs, rabbits and pigeons are in abundance for the naturalist in embryo.

With Christmas less than three weeks away, the head of the family wonders how he can solve the financial problem and is in despair, which is lucky, for his ideas are extravagant. The head of the household, however, is not worrying, for she knows how to make the dollar go to its farthest limit.

"Shem," said Noah, as he lit his pipe on the evening of the thirty-ninth day, "you start an umbrella store as soon as we land." And Shem, thinking of Portland, U. S. A., agreed that the old man had good busines instinct.

After having been deceived by Bulgaria, John Bull has now been deceived by the Arabs of Mesopotamia. He will soon learn to trust only to his own people, guns and ships, not to wily Orientals.

Fred Big Top, the mammoth Indian who escaped from a train on the way to Fort Leavenworth, is too big to escape recapture. An aboriginal of his size roaming in Missouri was bound to be noticed.

Anybody who eats half-cooked pork does not deserve to be afflicted with trichinosis, for to say he does is inhuman; but he plays a strong chance of getting it and dying for his temerity.

The peace plans that purport to come from the Kaiser by way of London bear but one credible point—"extermination" if they are not accepted. That word sounds like the Kaiser.

The new prohibition law is very simple, says the District Attorney, and he is right. It can be observed easily by not selling the "booze" and not buying it, principally the latter.

The disconcerting fact about the Kaiser's reported purpose to dictate terms of peace is that the allies have not asked for them and still threaten to do the dictating themselves.

Indictments of labor sluggers and grafters in Chicago tell of an effort to relieve the unions of abuses parallel to those of which anti-trust prosecutions relieve big business.

It is a rare day when a German baron is not accused of violating Uncle Sam's neutrality, but barons are as numerous in Germany as Colonels in Kentucky.

This is local election day in most Oregon municipalities, when woman awaits the opportunity to become City Treasurer. She wins, too, generally.

What's the matter with these fish hatcheries that they are short of eggs? Are the salmon beginning to molt, like hens?

Only one fact prevents Secretary Lane's ambition from reaching after the Presidency. He was born in Canada.

Signs of the times point to another election, for the candidates are getting their names in the papers.

Cheer up. Work may begin on that new postoffice before President Wilson's successor is inaugurated.

The Serbs who held back the Bulgars from Monastir will rank with the 300 Greeks of Thermopylae.

Tooze, of Oregon, and Harja, of Washington, will reach Norway in time to second the motion.

It is said that the President will have no best man at the wedding. Same old egotism.

"Out of the trenches by Christmas" is absurd. Not even Wilson could do that.

The movie films cannot get here by wireless. That is one comfort.

A baby show is not in it this week with the cattle and the chickens.

The fifty-four newspapermen are the leaven of the Oscar II.

Specialists in livestock and poultry have the floor this week.

The Municipal Court begins the holiday rush this morning.

Uneasy is the head that wears an aigrette.

How about that rockpile?

In Other Days

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian December 6, 1890.

London.—Parnell has agreed in a statement at the Nationalists' meeting, if the responsibility of getting a reasonable home rule bill through is lifted from his shoulders, to retire as a result of the trouble which has arisen over his implication in the O'Shea case. Gladstone must be pledged to home rule first, however, he maintained.

The Sioux Indians have written a letter to the "Great Father," saying they are starving and that the "Great Father" has not kept promises made to them.

Albany, N. Y.—Governor Hill, it is indicated from interviews here, is not after the Senatorship, but instead is after the Presidency.

J. R. N. Bell, it is reported, has purchased the City Hotel, at Independence, Or., and an interest in the West Shore, of Portland.

Deputy Head Consul James Ramplin, of the Modern Woodmen of America, instituted Wedfoot Camp, No. 65, at Grand Army Hall Monday night. There were 50 charter members. The following officers were installed: Venerable Consul, Captain N. S. Pierce; worthy adviser, Walter B. Struble; excellent banker, Edward Casey; clerk, C. A. Wheeler; escort, Charles Harris; watchman, W. H. O'Donnell; sentry, F. A. Rogers; physicians, Dr. G. F. Kohler and J. Hunter Wells; managers, Elmer Wheeler, Dr. R. J. Barber and Z. T. Banks; delegate, Ed Casey, and alternate, N. S. Pierce.

Gladstone uses a lead pencil 39 inches long, capped with gold where the eraser usually is, for a walking stick.

Washington.—A great many Democrats believe that Crisp, of Georgia, has a good chance of becoming Speaker of the 52d Congress.

Officials and attaches of the Woman's Refuge Home, of Portland, have made public statements with regard to certain charges made by the grand jury.

Half Century Ago.

From The Oregonian, December 6, 1865.

New York—News from Mexico says that the Republicans have gained several victories over the Imperialists in the States of Oaxaca and Michoacan. There is nothing to indicate the withdrawal of Imperialist troops, however.

President Johnson has advised the government of Mississippi that the troops will be withdrawn when in his opinion conditions warrant it.

Boston—Francis Adams, long connected with the Boston Press and lately with the Saturday Evening Express, is dead.

The board of directors of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company yesterday elected the following officers: Captain J. C. Ainsworth, president; S. G. Reed, vice-president; Theodore Wygant, secretary. Captain Ainsworth prior to the election of Colonel Ruckle was president of the company.

Colonel C. S. Lovell, of the Fourteenth United States Infantry, arrived at Vancouver a few days ago and will take command of the department. Captain Hodges, also lately arrived, will relieve Captain Weeks as department quartermaster.

The Willamette Iron Works begins operation today in its machinery department. The entire works will be in successful trim soon.

New York—The citizens of New York have nearly completed arrangements to pay off the mortgage of $30,000 on the house purchased by General Grant in Washington.

New York—The contractor of Ford's theater has finished rebuilding the building and will turn it over to the Government. It is now ready for rebel relics.

R. G. Bachelder, who returned last evening, having visited the river towns of the Columbia with Miltonian tableaux, is meeting with success. He is now en route to Australia and advertises for two exhibitions previous to leaving for Victoria.

NO TIME TO DISCHARGE EMPLOYES.

Not Season for City to Add to Suffering, Says Col. Wood.

PORTLAND, Dec. 5.—(To the Editor.)—The German social system, especially the cities, has abolished idleness and beggary and established the principle that the state or city must in some way provide employment. Why be afraid of being conquered by Germany? They might knock some of the idiotic folly out of us.

I am in receipt of almost simultaneous appeals from the Salvation Army, the Volunteers of America, and the Noble Order of Muts, of which I am an unworthy member, all saying that there are many unemployed deserving help, many families with little children in dire distress; and here in mid-Winter the great city of Portland, with millions already invested in streets, etc., is adding to the unemployed by discharging employes. Sombody will have to take care of them. Who is going to do it?

Two came to me yesterday, saying they were penniless, and one with a sick wife. Who so fit to look after them this Winter as the city for which they are already working? Why are they discharged? Presumably they were needed or they would never have been employed, but even if not needed this is no season for the city to be adding to human suffering and the burdens of private charity. Who demands this foolish and petty economy? Labor doesn't. The heavy taxpayer who supports charities has too much business sense to demand it. Who does? Would you consider it proper at my especial request to print the word "Hell?"

C. E. S. WOOD.

Size of Sturgeon.

PORTLAND, Dec. 4.—(To the Editor.)—Please give the average weight of sturgeon caught in the Columbia River, say in the years from 1888 to 1900. Is there a record of any weighing from 500 to 700 pounds? I am told there were, which seems a big fish story. READER.

Veteran fish merchants say they can arrive at no average, but the Columbia sturgeon run from 15 to 500 pounds. Works on the subject credit the white sturgeon of the Pacific Coast with attaining 600 pounds.

Miss Keller Not Dead.

MONMOUTH, Or., Dec. 4.—(To the Editor.)—I have the impression that I read in The Oregonian about the first of this year an account of the death of Helen Keller. Several people who should know tell me that I am wrong. Will you kindly inform me whether I am wrong? C. D. WATKINS.

Helen Keller is one of the delegates on the Ford peace ship.

Problem in Cribbage.

PORTLAND, Dec. 5.—(To the Editor.)—In a cribbage game A plays ace; B plays 8; A plays 5; B plays 6; A plays 7.

Does A get run of four points when B does not get run of three points?

Yes, A gets run of 4 points.

BACHELORS OUGHT TO BE TAXED.

Willing Maids Must Wait For Proposals So They Should Be Exempt.

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 4.—(To the Editor.)—Permit me to answer the best I may our very sincere advocate against "bleeding" or taxing the bachelor, that appeared November 30, in The Oregonian.

I think they should be taxed for not proposing to some "maid or merry widow," and becoming a charming benedict. We have to sit and wait until the spirit moves him to offer us his heart, hand and name. And there are not many maids or merry widows but who would gladly exchange their present condition for an average man as a husband.

I will admit that there are too many divorces, but if each one would only remember that the marriage oath is for "worse" as well as for "better," and less self pity, and more pity for the other, and if a love is not big enough to love in spite of all faults one has it certainly is not big enough to marry on.

Women are not more fond of self-sacrifice than men. All mankind is by far too selfish for that—just to escape a few dollars as taxes. There are a few undesirables in both sexes, as they are not confined by sex, condition or station in life.

But, really Mr. Adler, I believe, is afraid that his "isle of single blessedness" is in danger. Only a few more days now until it is leap year, giving all maids and merry widows the right to propose to any single man, he be a bachelor or widower. He being a chivalrous gentleman cannot well refuse. Perhaps Mr. Adler is in danger of receiving a proposal to leave that "blessed isle" early in the New Year.

MERRY WIDOW.

BUT THEY WILL HAVE GOOD TIME.

And If Peace Comes at Right Moment Ford Party Can Claim Credit.

PORTLAND, Dec. 5.—(To the Editor.)—Anent the European war and the grade school pacifiers, some of the taxpayers are wondering just how much they have been contributing in the way of salaries, etc., toward the semi-annual European junkets.

In regard to the war there is always the possibility that the "witches' broth" that the kings have brewed may suddenly cease to boil and clarify itself. Of course if any amateur peace party should happen to be there at the psychological moment its members could claim the whole credit. If not——

There was once a ne'er do well who never worked but stayed at home and let his parents support him. They were very poor and had a hard time making both ends meet. However, the young man was always hopefully looking for work and his parents had great faith in him.

One day he heard of a place in a neighboring city, but lacked the money to make the trip. Finally an acquaintance with more sympathy than judgment, loaned him $10 and he departed joyfully.

A few days later, his benefactor met him alighting from an incoming train with his face wreathed in smiles.

"Well, George," said the gentleman, "did you get a job?"

"No," was the reply, "but I had a real good time!"

The application is obvious.

SARAH HINDS WILDER.

1895 Thorburn avenue.

WHY HENRY FORD MAY SUCCEED.

His Record Shows His Ability to Build From Small Beginnings.

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 4.—(To the Editor.)—There has been a lot of talk lately about Mr. Ford's "peace ship." Why not give Mr. Ford credit for what he is trying to do? Personally, I believe that he might be successful in his undertaking and substantiate this belief in this way:

We all know that Mr. Ford began his career from a little one-horse, back-door shop to a world business that commands the attention and respect of everyone. If he is a genius, and I believe he is, to have that highly developed faculty of transforming a molehill into a mountain, then why is he not able to start his peace mission from a beginning of abuse or ridicule to a successful conclusion?

Is there not a parallel in his present work with the past?

England set up an awful howl when the news first came out, but it was the howl of a man who faces the truth and realizes that there might be success in the undertaking.

We must also admit that a certain amount of success lies with Mr. Ford. On the surface there appears to be not much success in sight, but then it is not where one starts, it is where we end, and Mr. Ford is determined.

Peace will come about as quickly as the war started. It will also come from an outside source. I predict and earnestly believe that Mr. Ford will be the means of bringing peace to the warring nations. R. C. N.

Merchant Ships in Neutral Harbors.

PORTLAND, Dec. 5.—(To the Editor.)—If the allies win in this war, what will be done with the crews, cargoes and all the vessels interned in the United States and other neutral countries. L. M. GRAY.

They will be subject to the orders of their owners. Internment as applied to a merchant vessel merely means that it has gained refuge in a neutral port pending the close of hostilities.

FORGOTTEN ISLAND.

Forgotten Island, by the Sundown Sea!
I come once more, a wanderer, to thee.
Oh, let me rest forever in thy arms,
Amidst thy witchery of wondrous charms.

Forgotten Island! Nestled here for years,
All fringed about, with cedar, elm and firs;
Oh, let me make thee my abiding place;
May no unholy vandal mar thy face.

Forgotten Island! Would that memory
Could lose itself, in that deep, restless sea
Which ebbs and flows forever in each life.
Could soothe our sorrows and allay our strife.

Forgotten Island of the Golden West!
Here shall I find that peaceful, quiet rest.
Oh, now I hide my weary self at last!
Live for the Future—and forget the Past.

Forgotten Island, where the purring brook
Flows on forever, through each shady nook,
Give me a home! where I in quiet mood
May ponder—in unbroken solitude.

Forgotten Island, where the lilies grow;
I watch the shadow ships which come and go.
They bring no message of love to me
From those beyond the murky, mystic sea.

Forgotten Island! May Forgetfulness
Blot out all memory of fond caress.
Oblivion shall cover hopes deferred;
Here shall I live unknown, unmourned, unheard.

Upon this island by the Sundown Sea,
Where Hope, and Love, and Joy and Memory
Are buried with me—on thy rock-bound shore,
Oh, let me rest in peace, forever more.

RICHARD CARTER WARINNER.

How to Keep Well.

By Dr. W. A. Evans.

(Questions pertinent to hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, if matters of general interest, will be answered in this column. Where space will not permit or the subject is not suitable, letters will be personally answered, subject to proper limitations and where a stamped, addressed envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Requests for such service cannot be answered.

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Air Pollution.

THIS is being written at 9 o'clock in the morning. The weather bureau informs me that the temperature is 42, the humidity 62, that there has been no precipitation for the last 24 hours, and the wind movement is about four miles an hour. There are no clouds above the horizon. In spite of the hour and the cloudless sky, the downtown offices, factories, and stores are lighted artifically. No desk gets enough daylight. The streets are as dark as though it was the twilight hour. It is not possible to distinguish ordinary objects half a block away. Through the smudge the sun can be seen as a fiery but cold and rayless red globe.

Nothing is gained by more details, as every city dweller has seen the picture hundreds of times. What's the reason? What does it cost and what can be done about it?

The conditions of air are such that the dust, dirt, and smoke which at other times is more evenly spread through the air over and around the city hang in the lower few hundred feet. The air is filled with a mixture of street dust, smoke, and bacteria in great concentration, and each particle acts as a condenser for a droplet of moisture. The sun's rays try to get through this filter. The reds succeed. The light-giving rays fail. The bacteria-destroying rays are stopped.

The consequence? Everybody's light bill goes up. Doctors' bills go up. Where bacteria are pouring into the air constantly the violet and ultra violet sun's rays are needed to keep things purified and wholesome. Missing them, contagion lives to be spread.

And then there is something in the way of intangible loss that is nevertheless very real. The effect of fog on vitality and spirits cannot be reckoned nor proved as testimony, but any jury would hold it to be one of those matters of common knowledge which do not require proof.

Can anything be done about it? Yes. A few years ago Pittsburg adopted a test for air pollution. It was the distance at which certain objects could be seen. Probably it is about as good a standard as we have. Judged by this standard, when Pittsburg changed its fuel the air became relatively clean. When they changed back again the air became dirty. The change related only to one source of air pollution—smoke. While smoke is the most important source of air pollution it is not the only source. Even more could have been accomplished had a stop been put to pollution by roofs, streets, and dust-producing industries.

Not Sign of Hookworm.

J. H. W., of South Carolina, writes: "Is there a simple remedy for sores and rawness under and between the toes? The affection begins with an itching sensation, the skin finally peels off and then the parts become sore. Bathing the feet in creoline water is soothing but does not readily remedy the trouble by being permanently effective. Are these symptoms of hookworm?"

REPLY.

1. No doubt you give ordinary attention to the toilet of your feet, but your feet need more than you give. When your feet are not inflamed wash them every night with soap and water. Dry between and under your toes thoroughly. Dust between the toes with a dusting powder composed of: Salicylic acid, one part; starch, four parts. When the skin is "peeled off," clean with oil and not with water. Do not wear patent leather shoes. Give your feet air as much as possible.

2. This is not a sign of hookworm.

No Danger From Clean Cat.

Mrs. C. writes: "A neighbor has a cat which sometimes comes into my house. The cat is clean and well cared for. Should I allow the cat in my house? Will it endanger my young baby?"

REPLY.

The cat will not be a source of danger to you or your baby.

In Hands of Food Faker.

E. J. N. writes: "A healer in California, who has studied in Europe, writes that 'water is more dangerous to man than any food as a clogging and hardening agent of the system.' (1) Is that that true, and (2) does the Lake Michigan water contain much lime compounds? He writes further, 'The only solvents of a permanent beneficent nature which the writer knows is buttermilk and grape juice. A systematic course of treatment with grape juice or buttermilk will open up the closed capillaries and stimulate the blood, so that even aged persons whose flesh has dried up and shrunk will again fill out and take on the look of youth, provided they are not of a too worrying, pessimistic nature, for nothing will avail against such a temperament.' (3) Have you tested this? (4) What is your opinion (5) After a long siege of illness I am now dieting largely on grapes and other foods that do not contain much 'ash,' as I understand that causes hardening of the arteries. I am 62 years old."

REPLY.

1 2 and 3. No.

4. My opinion is that you are in the hands of a food faker. Your food faker seems to have about the longest ears of any of his long-eared class.

5. Grapes are rich in ash. They are frequently prescribed for people who need more ash.

Let Nature Guide.

Father writes: "My oldest boy is 4 years. He is in good health, but is not very fat. Please advise me what to do to make him stout."

REPLY.

If he is in good health let nature take its course.

Hair and Muscular Activity.

SEATTLE, Dec. 4.—(To the Editor.)—In your editorial comments on "Baldness and Sanity" your explanation of the cause of baldness is the correct one.

I have made no investigations regarding the relation of baldness to sanity, but the cause of baldness has received my careful attention and study for years.

Like Dr. Clark, the Wisconsin scientist, whose statement inspired your editorial, I simply state the fact as shown by my investigations, to-wit, that hair does not grow where there is great activity.

As proof, have you ever seen hair grow on a woman's jaw? Dr. K.

Books

"Without the love of books the richest man is poor; but endowed with this treasure of treasures the poorest man is rich. He has wealth which no power can diminish; riches which are always increasing; possessions which the more he scatters the more they accumulate; friends who never desert him, and pleasures which never cloy."—J. A. Langford.

A timely Christmas suggestion—and the advertising in The Oregonian will guide you to the stores that sell the best books.