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 50 pages, 5 cents; 52 to 62 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, TUESDAY, DEC. 21, 1915.

DANGEROUS.

The people of Oregon may well hope that there will be prompt repudiation by him of the statement credited to a citizen of Roseburg that "the name of Justice Hughes will be on the Oregon ballot for the Presidential nomination." It does not seem possible that any citizen will propose thus to offer an affront to Justice Hughes. He has candidly said that he is not a candidate for President, and he has peremptorily demanded that his name be withdrawn from the primary ballot of Nebraska. Is not Justice Hughes' desire, or declaration, or position to be considered?

The Oregon primary law provides that any citizen may become a candidate for President, or that his name may be placed upon the ballot "upon petition of 1000 of his supporters who are registered voters in the state of Oregon in the political party to which such candidate belongs." Undoubtedly there are 1000 citizens here who have a distinct wish to see Justice Hughes a Presidential nominee; but is it conceivable that they will persist in the course that may in all probability eliminate him from present or future consideration? It will eliminate him because it may and perhaps will provoke him to eliminate himself.

If the Roseburg plan shall take definite shape, the suspicion may be justified that elimination of a powerful possibility is its real motive.

AS TO JITNEY BUSES.

The jitney bus is losing ground. There are evidences that this jolting nightmare of the organized transportation companies may disappear altogether with something of that suddenness which marked its appearance. In Washington the jitney is on its last legs, or tires, after a rough career of two years' duration. Regulation provides obstacles which cannot be met in many cases, if at all. Bonding companies are refusing to give the owners assistance in meeting the requirements unless they put up $2500 each in cash to help protect themselves in possible damage suits growing out of accidents.

Meeting the same requirements of other transportation concerns in the matter of protecting passengers is only a fair burden to place upon the jitneys. If they have not tangible assets sufficient to meet possible accident liabilities then it is only right that they be required to pledge sufficient security through bonding concerns. If the bonding concerns fail them, no one will weep if they discontinue operations.

In handling public traffic the burden of safeguarding the public is upon the transportation companies. If this responsibility is lacking then the rights and welfare of the public are at stake and should be protected by legislation. The jitney-bus industry may not impress all as an economic menace. There are plenty of patrons who do not give such considerations much weight or thought. But the element of responsibility is of the utmost importance, and unless the jitneys can solve this problem by organization, or in some other way, the end of the business should not be remote.

THE WEARING-DOWN PROCESS.

Ever since the first battle of Ypres the allies have been saying from time to time that the Teutons have passed the point of maximum power and that from that time they must grow weaker. Since that battle the Teutons have driven the Russians several hundred miles eastward and have lost little ground in the west. Italy has been added to the number of their enemies without appreciable effect on their success, but Bulgaria has been added to their forces with the result that they have advanced from the Danube to within fifty miles of the Aegean Sea.

These advances can only have been made at heavy cost in men and material—much heavier in proportion than that to each one of the allies, for the Germans and Austrians have been fighting continually on two fronts, while each of the allies has fought only on one front, the Dardanelles campaign being a side issue. The central empires must surely have their last available man in the field or in first reserves, and their losses have certainly been such that the number of youths attaining military age each year cannot have filled the gaps. France is the only one among the allies of which this can be said, for Britain has only begun during the past Summer to put her new levies in the field, and will have 2,000,000 more ready a year hence, while practically the only limit to Russia's ability to provide new armies is her ability to train and equip them. Italy's forces have suffered no reduction which a year's new levies cannot make good.

The central empires have surely foreseen this possibility and may be presumed to have done what was possible to provide against it. They have captured thousands of cannon from Russia and Serbia, adding greatly to their present preponderance of artillery and to the number of guns the allies must provide in order to gain the preponderance. They have added enormously to their number of machine guns, hoping by this means to hold trenches with a greatly thinned line of men. But with the whole neutral world as well as their own factories to draw upon, the allies can match them in this respect. The more artillery and machine guns the Teutons use, the more copper they will need for shells. When their reserve of this metal is exhausted, the mines they have captured in Serbia and Poland will not suffice to keep up their supply. They may have found a substitute for cotton in making ammunition; if not, the naval blockade has done much to defeat them. If they run short of ammunition, their superiority in artillery will avail them nothing, even should they maintain it.

A. R. Hill, in The Navy, estimates that Germany and Austria began the war with 10,500,000 men in the fighting line and that they lost in the first fifteen months 4,200,000, assuming that 25 per cent of the wounded return to the front. This is only 500,000 more than the loss admitted by Germany alone and must be below the mark, for Austria has lost more than that number in prisoners alone. Mr. Hill estimates the allies' available men at 16,844,000, and says that, if they have lost as many as the Teutons, there still remain 12,644,000 men, or nearly double the remaining Teuton army, but Russia alone has lost 4,200,000 by the admission of her War Minister. The entrance of Turkey and Bulgaria into the war is not considered a net gain to the Teutons by Mr. Hill, for it increases the extent of frontier they must defend and it leaves the allies free to attack Constantinople through Bulgaria.

If, as seems probable, the Teutons have all their forces at the front, the allies should begin to show the effect of superior numbers during the new year. New armies will be put in the field by Britain, Russia and Italy. In the absence of blunders and procrastination such as caused their reverses at the Dardanelles and in Macedonia, they should be able to force the fighting against Turkey and Bulgaria. A simultaneous attack on the French and Russian fronts would compel the Teutons to choose between yielding ground there and leaving Turkey and Bulgaria to fight their own battles unaided. Only by that course can the allies prevent their enemies from playing the see-saw game which scored spectacular success this year.

NOT FROM THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC.

"The landing of the peace expedition in Europe," says Henry Ford, "will be recorded as one of the most benevolent things the American republic ever did."

This is more than a modest disclaimer from the Detroit Don Quixote that he alone is entitled to the credit, or the blame, for the latest colossal Ford joke. It is a direct declaration that it is fathered by the American people. It is not.

The Ford argosy is the product of one man's addled benevolence. He has recruited a lot of sentimental men and emotional women, and of other adventure-seeking individuals, to go to Europe and meddle. They have been cold-shouldered by President Wilson and they have been distinctly informed that they are not wanted in any belligerent country. Yet they have set out on their impossible errand, and have arrived somewhere in Norway. As might have been expected, they have not agreed among themselves either as to their purposes or their plans. There is grim humor in the statement in an Associated Press dispatch that after prolonged discussion and general all-around dissension among them, "finally a resolution declaring that the delegates were unanimous for peace in Europe was adopted."

The American people are disposed to treat the Ford junket lightly—as a sort of joke on Ford, who foots the bills, on Europe, and on themselves. But it has a serious aspect, which is that Europe regards the whole fantastic scheme as but another ebullition of the incorrigible American spirit and temper. What will those fool Americans do next? they ask.

EDUCATIONAL CRITICISM.

The Oregonian rather suspects that the correspondent who writes from Cathlamet complaining of the criticisms of The Oregonian on educational topics is himself a pedagogue. It may well be surmised that complaint that The Oregonian, or any other public critic, is not an expert in pedagogy would not come from any other source.

But we are not ready to admit the gentle impeachment. We know quite enough about pedagogy and pedagogues. At least one of them has read The Oregonian with so little understanding that he fancies that its criticisms are always destructive, and not constructive.

It is the function of a newspaper to criticise. If its criticisms can be constructive, well and good; if not, also well and good—if criticism is deserved. In any event, a newspaper ought to say what it thinks about the merits or demerits of any public question or public institution. It happens that one of the two articles mentioned by our Cathlamet educator was in approval of an innovation introduced in the New York public schools to correct the defective speech of certain pupils; and the other was to express doubt about the practicability or wisdom of a suggestion by ex-President Taft that there be a federalized bureaucracy for the purpose of coordinating the work of the schools in the various states. If such comments are not helpful, appreciative, discriminating and upbuilding, The Oregonian would like to know what are.

It is not easy to answer what The Oregonian would offer in the way of "sweeping changes" in order to make the public schools efficient. Not sweeping changes, perhaps. But an ideal may be sought; it will never be attained, nor even approximated, without ceaseless effort, varied experience, profound study, unselfish leadership—all attended by sound criticism.

EXIT VILLA.

It is never safe to speculate upon just when or where the bandit Villa is going to turn up next, but leaving aside mere matters of detail, his present condition is a precarious one. A year ago the popular hero of Mexico, with the presidency his for the asking, he is now reduced to the state of a man without following, home or country. The triumphant Villa of a few months ago stands out in tragic contrast with the broken Villa hovering about the Mexican border, fearing to venture into the United States without assurances of protection and fearing to turn back into his own country where he no longer is welcome among his troops.

Carranza, flushed by minor military successes and American recognition, declines to grant amnesty to his erstwhile ally and later foe. The others are welcome to enter the Carranza camp; but not Villa. Hence it is a tribute to Villa's sound sense that he seeks an asylum in the United States. Now that his power has been broken, he must know all too well what fate he can expect in Mexico. A firing squad or a stiletto thrust in his back.

In the United States, when a man's political enemies gain the upper hand, they are content with eliminating him from his post. But the Mexican point of view is quite different. There a leader is never entirely broken until he is done away with. The wounds of vituperation do not serve. It takes a knife thrust to close the incident.

CAN IT BE DONE?

The National Short Ballot Organization has favored us with a copy of the application of Mr. Walter Kruesi for the position of city manager at Niagara Falls. It has been reproduced and distributed because it represents "in a concrete way the new atmosphere in cities reorganized under the commission-manager system."

In this application, Mr. Kruesi indicates with considerable enthusiasm how he would approach local problems, and from such exposition of his ideas we glean the following:

> The city should hire no one on any basis other than merit. Politics must be rooted out and every citizen have entire equality of opportunity and tenure of office in accordance with demonstrated and recorded fitness and faithfulness to duty. The city should not only be a model employer in a careful selection of its employes, but in maintaining their value and in just and fair treatment.

Certainly a noble sentiment, but one difficult to put into practice. A change to the commissioner-manager system generally leaves the entire city organization intact, except for the head. The manager takes control of a corps of employes already provided for him. Some are there because of influence. The commissioners who employ the manager are not, cannot be, under any system of popular election yet devised, wholly free from susceptibility to the power of offended voters. The difficulties confronting the ideal are obvious.

There is one distinction between municipal and private corporations generally overlooked. The chief thought in mind when stockholders elect directors in a private corporation is the profitable conduct of the business. In a municipal corporation election the main interest is generally in the personality of the candidates for office. In Ashtabula, however, where they have proportional election together with the commission-manager plan, the business welfare of the corporation is subordinated to the purpose to give employments, religions, nationalities, political parties and other divisions of the body politic representation in the City Council. The election of one Ashtabula newspaper over the election is not that economy and efficiency are now to prevail but that "the Protestants, the Catholics, the business, professional and laboring men, the Republicans, Democrats, Swedes and Italians, are all represented."

Conceding again that Mr. Kruesi's ideal is worthy, we would not wish him the ill-luck of trying to put it into effect in Ashtabula. And recent events indicate that he would be promptly investigated or have his salary reduced if he tried to do so in Portland. But perhaps human nature is different in Niagara Falls.

A PARADOX IN WAR FINANCE.

By a most ingenious process of reasoning, Theodore H. Price, in an address before the Western Economic Society at Chicago, reached the seemingly paradoxical conclusion that borrowing to pay war expenses has increased the supply of banking credit, lowered interest and enhanced the price of securities. He even ventures the opinion that this condition is not merely temporary for the period of the war, but will continue during peace times.

Mr. Price says that, though the nations at war have increased their debt by about $17,252,000,000, discount rates have remained low, bank deposits in Great Britain and the United States have increased about 20 per cent and the gold stocks of the government banks of Europe have grown, in spite of exports to the United States. Prices of bonds and stocks have risen at the same time in conformity with economic law.

Increase in bank deposits and decline in interest rates contemporaneously with enormous governmental borrowing he terms a paradox, which prompts him to ask whether the increase of national debts enhances the supply of credit and to say that "this seems to be precisely what has happened thus far during the present war." He says "we should reconstruct our ideas with regard to the character of a National debt" in order to understand what has happened. He thus defines it:

> It is essentially a capitalization of the National wealth or resources, and as long as the interest for which it calls is not in excess of the taxes that can be collected from the pledger Nation, it supplies a stable basis for credit that can be expanded almost indefinitely.

The proceeds of Government loans go to swell bank deposits. Bank reserves are "simply a psychological protection against panics," and in practice a bank needs only $1800 cash in order to make a loan of $10,000, though that loan swells the totals of both deposits and loans by its full amount. Apply the same rule to war loans totaling billions, and we can understand "why loans and deposits have increased so enormously" and why interest rates have fallen. Resources have been mobilized also by reduction of reserves, both in the United States and Europe, by voluntary surrender of gold to the banks in Europe and by popular acceptance of notes as money. Prices of securities, both during and after the war, depend on the interest rate, which in turn "seems to depend on the ability of the borrowing nations to support the integrity of their obligations." These nations "believe themselves to be solvent, and apparently are solvent." Hence "the financial experience of this war has carried us into what may be described as the fourth dimension of credit."

In considering the economic effects of the war, Mr. Price says:

> We all assumed that it would lead to the general hoarding of gold, and that enormous loans would speedily absorb all the disengaged capital and advance interest rates to impossible figures.

"We overlooked the stupendous increase in wealth during the last hundred years," he adds, "the effect of the use of checks in place of real money and the confidence bred by the solidarity of banks which has reduced reserves." In such a situation he holds "that all the world's wealth, if safely capitalized, might be used as a basis for loans and that the mobility and efficiency of what we now call fixed capital would be immensely increased."

The "fourth dimension of credit" would then apply, for the war has brought us nearer to a "reserveless" banking system under which "the only restrictions upon the expansion of loans would be the value of the property pledged and the interest-paying ability of the pledgor."

He then applies these tests to see whether we have reached the limit of the immense expansion of credit which has occurred since the war began, and takes the case of Britain as typical. At the close of the Napoleonic war that country's debt was nearly three times its annual national income and the interest was one-fifth of the income. This burden bore so lightly that Britain's population has increased from 20,000,000 to 47,000,000, its income has multiplied eight times and it has reduced the debt by $895,000,000, though it has fought many wars in the interim. The population and wealth of the colonies have immensely increased and one-fourth of the world's inhabitants live under the British flag and are helping to fight and pay for the war. It is estimated that by March 31, 1916, the British debt will be $21,000,000,000, or less than one year's income, against national wealth of $85,000,000,000, and the interest will be only one-tenth of the national income, as compared with one-fifth in 1815. Mr. Price's conclusion is:

> Great Britain has not yet approached the limit of her debt-supporting ability, and when the ponderous stability and coherence of her present banking organization are taken into consideration we are safe in assuming that a National debt of even four or five billion pounds sterling would be relatively lighter than the burden she assumed in ridding the world of the Corsican scourge.
>
> Approximately the same statement will apply to all the Nations at war.

Even if the war lasts two years longer, he says, the war debts will not prove insupportable and are likely to make for lower interest rates and higher prices for securities. The exigencies of war, in his opinion, "are leading to an extension of credit such as would not have been possible in peace," and which "is doing good, because huge masses of fixed capital are thereby made productive, and are circulating with the increased velocity that always quickens enterprise and accelerates the wheels of industry."

He says further:

> All the precedents of history indicate that accelerated activity will come with peace and continue until the exuberance of success has led men to build faster than the world has grown and to demand credit upon the basis of future rather than of present values.

It seems paradoxical to say that credit, as a substitute for money, can become more abundant when nations mortgage themselves, "blow in" the borrowed money in war and assume a seemingly perpetual annual burden for interest. The abundance of money thus produced resembles the flushness of a man who mortgages his property and squanders the money instead of investing it. He is liable for interest, but lacks his former means of earning it. Were the transformation of fixed capital into liquid capital made for the purpose of using it in productive enterprise, it would be of benefit, but it is difficult to conceive how mankind can profit by the absolute destruction of so much wealth.

The private dwelling may be said to express the tastes and individuality of its owner. It is particularly true that the residential sections of a city express the character of the people. If that city is one great array of brown and gray apartments, then there must be a falling away of individuality, a tendency to sameness and a disregard of those tender delights which belong to the home with its lawns and flowers, where children and grown-ups may romp and play hand in hand with Nature. Portland, being a city of private dwellings, can understand these delights, and sense a pity for those cities that are trading away their birthright of homes for restricted and soulless dominions.

If we should have a war with Austria, we could send our whole army to help Italy in taking Trent, but it would not amount to as much as the Belgian army on the western front. The only other way we could get at Austria would be by sending our fleet to help the blockade of the Adriatic ports. That blockade has not been a startling success, for ships come out occasionally and bombard Italian or Montenegrin ports. Austria is so inaccessible that she may say "Pooh, pooh!" to us.

Abandonment of the Dardanelles campaign is a bitter pill for the British to swallow. It has several parallels in British history, one of which—the withdrawal from Spain after the defeat and death of Sir John Moore at Corunna—has been immortalized in verse.

When a Greek sees a Bulgar, it seems impossible to prevent him from fighting. All the allies need to do is to "sick 'em on" and they will fight, regardless of King and statesmen.

Judge Stevenson's tentative ruling yesterday that a husband can compel a wife to pray for a neighbor's corn (on the foot, not on the cob) should go to a much higher court.

By threatening to refine radium, the Government has put as great a damper on that business as its shipping bill has put on the expansion of the shipping business.

In Georgia Sunday a Sheriff died from wounds received in a battle with negroes. The next installment will contain the news of a fatal epidemic among the blacks.

Dropping into the political phase of the thing, what would Soloman have done when several of his wives simultaneously went into hysterics?

One of the best suggestions of "preparedness" is found in the news of flight of half a million Serbians into snow-covered mountains.

Another fool man, at Centralia this time, has been given sixty days for drawing a gun, and he goes to jail rather than the asylum.

If some of the rabbits killed in the Central Oregon drives could be sent to the Serbian refugees they would be devoured with avidity.

There is danger under the umbrella, especially on the crossings of streets that are very wet just now. In vigilance lies safety.

Possibly Jupiter Pluvius, Boreas and Santa Claus are standing in for a demonstration of the proper Christmas weather.

The cows in Eastern Multnomah must wear their horns straight, with a county agent to watch them.

Are there any eyebeams elsewhere that are crystallizing to cause a disaster like that in Spokane?

Christmas is just right this year for those who would go home for the holiday.

The snow is in the Grande Ronde and that means a ripping big crop.

Copenhagen barely gives Henry Ford standing room.

WINTER IDLE FOR ARMY RECRUITS

Provisional Battalions Composed of Unemployed Suggested.

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—In regard to the enlargement of the United States Army, I wish to state that one means of securing a great number of trained men for military service in case of need would be to have provisional battalions or U. S. constabulary comprised of the unemployed men. All our large cities each Winter become overrun with idle men who ofttimes have to depend upon the generosity of the public and charitable institutions to live through the Winter. This is demoralizing in several ways. Now, if the Government would enlist and train these idle men for military service it would relieve the large cities from a trying burden and be a boon to the men themselves, as they would be earning their way, which every man should do.

These men would also profit in other ways. They could be taught to read and write where cases of illiteracy occurred, and also cleanliness and military discipline. We would all profit by this arrangement. The Government would have trained soldiers and better citizens. The men themselves would have good quarters, food and clothing, with training which in numbers of instances would be of individual value, and these things would have been earned by their own efforts. The cities would be freed of great numbers of idlers.

I think this plan is quite feasible, as the present citizen-soldiery — the militia—are men who are engaged in various occupations during the day and report for drill one night each week, and in time they make soldiers of reasonably good caliber.

I am an ex-soldier of the United States Army myself, and a veteran of the Spanish war. I was a non-commissioned officer and had men under me who had lived hard lives previous to their military service. They made good soldiers, and I feel satisfied that the military discipline and training were means of bettering their lot. These battalions could be recruited in the Fall each year, and the men could receive from five to six months of military training, which is sufficient for infantry service. J. A. M.

NO HELP IS SEEN IN CRITICISMS

Writer Thinks They Should Be Accompanied by Constructive Suggestions.

CATHLAMET, Wash., Dec. 19.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian has always taken a keen interest in educational matters, and almost daily we see such editorials as "Training the Tongue," "Educational Shortcomings," and so on, discussed in a very pleasing manner, but somehow lacking in pedagogy. The editorials in nature have been criticisms directed against our present school system and its management, with not one suggestion for its betterment.

The trend of the age is toward criticism. People criticise institutions and acts without suggesting what could be substituted in their place that they might be improved. The writer is desirous of learning from the standpoint of the daily newspaper what reforms could be brought about in the present-day school which would increase its efficiency, and make it an organ which would better serve society.

It is an admitted fact that the press, which is the most powerful agent in molding public opinion and advancing the best interests of society, lacks the proper insight when it comes to discussing educational problems.

I have read many editorials in which you devote much space to wrangling over how such words as "through," "pheasant" and the like should be spelled and pronounced. It is inept to criticise the mechanics of any one branch of learning, for it is "thought" which we are after. You devote much space to the editorial, "Training the Tongue," as though the tongue were the ruling spirit of the body. You should have spent that time and space on dealing with "mind training." In the editorial, "Educational Shortcomings," we would ask what sweeping changes you would make in order that the school might be brought to an efficient state—the Utopian school.

J. B. SMITH.

CHRISTMAS AT DEVIL CANYON.

The hot discussion started when ol'
Arizona White,
Havin' reference to Chris'mus, said'twas
nothin' more'n right
Fur to celebrate the 'casion in a patriotic way
When Gineral George Washington fust
saw the light o' day.
Then Brocky Bill retorted in a rather
scornful style
That sich a lack o' knowledge made
him feel inclined to smile,
That Chris'mus, as he saw it, was to
honor the event
When Chris Columbus landed on this
Yankee continent.

Arizona up an' answered in a snappy
sort o' way
That Brocky's information wouldn't
stand a close assay,
An' then Missoury said 'at he could
prove by day an' date
That Chris'mus was named after ol'
Chris Kringle—that was straight.
This brought the scornful ha-ha from
the lungs o' Whisky Bill,
Who said it marked the battle that
war fit at Bunker Hill,
An' so the argufyin' got a start, an'
after awhile
The fists begun a-flyin' in the hottest
sort o' style.

A finer bit o' scrappin' Devil Canyon
never saw,
Arizona's nose war busted, which the
same war Brocky's jaw,
An' you'd ort to seed Missoury's grand
display o' damaged eyes—
They was bunged an' lassyrated an' a
whole lot oversize.
When the battle had subsided an' the
stove put back in place
Doctor Jim, as takes a paper, said we
all war off our base;
That the day war celebrated by command of Uncle Sam
As the day that Gineral Jackson
throwed it into Packenham.

This official presentation started up the
talk agin,
But about that time the parson's little
daughter happened in
On a hunt to find the doctor, an' Missoury asked o' her,
In a sort o' jokin' manner, if she
knowed what Chris'mus war.
Then she told a Bible story in a childish
sort o' way,
Got to slingin' childish preachin', an'
right here I want to say
When she eased up on her talkin' you
kin bet a stack o' reds
That a shameder lot o' sinners never
hung their cussed heads.

—JAMES BARTON ADAMS.

Manufacture of Toilet Articles.

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly let me know if there is any law or regulation to be complied with before I can manufacture and put on sale by agents a toilet article for which I have the formula. Do agents have to have a license and what is the cost of it? T. J.

Manufacturing is encouraged by the City of Portland and no license is required by the city authorities. A license of $5 a week is imposed for each and every salesman who solicits orders and delivers the articles immediately. The license bureau, before the issuance of a license, has the discretionary power to pass upon the merit and value of the articles, whether they are as advertised and alleged to be.

ENGLAND NOT DONE GOOD TURN

Munitions Trade Bankrupting That Country in Hopeless Cause.

CLACKAMAS, Or., Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I have read the communication from ex-Governor Geer and the editor's interesting reply thereto. I agree with Governor Geer's viewpoint that the United States should have placed an embargo on arms and ammunition at the very commencement of the war. We are committing a great moral wrong and sooner or later it will react on us.

In this connection will say most of the ally sympathizers in this country imagine that America is doing England a good turn in providing her with munitions of war, but let's look into this subject a little closer and see if that is the case. American bankers and manufacturers are making fabulous profits out of England and her allies' war orders. Naturally these interests look with favor upon a continuance of the war so long as their war-crazed customers can pay for their purchases.

The war is costing Britain $25,000,000 per day and a good part of it goes to America and other neutral countries for supplies. England is now mobilizing American securities held in England. Stated in plain terms, England is forcing her people to turn in good American securities and exchange same for war bonds. With these securities she will hereafter pay for her purchases in America. Of course in due time this supply will be exhausted, and with it England's credit. No more money and credit means no more war supplies. American bankers and manufacturers are merely relieving England of her wealth and she seems war crazed enough to fall for it. This whole thing is but a coldblooded business proposition. There is no sentimentalism about it, as some would have us believe. Herein Germany has a distinct advantage over her enemies. She perforce depends upon her own resources and can keep on issuing war bonds indefinitely and force her people to absorb them.

As the situation now stands no informed, unprejudiced person will contend that the allies can crush the central powers. France and Italy have proven themselves incapable of doing anything effective, Russia is hopelessly defeated and it may be assumed that with the opening of Spring the Austro-Germans' drive, probably augmented by Roumania and Sweden, will be resumed and Russia crushed. England cannot reasonably be expected to maintain an open sea, finance the allies and besides do the fighting on land. Considered from all sides, about the wisest course for England would be to get from under, and the quicker the better, and she should not be overscrupulous what happens to her incompetent allies. The following lines from Chaucer are applicable to nations as well as individuals:

> He who flatters thee
> Is no friend in misery.
> Everyone will be thy friend
> Whilst thou hast wherewith to spend.
> But if thy store of crowns be scant
> Quickly they will look askance.
> Those who fawned on your before
> Will seek your company no more.

M. V. HOWARD.

EUROPEAN WAR NOT CAUSELESS

It Is Result of Attempting to Govern Without Governed's Consent.

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Mr. Reed, in his lecture before the Civic League December 18, began his talk with the statement that the war now raging in Europe was causeless, senseless and purposeless. I presume we have had like statements hundreds of times before. Now is this true? Is it likely that several millions of men would be fighting desperately for longer than a year without cause or purpose? Is it likely the Governments of seven leading countries in Europe would continue this war 16 months at the cost of billions of money and millions of lives without cause or purpose?

In the columns of The Oregonian the statement has appeared several times that the Holy Alliance, a hundred years ago, divided Europe geographically without regard to what we call the consent of the governed. This war is an attempt at national re-adjustment.

The lower we go in the scale of civilization the more fiercely men fight for personal freedom and priviliges. Mr. Ladd, Mr. Wilcox and their kind are willing to subordinate their personal right to Governmental control. Not so the digger Indian or the Apache. He prefers to fight personally for his rights. But the deputed form of Government under which we live we trace back to the consent of the governed. This is something a large part of the population of Europe have not had. The war will, or should, continue until they get it.

There are 60,000,000 of people in Europe without political rights; Poles, Bohemians, Croats, Celts, Servians, Belgians, Alsatians and others. Beside the racial problem there are economic questions to be settled. And yet people say there is no cause for the war. THOMAS M. ANDERSON.

Duty to Help One Side.

HILLSDALE, Or., Dec. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Allow me to thank you for the able manner in which you have answered T. T. Geer, and may I be permitted to add that I am quite convinced it is our duty to supply Great Britain with all the munitions she asks us for.

Great Britain has been fighting since she fired the first shot into the Germans for institutions which we are proud of and hold dear. We all know, but sometimes we do not like to admit, that the British House of Commons is the most democratic government agency in the world. We all know what the mailed fist would do with it if it could.

We have evidences a-plenty of what the same mailed fist would do to us if it got the opportunity. From my point of view these people who would put an embargo on the helping hand we are giving the allies are aiding and abetting such terrible murder as the Ancona affair.

I would like to ask, have the munitions made in the United States ever been guilty of such dastardly exploits as killing babies and drowning women on the high seas?

We know where the munitions are coming from that do things that way.

I take it that every pound of powder and inch of gun the allies get from us help to free the world of the mailed fist. WILLIAM VILES.

If Mr. Viles thinks The Oregonian defends or excuses trade in war munitions on the theory that we have a duty to aid Great Britain to attain victory, he is mistaken. It merely protests against overthrow of established laws of neutrality and finds itself unable to perceive how an embargo would save lives in the aggregate or do aught but make losses disproportionate.

Meat Inspection Litigation.

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—I am a stranger in your city and have been reading the recent account of trichinosis, and the dreadful calamity resulting from it was astounding, if there was a city meat inspector.

If you have one, what has he been doing to prevent such from being in the markets? Surely the city is able to have this very valuable officer for the protection of its citizens. H. SINCLAIR.

A meat inspection ordinance was passed by the City Council and contested by certain meat dealers. The case is now on appeal to the State Supreme Court.

In Other Days

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of December 21, 1890.

Mayor De Lashmutt in common with other breeders and owners of valuable horses views with concern the delay which is apparent in starting a move toward establishing a first-class race track near Portland. To an Oregonian reporter he said yesterday that he has a tract of land all cleared near Beaverton that he would assist in making into a race track.

J. Gales Holcombe, an engineer who has passed three years on the Nicaragua canal, is now in Portland, and has come out to this Coast to enter the service of the Government under Captain T. W. Symons. Mr. Holcombe, with his charming young wife, is at present stopping at Frindle's, corner of Eleventh and Morrison streets.

Company E, First Regiment, Oregon National Guard, held an election at the Armory Friday evening last to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Lieutenants Hirsch and Esplin. C. E. Morgan was elected first and J. T. Moores second lieutenant.

The Pavilion Club will give its first grand promenade and masque ball at the Mechanics Pavilion on Christmas night. The Marine Band has arranged a special concert programme.

Bids for the construction of the grand union station on the terminal grounds will be received at the office of the architects, Banbrant & Howe, Kansas City, up to the 25th of December.

Fifty Years Ago Today.

From The Oregonian of December 21, 1865.

Quite a large audience was in attendance, notwithstanding the stormy evening, to hear Judge Deady lecture on "Politics and the Pulpit."

Yesterday at 10:30 A. M. the steamer Fannie Troup under command of Captain Turnbull, well provisioned and equipped, undertook to overcome the tremendous difficulties of navigation between this point and Vancouver, which nature in her harsher mood has interposed. After a delay of a few minutes at Springville we steamed on and soon reached the Columbia River. We found an opening direct across from the Willamette to the territory shore and on either side ice varying from six inches to a foot in thickness with no less than 10 inches of snow upon it. Reaching the Washington shore we exchanged passengers and freight and returned not without much difficulty, however, for the ice closed in behind the Fannie Troup.

Passing St. Johns the other day we had an opportunity to get a peep at the flourishing place which has sprung up very rapidly into some considerable proportions of late, chiefly owing to the improvements of the Pacific Barrel Factory there. O. B. Severance, superintendent of the works, informs us that they are making 250 barrels a day.

The steamer Cascade which left at noon on Tuesday for Astoria with Wells, Fargo & Company's express, some few passengers and a quantity of freight for the California steamer failed to go through and returned at noon yesterday. Captain Wolf reports the ice very dangerous below St. Helens.

Yesterday the sleighing was excellent. About as much snow fell during the night of Tuesday as for the night previous which made the roads excellent.

CHRISTMAS LULLABY.

There's a song ever old, yet new,
And it reaches the hearts of men;
'Twas baby's song from mother's heart,
In the manger at Bethlehem.

The flocks were herded; it was night
When its melody rang afar
Along the hills of Galilee,
Beneath each shining, radiant star.

The shepherds listened in surprise;
Brightly the stars shone out above,
When, like a blessing over all,
Came this sweet song of mother love.

And its melody reacheth far,
To those in bondage and the free;
To those who dwell near mountain top,
And the toilers upon the sea.

And may its gladness ever keep
Pure and true in the hearts of men,
As when its message first rang out,
At midnight o'er fair Bethlehem.

—JUNE M'MILLAN ORDWAY.

Possession of Intoxicants.

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—After January 1, 1916, does the law allow a person to have for personal use more than two quarts of liquor in his possession at any time? LAW ABIDING CITIZEN.

Mere possession of a larger quantity will not be unlawful. That is, a person may stock up now in any quantity for individual use next year. The law prohibits the importation by any individual after January 1 of more than two quarts of ardent or vinous liquors or (not and) 24 quarts of malt liquors in any four weeks. A person may import the maximum every four weeks even though part or all of his previous shipments has not been consumed. Liquors may be stored, however, only in a private dwelling-house not used in connection with a place of business.

Qualifications for Presidency.

RIDGEFIELD, Wash., Dec. 19.—(To the Editor)—(1) When I went to school, 42 years ago, they told no one could be President of the United States until after the third generation. Now, I read in different papers that President Wilson's mother was born in England, as were all his grandparents. Please explain.

(2) What does the G. O. P. on the Republican elephant stand for? P. S.

(1) Your teachers misinformed you. Any natural-born citizen of the United States 35 years of age or older is qualified to become President.

(2) Grand Old Party.

Talk With a Poet.

Puck.

The Poet—"Now I know what is meant by the poetry of motion. These poems are it." His Wife—"How so, Tupper?" The Poet—"They have been going the rounds of the editors for two years."

At a Training Camp.

London Punch.

Near British training camp.—Sentry—"Halt! Who goes there?" Rustic—"Friend!" Sentry—"Pass, friend. All's well." Rustic—"Thankee, sir. I'm sorry to 'ave woke' ee, sir."

Only Three Days More

Too late now to do you shopping early.

But still time to do it well and make your list complete.

Minutes count now. The stores are busy and short cuts are imperative.

What a satisfaction to have a shopper's guide like the advertising in The Oregonian!

Make out your lists with its aid. Go directly to the right store.

Fill your wants with comparative comfort and be ready to enjoy a merry Christmas.