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PORTLAND, MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1915

MILITARISM AND DEFENSE.

In asking: "Can militarism be denatured for the use of a democracy?" the Springfield Republican assumes that the training of all the manhood of a nation to arms is militarism, regardless of the purpose and of the use to which the armed force is put. The essence of militarism is its purpose and application. France as well as Germany has conscription, but, when war threatened, France drew back her troops a kilometer from the frontier, thus emphasizing their defensive use. The French purpose was not militarist.

Both France and Switzerland are examples of nations which have adopted compulsory service without destroying democracy. Cannot the United States do likewise?

The purpose of our public schools is to equip the young for their duty as citizens, but the young men of the Nation are not fully equipped for that duty unless they have been trained to defend their country as well as to do their part in times of peace. Compulsory service would take young men in hand at the age when they too often become boisterous corner loafers and it would give them discipline. To this the Republican objects:

> Discipline, competition, subordination, the virtues which the militarist praises as "the cheap defense of nations" are the very things which the founders of this Nation feared and distrusted as hostile to the spirit of liberty.

Referring to the radical transformation which compulsory service has made in the German people, for which two generations sufficed, the Republican quotes Dr. Brandes as saying:

> In the Germany of today the highest virtues, truthfulness, independence, high spirit and sensitiveness are of much less account than dutifulness, correctness, social discipline, military smartness.

If subordination of the higher to the lesser virtues be the consequence of compulsory service, which the Republican confounds with militarism, why is not the same consequence observable in France, Switzerland and Australia? Because the democratic countries named have aimed only to assist the exercise of the higher virtues by supplying a new means therefor. The Republican also says:

> It is useless for militarists to look for a transformation of the American people to their ideal unless the iron pressure of events imposes such a change from outside. Their problem is to take the American people as it is and see what can be done with it for purposes of defense.

Here again is confusion of the defensive purpose of French and Swiss preparedness with the aggressive purpose of militarism. The American people are intelligent enough to recognize the distinction and to act as France and Switzerland have acted. If they wait till "the iron pressure of events imposes such a change from the outside" they will be too late, for events move swiftly in modern wars and give an unprepared nation no time to get ready.

OUR INCOMPETENT GOVERNMENT.

President Wilson said in a recent speech that "the only legitimate object of organization is efficiency. It can never be legitimate when it is intended for hostile competitive purposes." The President's subordinates are accused by the New York Times of making war on efficiency when they attack combinations as violative of the anti-trust law for no other reason than possession of power to do harm, no matter whether the acts of the combination are harmful or not. President Taft stated a sound principle on this subject when he said that, when the necessary result of combination was monopoly power it was fair to presume the purpose of combining to be the possession and exercise of that power.

A regulatory body might be trusted to discriminate between acts of a combination beneficial and harmful to the public if it were itself efficient. The strongest argument against further extension of Government regulation of business is the notorious inefficiency of the Government itself. Samuel O. Dunn, editor of the Railway Age Gazette, stated this argument briefly in a recent address before the Transportation Club, of Louisville, Ky. Investigating commissions have criticised the workings of the departments at Washington as "extremely unbusinesslike." The worst example is the Postoffice Department. A committee of experts in 1908 reported 142 "specific vital defects," but no improvement has been made. The joint committee on railway mail pay criticised the department for inability to furnish statistics regarding its operation and for trying to reduce railway mail pay below a reasonable basis, but no more information has become available, and the department still presses the Hull railway mail pay bill. Another congressional commission has condemned the entire administration of the parcel post.

In the regulation of business experts are appointed on commissions, and the operation of the law is one-sided and slow. For example, in regulation of railroad rates advances are made very reluctantly and with far less promptness than reductions, though changes in either direction should promptly follow changes in governing conditions. Class legislation is passed for political purposes by men who accuse business men of dishonesty, though their own action is essentially dishonest. Unlike Germany, the United States regulates business destructively, not constructively. It forbids men to do things it deems hurtful but does not encourage or help them to do other things which it deems helpful.

Before the Government can be trusted with any further control over business or with any additional functions, the entire machine should be completely overhauled by a body of those very business experts whom the orators in Congress denounce. When the Government itself has become efficient, it will be in a position to promote the efficiency of private business. The newspapers have harped on this subject in vain for years, but now that direct taxes promise to become permanent, the people may awaken to its importance and may compel action. They will wish to know where every dollar goes and what they get for it.

WHITMAN'S MONUMENTS.

On the supposition that E. Alexander Powell, whose new Whitman myth was discussed by Addison Bennett in the Sunday Oregonian, visited Walla Walla before he wrote his magazine article; it may be assumed that he is devoted to two fairly general customs. One is that of avoiding burial grounds unless one's friends or relatives repose there; the other that of erecting the most conspicuous memorials where the fewest persons are likely to see them.

Mr. Powell was in error when he stated that Whitman's grave is designated only by a headstone surrounded by a picket fence. Yet the tall marble shaft that does in fact mark his resting place would still be the most insignificant of three monuments to his memory were it ten times as massive or elaborate. Whitman's memory is preserved by a virile, important institution of learning and by a prosperous county which bears his name.

It has been said that "monuments themselves memorials need." It is true of bronze statues and marble mausoleums, but not of institutions for practical human betterment that honor names and achievements. Were the facts otherwise, men whose chief claim to fame is riches would leave fewer endowments and more money for obelisks and pyramids.

But Whitman College is not endowed with Whitman money. He had none to give. It is endowed with his name, the spirit of his career and all that they imply. A better, more appreciative memorial this than any graveyard ornament. Its existence, the perpetuation of his name by Whitman County, the story of his service to the Northwest contained in every Oregon and Washington history would be significant commentary upon the writings of one who convicts the Northwest of indifference toward Marcus Whitman, even were it true that his grave remained unmarked.

AIR AND DISEASE.

The fancy that diseases may be airborne has been fairly well shaken from the popular mind, according to the Journal of the American Medical Association, which gives as the reason a better understanding of the role of micro-organisms in the transmission of disease. Time was when every person with timidity in his nature feared the very air, provided any transmissible diseases were in the locality. The evidence against the atmosphere seemed fairly conclusive. A man living in the neighborhood of typhoid fever contracted that affliction without coming in direct contact with the disease, without so much as coming within gunshot of the victim.

Residents caught malaria from distant swamps without ever approaching the swamps, while other serious diseases were transported on the wings of the wind, as it seemed. Yet it was found on closer investigation that the agency of transmission was not the air, but pestiferous insects, which carried disease germs on their tiny bodies. Notwithstanding this discovery, which has saved thousands of lives, the popular mind was slow in dismissing all suspicion of "night air" and polluted air. It is not uncommon today, though more so than in the past, for some cautious pedestrian to hold his breath in passing a house where a disease flag is displayed. Yet possibly the same individual would feel no special danger in the proximity of an insect which had arrived in the dining-room from parts unknown.

Air is not without its dangers, however, for the bacteria count runs high in unventilated places where there are large assemblies. There is a danger, too, from the suspended particles thrown into the air by fits of coughing or sneezing. Avoid the person who sneezes or coughs in a room or confined place without covering his mouth and nostrils. Such persons, in addition to being exceedingly ill bred, are a menace to public health in the belief of many competent authorities.

THE YAKIMA COUNTRY.

Now that a determined effort is to be made by the business men of Portland to get in closer touch with "the Yakima country," it may be of interest to show how that portion of Washington is progressing, leaving fruit statistics out of consideration.

In respect to corn, the entire Yakima Valley, from Kennewick to Cle Elum inclusive, had planted five years ago about 500 acres, which averaged perhaps 45 bushels to the acre; this season there were about 16,000 acres with an average yield around 60 bushels to the acre, a total well up toward a million bushels.

Under the Sunnyside Canal alone there was a corn area this year of 8165 acres, with an average yield of 65 bushels to the acre, a total of 530,725 bushels. In 1913 the yield per acre in that district was 50 bushels per acre, in 1914 it was 53.5, and this year, as shown above, an increase of 1.5 bushels over that.

Of course the development of the corn industry has decreased the alfalfa crop materially. The area in alfalfa was 37,940 acres in 1912 and 24,338 this season. It should be remembered that the alfalfa grown there is principally shipped away, while the corn is in greater part fed at home. It takes only an instant's glance to see which is the best crop for the good of the country.

Five years ago there were about a dozen silos in that valley; now there are 720, and more than a majority of them were erected this year. That, of course, means more dairy cows, but we have not the figures at hand to give the present number or the increase over former years. The same is true of hogs, sheep and beef cattle. It is sure that there is practically a train load of hogs shipped out now where there was a carload five years ago. Potatoes are grown extensively in the Yakima country, but the area is only holding its own. The same is true of orchards. So it will be seen that practically all of the newly developed land is devoted to general farming.

The figures given are from reports made by special representatives of the Northern Pacific Railway and are believed to be as near exact as can be gathered; they practically agree with those tabulated by representatives of the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company, which parallels the Northern Pacific from Kennewick to North Yakima. A great deal of development of "the Yakima country" in the direction of general farming—"more corn, more cows, more hogs"— is due to the liberal educational policies of those two railway systems.

THE RIGHT TYPE OF CANDIDATE.

When the support of Colonel Roosevelt for the Republican ticket can be gained by the nomination of such a man as Justice Hughes, ex-Governor Hadley or ex-Secretary of State Knox, there should be no difficulty about complying with his terms. Not that the party should nominate any particular type of man with a view to gaining the support of any individual, no matter how influential, but that the course which the Colonel suggests is the right one to pursue in any event.

There is an evident disposition among old-line Republicans in the East to favor certain candidates without regard to the attitude of the Colonel and his recent following. The mention of ex-Senator Root, and even of Senator Penrose, seems like a defiance of the Colonel which he could not fail to meet with open hostilities. Senator Weeks might be regarded in the same light. The nomination of such a man would arouse antagonism throughout the West and among the advanced Republicans of the East, as well as among the third party men. A man such as Colonel Roosevelt mentions would be safe from the standpoint of all in the East except those extreme reactionaries whom it is hopeless to consider, and he would receive the united support of the West. There are other men available of the same type as those mentioned by Colonel Roosevelt who would doubtless have a united party behind them and would have the Colonel's indorsement.

In the coming campaign especially the Republican party cannot afford to make a mistake. Apart from the necessity of choosing a man who will reunite the party, the convention must choose the man upon whom probably will devolve the task of shaping our foreign relations and readjusting our foreign commerce after the war; also the task of completing the programme of National defense which can only begin under the present Administration. Upon the course of the next administration will depend our place among nations and our commercial future.

MR. DANIELS AWAKES AT LAST.

Criticism has had a most salutary effect on Secretary of the Navy Daniels, for his construction programme is the result of recommendations asked by him from the General Board. His programme follows those recommendations as to larger ships, but exceeds them as to submarines and reserve ammunition. The Secretary has been prompted by criticism not only to seek, to follow and to publish the advice of naval experts, but to defend himself by showing from the records that his predecessors often did not seek and never followed or published the General Board's recommendations.

The truth is that both parties, when in control of the Government, have been remiss in providing for defense of the Nation. For many years after the Civil War our executive and legislative guides encouraged this Nation to retire into its shell in a military sense, assuming that, because we had no desire to trouble other nations, they would not trouble us. Not until twenty years after the war was the Government stung into action by the storm of satire on our Navy which the burning of the old wooden Tallapoosa provoked. Congress would then construct ships only for coast defense, and only by ingenious argument could it be induced to authorize seagoing, fighting ships on the pretense that they were for coast defense.

The real awakening began with the Spanish War, but even then Congress clung to old habits of thought. Not until the fleet made the round-the-world voyage did its members generally form a conception of a navy which must go out to sea and fight an enemy, not merely hug the coast and drive him away. Naval appropriations were still fought obstinately by men who held to old traditions, some of them through jealousy that so much money should be diverted from uses in which they had a selfish, local interest.

Mr. Daniels should have awakened a year ago last August, when the war broke out, but he did not realize the necessity of putting the Nation in a thorough state of defense until friction with several of the belligerents and the prod of public opinion had aroused him. He is little, if at all, more blameworthy than his immediate predecessors of the opposite party, and we congratulate him on being the first to follow expert advice and to propose a continuous-construction policy to Congress.

EXIT FRENCH.

General French's reassignment to command of non-combatant troops in the United Kingdom is nothing more than demotion. It is the polite way modern war offices seem to have formed of doing away with leaders who do not get results. Von Buelow, who was viewed as the man of destiny in the first clashes of arms, was retired in the same tactful manner. Von Hausen, who led, or misled, the Saxon army on the Marne, went by a similar route, while the great Von Kluck is now suffering from some strange malady which serves to keep him away from field headquarters.

General French must be set down as a courageous commander, a skillful strategist and a competent tactician. But so was McClellan when he was relieved from command of the Army of the Potomac. General McClellan is mentioned because his case appears to offer something of a parallel. A certain aggressiveness was absent. The vital spark of genius was missing. He lacked the peculiar quality of leadership that the situation demanded.

After his brilliant retreat from Mons, General French's star mounted to a high point in the military solar system. Great things were claimed for that brilliant stratagem which was worked out and conducted in the heat of action and which operated to prevent greater French embarrassments. The "contemptible little British army," as General French's force was designated by the Germans, achieved the seemingly impossible. But it has proved to be a flash in the pan. The promise of great things has not been realized.

It is impossible, from the meager details at hand, to present an analysis of General French's methods. But the larger features of his campaigns, or lack of campaigns, stand out clearly. He has lacked aggressiveness. Even when engaged in the desperate offensive of Neuve Chapelle this defect was shown. He struck the German lines with a fearful striking power. The Germans wavered and broke. No more desperate fighting has marked the great war. Brigades were obliterated by the perfect hell of conflict that raged over the disputed sector in General French's front. Success was within reach. Then the British smashing power lost its vitality. In a vital hour the British were put back. Tens of thousands had been sacrificed to no avail. The British hinted that Gallic allies had failed to give them promised support in a critical moment. From Paris came counter hints that Gallic allies, in fact, saved General French from a perilous situation.

But this crimson sacrifice is less vivid in the popular mind than the British inactivity. The whole British campaign in Flanders has lacked vitality. At first we were told that the British had insufficient numbers.

General French was marking time until Kitchener might convert raw levies into trained soldiers. A year elapsed. Millions of men, the dispatches and War Office reports said, were pushed into the theater of operations. Still no action. Munitions were not sufficient. The new explanation was a logical one. Munition is quite as important as leadership. Perhaps more so in the desperate type of trench warfare that has sprung up in Europe. But in due time, when the British munition scarcity had been eliminated, the same old dilatoriousness persisted. What on earth was he waiting for? Why didn't he use those millions of men all fully equipped and eager for the fray? Neuve Chapelle was the one answer—and a tragic and costly experiment it proved.

Apologists for General French have said that he was burdened with an incompetent staff at his great headquarters. Stories leaked out of gay and bibulous young officers frolicking while the General toiled over their work. They were of the high aristocracy and regarded war as a glorious lark. The tale will be recalled of the young Prince of Wales and the irate French husband a few months ago. This near the General's headquarters. But such a defense is invalid. If his staff was not competent the General should have done away with the staff and surrounded himself with officers wht were competent. The plea of incompetent help never did fully excuse anyone from the consequences of misdeeds and failures.

So now the British must develop a new leader. The problem of recruitment has been met, for the time being at least. The troops are heavily supplied and the munitions problems no longer threaten the British campaigns. Leadership that will put these new agencies of warfare into effective operation is what the War Office is seeking, and this leadership may have to be developed out of long and bitter experience.

In the meantime, Sir John French can retire, a pathetic figure, to duties better suited to his peculiar abilities. He has tasted of the cup of greatness and sees himself all but seated in the select circle of the immortals. Now the tragic climax of failure, for he will be set down in history as a failure even though his career does furnish warm debates among the tacticians of future generations as in the case of General McClellan. Nevertheless, the tragedy is not one to excite special sympathy. After all, he has lost nothing more than his place among the supermen of Europe. Which is a vastly lesser fate than that of those tens of thousands of his men who lost life or limb at Neuve Chapelle.

Another man is to have it put all over him in a breach-of-promise suit by hearing read the fool letters he wrote to the plaintiff. New York is the scene this time, but it can happen anywhere. Why sane men temporarily become driveling idiots and record on paper their drooling thoughts is something a scientist cannot solve. That they do it is enough to scare, but it fails.

Senator Chamberlain forgets, when he proposes to show Congress an actual bombardment of trenches, that the Army has only enough artillery ammunition to last through one day's battle. Yet it would be well spent in convincing Congressmen that an abundant supply of big guns and shells is indispensable to a modern army.

Carranza has decreed that widows of his soldiers shall have free rent for a whole year. However, rent is no problem in Mexico, where a dugout suffices to house the family of the peon. Free rations for a year would prove something really worth mentioning.

British officials in India evidently believed that, after his North Pole and Mt. McKinley stories Dr. Cook was capable of anything, even of becoming a German spy. Thus does a man's fame pursue him.

The chauffeur of a taxi who would swindle a drunken passenger is a bad actor; but why waste sympathy on the man who ought to know how he will wind up when he begins the hilarity?

"Persians Badly Punished" reads a headline. Any small nation like Persia which offers to take a hand in this war had better think twice. The giants might step on it.

In Missouri a man of 94 has just married for the fourth time. He is the father of 41 children, and must be striving for the record.

With a day of rest and recovery from indigestion, everybody is able to work this morning.

The clearance days are the times for bargains for those who did not spend it all before Christmas.

Thrifty Mrs. Wilson keeps the jewelry store as a grubstake to provide against contingencies.

Mrs. Wilson's favorite flower is the orchid, which is expensive; but "them as has gits."

The only definite programme of the peace party is to spend all of that $270,000.

In Syria pulling whiskers binds a contract; in other countries it starts a fight.

Whether of high or low degree, the Chinese assassin always gets his victim.

Nobody wants the Ford peace party. It is an outcast among the nations.

An after-Christmas joy is to know the light bills lessen.

Five days more and then—Sahara.

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.

Stammering and Stuttering.

Most small children with defects of speech can be cured. If the defect is simple and the habit is not firmly established, the mother can cure better than anyone else.

Stammerers are unable to produce certain sounds or to correctly pronounce certain words. Lisping is a form of stammering. A stammerer may be deliberate in manner. The defect may, and usually does, not cause any self-consciousness. In fact, some children affect lisping. Many children who stammer have been led to believe that the speech fault is something of an accomplishment. The peculiar way of pronouncing words is imitated and terms of endearment are used in connection with the imitation. The net result is that the child is far from undertaking the effort needed to correct the fault.

Most cases of stammering and lisping can be cured by the mother. The method is simple. She must continually pronounce the words which the child mispronounces and have the child repeat them after her. Rewards, including a judicious use of praise, must be made use of.

If the mother cares to read some book on speech defects, such as that of Scripture, and learn just how certain sounds are made she will be the gainer by doing so. She may learn words which her child can pronounce correctly, which words call for about the same operations in the speech organs as those which the child speaks incorrectly. All of this is for the mother. In training the child the mother speaks correctly some troublesome words, and other related words, and the child repeats them.

Stuttering is a different matter. Stutterers can make the necessary sounds. The trouble is in forming the sounds into several-syllable words and into sentences. The seat of the trouble is the mind.

Stammerers and lispers are at their worst between 2 and 5 years of age. The mother can cure the average stutterer of his defect. Why? The need is for some way to slow down the excited, nervous child. To make him think slowly, act slowly, speak slowly, to teach him not to begin to speak until his thought and speech are formulated, and then to say his words with deliberation.

The stuttering child has a disposition to do everything half-cocked. If it be granted that the cause of stuttering is in the mind; if the needed cure is to train the child to be deliberate and calm, does it not follow that the mother is the best teacher? Bluemel is right. The majority of children who stutter, stammer and lisp could be cured by their mothers. However, there are children who stammer because of adenoids, tonsils or other defects and children who stutter because of mental or other trouble. Such need the help of physicians and speech specialists.

Probably a Long Palate.

Mrs. F. B. writes: "Will you please give me some advice regarding my little girl, 10 years old? She weighs 73 pounds and seems to be in perfect health, but at night when she goes to bed she coughs for hours at a time. This seems to be caused by a tickling in the throat, and nothing I do gives her any relief. Do you think this constant coughing will injure her general constitution, and do you think she ought to have a change of climate? Or will a cough syrup of some kind relieve her?"

REPLY.

The probable cause of this cough is long palate. Some children cough because the temperature is not right. In some cases the bedding is not heavy enough. In some cases it is too heavy. A badly ventilated bedroom may be responsible. When slight changes in temperature will precipitate coughing spells there is very liable to be enlargement of the glands in the chest. I do not think you need have her change climate. Do not give her cough syrups. But do have her examined.

Cure for Stuttering.

A. R. writes: "Is there no actual cure for stuttering? I have been suffering with this affliction all my life and seem to get more nervous and find it more difficult to talk as I grow older. Am now 20 years old and am often thought stupid because I give short answers and even pretend not to hear when I am spoken to. Would be very thankful if you could tell me of some doctor in New York City that could help me or of schools for stuttering".

REPLY.

There are cures for stuttering, though some people do not get cured. Much depends on the mentality and the age of the sufferers. Where fear, timidity and diffidence are prominent in a given case the difficulties of cure are multiplied. Write to the Volta bureau, Washington, D. C., for list of schools.

Questions Too General.

T. T. P., writes: "If my husband and I can each present 'a clean bill of health' and are apparently normal in every way, need I feel concerned about physical defects that my father had and transmitted to some of his children, though they 'skipped' me? Do such things have a tendency to die out, having skipped one generation, or are they likely to reappear in the grandchildren?"

REPLY.

The question cannot be answered, since for some conditions the answer would be yes and for others, no. Specify what defects your father had.

Assassination of Austrian Heir.

MITCHELL, Or., Dec. 24.—(To the Editor.)—Please give the details of the assassination that caused the great war in Europe. S. M. CHESNUT.

The following is from the new International Year Book: The event that precipitated the war of the nations was the assassination, June 28, 1914, of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, nephew of Emperor Francis Joseph and heir to the Hapsburg throne, together with his morganatic wife, the Duchess of Hohenburg, while on the Archduke's first official visit to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia.

Their entry into the town had been interrupted by the explosion of a bomb, thrown by a certain Cabrinovic, and, fortunately enough, warded off by the Archduke with his arm. The bomb exploded under the following automobile, wounding the Archduke's aide-de-camp, Colonel Merizzi. With admirable coolness, the Archduke stopped his car and gave orders to have the Colonel and other injured persons attended to; then he proceeded to the town hall, where he was welcomed by the Mayor.

Afterwards the Archduke set out to inquire after the condition of the wounded Colonel. As the royal car rounded the corner of Rudolphy street a Bosnian youth by the name of Gavrilo Princip fired several revolver shots from the sidewalk, wounding the Duchess in the side and the Archduke in the neck. Both lost consciousness almost immediately and died before medical assistance could be secured. Princip and Cabrinovic were arrested and held for trial.

REASONS OPPOSED TO EMBARGO

Writer Asks Why Prohibition of War Trade Is Unneutral.

CORVALLIS, Or., Dec. 25.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian Tuesday you reiterated your formerly declared position, that it would be an unneutral act for the United States to forbid the export of war munitions to the allies.

By just what process of reasoning you have arrived at this conclusion, I cannot determine. It appears to me to be similar to the process used by some in determining that it (would be) is an unneutral act for us to furnish these selfsame munitions to the allies. Anyone who asserts that we, as a sovereign state, cannot establish and pursue any domestic policy which we see fit would appear to me to be lacking in the essentials necessary to arrive at just judgment.

I can, of course, conceive that such an embargo, under certain circumstances, might be construed, in fact, meant, as an hostile act, but not by any means unneutral. The relations between the United States and allies might become so strained as to cause such action on our part, but such action would be taken solely as a means to an end in our own legitimate foreign policy, and would lack wholly the element of friendship for Germany, although, as a side issue, it would have the effect of hampering the allied cause, and, consequently, helping the Germans.

This effect, I reiterate, would be used as a means to an end, and not to show friendship to the allies' enemies. While in practice it would have some effect in common with a policy of unneutral friendship, the principles behind the two actions would be entirely foreign to each other. Such an embargo would either be declared as a domestic policy or as an incident in our relations with the allies.

I think if such a club were used; or, better still, if it were used in conjunction with some of our warships to bring a halt to the seizing of Germans aboard American ships, which is American soil, that some of the allies' bigness above the shoulders, due to the much-vaunted mistress of the seas, would take a slump overnight. If it is at all practicable warships ought to be sent in pursuit of these French and British pirates and call them to halt by a solid (not blank) shot across their bow if not through their hull.

P. S. WHITCOMB.

The reasons why an embargo on war exports at this time would be unneutral have been stated twice, we think, by the State Department, and have been frequently set out on this page.

Trade in munitions is an individual not a National enterprise. An embargo is an affirmative, official, National act. It is a prohibition not wholly domestic, for it restricts a recognized right of belligerents to recoup their arms anywhere that supplies may be purchased. An embargo would be particularly unneutral at this time because it would rob one belligerent of much of the advantages obtained through a species of military preparation devised in recognition of established rules of international law which the embargo would overthrow. An embargo would thus diminish the prowess of the arms of one side through official, National interference by a neutral with a practice which was, before and at the beginning of hostilities, open to both sides and which is now closed to one side by the fortunes of war and not through the instrumentality or fault of the neutral.

FREE TRADE THEORY MADE PLAIN

Portland Exponent Welcomes Disaster to Home Manufacturer.

PORTLAND, Dec. 26.—(To the Editor.)—In the Portland Journal the editor discusses the possibility of Germany dumping her commodities upon the United States. He protests against any "McKinley tariff" to protect us against "this rain of commodities," and asks "Why should we seek any such protection?" "Why not let the Germans flood us with gifts if they are so disposed?" "What should be thought of a boy who should block up the chimney to keep Santa Claus out?"

Seldom, if ever, has the Democratic theory of free trade been more frankly and tersely stated. Why, indeed, should we protest against our home markets being flooded with foreign goods at the expense of the local producer and American labor? Why not send our money abroad for everything we eat and wear and use, and let the "unemployed" of America whistle for a job? We have no concern in the encouragement of domestic industry and the employment of American labor. The great desideratum is to get things cheap.

Isn't it about time for the Journal to give us a few more editorials on the duty of buying nothing that is not "made in Oregon?" Why should we, if we can buy more cheaply abroad? It would be Democratic treason.

REPUBLICAN.

THE DYING YEAR.

(First Voice.)
Come, bear him on his bier,
His time draws near.

(Second Voice.)
Oh, may he cursed be as the fiends in hell!
A wicked monster fell.
Cause of my sorrow, pain and fear.

(First Voice.)
Revile him not. How beautiful he lies!
He was thy friend.
The deep repose of labor-wearied eyes
Becomes his end.

(Second Voice.)
How loathsomely he sprawls upon the bier,
Haggard and gaunt;
Pitiless one who never knew a tear,
But only vaunt.

(First Voice.)
Stubborn of heart and purblind, canst thou know
Majestic form?
Like some old patriarch grand he lieth low,
After life's storm.

(Second Voice.)
A tyrannous being, scornful, merciless,
Whose greedy hand
Took from me home and friends and happiness—
Alone I stand.

(First Voice.)
A will ungovernable resides in thee;
Submit to fate;
Strive to attain what Heaven would have thee be
Before too late.
Sweet Charity will sanctify the blows
Received by thee.
Mighty he was, and to his fathers goes
Eternally.

(Second Voice.)
What are those bells that clang so harsh and loud
On midnight air?
Their clamorous intonations echoing proud
I cannot bear.

(First Voice.)
They are not harsh; their joyful tones declare
A new-born son;
The year's last moment, youngest child and heir,
Has life begun.

—ROBERT E. STAUFFER.

Wisdom of an Employer.

Dallas (Tex.) News.

"Do you men watch the clock?" "Not since I hired that pretty stenographer."

In Other Days

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of December 27, 1865.

John West has retired from the foundry business at Albany, Or. John West continues to manufacture a first-rate quality of lumber at his town on the Columbia, opposite Cathlamet.

In California a prison commission is being organized—$20 paid at one time securing a life membership. In Oregon the taking of $20 is almost sure to entitle a man to all the privileges, inside the institute, for at least one year.

Dolph B. Hannah, former United States Marshal in Oregon under President Buchanan and well known in Oregon City and this city, has struck it rich at Owyhee. A year ago he became interested in the Whisky Gulch ledge, then not considered very much above average, but through development it has recently disclosed wealth equal to that of the Poorman. This is the third ledge that is turning out silver in an almost pure state, but which is classed among the ledges there as being "silver-bearing quartz."

Mrs. Lincoln has ordered in Zwickau, Germany, a monument for the grave of her husband, the lamented President. It is cut out of serpentine stone, of an obscure green color, in the form of a large die, and bears the simple inscription, "Abraham Lincoln." In the middle of October it was to have been forwarded by rail to Bremen, from whence it will be shipped to this country.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of December 27, 1890.

London, Dec. 25.—The Russian government has ordered the expulsion of 11,000 Germans and Austrians, the latter mainly Galician Poles employed by private firms in Poland.

Professor S. T. Adams and wife, of Forest Grove, and Professor J. P. Looney, of Hillsboro, have just been honored by the State Board of Education with life diplomas.

Rev. I. D. Driver will commence a series of five lectures for men only at the Young Men's Christian Association beginning tomorrow. The subject for tomorrow will be "The Existence of God." Mrs. Edgar Coursen will sing.

Peter Hansen, brother-in-law of City Treasurer Frank Hacheney, died yesterday morning at 2 o'clock from the effects of a fall received two weeks ago.

W. D. Brown, ex-chief of the San Jose, Cal., volunteer fire department, was taken in charge Christmas day by some of the officers and members of the Portland Veteran Firemen's Association. Mr. Brown expressed himself delighted with Portland and the cordial reception that has been accorded him here.

Captain E. H. Jefferson, of the snagboat Skagit, which has been operating in the rivers along the Sound, is in the city.

MARVELS OF SOUND TRANSMISSION

Air Vibrations Caused by Orchestra Wonderful if Visible.

PORTLAND, Dec. 26.—(To the Editor.)—Has the reader attended, at the Heilig Theater, one of the symphony concerts? Marvelous things transpire there. Not visible, all of them, to the natural eye, but more to the auditory sense.

When that orchestra plays through the compass of the scale, the air in the room is in a torrent of commotion, cut into every complexity of vibration. Grave tones mingling with shrill, soft with full and strong, fundamentals mingling in great overtones; the whole flooding the ears of the listeners, without confusion or discord.

What infinite diversity in utmost harmony; what incomprehensible exactness vibrating all to the lowest and the highest; literally storming the soul with pleasurable emotions!

Plainly speaking, it is the sensitiveness of the air to the tremora set in motion by the 50 instruments in the orchestra, transmitting their individual tone qualities swiftly and simultaneously to those present and listening.

Some of the instruments in that orchestra—the harp, for instance—record no less than 3000 vibrations to the second, while the finer strings on the violin greatly exceed that. Could those present see with the natural eye what actually takes place they would behold all the particles of the air agitated in tremendous sympathy, filling the space with swiftly expanding spheres of spectacular beauty. These forms, rapidly changing, are of the finest geometrical beauty, verified by the perfect sounds produced.

If that orchestra could be suspended by a cord in a vacuum, nothing would be heard; let in the air and all is changed. These air waves are all about us, taking hold of our highest life. All the delights of music, such as were experienced in the symphony concert; all the necessities and pleasures of speech, with the prattle of little children, are possible only by these moving air forms.

The velocity and accuracy with which the human voice is carried without wire conductors is just now bringing to light astounding things. Certain it is, the air in these transmissions is not shot forth by the human voice as it is by the air-brake on the locomotive.

It would seem, rather, that some coordinating substance is present with the air waves, ether possibly, in carrying distinctly thousands of miles the human voice, as reported in recent experiments.

Who is not glad to live in an age like this? OBSERVER.

Both.

LACOMB, Or., Dec. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Are David Belasco, Eugene Walter, Sir Arthur Pinero and George M. Cohan all playwrights or present-day dramatists? SUBSCRIBER.

The terms mean the same. If you desire to distinguish between authorship and production of the work of others, it may be said that all are writers of plays and that all are, or have been, interested financially or in a managerial capacity with theaters.

No New Efficiency Acquired.

PORTLAND, Dec. 26.—(To the Editor.)—I notice that the Heilig Theater strike has been settled by allowing the superintendent to take out a card in the engineers' union. Does the fact that he holds a card make him more efficient? H.

No. But why the question? The strike was not called because the union feared for the warmth or safety of the theater-goers.