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	2.50
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 addresses in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—12 to 16 pages, 1 cent; 18 to 32 pages, 2 cents; 34 to 48 pages, 3 cents; 50 to 60 pages, 4 cents; 62 to 76 pages, 5 cents; 78 to 92 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, JAN. 18, 1916.

DO YOU WANT ECONOMY?

Benton County has undoubtedly not suffered a greater proportionate increase in taxation than other counties in Oregon. The situation there is herein cited because it is typical and for the further reason that the condition has lately been given prominence by discussion at a taxpayers' meeting adequately reported by the Benton County Courier.

In 1903 the taxes levied in Benton County aggregated the modest sum of $43,367. In 1914 the levy produced $301,984. Thus in eleven years the taxes contributed to support county government increased seven-fold.

As to gains in population during the full period, there are no accurate statistics. But in 1900 the population of Benton County was 6706 and in 1910 it was 10,663, according to the United States census. In 1910 the amount raised in taxes was $193,705. Compare the two gains. The increase in population in ten years was 59 per cent. The increase in taxes in eight years of that period was approximately 350 per cent. As an illustration of the effect on the individual, one farmer reported that fifteen years ago the taxes on his farm had been $25. This year he pays $200.

It is indeed an amazing record. What is to be done about it? The taxpayers of Benton County have formed an organization which will endeavor to reduce taxes. Its plan of action has not yet been definitely adopted, but there is talk of co-operating with other countries in the formulation and pressing of an initiative measure to consolidate county offices. One speaker declared that to be the only way; that "the taxpayers could expect no hope from the Legislature which had proven false to the people who elected it."

Do the taxpayers of the several counties of Oregon know why the Legislature does not reduce the number of county offices? It is not because the members are not anxious to serve the best interests of their constituents. It is because, whenever a measure of that character is proposed, the only persons the Legislature hears from are the officers whose jobs are threatened and the intimate friends they can induce to exert pressure at Salem. The ones whose toes are about to be stepped on protest, while the great body of taxpayers who would be benefited remain as silent as the Sphinx.

Taxpayers' organizations formed in every county and co-operating together can, if representative, get anything they want from the Legislature. And they are more likely to get a measure adjusted to the requirements of each county than if a few of them attempt to devise an initiative measure. If plans are made now to elect members who are pledged to reduce taxes and if those members receive when at Salem the backing of the taxpayers' organizations, the reduction will be accomplished insofar as the limited authority of the Legislature over county expenditures will permit.

There are certain offices which the Legislature cannot abolish or consolidate with others. The positions of County Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Coroner and Surveyor are established by the constitution. But following are a few things the Legislature can do and which it doubtless will do if there is demonstration that the people want them done:

It can abolish the offices of County Commissioner. There are two Commissioners in each county, with the exception of Multnomah, which has three. In the smaller counties the duties performed by the Commissioners could probably be performed just as efficiently by a board composed of the Treasurer, Clerk and Surveyor.

It can abolish the office of County Judge, transferring the probate and other judicial work of that officer to the Circuit Court.

It can abolish the office of County Recorder, which exists in Benton, Clackamas, Jackson, Marion, Umatilla, Union, Washington and Yamhill counties.

The Legislature can, without violating the constitution, we are confident, provide a business manager system in the several counties. It can abolish all county offices except those of Clerk, Treasurer, Sheriff, Coroner and Surveyor, constitute some or all of these as the County Commissioners, authorize them to appoint a business manager and vest them or the manager with authority to have the duties of the Prosecuting Attorney, the Assessor, the Recorder, the School Superintendent, the Health Officer, the Veterinarian and the Fruit Inspector performed by deputies or appointees.

But while considering these matters let us say that there is abundant scope for effort toward consolidation also of state offices and commissions. State and county taxes all come out of the same pockets.

It may be recalled that the last Legislature was composed largely of men ambitious to do some consolidating of state offices—that is to say, their pledges so indicated. But practically nothing was done. Most members contentedly waited for other members to prepare the bills, and when the bills were submitted late in the session the cry went up that it was too late to give them proper consideration.

Therein lies another matter for observation and action. Nobody need wait on anybody else in the Legislature. Pledges do not count for much unless the pledger has initiative. The tax organizations can accomplish considerable by letting it be known that "passing the buck" will not be accepted as an excuse for indifference.

The purpose of this article is, in general, to point the direction to lower taxes and to accentuate the fact that a little organized work preliminary to a session of the Legislature is worth a lot more than angry rebuke after the session is over. Meanwhile it is trusted that the would-be lawmaker of 1917 has been given a few hints that will be of value to him when he drafts his platform.

PLAIN EVASION.

The charge of breaking a pledge of the platform upon which he was elected, in case Mr. Wilson runs again for the Presidency, may be pressed by some; yet the reading of the Baltimore plank shows clearly that he was pledged to nothing in case the constitutional amendment providing for a single term failed of adoption.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

It is a surprise to find a newspaper which loves the truth, and rarely spares itself, or its party, or the public, in proclaiming it, adopting a view of a moot question which savors of pettifogging. It is the plea which will be put forward by the President's partisans who wince under the charge that he has persistently ignored and freely violated the promises of the 1912 platform.

"We favor," says the platform, "a single Presidential term, and to that end we urge the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution making the President of the United States ineligible for re-election, and we pledge the candidate of this convention to this principle."

It is quite absurd to say that the pledge meant anything else than to commit Mr. Wilson, the candidate, specifically to "the principle" of the single term. Else why is the "candidate of this convention" mentioned?

But if the other view be taken, what shall be said of the Palmer letter, wherein the President headed off the adoption of the Congressional resolution?

GOOD WORK.

The activities of the Young Women's Christian Association in Portland have been carried on so quietly that there is no general understanding of the large field they cover. It is an institution conducted by good women for the benefit of other women. It is not a reformatory, but it undertakes social service of various kinds for young girls and for others not so young, who have their own way to make. It is a great community center which gives protection, shelter, comfort, advice, companionship, instruction and assistance. It has done and is doing much for hundreds and even thousands of young women; and more and more is it an indispensable factor in their daily lives.

Just now the Young Women's Christian Association of Portland is making an appeal for funds. It is not, and is not intended to be, a profit-making institution; but it is expected, and it is even designed, that there shall be a deficit at the end of each year. In other words, the charges to the girls for meals and other things are fixed at a low figure and the result is necessarily a loss. If such charges were higher the service would not be available to many.

No one who is informed about the work of the Y. W. C. A. can fail to be impressed with its great value. It is unthinkable that it should be abandoned, or even modified either in measure or quality.

AN ANTI-FEMINIST NIGHTMARE.

It is a rare day when someone does not discover some new and serious flaw in our civilization. Or if a new one is not discovered an old one is resurrected, embellished a bit and put forward amid cries of alarm. Dr. Hugh Cabot, a recent speaker before a convention of ministers at Boston, rehabilitated the bugbear of feminism in the public schools, contending that the preponderance of women teachers is tending to soften the race and deprive America of that robust masculinity which has carried us from obscurity to international greatness. There is nothing new in the cry. It has been raised with peculiar persistence in view of the fact that there is very little, if anything, in the charge.

New York's schools are cited as an example of the menace of feminism by Dr. Cabot. There are some 17,000 teachers in the New York schools. Of these but 4000 are men teachers. Obviously the men are outnumbered hopelessly. Yet no deduction may be made from these figures alone. It must be remembered that in the grammar schools the rates of pay are not especially attractive to men. Men teachers become more numerous when the higher grades are reached. They serve as principals and as instructors and assistant instructors in the high schools. It is safe to say that after emerging from childhood the pupils are under the influence of men teachers quite as much as they are under the direction of women.

Nor is this condition a new one. The schoolma'am pervaded the rural districts in the most vigorous days of our civilization. She taught our fathers and our grandfathers. Have they shown any symptoms of effeminacy? Possibly the number of women teachers is greater today than ever before, but if women were destroying the red corpuscles of the male sex that fact would have revealed itself long ago.

Even if our anti-feminists should succeed in placing all the boys of the country under men teachers, what would they do to overcome the "evil effects" of the boy's associations with his mother during childhood?

No, there is no danger in the woman teacher. That is, so long as she pursues the even tenor of her way as an instructor. When she becomes the victim of some abnormal species of altruistic philosophy such as ultra-pacifism she should be prevented from preaching to the young. But for that matter we doubt if the woman faddists are more numerous than male dreamers among our school teachers.

LAMPLIGHTERS OF THE SEA.

A branch of the Government service which makes little noise, but does most valuable and arduous work, is the Lighthouse Bureau. Its report is matter-of-fact and statistical, but it reveals between the lines the wide scope of the field covered by the lighthouse men. Familiarity with several sciences and mechanical industries is necessary to their efficiency. So also are the courage and endurance to battle with the elements at their worst in the effort to make the water highways safe for ships.

In building and maintaining lighthouses, lightships, buoys, fog signals and submarine bells, the officials of the bureau must keep up to date with the latest discoveries and practice in shipbuilding, illuminating by oil and electricity, acoustics, erection of buildings in places exposed to the violence of storms and isolated from habitation, use of timber for varied purposes and care of lights by lonely families on remote rocks, islands and capes.

A few points from the bureau's report will give some conception of its varied activities. It has added many to the number of gas buoys, which are valued by mariners, and of oil vapor lamps, which "have been greatly appreciated because of their superior brilliancy." At twenty-nine stations "fixed lights were changed to flashing or occulting." The service is building the new tender Cedar for the Alaska Coast, this being designed as "the largest vessel in the service," and to carry four light, quick-firing guns for patrol work in case of need. Exposed shores of lighthouse reservations have been protected from erosion by the sea by the construction of bulkheads, seawalls or groynes. Electric sirens have been improved to avoid rising and falling notes. A new type of electric flasher has been developed and put in service. Line-throwing guns have been installed at isolated Alaska stations to facilitate the landing of supplies and mail.

What a combination of scientific knowledge and mechanical skill must have been necessary to perfect a fog signal, the blasts of the siren being given by pneumatic valves, supplied with air by a compressor 900 feet distant and "controlled by solenoids, which in turn are energized by a battery and the time intervals regulated by a timing device." Service tests have been made of new brands of red paint which resist heat and moisture. Off Cape St. Elias, Alaska, a lighthouse is "being constructed on an almost inaccessible island," the square tower standing on a shelf about fifty feet above water. The lamp will be about ninety feet above sea level, have 180,000 candlepower, and be visible fifteen and one-quarter nautical miles. Arrangements have been made with the Forest Service for the reforestation of certain lighthouse reservations on the Great Lakes for the growth of timber for spar buoys.

The lighthouse men must know many things and dare many things in order to guard ships against the dangers of the coast with unfailing efficiency. They deserve praise for delicate and arduous work well done.

THE TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO.

There is tragedy in the announcement that Montenegro has surrendered to Austria, for it is the first confession of defeat by the no-surrender Serbs. When the medieval Serb empire was overthrown by the Turks at Kossova in 1389 a remnant of the defeated army retired to the Black Mountains, which frown down upon the Adriatic, and there maintained a refuge for those of their race who refused to bow to the Turkish yoke. For more than 500 years they have hurled back every attacking army. Always threatened, often hard pressed, they have never until now confessed defeat.

The fate of Montenegro is the more tragic because the quarrel in which she dies was none of hers except as every quarrel of Serb with Teuton or Turk is hers. When Austria attacked Serbia in July, 1914, Montenegro went to the sister kingdom's aid because she had always been the rallying point of Serb independence and because she could not resist the tie of blood brotherhood. In 1876, when Serbia defied Turkey, Montenegro stood beside her. In 1912 Montenegro was first of the Balkan allies to attack Turkey and forced the fighting. In 1913, after having won the long-coveted fortress of Scutari by the sacrifice of brave thousands, the Black Mountain people were forced by the powers to surrender it in a vain effort to placate Austria. Recently they regained it only to lose it again and with it the independence which they have so gallantly maintained for so many centuries.

Unaided and with flanks exposed by the conquest of Serbia, Montenegro had no hope. Modern artillery and science have sounded the knell of those little nations which rely on the obstacles of nature to preserve their independence. The same means would have enabled Rudolph of Hapsburg to overpower the Swiss, as a century ago they enabled Napoleon to subdue the dauntless Tyrolese led by Andrew Hofer. No small nation can preserve its identity when a great empire covets its territory, for modern science has put personal valor at a discount.

Montenegro deserved better of the allies than thus to have been left to her fate. She never flinched at overwhelming odds. She took at their face value the promises to fight the battles of the small nations, but the aid that was sent in the shape of artillery and supplies was meagre and inadequate. Had France and Britain landed an army in Montenegro or Albania months ago, there might have been a different story to tell of both Montenegro and Serbia, also of Greece, Roumania and Bulgaria. Italy, having only the Adriatic to cross, should have been able to succor the little mountain people, but centered her attention on her own war, giving direct help to no ally, big or little.

Should Austria permanently retain Montenegro, the dual monarchy will add to its coast on the Adriatic and will relieve its port of Cattaro from the constant menace of Mount Lovchen. Austria may go on to occupy Albania, where the remnant of the Serb army has taken refuge, and to extend her frontier to join that of Greece. But the ultimate fate of Montenegro and Albania has not been decided by the battles in the Black Mountains. It will be decided by battles in France and Russia, Macedonia, Thrace and even Mesopotamia. The general result of the war will decide whether Montenegro shall become extinct as a nation or shall rise again, perhaps to be united with a newly-risen Serbia.

BEWARE OF PNEUMONIA.

Nothing will be added to the peace of mind of the average well-nourished, jovial man of affairs by reading what Dr. A. R. Reynolds has to say in the current American of the affinity between such individuals and pneumonia. But years of usefulness may be added to the earthly allotment of many such individuals by heeding what the doctor has to say, particularly since he supports his contentions with facts. Who is the man most susceptible to pneumonia? Dr. Reynolds describes the most favorable victim as "the man who is naturally strong, has good digestion, is overfed, overweight, frequently overworked and a heavy drinker." He also adds the tobacco user as peculiarly susceptible.

Dr. Reynolds, who formerly was Commissioner of Health of Chicago, presents some interesting data to show the full scope of the pneumonia menace. Using Chicago as an example, he finds that during 1914 pneumonia killed twice as many people as all the epidemic diseases combined. Its toll was a fourth larger than that of tuberculosis. Chicago, with a total death list of 33,952, lost 4077 from pneumonia in its several forms. Furthermore, this is nothing exceptional, since, the doctor assures us, the Chicago percentage of deaths is about the same as that of the country as a whole. Attention was called recently by The Oregonian to the fact that pneumonia has been found to kill more people in America than the bubonic plague in India; that is, in proportion to the population.

Pneumonia, moreover, strikes at the most useful type of citizen. It is a disease peculiar to those between the ages of 35 and 65, men who live sedentary lives, drive themselves at high speed in their work and neglect their health in the interest of their toil—a shortcoming of which they refuse to be broken until it is too late. Women are infrequent victims, apparently, because women are more careful in their habits.

The disadvantages of the corpulent man of abnormal habits in combating pneumonia are easily traced. He enters the life and death battle with his organs tired and his tissues burdened with waste, while his heart is already weakened and weighted down with the burden of fat, Dr. Reynolds shows. The heart is the center of the conflict, and, unless it is strong and healthy, it soon becomes exhausted in the struggle of forcing the venous blood filled with waste matter through the plugged lung in order to exchange the oxygenated blood for it.

Tobacco and alcohol not only weaken the body, but they are lively recruiting agencies for pneumonia. Tobacco sets up irritation and congestion in the lining membranes of the nose, throat and air passages. Transient germs find a fruitful field for lodgment and growth here. As for liquor, it benumbs the sensibilities and thus deadens those warnings of cold and fatigue which the normal man would observe. Alcohol is accused also of lowering the vital resistance powers, of leading to excesses of other sorts and of increasing the heart beat to a degree favorable to pneumonia.

Much the same advice is given in guarding against pneumonia as that prescribed for the prevention of bad colds and grippe. Naturally so. Pneumonia is an outgrowth of a cold or of influenza. Fresh air, carefully regulated habits, ventilation in the home. Those are the guardians of our health while in Winter quarters. Pneumonia has never been a serious problem in Portland. Neither is it uncommon. And in the present hour we face weather conditions not greatly dissimilar from those existing in Chicago and other prolific fields of the pneumonia germ. Those who are rendered peculiarly susceptible by their age and habits of living should redouble their vigilance at this time.

The Portland Journal persists in comparing President Wilson to George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. President Wilson is a gentleman and a scholar, but the picture he presents at a formal Cabinet dinner with his blooming bride, while a dozen Americans are being murdered in Mexico, somehow does not impress one as being either Lincolnesque or Washingtonian.—Medford Sun.

Dear, dear! Doesn't our Medford neighbor think the President and his Cabinet should eat, whatever happens in Mexico?

Only a good man can take the place of M. S. Shrock, who has been chief deputy in the office of State Dairy and Food Commissioner Mickle for three years and leaves to join the extension work at Corvallis.

A church to cost $3,000,000 is planned for a district in New York. Yet good people will go to the same place from all the little "possum trots" and chapels of the land.

The Mayor of Woodburn is a good man. He starts the kitchen fire on a cold morning. A little affair like a boiler explosion "gives him away."

The new steel and oil combinations may prove the first in a new series of giant corporations such as were born with the twentieth century.

If you mention the weather in your letters be sure to explain that it is extraordinarily extraordinary for Portland to have such a siege.

The main point in the scrimmage Sunday at Du Pont, near Scranton, was the lack of dum-dums to make a good finish of a bad job.

Portland's birth rate is greater than the death rate. In other words we are being born faster than we are dying off.

Write the letters and make them of a roseate hue. The recipients will not believe the half, but that will be enough.

Admiral Ed Wright will keep the Columbia open. He learned how to do it in a mudboat in the last century.

We doubt now if watchful waiting could be pried loose from the White House even in event of invasion.

If a baseball catcher's arm is worth $20,000, what is a millionaire's check-signing hand worth?

Judging by the Grahame-White marital troubles, aviators' weddings are but airy nothings.

The Kaiser might forget he is a gentleman and let the peace delegates stay put in Holland.

The competent household head has the snow all cleared away from porches and walks.

Congress hasn't so much as gotten its vocal organs tuned up in the preparedness issue.

Some time within ten years the jitneys may be actually subject to the law.

Wouldn't you like, just now, to listen to the soughing of the south wind?

Northern California might let go of a little of that rain and be neighborly.

Still Chinese opera is quite as intelligible as grand opera to many of us.

Many a good Christian stayed at home Sunday and cleared his walk.

What place in Oregon is to have the 1916 record for the lowest below?

Austria may now boast: "Anyhow we licked Serbia and Montenegro."

The pugilist with a broken jaw is injured in his most vital point.

Many are the woes of a peace pilgrim in the war zone.

Wonder if it's anything like this in the Arctic circle!

The man who lets the water run is not telling of it.

European War Primer

By National Geographical Society.

Alexander the Great, like an erratic meteor, flashed across the drowse of civilization-weary Egypt; and, perhaps, as a memorial of his deification in the land of the Pharaohs, he left behind him the beginnings of a vigorous Greek city, Alexandria, destined to be the gateway for a flow of Western rejuvenation to the worn valley, and today, with Constantinople and a few other places, one of the greatest prizes for the contesting army millions in the East. Alexander built his city in 332 B. C. upon the ruins of an Egyptian town, Rhacotis. After more than 2000 years Alexandria has become the life of Egypt, its largest port, one of the busiest ports on the Mediterranean and an important world city.

The modern city is divided into two parts, one of which, inhabited by Mohammedans, is a listless tangle of Oriental, narrow, crooked streets and uninviting buildings, while the other, the European quarter, is solidly built and possesses many of the essential conveniences of the American or European metropolis. It occupies a ridge of land between the Mediterranean and Lake Mareotis. The Rosetta mouth of the Nile lies more than 30 miles to the east. Cairo, the interior metropolis, lies 129 miles by rail to the southeast, and the Suez Canal is more than 140 miles to the east. The city is linked by a network of railway and telegraph lines to the other towns of Egypt, and is in telephonic connection with Cairo.

* * *

Alexandria is the counting-house and the commission office of the Nile Valley. The British Chamber of Commerce has its headquarters there, and there, too, are located the head offices of many of the largest commercial organizations doing business in the Near East. The value of the city's trade, in normal times, is about $240,000,000 a year. The western harbor, designed for a modern, first-rank commerce, is visited annually by 3000 vessels. The chief articles of export are grain, cotton, beans, sugar and rice, and the business is largely in the hands of Europeans, of whom there are 50,000 in the total population of 400,000. The city is connected by cable lines with Cyprus, Malta, Crete and Port Said. One of the interesting phases of Alexandria's commerce is that it sends 80,000,000 eggs each year to London, where these products retail as fancy fresh eggs. This large yearly turnover gives Egypt an intimate relationship with the Englishman's breakfast table.

Dinocrates of Rhodes, architect and friend to the famous Macedonian, laid out Alexandria. He planned the city as an affair of right angles and sharp corners, including the whole in a parallelogram quadrisected by two main thoroughfares. This regularity of city-plan that Dinocrates developed was the beginning of the school of gridiron city building, of the impersonal, strictly business city only now waning in popularity.

* * *

The exotic Grecian City was a battleground from the start. The East and the West met and fought out their differences to a finish there. Greek learning and Greek philosophy found refuge in Alexandria, and there antagonized, and finally blended with, the philosophies of the East. Christianity and paganism fought some of their most bitter battles there; and the Jews, the Christians, the Pantheists and the philosophers fomented many bloody riots, in which the fickle, violent, loot-hungry Alexandrian mob raged in unforgetable religious tumults. In one such tumult the surpassingly beautiful pagan priestess, Hypatia, was torn to pieces to glut a brutish populace.

* * *

The famous Alexandrian library was the bridge between the culture of classic Greece and the cultural needs of early Christian and Mohammedan Europe. Much of its treasures filtered through to the Moors and to the Christians through the scholarship of Rome. The library was destroyed in the warflood which followed the rise of the religion from the desert, and the burning of the great book-treasury has been keenly deplored by scholars of each generation succeeding.

In the latter years of the 18th century the city was held by the French. It had sunk to the status of a small village under centuries of Mohammedan misrule, having a population of less than 4000. Under Mohamet Ali, the wise and cunning Albanian, it regained much of its prosperity. English control of the city's, as well as Egypt's welfare, dates from 1882, since which date a new city has been developed, and one that bears a greater degree of relationship to the West than to the East.

THE LEGEND OF PORTLAND ROSES.

Eden was a place of flowers.
Ah, do you suppose
Anywhere amongst the bowers
Gleamed the Portland rose?

Yes, the Testout blushed and bloomed there,
Proud La France was known;
And until man met his doom there,
Gold of Ophir shone.

When the wind with sudden wailing
Fanned the flaming sword,
All the garden flowers paling,
Smitten of the Lord—

Eve filled up a jar of rose slips,
(Though the thorns were growing),
Through the gates she went with those slips,
Toward the westward going.

And her son into the West Land,
For his mother's sake,
Bore sweet roses to the best land
In the low sun's wake.

Eden thus deserves our pity,
All her beauty furled;
Portland is the Roseland city,
Queen of all the world.

EVERETT EARLE STANARD.

Way to Help Unemployed.

PORTLAND, Jan. 17.—(To the Editor.)—One of the producers of the Alberta market had to pay $300 a year rent for ten acres. The rent this coming year was to be $400. He found a woman with eight acres, and last Summer it cost her $80 to get the weeds cut. She was glad to let the producer have the land, rent free. This is not charity but mutual benefit.

Many people could be helped if the organizations of the city and state would co-operate in bringing those who want to cultivate idle land in and out of town, with owners of unused land who are more than willing to give free rent.

There are about 30 federated women's clubs of the state working on civic and economic lines. If all clubs working to improve economic conditions, whether federated or not, would appoint a conference committee, through this unity a great amount of good work can be done.

Those who would be interested please address the writer.

MRS. JOSEPHINE R. SHARP,
1033 East Twenty-fourth Street North.

Many Birds Fed.

PORTLAND, Jan. 17.—(To the Editor.)—I thought you would be glad to know that Mr. Wilson, at the Portland Sanitarium, Sixtieth and Belmont, is feeding over 600 birds each day this cold weather. Doctors, nurses, patients and everyone in the neighborhood are greatly interested. I fear unless our citizens and children will take the trouble to feed these songsters many will die. They look so cold and hungry.

A PATIENT.

EVIDENCE OF IMMATURITY SEEN

"Ex-Soldier" Writes Like One With Youthful Error, Says Writer.

PORTLAND, Jan. 17.—(To the Editor.)—The letter of "Ex-Soldier," who brands Mr. Hogan as immature and deficient in reasoning regarding convicts as desirable soldiers, would seem to indicate the mental attitude which he assigns to Mr. Hogan.

It has been well said: "In childhood we believe everything; in youth nothing; (believing as authority and appearance dictate), but in manhood more discriminatingly." It is obvious that as "Ex-Soldier" still holds the thoughts dictated by authority in our early training, believing that the highest courage is seen in donning the soldier's coat, he indicates thereby the immaturity he professes to see in Mr. Hogan. Real maturity sees that the military instinct is a relic of barbarism and the lure to the young mainly consists in the promptings of a savage and theatrical love of gaudy uniform and military pomp, mixed with a perverted idea of what constitutes patriotism and love of country; the ex-soldier Tolstoi is a good example. No greater lover of men than he, and he decried the soldier's trade and the fostering of military ideals, while the caustic Carlyle calls soldiers "simpletons," and Victor Hugo styles the military hero "a species of assassin," while Ibsen so detested force in any form that in all his plays the hero is never a man in uniform.

That wordy and theatrical patriotism is no indication of courage I saw in the Philippine campaign, being in the ranks myself, where I noticed that the loudest patriot was the poorest fighter. I also observed that the men who talked of shooting their commanding officer in the back were not ex-convicts but "ex-patriots," soured of overbearing treatment.

I agree with "Ex-Soldier" that a convict is not bereft of all human attributes, as courage, honor, generosity and charity for the opinions of others, which so many at large lack. I likewise agree that convicts would make as good, if not better, soldiers than the average citizen. Their will and self-reliance have been broken by the strict prison discipline, where their every act of the most private nature is determined by authority. The resentment toward his kind resulting therefrom would make him an effective tool for murder, arson and pillage, especially if guaranteed immunity by authority, leaving him free to develop his passion for force.

It is true that many convicts wear medals for heroic conduct, but largely these medals are for some act of special violence in battle. It follows that the rewarding of violence under authority leads to violence in civil life by the unthinking, resulting in imprisonment by the same authority that rewarded the special violence as an act of merit.

My comrade, the "Ex-Soldier," does well to speak of the soldier and the convict in the same breath, for in the election laws of Oregon I find both disfranchised, as soldiers and sailors are denied the vote, in company with idiots, insane, aliens and convicts.

LOUIS HONSTEIN.

PLANS TOO HASTILY CONCEIVED

How Mr. Ford Might Have Spent Money to Better Purpose.

PORTLAND, Jan. 17.—(To the Editor.)—The Henry Ford peace mission having met with failure to get the soldiers out of the trenches by Christmas is no worse a failure than might have been expected. The idea was hatched from an imaginative mind and hastily launched for action without any previous organization. The so-styled delegates were, for the most part, men who were ready to make a voyage merely for the sake of adventure and, consequently, were unorganized to carry out the function of peace making. Of course, failure is the result.

It was too great an undertaking to attempt to secure the attention of the infuriated minds of the belligerents, except those who had everything to gain by the immediate making of peace. The others had too much to lose, even their national identity. Such peace terms were too difficult to be approved of, for patriotism is the quality of mankind which will impel him to resist to the bitter end the invasions of a foe intended to confiscate his country and to take away his national identity.

If Mr. Ford had not allowed his heart to overbalance his brain he might have used the hundreds of thousands of dollars that his charter of the Oscar II is costing him (with all of the other costs incidental to such an undertaking) to have served a greater purpose, if he had, in the first place, organized a peace propaganda in the United States and also used discretion in selecting his delegates.

If they had then worked harmoniously in forming resolutions and bylaws his scheme would have been given a permanent foundation.

Such a well-conceived idea of peace-making might have received a creditable recognition from the United States Government, which would have given it an intrinsic force of appeal to other neutral countries, and from them gain an impetus to a greater achievement of recognition from the belligerents, and might have then have been the means of carrying out his scheme of peace with fairness to all.

CHARLES BARNETT.

Coins and Independence.

TILLAMOOK, Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly, at your convenience, give me the worth of the following coins: A 50-cent piece, 1827; also a copper piece, on one side is a man standing and holding a tree, with the letters "L. C. R." (2) We have been having a dispute over the date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Will you kindly inform us?

SUBSCRIBER.

Write, enclosing stamp, to New York Stamp & Coin Co., 11 West Thirtieth street, New York.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted July 4, 1776, but was not signed until after it had been engrossed on parchment. Fifty-three of the 56 signatures were attached July 19, 1776, the others signing subsequently.

German Red Cross Aided.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor)—At the last meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the German Red Cross it was unanimously voted to extend to The Oregonian our heartiest thanks for the many kindnesses shown to us in the furtherance of our cause.

MRS. L. C. KRAMER,
Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary of the German Red Cross.

Problem Calls for Roosevelt.

CORNING, Cal., Jan. 16.—To the Editor.)—I have read many good articles in The Oregonian, but the best of all that I have read is to be found on the front page of The Oregonian January 12.

It will require Theodore Roosevelt at the head of the grand old party to untangle the muddle into which President Wilson's vain policy has plunged the American people.

A. J. MOE.

Address of Mr. Rockefeller.

CASTLE ROCK, Wash., Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Please give me the address of J. D. Rockefeller.

VELMA CUMMINGS.

Homes, Pocantico Hills, Tarrytown, N. Y.; Cleveland, O.; 4 West Fifty-fourth street, N. Y., and Lakewood, N. J.

John Purroy Mitchel.

HEPPNER, Or., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly advise who present Mayor of New York is.

READER.

In Other Days.

From The Oregonian of January 18, 1891.

Judge Moreland on Friday signed a contract for the erection of the Armory annex, which is to be the same size as the present building. The contract price is $38,535 and Robert Wakefield is the contractor. The glass desired and the cement floor are not in the contract and these extras will bring the cost of the annex to $32,000.

Manager Friedlander has mailed checks for $125 each to the following five institutions, being the $625 realized from the benefit given at the Marquam Grand Theater: Mrs. J. W. Kern, for the Baby Home; Sister Mary Teresa, St. Vincent's Hospital; William B. Walpole, Associated Charities; Mrs. G. H. Sharp, Good Samaritan Hospital; Colonel Louis Fleishner, Hebrew Benevolent Society.

The State Board of Commerce sent a telegram to Representative Hermann designed to aid him in supporting in the House the Senate bill just passed appropriating money for the improvement at Cascade Locks.

Next Friday evening Mrs. Nina Larowe will begin a physical culture class at the Women's Boarding-house, corner of Fourteenth and F streets. Delsarte, wands, dumbbells and clubs will be taught.

Yesterday Frank Sperling received a letter from San Francisco from Mary Levy bringing the news that the writer was a proud parent. Mrs. Levy presented her husband with a 12-pound boy on the 13th inst.

Fifty Years Ago Today.

From The Oregonian of January 18, 1866.

Notwithstanding the very inclement weather yesterday and last evening, a large number of the friends of Edward Kahn, of Kahn Bros., and Miss Ada May, late of Philadelphia, met at the Synagogue at 2 P. M. to witness their nuptial ceremonies, performed by Rev. H. Burris, and then at Turners' Hall in the evening to attend the celebration of the occasion.

From a private letter received by steamer from New York yesterday we are informed that General Steele, who is probably now in San Francisco, after remaining there for a short time will come on to this city and resume the command of the Department of the Columbia. He has received permission from General Grant to make his headquarters at Portland.

The steamship Sierra Nevada has at last been removed from her critical situation above Warrior Point and arrived at her dock yesterday afternoon. She was busy taking on coal after her arrival here.

Colonel C. H. Larrabee returned from Owyhee by the steamer Tuesday evening, whither he had been on a mission in connection with the suit of the Poor Man ledge.

At 9 o'clock last evening the storm had not abated one whit, but was actually worse. Snow in blinding drifts piled up on the cross streets and at all convenient places.

Judge Wyche, of Washington Territory, who went East last June, arrived here on his return by the steamer Pacific yesterday.

We learn by private letter that the trial trip of the Forty-Nine, Captain Len White, was every way successful. She steamed up the Columbia about 175 miles, finding a pleasant and open river to navigate.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT ANALYZED

National Prohibition Would Permit Three Ways of Acquiring Liquor.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Efforts of the Anti-Saloon League to bring the Nation-wide prohibition fight to an issue again at this session of Congress lend timeliness to some explanation of the plan proposed. It is as follows:

Section 1. The sale, manufacture for sale, transportation for sale and importation for sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes in the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof and exportation thereof are hereby prohibited.

Section 2. The Congress of the States shall have power independently or concurrently to enforce this article by all needful legislation.

As Mr. Hobson admits, liquor would still be at hand, even with the enforcement of such an amendment, supposing it ratified by the states. He acknowledges that there would be nothing to prohibit these three methods of acquiring it:

1. Any person might manufacture whisky, wine or beer for his own use.
2. Any person might import from abroad whisky, wine or beer for his own use.
3. Any person might give away whisky, wine or beer for his own use.

These facts are sometimes overlooked in a hasty reading of the amendment's phraseology and I think it important that the public should keep them in mind in considering the amendment and what it offers in the way of greater temperance as compared with the system of regulatory control of the liquor business for which it is proposed as a substitute.

T. M. GILMORE,
President National Model License League.

Point in "Five Hundred."

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 16.—(To the Editor)—In a game of five hundred (no trumps was bid). I led spades and my partner held the joker. By playing it we would make our ten tricks, if we would not have played it we would have been set. My partner played it (the joker) and called it a spade, but our opponents demurred claiming she could not play the joker as long as she had suit. Please inform us on this matter through The Oregonian.

K. R. S.

When the bid is "no trumps" the holder of the joker must follow suit if he has suit cards in his hand.

No Abbreviation for Oregon.

WELLEN, Or., Jan. 16.—(To the Editor.)—I sympathize with a correspondent in a recent issue of your paper who protests against the commonly used abbreviation of "Ore." for the beautiful and euphonious name of our fair state of Oregon.

He may take comfort from the fact that such or any abbreviation for the name of "Oregon" lacks official recognition by the Postoffice Department, and that, therefore, Oregon enjoys the distinction, as I believe, of being the only state in the Union without an officially sanctioned abbreviation.

H. VON DER HELLEN.

Is It Growing Harder to Sell?

Competition is certainly more keen, yet markets are enlarging as population and prosperity increase.

In the retail field merchants are better educated. They know costs and profits. They are students of conditions.

The live stores survive and grow, the inert ones are forced backwards.

Retailers are being educated to the advantage of co-operating with their newspapers.

They know it gives them a trade advantage to show goods at the time they are being newspaper advertised by the manufacturer.