The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland (Oregon) Postoffice as second-class mail 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 address 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, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1916.

HUMAN BEINGS.

The money interests endeavored to force us into war with Mexico recently, and if they had succeeded, we would have given the blood of our sons to put dollars into their pockets.

This kind of loose talk serves to keep a lecturer on the Chautauqua circuit. Yet there is never a showing of how the "money interests" very nearly brought on a war.

What had the money interests to do with Vera Cruz two years or more ago, when President Wilson sent a fleet and troops into Mexico? Or with Carrizal? Or with Columbus, or Glenn Springs? Or any provocative and murderous acts of Mexican guerillas and robbers?

We take it that no money interests wrote, or inspired the President or Secretary who wrote, the note to Carranza plainly asserting American rights and as plainly threatening American intervention. Nor did any money interests dispatch an ultimatum to the same Carranza demanding the release of the captured negro troopers, at an hour certain. Nor did the money interests send the regulars into Mexico or the National Guard to the border. To say that they did is to intimate that President Wilson acted upon the behest of improper and unpatriotic influences.

Mexico is a condition, a horrible fact, a stricken and despoiled people, a helpless neighbor, ignorant, unhappy, deceived, prostrate. Yet this same Chautauqua lecturer talks of peace—for us, not for them—and enunciates beautiful, but meaningless abstractions, about the brotherhood of man and our duty to humanity. There is nothing in recent or remote history to show that Mexicans are not human beings.

NEW INTERNAL TAXES.

It was peculiarly appropriate that, in raising the additional revenue necessary to place the country in an adequate state of defense, Congress should impose taxes on industries which have profited especially by our present prosperity and on accumulated wealth. It is eminently proper that those who profit by war should pay the largest share of the cost of military preparedness. That is the justification for the increased taxes on incomes of individuals and corporations and for the new taxes on munition profits and on inheritance provided by the revenue law which has passed the House.

Not only is there something repugnant to American ideals in unusual profit derived from sale of death-dealing implements, but such profit gives those who enjoy it a sordid interest in the promotion of war, which explains the unfounded suspicion that the demand for preparedness is promoted and financed by munition manufacturers. Sound policy dictates that this interest be limited so far as possible, which can most readily be done by taking in the form of taxes profits in excess of normal. There is then no more inducement to engage in munition manufacture than in any ordinary industry. The same reasoning applies at present to practically all other sources of large fortunes, for expansion of the munition business has added to the profits of almost every industry, from cattle-growing to transportation by both railroad and ship. The increased income tax is therefore equally justified. The principle is the same as that which belligerent nations follow in taxing war profits.

While a Federal inheritance tax has heretofore been upheld by the courts, it is likely to cause confusion and conflict between Nation and states, for many of the latter, including Oregon, already tax inheritances. It is desirable on the one hand to limit swollen fortunes by taxing them more heavily than those of moderate size, but on the other hand not to tax estates so heavily as to discourage enterprise and thrift. These ends would be best served by a single, uniform tax throughout the country, of which a fixed proportion was paid into the state treasury. An unusually heavy state tax, added to the Federal tax, would not then discourage thrift in any one state, while uniformity of the tax would deprive the rich of any inducement to transfer their holdings from one state to another for the purpose of evading the heavier tax.

While it is eminently just that, when additional taxes become necessary, they should bear more heavily on the wealthy than on the poor and people of moderate means, the necessity of imposing such taxes is a sad commentary on Democratic Administration. The present extraordinary military expenses, with the exception of those growing out of the Mexican troubles, are incurred to make good the neglect of former years and should be paid from current revenue. Had not the Underwood tariff reduced our revenue at the same time that wasteful appropriations increased our expenditures, we might, with much smaller increase in taxes, have provided the necessary funds. Customs duties have always been our most fruitful source of revenue. By doubling them and adding 10 per cent the Government paid the entire cost of the war of 1812. The low tariff of 1816 caused a deficit until 1824, when a protective tariff enabled the Nation to pay off the last dollar of debt on January 1, 1832. A low tariff then drove the Government to issue bonds in order to pay its expenses, and so it continued until the Civil War. After that war customs taxes enabled the Nation to pay its expenses, including interest on the huge war debt, and also to reduce that debt enormously. During the Administration of Benjamin Harrison $365,000,000 of debt were paid off, but during the second Cleveland Administration under the Wilson tariff $265,000,000 of new debt was incurred. By imposing internal taxes the greater part of the cost of the Spanish war was paid out of revenue by a Republican Administration. Presidents Roosevelt and Taft paid more than half the cost of the Panama Canal from the surplus of ordinary revenue. It was left for the Wilson Administration, while it boasted that the Nation was at peace, to impose extraordinary direct taxes for the payment of necessary expenditure for putting the country in safe defensive condition.

The only sure and permanent remedy for this prodigal handling of the National finances is a budget system, as recommended in the Republican platform. That system would impose economy on both executive officers and Congress by forbidding them to incur or authorize expense without providing revenue to meet it. That system would be a sure step to businesslike handling of rivers and harbors, public buildings, Navy-yards and Army posts, the bottomless pits into which public money has been poured. Necessity of immediately imposing more taxes having arisen, the Democratic leaders have not erred seriously in the manner of imposing them, but they cannot escape responsibility for the necessity.

BRAVE BOYS OF JEFFERSON.

The other day a number of mothers who have sons on the Mexican border met to learn why two instructors who had been identified with the Jefferson School machine gun company, to which the boys belonged, had not gone to the front. They were under the impression that the instructors, who were school professors, were "slackers," because when the call to action came they had not responded.

It appeared that one of the instructors—Professor Mangold—had served six years in the Guard and that he had encouraged the boys to join the high school company and had himself signed the roll; but he had resigned last February.

The other instructor—Professor May—had not been active in the original organization of the company—but, according to his own statement, he had later applied for membership, and had signed a paper which he did not read, and had immediately resigned when he had found he had joined the National Guard. What he did know was that he did not care to subject himself to a call to the colors. As to the boys under his instruction, that was another matter.

The mothers felt that the action of the two professors required "explanation." Obviously it did. Much explanation. One of them announced himself as entirely willing to go to the front if the mothers felt that way about it, but they did not. The other—Professor May—continues to talk verbosely of the great value of military training in the schools, and to defend it, but he thinks 18-year-old boys ought not to have to go to war.

The Jefferson mothers appear to have been persuaded finally that the whole thing was due to an "unfortunate misunderstanding." Undoubtedly it was. What was obvious was that their sons had been sent to war, and the professors, who had also enlisted, had got out in time, and were able to stay at home. Evidently, the instructors had had no intention of doing otherwise. The mothers had supposed differently, but now they know better.

Meanwhile the brave boys of Jefferson, who had enlisted in the high school company, also took the Federal oath. They might have backed out by refusal to go into the United States volunteer service, but there was not a slacker among them.

EXACTLY SO.

"The Oregonian persists in criticising the National forest policy," says a Government official, "saying the people of the East are locking up the West, after exploiting their own country."

The Oregonian has done just that. It will continue to do just that. It will comment upon the results of the National policy of reservation as it sees them. It will protest against administration of the public lands and the public forests in the states for the benefit of Federal Treasury and not for the benefit of the people upon them, nor of the states in which they lie. It protests against the pretense of encouragement of homesteads upon the reserves and against the fact of discouragement by responsible officers of the Government. It declares that the scheme by which Oregon was deprived of its proper share of the reclamation fund was deliberate spoliation of the state. The highest use to which the public lands may be put is settlement, including the arable lands in the forest reserves.

"The Government," says this selfsame official, "is spending approximately $2,000,000 a year buying land in the Alleghenies at $5 and $10 per acre—land which had been denuded and upon which the growing of new forest will require 50 to 200 years."

Exactly so. And Oregon pays a share of the $2,000,000 in order to recreate forests which Pennsylvania and adjoining states by their own acts had lost; while Pennsylvania insists on having a hand in the control and disposition of lands and forests in Oregon, the value of which Oregon perfectly understands, and would in no event despoil or destroy.

BIG GUNS AND RAIN.

Despite the difficulty of framing a law for storms, theorists are not daunted. Just now there is a revival of faith in the power of the detonation of great quantities of explosives to cause atmospheric changes, to precipitate rain, even to set a gale to work. These, judging empirically, point to the coincidence of the war in Europe with the exceptionally moist season through which the United States has been passing recently. It might be true if the bombardments on the war fronts, gigantic as are the efforts of the artillerymen, were really enormous when compared with our whole world. It will tax normal credulity to ask it to accept the theory that mankind could assemble guns enough in France or Poland to cause it to rain in Oregon and Washington, and yet those who do so believe will continue to point to the coincidence of our delayed Summer and will refuse to believe otherwise until confounded by an opposite experience.

It happens, according to the weather statisticians of the East, that just a century ago the country experienced almost such a season as the present. The year 1816 was a year that tried the patience of everyone. Winter was prolonged until farmers were in despair. There was a brief Spring, during which they managed to get some seed into the ground; then came the rains again and washed them out, and late frosts froze them and more rains followed. It was referred to in writings of the day as the "year without a Summer." People were perhaps more given to religious observances then than now, for we read that it was common that year to hold meetings to pray for cessation of the storms, just as half a century later Kansas prayed for rain. There were whisperings by the more superstitious ones of the coming of another deluge. Yet the nations of the world were, relatively speaking, at peace.

It is recalled also that a man named James P. Espy, employed in one of the Government departments at Washington, framed along in the '50s a "law of storms." He did not contend that rain could always be produced from a clear sky; certain conditions were demanded. They were that there should coincide a season of drouth and a high dew point, having which he proposed to precipitate the moisture by building immense fires, which would produce an upward current. Air would flow in, he said, to take the place of that which was rising, condensation of moisture would follow and presently the sky would be overcast. His demonstrations were inconclusive and he died in 1860, firm in his own belief but leaving a world still skeptical. In the early '80s efforts to save the crops in a season of protracted drouth by bombarding the skies in Kansas proved pitifully inadequate, and the rain cannoneers were laughed at for their pains.

It happens to be true that it is raining a good deal of the time this season in France and Flanders, the weather being so wet as to interfere materially with the allies in projecting their great offensive. Also it is true that there was a great storm on the Gulf Coast at the time the big drive was being started. We are having an excess of precipitation elsewhere. But the law of the elements still remains uninterpreted; it will take more bombardments and more drives to establish that it is anything more than a coincidence, especially in view of the experience of the people who were here in 1816.

TARIFF COMMISSION PLAN DISFIGURED

Some of the best features of the tariff commission scheme included in the revenue bill have been destroyed by amendments made in the House. The scheme as it goes to the Senate is not that which was approved by the National Tariff Commission League and by the Chambers of Commerce and the press of the United States.

Through these means of expression public opinion had declared for a commission of men whose ability and character would assure the people thorough, impartial inquiry and recommendations so wise that the people would approve them and would force Congress to adopt them. In order to obtain the services of such men, it was proposed that they be paid $12,000 a year each, the same salary as is paid to members of the Federal Reserve Board, but the House committee reduced the amount to $10,000 and the House has further reduced it to $7500. At that salary the Government cannot obtain the services of the type of men required; it will get second or third-rate men, whose opinions will not inspire the confidence which it is desirable that a tariff commission's advice should inspire.

In order to eliminate any suspicion of political motives for the action of the commission and in order to prevent its becoming a refuge for "lame ducks," provision was made that no member or ex-member of Congress should be eligible for appointment upon it, but the House struck out this restriction. Apparently it does not wish to close any avenue to the Federal Treasury against the lame ducks, no matter if the work of impartial tariff revision should be wrecked.

Another essential of efficient, nonpolitical tariff revision is permanence of the commission. In order to insure it, the bill sponsored by the Tariff Commission League provided a permanent, annual appropriation for its expenses. That would have prevented the question from being raised yearly in Congress, when regular appropriations were under discussion, whether the commission should live or die. Congress could not kill it by merely stopping the appropriation; legislation specifically abolishing it would be necessary. The House has struck out the provision for a continuing, annual appropriation and has substituted an appropriation for a single year. The effect is to give the commission a precarious, year-to-year existence which may be ended at the pleasure of a partisan majority.

If the tariff is really to be taken out of politics, it is essential that the Senate restore the bill to the shape in which it received the practically unanimous indorsement of the press and the business community. Should the present Congress give the Nation a tariff commission such as this bill prescribes, it will not have given that which the people ask; it will have given something very far from being "just as good."

STRAINING THE LAW'S MEANING.

The Interstate Commerce was driven to strain the meaning of words almost to the breaking point in order to find legal authority for its decision abolishing Pacific Coast terminal rates. The fourth section of the law of 1906 forbids a railroad which has reduced rates in competition with water routes to raise them again unless the Commission finds changed conditions other than elimination of water competition to warrant the increase. The Commission's decision was based wholly on elimination of water competition, but it overcomes this obvious conflict with the law by saying:

> The Commission itself fixed the relative measure of the rates—

It cannot say that it made the rates themselves and further on it admits that the railroads made them, for it says:

> The carriers have proceeded in this case, under the authority of the Commission, to make only such rates to the Coast points as would enable them to compete—

The decision is obviously contrary to the plain intent of the law. Evidently Congress intended that, competition between water and railroad lines having once been proved and formally acknowledged, its existence should not again be questioned. It permits the Commission from time to time to prescribe the extent to which the railroad may be relieved from the obligation to charge no more for a shorter than for a longer distance, but water competition must be treated as an established fact so long as the water route is open. Further changes in railroad rates are permitted only when conditions other than water competition had changed.

The Commission's reasoning is faulty in another respect. It says the purpose of that part of the fourth section permitting exemption of railroads from the long-and-short-haul clause when water routes compete was "to preserve and promote competition by the water-carriers." Permission to railroads to make competing rates has the precisely opposite effect; it preserves and promotes competition of railroads with water-carriers, and the entire tenor of the fourth section and of the discussion which preceded its adoption shows such to have been its purpose. But the Commission reads into it the contrary purpose and adopts a strained construction of the law's meaning in order to disturb a fundamental condition of rate making for the sake of conforming to a merely temporary absence of water competition.

Before the Commission had had time to frame its decision, one of the grounds for that decision—the closing of the Panama Canal—had been removed. For all the Commission knows, the remaining grounds may be removed before the decision can become effective. In that event, the decision would be left suspended, like Mahomet's coffin, in mid-air, without support in either law or traffic conditions.

It is not conceivable that no relief can be obtained from a decision so contrary to law and fact—that the courts would refuse to take cognizance of its manifest injustice and perversion of the law to defeat the plain purpose of Congress. While the courts have refused to review orders which plainly come within the broad discretion vested in the Commission, they would surely review such an order as the one in question, by which the Commission has exceeded its powers to defeat the purpose of Congress.

A SOLDIER'S FUNERAL.

What spectacle could be more inspiring to sentiments of patriotism than that of a soldier's funeral—particularly the funeral of a soldier who has fallen in valiant fight against great odds? The slow-pacing escort, the riderless horse, the mournful, wailing music, the flag-draped caisson—all are eloquent of that ready, unquestioning sacrifice of all for country which the soldier pledges and freely makes.

These are reflections inspired by witnessing the funeral of Lieutenant Adair. He did his duty in full measure, running over; he did not hesitate and consider whether it was worth while. He did not vacillate, nor watchfully wait, nor seek the easiest way out of a desperate situation. He struck hard at the foe who attacked in front, on right and on left, and received his mortal wound facing his enemy, as a soldier should. He proved once more that a soldier's life is measured not by the number of its years nor in any other way than by the quality of its deeds. Though it be short, if it be filled with duty faithfully done, with battles bravely fought and if it be finished with death unflinchingly faced, it is complete, a perfect whole.

So long as men can die as Adair died, the age of chivalry is not dead, for he was as truly "without fear and without reproach" as was the medieval Chevalier Bayard. America has its chivalry no less valiant than had medieval Europe. This republic owes it to its chivalry that the lives of men such as Adair shall not be frittered away by timid, halting statesmanship, that its brave sons shall not die in vain.

Phosphorus, one of the three most important elements required by plants—the others being nitrogen and potash, which have been made scarce and high in price by the war—comes into prominence again because of the general discussion of our resources in fertilizing materials, and it is comforting to note that in this respect, at least, we shall not in all probability suffer because of the disturbance of trade with Europe. The output of Florida alone has exceeded in recent years the production of any foreign country. The manner of the formation of the deposits is not yet thoroughly understood, but it is supposed to be connected with the existence in a prehistoric time of living organisms in sea water, and with the mastodon and rhinoceros, whose teeth and bones furnished the material which nature in subsequent geologic periods concentrated into their present form.

When the Chicago depositors lost money in Lorimer's bank the first time, it was his fault; if they lose it a second time, the fault will be their own. But Lorimer surely has hypnotic power or he could not induce his own victims to back him.

All that was mortal of a gallant son of Oregon was placed within the sheltering bosom of his native soil yesterday and his death in a foreign land is a direct charge against the mockery of the shallow ambition of the Administration at Washington.

Naturally Britons praise the skill of Captain Koenig in bringing the Deutschland across the Atlantic. That is the strong feature of British people. They applaud individual merit of a foe, even when obliged to kill him.

If the National Guard is to be recruited quickly to war strength, the recruiting officers should be where men are to be found, not twelve miles away. Things will move more swiftly with offices in Portland.

Democratic officeholders in Oregon are reported to be slow with offerings for the campaign fund. They need much jogging to make their contributions purely voluntary, but they will get it, never fear.

Why is it necessary for Americans to seek protection under the British flag in Mexico if we are not at war with that country? If the necessity exists, why are we doing nothing?

The one safe incentive to the placing of a stopper on eloquence in Congress is the desire of its members to turn loose their eloquence on the voters in the campaign.

Commissioner Daly's water inspectors are surely daylight savers or they could not catch water-users sprinkling at dawn.

If the United States has no right to "butt into" the affairs of Mexico, neither has it that right in regard to Panama.

It is little wonder big sums are offered for passage on the Deutschland to Europe. The novelty is distinct, and that appeals to many.

Turkey has so many wars on its hands that it is not only unspeakable but is almost speechless.

Castro has called the ex-dictators of South America to meet in a lodge of sorrow.

This will be a juicy state when all the loganberries are squeezed.

Buying a car is the easy part of it. You must learn all the traffic rules.

When Cipriano Castro arrives, pin him to a board.

Northwest Verse

POLITICS AT HARDSCRABBLE.

We had met fur our We'nsday night
  season o' prayer an' song in ol'
  Hardscrabble church,
Not dreamin' our brotherly love 'd git
  knocked from its roost on the
  piety perch,
An' never suspectin' ol' Satan was there
  a-lyin' in wait, as you'd say,
In the shadders o' sin like a ravenous
  beast o' the jungle a-watchin' fur
  prey.
The sperrit o' grace was at work in
  our hearts, jus' seemed like a
  mantle o' love
Had fallen as soft as a feathery robe
  from the land of immortals above
On our worshipful heads, till the min-
  ister called on ol' Deacon Amini-
  dab Ware,
(Who had bin a wheel hoss in the Hard-
  scrabble church half his life, fur
  to lead us in prayer.

He opened his plea in the usual way by
  a-askin' the Master to bless
The sick an' afflicted, the lame an' the
  halt, an' them that was bowed by
  distress,
The widders an' orphants come in fur a
  word, an' widdowers mournin' fur
  mates,
(Him bein' bereaved in that manner
  himself, his wife havin' skipped
  to the states.)
Then come without warnin' what I
  must admit was a most reperhen-
  sible break,
He prayed that the comin' election
  might give the Republican party
  the cake,
An' asked o' the Master to open the
  eyes o' the masses that they
  might behold
The weakness o' spine o' the shepherd
  that guards the sheep o' the Dim-
  mycrat fold.

When Brother McNulty was called on
  to pray I felt it 'way down in my
  bones
That trouble was brewin', he put such
  a ring o' defiant accent to his
  tones,
He prayed fur the cause o' the people
  at large that was eatin' Prosper-
  ity food
Because o' the fact that the heaven-
  raised man in the White House
  was sure makin' good.
He offered his thanks fur the cool-
  headed man who by use o' the
  cable an' mail
Had sidestepped a war an' had twisted
  some kinks in Germany's war-
  wagin' tail,
An' said that the hosts o' this peace-
  lovin land, despite the mad ele-
  phant's roar,
'D make him stay put in the guv-ament
  chair in which they had put him
  afore.

You'd ort to a-heard the "Amens"
  ringin' out from the friends o'
  the Dimmycrat cause,
An' heard how the close o' his eloquent
  plea was drownded with cheers
  an' applause,
An' Brother McNulty was swellin' with
  pride at the way he had yanked
  'em to taw
When a hymn book let fly from Amin-
  idab's hand caught him close to
  the base o' the jaw.
The brethren supportin' o' nominee
  Hughes won out in the ensuin'
  fight,
Just put the supporters o' Wilson to
  what was a sure ignominious
  flight,
'N I reckon until the election has
  passed we must give our devo-
  tions the shake,
Fur religion an' politics never kin mix
  in a dose that is pleasant to take.

JAMES BARTON ADAMS.

LIFE'S ROSE CYCLE.

They brought my mother a rose the
  morn—
  She oft has told me so—
Of the sunny day when I was born,
  In that Summer long ago.
The rose was dainty, pure and white,
  The sweest flower that blows,
And, because her heart with joy was
  light,
  My mother named me Rose.

They placed a rose within my hand,
  And bade me look serene,
And proudly in the limelight stand,
  That day they crowned me queen.
It was the marvelous Portland rose,
  With its wondrous shell-pink hue;
And, in that selfsame town there grows
  A similar one for you.

Then, on the day a maiden deems
  The sweetest of her life,
When earth to her a heaven seems,
  And naught but joy is rife,
He brought me yet another rose,
  A rose of crimson red;
"Its glorious heart with passion glows,
  As mine for you," he said.

Today they bring a rose to me,
  A rose whose whiteness charms,
Then turn the covers back to see
  The babe within my arms.

HORACE WILLIAM MACNEAL.

SHAKESPEARE IMMORTALE.

Master Will, I pray thee grant but just
  a moment
To one feeble tribute to thy wit,
That from the soul a meed of praise
  be sent
As incense offered to the gods
By mortal man.

Thy philosophy, greater than any other
  attribute,
Hath oft ordained events,
"The coat doth oft proclaim the man,"
But thy mantle hath not been fitting,
Had it graced other shoulders.

Thy soul with tender wit and grace
  aflame
Oft in epigrammatic rhyme
Banished the seed of cant,
And gave to wisdom, life,
With hope eternal.

The truth emblazoned by thy pen
Proclaimed itself aloud,
And through songs of jest and mirth
Yet shone resplendent
In thought, in verity.

Thy mind still binds in tender grasp
The mental powers of earth,
And knits in closer lines anew
Thy birth, thy merits, and thy fame,
In sweet harmonious whole.

BERNARD MULRINE.

PREPAREDNESS.

Some say there is need for preparedness;
  Some say for its use there is none.
We know its need in our "Home, Sweet
  Home,"
  Ere the battle for comfort is won.

And the running of this great Nation
  Is much like the running of a home.
We need this forethought of protection,
  Not the peace for which blood must
  atone.

If only our Army was strengthened,
  Drawn up in formidable array,
The enemy would stop and listen—
  Would "respect" us for many a day.

C. T. BAKER.

THEN AND NOW.

(Suggested by reading "Pipes o' Pan.")

In happy days of long ago
  Pan piped adown a sylvan glade,
While Nymph and Satyr, to and fro,
  Danc'd as he play'd.

Today that erstwhile tranquil nook
  Is filled with Hade's discordant roar.
The wood folk shun its sullied brook—
  Pan pipes no more.

J. T. DILLON.

New, Haughty Dame.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Who is that haughty and aristocratic dame?" "Sah! A real personage. Regent of the Descendants of the Ford Peace Party."

BORDER RATIONS NOT VARIED

Mr. Schnabel Hears Oregon Boys Not as Well Supplied as Others.

PORTLAND, July 11.—(To the Editor.)—I have information from a responsible source that the soldiers of the Oregon Guard now at the Mexican border do not receive food proper to their welfare under the existing climatic conditions. Their daily bill of fare consists of bacon, beans and potatoes—no fresh vegetable of any sort, and no variety at any meal excepting the kinds mentioned. They are said not to be receiving anything like as good fare as the Government provides for the regulars.

I feel that aside from the hardship thus imposed upon our men, the situation involves a serious reflection upon the people of this state. It is said that the troops from other states than Oregon have the benefit of what is known as a "mess fund." This fund is provided by the liberality of the citizens of the other states, and is used to supplement the meager and unsuitable fare which would otherwise be only available.

It appears that our boys are under the impression that some such fund is being collected here, and their complaint goes to what they assume to be merely a delay in forwarding such provision for them. Considering their transfer from the mild weather prevailing here to a temperature of 138 to 150 degrees in the shade, when shade can be found, with the hard work and constant drilling they are required to undergo, it does seem to me that something should be done to provide them with suitable food.

I have several relatives in the Third Oregon, and have made donations for them in conjunction with others out of my own funds, but I realize that there are very many of the boys who have no such source to draw from. I urge, therefore, that publicity be given to this matter, and that we be up and doing. Let the Chamber of Commerce take action and wire funds to Calexico at once. We should also call upon our Congressmen to take the matter up with the War Department without delay.

CHARLES J. SCHNABEL.

PROVIDE FOR MEN'S DEPENDENTS.

Correspondent Would Have States Levy Special Taxes for Purpose.

PASCO, Wash., July 10.—(To the Editor.)—A news item says that New Mexico's militia units encamped on the border threaten to be demoralized by large numbers of men leaving the service under Secretary Baker's orders to discharge all militiamen having dependents.

This is a matter in preparedness that should be taken up at once and I believe it is the duty of each state to provide by taxation for the dependents of those who risk life and health in the defense of their country.

The timid money grabbers and property holders who stay at home in comfort, while the patriotic volunteers are risking their all for their country, should at least be made to pay for the maintenance of the dependents of their defenders. We have laws providing for dependents of workingmen. Their employers are obliged to insure them against accident, the cost being commensurate with the risk.

Can the state do less than insure the volunteers that their loved ones will not suffer?

The general Government provides small pensions for maimed survivors, but the careful man will hesitate to enlist when the Nation is not actually at war, no matter how patriotic he may be.

We are an extravagant and spendthrift Nation and statistics will show that a small percentage of workers are forehanded enough to leave their families beyond the reach of want while the wage-earner is defending the country. Our women and children (unlike those of war and soldier-ridden Europe) are not the almost universal bread-winners.

Our poorest home is as sacred as that of the richest courtier, king or potentate. Can we lower our standard by neglecting to provide for the dependents of our defenders?

W. P. GRAY.

MORE CORNERS BEING CUT OFF.

Protest Made Against Continued Changes That Pile Up Costs.

PORTLAND, July 11.—(To the Editor.)—The city is cutting again street corners on Morrison street, after having operated even in residence districts where there is little traffic. It is reported that the city has already spent over $200,000 and will have spent $300,000 before it is over.

Is such expense really justified by the reason that it will afford more facility to fire ladders to turn corners rapidly? Expensive fire ladders! How do they manage in Boston, New Orleans, New York and other old cities, where many streets are so narrow? They seem to get along pretty well with their fire service. Maybe there are other kinds of fire ladders which do not necessitate an expense of $300,000. Half of that money or less would probably have bought Council Crest or made other roads or improvements for which there would be something to show more than cut street corners, manholes and the like.

As a taxpayer The Oregonian should be interested in this question. How can the taxpayers' league let such expenses go by without at least making an inquiry?

PORTLANDER.

DEPOSIT GUARANTEE LAW LIKED

Former Nebraska Banker Urges Its Adoption by Oregon.

SHERWOOD, Or., July 10.—(To the Editor.)—Having just recently moved from Nebraska, where I have been "a country banker" for 18 years and having operated a state bank in Nebraska, where guarantee deposit law of state banks is operative, I want to write a few lines in favor of this good law. State banks in Nebraska are "forging ahead in great shape," due in a large measure to the Nebraska guarantee deposit law covering state banks.

The law has now spread till it covers Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, South Dakota and Nebraska. Depositors now placing money in Nebraska state banks have full confidence that they will get their money back whenever they call for it. This confidence is bringing money into Nebraska state banks from adjoining states and from many depositors who formerly "hid their money at home."

Why can't Oregon have this good law? Let's get together and see if we cannot have it. If Oregon can get this law on her statute books it will be pulling off a great stunt for our Northwest country. F. N. AUSTIN.

Enlisting in Canadian Army.

OAK POINT, July 11.—(To the Editor.)—Where and how can a man enlist in the Canadian army?

SUBSCRIBER.

It would be absolutely necessary for the correspondent to go to some Canadian city and offer his services. Recruiting in the United States for a foreign army, if attempted and detected, would be punished under the neutrality laws.

Qualifications of President.

PORTLAND, July 11.—(To the Editor.)—Can a Roman Catholic become President of the United States? Can a Jew become President of the United States? If not, why?

C. V. W.

The only qualifications of the President prescribed by the Constitution are that he be a natural born citizen, at least 35 years old and that he have been a resident within the United States for 14 years.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian July 13, 1891.

New York.—Smalley's special cablegram to the Tribune from London says: "Probably the most important incident of the German Emperor's visit to England is that which begins Sunday and ends Monday—his visit to Lord Salisbury at Hatfield. Then, if not before, it is certain that business will be done. The absolute master of the most powerful army in the world and the virtual master of the most powerful fleet, will not meet and separate without exchanging views on several subjects.

Gladstone, it is now stated on good authority, will not retire. He will take an active part in the struggle for supremacy in the Commons.

Professor L. F. Henderson, the well-known botanist, formerly principal of the Portland High School, but now a resident of Olympia, is in town. He is assistant World's Fair Commissioner for the state of Washington.

Rev. G. De La Matyr, of Akron, O., preached in the Taylor-Street Methodist Church yesterday. His subject was "The Glory of Human Nature."

Captain J. M. Gilman, a well-known pioneer, died of heart trouble yesterday at noon.

It has been discovered by someone with an inquiring turn of mind that Goethe wrote Charlotte von Stein a thousand letters in ten years.

Ed Long has walked off with the championship medal of Yamhill County for being the best shot at clay pigeons.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian July 13, 1866.

Washington.—Nesmith of Oregon has offered a resolution which has been adopted, asking for information concerning certain disorderly proceedings, robberies and murders on the road from the Arizona line to Guaymas, and directing the military committee to inquire into the closing of that route by the opposing forces.

New York.—The Pacific Mail Company's steamer Montana has left for San Francisco.

Ottawa, July 11.—There was an excited session of the Canadian Parliament. The opposition assailed the government with great force and effect and the project of annexation to the United States seems to gain favor.

John A. Frazer, State Senator from Polk County, died of consumption at Salem, Wednesday. A special election will no doubt be called to fill the vacancy.

It has been suggested that our people frame and circulate a petition—notwithstanding what has already been done—asking Congress to establish a port of entry at Portland.

D. C. Ireland, local editor of this paper, left last night on the steamer Oriflamme for a "winged" trip to San Francisco.

WHY STOP MEASURED WATER?

User Sees No Reason for Restriction, If Consumer Pays.

PORTLAND, July 12.—(To the Editor.)—The lament duck of the city administration has charge of the water department. The martinets who run it are allowing water to run to waste by the tens of thousands of gallons; are bemoaning the fact that the revenue this Summer is below normal and at the same time are sending inspectors around shutting off water of persons running their water through meters on off days. One would suppose that the householder who has a meter and must pay for what he uses, should be encouraged to use all he will, during the present superabundance of water in the reservoirs.

Why not turn over to this management the job of supplying the people with electric light and gas? Then they would doubtless notify the consumer that he must not use gas except on certain days or electric light during certain hours, even though the purchaser pays for every bit of gas or light he uses.

It looks as though the water officials make useless rules just because they can—as a Czar would, without any possible explanation of the reason for them. One can see some reason for insisting that people using water for sprinkling on a flat basis should be restricted as to days and hours. But what is the reason for restricting those who use through a meter, when water is so abundant?

WATER-USER.

CANNING FRUIT WITHOUT SUGAR

Oregon Agricultural College Explains Points of Process.

CORVALLIS, Or., July 11.—(To the Editor.)—A recent editorial in The Oregonian on canning fruit without sugar recalls the fact that the Oregon Agricultural College has prescribed a method of doing this, which is as follows:

Sterilize the jars by boiling in water. Prepare the fruit and put it in the jars; adjust the rubbers, pour boiling water into the can to fill brim full, put on covers without clamping down tight, and put jars in washboiler or steam cooker. Cover boiler and cook fruit required length of time, which varies with different fruits. A table of cooking time for Oregon fruits and vegetables can be had by sending to college for free copy of bulletin, "Canning Fruits and Vegetables."

The problem of keeping fruit is one of sterilization and sealing. Although sugar is not essential to preservation, it is a necessary article of nutrition and palatability, and unless sugar is unreasonably high in price it is generally best to use a small amount. Sugar demands may be distributed more evenly throughout the year by adding more when the fruit is eaten. A sack or so may be purchased in Winter or early Spring, before the demand grows heavy and the price goes up. If consumers would only remember that beet sugar is in no wise different from cane sugar, that it has the same sweetening power, is just as good in fruits and jells and juices as cane sugar, that it is just as good in every way and costs less, the demand for cane sugar at canning time would be still further reduced.

M. S.

Telling the Plain Truth.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Because, forsooth, The Oregonian ventured to trace the history of the Mexican imbroglio leading up to the late crisis and culminating in the calling out of the National Guard and truthfully analyzed that history, with some critical comment, in passing, one of its contemporaries in a passion of protest called it a "copperhead" and questioned its loyalty. With war seemingly imminent, such outcries, from partisan zealots unable to defend the record, emanated from other sources as well. A concerted effort to silence honest criticism by this means was clearly in evidence. But these outcries fell upon deaf ears. It was all too plain that if truth-telling spelled treason, and the locating of responsibility for the Mexican mess exactly where it belonged meant copperheadism, then nine-tenths of the newspapers of the land were daily inviting the odious appellation and stout and sturdy patriots of all parties could not escape the traitorous and treasonable characterization. People had not been reading about Mexico these weary months without becoming adequately enlightened. Hence such buncombe failed to appeal, and the proposed Copperhead Club languishes.