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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1917.

IMPERIALIST MIND OUR ENEMY.

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech to the German Reichstag is most instructive as revealing more clearly than ever the German view of the empire's relation to other nations. That view is that German necessity must be the supreme law of the world. Anything is right in Germany's estimation which will contribute to German success; anything is wrong which stands in Germany's way. International law, treaties, the rights of neutrals, freedom of the sea, that immunity of non-combatants, especially of women and children, from attack which has been considered the foundation of civilization—all must be swept away in order to clear Germany's path to victory. No part of the structure of civilization is worth saving at the cost of German defeat. A perfect world would be a world at Germany's feet, subdued by German ruthlessness and imbibing German culture from the Hindenburgs, Ludendorffs, Tirpitzes, Reventlows and Zimmermanns. That is the German view.

If any nation should be injured through obstructing the way of Germany, it, not Germany, is to blame. If any person should be killed by the German war-chariot, his blood be on his own head. That Germany may conquer, the sea must be as utterly a desert as Sahara. Belgium was justly punished for opposing its guaranteed neutrality to the passage of German armies into France. Great Britain is to blame for coming to Belgium's rescue. That country is responsible for submarine barbarities, for it has presumed to blockade Germany's coast. Russia has sinned in opposing Austria's chastisement of Serbia. France commits a crime in going to Russia's aid and in attempting to recover her lost provinces. Italy is a faithless ally in having denounced as aggressive a war which Germany, whose word is law, has pronounced defensive and in seeking the union of the Italian race. Roumania must be crushed for cherishing a like ambition. The Armenians are justly exterminated for daring to hope for emancipation from Turkish savagery. Finally the United States alone is to blame for the murder of its citizens and for the destruction of its ships, for it insists upon continuing commerce and travel on the high seas when Germany forbids, and thereby gets its ships and its people in the way of submarines.

When this is the condition of the German mind and when translation of its thoughts into action takes the form of seas strewn with wrecks and the bodies of women and children, of countries laid waste, of cities destroyed and sacred temples wrecked, and of entire nations reduced to semi-starvation and slavery, it would be blind folly for the American people not to govern their conduct by a broad view of the facts. We dare not, if we would, take cognizance only of that phase of Prussianism which immediately affects us. Were we to restore peace for the present—for Germany is already making war on us—by abandoning our commerce and by withdrawing our ships from the barred zones, we should sanction application of the same methods to us on land as well as at sea after Germany had triumphed over her present enemies.

We should by so doing accept the dictum that might is right, and that law, good faith, the rights of nations, even the first principles of humanity, place no restraint upon its exercise. Seeing the leagued despotisms of the world arrayed against the leagued democracies of Europe, we should, by submitting to Germany's decree, do even worse than proclaim our indifference to the fate of those institutions which are the essence of our National life. By withdrawing from the allies those supplies which we can lawfully send them, we should give valuable aid to despotism against democracy. We should aid Prussianism to triumph in Europe and Asia, knowing full well that it would surely attempt afterward, by the barbarous methods which we had sanctioned by our submission, to crush democracy in the United States and in the other American republics. For Germany would not rest until the monstrous designs with which it is obsessed had triumphed throughout the world.

Submarine war, which we now resist, is but a symptom of the hideous disease which prevails throughout the Germanic alliance and which Germany strives to spread in all countries. To fight submarines only would be but to treat a symptom; we must fight the disease itself, not only by preventing its spread but by attacking it where it rages most fiercely. We have had convincing evidence of the efforts of Germany to infect our own people with it, in shape of plots, explosions and propaganda in this country, of the attempted alliance with Mexico and Japan and of a long series of covertly hostile acts extending back for twenty years.

But defeat does not mean destruction of Germany, as the Kaiser and his statesmen falsely assert; that assertion is born of the delusion that Germany cannot live without them, or that the allies would, if they could, destroy the nation. Defeat of the Teutons would remove the chief obstacles to peace and would clear the way to formation of that league of peace for which we all yearn. War will lead to peace by destroying its own most fruitful causes.

Recent reports on the National work of the Young Men's Christian Association show increasing liberality on the part of industrial concerns all over the country, due largely, it is probable, to the foundation laid by the department which took up the task of teaching English to foreigners in shops and mills, a task which was extended, quite naturally, to instruction in the principles of our Government. From this it was only a step to courses in American history, and finally to industrial efficiency. The office of industrial secretary has consequently become more and more important. One of these has been added only recently for special work in the iron region of Minnesota, and the work has been greatly enlarged and extended in Colorado, while points as widely separated as Winston-Salem, N. C.; Newburgh, N. Y., and Springfield, O., have been added to the great chain. A considerable number of specially trained industrial secretaries are to enter upon their tasks in May.

THE SUPREME DUTY.

America is awake, for America has begun to understand. It had assigned to itself, through tradition, through desire, through practice, the easy role of isolation from the controversies and struggles of the nations. It cannot be maintained. We must make our choice.

If Germany should triumph over her enemies in Europe, what will be the nature of the reckoning to come with us?

If Germany and her allies fight to a draw with Great Britain and her allies, without our intervention, what then will be our international position before the one group or the other?

If Great Britain and her allies defeat Germany and her allies, without our intervention, what then?

Whatever we do, or refuse to do, there is no escape from the conclusion that preparedness to take care of ourselves in any finality is the great duty of the hour.

MR. PETERSON'S JOB.

Mrs. Singleton has been superintendent of the Multnomah County Poor Farm and is about to be removed to make a place for F. R. Peterson, of Lents. The charges against Mrs. Singleton appear to be chiefly that she is a woman, which is not denied, and that she has not been economical, which is denied. On the whole, the reasons for Mrs. Singleton's dismissal apparently simmer down to the fact that her place is desired for a man, and the man evidently has special political deserts.

If the public has any interest whatever in the Poor Farm, it may well be curious about Mr. Peterson. He is not particularly well known throughout the county, but there are some excellent women at Lents who think and say that they know him quite well. They appeared before the County Commissioners yesterday to protest against his appointment, making accusations which lacked nothing of directness. They say he is guilty of illicit sale of liquor from his drug store and that his personal habits are notoriously bad, and they describe him generally as a "public nuisance."

The Oregonian doesn't know anything about Peterson. But it knows that the charges against him must be satisfactorily met before his appointment to the Poor Farm can be justifiably made. It has heard always goods reports about Mrs. Singleton, and it has not overlooked the fact that the inmates of the farm are practically a unit in desiring her retention.

The County Commissioners and the County Physician should be informed that the public has a watchful and suspicious eye about this Singleton-Peterson episode. The burden of proof that the change is warranted rests clearly upon them.

DISCORD OVER HARMONY.

The Oregonian has been favored with copies of the affirmative and negative arguments on the "harmony" amendment to the constitution. As these arguments will later appear in the state pamphlet to be perused at the well-known family gatherings called for argument and discussion by every voter in Oregon prior to every election, the texts will not be given herein. It may be appropriately observed, however, that in a matter of harmony our lawyers and lawgivers find surprising room for discord.

The proposed amendment was published on this page several days ago. It will be recalled that it purports to prohibit constitutional amendments by implication. It requires that every new amendment, which renders any part of the constitution ineffective, shall specifically repeal that part of the constitution or fall itself.

It is an entirely novel proposal and The Oregonian blushingly confesses that after reading both arguments, prepared as they were by able students, lawyers and statesmen, it is still unable to determine what would be the effect of its adoption.

The affirmative argument avers that the amendment would put a stop to initiation as constitutional amendments of enactments that ought to be submitted as statutory law. If it would do that it would be a good thing. But the negative argument insists that it would prevent any and all amendments, which plainly would be a bad thing.

We have been living in Oregon with the idea that the will of the people is supreme; that the latest expression of that will prevails over all preceding expressions, and that its supremacy cannot be denied. This amendment, it appears, would deny it with all the force of a fundamental and unassailable declaration. It provides that the will of the voters in 1917 shall prevail over the will of the voters in any later election as to the technical wording of constitutional enactments.

The amendment thus seems at last to offer opportunity to demonstrate just what would happen if an irresistible force meets an immovable body. The problem is an old one and The Oregonian acknowledges that, with others of scientific turn of mind, it has long been disturbed by it. Once more is the Oregon system offered as a means of definitely ending an ancient and important controversy.

GIVING JOY TO THE PEOPLE.

There died in a New York hospital the other day a man who had done a good deal toward giving pleasure to his fellow-men in his modest way, but who at the time of his death was practically forgotten to all except a small circle of intimate friends. He was Charles B. Ward, actor and song writer, and best known in the latter capacity. At one time he was as famous as Charley Chaplin and Roscoe Arbuckle are today, although people then were not paying so lavishly for being entertained. He began by refining and popularizing the Bowery music-hall songs of his time and then branched out on his own account. There was a time not so very long ago when every boy who could whistle knew some of the melodies of Ward.

Gone to the limbo of forgotten things, however, is the best-known song of them all, "Strike Up the Band, Here Comes a Sailor." It was written before the crimp had been abolished, and the sentiment and philosophy struck a responsive chord all over the world. The song was translated into many languages, and parodied extensively, and the rollicking tune was "executed" on many an accordeon along the world's waterfronts. Only the chorus has survived. It ran like this:

> Strike up the band,
> Here comes a sailor,
> Hat in his hand,
> Just off a whaler;
> Stand in a row,
> Don't let him go;
> Jack's a cinch, but every inch
> A sailor.

Jack was a "cinch" those days for the hordes that were lying in wait for him on every hand. It was the "easy come, easy go" period of seafaring, and Jack rather prided himself on his total lack of concern for what became of him after his money was gone. It is a strange fact that the ditty usually had the effect when sung in his presence of causing him to "loosen up" all the more freely. The none-too deft compliment about his being "every inch a sailor" found its way straight to his childlike heart, whereupon there were more rounds of drinks for all. But times have changed for Jack. He is not the "cinch"—for the boarding-house keepers and other harpies—that he used to be. It is not improbable that the song was the indirect cause of bringing the reform about. Subconsciously, even, one may become weary of being paraded as a "cinch" indefinitely; and, at any rate, sailors are not the easy marks they were in the olden days.

Ward had the happy faculty of making the world sing with him. "The Band Played On" had a certain quality that made it tremendously popular for about the length of time that a topical song usually lasts, but it, too, went its way, as have "Hot Time" and "Tipperary," which others have since written. It affords an interesting field for speculation upon what the next one will be like. Right now we are living in a period, happily or not, according to the point of view, unrelieved by a really popular air of any kind. We except, of course, the "Star-Spangled Banner."

OUR CONTROVERSIAL AFFLICTION.

Good advice founded on an unpleasant premise is offered Oregon by the Seattle Bulletin. "Oregon," it says, "has been one of the slowest moving states in the Union in the good-roads movement, and in its present campaign for 3000 miles of road has its one opportunity of getting on the map."

Such is Oregon's reputation. On the south, it is learned from the same publication, California and various counties are considering bond issues for roads aggregating nearly $100,000,000. On the north, five counties of Washington are proposing bond issues as large as that contemplated by the entire state of Oregon. "Two counties in Washington have voted bonds in the sum of $4,750,000 for good roads and there is not a sign of bankruptcy yet." King County has spent as much as Oregon proposes to expend, the roads are laid and the people are reaping the benefits.

Oregon has gained its reputation for road delinquency by fussing over details. In one year three road programmes were presented by initiative by as many different groups. Everybody wanted roads, but the quarrel over immaterialities defeated all three.

The state is at it again. Master Spence, of the Grange, is strong for roads, but would rather have no roads at all if they are to be paid for in twenty-five years instead of five. Also, he argues, the roads should be built from the outside in instead of from the inside out. These trifling details have turned him wholly against a constructive proposal. And so it goes.

It seems to be an Americanism to become excited over inconsequentials. The principle of state regulation of railroads was delayed for a time in several communities as result of furious controversy over whether the commission should be appointive or elective. We still argue heatedly over whether city officials should be elected by wards or at large, forgetting that the chief need is efficient men and that whether each represents a district or the entire city does not amount to a hoot in comparison therewith.

It is an opportune time for Oregon citizens to forget tweedledee and tweedledum and rise to a conception of broad, progressive policies. Neighbors are going ahead with road work and already have a long lead over Oregon. Fortunate we are that paved roads do not come in colors. Otherwise we should now be in the throes of a row as to whether they should not be blue if the law had happened to call for pink.

USEFUL INVENTIONS WANTED.

Of inventions there is no end. The trouble seems to be that inventors do not study the four simple rules recently summarized for their benefit by the Electrical Experimenter before putting their brains and hands to work. Observance of these rules would save many heartburnings, as well as much labor in the Patent Office. They are: First, is the device useful? Second, does it fill an actual want? Third, is it practical and can it be readily manufactured and marketed? Fourth, is there a similar article on the market?

It is one of the factors in the fame of Thomas A. Edison that he always has been intensely practical, and that in all his busy life he has wasted only a minimum of time on inventions that if perfected would not add anything to the wealth or the pleasure of the world. A vast number of amateur inventors, on the other hand, ask themselves only one question, and that is whether the device they have in mind is already in existence. They seem to believe that everybody is imbued with a passion merely for something new. More than 1,000,000 patents have been registered at Washington. A big proportion of them represent nothing that will add to the efficiency, or even to the entertainment, of the people.

Americans might as well realize now that their inventive genius has got to be directed into useful fields to be of any account. Preferably, it should be employed in devising methods and machinery for reducing the cost of living. That is the big problem of the day, and it can be answered in many ways, chemical, or industrial, or merely agricultural. There will be a wide-open field for substitutes for a good many things—such as binder twine and package material. We might as well drop out of the race for cheap novelties. We did not succeed in competing with the countries of Europe before the war, and now Japan is covering the ground, as is indicated by the number of Easter trinkets of Japanese manufacture in the American market this year. The field of machinery, however, is still wide open to us, and we are likely to have a certain portion of the toy market to ourselves if we do not misdirect our energies. There is a tremendous demand for toys with a purpose, that will do the things they are designed for. Amusement and instruction combined are a watchword of the new day. It is even being adopted by the kindergartens.

Promise of development on a larger scale than ever of electrical power indicates a practically unlimited opportunity for inventors in lines utilizing electricity. There are a good many communities whose capacity for producing current exceeds the present commercial demand. The Experimenter believes that one of the best opportunities of all lies in the direction of electrical refrigeration. The electric fan, it seems, does not produce coolness, but only the sensation of coolness, by stirring up the heated atmosphere and causing drafts that evaporate the moisture on our skins. But a hint is given us. Peltier has shown that actual cold can be produced by crossing a bar of bismuth with a bar of antimony and sending an electric current through it in a certain direction. So much for the theory. What we need is an apparatus that will get the result on a commercial scale. It seems a job that ought to keep all the electrical inventors busy for quite a spell.

Farmers in the West would hail a practical improvement on present methods of destroying the pests that work havoc with their crops of fruit and vegetables. It is not believable that the last word has been written on this subject. Some day, no doubt, the problem will be solved, and there are many whose childish faith leads them to look to electricity to help them. The opening is wide, but inventors will do extremely well to begin by reading the rules and not waste their time on gimcracks.

The work of British suffragists in aid of the national cause has done far more to win their fight for the ballot than did all the sabotage of the years before the war. It even converted Mr. Asquith, who had been their most determined opponent. By their help to the army and navy the women have silenced the taunt that, because a woman cannot fight, she should not vote. By the same means the women of the conservative Eastern states are likely to overcome opposition to their enfranchisement.

Commissioner Daly's explanation of the delay in supplying water to the recruiting station shows his subordinates to be so well drilled in red-tape methods that they did not even think of proposing an exception in favor of the National Guard at a time when patriotism should override all obstacles.

If David and Goliath could have witnessed the battle between Turks and British near their old fighting ground, they would have been staggered at the new implements of warfare. What figure would David's sling and Goliath's sword cut in these days?

The killing of a poor old Chinaman of 70 as he lay asleep at Astoria is enough to show the vicious spirit in the war of the tongs. All Chinese do not look alike or act alike, but Mayor Albee's plan of separation and classification is worth a trial.

Now who is responsible for reviving the issue of sectionalism—the Southern brigadiers who hold to the big jobs in Congress or the Northern Democrats who rebel against them? The Republicans can well look on with a smile.

It appears from the remarks of Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg that all we need to do to avoid war is to accept unreservedly his viewpoint as to our rights at sea. Simple, isn't it?

HI Gill has been in politics for years and testifies all his money goes toward paying debts. That should be enough to keep men out of the game, but lure and ego overwhelm evidence.

Putting ground glass in hospital bandages would seem to be the work of an insane man. It is a trick of which we would not suspect a savage in his right mind.

Burglary that contemplates looting a grocery of two truckloads at an early hour is a fine art, but detection will be finer, since a heavy rain destroyed the trail.

Wilson's letter to the mother of Caminetti, who asked for a pardon for her son, shows he is not swayed by sentiment or politics in course of duty.

Just for practice, why wouldn't it be a good idea for the ultra-pacifists to try their 'prentice hands on Senor Villa and a few more of his kind?

Still, those Belgian relief ships are insured, which is a comforting thought for the contributors, whatever way the underwriters may feel about it.

Now and then the opinions of each other expressed by opposing lawyers have merit that is oft appreciated by laymen who have lost cases.

Portland is improving. The send-off of the Third Oregon was a bit more noisy than before.

We have known piano wire to be put to worse uses than catching hostile submarines.

If the scarcity continues, tin will regain its old significance as a synonym for money.

One of the conspicuous failures of the year thus far has been the month of March.

There is little use in bringing to trial a woman who kills her drunken husband.

Rear platforms must be enlarged when young women become conductors.

Equal suffrage has a chance in Iowa if the male "sect" votes right.

Plant potatoes in the yard and run bean vines up the back porch.

Brand Whitlock knows too much to be allowed to leave Belgium.

Dan Malarkey is doubly blessed in his patriotic sons.

Taft is saying something, while Bryan talks.

DANGER OF CURBING DEFECTIVES

Difficulty in Making Correct Diagnosis Is Pointed Out.

VANCOUVER, Wash., March 30.—(To the Editor.)—It was with much interest that I read the article "Curb on Defectives Asked," by George A. Thacher. On first thought it may seem unreasonable to object to such a curb on these unfortunates. The more I reflect the more I should object, however.

First let me ask who shall determine in a given case whether a man or woman is a "defective" or not? In many cases the line is very closely drawn. The records of many places show very plainly that the average physician's statement is no better than that of the average layman. Behold the skilled (?) alienists in the Thaw and similar cases!

Second let me ask if it would be wise to put such power into the hands of any body of men even if in the realms of politics some physician (apparently having the necessary knowledge to pass upon such cases) could be found. In every-day practice the average physician treats cases where all facts show that a quick, easy death would be less expensive for all concerned. Even for the patient it is often more of a real tragedy for him to live than for him to die. Would Mr. Thacher therefore empower physicians to give the necessary pill? Is the highest aim to get through life without suffering—even to the extent of legalizing refined murder by specialists? I think not.

There may be, I grant, individual cases in which it would seem a Godsend. Who dare name those cases? I think the highest duty of the doctor is not to ease pain but rather to stay death wherever and whenever he can and prolong the faintest spark of life—lest by Nature's gentle fan it may yet become a man.

The "defective" lacks something which the normal individual has—so does a man sick unto death. Shall we sterilize the first—shall we snap the tiny thread in the second? I think objection to a sterilization law is not necessarily sentimental selfishness. It may rather be sound, solid, mature reasoning.

However, granted that there were some sentiment in it, would that necessarily make it an unsound objection. Can any man succeed or deserve to succeed even in this boasted age of commercialism without giving some regard to sentiment? Do not sentiments often bring us to a higher level than our poor fallible (?) reasoning? The writer admitted that the only time he saw a poor "defective" smile was when she looked upon her babe. Who knows the value of that smile? Many a woman peering into the great deeps of baby eyes has received a new-born emotion—call it sentiment if you wish—sentiment which perchance will cause as great a ripple on the shores of time as was ever made by well-intended laws which in their cold materialism sometimes forget that when dealing with a woman and a babe they are dealing with souls in the making.

Cold-blooded scientists may be willing to rest all on Mendel's law. There are exceptions, however, even in dealing with guinea pigs. When the human equation enters who knows what mysterious soul may be touched by the Great Musician when a soul-song is needed to send ripples down the centuries to generations yet unborn? We all believe in heredity up to a certain point. But a person who has looked at stars; into the eyes of babes; or into the hearts of many suffering men and women, needs something better than any claims of a pacifist professor or even Mendel's law to convince him that there are many exceptions to all rules. Thank God for the exceptions!

Is it, after all, the feeble-minded woman who is the greater menace? How about that non-fastidious average man? I do not believe he is as common as the writer would have us believe. If he were would he not be even more responsible than the poor, unfortunate, feeble-minded mother? If there is to be any sterilization why not apply it to him—an average jury would seldom err in their judgment.

T. W. OVENS.

Oath of Allegiance.

PORTLAND, March 30.—(To the Editor.)—To settle a dispute please publish the oath of allegiance to the United States of America. Also would it not be a constitutional right to make an arrest of any man giving utterance to treasonable language, war having been declared, and to whom should he be turned over in case of arrest?

W. A. STOREY.

This is the oath subscribed to by aliens applying for citizenship:

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, and particularly to ——— the ——— of ——— of whom I have heretofore been a subject; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign or domestic; and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

The oath taken by those entering the Federal service differs from the above but slightly.

There is no provision in the penal code for the arrest by private citizens of those uttering treason, but one who fails to reveal to judges or other agents of the Federal Government knowledge of such treasonable utterances or threats of violence, or violent acts, lays himself liable to punishment for misprision of treason. (Section 3 of the Penal Code.)

First Citizenship Papers.

SHERWOOD, March 29.—(To the Editor.)—Can a foreign born person coming to the United States declare his intention to become an American citizen the first day of his arrival, or must he wait a certain length of time, and if so, does this absolve him from all allegiance to the country he came from?

A. W. CAMEHL.

An alien may declare his intention of becoming an American citizen as soon as he lands on America soil. He has the protection of a democratic form of government as soon as he lands, but is not entitled to full protection, and is not abjured from all allegiance to his mother country until he has taken out his final citizenship papers.

Nurses in War.

PORTLAND, March 13.—(To the Editor.)—Do the nurses, doctors and other professional persons receive compensation when serving in time of war? Where and how should one apply for admission?

PATRIOTIC.

Nurses, doctors and professional men receive compensation when serving during time of war. Any application for admission into that service should be taken up with the Surgeon-General of the United States Army, Washington, D. C. Necessary instructions for being examined preliminary to joining will then be forwarded.

Naturalized Citizens.

ASHWOOD, Or., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—Can a naturalized citizen of the United States become a subject of another nation, return to the United States and again become a citizen of this country.

A SUBSCRIBER.

So far as can be ascertained there is no legal obstruction to an expatriated American again becoming an American citizen, providing his expatriation was not the result of conditions that would make him "undesirable."

NOT ALL HINDUS CONSPIRATORS

Corvallis Student Says Sweeping Charge Is Unfair.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Or., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—A few days ago it was reported in your columns that the British Consul-General at San Francisco will not issue passports to Hindus who have immigrated to this country and now wish to return to India. I did not attach any importance to this statement, because I knew the Consul-General too well; he was ever helpful and kind to those who approached him for any help, and the present embarrassing situation might have led to the temporary suspension of passports. But the San Francisco correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, Boston, rudely shocked my feelings when he boldly asserted that that step was taken on account of conspiracy among Hindus on the Pacific Coast and elsewhere against the British Government.

I do not believe for a moment that the Consul-General or other representatives of the British government would make such a broad and sweeping accusation against all Hindus on the Pacific Coast irrespective of their character and deportment. To say that all Hindus in the United States are conspirators is, to my mind, nothing short of an insult; it is wounding our self-respect and pride in British citizenship. In the very midst of revolutionary and reactionary influences there are people whose faith in British ideals and justice is unshaken, and whose confidence in the ultimate destiny of their country under the British flag is firm and abiding.

There are Hindus and Hindus, as well as a variety of every nationality, not only here but everywhere; and to class every Hindu among conspirators is unjust and unwarranted. It is an aspersion against our character and an insult to our sense of self-respect. It blights and chills the enthusiasm of the many loyal, sober and level-headed students who come to receive benefit from the great educational facilities which this land of freedom affords.

I have no brief concerning Hindu students at other colleges and the large number who attend them, but as for the Hindu students who attend the Oregon State Agricultural College the faculty and student body will be glad to have the opportunity to pass their verdict as to our character.

A. NARAYANA ROW.

VINE-COVERED WALL BEAUTIFUL

Artistic Treatment of Conspicuous Public Drives Suggested.

PORTLAND, March 30.—(To the Editor.)—Which is the more restful to the eye, more attractive to our own people or visitors, and a more fitting background to Portland, in addition to the abtting of noble firs—a high, unsightly, naked concrete wall extending for thousands of feet along some of the conspicuous driveways of our city, or the same wall covered with green foliage in Summer and nature's beautiful tinted Autumn leaves in the Fall?

The writer has reference to the retaining walls leading to Portland Heights via Vista avenue and Montgomery Drive and Hall street, and others which can be made beautiful with such little expense by the planting of Boston ivy or other suitable vines at the base of them by our Commissioners in charge of public parks.

These vines require no care after once planted and grow rapidly, and if planted now would soon cover a long stretch of unsightliness that is seen from all over the city and would give us another thing of beauty to show our visitors. Millions of roses in Summer, miles of gorgeous Autumn foliage in the Fall.

ADOLPH A. DEKUM.

Fall of the Romanoff.

By James Barton Adams.

The Romanoff is down and out, a freedom blow was dealt; he got the figurative knout upon his royal pelt. His titled bunch have been jarred loose from governmental jobs and now they are of no more use than corn-denuded cobs. Now palsied is the cruel hand of stern tyrannic reign; 'tis banished from the rescued land to never come again. The bear that as a human walked has had his hair coat singed, and his inhuman acts that shocked the earth will be avenged. He and his cruel henchmen now will join the common class, and subjects will no longer bow bareheaded as they pass, nor will enforced cheers arise as when in robes of state the military-guarded guys moved through the crowded street. The red flag of supremacy now floats in Russian air where once the flag of majesty, the banner of the bear, flapped in the breezes ever fraught with moans of the oppressed; O, great the reformation wrought when came the final test; a reformation that is just and is destined to spread till not a gilded crown shall roost upon a kingly head, then will the sun of freedom shower its rays o'er every zone, the people hold the ruling power and wars will be unknown.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, March 31, 1892.

Calcutta.—Dispatches say Mandalay, the capital of Burmah, is burning.

Berlin.—The Reichstag today passed a bill allowing the government to declare a state of siege in Alsace-Lorraine in the event of war.

Ben Hendricks and Minnie Palmer will appear in "Ole Olson" at the Marquam Grand Theater starting April 4. Marion Joseph will appear as Juliet in "Two Nights in Rome" at Cordray's Saturday.

W. P. Duncan and Mr. Willis, of John Day, have found a ledge of asbestos six miles down the river from their place.

T. D. Barton is building a new residence at East Fifteenth and Tillamook streets.

The Prohibitionists' county convention at Masonic Temple yesterday indorsed A. F. Miller for Sheriff and George H. Brown for School Superintendent.

Flower garden vandals and culprits have been operating in the Couch School district. One of the latest cases was that reported by a little girl yesterday who saw some boys enter Mrs. Leuthold's yard at Fifteenth near K street and take a number of hyacinths.

There is a move on to have Attorney T. J. Giesler made Justice of the Peace of North Portland.

Early Population of Nevada.

PERRYDALE, Or., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—(1) What was the population of Nevada when admitted? How large was Carson City at that time? What is the largest population Nevada has had?

(2) How many people does a territory have to have to be admitted?

E. ENDS.

(1) It is impossible to give accurate population statistics for Nevada at the time of its admission, which occurred in 1864. The state grew in population rapidly from 1859, when its inhabitants numbered about 1000, until 1880, when they numbered 62,266. The census of Nevada for 1860 shows a population of 6857 and in 1870 a total of 42,491. From 1880 the population declined with each succeeding census until 1910, when it rose to 81,875. The population of Carson City, which was not incorporated until after the admission of Nevada as a state, was 3042 in 1870.

(2) There is no population requirement.

Vacancies in City Commission.

HOOD RIVER, Or., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—(1) What objection did President Wilson have to the literacy test in the immigration bill?

(2) Were employers of labor, as a class, for or against the literacy test?

(3) If a City Commissioner in Portland, whose term has not expired, should run for Mayor and be elected, how would his unexpired term be filled?

(4) If he were defeated, would he still serve his unexpired term as Commissioner?

READER.

(1) It was the President's objection that the literacy test was not definitive; in other words, that it would not perform the service intended.

(2) Yes.

(3) By appointment by the other members.

(4) Yes, unless he resigned upon becoming a candidate.

Imprisonment of General Stone.

SALEM, Or., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—Who was responsible for the arrest and imprisonment of Brigadier-General Charles P. Stone (Civil War)? What disposition was made of charges?

E. D. BRADBURY.

General Stone was relieved of his command and imprisoned, following the Ball's Bluff disaster, by order of Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War. He was not tried nor were charges against him formulated, but was soon released and restored to to his command.

In Case of Conscription.

HOOD RIVER, Or., March 29.—(To the Editor.)—In case of conscription, could a young fellow, of military age, who is living alone on his farm, be drafted? If so, would the Government take care of the farm and livestock?

A SUBSCRIBER.

There is no conscription law and the requirements of a possible law cannot be forecast.

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AMERICA'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE—A full page of striking naval photographs, hitherto unpublished, showing typical scenes aboard the great grim fighters of the Navy. It is these guns and these men who will be the bulwark of the Nation if the hour of peril strikes.

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KAUFMAN—An inexhaustible mine of common-sense, phrases of pure gold and gems of advice is the philosophic page of Herbert Kaufman, whose once-a-week discourse has aided many to see again with unclouded vision and to pound mountains into molehills. Keep Kaufman with you.

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