e Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1917.

THE FETISH OF FORM. Such dissatisfaction as exists in

Portland with commission form of what he wants.

and adoption of either would wipe that, in a moment of rare exuberation, out the commission and bring about he disclosed a certain naval secret, return to a more or less modified thus creating vast consternation in form of Councilmanic government. Administration circles. A further re-One at least of the proposed charters sult of the Senator's astounding canis of dubious origin. Politicians have dor was a definite acceleration of the hoped to derive political profit and prohibition movement in Congress.

prestige from a presumably widespread dissatisfaction with the commission form.

It is not the purpose herein to discharters that have been offered. House has been withdrawn. Rather the point sought to be ima small factor in successful city gov-

The Oregonian has never been a believer in the all-powerful influence of He goes in person and delivers his capacity. mere system. Therefore its disappointment over results during the last our years is but moderate. The relation of system to success in city government is indirect. It may encourage inefficiency or extravagance if the men in office are inefficient and ex- dent's steady refusal to consult them, travagant by nature. If they are ca- or some of them. We have Colonel pable and conservative, the opportuni- House always at hand, or rather, at ties offered by the system to be other-wise are likely to be of no effect.

The commission charter was adopted in Portland by a small majority of the people. Apparently there was not a great and stirring demand for reform, although preceding administrations had spent more than they should of public money and here and there there had been suspicion of graft and underground influence. At that time municipal and other governmental extravagance was still viewed with a degree of tolerance, but there was more or less of a revolt in progress against governmental affairs.

This temper of the people was ilthat occurred under the new charter. a candidate's training or fitness for the position he sought. The public elected good men morally and let it go at that. Portland has had a clean government for four years, but not an economical one.

Today the situation seems to be re-Decency in government lags in public estimation and economy is the watchword. Failure to accomplish the promises of economy that few believed in or cared much about at the time they were made are now recalled to condemn the charter. It is popular under it and criticise its apparent economic failure. Its opponents can perceive no way to get economy without going back to a system that was noted neither for its economy nor its morals.

He who is disposed offhand to question present prevalence of indifference as to cleanliness in public affairs need only to scan the names of the prominent citizens on the petition of one candidate for Commissioner. That candidate was and is under the parole of the Circuit Court on conviction of crime and his general character and career have given him a notorious dis-

It is said that Portland needs posed wholly of Mayors or one comed wholly of Councilmen. It does, But the existing charter confers broad not provide a real governmental head.

The cause of this peculiar reversal of opinion is not in the charter but in world has ever known. the character of the man elected Mayor under it. . The people chose a Mayor who preferred to be no more in city deliberations than a Commis-It elected among the Commissioners one who without charter authority aspired to be Mayor, or at least the dominating force in the Council, but who had not the mental fitness to make himself a real leader.

Through such means there was built up, without a directing head, five little, quarreling principalities in the form of city departments. . Every Commissioner has insisted on going his own gait and on putting his own prestige above the common weal. But the cause lies not with the charter. The identical thing could happen under Councilmanic govern-

The Oregonian does not deny that now extended to each member of the Council. Nor does it dispute the value of a change that would divorce the than upon the thickness of the wood, spending authority. But it seems clear that the way to fill these omissions is return to a discredited implement but is in proportion to the are of the it is defective.

marked with the guide posts of ex- eter, and to greater care in driving perience. The faults that have been them, because over-driving tends to Premier Lloyd George said, what the

disregards business capabilities and come when multiplied by the requireelects men to office solely because they ments of a great industry. (By Mail.) elects men to office solely because they Dally, Sunday included, one year\$8.00 are members of this or that class, this or that church, or because they are

all-around good fellows. The Oregonian urges its readers in 1.75 Portland to cast aside the fetish of form and to exert their intelligence 2.50 in the selection of officials. Nothing 3.50 herein is intended to discount the efficiency and training. They are not Postage Rates—12 to 16 pages, 1 cent; 18 efficiency and training. They are not to 32 pages, 2 cents; 34 to 48 pages, 3 cents; conferred on men by charter phrase-50 to 60 pages, 4 cents; 62 to 76 pages, 5 cents; 78 to 82 pages, 6 cents. Foreign post-intelligent selection of men for office. intelligent selection of men for office.

proposals in the final diplomatic crisis with the saving word, "perhaps." Now two new charters are offered with Germany, and thereafter, but

fenses of Senator Stone by continuing him at the head of the foreign relations committee. We do not wonder cuss the merits or demerits of the two that the confidence of the White

Let us recall, too, that the Presipressed is that form or system is but dent, with much consideration for Congressional sensitiveness, does not merely send for a Representative or Senator to tell him what he wants

When we look over the roster of the official Presidential advisers-we do not now refer to Congress-we are bound to add the observation that the country is the gainer by the Presi-

A GREAT SERBIAN SCIENTIST. Announcement that Professor Michael I. Pupin has given to the United States Government an invention of such importance that it is being closely guarded as an official war secret will arouse exceptional interest. Professor Pupin, now a professor in Columbia University, was born a Serbian, and it is fitting that a representative of that nationality should make an important contribution to the success a start. corruption and political intrigue in of the war which has for part of its purpose the liberation of his people. He is the greatest scientist his nation This temper of the people was ll-lustrated better in the first election that coursed under the new charter

sult of his researches and experiments. Speculation will be rife as to so much encouragement to the Council of National Defense in his efforts to devise a method for combating the submarine menace. Unless officially informed to the contrary, a good many of those who know him will strongly believe that this is probably the important invention which the Government is protecting with such jealous instead of fighting them as rivals. care. So many marvels of yesterday become the accepted facts of today and tomorrow that it is not much wonder that we are almost as credu-Shipping Board for an appropriation to ignore the one virtue accomplished and tomorrow that it is not much destroy a magazine filled with explo- rines.

feasible on a large scale. poor as any immigrant who ever came be contracted for, as it has been deter He began work as a laborer, driving ships." But the existing charter confers broad mules. He was so little versed in our ways that when one of his early emmuddle of the entire shipbuilding pro-Mayor, except that the veto power is not accorded him. It was a favorite church he suspected a plot of some flicting counselors. The board started when it was before the people that it conferred autocratic powers upon the what. He was as guileless a boy as on the Pacific Coast Mr. Brent said prove. ever sought advancement in the great that this section had abundant mate

it can be taken for granted that his ment. latest contribution, whatever it is, will play an important part in the result.

It is so necessary for us to conserve all our industrial materials that recent the Pacific Coast in that respect, but nvestigations into the proper method he knows what big Eastern contractof nailing boxes in which canned ing firms can do, and is inclined to the veto power should be extended to goods are packed attain unusual im- heed the opinions which they expres the Mayor in a way superior to that portance. It has been found that the and to turn the job over to them strength of the box depends more Having no big timber on the Atlantic upon the manner in which it is nailed and that by developing a proper nail- their faith to steel, while others ing system many millions of feet of inclined to take all prospective Pacific lumber will be saved for other purnot to discard the whole charter and poses. The holding power of a nail to amend the present charter wherein surface in contact with the wood, provided the wood does not split. points to use of exceedingly long, slim stands out a broad white way, plainly nails, rather than nails of large diammethods pursued may be compared to Nero fiddling while Rome burned.

disclosed are not primarily the faults destroy the fiber of the wood and con-silies need is ships, then more ships, of the charter. They have come from sequently the retentive power of the and then still more ships. The allies the weaknesses and the idiosyncrasies nail. Investigations along this line and the world's commerce can use all of the men elected to office. A change made recently as a small part of the the ships that can be built at all the of form or system will not be remedial plan to conserve every resource show yards, existing and projected, on all in the slightest particular if the public how important little economies be-

PROPHECY.

Only a few years ago, as time run these days, Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote these lines on the feelings of a man who had just experienced the sensation of riding in a rowing shell: Here you are, then, affort with a body a rod and a half long, with arms, or wings as you choose to can them, stretching more than twenty feet from tip to tip, every volition of yours extending as perfectly into them as if your spinal cord ran down the center strip of your boat, and the nerves of your arms tingling as far as the blades of your oars. This, in sober carnest, is the nearest approach to flying that man has ever made or perhaps ever will make.

Now we read every day, and it does The Republican minority in the Sentral Consulted by President Wilson, and the Democrats are obliged to acknowledge that, in great questions of emergency legislation, they are equally in the dark until the President tells them what he wants.

President in his policy of solving all to the process of the air plane who has just "brought down" his along the battle front, or a Lieutenant who has just "brought down" his and name prices and terms. There is the Shipping Board will present plans.

The state of Wisconsin has reason to be proud of the way it takes care of its and name prices and terms. There is and name prices and terms. There is and name prices and terms. There is and name prices and terms. The state of Wisconsin has reason to be proud of the way it takes are of the way it takes care of its and name prices and terms. The state of Wisconsin has reason to be proud of the way it takes care of its and name prices and terms. The state of Wisconsin has reason to be proud of the way it takes care of its and name prices and terms. The state of Wisconsin has care of the way it takes of the way it takes care of the way it takes care of the way it takes and and name prices and the many and name prices an Portland with commission form of government doubtless arises from that system's failure to live up to the exsystem's failure to live up to the ex-travagant promises of its promoters.

efficiency. It has been neither. It ators, and they have promptly found ago Trowbridge had not ridiculed flyhas not saved the \$1,000,000 a year their way to the newspapers. Nor is ing in his "Darius Green," and Propromised by its advocates, nor has it it forgotten that the chairman of the fessor Langley's experiments were not struction of new plants. The ansaved much of anything. Efficiency Senate foreign relations committee not even dreamed of. But Dr. Holmes nouncement from Washington of the in city government has appeared only only openly opposed the Presidential protected his reputation as a prophet terms of the new shipping bill indi-

WATER LINES TO BE TRIED.

Central control of railroads for war purposes will give the American people a demonstration of possible economies and improvements in manage ment. Already Chairman Willard, of the National Defense Committee on Transportation, has in view reduction of duplicate passenger train service on rival roads by which 4000 locomotives may be released for the use of the allies. He also has in view a somewhat similar reduction of freight train serv ice and an economy of cars by which time will be saved in loading and un loading, train movement will be swifter and cars will be loaded closer to capacity. These measures are ex-pected not only to do away with the in a business way because of the war, shortage of cars but to leave a surplus for sale to the allies, But a measure of equal importance

and in its bearing on future transportation of greater importance, is fore told by this statement of Mr. Willard:

These plans will give a practical rail and water transportation which sented on a National commission have prevented anybody from making The emergencies of war promise to make us shake it off.

The moral stamina of candidates was the all-powerful asset. Little or no phone communication what it is a real open to suspicion. Wireless workable, and with Bell the railroads alone are physically incapable of the phone communication what it is a real open to suspicion. Do they oppose the war through love of peace or through fear for Germany? inquiry, with a possible exception as to one Commissioner, was made as to

When the railroads have proved this and have also become convinced of their inability to carry all the traf fic without investment of impossible to accept water lines as teammates

SET ALL SHIPYARDS TO WORK.

lous as the people of the Middle Ages. of \$1,000,000,000 to be expended in Another scientist already has suc- building 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 tons of smuggled from Mexico in lemons, ceeded in demonstrating on a theoreti- ships implies that the board has at which have been seized in New York. cal basis that an electric wave can be last decided on its programme for projected without wires and made to making good the ravages of subma-Yet two contradictory dis The distance was too short to patches from Washington, sent on the make the device of practical use. The same day, indicate that the board and quent oration that was ever delivered. question now suggested is whether General Goethals are at loggerheads Pupin may not have supplied the nec- The board announces that "the woodessary "finishing touch," as he did in en programme will be carried out as splendid constitution would be able to the case of the long-distance tele- originally planned." Mr. Brent has resist the effects of any poison phone, to make the scheme entirely said that that programme involved retary Tumulty could concoct. building 1000 wooden ships of 3000 to Professor Pupin's career illustrates 3600 tons, but General Goethals is the boundless opportunities that every quoted by the correspondent of The ductors, the sight of one hanging out man has to rise in America. When he Oregonian as saying that "probably Council composed of a Mayor and landed at Castle Garden he was as not more than 100 wooden ships will will be hilarious. to this country from Southern Europe. mined to place chief reliance on steel

vague kind and ran away, hiding in with a plans to build 1000 wooden land of opportunity. Now he is easily rial and plants to carry out two-thirds the greatest Serbian the scientific of this programme. But Southern World to coin a word. It is byg-world has ever known.

Imbermen seem to have imagined back-yard gardener. Are you a byg? If there is a striking lesson in Pu- that a juicy piece of pie was getting pin's life it is that success-which he away from them and to have protester has achieved in the highest possible that timbers of the size required could sense-is won not only through oppor- not be obtained in the Pacific states, tunity but by hard work. He has while steel manufacturers put forward seen a tircless student and has never the superior qualities of steel ships been moved by desire to live a life of Then General Goethals, as a man who ease. It is said that he is now as in-dustrious as Edison, although his in-President Wilson to organize the Fedventions have placed him beyond the eral Shipping Corporation and to carry need of working for money. It was out the programme in its name, in or quite to be expected of him that he der to enjoy freedom from the red should make a gift of a great inven- tape and restrictions which surround tion to his adopted Government, and work done directly for the Govern-

> canals and harbor improvements, but is not a shipbuilder. He has no firsthand knowledge of the resources of Coast, some of these firms pooh-pool the Pacific Coast's facilities and pir Coast work into their own hands." While General Goethals and the Shipping Board confer and deliberate, many ships are sunk daily, and th need of more ships becomes hourly The time-consuming more urgent.

The General is a genius at building

as the war lasts, and for some time afterward. It matters not whether they are of steel or wood, so long as they will float and travel, carry cargo and mount guns to shoot submarines.

When such is the first requisite of winning the war, it is arrant folly to waste time in discussing the relative merits of steel and wood, of Pacific Coast lumber and Southern lumber. When there is work enough for all, A YEAR ago the New York milk com-there is no room for competition. The sawmills, its shipyards and its ships | led the list. In the Baby week camsawmills, its shippards and its ships led the list. In the Baby week cam- with the vigor that is required of him to Mr. Brent. That should be enough paign bulletin of the extension division which women require of him. If women for the most exacting Missourian, and of the University of Wisconsin the are to have the same sort of seasoning his statements of fact should be taken claim is made that Marinette, Neenah, as conclusive by his colleagues. The Baraboo, Sturgeon Bay, South Milwau-Columbia River alone has ways for kee, Beaver Dam, Madison, Kenosha thirty-six ships to be built simultane- Appleton, Racine and Antigo have baby not even thrill us any more, about ously, and has money, sites and men death rates that are as low, or pracgreat flocks of planes in the air ready to treble that number whenever along the battle front, or a Lieutenant | the Shipping Board will present plans

request of the Government they have heid off from accepting new private contracts, and have kept part of their It was offered as a certain means of relief from municipal extravagance and as a sure vehicle for municipal with certain eminent Democratic Sentrates and as a sure vehicle for municipal with certain eminent Democratic Sentrates and an open mind. Sixty years Government work. Owing to the Government work. ernment's delay, they have deferred additions to their plant and the concates that the entire capacity of the country is to be employed in carrying out the Government programme, and that all supplies of material are to be commandeered to that end. If any shippard on this Coast should be left unemployed by the Shipping Board, it should be set free to accept private contracts and should be permitted to obtain the necessary material and la-Every new ship, whether built for the United States Government or for a citizen or corporation of an allied or friendly nation, will aid the common purpose of defeating the sub-

> Spain is going ahead with the establishment of new industries, notwithand Great Britain is not letting public improvements in the Bermudas lag account of the pressure of other affairs. Expenditures for roads in Bermuda in 1916 were fully up to the average of the five years preceding. We are also working on plans for the utilization of the inland waterways to help relieve the railroads of freight congestion. We believe the Mississippi River can be more extensively utilized in hauling coal and flour up and down the Mississippi Valley. of subsidizing enterprises producing goods formerly not produced in Spain. emonstration of that co-ordination of All branches of business are reprehas been much discussed and which which will examine applications for was recommended by the late James state aid and decide which are the money. J. Hill, but with which practically no worthy ones. Manufacturers who are progress has been made. A sort of able to produce goods without finaninertia seems to have prevailed in clal assistance will receive help in putting this plan into effect, and to putting their goods in foreign markets.

American Socialism is a German importation. When it opposes war by barge transportation the Government and when German Socialists stand by may not only succeed in moving the the autocracy in this war, American great volume of war traffic which the Socialism is at least open to suspicion.

The Administration does not pros cheaper than by land when efficient pose to take the reported revolt in methods are adopted, notwithstanding Cuba too seriously. If the Cuban govwhether it is not Pupin who has given the great reductions which have been ernment wants to be of real service in made in the cost of rail transporta- the emergency it will proceed to relieve us of the necessity of intervening.

You cannot keep a pig in the back yard (more's the pity), but the boy sums of money, they may be willing of the family can care for a couple of hares. Vegetable trimmings and the like will provide most of the feed necessary

There is no limit to the ingenuity of the opium smuggler. A hundred thousand dollars' worth has been

ator in the ordinary acceptation of the word, but his career is the most elo-The Colonel realizes also that his

Marshal Joffre may not be an or-

When young women become con a rear window, juggling a trolley rope,

It is hard to believe a man is not more fool than criminal when arrested with maps and other war data

Irrigation for the purpose of raising more cattle is a stock-watering proposition of which everybody will ap-

The war has inspired the New York

Germany wants a substitute hymn for "Hail to the Victor," perhaps with

all the young men who attend the boxing matches! The Chinese speeder who does not

know he is breaking a law learns in The old counsel should be revised "Plant a garden while the

sun shines." If prices continue to soar, the foodoarding question will take care of

The man who cannot get into some thing patriotic is a lonesome creature.

The woman behind the hoe is the country's salvation-not the man. Seattle objects to saving daylight. After dark fits her better,

Where are the popular war son and the marching tune?

Recruiting slows down, awaiting conscription.

The Beavers won, of course

How to Keep Well. By Dr. W. A. Evans.

Questions pertinent to hygiene, canitation and prevention of disease, if matters of general interest, will be answered in this column. Where space will not permit or the subject is not suitable letters will be personally answered, subject to proper liminations and where stamped addressed envelope in five sinclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Requests for such services cannot be answered, (Copyright, 1916, by Dr. W. A. Evans, Published by arrangement with the Chicago Tribune.)

BENEFITS OF A BABY WEEK.

low baby death rates. La Crosse, Wis. tically as low, as that of La Crosse.

The people of other states could learn from a study of what is done in Baby week there. In the first place, they like and I know how well a military trainthe baby show idea. They know that it reaches people in a way that gets cross. The score card they use is that gotten up by the American Medical As-

sociation.

The women who bring their babies to the buby show learn a lot. In the first place, the baby gets free medical exam ination made by a group of specialists each expert in his or her line. Each gets a chance to compare her way of caring for a baby with that of othe mothers. She has a chance to talk bables with other mothers with an experi on hand as referee. The walls of showroom are always hung with charts giving information about baby care. Another line of work for Baby week dvocated in this bulletin is the making of surveys of local communities. Baby week is a good time for the people in a community to learn about the milk supply. One group of workers in a survey takes samples of milk and has them analyzed for fat or richness, for bacteris, dirt and temperature. Another group visits farms where milk is pro-

duced; another, dairies, where it is pas teurized, bottled and sold, Another line of activity is to locate all babies and see that each received one or more friendly visits. In addition to these, they advocate the usual speeches, lectures, lantern slide shows and moving-picture demonstrations.

They do not limit their baby saving campaigns to large cities. They run campaigns in small cities, towns, villages and rural communities as well. Even a crossroads town can have a

Do you know the baby death rate of your community? If not, then find out. To do so may save you trouble and

Taking "Fizz."

Mrs. R. B. K. writes: "We have a habit in our family of taking what we call 'fizz' for sour stomach. It is made by mixing a little vinegar, sugar and water, then stirring in half a teaspoon-By adopting modern methods of the United States against Germany ful of seda to make it foam. Is this harmful?

"2. What causes warts, and what can I do to curs them? "3. I also have about a dozen little, hard, white lumps forming under the skin around my eye. Is there anything

can do for this?"

REPLY. 1. People who take fizz and other sods mpounds for indigestion get the indigestion habit as a companion for the sods habit. The indigestion habit begets the soda habit, the soda habit begets the indigestion habit, and so on ad infinitum.

ness. Sometimes they seem to come with out cause. The simplest method is burning off with a hot needle. These small vellowish masses are o

no significance. No one knows why they come. They do no harm. There is nothing you can do except have them cared for by a skin specialist. Rarely do they disfigure enough to make that desirable.

Umbillical Hernia.

Puzzled writes: "I was rejected by an examining doctor for a railroad company as suffering from umbilical hernia. Please advise through your columns what causes that Is it serious, and should I have it attended to? I never miss reading your articles. They never miss reading your articles. They are very instructive." REPLY

You have a hernia at your navel. It may have been there since you were a child. Imbilical hernia results from imperfect closing of the navel. Generally it is not a serious condition. In babies it can be cured by adhesive strips. In adults operation is

LET WET LAND BE CULTIVATED Importance of Use of Drain Tile Is Not Sufficiently Emphasized.

PORTLAND, May 8.—(To the Ed-tor.)—At this time of great stress, when every nerve and thought of the Nation is strained to solve the food problem. I have seen no suggestion to the farmers to lay drain tile under their wet fields. We are urged to plant roadsides and fonce corners and city lots, but we are overlooking a mighty good bet in not laying more tress on the tremendous dollars-and nts value of proper drainage as sure means to larger and better crops.

Not alone could thousands of acres
of idle land be brought under the plow. view to historical accuracy.

What a regiment could be made of the wei places removed through drain-All farmers know what a pest it is in

plowing or cultivating or mowing to have some obstacle to steer around. Also these uncultivated spots dispense weed seeds very disastrously. Our State Agricultural College has long realized the importance of tiling and has done splendid work in its endeavors to edu-cate the Willamette Valley farmers, to whom this subject should be espe-cially pertinent and I think important nough to be given much serie EX-FARMER.

LA GRANDE, May 7.—(To the Editor.)—I learn from The Oregonian that the authorities are talking of polling

the city men such as lawyers, doctors and college men; and other swivel chair artists of the city, to help the farmers out in harvest time.

As far as I am concerned—and I farm

quite extensively, and employ 20 to 25, it is this. If we have to depend on that kind of help we are surely up against the reni thing. I don't believe one in 50 would as much as earn his board, kind of help we are surely up against the real thing. I don't believe one in 50 would as much as earn his board, even in normal times, let alone the way living is now.

If you want to help us out, give us the Japa and Chinamen—somebody that we can depend on to work for us, not somebody we will have to wait on.

PASTERN OREGON FARMER.

Years of birth totals 1917 in every "George," she said in a low voice, "would you make a great sacrifice for my happiness?" "Certainly," he replied. "Would you give up smoking for my to 1917 and divided by two. Next year the same process will give a result of 1918. Lest year the result would have sake?"

PASTERN OREGON FARMER.

Making Men.

By Maria Thompson Duviess, of the Vigilantes.

There is a deep and biological reason

why brass buttons so strongly appeal to the imaginations of women; a military training stands in their minds as indicative of the physical strength and executive force which they must depend upon for the protection and rearing of the race which they must produce. Give a man in his youth six months of good, hard military training In open camps under the sun and stars, with the winds and the rains seasoning him, and he is then ready to meet life for their place in life, in about two generations the weaklings will have disappeared and then in truth an army of 20,000,000 will spring to mobilisation in a night; also when that is the condi-tion of preparedness no army will ever have to be mobilized for war. I am for in many a rough and tumble game of maneuver. I was born under the shadow of the old Kentucky Military Institute ing equips men mentally, morally and physically, and I declare for, plead for universal military training and service.

FOR REFERENDUM ON FESTIVAL Woman Would Have People Vote or Having Event This Year.

PORTLAND, May 8 .- (To the Editor.) -Why not request the Rose Festival ommittee to give the people of Portand an opportunity to vote on the question of the Rose Festival for this question of the Rose Festival for this year? Two books, plainly marked "for" and "against," could be put in half s dozen conspicuous places in town, lob-bles of stores and banks, and in the public libraries, for instance, and people given a week in which to vote by registering their names and addresses in whichever book they chose,

Mr. Larimore raises the question of what to do with the money already subscribed and with the debts already incurred if the Festival is not held. If the vote is negative, pay the debts from the money already subscribed and return the balance to the subscribers prorata, or, better still, use it, under the direction of Professor Kerr or some competent man, in the great food drive Plant every vacant lot in the city of Portland, not already assigned to some one for planting, to legumes, root or forage crops, crops which will not in-terfere with any established industry, such as truck gardening. We have the Festival not for our

own pleasure, but for the attraction it offers outsiders and the advertising i gives us. Leave our parks and playgrounds so the people may have recrea-tion other than in the streets, but wouldn't it be the greatest advertisement we could have, and wouldn't it im press the outsiders an an indication o our thrift and general good common sense and level-headedness (very attractive points to the prospective new business man), if it could be said we had not one foot of ground, otherwise unoccupied, which was not bearing

useful crop?

Let us try to make our yards and parks more beautiful than ever by giving them the very beat of care, and let our visitors marvel at the beauty f our city in its everyday dress, with its flags floating from every building, and at our drives and scenery, and at our willingness to face the conditions cheerfully, and with our fabor, but let us not spend thousands of dollars for which there is no return.

AN ANTI-FESTIVAL WOMAN. HOLIDAY FOR WAR REGISTRATION

is they see the roses

Bands Ought to Be Out When Men Report for Military Selection. PENDLETON, Or., May 7 .- (To the Editor.)-Is it not meet that the day

upon which the Chief Executive of the Nation proclaims that registration under the selective draft shall open b declared a holiday? Is it not fitting that upon that occasion every house of business shall close, that the people, and all of them, may assemble at the places designated to cheer the men who are thus honorably called to colors? Ought not the bands to be everywhere in evidence that martial nusic and patriotic song may fill the This is not conscription in the ac

cepted sense of that term. It is legal recognition of the fact that in a re-public every citizen must perform his luty, and that in registering each man s voluntarily assuming, under the laws f his country, one of the prerogatives of citizenship, high, honorable and sacrificial. The men who are within military age ought to be ushered duty amid the acclaim of their fello-They seek no casy places, no honors What their duty may be the regularly consiltuted authorities, upon due con-sideration, will determine. It may be upon the farma, or in the factories, or upon the waters or at the front. Wherever it may be, all are equally soldiers of the republic, bearing the burden for the common weel.
Surely the citizenry of the state
ought to greet the advanced military
legislation of the Nation with cheers and with thanksgiving for the crea-tion of a true army of democracy. Let the President and the Governors of the several states proclaim a holiday. To the colors all

STEPHEN A. LOWELL. RESULT IS SAME IN ALL CASES Mathematical Catch Said to Prove War's End in 1917.

ST. JOHNS, Or., May 8.—(To the Editor.)—I have just received an Eng-lish newspaper containing a numerical catch which will probably be interesting to your many readers. ing to your many readers.

An ingenious wit has figured it out that the war will end during the present year. He is proving it to the satisfaction of all doubting Thomases. He first asks the person's year of birth, then year of marriage, number of years married and present age. Adding this series together and dividing the total by two he gets the figures 1517. Example: 1517. Example:

1917 As 1917 is the answer in all cases where the series is honest, all doubt ers are converted to the hope that the answer will be true also. Will you, answer will be true also. or any mathematician kindl thin? JAMES G. CLARKSON.

There is no mathematical mystery in the formula. Present age added to

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of May 9, 1893. Washington.—The American fleet assigned to the duty of patrolling Behring Sen, now at Port Townsend, will start

On Thursday morning next The Ore-gonian will publish a large amount of special matter relating to the centennial at Astoria.

The Albina people are thoroughly aroused on the free bridge question. It is a subject that is talked about in business houses and on the streets. When one friend meets another, the first word spoken is about the free

James J. Corbett, the handsome oung Calofornian, who is to meet John Sullivan at New Orleans September for the heavyweight championship of the world and the largest sum of money ever contended for in the prise ring, will give an exhibition at the Park Theater tomorrow evening

The robberies committed around Mount Tabor last week is evidence that there is a gang of thieves at work.

Half a Century Ago,

From The Oregonian of May 9, 1867. London.—The Prussian press com-plains that France is continuing milltary preparations. Italy and Belgium, in addition to the powers already announced, will be represented at the peace conference.

Chicago.-Little change is reported in the eight-hour revolution. Many men are resuming work, but the strikers still hold meetings and assert their determination to hold out to the last.

New York.-The Tribune says there is conclusive evidence that no off-to release Jeff Davis has been made.

Grasshoppers are appearing in parts f Kansas and threaten mischief.

New York .- Sir Roderick Murchison has letters from Zanzibar two months later than the alleged murder of Liv-ingstone, but saying nothing of the massacre. Murchison insists that an xpedition be sent to solve the mystery,

Two attempts were made yesterday are also attempts were made yestering morning to fire buildings in this city, both of which, fortunately, falled. These incidents indicate the presence of scoundrels for when our police and private watchmen should keep a visiant look out.

The Flag of Liberty.

By James Barton Adams.

Born amid storm of war, flag of the And christened with the blood of pa-You've waved triumphantiy o'er land and sea. Your stars undimmed by scorching

battle fires. oemen from foreign shores have vain-ly striven.
To lower you to earth, and, sad to Brothers of ours, to desperation driven By tongues of trait'rous teachers, cast away

Cheir loyalty and raised rebellious To where you floated in the clouded For years your brilliant tipts have

of Freedom's sun, upon your staff there perched The white-winged dove of peace, pure as the snow Its plumage by no stain of strife be-smirched. The sore oppressed from alien lands upraised

eir eyes to you aglow with hope's glad light. It would go far toward ridding the city for the future of the weeds which our visitors see on the vacant lots, just And when beneath your sheltering The Ged above that from the gloomy night Of dire oppression they had made their

Into the cheery light of Freedom's day. Blood-stained, shot-shattered, borne by valorous sons, You have emerged from every storm

From every designing roar of hostile guns, Without the fading of a single star. Fou've waved as inspiration o'er the Who battled for your life on many a

Have shadowed colonies of new-made of heroes who for your dear sake had scaled Their irus devotion with their life's red blood On open field and in shot-mangled

Again the peace is broken. Warcrazed lord, Who tramples underfoot all human in your fair face has flashed his bloodred sword. And fain would rend you as with

again America's brave patriot sons Are rallying 'round you eager to de-Your honor in the face of hostile guns, And when armed rule lies crushed and war shall end, They'll bear you back in triumph from

As did their forbears in the days of

Two Noted Phrases. HAWACO, Wash. May 7.—(To the Ed-ttor)—While we all owe our country all possible aid in its war, the words of our public men are matters of his-tory. Would you please inform the writer just when President Wilson was the expression. "A man can be used the expression, "A man can be too proud to fight," and also the ex-pression, "Peace without victory." Did or did not President Wilson make use of these expressions? We have dispute about it here. STUDENT

In a speech at Philadelphia May 10, 1915. President Wilson said in the course of its delivery: "There is such a thing as a nation being too proud to fight? This was taken to have a special reference to the situation resulting from destruction of the Lusitania, but the President disavowed any

such application. On January 22, 1917, in his so-called 'peace speech" to Congress, wherein 1876 peace specification to the President auggested participation of the United States in a concert of powers to insure peace, he discussed the implications of announcements by statesmen of both groups of countries arrayed against one another that it was no part of their purpose to crush their antagonists. "They imply, first of all," said the President, "that it must be a pence without victory."

Courage of Ris Opinions.

London Tit-Bits.