The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1917.

THE SENATE SQUIRMS.

The Senate writhes under the lash of public condemnation for its obstruction of President Wilson's efforts to get on with the war. It displays its cowardice by resorting to a secret session for the purpose of venting its spleen in freedom from the watchful eye and ear of the public, and in so doing it furnishes fresh justification for the President's failure to consult it more fully.

So utterly incapable is the Senate to keep a secret that it cannot even keep its own secrets. A so-called executive—which means secret—session is no sooner ended than Senators tell the entire proceedings like a lot of babbling old gossips. The detailed report of the secret session which was given by the Associated Press is itself ample cause for the President's reticence in dealing with Senators. The President and his heads of departments are charged with the duty of carrying on the war and of protecting the country against a powerful and relentless enemy. That duty is supreme over all the niceties of official behavior, or even the strict letter of the Constitution defining the co-ordinated powers of the several branches of Government.

The misconduct of Senator Stone in making public an official secret of great value to the enemy, and the action of the Senate in retaining him at the head of the foreign relations committee in spite of that offense, justify the President in keeping his own counsel. So long as the Missouri Senator is retained in so responsible a position and so long as the Senate is unable to keep secret those things which it has declared a purpose not to reveal, it will be the President's duty to keep his war plans to himself and men whom he can trust. Were he to humor the peevish Senate and were some disaster to befall the American forces in consequence of the Senate's looseness of tongue, the people would hold him responsible. In that case they would not heed any excuse about constitutional restrictions. They look to him to win the war and, if he should fail, they will not permit him to "pass the buck" to Congress.

The Senate has assumed the position of an obstructionist against efficient prosecution of the war. Senators should know, but apparently do not, that war emergencies demand employment of specially qualified men in a hurry; they require that broad powers be confided to such men, and many corners must be cut in order to get things when they are wanted. Military necessity frequently requires executive officers to assume powers which Congress has neglected or refused to confer. When the alternative is between usurping power and leaving something undone which is necessary to success, the people expect them to act. Such emergencies will not await the action of "the most dignified deliberative body in the world."

The ignoble motive behind the Senate's hostile attitude toward the President was betrayed by Senator Lewis' denunciation of the Advisory Committee, "especially regarding the letting of Government contracts," and by his motion that men hereafter appointed by the committee be confirmed by the Senate. In other words, Senators want a voice in giving fat contracts and fat jobs to their constituents. They are in agony at the spectacle of many good things getting away from them.

Senator Lodge attempts to refute charges that the Senate has delayed war legislation by telling how much it has done in six weeks. It has been speedy for the Senate, but it has not been speedy enough for war time. He boasts that Congress has adopted in two weeks conscription, which England and Canada have been discussing for three years. He omits to say that the American people too have been discussing the subject for three years, that the British discussion has contributed to form their decision in favor of conscription, and that the time was past for discussion of the respective merits of the compulsory and voluntary systems; the time had come to vote when the Senate began to debate.

As if to add force to their retort to Mr. Lodge, the day after his speech was made a long debate began on the abstruse question whether men should be drafted for "the existing emergency" or "the war," and the conference report on the draft bill was held up while Senators displayed their learning. What actual difference in meaning is there between the two phrases? Is not the present emergency the war? Through haggling over the age of soldiers, over the Roosevelt brigade and such quibbles as this, Mr. Lodge's two weeks have stretched to a month and the bill is not yet law. In such episodes we find justification for President Roosevelt's taking the Canal Zone while Congress was talking about it. President Wilson is almost justified in putting the draft in effect while Congress talks.

A sinister fact about this latest obstruction of the draft bill is that it comes from the men who either opposed the declaration of war or the draft, or both, chief among them being Senator La Follette. By their persistence these men lay themselves open to the suspicion that their desire is to prevent the United States from making effective war on Germany by delaying necessary war legislation.

Congress is furnishing conclusive proof that a deliberative body of 531 men is incompetent to carry on war. War consists in doing things, not in talking about doing them. It is conducted successfully by few men who have absolute power to decide without consulting any deliberative body, and to act promptly on the decision. The President cannot make war effectively if at every step he must wait for the consent of Congress, with its jealousy for prerogative, with its absurd seniority and leave-to-print rules, and with its insatiable appetite for pork and patronage, nor if he must reveal his plans to a body of 531 men who babble them to the whole world.

If Congress knows what is good for it, it will get off the track and let the President get on with the war. If it does not, its members are likely to receive unpleasant news from home.

THE ORDEAL OF REVOLUTION.

Russia may survive the present crisis without paying the penalties of terrorism and anarchy which marked the French Revolution; but the outlook is not reassuring. The radicals are in the saddle, just as the patriots who overthrew the French monarchy, and set up the republic, and gave a new meaning to the title Citizen, had to give way to the red-flaggers in 1889-90-91.

The French King was disciplined, then imprisoned, and then executed; the people first stormed the Bastille and later the Tuileries, and then fought fiercely among themselves; the assembly promulgated first one constitution and then another; and there were revolutionary changes from the assembly to the convention and from the committee of public safety to the Directory; and the Reign of Terror was the climax of the destructive intrigues of kings, priests and commoners, Jacobins and Girondists, and of the clashing ambitions and cross purposes of patriots, revolutionists, radicals and traitors. The mighty Mirabeau died of his excesses, and Robespierre and Danton together overthrew Hebert and his group, and Danton was in his turn crushed by the bloody Robespierre, the latter then to be executed on the scaffold. Marat was slain in his cell by Charlotte Corday, and anarchy finally exhausted itself. Out of this stirring and terrible moving picture of democracy rising and falling, and rising again, emerged the mighty figure of Napoleon, first soldier, then General, then Consul, and finally Emperor and dictator. Through it all, or through most of it, France successfully carried on more than one foreign war.

Perhaps Russia will profit by France's example. The pains and pangs of revolution have so far been nearly bloodless; but there are sinister and portentous signs that the giant of democracy and socialism, drunk with his new-found might, will use his unwonted power like a giant.

LET US DO OUR BIT.

The war is a new argument against the road bonds; and its opponents are making the most, or worst, of it. Wait, they say, wait till the war is over, and we have more money, and cheaper labor, and lighter taxes, and then we will build good roads.

The Oregonian does not hesitate to say that the war has given a powerful reason to build permanent roads—now, not later. The reason is patriotism. The military value of highways in Oregon, and in every state likely to be the scene of military operations, is enormous.

We had the other day a statement from the Secretary of War on roads in war time. Because The Oregonian believes that the testimony of the Secretary is invaluable, and that it constitutes a public warning, and that it is the duty of the state to heed it, it is repeated in part:

> Federal aid under the act above mentioned should, in general, be granted only for roads such as can be designated "through roads"—that is, roads leading from one center of population or commerce to another.
>
> The War Department recognizes certain areas as more likely to be the theater of military operations than other parts of the country. Every effort should be made to persuade the state road commissions to complete the network of through roads within these areas.

Oregon is within the designated area. It is not necessary, and it might be imprudent, to say why it may prove, and is likely to prove, a theater of military operations.

Do not the people of America, and especially of Oregon, understand now how narrowly they have escaped the penalties of unpreparedness? Do they not see that they have been spared a great National disaster through the might and power of others and not through their own prudence or deserts?

Are they going ahead, in the same old blind way, thinking nothing will happen when they have but to look around and see what has happened and is happening?

Oregon must do her bit.

NO MERE AMENITIES.

"When will you be ready for business?" asked the British commander of the officer in command of the American flotilla at Queenstown, to which the latter officer replied: "We can start at once." Whereupon the British are said to have expressed surprise and paid a high compliment to our men on their readiness to go right into action after their voyage across the Atlantic.

But we are entitled to take these exchanges at full value, and not to regard them as mere polite and formal phrases from one naval officer to an ally. Much has been said about our unpreparedness, but it is probable that those units that are prepared are as fit for action as any force of equal strength in the world. It is not permitted to speculate as to the nature of the American naval force in European waters, but there is no room for doubt as to its readiness for whatever duty falls to its lot.

We have the glorious example of the battleship Oregon as one constant inspiration. It will be remembered that the Oregon made her celebrated voyage around South America between March 6 and June 4, 1898, under forced draft nearly all the way and every moment of the time ready for battle, and arrived off the coast of Cuba in fighting trim. It was a voyage ten times as long as that across the Atlantic, in point of time required, and what was then done by the Oregon can be done again by a good many American ships.

Our Navy still has the fighting spirit that it showed under Hopkins in the War of the Revolution and that has never flagged. It can be depended on, and no one knows that better than the commander of the British fleet, if he has read his history. His compliment doubtless was sincere, but he need not have been surprised. Americans at home are not.

Demand for certain textiles, such as duck and khaki, for civilian use has been seriously felt in markets in which the Army and Navy are seeking supplies for uniforms. Home-defense leagues are springing up like mushrooms all over the country, and even the girls are insisting on clothing having resemblance to that worn by soldiers and sailors. While it is true that these orders are being filled with lighter-weight goods than those required by the Government, they are employing many looms that could be employed on official orders, and there is a prospect that the Government may call a halt under the power vested in it to control and co-ordinate industry. Several mills in New England district already have announced that they will refuse to fill civilian orders, in which event it will be necessary to make a change in the fashions. Enormous orders for sails and tentage also are figuring prominently in the cloth industry, and the prospect is that plain citizens will get only the leavings.

HOW TO ESCAPE DRAFT.

A person who, we suspect, is annoyed by the prospect of enforced military duty pens the following pathetic inquiry:

> PORTLAND, May 17.—(To the Editor.)—Will you please let me know through the columns of The Oregonian if there is any process by which an American citizen can voluntarily relinquish his citizenship without swearing allegiance to another nation?
>
> A MAN WITH TOO MUCH COUNTRY.

We hasten to assure our distraught correspondent that there is. Conviction of felony automatically divests one of the practical rights of citizenship and they can be restored only by the Governor.

Moreover, it insures for one board and lodging in a place where one is not subject to military duty and where one hears little of those acts of the Nation which may be offensive to him. Withal, the penitentiary is considered an ideal place of retirement for a man with too much country.

If one is tenderhearted he can still find a way to commit felony without materially injuring a fellow-man. The correspondent is advised to notify the police that he intends to burglarize a certain house at a certain hour and keep the appointment.

PLAYING THE NATIONAL SONG.

"Why is it," asks a complaining correspondent of The Oregonian—"why is it that people get up when 'America' is played? Do they think it is the National song? Or are they tone deaf?"

Americans of all colors, sizes and sexes get to their feet when they hear a patriotic air because they are filled with the fervor of loyalty. They also serve who stand and wait—till the band gets through playing.

The willing and responsive sentiment of the people ought neither to be repressed nor exploited. There are times and places for "The Star-Spangled Banner" and there are occasions when the introduction of the National tune is grossly offensive. It should not be a mere showy part of a vaudeville act. It should never be introduced in a medley. We doubt its propriety even as a recessional. It is not a march, nor a waltz, nor a two-step. It is a solemn, beautiful, stirring and wonderful musical inspiration, with a text utterly beneath it. That is the reason, perhaps, why nobody not a trained musician can or will sing it. One might wish that the words were fitting, as in the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" or in "America."

Someone has suggested that "The Star-Spangled Banner" be passed to the discard and "Dixie" be substituted. We don't know why the memories and thoughts which "Dixie" awakens should be other than they are. Nor does its rythmn and liveli ess make it wholly acceptable as a musical expression of deep patriotic sentiment and feeling. There may be other reasons, too, but these are enough.

Everybody ought to know the difference, of course, between "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America" and "Columbia"; but it is even more important that the makers of programmes for all sorts of entertainments and occasions know when, why and how to offer "The Star-Spangled Banner."

THE PUBLIC PAYS.

It is desirable that it be understood by all telephone patrons that the ordinance providing for an interchange of service between the two telephone companies does not provide for free interchange. The ordinance, which is to be voted on June 4, definitely authorizes — nay, requires — that the companies compensate themselves for the additional service by including the cost thereof in the regular monthly charge to their subscribers.

Presumably there are two ways that the charge for this additional service might be made. A separate charge could be imposed on each subscriber who asked for connection with the other company's system, or the additional cost could be prorated among all subscribers of both companies.

Probably the companies would be forced to adopt the latter policy, as the charge made for each interchange would deprive the plan of its attractiveness. Interchange would be called for so seldom that overhead charges and interest on new investment would not be met. But if the charge were made general the ordinance would merely have the effect of forcing all Pacific subscribers to become paid Home subscribers as well, and vice versa, whether the subscribers desired the additional service or not.

The ordinance is an impracticable scheme and of benefit to no one. Both telephone companies have let it be understood that they are not encouraging its enactment. According to a report issued after investigation by a committee from the City Club and the Progressive Business Men's Club, 91 per cent of the telephone subscribers in Portland can be reached over the Pacific lines. Only 9 per cent can be reached exclusively over the Home lines. Clearly no large proportion of the Pacific's subscribers sufficiently desire the opportunity occasionally to open telephonic communication with the other 9 per cent to pay for the privilege. Clearly most of the Home subscribers are of the same mind, else they would now discard the Home service and pay the trifle more that the more extensive service costs.

If the 5000 business and professional men who now subscribe for both telephones see in the ordinance a means of eliminating one or the other telephone they are facing disappointment. The committee's report discloses that authorities of both systems admit that interchange cannot be accomplished without operating friction. The man who subscribes to both systems does so because those with whom he has business dealings demand it. If a grocer, for example, causes the removal of his Home telephone his customers who patronize only the Home telephone will certainly object if they must suffer delays and other annoyances incident to the interchange of service in placing telephonic orders with him. Some enterprising rival grocery will just as certainly make it known that he subscribes to both systems and the first grocer will be forced to meet the competition.

No one is to obtain material advantage from the ordinance and everybody must pay more, but there is a larger issue involved than the general uselessness and visionary character of the scheme. We quote from the committee's report, herein twice previously mentioned:

> The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company is a going concern receiving full public support to maintain its business and to expand the same.
>
> The Home Telephone & Telegraph Company has failed to meet its bond interest and has, so far as the record shows, not made a charge for depreciation since the company has been in operation. . . .
>
> This ordinance is not a measure designed in the interest of the public. It is not a legitimate attempt to require the Pacific Company to develop an extended service to meet the existing demands of the public within the territory it has undertaken to supply. But it is a measure designed to force upon the Pacific Company a connection under which the unrestricted use of its entire investment, its plant, switchboards, lines, operators, agencies and its service would be available to, and apparently for, the direct benefit of its rival and competitor. . . .
>
> The issue involves more than the interest of the two telephone companies. Any decision on this matter must inevitably stand as an expression of the attitude of this community toward those who devote their earnings and efforts to the development of a public utility or other industrial enterprise, whatever its nature. Capital is either to be encouraged to take part in the future development of this community and to create payrolls, through assurance of reasonable protection in its legitimate undertakings, or it is to be virtually prohibited from further participation in the development of this community by the knowledge that whatever investment is made will be subject to appropriation for the use of rival and competing interests.
>
> The moral issue from a broad public viewpoint transcends all other issues involved in this discussion.

The injustice of the proposal ought to be enough to condemn it, but when one considers that the public is requested to pay increased cost for poorer service in order to promote this injustice which neither company desires, the inspiration for the measure becomes incomprehensible. This ordinance, No. 109 no, should be voted down.

Senator La Follette's essential provincialism is shown by his reason for opposing suspension of the use of grain in making alcoholic drinks. It was that the barley grown in Wisconsin can be sold to brewers only. He thinks as a Wisconsin man, not as a citizen of the United States. That is the key to his opposition to war. Yet a few years ago many of us were disposed to vote for this man for President. If no other good results from the war, it will at least reduce such men to their true proportions in the public estimation.

Narrowing of the space occupied by roads will serve a double purpose, if the broad, unused strips at the sides be cultivated. Much land will be brought under cultivation, food production will be increased and pestilent patches of weeds will be abolished. Roadside weeds scatter seeds through the adjoining fields, reducing crops, devouring the fertility of the land and adding to the farmer's labor. They are a public nuisance.

There is a certain similarity between the United States Congress and the Russian Council of Workmen and Soldiers. Both want to suspend the war while they talk themselves out, but the plan does not work. The Germans keep right on fighting while the Reichstag debates.

Senators are wasting a lot of valuable time quarreling over the difference between the "existing emergency" and the "present war." Whether it is an emergency or a war, it must be met promptly, and by something more effective than talk.

The warning to shipmasters of Coast Artillery drills leads us to expect an Oregon version of the "heavy firing off Mole St. Nicholas" which figured often in the Spanish War dispatches.

At any rate, there is no reason for delaying the sending of our railroad builders to the western front. There will be plenty of work for them to do as the lines are pushed ahead.

An I. W. W. in Montana proves on arrest to be a member of the National Guard. Turning him over to his comrades probably will be punishment enough for him.

By its recruiting record, the Middle West has splendidly vindicated itself from the aspersions which were cast upon its patriotism a year or two ago.

It may be comfortable to work in and all that, but women will not run over to the grocery store before breakfast wearing the pantalette house suit.

The ages-old combination of "hell and high water" is not in working order this season, if the popular idea of temperature is correct.

With horse meat and mule meat in the markets, the man who eats sausage is brave enough to go to war.

Representative Jeanette Rankin may need the whole of her first session in Congress to learn the ropes.

The new Empress of Abyssinia has made a great play for popularity. She has remitted all back taxes.

The literacy test stands in the way of importing many of Villa's men to help in crop production.

The United States would not lend $100,000,000 to Russia if it was not sure she would stay in.

Home rule for Ireland with Ulster cut out might do if both sides keep away from the line.

The bureau official who said Summer weather was at hand had his lines and fingers crossed.

The picket who packs a pistol electioneers for the ordinance to put him out of business.

All things work out for the best. This would be "fierce" weather for ball games.

When Harry Thaw is put in an asylum and kept there, people will believe he is crazy.

You do not hear of any Honor Guard girls marrying to escape a draft.

Even the despised tomato can has won some respect as a munition of war.

The place of honor now is service on a destroyer in the war zone.

Just imagine a fat woman wearing that new pantalette affair.

Now it is "into" instead of "out of" the trenches by Christmas.

How to Keep Well.

By Dr. W. A. Evans.

Questions pertinent to hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, if matters of general interest, will be answered in this column. Where space will not permit or the subject is not suitable letters will be personally answered, subject to proper limitations and where stamped addressed envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Requests for such services cannot be answered.

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SWAT 'EM NOW!

THIS is the season for profitable fly killing. What we do in July, August and September is merely making the best of a bad situation. What we do now is productive of results so great that we may rightly think of them as commanding.

Flies spread typhoid fever. In no sense do they occupy the relation to typhoid that some mosquitoes do to malaria and others to yellow fever. They merely transport it. But having an all-embracing appetite, their possibilities are great. They are fond of eating human excretions rich in typhoid bacilli and they are equally fond of eating milk, sugar, molasses, bread, meat, vegetables and other human foods.

Nicoll, England, research scholar, has recently published a report which shows that flies can spread typhoid. He found that typhoid bacilli would not live indefinitely in flies, but they do live in them and on them for a brief time. In other words, while flies can and do carry typhoid, they must have frequent access to typhoid material and easy access to human food material in order to make the transfer.

The work of Nicoll takes nothing for granted. It is based upon the closest scientific scrutiny and trial.

The only compelling method of meeting the fly situation is municipal (and in the case of country people individual) daily removal of manure or at least twice a week removal from the beginning to the end of the fly season. It has been proven that flies cannot breed in manure that is not wet and fermenting. Therefore, manure which has been spread out on the ground, as is the case when it is used as a fertilizer, is not capable of acting as a breeding place for flies.

At this particular season, however, halfway measures are compelling. Phelps and Stevenson, of the Public Health Service, say of these halfway measures in bulletin No. 108 that many are valuable. They recommend formalin in the strength of 1.25 parts to 2.5 parts of the commercial formalin to 100 parts of water. A 1 per cent solution of sodium salicylate in water, they say, is even better than formalin solution. They recommend sticky fly papers also. However, they found that formalin and salicylic acid preparations killed about twice as many flies in the same length of time.

The efficacy of preparations for killing fly larvae has been proven. Of these probably borax is the best, though several others are very efficient.

Not only do flies spread typhoid, but they are also potent in causing infantile diarrheas. This Levy has proven. But flies at this season are not a nuisance. An easy-going person will put up with them. Therefore, the need just now is for a word that will make us kill flies not for the trouble they now are, but for what they can and will do.

Tobacco Cure—Again.

V. G. G. writes: "Much has been written in your 'How to Keep Well' column regarding the injurious effects of tobacco. Those who do not use tobacco are not interested and those who do use it know all these things only too well. What we would like to know is 'how to quit it.' Now if you have never acquired the habit, you will probably advise us to use our will power, but if you know what the craving is you will dig into your professional brain and give us a remedy that will take away the desire for it. I doubt if there is any one thing that affects as many people and causes as much secret suffering as does the use of tobacco and a cure or remedy that would take the nicotine out of the system and take away the desire for tobacco would be welcomed by millions."

REPLY.

You are wrong in at least two points. I have used tobacco. I stopped it by the use of willpower. I have printed a cure for the tobacco habit scores of times and sent it out by mail thousands of times. Here it is again:

TOBACCO CURE.

Local treatment—Chew up and swallow one five-grain zinc-sulpho-carbolate tablet (plain) each time before smoking. After the first few days use half a tablet instead of a whole one. Can smoke as often as you wish.

Internal treatment—Take one five-grain quinine pill before meals, reducing the dose to two grains as soon as the tobacco craving passes away. Continue this for a week and discontinue the treatment, but resume the same for a few days any time there is a tendency to relapse.

Diet—Eat good nutritious food three times daily and take a lunch midway between meals if hungry. Take plenty of active outdoor exercise daily (in work or recreation) to divert the mind as well as improve the health. Be very regular in habits of life.

Tobacco chewers may use, in addition to the quinine treatment, some chewing gum to which a small amount of gentian root has been added. The patient should, as far as possible, avoid places and associations where tobacco is used until the cure is well established.

Medicine Tests.

C. S. writes: "Have been using a medicine for some time, guaranteed valuable for consumption by the distributor. Is there a laboratory in the state where I might have an analysis made to determine its merits and ingredients at a reasonable fee?"

REPLY.

This is not a regular function of a public health laboratory. The laboratories of Indiana and Kansas make many such examinations for the people of those states. In every large city there are commercial laboratories that make such examinations. If you will write to the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn street, Chicago, Ill., they may be able to tell you where and when this medicine was exposed as a fraud.

Floating Kidney.

W. H. writes: "Will you kindly explain in your columns what our doctor means by a floating kidney? Is there cure for it? Will it have any effect on the body in later years, or, in other words, will it go back in its place? The party is a girl of 26 years."

REPLY.

A floating kidney moves rather freely. A kidney that is termed "movable" cannot be pushed about as readily as one that is termed "floating." Movable and floating kidneys are generally found in long, slender bodied people, especially those who have lost weight. It is a condition of little importance. It will not anchor itself, nor does it make any particular difference whether it does or not.

RETAILER'S SIDE OF BREAD LAW

Enforced Sale of Stale Loaves Would Merely Shift Burden From Bakers.

PORTLAND, May 17.—(To the Editor.)—Being one of the largest bread retailers in the down-town district, I took special interest in the article in The Oregonian last Monday on the necessity and benefits of a stale bread law.

Due to the thoughtlessness of some retailers, the bakers are undoubtedly forced to lose money. But such cases are few and the loss would not be diminished by such a law, but instead shifted from the baker to the retailer.

If such a law were passed it would be the retailer and not the Oregon master bakers who would feel the hardships. Bakers in the past, mainly through competition among themselves, have put before the public the freshest goods possible.

Each baker, in order to obtain the trade of more retailers, would guarantee to bring warm goods to the shop in the morning and afternoon. In order to meet this competition other bakers would bring warm goods twice in the morning and afternoon and so on, until now the public can obtain some kind of warm pastry or bread at almost any hour of the day.

A large majority of my afternoon customers will not accept any of the things which have been brought in during the morning, but demand the warm afternoon goods. Nearly every new customer will ask if the goods are fresh. Yesterday one said, "Is the bread fresh?" I said, "Yes." He said, "Are you sure it is fresh? Well, when was it baked? If you are sure it is fresh I will take a loaf, but if it isn't fresh I will bring it right back."

Another customer, after asking the same question several times as to when the goods were baked, said that "Since it was fresh she would take a loaf."

I wrapped up a loaf of the morning bread (since the afternoon delivery of that kind had not come) and gave it to her. She evidently doubted my word as to the freshness of the bread and proceeded to feel and press it. Although the bread was only a few hours old, she insisted that it was stale because it felt hard, as she said. The only trouble was that the loaf was a firmer one than usual.

These are only two out of many customers whom the retailer must satisfy daily. If the public demands such goods and the bakers continue to give such, why shift all the hardship and responsibility on the retailer of seeing that all stale goods are sold and not returned to the bakers?

Nothing would please the retailer more than to be able to sell all his goods and satisfy the public, neither of which would be accomplished by such a law. Moreover, a large majority of the people demand fresh goods and refuse to accept any other and the waste will still continue, only this time at the expense of the retailers and not the baker. M. PFERDNER.

OUR WORST TRUST IS MISTRUST

It Handicaps Progress and Now Threatens to Keep Us Stuck in Mud.

AIRLIE, Or., May 16.—(To the Editor.)—We are told, by those who are opposed to the road bond measure, that the plan originated in the brain of the paving trust. I will agree that the one thing that has set the brakes on the wheels of Oregon while they were mired in mud is a trust; but it is a greater trust than the paving trust. It operates in the hearts of men, actuated by selfish motives, nourished by fear and encouraged by cowardice. It is mistrust.

Mistrust has held our souls and bodies in bondage and now it tries to trip our steps in the march out of the mud. Whenever I hear a man say that he will not vote for the road bond measure because it was made by and for the paving trust, I think of a man in Oregon, actually born right here in Oregon, who lives on a ranch that his father had homesteaded. His hobby was trusts. No matter what he did, it was done with regret, because he was sure the trusts would pick the fruit. He wanted a new binder, needed it awfully bad, but he would not buy one because the harvester trust would get the money. So he went over to his neighbor, who had borrowed money from the bank and bought a new binder, and he borrowed that binder. That was one way of beating the trust. And that ingrown mistrust of everything was the controlling principle of his narrow-gauged life.

He would not buy a 5-cent bag of candy for his children because of the sugar trust, he would not buy a new dress for his wife on account of the woolen trust, he would not buy anything made of steel because he would be helping the steel trust and so on until it came to good roads, and he said, when he heard of the projected improvement: "I have four of the best horses in Oregon and they can haul me wherever I want to go, and when they are dead there will be more horses."

The sum and substance of it was that he had stagnated all his life and was not used to progress. To resist progress he uses trusts for an excuse.

Suppose the so-called trust does get the money. If we get serviceable roads, will it not be a fair exchange, a money-maker, a money-saver for us? There are people so narrow gauged about the question that they would refuse to accept the roads if they were built for us free of charge and we were paid for using them. They would shriek "trusts," and infer that the trusts were scheming to homestead the entire state.

In fact, there is no telling what mistrust will not say. Anything and everything is considered proper by people so afflicted, as long as it leads us away from the path of progress.

E. B. BIRKENBEUEL.

VALLEY IN BLOOM INVITES AUTOS

Roads Now Good and Beauty of Trip Excels Anything on Coast.

PORTLAND, May 17.—(To the Editor.)—The writer had the pleasure last week of motoring from Portland to Eugene. To my surprise I found that the roads generally were in first-class condition. I would recommend to all auto owners who have the time and inclination to tour the valley to do so at once. Weather conditions have been such as to put the roads in the best possible condition, they being now free from either mud or dust, while the Valley, from the point of beauty, is never more charming.

One should take the river road through Sellwood and Milwaukie to Oregon City, thence up the bluff road to New Era, Canby, Hubbard and Woodburn to Salem; then take the Jefferson hills road to Jefferson. If wishing to make a one-day trip return from there. If two days or more continue on to Albany, Corvallis and Monroe to Eugene.

The scenery at the present time between Salem and Jefferson is of beauty indescribable, the wealth of orchard bloom over rolling hills being beyond power of word expression and worth traveling many miles to see.

I have lately passed through the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Santa Clara Valleys during their blooming period and have passed through the orange belt between Los Angeles and Riverside, and think the ride over Jefferson Hills the equal of any of them. Sometime when hard-surface roads are built through this district and when Marion and Linn Counties have properly exploited its beauty, Jefferson Hills will be as famous as any of the Western fruit districts.

Mr. Motorist, if you want to change of ride and also want to see the Valley at its best, go now.

DAVID S. STEARNS.

In Other Days.

Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of May 18, 1892.

New York—Mrs. U. S. Grant has finally decided that she will not publish her memoirs of her famous husband.

C. P. Huntington has given $25,000 to the Golden Gate Park in San Francisco for an artificial cataract with a fall of 75 feet.

Mitchell, Lewis & Staver Company have decided to hold a popular levee in their carriage repository rooms tomorrow afternoon.

Will Carleton will lecture here Tuesday, May 24, on "The Drama of Human Life." He also will read from his published and unpublished poems.

Senator Thomas Tongue and Henry McGinn will address the Republican rally at Richardson's hall this evening.

Before the Board of United States Engineers yesterday, J. Couch Flanders opposed the construction of a bridge at Burnside and Quimby streets.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of May 18, 1867.

A copy of the United States treaty with Russia, confirmed almost unanimously by the United States Senate, has been received. It sets out in detail the cession of all Russian territory in America to the United States. Inhabitants of the territory may return to Russia within three years or take up citizenship of the new Government and owners. In return the United States gives Russia $7,200,000 in gold.

Richmond.—J. R. Hayward, charged with incendiary language at a public meeting, has been held to bail in the sum of $40,000 to keep the peace. The Richmond papers say the release of Davis has done much to promote good feeling between the North and South.

Messrs. Flanders and Clark the candidates for Congress in Washington Territory, accompanied by Mr. Garfield and other friends, arrived here by the Rescue from Monticello yesterday.

The Wide-Awake Baseball Club met last night and organized. The following were elected: Charles Talbot, president; John Reed, vice-president; Charles F. Burgess, secretary; Isador Koshland, treasurer; William Corbett, Mac. Johnson, Albert Morton, directors; Samuel Buchtel, captain.

HOME DUTIES GREATEST PLEASURE

Wife Finds Husband and Baby Recompense for Surrendered Independence.

ASTORIA, Or., May 16.—(To the Editor.)—The letter printed in The Oregonian May 16 from "A. L.," or the discontented wife, has interested me very much and I wish to express my opinion on the subject.

"A. L." evidently is not a woman of the marrying type, or she would find pleasure in "scrubbing floors and making buttonholes" and working for her husband and children.

I believe that when a woman marries she should be willing to shoulder the responsibilities that go hand in hand with married life.

Before my marriage I worked as a doctor's assistant until I learned all I could there, after which I intended entering a nurses' training school. About that time my father's health broke down and, with my mother, who was almost an invalid, and five children dependent upon him for support, I realized I must do something that would bring immediate returns. I found employment in a big millinery establishment, where I had learned the trade when I was 16.

I had studied music under the best instructors when in school and I discovered I could double my salary by singing and giving lessons, which I did, and I managed to keep things going until my father was able to return to work.

It was during my vacation that I met my husband. At the time I had no intention of getting married for perhaps several years, for I still had my thoughts centered on my intentional career. However, one month from the day I met my husband we were married. We have been married two years now and I can truthfully say the thoughts of a career have never entered my mind since our marriage. We have a lovely baby boy now, only a few months old, and I am happier than I have ever been in my life. The greatest pleasures I have are mending my hubbyb's shirts, keeping my home in order and caring for my baby. I seldom go away, even for an afternoon's visit, for I am more contented at home.

My husband is my idea of an ideal husband and a model man. He loves his family and proves it in more ways than one.

A home is what you make it. A woman who cannot be happy with a home and two children cannot be happy anywhere. "TWENTY-ONE."

Should One Await Draft?

PORTLAND, May 17.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Will we boys that are drafted be allowed to follow our trades in the service of Uncle Sam or will we have to take what we can get?

(2) Will we be considered as slackers if we do not quit our positions and join before the draft?

(3) Will previous drill in cadet schools be recognized before entering?

(4) What forms of medical science will be exempt from the first draft until later when needed?

(5) Do you think a person is wise or foolish to work until drafted at a well-paying position under the present conditions? J. N. W.

(1) That will me a matter for the military authorities to decide.

(2) The purpose of the selective draft is to select those for military duty who can best be spared from civil life or those whose peculiar fitness for some branch of service renders them of peculiar importance to the Government in that capacity. It is as well now to await the draft unless one is sure he would be desired for military service in any event.

(3) Not before entering, but it may be of value in obtaining advancement if one has other necessary qualifications.

(4) None.

(5) See answer to question 2.

Navigation Course Closed.

PORTLAND, Or., May 17.—(To the Editor.)—Will you kindly inform me whether there is a school of navigation in this city? J. W. HARRISON.

Not now. A navigation course was conducted until recently by John McNulty, of the United States hydrographic bureau, in connection with the night school system, but it has now been closed.

Ship Calkers' Trade.

PORTLAND, May 17.—(To the Editor.)—Is there a school that teaches ship-calking? If not, where can a person learn the trade? SUBSCRIBER.

Write to Norman Ramsdell, secretary of Calkers' Union, Supple's Yard, foot of Belmont street.

Washington a Truthful Man.

Louisville Courier Journal.

"Washington was a truthful man." "I've got the habit myself now. I think it is the best plan, if you marry a widow."