

The Oregonian

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Portland, Saturday, June 30, 1917.

THE MATTER WITH CONGRESS.

Many hidden weaknesses of organizations and of men are thrown into strong relief by the searching light of war. This is nowhere more evident than in the groaning and creaking of the ponderous machinery of Congress...

Before our Government can become approximately efficient for war, it will be necessary to scrap old machinery, old customs, old ideas and old leaders, and to adopt new ones hammered out in the fierce forge of war.

The first year's allotment of road funds by the state highway commission has been fairly and more or less widely distributed, yet the allotments have been made in such amounts that something better than haphazard commission has been made in such amounts that something better than haphazard commission has been made in such amounts...

The U-BOAT'S INFLUENCE IN WAR. As the toll of ships taken by the submarines rises and falls from week to week, the nations arrayed against Germany are subject to fluctuations of overconfidence and despair...

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war legislatures of other nations. It has worked much faster than in peace, not fast enough for war, it cannot work fast enough under the present rules, particularly in the Senate, or under the present leaders.

Another burst of public indignation like that which drove the Senate to adopt a majority vote may be necessary to drive Congress to radical reform of its rules and to relegate to the rear of its incompetent and obstructive leaders. By this means only can Congress make an effective instrument of winning a great war in which this Nation has ever engaged.

SOLDIERS' INSURANCE.

The billions of money poured into actual warfare by the United States and other countries—but especially the United States—by no means tells the story of the tremendous cost of there are, for example, pensions for the heroes who saved the country and their dependent relatives. The United States has paid out in pensions for its 747 war veterans the great sum of \$5,000,000,000.

The suggestion is made that the lives of our soldiers be insured, and a lump sum—perhaps \$4000—be paid to survivors for any death. It is an attractive idea. It may relieve the Nation of the undoubted evils of the pension system.

But it should be carefully safeguarded. A lump sum of \$4000 paid to a soldier's family would in many cases be a mistake, for too obvious reasons. There should be strict conditions for the award of such a sum, and its expenditure, and it should have a definite relation to any possible subsequent pension. Then it may be both wise and patriotic to have soldiers' insurance, but not till then.

A WISE BEGINNING.

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perience of their older neighbors, whose average of grain production has been decreasing steadily, to the point in some instances where profit at normal prices is either exceedingly doubtful or entirely non-existent.

WHY A FUEL SHORTAGE?

When one looks out over the wooded hills of Oregon, one finds it difficult to conceive of a fuel shortage in Portland. Yet we are warned of such a thing is likely to come to pass. There is more or less persuasiveness in the excuses given for the cordwood scarcity. Men who formerly cut wood are tilling the soil, because they see bigger profits in agriculture. Or the men who once worked as woodcutters are now engaged in more profitable employment.

Yet sawmills dot the country. Many of them are located in small settlements themselves create. They produce much waste material. It is slawwood, but good fuel. What becomes of it? The mill towns are not big enough to consume a fraction of it. It would seem that there needs to be no real fuel shortage or even a scarcity sufficient to cause abnormal prices for slawwood. Perhaps all that is needed is initiative and enterprise to meet the demand.

We are not forgetful that the city of Portland once went into the wood business with somewhat distressing results. Yet that disaster was exaggerated in the public mind, the discovery of theft or graft. The woodpile was 1000 cords short of the amount paid for.

It was not primarily a business venture, it was an emergency enterprise undertaken for the great number of unemployed men. They were paid more than current wages. It is also overlooked that the persons who ultimately paid the bill—the citizens of Portland—got wood for \$1.50 a cord cheaper than formerly as a result of the city's competition. The sums they paid out in taxes to provide work for the unemployed they put back into their pockets in the saving of the city's money.

The fuel situation is commended to the attention of the City Council. Food control is now popular. Why not fuel control? With fuel going to waste and other fuel merchants profiting the coming of winter, a fuel shortage in Portland would be an economic crime.

THE U-BOAT'S INFLUENCE IN WAR.

As the toll of ships taken by the submarines rises and falls from week to week, the nations arrayed against Germany are subject to fluctuations of overconfidence and despair that they will overcome the one menace to sea traffic. We can best gauge the U-boat's possibility of reducing the sea to impotence by comparison of their destructiveness with the French privateers during the Napoleonic war and of the American privateers during the war of 1812.

In those years the French ravaged every sea, even to the most remote, and one of them took 159 prizes. In the two and a half years of the war of 1812 American privateers took 1590 British vessels, one-third of them in the last six months of 1814, or at the rate of 88 a month. During the seven-month campaign ending with June 17, British losses totalled 350 large and 141 small vessels, or 491 in all. This is at the rate of twenty-nine a week, or 12 a day.

Though ships now average much larger, they are now so much more numerous that probably the present ratio of losses to the total number of British ships is not much greater than that of the war of 1812. In the Napoleonic wars, which coincided with the war of 1812, Great Britain "stuck it out" then, though her allies had few warships to aid her. Nearly all of the allies have considerable navies, and by some of them they should be able to "stick it out" now.

An impression prevails that Britain was self-supporting as regards food in Napoleon's time, but it is erroneous. Though the population was then only one-third of what it now is and probably a much larger area of wheat and wheat, an average of 4,800,000 bushels a year was imported during the Napoleonic war and the stock was so deficient that in 1810 the price rose to \$2.14 a bushel and in 1811 to \$3.23. When we consider that the incomes, both for the workingman and the well-to-do, was much lower than now, those prices were relatively much higher than they would be now.

What at Chicago now ranges from \$2.14 for July to \$1.87 for September, and addition of freight to Liverpool would make the price at that port much lower than prices which prevail in 1810. The price is a fair guide to the sufficiency of the supply and indicates that the allies are having better success in carrying wheat past the British alone had in carrying it to France and American privateers a century ago.

It would be as great folly to assume that the submarine is beaten because in some week its toll runs low as it would be to throw up our hands in despair because in some other week it has made a great killing. It is a new weapon, and must be met with different means of offense and defense from those used against privateers. It cannot be totally exterminated, but by primarily applying all their energy and ingenuity to the task and by keeping everlastingly at it the allies should be able to limit their losses by its operation to a certain maximum which will be well within their power to suffer without risk of defeat.

Every man who has shot a Denny pheasant can afford to go a dollar on the benefit proposed for the widow of the man who brought the bird to Oregon. Slawwood will burn green, but it rasps the cook. Get in your supply early, then every street may remind you of President Wilson.

The latest dream of municipality makers is to set the maximum of city population at 300,000. They should tell it to Seattle.

When Congressman McArthur can raise bull calves that sell for \$220 each, Congress and politics seem like mere diversion.

Director Campbell is all right. His programme of the first band concert tomorrow is full of patriotic airs.

The Pacific Northwest apple crop this year will be 23,500 carloads. Watch the allies do their bite.

trivial a detail as the saving of the paper in a stamp, but we are rapidly coming to economies in many departments.

The "abandoned farms" of New England are responding nobly to the call for food in the National crisis, as was shown at the graduating exercises recently of a country school in Greenfield, Vermont, in that state. On donated land, the pupils of this school have planted five acres to oats, ten acres to hay, and more than ten acres to corn, potatoes, peas, beans and other vegetables. There are also 550 hens, 1800 little chickens, nine cows, eight pigs and other livestock. When it is considered that the work on this really substantial farm is being done by the boys and girls, having only the supervision of their teachers, it will be seen that much that is worth while is being accomplished. The benefit extends beyond the season and the actual amount of food produced. It will be enduring and in the years to come will be reflected in the additional number of men and women who have formed an attachment for the soil and a new idea of the dignity of agriculture.

The bureau of chemistry of the Department of Agriculture is making a series of tests of preservatives for cloth, with especial reference to their value in conserving the canvas used by farmers in protecting their machinery against the weather. The reason for the bureau's activity at this time is that the Government is expected to need for its own use every yard of cotton duck the mills of the country are able to turn out, and it is regarded as probable that the private consumers will be able to obtain sufficient supplies of certain grades at any price. The necessity of conserving farm implements of every kind is also indicated by the probability that the machine shops of the Nation will be fully employed in the production of munitions of war. The destruction of farm machinery by exposure is tremendous, and farmers are not only losing money by their carelessness but are contributing to the same danger that when it is gone it may not be replaceable.

No one wishes to dictate to the German Premier the terms of peace, but they should choose to live. From Lloyd George's Glasgow speech.

Thus, in another respect, the British Premier makes it clear that the aims of the United States and its allies are the same—not to punish the German people, but to make the world better for them as well as for ourselves to live in.

An Assistant Secretary of Agriculture says the barnyard waste in the United States amounts to \$1,000,000,000 yearly. He ought to be specific. Barn refuse on the farm goes into the manure pile, and the farmer who conserves the resources of his farm is a bureaucrat know of these things, anyway?

Men Who Fall in Reserve Camps.

PORTLAND, June 29.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me what becomes of men who have been discharged from the Presidio training camp for physical defects? Will they be accepted in any other branch of the Army? Will they do with the rest after the 650 officers have been chosen? Will any of them be subject to the selective draft? Are they not volunteers?

Men dismissed from the Presidio Reserve Officers' Training Camp for physical defects presumably will not be considered physically fit for enlistment in other military branches, unless their defects are temporary ones. At the same time the physical requirements for the Army are probably more strict than the ordinary Army physical examination.

If the men not chosen for officers are of the age to come within the draft law (from 21 to 30 years, inclusive), they will be subject to draft just as if they had never attended the training camp. Those who are over the draft age, of course, cannot be drafted, but if they can pass the physical examinations there would be nothing to prevent them from volunteering into the regular Army, Navy, etc. as private soldiers.

Probably many of them will return home and resume their usual occupations.

While the British and French nations have considered the matter of the necessity and practicability of a tunnel under the Channel from Dover to Calais, a project to be taken up after the other project scarcely less important is now being seriously considered. This is the Scottish ship canal, a project to be taken up after the other project scarcely less important is now being seriously considered.

The enemies of Russia are saying that the people are "drunk with democracy," which is better, in the long run, than being under the influence of vodka.

American girls who contemplate marrying to obtain European titles will do well to wait until the permanency of those titles has been guaranteed.

The man with a thriving back-yard garden is not worrying about the decreasing purchasing power of money when measured by the vegetable yardstick.

An aristocrat bearing a German title is less esteemed in England than the humblest London costermonger and thanks the King for de-Germanizing him.

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Argument at Jintown.

There was sure a hot discussion in the Redlight to-day. The arguments flew thick an' fast in an excitin' way. The question that invoked the language of battle being 'why'.

Slim Snodgrass, who had studied law an' never got a case, remarked in sneerin' way that Sport had slid clear off his base, an' 'darn' him to produce a bit o' proof to the effect.

It was the way on which their boat was tied up to the dock. An' pilgrim fathers stepped ashore an' camped at Plymouth Rock, an' that shows why the Jintown Times keeps printin' on that day.

The way they quoted history an' Scripture an' the law was fierce until a whisky travelin' man from Omaha 'twas asked the proprietor a bill o' lecker goods.

Such indignance was painful, an' 'twas his opinion we was needin' missionaries more than heathens 'cross the sea. Fur every stick o' wood kind on this civilized o' earth.

His grinlin' insult stung us in a painful sort o' way. An' every one in the gang riz fur a hostile way. An' told him he best evaporate, an' hit the foot trail down the mountain was a pleasurable treat.

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When Treason Deserves Death.

No Analogy Between Sinn Fein Rebel-Hea and American Civil War. PORTLAND, June 29.—(To the Editor.)—From Patrick O'Halloran's letter on the Sinn Fein riots, I perceive he lacks a good deal in perspicacity. He is eager to instruct me in American history. He points to the leniency of the Federal Administration in not punishing the Southern traitors at the end of the Civil War. The analogy cited by the writer proves his dullness. He fails to understand, what is obvious enough, that the Irish rebellion of 1916 bears the resemblance whatever to your trouble in 1861-65. That was altogether a case of internal war between two elements in your economic, political and social life.

The Irish rebellion of 1916, on the contrary, was an attack upon Britain from within while the country was being most feverish and ruthlessly attacked from without. In effect, the Sinn Fein rebels made themselves allies of Germany.

No sovereign power deals with special leniency in the case of rebellion. It is not a matter of unconsciously giving aid to a foreign foe. The Sinn Fein would not have gone so badly with the Irish rebels of 1916 if Britain had been the same as she was at the time. The circumstances of the British government could not afford to trifle with misguidedly dangerous violence, such as the Sinn Fein rebels were waging. Life was threatened by a savage and powerful external enemy. If Patrick O'Halloran is capable of understanding this point, doubtless he will appreciate how foolish his argument against me appears to be a logical mind.

Does anyone in his senses compare the situation between the Irish rebellion of 1916 and a possible situation in this country, I will suggest one. Let him imagine the Sinn Fein rebellion had been in progress two years; thousands of your splendid soldiers have been killed in battle; scores of merchant and naval vessels sunk; the hundreds slaughtered by unprotected cities subjected to aerial raids; noncombatant women and children killed; the hundreds slaughtered by bombs dropped in the dead of night at this juncture a rebellion of negroes, let us say, breaks out, and its leaders set the example of traitorous conduct on the ground of racial differences. They capture several cities and perhaps a state capital; they would hardly say to give up the fighting of what would happen to the chief spirits of such a rebellious movement, especially in what you call "down South."

The Sinn Feiners attacked British authority in Ireland when the whole of the British Empire was threatened. Does anyone in his senses suppose that British are so stupid as to allow Ireland to be converted into an ally of Germany? Ireland has a position of immense strategic importance in the North Atlantic Ocean. Great Britain, as she values her position in the family of nations, can never allow Ireland to be an independent nation with very harbors as so many bases for hostile fleets. Not to put down the Irish rebellion was the same as surrendering to the Kaiser—a step which we are not yet quite prepared to take.

Under such conditions to expect special leniency for traitorous conduct is idiocy. If the Irish leaders were not prepared to face the extreme penalty of death, they should not have raised the Sinn Fein flag.

Patrick O'Halloran need have no fear that I have any wish to interfere with the rights of free speech, or a free press in this country. I trust I appreciate sufficiently the hospitality that has been extended to me not to abuse it. Does anyone suggest in turn that British statesmen be allowed to manage their internal affairs in their own way? It is hardly likely that resolutions passed in a lower house of a city government as a stroke of politics or letters written by citizens of Irish extraction to leading newspapers will have any material effect on the domestic politics of Great Britain. ROBERT MUIR.

HOOPER BORN IN IOWA.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly tell me whether or not Herbert Hoover is a Belgian. I remember to have seen a picture of a lecturer in a lecture here last night said that Hoover was a Belgian Socialist. Is she correct? SUBSCRIBER.

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In Other Days.

Twenty-Five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of June 29, 1902. The citizens of Mount Tabor Villa met Tuesday evening and organized a volunteer fire department.

The steamer Willington has built up a heavy business between this city and Puget Sound and British Columbia ports, and the arrival of the steamer Hatien Republic to supplement her is now 400 tons.

Wallace McCamant will deliver an address at the Young Men's Hall, at Fifth and Salmon streets, next Sunday on "The Young Man for Citizenship."

The Union Pacific tug Wallowa was successfully launched at the Willamette Shipyards at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The tug has undergone extensive repairs, including the installation of a new shaft.

Portland won from Seattle by a score of 5 to 3 yesterday. Our town is now at the head of the Pacific Northwest League. The standings are: Portland, 306; Tacoma, 300; Spokane, 488; Seattle, 422.

VALIANTS IN OLIVE GRAY. Our boys are vallant, brave! For the world is waiting the wave— Meeting the need! Clad all in olive gray, Vallants, our callants, they Go forth to join the fray. Men must be freed!

Valiants intrepid cry, "We with red blood will buy Democracy!" To the far future time, For the most distant clime, This gift shall be— Men shall be free.

Valiants! declare the name, Valiants! shout loud the fame! Never again the same! Vallants, our callants, they They dressed in olive gray, Challenge the world to say: "Men shall be free!" Tyranny, thou shalt not last! Kingcraft! Thy time is past! The world shall be— Free! Freedom, this is thy day! Thus in their olive gray, Springing to arms they say: "Men shall be free!" Heart nurtured passion flowers! Rise, ye who are suffering therefrom! (Cease weeping, cease!) These to this cause we give, That in all lands may live, Democracy! Justice and peace. —HARRIET HICKOX HELLER.

New Hope for Lawns. PORTLAND, June 29.—(To the Editor.)—The Willamette is too high; water is being pumped out of basements at great expense to the owners of the cellars, and this flood is being augmented daily by millions of gallons of water that are running to waste from the city water works. Yet, notwithstanding this, our autocratic and foolish management of the city water system insists that owners of lawns should use water only every other day.

If there was a shortage of water, if the pipes were suffering therefrom instead of having an overabundance, there would be an excuse for such a foolish order. Let us hope that now Daily is being retired to private life, the new official who handles the water question will at once revoke this absurd rule and let us put it in the garbage until either the Willamette is running dry or until there is a shortage of the supply from Ball Run. WATER USER.

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That Contented Feeling of Being Well Informed Comes With THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN

There is no waste space in The Sunday Oregonian. Its news service of all-the-world is prompt and authentic. Its special features and departments are mines of information and pleasure. Its comics are clean and comical, as comics should be. It is first in the field. Your newboy knows.

WHAT IS OUR FIGHTING SONG TO BE—Whenever Yankee troops have gone into conflict they have sung some tune of irrelevant lightness—a very small number of fingers in the face of death. The men of General Washington's commands sang "Yankee Doodle," the men of Cuba and the Philippines the troops of Spanish-American war time carried "A Hot Time in the Old Town." Read Joseph Kaufman's speculative article on what may be the song of the light-hearted lads in this conflict.

KAUFMAN, THE UNQUENCHABLE—There never yet was a problem to douse the trenchant enthusiasm and fighting spirit of Herbert Kaufman, whose Sunday page is a tonic for the weary in spirit. Soon or late, if you follow him, you'll find your own problem, and its solution, on Kaufman's page.

OUR CHIEF COTTON PORT—Just as much as cotton is needed to clothe the children of men, so it is indispensable to the munition business of war. It plays a major role in the freed force of high explosives. Galveston is our chief cotton port, and it is there that Frank G. Carpenter, special contributor to The Sunday Oregonian, analyzed the cotton industry and our exports to the allies.

THAT BIG QUESTION OF FOOD—Here is a feature page for the patriotic housewife. Its treatment of the question of kitchen economy will enable her to aid in the conservation