

The Oregonian

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Portland, Thursday, July 26, 1917. THE WEAKNESS OF RUSSIA. It is impossible to exaggerate the gravity of Russia's breakdown in its effects on the cause of the allies.

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The Serb Army Today.

The condition of the Serbian Army after nearly three years of the bitterest experience during the last year of the entente allied forces, is described by Herbert Corey, the war correspondent, in a graphic communication to the National Geographic Society, a part of which is issued as the following war geography bulletin from the society's Washington headquarters:

The Serbs are of poor relations of the allies. They are armed with the old St. Etienne rifle which the British army has discarded. Their support has been scanty and their fronts, their surgeons are borrowed surgeons, for the most part, they are not well equipped.

The Serbian army began the great retreat of 1915 250,000 strong. Not more than 150,000 reached asylum on the island of Corfu.

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RIGHT WAY TO STUDY HISTORY

"Books and Teachers Are but Helms," but Work Is Pupil's Own. KLUCKHITT, Wash., July 24.—(To the Editor.)—I have been very much interested in your recent editorials concerning Muzey's "History of the United States," particularly as I am a June graduate of a Portland high school and consequently have studied "Muzey."

The editorials would naturally lead people to conclude that present Portland students of United States history must have rather a weak foundation in this subject; perhaps have failed utterly to glean any of the benefits of our country's making. The thoughtful reader is likely to consider it a serious charge—that of having sent forth hundreds of future citizens and prospective teachers poorly equipped in such a vital subject.

Such an individual found himself daily provided with an outline and splendid bibliography, which demanded from two to four hours' careful reading and notebook work.

When a student made a bad mistake by reading further than the lesson, but he found that nothing really had happened so he tried again, only to discover that he received no inspiration by so doing. He also took active part in the daily periods which were held by the individual.

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In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of July 26, 1892. Oakesdale, Wash.—What at noon was a beautiful thriving city, one of the most flourishing in the Palouse country, is at this hour, 8 P. M., a mass of smouldering ruins.

The City Hall commission held a meeting yesterday afternoon in the parlors of Ladd & Tilton's bank and discussed bids for the construction of the new City Hall.

Washington.—The possibilities of the passage of the New Mexico, Arizona and Utah admission bills is not good this season.

St. Petersburg.—Work is to be begun at the western end of the great Siberian railway without delay. The first division, covering a distance of 737 versts, will be ready for use, it is hoped, in the latter part of the coming fall.

The completion of the Worcester block adds one more grand structure to the numerous buildings lately constructed in Portland.

The Fairview branch of the City & Suburban Company's electric railway, which runs through W. S. Ladd's farm to Rosenthal's place, a distance of four miles, will be put in operation today.

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian of July 26, 1867. St. Petersburg.—The Oregonian has been issued obliterating all political governmental distinctions between Russia and Poland. The latter is absorbed as one of the provinces of the empire.

Berlin.—Bismarck's official organ denies that there is any probability of a war.

When we have been about the wharves and have seen from half a dozen to two or three dozen small boys playing about the water, in skirts, flying on planks, logs and men's chunks of wood, we have often wondered that there are no more cases of drowning reported.

A report in some way became current on the streets yesterday that W. R. Hill, familiarly known as "Buckskin Bill," had been shot and killed in a row at Salem on Wednesday. The report could not be confirmed and is probably without foundation.

The Oregon State Teachers' Institute and Educational Association will hold its annual session in Portland, commencing on Tuesday, July 30.

Prosperous Cotton Planters Reluctant to Have Their Product Taxed. MOSIER, Or., July 24.—(To the Editor.)—The charge is openly made that the South is not bearing her fair share of the burden of war.

The motto of the southern statesmen seems to be: "We care not who fights the battles of a country so long as we may raise its cotton at an abnormally high price."

Just now the South seems to be in the saddle, as it was in the early '50s, when National legislation was directed almost wholly with a view of placating and phrasing that section of the country. Cotton is selling at an abnormally high price, but never before has it shown a greater tendency to bear their share of Federal burdens in an emergency.

The charge is made by Senator Brandegee of Connecticut, that Federal draft quotas have been unfairly drawn, that they are greater in the North than in the South.

Little whole-hearted support from the South or from states bordering on the South, and they have afforded nearly all the opposition.