

The Oregonian

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the President, and he should call to his aid the highest ability that can be found.

BILLIONS. The astute Senator Smith took his pencil in hand the other day and made a little calculation on war expenses. He was startled to find that America's war bill for the current fiscal year will be the staggering aggregate of \$14,226,000,000.

Now the mathematical gentleman from Utah rises to correct his estimates. He finds he had omitted a certain item, and the total is \$17,000,000,000. The amount to be raised by direct tax is about \$1,800,000,000. The total in sight is \$13,800,000,000.

Let us see: Congress recently authorized an initial war expenditure of \$7,000,000,000—\$5,000,000,000 in bonds and \$2,000,000,000 in certificates.

Now Secretary McAdoo says he must have \$5,000,000,000 more. The amount to be raised by direct tax is about \$1,800,000,000. The total in sight is \$13,800,000,000.

THE WEAKNESS OF RUSSIA. It is impossible to exaggerate the gravity of Russia's breakdown in its effects on the cause of the allies. The revolution and its immediate consequences resemble the break-up of the Roman empire.

It was a nation to which had been annexed a number of conquered nations, held together by a central power. With the Czar the revolution destroyed the bond which held these conquered nations to Russia.

Twenty-five hundred sons of Oregon—the rising hope and chief reliance of the future state—were yesterday mustered into the Federal army.

Three hundred and fifty thousand other valiant young soldiers are now being transferred from the National Guard to the regular army.

Now we hear of a great rush of the politicians to be Captains, Majors and Colonels for this patriotic host. If they are to be the sons of America, they must be sacrificed to the valour and inexperience of self-seeking job-hunters.

THE DANGER IN TOMBS. Ever since the ancient Egyptians designed the pyramid as a fitting monument to the dead, the propriety of various forms and embellishments in the general question of "good taste" in tombstones has engaged the attention of artists and architects.

THE IRISH CONVENTION. If the Irish convention which met Wednesday should agree on a plan of self-government within the British empire and if the British Parliament should ratify it, those Irishmen may continue in enmity to England.

THE AMERICAN DOLLAR. The American dollar is below par in Switzerland, but it buys a dollar's worth at home, the best place to spend it.

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trips prescribed for them will not have forgotten a noteworthy example of sepulchral architecture, which we think Mr. Elliott would not approve. It marks the grave of a young man who ended his life after an unfortunate love affair, and depicts in stone his deathbed scene.

Books have been written about the curious epitaphs in the graveyards of the world. It will not have escaped observation that those which obviously strove for the effect of newness were the least satisfactory of any other viewpoint.

A STORY. A great many years ago a young man who was engaged in the arduous work of teaming ran across, on the sage-brush desert near Umatilla, a stranger who was tending with a horse to find his way to Pendleton and had lost his way.

Boston is taking advantage of the spirit that inspires women to take up nursing as a profession in wartime by pointing out the necessity for special "industrial nursing" and providing industrial courses to that end.

William Ellery Leonard's translation of "Lucifer" in the "Nature of Things" is criticised by the London Times because he uses such Americanisms as "right there." Such expressions are considered not good literary English.

THE LACK OF RAIN. The lack of rain has passed the stage of humor. Rain is needed, but the skies remain clear and the farmer is blue.

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to lose American sympathy for any further Nationalist agitation. One of Ireland's misfortunes is that it no sooner comes within reach of the object of its desire than it grasps after more and by so doing loses all. It constantly loses the bird in the bush.

The term "well-known clubman" is probably less distinctive in Havana than in any other city in the world. The city has a population of 250,000 and 125,000 men belong to one club or another.

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

There was no music except that now and then heard in the world as plaintive tones of a one-stringed fiddle which some patient soldier had made out of the material at hand.

The time is approaching when the "boys" rejected at San Francisco will be coming home. That they did not get commissions is not to their discredit.

A university woman lecturing here on foods emphasizes the need of long cooking for the legumes. Old-timers who cooked the beans all night in a Dutch oven are a thing of the past.

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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.

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RIGHT WAY TO STUDY HISTORY

"Books and Teachers Are but Helps," 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."

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.

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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.

The administration has received little whole-hearted support from the South or from states bordering on the South, and they have afforded nearly all the opposition.

Senator Stone, who but a few days ago said that an honorable peace at any time was possible, meaning a peace with Germany, is now being judged by the North as a man who is not to be trusted.

They have the majority and they are using it to their own advantage. SUBSCRIBER.

DON'T LET "JOHN KING" ESCAPE. Questions Before American People In Answer From Spirit World. VANCOUVER, Wash., July 25.—(To the Editor.)—While the spirit trappers of London have a line on John King, for in 1893 Morgan, they should belay and hold fast.

His ready, curt and emphatic statement that things in the North Sea were "wet" proves that he knows a thing or two. Now the question uppermost in the mind of each and every American today is: Why is a United States Senator possibly the notorious "ghost" of the answer "wet." If such were his answer, it would cause a revolution in American sense, as the general conception of the ghost is that of a man who is careless of God's reckless carelessness in handling structural materials.

Recruiting of Foresters for France. FALLS CITY, Or., July 24.—(To the Editor.)—Please send me particulars in regard to the foresters, as I am thinking of joining them. I would like to know when they go to France. HATHAWAY BUELL.

The Tenth Reserve Engineers' Regiment is now being recruited by the United States Forestry Service for duty behind the lines in France. The engineers will be in complete charge of the French forests, will preserve them as much as possible and will supply all the trench timber and railroad ties required by the allied armies. Recruits must pass the regular Army tests and in addition be experienced timbermen, teamsters, millwrights, blacksmiths or cooks. M. I. Merritt, 405 Beck building, is in charge of the recruiting for this district.

Child of Divorced Parents. PORTLAND, July 25.—(To the Editor.)—In the case of a girl of 14 years married to the father of her child, divorce a year ago, can the girl choose now and go to the father? SUBSCRIBER.

The girl cannot go to her father without an order from a court of proper jurisdiction. After she becomes of age she may choose which parent she desires to remain with, but until that time she is under the control of her mother unless she obtains a formal order from the court.

Problem of Special Care on Battlefield and Behind Lines is Too Complicated. VANCOUVER, Wash., July 24.—(To the Editor.)—While the spirit trappers of London have a line on John King, for in 1893 Morgan, they should belay and hold fast.

There is no demand for women to drive ambulances for the reason that there would be a new problem of caring for them on the battlefield. Nurses are needed for the hospitals, however, and we suggest that you write to Dr. K. A. J. Mackenzie, Corbett building, Portland, for full particulars. In addressing a letter to General Pershing, address it merely General Pershing, American Expeditionary Forces in France. Do not attempt to specify the town. Also, say your return corner card on the letter. SUBSCRIBER.

Filing on Timber Claim. FOSSIL, Or., July 23.—(To the Editor.)—Does a person buy a timber claim and commute or pre-empt a homestead without becoming naturalized? OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Anyone who is not a naturalized citizen may take up a timber and stone claim by declaring his intention to become a citizen, but must have full citizenship papers to file on any other kind of claim.

Some Verbal Agreements Binding. PORTLAND, July 25.—(To the Editor.)—Does a verbal agreement, where money is involved, pre-empt a homestead in the presence of witnesses hold good? OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Some verbal agreements are binding; others are not. Your case must be stated more specifically.

Exemption of Homesteads. PORTLAND, July 24.—(To the Editor.)—Can a homestead be attached for a store bill? SUBSCRIBER.

If the debt does not exceed \$1500 the homestead cannot be attached. Homesteads are exempt from any execution up to this amount.

Liberty Not Left-Handed. JOSEPH, Or., July 24.—(To the Editor.)—There is a dispute on at Joseph, Or., about the Statue of Liberty. Some say Liberty is left-handed. I contend she holds the torch in her right hand in the harbor of New York. FRANKIE EARL MERRILL.

Authentic photographs in the Portland Public Library show Liberty holding the torch in her right hand, not her left. Yes. MLYNO, Or., July 23.—(To the Editor.)—Ann Emma Goldman and Alice Berkman the anarchists, Russian Jews? A SUBSCRIBER.

Seventy cents for ice or bust the trust!

Where are the Summer apples and attendant cholera morbus?

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