The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1917.

DOWN ON HOOVER.

Hoover is a man of action—aggressive, constructive, direct and humane. No wonder the Senate doesn't understand him and that some of the Senators have conceived a vast dislike for him.

Hoover has not waited for the food-control bill to pass, but has gone ahead and done what he could. The overwhelming need of his service is too plain for dispute—except by some Senators. He has authority from the President. That is enough. But evidently the dignity of the solemn Senate has been seriously hurt. And it has been proposed to de-Hooverize Hoover by putting food control in the hands of three directors instead of one.

Why not three Commanders-in-Chief of the Army? Or three Presidents? Or three Pershings in France?

Sometimes we think that the only way that the Senate of the United States can elevate itself in the public esteem is by abolishing the Congressional Record.

CONSERVED TO PERFECTION.

Conservation in the United States is a complete success. The coal of Alaska is so carefully conserved that the Pacific Coast ports, where it is needed, cannot get it. Pacific Coast people might use water power in place of the coal which they cannot get, but that, too, is admirably conserved. Or they might use much more oil as fuel than is now used, and might get it cheaper, but all the oil on Government land is also conserved. The Government itself needs that oil for use on its warships and on the freight ships which it is building, or in the shape of gasoline on the auto trucks, motorboats and aircraft which are to fight in the war zones, but it cannot get its own oil. The Nation needs to increase food production, phosphate would help amazingly, and the Government owns great beds of phosphate, but they, too, are conserved.

The Government is in the ludicrous position of a man who has locked a large fortune in a fireproof, burglar-proof safe and then has lost the combination. He is absolutely secure from fire and robbery, but he cannot get any benefit from his own wealth. It is equally safe from his spendthrift proclivities. The only satisfaction he derives from his ownership is the knowledge that it is in that safe, and that, though he cannot get at it, no other person can.

This is the finest tribute which could possibly be offered to Gifford Pinchot as the conserver of our natural resources.

ONE OF THE WAR VISIONS.

A "perfectly feasible solution of the U-boat problem" is offered to the allies by Washington B. Vanderlip, of New York, who describes himself as a mining engineer. It is to block the Straits of Gibraltar, Otranto and Dardanelles with nets and thus "make the Mediterranean as safe as Lake Michigan," then send all the allied ships through the Panama Canal to the Pacific Coast, send all troops and exports for Europe across the continent by rail, and ship them across the Pacific Ocean and through the Mediterranean to France. They would be hauled across that country by rail, and British supplies would cross the Channel from Calais to Dover. To do this he would "stop the building of useless wooden boats" and "put some of the appropriation into freight cars and locomotives" and "let General Goethals "go ahead with the sensible project of steel ships."

Why did nobody ever think of this before? Why was this great but simple scheme to defeat the submarine left for Mr. Vanderlip to unfold? To him it is a small matter that the African side of Gibraltar Straits opposite the great rock is Spanish territory, therefore neutral, and that nets from the western end of the straits, where France rules the African coast, would also extend to Spanish territory. If it were practicable to close the Strait of Otranto to Austrian submarines, would not the allies already have done so? How could nets be maintained across the Dardanelles without control of the shores? At enormous cost the allies held the Gallipoli side for nearly a year, but failed to gain the Asiatic side, and finally were compelled to withdraw. Here are abundant reasons why the three straits have not already been closed with nets.

The ports of the Pacific Coast would rejoice to handle all the war traffic between America and Europe, if it were possible, but there are a few slight obstacles. This traffic has congested the well-developed railroads and ports of the Atlantic Coast; it would hopelessly swamp the single-track roads and partially improved ports of the Pacific. Before they could be expanded to handle this immense increase of traffic the war would be over. The world's ships are already overtaxed, but a great fleet would be needed to carry coal and fuel oil to Nagasaki, Colombo, Singapore and Aden, and the long voyage three-fourths of the way around the world would require at least three times as much tonnage as the voyage across the Atlantic. The French railroads are already overtaxed by their present traffic; they could not possibly carry all that now passes between America and Europe.

This is probably only one of many absurd schemes with which the Administration is being bombarded. It is discussed merely as a sample. The Government doubtless seeks diligently for the one brilliant suggestion which will defeat the U-boat. In its search for that grain of wheat it must have handled many bushels of chaff.

AN ALCOHOLIC MYSTERY.

They were discussing prohibition the other day in the Senate. They were discussing it on numerous other days, but on the particular day we have in mind Senator Jones, of Washington, remarked that alcohol had "done more to weaken the arms of England and France than any other one influence."

Senator John Sharp Williams arose with figures in hand. German soldiers, on the firing line, he showed, consumed about 70.7 grams of alcohol a day, while the soldiers of Britain consumed a maximum of 17.5 grams, the soldiers of France about 60 grams and the soldiers of Austria 40 grams.

It is very puzzling. The booze-impaired British and French have not yet whipped the Germans, although the Germans consume much more alcohol than they do. The bone-dry Russians are running away from the alcoholic Germans, but when given a free hand have no difficulty in whipping the Austrians, who get more alcohol than the British, who in turn are able to stand up before the tippling Teutons.

It may be argued, from the prohibition standpoint, that if the Russians had not been denied their vodka they would have run away long ago; that the Austrians would be able to stand up and fight if they were deprived of wine; that the British and French would by this time have licked the Germans if they had not had rum every day, and that if the Germans had cut out beer and brandy the war would have been over seventeen months ago.

As already stated, it is very puzzling. We shall probably never know the answer, for who shall say at the end that something else would not have happened but for John Barleycorn?

HARRISON GRAY OTIS.

General Harrison Gray Otis, who has just died at Los Angeles after a distinguished career as soldier and journalist, was for more than thirty years in active charge of the Los Angeles Times as editor and manager. Under him the Times grew from a small and uninfluential paper to be one of the important newspapers of the country. The Times has ever reflected the dominant personality of General Otis, and has thus been in a unique sense but "the lengthened shadow of a man." General Otis was long at odds with union labor, and the Times has been a foremost advocate of the principle of the open shop. It has been besides an active force in all California and National affairs. The great quality of General Otis was doubtless his frankness and courage. What he believed he said through the Times and elsewhere; and he never failed to act when action seemed appropriate to justify conviction.

The sensational climax of the Times' long warfare with organized labor came in 1910, when its building was blown up with dynamite, with considerable loss of life. This incident, for which certain lawless labor agitators—structural ironworkers—were convicted and sent to prison, seemed only to strengthen General Otis' purpose to carry on the struggle to the end. He was not any more to be dismayed by threats, or the fact, of violence than he was by loss of business. That the Times prospered when a weaker newspaper would have yielded is standing proof that the respect of the public is the greatest asset a man or a journal may have.

A great figure in the history of Los Angeles and California disappears with General Otis. A valiant soldier of the Union, too, has joined the Grand Army in its march through the shades. In his newspaper he leaves a fine monument to his worth, enterprise and fearlessness; and to his friends and the public he leaves the memory of one who played bravely always his allotted role.

THE MOUNTAIN CLIMBERS.

One who has not climbed a mountain cannot quite enter into the spirit of the Mazama, or whatever the individual may choose to call himself who has enjoyed the soul-stirring experience of standing on the high places of the world. The glory of achievement and the immeasurable satisfaction of overcoming obstacles add to the thrill. It is not a sport for the weakling, but it is not beyond the aspiration of the average healthy man or woman who is willing to qualify for it by training in easy stages. That it is worth while is proved by the fact that there are few backsliders. The convert to mountain climbing is true to his colors. Mastery of the labors—and even the perils—of one tall peak only whets the desire for more.

It is for such reasons as these that the members of the National Education Association in convention in Portland recently who made the trip to the top of Mount Hood were, we think, the most fortunate of all those who attended the meeting. There were some seventy of these elect, and they are to be envied in the impression they carried home with them of the true grandeur of the West. Nature did a service for the Northwest when she pierced its sky with snow-capped peaks, and man is doing well in making them accessible. Some day we shall learn that it is not necessary to go to Switzerland or to South America to be thrilled. We have Alps and Andes of our own.

It is well that mountain climbing is not a solitary business. A good deal of the pleasure of it comes from its social character. The links in the human chain serve to remind us of our dependence upon one another in all walks of life. The strong help the weak; the laggards are inspired by example to put forth their best endeavors. And many eyes see more than the eyes of one. There is such a thing as helping one another to see. Hence the growth of organizations like the Mazamas, and the increasing popularity of their excursions into the lofty wilds.

Baseball fans can look forward with confidence to a real "world series" in the years to come. The sinking of a ship carrying among other things a consignment of balls and bats to the American Young Men's Christian Association in France will not forestall the inevitable. The American National game has taken a powerful hold on the British and French, and long before we have our million men on the line it will have been firmly established. The British, who have been slow to accept baseball in the past because of their innate conservatism, have been greatly aided in modifying their views by the French, who have taken up the game with enthusiasm, and it is sure to take the world by storm. At the same time, it is foretold that there will need to be certain modifications of the rules, to make them conform to the new international psychology, and the form these changes will take affords an interesting and not unentertaining field of speculation.

FATHER OF THE CREASE.

It is said that Herbert Kelcey will be remembered more for having set the fashion of creasing trousers than as an actor. That is to estimate him cheaply, though a man must have more than ordinary standing in society to be able to set a fashion.

Before he appeared on the stage with his trousers creased for their whole length, men wore theirs loose and baggy and called them pants. The change may have been due more particularly to instant recognition that creases added to the neatness of a man's appearance.

But Kelcey had valid claims to fame as an actor. He retained public favor as a star for thirty-five years. He appeared in society comedies which were in favor before problem plays began catering openly to prurient craving for the lewd and before extravagant salaries drew actors away from the spoken to the pictured drama. He was always a gentleman, on or off the stage, and was one of the last and best of a disappearing generation.

THE APPLE CROP.

Reports from the Atlantic states that the apple crop is below normal, and may be only 50 per cent of that of last year, show the importance of saving as much as possible of the coming crop of the Northwest. There should be a market not only for every apple of the better grades, but also for "C" grades, and even below. The dried apple is pretty good food. It was not held lightly in the times when our grandmothers festooned the attic rafters with long dried-apple chains, and there have been times when dried-apple pie was regarded as a luxury. It is only because we have become accustomed to better things that we have grown more finical. We could be quite happy, if we only knew it, with a lot of old-fashioned things.

There is strong probability that apples will be included in the Army ration. Our allies will depend on us for their supplies, for the English crop is reported short, France will not be able to spare help enough for the harvest, and the apples of New Zealand and Tasmania, normally due on the market next May, will lack transportation facilities. It is probable that every apple that can be produced in the West will be in demand.

Economy in distribution, care in storage and attention to proper and complete harvesting are important this year as never before. Harvesting at the right time does the double service of improving keeping quality and preventing excessive loss from falling. It is also essential that none of the "by-products" shall be wasted. Co-operation will facilitate drying on a large scale, but this work can also be done in the home. The Department of Agriculture has plans for home dryers that are inexpensive and easy to construct, and their use will conserve a valuable food. Dried apples are nearly five times as rich in carbohydrates as potatoes, and a pound of them contains as many food units as three pounds of potatoes. Besides, they give variety to the diet, which is also essential to good health.

GERMANY PLAYS THE OLD TRICK.

Evidently with the aid of a spy who obtained admission to the secret session of the French Chamber of Deputies, Chancellor Michaelis plays the favorite trick of his predecessor. He represents Germany as an innocent lamb of a nation which has been forced to transform itself into a lion in order to resist the attempt of the allies to dismember Germany by annexing her territory and by destroying her military power for self-defense. He accuses France of having sought the assent of revolutionary Russia to an agreement made with imperial Russia for "vast territorial modifications on the left bank of the Rhine" and for other conquests, including Syria.

He quotes speeches which his spy is presumed to have heard in favor of these annexations. He contrasts this alleged aim of France with the Russian policy of no annexations and no indemnities, for the evident purpose of driving a wedge between Russia and the western allies, and also of keeping alive in the minds of the German people the belief that they are resisting a world combination which aims to destroy Germany as a nation. It is the same old lie with which Germany began the war, dressed up in a new guise and supported by a new pretense of proof.

Most convincing disproof of the Chancellor's case is furnished by the intervention of the United States in the war and by the purpose of our intervention. President Wilson defined those purposes in his dispatch to Russia. He said of America:

> She seeks no material profit or aggrandisement of any kind. She is fighting for no advantage or selfish object of her own, but for the liberation of peoples everywhere from the aggressions of autocratic force.

He laid down the principles for which the United States fights and on which peace terms should be based when he said:

> No people must be forced under sovereignty under which it does not wish to live. No territory must change hands except for the purpose of securing those who inhabit it a fair chance of life and liberty. No indemnities must be insisted on except those that constitute payment for manifest wrongs done.

In this manner Mr. Wilson construed the Russian principle. His construction agrees with the definition of their aims which the allies gave in reply to his inquiry of last December, for they declared for liberation of all nationalities and for reparation for wrongs done.

Chancellor Michaelis construes the Russian principle as forbidding separation from Germany of any subject people conquered prior to the present war—Poles, Alsatians and Danes—and gives no intimation that Germany is willing to surrender Belgium and other territory occupied during the war. In his message to Russia, the President said Germany was "seeking to obtain pledges that the war will end in the restoration of the status quo ante," though German statesmen have given no hint that this would satisfy them. The President repudiated any such settlement, saying:

> It was the status quo ante out of which this iniquitous war issued forth, the power of the imperial German government within the empire and its widespread domination and influence outside of that empire. That status must be altered in such fashion as to prevent any such hideous thing from ever happening again.

Our European allies have not yet given any evidence that they may prove false to those principles of national right according to which the President says that the status quo ante must be changed and to which he is pledged. While Russia remained an empire, there was danger that, from motives of expediency, the western powers might betray those principles by yielding to the Czar's desire for aggrandizement, but when Russia became a republic that danger passed away.

Intervention of the United States constitutes a stronger pledge of adherence to the principles which lie at the foundation of our Constitution. The Nation which, after wresting the Spanish islands from Spain, made Cuba an independent republic and gave self-government to Porto Rico and the Philippines and which, so far from exacting an indemnity from Spain, paid that country $20,000,000 for the Philippines, would not become a party to forcing any people under rule against which they protested nor to extortion of any indemnity beyond reparation for injury actually done. The revolution in Russia and the intervention of the United States form double security for faithful regard to those principles which Mr. Wilson has defined and by observance of which alone can the world "prevent any such hideous thing from ever happening again."

But the world cannot have security against renewal of attacks on free nations until the character of the government not only of Germany but also of Austria and Turkey has been radically changed. The root cause of the war was well stated by Secretary of State Lansing in his speech at Madison Barracks when he said:

> The evil character of the German government is laid bare before the world. We know now that that government is inspired with ambitions which menace human liberty, and that to gain its end it does not hesitate to break faith, to violate the most sacred rights, or to perpetrate intolerable acts of inhumanity.

Those words apply with equal force to the government of Turkey and with only less force to that of Austria. The Hapsburgs still cling to the divine right to destroy the liberties of the people, for their Premier said recently in the Reichsrath that "he could only stigmatize as erroneous the assumption that the Austro-Hungarian government acknowledged the right of nations to determine their own fate." The dispatch which thus quoted him went on to say:

> The Austro-Hungarian government took its stand on the constitution by which it was reserved to the Emperor to conclude peace. The monarch was thus entrusted with the safeguarding of the interests and needs of the peoples of Austria.

The spirit behind those words moves the governments of Germany and Turkey also. The American people fight to cast out that spirit, and they will not permit it to creep into the acts of their allies. They will be in the position to insure that it shall not, for upon them the democratic league of nations relies for the last reserves of men, munitions and money. Every move and every word of Germany and her statesmen strengthens the allies' conviction that their battlecry must be: "Down with the Hohenzollerns."

The American people see the need of censorship for mails passing between this and other countries and would more readily submit to it if the spying propensities of Postmaster-General Burleson and his aides had not given cause for apprehension that it would be used for ulterior purposes. By causing the letters of Representative Tague to be opened for no apparent reason other than that Mr. Tague had opposed him on the pneumatic mail-tube question, Mr. Burleson or his subordinates have supplied a pretext for opposing mail-censorship laws which are necessary for war. Similar stretch of authority by other officials has had like effect. Department and bureau heads have not used well, and have exceeded, the power they already have; that is considered a good reason for not giving them more power.

The presence in a local hospital for a serious operation of Tommy Ranahan, of Idaho, is reminder that there are not left many of the scouts who fifty or sixty years ago helped to keep open the trail across the plains. Mr. Ranahan's later life has not been as spectacular as that of some of his partners', which is all the more assurance that he was there "with the goods" in the days of his youth.

The Civil war has been over for fifty-two years and this Government has not learned that the South is not the best place to send negroes in Federal uniforms. The negro makes a good soldier; nobody denies it; and in the North his "uppity" bearing is tolerated, but in the South it is not. The old South is not in mind, nor is the old negro; it is the present bitter generations of both.

One must feel sorry for the 15-year-old boy who ran away from home to enlist in the Third Oregon and failed. If he were big enough, he might have been allowed to press the limit. To discourage youthful patriotism is distressing as well as unwise.

Elijah Coalman is an emergency man, meaning that he is resourceful. No doubt, if there had been nobody to drag the rope he would have coasted.

Sunday is not the only day on which to go to one of the amusement parks. Lesser attendance on week days means comfort as well as pleasure.

A cash register being impossible on the ice wagon, the dealers prefer the coupon-book system and so will customers upon trial.

The wheat crop may be 50 per cent of normal in some parts, but a minimum of $2 a bushel is consoling.

Welshmen have a way of their own of preventing a peace meeting. The man of Wales is a born fighter.

Settlement of the switchmen's strike in Chicago was swift. The strikers knew what was against them.

It is awful to be an informer generally, but the man who knows a shirker owes a duty to the country.

Those who are using parings for seed must not expect a bountiful harvest.

The woman who marries four times reaches the nth degree of comparison.

All will agree that Harrison Gray Otis was a good fighter.

It is Hoover or nothing, and all know the Wilson way.

Dancing hours tonight will be plenty.

Gleams Through the Mist.

By Dean Collins.

VACATION VAGARY.

Kathleen, mavourneen, the gray dawn is breaking,
But we'll let it break over mount and lea;
There isn't a reason why I should be waking,
So let the dawn come; it shall not worry me.

Hark, hark, the lark at heaven's gate sings,
And Phoebus 'gins to rise;
But it takes more than all those things
To ope my sleepy eyes.
For my vacation starts today,
And glad and gay I'll snore away,
And I will not arise.

At midnight in my guarded tent
I lay a-dreaming of the hour
When I should duck the next month's rent,
Nor fear the landlord's power.
In dreams through field and hill I went
On mad vacation pleasures bent;
I heard the little birdies sing,
I sometimes shot them on the wing
And roamed around like everything,
And time in loafing spent.

The hours passed on and I awoke,
And I am not surprised
To see those dreams of which I spoke
Will soon be realized!
Goodbye, false world, I'm on the run
To have my own vacation fun—
Soon as I get this colyum done.

"Sir," said the Courteous Office Boy,
And smiled beside by knee,
"Forgive me if I do annoy,
But this I'd ask of thee—
Why will you spend your precious time
In carving out a measured rhyme,
When words and phrases neatly cast
In free verse fill up just as fast?"

I smiled upon the C. O. B.
And gave him a cigar.
"I give my deepest thanks to thee!
A clever boy you are!
Why should I hack out such a volume
Of rhyme to fill this lengthy colyum,
When words and phrases, neatly cast
In free verse, fill it just as fast?"

We went and hired ourselves a band
And marched along the street
And played a brazen march and grand
And bade the bass drum beat.
"Hi-lee!" we sang, and eke "Hi-lo!
Soon on vacation we shall go,
Soon as we fill this colyum long
With wild free verse instaed of song!"

I got myself a flowing beard
And on my chin I wore
Until my aspect stern appeared
Like the well-known Tagore,
Or made an imitation good
Of Pound or else C. E. S. Wood;
And then I 'gan to spur and scourge
The wild and snorting cosmic urge,
And thus I started on the run
To get this pesky colyum done.

* * *

OPUS 1, VACATION FANTASY.

The sky over these streets is heavy;
The sky over these streets is hard;
It lies on the roofs of the houses
And presses down the air in the streets—
Presses it down until I stifle;
My head bows; I cannot stand upright.

I must go away,
Creeping like an old man
Into the places of infinite sunlight,
Where life spouts out of every clod
And green things hurl themselves upward.
The earth chuckles and lifts a shaggy shoulder;
The trees laugh and fling up their green bucklers;
I feel about me a vigor that cannot be weighed down,
That the burden of no sky can humble.

The sky is flung upward;
The great shoulder of the earth heaves it,
The laughing trees fling it,
Tossing it from their green, upreared shield arms,

Up, so far that its blue turns misty,
And it can press down the air upon me no more—
I fling the burden from my shoulders;
I stand up and walk lightly;
I am straight as a tree,
And, like a tree, I can sing
And taunt upward at the receding sky.

* * *

INTERMEZZO.

"How's that?" I asked the C. O. B.,
Who was hunting for tackle
To fish the Spoon River.
"Strong stuff!" replied the C. O. B.
"Keep it up and you soon will have enough
To fill the colyum
And you and I can go
And enjoy our vacation."

* * *

OPUS 2, MORE VACATION FANTASY.

I am neurotic and also neurasthenic,
And, besides, my liver is not working.
As it should work, in a well-regulated system;

Therefore I will hop into the breach;
I will take the bull by the horns;
I will take my torpid liver
And my neurotic disposition
And flee to the far forests,
Where the mosquitoes never cease from troubling.
But the weary are at rest nevertheless.
And when I have been there a few weeks,
No doubt I will be less of a misanthrope.

And eventually I will come back,
Robed in smiles and sunshine,
And feel so good that I won't even
Feel like asking the boss for a raise.
And won't that be nice?

"It will," said the C. O. B.

* * *

PROLOGUE.

And I handed him the colyum and said:
"Here it is, all done, and maybe too long
For Dave Foulkes to get into a single Colyum; in which case please tell Mr. Callvert
And him to lift out a hunk somewhere
From the free verse, so that the colyum will fit;
And the Gen. Pub. will never know the difference.

And this, dear reader, is the joke on you—
You will never know,
No matter how many times you read over this
Colyum, whether it fitted or whether they
Took out a hunk of linotype metal
And threw it in the hell box,
With all its priceless treasures of song,
Which the world shall never hear.
I wish you all a pleasant vacation.

WHAT ABOUT THAT HOME GARDEN

Keep on Hoeing and Planting Regardless of Money Profit, Says Writer.

PORTLAND, July 30.—(To the Editor.)—In recent years and up to a short time before we entered the war, we heard a great deal of the word efficiency. Since our entry into the conflict this term seems to have become more or less a stranger in our land. Why?

This term, which in this country embodied the entire formula for getting the maximum result at the minimum effort and expense, in the ambitious section of Europe meant and still means to get the maximum result no matter what the effort and cost.

It may be that when we saw we had the wrong acceptance of this term we decided to let it slide. It was one of those handy words that meant a great deal, as long as George did the work and you and I got the result. Now the cussed word seems to mean that you and I have to work right beside of George. Now the contemptible thing seems to have gone outside of the science of business and means more particularly actual work.

I shall not attempt to tell just what it means to you in your pursuit, whose business perhaps does not permit you to get as near to the producing end as many people find it possible to get, or as I find it possible to get. So I shall confine my remarks to the pursuit I know most about, outside of my business. I am going to talk about efficiency as applied to farming and gardening. I am not going to try to tell you how to treat the different kinds of soil to make them produce the maximum of a given grain or vegetable, for in my 49 years I have learned what a big subject that is and how much it applies to abnormal times like the present. It is just as foolish to talk about scientific farming at the present time as it is to talk about the beauty of the landscape while a hostile army is attacking you.

The thing to do now is to get results, no matter what the work or cost. The thing to do now is to see to it that we are alive to the fact that the outcome of the war will depend as much on the production of food as on anything else we do. The thing to do now is to see to it that we keep right on being alive to that fact. This is no time to bemoan the fact that the acre of garden you planted is not going to net a profit on the outlay. You may soon be thanking the Lord that you got what you did get off of it.

This is rather the time to get up at 4 o'clock in the morning and cultivate it to make it produce at least something. If your potatoes or corn are sickly or scattered, cultivate just the same and sow rutabagas and turnips. If you do not like them, maybe some one else may need them and their cultivation will greatly help prepare your ground for next year. You will more than likely need the garden more than ever next year. The big thing is to see to it that the garden shall be ready to plant on time next year.

If your garden has been a loss to you this year do not count it so, for the experience you have gained thereby may make your investment for next year a splendid bargain.

J. A. CLEMENSON.

SPELLING CONVENTION WANTED

Correspondent Would Have Editors Get Together on Simplified Forms.

PORTLAND, July 30.—(To the Editor.)—A few years ago The Oregonian used simplified spelling for a while, then dropped it entirely. Why did it do that?

I believe a great improvement could be made in our mode of spelling if some concerted action were taken by the united efforts of the American publishers if they would only do it.

The publishers and editors of the whole United States might organize into a National convention and shape a system of simplified spelling that would do away with some excesses that are commonly in use. You will probably say that anyone can do as he chooses about the use of modified words. I know that, but that would only be individualism, and individualism is very slow in a great and useful movement.

It is excessive to spell "programme" when "program" is all we mean; and the same thing is true with "although," when "altho" is sufficient. The affix "ugh" has neither sound nor meaning in our present-day speech. The words that should have their spelling modified are too numerous for this space. They can all be easily selected if an organized attempt should be made to simplify them.

If the publishers of all of the large dailies and magazines should modernize in their orthography throughout (thruout), it would not only be og great economy to the publishers in the saving of ink and paper, but it would give the American languago a stronger individuality.

CHARLES BARNETT.

The correspondent is mistaken. The "style card" which governs spelling in The Oregonian has not been changed in 15 years. The additional time and space required to print "programme" and other words which have both a longer and shorter form is trivial. So choice between accepted forms of spelling resolves itself largely into a question of mere taste or preference. Changes of spelling in a large publishing establishment result in confusion, annoyance, bad proofs and expense for a long time thereafter. But if these drawbacks should be ignored by publishers and editors convened to revise spelling, probably so many conflicting preferences would be encountered that their deliberations would come to naught.

When Auto Tags Are Borrowed.

DALLAS, Or., July 29.—(To the Editor.)—This Spring I bought a dealers' auto license; have been using tags on new and second-hand cars that I have been buying and selling.

The other day a friend of mine came to me and said, "I have traded my old car for a new one in Portland and want to take your tags with me and put them on my new car and drive it home; then I will send to Salem and get my license." I let him have them. Have I done wrong? SUBSCRIBER.

Apparently the law provides no penalty for the one who lends motor vehicle license tags to another. The one who borrows them, however, violates a prohibition against operating a vehicle over the public roads with number plates displayed that were not assigned to him by the Secretary of State. The maximum penalty is $50 fine for the first offense.

Swimmers Should Know "Breaks."

PORTLAND, July 29.—(To the Editor.)—Permit me to criticise your editorial note, to-wit: "If all teachers of swimming would teach their pupils what not to do when a rescuer from drowning comes," etc., on the obvious ground that a drowning person is in a state of panic and has lost all sense of reason.

Every swimmer should be familiar with the simple, scientific "breaks" for loosening the holds of drowning persons. This system was ably demonstrated by W. E. Longfellow, of the National Red Cross, who was here last Summer. The swimming instructors in the schools and city pools are familiar with these "holds" and "breaks" and will be glad to demonstrate or explain them to anyone. R. E. S.

In Other Days.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of July 31, 1867.

London—Much caution is manifested by business men from a feeling that war is imminent between France and Prussia. Private advices from Berlin give the opinion that war is certain. It is added that Prussia is actually forwarding preparations for such an event.

Paris—Admiral Farragut has been received at the Emperor's state dinner, especially given in honor of the Admiral. Several members of the Imperial Cabinet were present, also General Dix.

Oregon Summer apples appeared in market yesterday. They are immensely superior in size, quality and appearance to anything yet sent here from California.

At the present writing there are in Portland six organized baseball clubs heard from. The returns are probably not complete. We are informed that a number of gentlemen who have not hitherto been suspected are about to organize another club.

A match baseball game, played between the second nine of the Clackamas club and the first nine of the Highland Club resulted as follows: Clackamas 75, Highland 67.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of July 31, 1892.

Berlin—The Standard Oil Company, of the United States, now has a complete monopoly of the oil trade of Germany, its Russian competitors having been shut out by the cholera epidemic at Batoum.

It is a pity that the races of the Multnomah Driving Association at Riverside Park yesterday afternoon were not more largely attended. The day was perfect from a horseman's standpoint and the horses did splendid work.

The National Guard encampment of last year brought forth such good results that, notwithstanding no appropriation has been made for a similar encampment this year, two companies from this city have arranged to go into camp for eight days and endeavor to perfect themselves in the practice that quarters in the Armory will not permit.

The attention of United States Attorney Mays was called some time ago to the fact that several Warm Springs Indians at The Dalles had been sold a liquid which purported to be whisky, and after drinking it had become deadly sick, three of them dying.

London—Numerous unauthorized programmes of Emperor Wilhelm's visit to England during the coming week have been published, but nothing is yet known exactly, as his imperial majesty is averse to cut and dried plans when he is not traveling in his political capacity.

No Longer Wild and Woolly.

By James Barton Adams.

We are cultured to the limit in this glorious Western land, progressiveness upon us has a cinch; we are full up to the scuppers of the high-grade nervy sand, and from goaheadativeness never flinch. As an ornament the pistol is completely out of date, very rarely do we have a schutzenfest; we are up with the procession and we mean to hold our gait in developing this great and peerless West. Not a blessed man among us wears his breeches in his boots, and the old wool shirt is but a memory now, and we look with disapproval on the tenderfoot galoots who are wearing big sombreros on the brow. We are seen at church on Sunday dressed in togs plum out o' sight, with the Christian spirit warm in every breast, and we're always in our couches at the stroke of twelve at night, and no conscience stings disturb our peaceful rest. Oh, you bet your filthy lucre, we're refined to beat the band, we have culture to distribute to the birds, and the stock of git-there enterprise we always keep on hand cannot be described in rhymester's jingling words. We in every moral attribute are strictly re-sher-shay; our morals—some of them—are of the best, and we love the peerless country into which we've come to stay; it no longer is the wild and woolly West.

SHIP DEMAND IS NOT TEMPORARY.

Portland Has Great Future as Maritime Center Before It.

PORTLAND, July 30.—(To the Editor.)—The world's curse of the ruthless Teutonic submarine is the potent factor in the marvelous shipbuilding commercial activity which now centers about Portland, our state metropolis.

Started on the Columbia but yesterday, grown over night, local shipbuilding is stupendous. Even now, over $5,000,000 in plants, nearly 15,000 men engaged, and a daily payroll of $60,000.

It is but the beginning. Shortly it will be doubled. An entirely new field for thousands of laborers and skilled men for the supply of lumber and other resources is opening all along the Columbia.

Shipbuilding and ship owning are rapidly becoming the drawing magnet for the employment of experienced workmen and for the investment of capital in this city, the commercial center of our wonderful resources.

The British and French governments and the neutral people of other nations and our country at large are now all calling for ships to be built on our coast.

Submarine destruction elsewhere is the main cause for the demand in Portland. Ships are going to the bottom, and ships, through strenuous force in overcoming time and wave, are rapidly wearing out. The demands are for more vessels for the world's transportation, and the curse of the submarine is a main cause.

The opportunity is here for helping our country in this war, and furnishing transportation for times of peace to follow—for the cry for ships and more ships will continue for years. Portland is destined for a great shipbuilding and ship-owning future.

M. C. GEORGE.

Shipment of Glassed Eggs.

DUNSMUIR, Cal., July 29.—(To the Editor.)—Will you kindly tell me if eggs put down in water glass now can be taken out this Winter and shipped from Portland to Dunsmuir, Cal.

C. F. F.

Such eggs probably would bear shipment if carefully preserved in the first instance. To obtain best results eggs chosen for preservation should be infertile and the containers should be kept in a cool place. Water-glass eggs do not keep so well as fresh eggs, but under the best conditions ought to be good for several days.

Measurement of Water.

MOUNT ANGEL, Or., July 29.—(To the Editor.)—Suppose someone has used a continuous stream of water running through a one-half-inch hose for the time of one hour, how many gallons of water will the person have used at the end of the time specified?

M. M.

It would depend on the pressure at the intake. The answer cannot be given unless one knows how fast the water was running.