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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, NOV. 8, 1917.

HOW TO BRING BACK COMMERCE.

Discussion of the revival of Portland's commerce has sprung up again. The subject is so vital that it will not down, especially when all persons who give it any attention realize that the war has given the port an opportunity which may never recur. The world's commerce is in a state of flux. It has broken away from established routes, and after the war it will settle down into lines governed by the conditions which will then exist. It can be won then with half the effort that will be required after it has again become settled.

Commerce requires deep water, ample harbor facilities as economical as at any other port, supplies and conveniences for repair, in order that ships may come to the port, but none of these are of any avail without traffic for ships, and traffic cannot be assembled at this port unless it can be done as cheaply and in as large and regular volume as at competing ports. This cannot be accomplished unless railroad rates to and from the interior are as low as, or lower than, to competing ports in like situation, or unless inland waterways in actual use make rates which railroads to competing ports cannot meet.

Portland has a geographical position which, by operation of natural law, should give it these advantages. It is at the head of navigation for ocean vessels on the only river that is navigable for light draft craft far into the interior. No port north or south of it is so situated. It not only has an inland waterway, but it has water grades for railroads as compared with a climb over mountains to reach the ports to the north and south. The waterway is little used, though it has been made navigable at great cost, but the banks are used by two railroads extending to the interior. Those roads can haul freight profitably at rates at which those crossing the mountains would lose money, given an equal volume of traffic. As a matter of natural right, arising from this geographical position, Portland should have freight hauled to and from its docks at lower rates than can be given to Vancouver, B. C.; Seattle, Tacoma or San Francisco. Since Astoria is 100 miles farther than Portland from any interior point, Portland rates should be proportionately lower than Astoria rates.

Portland has not such rates. It costs as much to haul freight to Portland as over a mountain range to Seattle on the north or to San Francisco on the south, or 100 miles farther down the Columbia River to Astoria. The cause is simple—the port's neglect to insist upon its rights. Aggressive activity has enabled the other ports mentioned to obtain the same rates as Portland, and thus to annul the effect of its location. Complacent indolence has delayed improvement of the channel, harbor and docks until these other ports have drawn away nearly all of our ships. Now that we are bringing these things up to the mark, we have to begin over again the work of attracting ships, and we have lost the attraction of lower cost for assembling cargoes which nature gave us. Because ships do not come, railroads see no inducement to bring cargoes to load them, and they haul trains past our doors to other ports. The larger volume of traffic thus consigned to Puget Sound goes far to offset the extra cost of the longer haul or of the lift over the mountains.

In forming this location for a port, nature only made the opportunity; it was for man to develop it. That has not been done, and the energy of man, exercised elsewhere to overcome natural obstacles, has reversed the natural law which Portland pople vainly imagined would operate automatically in their favor without effort on their part. They assumed that the advantages of their location were so inherent as to be unassailable, though all human experience should have taught them that no rights, however seemingly sacred, can be preserved without vigorous defense, while new, man-made rights can be established by persistent, aggressive effort. By such effort, continued through twenty years, Spokane has obtained a man-made decree which reverses the natural law on which Portland has relied.

Portland now has to begin over again to build up her commerce. No effort should be spared to deepen the channel and harbor, to provide a turning basin, docks, bunkers, elevators and tugs, but all of these will be of small use unless we put ships in actual operation to carry cargoes regularly to and from our docks, and then attack the railroad rate structure which has been the chief instrument in reducing our commerce to the vanishing point. This attack should be repeated and continued without rest until the monstrous wrong which is the result of our own apathy has been undone. This port has relied on the principle of water competition to retain its trade with the interior, but it has been informed by the Interstate Commerce Commission that it cannot profit by that principle unless it is in actual operation by the loading and unloading of cargoes at Portland docks. In this matter, as in that of the water-grade, nature will not work for us if we do not work for ourselves, for nature does nothing for a sluggard.

The fashion has been, when this subject is brought up, to "pass the buck" to the merchants who in the first instance pay the freight, but it should not be forgotten that the merchant can sell out and move away with far more ease and at much smaller loss than the owner of land or of a large manufacturing plant. The fortunes of the latter depend on the existence here of a large and growing community, and will shrink to nothing otherwise. Their interest demands that conditions of business in Portland shall be such that men can thrive here as merchants, manufacturers, workmen and professional men, and in all the occupations which cater to the wants and pleasures of these classes. It is for them to take the lead in bringing about such conditions, and a prime essential is that the opportunity which nature offered to make the greatest port of the Pacific Coast at the head of deep-sea navigation on the Willamette River shall not be wasted.

HIS AMERICANISM.

I want to make it plain to the world that there was no issue of Americanism or loyalty involved so far as I am concerned. There could be none, for I am as good an American as any man, as loyal to my flag, as loyal to my country, and as firm and determined in support of every act of the Government in this war as any man.

I ask the editors of the newspapers in this and in other cities to give prominence to this declaration, so that there may not go abroad to the people of this country who have no appreciation of our local situation the slightest intimation that the question of the war or the war policy of President Wilson and the United States Government is in the slightest way involved.

My first utterance in this campaign in response to a question put by a reporter was that I stood uncompromisingly behind the President in support of the acts and policies of my country, and that the war must be fought to a conclusion which would bring an honorable peace to America.—From a post-election statement by Mayor-elect Hylan, of New York.

The Oregonian complies cheerfully with the request of the successful candidate for Mayor in the Nation's greatest city, and reprints his declaration of a forthright Americanism.

Mr. Hylan has been elected by an immense vote. New York knows what it wants, doubtless, though it does not want the same thing at different times. Four years ago it wanted Mitchel and honest government; now it wants Tammany, and whatever Tammany will give it. Tammany has carte blanche from the public to do whatever it pleases.

The outright anti-war vote was for Hillquit, the Socialist. Probably the followers of Mitchel, alarmed at the growth of Hillquit, and convinced that Mitchel was beaten, left him and chose the lesser evil in Hylan. To an extent, the large majority for Hylan may thus be explained. The enemies Mitchel has made explains other losses; bad political management achieved its share of the disaster; Hearst did his part; and Tammany did the rest.

Perhaps the Kaiser thinks he has captured New York. But he may be mistaken.

MIGHTY FOR GOOD.

War is just one thing after another. If it is not a liberty loan, it's the Red Cross; and if it is not the Red Cross, it's the Y. M. C. A. But the public is both patient and understanding. Warfare without money is impossible; without the Red Cross it is butchery and savagery; and without the Y. M. C. A. it is indecency, viciousness, degradation, disease and death.

If any one is in doubt about what the Y. M. C. A. is doing for the boys in France, or on their way, or in American cantonments being made ready to go, let him ask any soldier. The soldiers know. They can tell what the Y. M. C. A. has done and is doing to make military life tolerable and even pleasant, for the rank and file and for the officers, too, and what it is doing besides—an even greater service—to make it clean and wholesome. The Y. M. C. A., without cant or favoritism or pretense or sectarianism, is the mightiest agency in France to keep the soldiers well, in mind and body. The Red Cross and other agencies look after them when they are sick or wounded.

Every dollar spent through the Y. M. C. A. is for your son, or your neighbor's son, which is the same thing. The Y. M. C. A. goes with him, in order to serve him, from the time he dons his uniform until he faces the enemy, on the battlefield, and after; for it is even present in the prison camps. If the Y. M. C. A. is ever needed it is then. It never leaves the soldier alive, or captured, or dying, and it does not forget him when he is dead.

A mighty institution for humanity and civilization, not to say right thinking, decent living, rational playing, is the Y. M. C. A. Let all who are in doubt inquire. If they know, they will give; and if all such will give, the Y. M. C. A. will be able to raise its needed fund ten times over.

AN OLD DELUSION REVIVED.

The old and oft-exploded greenback delusion appears again in a communication which is published in another column. It springs from the error of supposing that paper is money. It is only a promise to pay money. At different times and in different countries precious stones, beaver skins, cowrie shells and tobacco have been used as the medium, but the world has finally settled to the use of gold for this purpose, and paper money, so called, is only a promise to pay gold. It circulates at par only because it can at any time be redeemed in gold.

Governments are governed by this principle as are individuals, for they have tried the issue of irredeemable paper money based solely on the National assets, and have failed. France tried it by the issue of assignats in the first revolution, but they depreciated to such a point that a big bundle of paper francs was worth only one franc. The United States tried it by the issue of greenbacks during the Civil War. They were at a heavy discount until the war ended, and the remaining $344,000,000 of them circulate at par only because the Government holds a gold reserve ample to redeem any amount that is likely to be presented for redemption. Whenever doubt arises as to the Government's ability to pay gold, there is a stampede to exchange greenbacks for that metal.

Such a doubt arose in 1893 from the operation of the Sherman silver purchase law. The Government being compelled by that law to issue silver dollars which were intrinsically worth only about fifty cents, but which were to circulate at a parity with gold, a great demand for gold arose. Greenbacks were exchanged at the treasury for gold, were paid out again, as the law required, and were presented again in exchange for more gold. The gold reserve was depleted, and as fast as it was replenished by issue of bonds it was depleted again by the same process. When the Sherman law was repealed, and when danger of free silver coinage passed with the defeat of Bryan in 1896, the run on the gold reserve ceased.

It is a mistake to suppose that, because paper issued by the Government is backed by all the wealth of the country, it does not fluctuate in value. In time of war or financial stress the Government's credit declines, and, if it were to issue an unlimited quantity of paper irredeemable in gold, the decline would be represented by a discount on this paper. There is no safe way for the Government to raise war funds other than by taking money from the people in the shape of taxes or by borrowing it. Money cannot be created by running printing presses double time.

THESE "HONOR" MEN WITHOUT HONOR.

The Oregonian is not, and cannot be, reconciled to an "honor system" at a state penitentiary which accepts the parole—the mere word—of incurable, wicked criminals as a sufficient pledge to give them their liberty, in violation of the plain conditions of their respective sentences and in opposition to the teachings of all human experience. Nor does it think that a public prison is an institution for experiments in popular government. It has an old-fashioned opinion that a penitentiary is a place primarily for punishment, and, secondarily, for reform.

Six convicts who had achieved the privileges of "honor" men have just escaped from the penitentiary at Salem, following a series of similar flights from other "honor" men without honor. One of them tried to kill an officer who was about to recapture him, and nearly succeeded, while another—Hassing—who had slain his wife in cold blood, and who was sentenced to be hanged, but whose sentence was changed to life imprisonment by Governor West on the express condition that he would never apply for pardon, or commutation, is still at large.

The half dozen convicts who have just declared themselves free have, almost without exception, bad records. Majors, a negro, while on parole from a former sentence, committed two villainous assaults for rape, one on a child and one on an old woman; while serving a ten-year term for these heinous crimes, perpetrated while he was under leave and on his good behavior, he is designated an "honor" man, and permitted to run at large, practically without restraint.

Of Majors' companions, only a little less severe reprobation may be visited on them. One of them had, we believe, run away during a previous parole period, had served a prison term elsewhere, and had been brought back to complete his sentence here. Another of them is a returned parole violator. All of them are long-term men, and with perhaps an exception, low-class felons. Yet they are "honor" men.

The clamor for more humane and modern treatment of prisoners, and the reaction from severe methods formerly in vogue, are doubtless responsible for readoption of the "honor" system. We suppose that Governor Withycombe, who unquestionably is not in harmony with laxness of discipline or loose bargains with felons, or license for prisoners beyond their deserts, has consented to give the plan a trial, in order to make a public demonstration of its worth, or lack thereof. He should be persuaded now that the views which he held, and enunciated, when he took office, are sound.

FORCES WORKING FOR TAMMANY.

A combination of forces brought about the triumph of Tammany in the New York election. They were in only slight degree political, except as regards the war. With that exception they were social, religious and concerned with purely municipal affairs. Many people in the city, their pockets bulging with war profits, are weary of a clean town and yearn for the wide-open conditions which prevail under Tammany rule. Mayor Mitchel, by his insistence on honesty and competence, has arrayed against him the cohesive power of public plunder, which is organized under the Tammany banner. By subjecting Catholic charities to public control, he has brought against him the great influence of the Catholic church. Against him he also had the apathy of those who believe in good government, but foolishly imagine that it can be preserved without fighting; also the stalwart partisans of both Republican and Democratic stripe.

Possibly he might have won in spite of all these influences, but for the menace contained in the thinly disguised pro-Germanism of Hillquit, the Socialist candidate. In a city four-fifths of whose inhabitants are of foreign birth or parentage, the swing of the foreign element to Hillquit was so strong among those of alien nationality that, when the loyal element saw the drift of the disloyal toward the Socialist and recognized the many factors working against Mitchel, they plunged for Hylan in order at any cost to save the city from a pro-German Mayor. Hylan might have won without this factor, but it would probably have been a close decision.

For there is this consolation for those who regret the return of Tammany to power—that all the candidates except Hillquit were pledged to stand by the President in the war for democracy. Although the anti-British Hearst backed Hylan, the latter declared himself "in full accord with the war policy of my country," and said: "I stand with President Wilson in his fight to make the world safe for democracy." There was never any doubt as to how Mitchel and Bennett stood on the war. In a city one-fourth of whose people are of enemy nationality, where many of Irish birth will do anything to vent their hatred of England, and where many Russian Jews have adopted the distorted German view of Socialism, many more then three-fourths of the votes were cast against the man who favors an immediate peace "upon terms which will involve humiliation or punishment for none," not even for the arch-criminal of Potsdam.

But Hylan had the support of so many stealthily disloyal elements and Mitchel was so clearly the standard-bearer of unflinching loyalty and of good government that it is cause for wonder that President Wilson failed to see the duty of giving Mitchel open support. The occasion called for a rally of every patriot to the standard of Americanism, in order that the greatest city in America might speak out in no uncertain terms. In this crisis the President should have forgotten that any are Republicans or Democrats, and should have appealed to all as Americans. He has wasted a great opportunity.

In the degree of comfort which it has given to the enemy by the large vote polled for Hillquit, New York does not represent the United States. As in the Revolution it harbored more Tories than any other city, as in the Civil War it was disgraced by anti-draft riots and by the quasi-copperhead Governor Seymour, so in this war it is the hotbed of pro-Germanism. Splendidly as its leaders in business and finance have responded to the call of the Nation, New York still remains the least American city in America. Now, as in 1861, it is in New England and the West that the flame of patriotism burns brightest.

PENNIES.

The story is told of an old-time Portland "sport"—slang for a certain type of sportsman—who took out of his pocket, after an unusually prosperous night with the cards, a great handful of gold. Observing a silver dollar in the yellow mass, he impatiently picked it out and threw it away. "What do I want with that thing?" he asked. Easy come, easy go; but the easy goers always go too far.

This tale has no moral, except that it illustrates the ordinary attitude of the man of the extreme West toward the penny. It is true that it was a penny—or was it a two-cent piece?—that determined forever the name of Portland, for in the historic little contest over the title of the town between the two original locators, heads meant Portland and tails Boston (or vice versa). But since that day, until now, the penny has had no real home in Portland. The tale might, indeed, have ended differently if it had begun differently. Where did that penny come from, and what was it doing so far from its real habitat in New England?

There are men and women now living in Portland and Oregon who recall the day when the quarter—or "two bits"—was the smallest coin in common use, or the real unit for all retail transactions.

If nothing else betrayed the Missouri origin of many pioneers, the introduction and use of the "bit" would have given them away. A "bit" was nominally 12½ cents, but actually there never was such a thing. It was ten cents, or a dime, when you offered it as legal tender, or it was 15 cents when change had to be made. In other words, after the silver dime came along, it was received as a "bit (12½ cents), and if you tendered a quarter in payment for a "bit's" worth of anything, you got back ten cents. But this loose method of making change disappeared with the advent of the nickel. With the five-cent piece ended forever the golden and silver days of the argonaut.

Now we are to have the penny to make real change in the theaters and elsewhere, as it has for some time been done in the department stores. In these days of thrift and conservation the cent piece ought to be welcome, yet it marks the final transformation from old days and old ways to the new style. If it helps win the war, there should be no complaint.

The case against rats and mice as wasters of food is put forcibly by the Department of Agriculture in a statement in which it says that the destruction wrought by these pests amounts to more than $200,000,000 a year, which is equivalent to the gross earnings of an army of 200,000 men. This is in addition to the indirect damage caused by the spreading of pestilence, which also is large. There are many farms on which the grain consumed by rodents would pay the taxes. The war on rats and mice should be based upon general principles of cleanliness. By first insisting on the removal of all rubbish piles and then making storehouses rat proof, the animals will be forced to seek other regions or starve, and multiplication will be discouraged by depriving the young of their means of subsistence. Although the number is now enormous, their virtual extermination is not regarded as impractical, if communities will co-operate in a spirit of appreciation of the importance of the work.

British successes at Gaza and in Mesopotamia may seem to have little effect on the ultimate outcome of the war, but it is the British way to start at the outer edge as well as in the center of military operations and to fight their way to the center. Wellington fought his way across Spain and Portugal for five years, and won his final victory at Toulouse after Napoleon had abdicated in 1814, in time for his army to make a triumphal entry into Paris. Such operations win valuable territory, which is an important factor in peace negotiations, and they occupy large enemy forces at points remote from the main field of hostilities. Many Turkish troops are diverted from Europe and destroyed in detail by the invasion of Asiatic Turkey and a strong moral effect is produced on the Arabs, who hate the Turks and whose friendship Britain assiduously cultivates.

The men who calculate on the reduction of German man power persistently neglect to allow for the number of Germans released for the army by the subjection of enemy peoples in occupied territory. The Germans may be expected to carry the Italians who did not flee from Venetia into slavery, to compel the captured soldiers to work for them, and to send the men whom they replace to the front. Every German gain of territory in effect recruits the army and compensates for losses suffered on fronts where the allies are winning.

The old joke about $20 for 1917 or 1916 Lincoln pennies is on the way toward realization. They are commanding a premium of 10 per cent, due to scarcity.

Flirting interferes with naval training at the Great Lakes station, report says. That is to be expected. The uniform has a charm, afloat or ashore.

With Tammany winning in New York and Eugene Schmitz elected supervisor in San Francisco, this is the year when the cats come back.

Those State Hospital employes must have acquired it by attrition. They arranged to strike for more pay and were summarily dismissed.

That Polk County should win in the Land Show is not startling. She grows the stuff and has the right woman to arrange it.

The Red Cross will look after American prisoners. Now aren't you glad you subscribed to the fund and paid?

You cannot "fool" with the Federal Government. The bootlegger who buys a license attests the fact.

The member of Parliament who offered a motion for peace escaped alive.

Japan can clinch that treaty by sending a million troops to Europe.

Corn meal is costing more, and there is no substitute.

Stars and Starmakers.

By Leone Cass Baer.

RUTH LECHLER, Portlander, is playing leads in the Eastern touring company of "Common Clay" and is receiving splendid notices. This week she is playing in Buffalo, N. Y. Ruth was second woman for a little while last year, when Ruth Gates played leads at the Baker.

* * *

By the way, Ruth Gates, opened with a big success at Keith's Palace last week in a clever vaudeville sketch called "The Notorious Delphine." She is under the management of Chamberlain Brown. Critics and public alike gave great praise to the act, and especially to the artistry of Miss Gates, who has a sort of adventuress Theda-bara-esque role.

* * *

Corinne Barker, Portland girl, has an important role with the A. H. Woods production of "On With the Dance," in which John Mason is featured. Reviewers speak of her as a "most promising young actress."

* * *

William H. Crane, dean of comedians, is the lafest recruit for vaudeville. He is to visit us over the Orpheum in a sketch.

* * *

Eve Lavalliere, the comedienne, is threatened with blindness and is going to enter a convent.

* * *

Tucker, the Orpheum violinist, is reported in New York as having been killed during one of the recent air raids in which German boches bombed London. Tucker left for London several months ago and has been appearing over there.

* * *

Lillian Cooper, the daughter of Frank Kemble Cooper, has been engaged by Jessie Bonstelle to play a part in "Good Morning, Rosamond," which is now in rehearsal, and which will be shortly produced at a Shubert Theater. Miss Cooper was last seen in Broadway in "The Lassoo."

Her appearances in Portland have been as the English girl in "Peg o' My Heart" for two successive seasons.

* * *

KALAMA, Wash., Nov. 5.—(To the Editor.)—To settle a dispute will you please state:

(1) Is Lillian Russell classed as a comic-opera star and singer or as an emotional actress?

(2) In what plays has she appeared in Portland in the last 10 years?

(3) Did she ever play as heavy a role as Camille? C. G.

(1) Lillian Russell is a comedienne and a comic opera star. She could not, by the greatest stretch of imagination, be classed as an emotional actress.

(2) She appeared in Portland in "Wildfire" about seven years ago. Since then she has been a headliner, two seasons ago, at the Orpheum in a sort of song-cycle act.

(3) She never appeared as Camille. Harry Lauder or Charlie Chaplin could play Camille as well as Lillian Russell could play it. She is a beautiful woman, a vocalist and a delightful comedienne, that is all. She could not possibly Camille.

* * *

Two important personages of the theatrical world are in Portland. One is Charles Riggs, ahead of Max Figman and his charming wife, Lolita Robertson, in "Nothing But the Truth," and the other one is Melville Hammett, ahead of "Miss Springtime," the first musical comedy of the series promised by Klaw & Erlanger. Mr. Riggs made his first visit to Portland more than 35 years ago in the interests of Adelina Patti and played at the old Newmarket Theater. He is the "Ancient Mariner" of the show business, and a fourth of a century ago heralded such enterprises as Gilmore's Band, C. D. Hess, Marcus Mayer, the Calhoun Opera Company, and was the foundation, with Al Heyman, of the theatrical syndicate. In later years he has brought us musical comedy of the "Flora Dora" and "Madame Sherry" variety, and two seasons ago was ahead of "Robin Hood." Mr. Riggs has a further bid for attention as the father of two celebrated dancing teams. One is Riggs and Witchie, which appeared last season at the Orpheum. Ralph Riggs is his son and Katherine Witchie his adopted daughter, who later was married to Ralph Riggs. Just now they are a sensational dancing feature of the Hippodrome in London. There is another son, Bernard Riggs, who with his wife, Miss Ryan, makes another big dancing team on the Orpheum. Just now they are playing in the East. Mr. Riggs, senior, is one of the pioneers in the theatrical game and is unbounded in his admiration of Portland's growth and beauty. His attraction, "Nothing But the Truth," is due at the Heilig the 15th, 16th and 17th of this month.

* * *

Melville Hammett was here last with "The Woman," in which Marion Barney, once a Baker stock actress, played the leading role. Later he brought us "The Lily," with Nance O'Neil in the big role. This was the play in which Miss O'Neil leaped into stardom under Belasco in New York and since which she has never sparkled particularly. She came a few years ago in a messy vaudeville sketch to the Orpheum. Since then stock and the pictures have claimed her. Mr. Hammett is ahead of a beautiful musical comedy production, "Miss Springtime," featuring a list of folk that sounds like a metropolitan programme. Zoe Barnett is one, and she by the way is an adopted daughter of the Charles Riggs mentioned in the foregoing paragraph. Zoe plays the lead, and there are Frank McIntyre and Harrison Brockbank. The latter we met last year on the Orpheum. George Leon Moore, also recruited from the Orpheum, also is in the cast, and so are May Hennessey and Hattie Burke and Frank Doane.

Mr. Hammett is the husband of Marjorie Mordaunt, who brought us "Baby Mine," appearing in the role of Zoie. She is a lovely young actress, but illness has kept her away from the stage this season and she is vacationing in Florida while her handsome young advance-man husband tours the country-ahead of "Miss Springtime."

* * *

By the way, E. D. Price, who is well known on this Coast and particularly in Portland, both on his own managerial account and as the once husband of Cathrine Countiss, is ahead of the Eastern company of "Miss Springtime."

* * *

"Pollyanna" opens tonight at the Heilig. Our old friend George Alison is playing the leading masculine role. His seasons as the leading man at the Baker about a dozen years ago insure him a warm welcome in this play.

Address of Poultry Journal.

DETROIT, Or., Nov. 7.—(To the Editor.)—I would like to know through the columns of The Oregonian the address of the Northwest Poultry Journal. A. N. R.

The Northwest Poultry Journal is published at Salem, Or.

NO REAL SNAPS AT SING SING

Prison Welfare Worker Discusses Article Printed in Oregonian.

NEW YORK, Nov. 1.—(To the Editor.)—In going through The Oregonian recently I found a news item entitled "Sing Sing Has Some Soft Snaps." I presume this is reprinted from one of your exchanges.

As an honorary member of the Mutual Welfare League of Sing Sing prison I wish to add a little to what you have already printed, so that a wrong impression of what is going on may not be had.

When Thomas Mott Osborne assumed the wardenship of Sing Sing prison he inaugurated what is known as the "new" system of prison reform. In other words, he founded the Mutual Welfare League, an organization composed of all the prisoners which had almost entirely self-governmental powers. This organization really ran the prison—took care of the discipline, the educational features and the amusement and athletic features as well. This was done with the idea of turning "men" and not criminals out of the prison on their release, by giving these men a sense of responsibility and having them lead practically normal lives in prison, rather than the abnormal half-man-half-beast existence under the "old" system. Mr. Osborne knew that a greater percentage of them would "make good" when released.

Of course, the idea of allowing prisoners to express themselves at all created a great deal of adverse criticism and "coddling the prisoners" became a by-word among many newspapers and persons who did not understand the situation. It is probably one of these very persons who wrote the story about "snaps" at Sing Sing.

Up to quite recently, when an order was issued that no visitors be allowed during the war, I was a frequent visitor at Sing Sing, and I know very well some of the men whose names you publish in your article. As far as I know these men have no "snaps." The mere fact that they have shown ability in certain directions and that this ability is being utilized does not mean that they are having an easier time than the other prisoners. There are certain men who have shown executive ability and they have been given executive jobs. One of these men is the sergeant-at-arms of the Mutual Welfare League and he has practically charge of the entire discipline of the prison. Another prisoner is principal of the school, etc. And so far as we can ascertain Mr. Osborne's idea was a wise one, for records show that a great percentage of the men who have been released within the last two years have "made good." They come out of prison with their heads up and without the "hang-dog" expression of former days and the haunted look in their eyes. They feel that they are men, and they are men.

Recently it was my great privilege to spend the greater portion of a day at your own penitentiary at Salem, Or. I was quite interested and pleased to know that an organization called the Murphy Honor Lodge had been formed for the benefit of the prisoners there. While this organization is in no way similar to the Mutual Welfare League of Sing Sing and Auburn prisons in New York State, it is a step in the right direction and shows that your prison officials also believe in the idea of giving the men a sense of responsibility.

It may also interest you to know that while in the whole state of Oregon when I was there last August you had only 352 prisoners, the average population of Sing Sing alone is usually 1600 prisoners, and we have three other state prisons besides Sing Sing.

MARGUERITE A. SALOMON.

THE WINTER RAINS.

When frosts of Autumn turn the meadows brown,
And in the woods the sodden leaves are strewn,
One hears the far-off melancholy moan
That tells the Winter rains are sweeping down.
At dead of night about the sleepy town
The feel of warm air in the threatening skies!
The houses creak with sudden sound of sighs,
And heaven's brow is knit with sullen frown.
Loud breaks the storm. It blusters through the night,
Puff after puff, each louder than the last;
And then at dawn of misty morning light,
The steady rain is borne upon the blast.
Then are the heavens opened. Rising tide
Of floods torrential sweeps the country wide!

EVERETT EARLE STANARD.
Brownsville, Or.

The Kaiser's Dream.

William McLoorchim, Scotch Highlanders, "Somewhere in France."

There's a story now current, though strange may it seem,
Of the great Kaiser Bill and his wonderful dream.
Being tired of the allies, he lay down in bed,
And, among other things, he dreamt he was dead.
And in a fine coffin was lying in state,
With a guard of brave Belgians, who lamented his fate.
He wasn't long dead till he found to his cost
That his soul, like his soldiers, had surely been lost.
On leaving the earth to heaven he went straight,
And, arriving up there, gave a knock at the gate.
But St. Peter looked out, and in a voice loud and clear
Said: "Begone, Kaiser Bill; we don't want you here."
"Well," said the Kaiser, "that's very uncivil;
I suppose after that I must go to the devil?"
So he turned on his heel and off he did go
At the top of his speed to the regions below.
And when he got there he was filled with dismay,
When waiting outside he heard Old Nick say
To his imps: "Now, look here, boys, I give you a warning,
I'm expecting the Kaiser down here in the morning;
But don't let him in, for to me it's quite clear
He's a dangerous man and we don't want him here.
If once he gets in there'll be no end of quarrels;
In fact, I'm afraid he'll corrupt our good morals."
"Oh, Satan, my dear friend," the Kaiser then cried,
"Excuse me for listening while waiting outside.
If you don't admit me, where can I go?"
"Indeed," said the devil, "I really don't know."
"Oh, do let me in, I'm weary and cold,"
Said the Kaiser, quite anxious to enter Nich's fold.
"Let me sit in a corner, no matter how hot."
"No!" said the devil, "most certainly not.
We don't admit people for riches or pelf;
Here are sulphur and matches; make a hell for yourself."
Then he kicked Wilhelm out and vanished in smoke,
And just at that moment the Kaiser awoke.
He jumped out of bed in a shivering sweat
And said: "Well, that dream I shall never forget.
That I won't go to heaven, I know very well,
But it's really too bad to be kicked out of hell."

In Other Days.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian November 8, 1867.

Statistics from 10 of the principal Southern states have been compiled showing the total vote as 1,225,618, of which 613,579 are whites and 612,959 are blacks.

Mr. Leland has retired from the editorial management of the Lewiston Journal.

Pierre Manciet, proprietor of the Lafayette restaurant, has announced that during the oyster season he will keep his establishment open until 2 A. M.

Joe Buchtel has finished a fine group photograph of the three engineers of the fire department—T. G. Young, W. H. Weed and W. H. Wetzell. They are all dressed in full uniform.

S. J. McCormick, Jacob Mayer and P. C. Schuyler, of the Portland Philharmonic Society, constitute a committee to disburse the fund of $460 raised at the recent benefit concert. The money is available for cases of distress among the citizens of Portland.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian November 8, 1892.

New York.—Betting on the general result of the Presidential election is the issue of the hour. The odds changed at the last hour to Harrison's favor, although Cleveland money is still being offered at 2 to 1 that he will carry New York.

A number of people gathered yesterday at the central passenger station to see the demonstration of the new car coupler invented by George Ker, a railway conductor.

The power-house of the Battles Heights & Cornell Mountain Electric Railway is about completed and ready for business.

Herman Burrell is soon to leave for Japan on the steamer Coloma. Last Sunday with Watt Monteith he went duck hunting and the two bagged the record—174.

S. C. Schenck, better known as "Boss" Schenck, who has been critically ill at St. Vincent's Hospital, is showing signs of recovering.

Today is election day. If Harrison wins Clerk Clark, of the Gilman, will wear a broad-rimmed sombrero for four years. If on the other hand Cleveland wins, Night Clerk Clark of the same hostelry will wear such a hat for four years. There are many freak bets.

FIAT MONEY DELUSION REVIVES

Why Does Not Government Finance the War With Greenbacks?

PORTLAND, Nov. 7.—(To the Editor.)—Being only slightly acquainted with financial matters, as I am of foreign birth, will you kindly advise me as to the features of the following: I understand the Civil War was mostly financed by the issuance of "greenbacks," a legal tender with a few minor exceptions. I know the bulk of them were later turned into bonds, but $344,000,000 of them are yet in existence, doing duty since 1863 until now, without costing the Government any interest money.

When Mr. Gerard was here a few days ago he told us Germany was using a greenback for most of her money wants, based on the property of that country as security, and, of course, a legal tender. I have seen it stated that all the warring countries on the continent have like issues of money.

Now, with my small knowledge of finances, it would seem to me that such money, with all the assets of the country as security, would be a better one than paper issuance against gold alone, inasmuch as I see by an authorized statement that there is less than $3,000,000,000 of that metal for coinage in all the earth.

May I ask why our Government, Uncle Sam, so-called the richest man in the whole world, with $200,000,000,000 or more of wealth behind him, every dollar of which he can commandeer, why should he pay interest to anyone?

Why not issue as legal tender greenbacks of the same denomination as those in present use up to the full requirements of our wants? That will save borrowing and also the paying of interest money, and also save what little pro rata money there is now available for current business demands, not to speak of the distress of the continuous demanding and urging people, fully patriotic, but financially unable to respond.

This financial question seems very hard to understand, but no doubt it can be easily explained by the Government agents and the bankers.

SIDA DE LA MER.

Wooden Shipbuilding Plants.

SILVERTON, Or., Nov. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Please give the names and addresses of the wooden shipbuilding companies in Portland and Astoria.

O. GUSTAFSON.

Wood shipbuilding companies in Portland — Standifer-Clarkson Shipbuilding Company, North Portland; Guy F. Standifer Construction Company, office in Northwestern Bank building, Portland; Columbia Engineering Works, Linnton, Or.; Peninsula Shipbuilding Company, foot of McKenna street, Portland; Kiernan & Kerns Shipbuilding Company, foot of Market street, Portland; Coast Shipbuilding Company, foot of Market street, Portland; Supple & Ballin, foot of East Oak street, Portland; Grant Smith-Porter-Guthrie Company, St. Johns.

At Astoria—McEachern Shipbuilding Company and Wilson Bros.

Men Should Save, Too.

SILVERTON, Or., Nov. 6.—(To the Editor.)—There has been much talk about conservation in a small way, always directed to the women. The men should do their part by cutting out coffee, tea, tobacco, drinks, etc., and save the two spoonfuls of sugar and at least one-half the meat they are consuming. If they will drop all these things they will live longer and have more comfort in their old age.

J. M. BROWN.

Computing Income Tax.

CARSON, Wash., Nov. 6.—(To the Editor.)—To settle an argument please answer the following: A says that a man's income is the money he gets not by manual labor, but through money invested. B claims that the money a man earns by labor is considered income when figuring income taxes.

OSCAR TAYLOR.

Wages or salary are included in income in computing the tax.

Copyright on Advertising Phrase.

BAKER, Or., Nov. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me through your columns to whom I should apply for a copyright on an advertising phrase and about the approximate fee.

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