The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, NOV. 13, 1917.

WHO IS ASLEEP?

The people of the West are growing somewhat weary of constant appeals to wake up from the men at Washington who are charged with the conduct of the war, and of complaints that they are not alive to the necessity of exerting the utmost power of the Nation. These complaints and appeals are taken up by Eastern people coming West and by Western people returning home, and from day to day are dinned in our ears in reproachful tones.

As far as Oregon is concerned it has been wide awake ever since war was declared. It has been more awake than the Government since the Lusitania was sunk. It has promptly answered every call which the Government has made upon it. The Government called for volunteers, and Oregon sent more than any other state in proportion to its quota, leaving only 717 to be called on the first draft. The state subscribed its quota of the first liberty loan—and then some; also its quota of the Red Cross fund, and then some more. It oversubscribed the minimum quota of the second liberty loan, and would doubtless have oversubscribed the maximum quota if it had not been misinformed as to the amount. It has raised funds for soldiers' libraries, is raising more for the Y. M. C. A., and is ready to respond to whatever legitimate call is made upon it.

Almost every vacant lot in every Oregon city and town was made into a garden, and almost every housewife has pledged herself to save food. The whole population has willingly accepted food control, and the city of Portland has met the Government with local measures to the same end.

Shipbuilders have submitted to commandeering of their ships, lumbermen have given Government orders preference and have accepted a Government-fixed price for the product of their mills. Other Western states have done nearly as well. What else do the people at Washington want?

Do they think we are asleep because we attend to our business, producing more ships, lumber and food, that we may earn more money to buy more bonds and subscribe to more funds? Must we parade the streets behind a brass band every day shouting ourselves hoarse, in order to convince them that we are awake? What good would that do? How would it help the war along?

But what are these very wide-awake people in Washington doing? They have hired a press agent to tell the people of their great deeds, and they fill the air with their boasts. Secretary Daniels began by building a fleet of cockleshells to fight submarines, only to discover that the only effective weapon was the destroyer. He has fiddled away months and years over those which were authorized before the war, and now, after wasting a whole Summer, he lets contracts for a great fleet with a loud flourish of trumpets. It was the right thing to do, but it should have been done sooner. He has been six months waking up.

What about the Shipping Board? It has fussed and fumed and played "Thumbs up, thumbs down" on wood ships, but has produced few ships of any kind. After reorganizing its forces for the third time, it seems finally to have got down to business, but the promised fleet of transports is not yet "in being."

The greatest proof of Governmental somnolence is the handling of the labor question. The Government knew when war was declared that the I. W. W. was spread through the country, a seditious organization ready to the hand of the swarm of German secret agents, yet it did nothing until that conspiracy had well nigh paralyzed the lumber and copper mining industries of the West and had fired forests and mills. Though the leaders have been arrested, new ones have taken their places and continue their treasonable activity. No effective steps are taken to follow them, put them under restraint and force them to work, but easy-going courts pass them along from town to town. That is not the way to stamp out sedition. It only sets Judge Lynch to work, as in Oklahoma and Butte.

It has been the same in the Government's dealings with the regular labor unions. Though it was obvious to the smallest intellect that continuous operation of every essential industry was necessary, and that the German agents would redouble their efforts to provoke strikes, nothing was done at the start except to agree on some general principles with Samuel Gompers. No effort was made to bind the local labor leaders to observe those principles, and no provision was made for adjustment of disputes until strikes had broken out. When lumber production was curtailed and shipbuilding was stopped, there was shameful delay in bringing about settlement, and the Government, which should have prevented these troubles, tried to pass the buck to the harassed employers. The Government is still cursed with the habit of side-stepping and cajoling in fear of making political enemies.

The best war work has not been done by the paid officials but by the host of volunteers who flocked to their aid. They produced the liberty motor and the standard auto-truck. They accepted the Government's prices for copper, steel, lumber, ships, coal and other commodities, and in some instances did not await passage of the price-fixing law. They placed the railroads under central control at a hint from Washington. They gave their services for sale of liberty bonds. One may well shudder at the confusion which would have prevailed but for them.

The West may fairly reply to Washington's hysterics: "Wake up yourself! What's the matter with you?"

LABOR AND THE WAR.

If President Wilson succeeded at Buffalo in showing labor—through the American Federation of Labor—that its interest in the issue of the war is vital, and its duty paramount, he has done labor a mighty service, and the Nation a mightier.

The danger to labor through a triumph of reaction and medievalism in world control is direct and immediate. That is what German military success means.

The duty of labor is to co-operate with all other loyal forces to win the war. If labor fails, the Nation fails.

If the Nation fails, labor fails inevitably to a lower state. Has any sane man a doubt of it?

A HOTBED OF TREASON.

The charge made by Colonel M. E. Saville, head of the military police at Camp Lewis, that Seattle is a "hotbed of treason," finds corroboration in the recent action of the Seattle Central Labor Council. That body without a dissenting vote pledged to Anna Louise Strong, member of the School Board, "moral and financial support in the recall fight she faces as the result of her activities as a pacifist."

Although it voted down a resolution indorsing the stand taken by Senator La Follette against the war and declaring him worthy of the "full and unqualified respect and support" of organized labor, forty-one votes were recorded in favor of that resolution, and the chairman of the war committee said that, "while the committee believed that the labor movement was in full accord with the spirit of the resolution," its adoption might be construed as placing the labor movement of Seattle "in an unpatriotic light." In other words, the Labor Council is with La Follette in conviction, but suppresses its opinion from motives of policy.

The Seattle Central Labor Council is presumably affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, which was told by President Wilson that victory is the only road to peace. The officers of the Federation should put their expressions of loyalty in practical effect by cutting off all connection with the Seattle body until it recants its disloyal declarations and proves the sincerity of the recantation by its acts. There is no longer room for neutrals in this country. Those who are not for the United States are against it; so also are those who call for immediate peace when victory is the only road to peace.

FAR, FAR FROM GOAL.

There are angles to fire prevention which the general public is not likely ever to understand. This conclusion is based upon the voluminous report of the National Board of Fire Underwriters on Portland conditions. The city, as is well known, has been engaged for some time in a comprehensive and commendable work of fire prevention, including inspections, instruction, removal of dangers and numerous other phases. Total fire losses have been materially reduced. This form of work is highly commended in the Portland survey, but it appears that curtailment of fire-fighting forces because the fires they are employed to fight do not occur is bad business.

Presumably a reduction in insurance rates does follow a forced reduction in fire losses unless the city has paid a further insurance premium by equipping itself to fight fires that might have happened if measures had not been taken to prevent them. The ideal city for fire insurance companies to work in is clearly one in which no fires can happen and where a fire department is maintained on a par with departments in cities where fires do happen.

It is not practicable herein to review all the recommendations made in the survey for counteracting that which might occur if the fire prevention work were not so successful. But a few are enough to make the honest taxpayer wonder where the Board of Fire Underwriters expects him to get money for liberty bonds, Red Cross work, Y. M. C. A. war work and to pay the high cost of living.

The more important recommendations include construction of a modern fireproof department headquarters at least three stories high, and nine new, modern brick stations to replace old ones; acquirement of ten automobile pumping engines carrying hose, a tractorized steam fire engine and eight automobile combination hose wagons; laying of new water mains on Morrison street from Front to Chapman, and of seven other mains in various parts of the city; laying of an additional circuit cable across the river; installation of fifty alarm boxes annually until all parts of the city are covered; employment of a number of additional firemen and establishment at five stations of ladder companies with automobile service trucks.

There is one criticism in the report, however, that can be met without cost and will bear looking into by the Mayor. It concerns laxity of discipline. The rule requiring periodical drills by fire companies, it is charged, is totally ignored by some of the companies. Other rules of the department asserted not to be enforced require proper respect to ranking officers, require men to keep within 100 feet of stations while on duty; require men on watch to remain in the watchroom and keep awake, and require officers to be addressed by their respective titles. Other disquieting assertions are that the supply of hose is not adequate; it is not tested; much of it is too old and in poor to very poor condition, and that no hose records of any kind have been kept for four years.

It is clear that, in spite of fire prevention work, some fires will occur. Whether capacity of the department must be kept up to the standard of cities not so successful in fire prevention may be a matter of dispute. But for the fires that we are sure to have there should be an adequate department and an adequate amount of apparatus in good condition. And discipline within the department is no less important than these.

The importance attached by the British commissary department to marmalade and jam in the ration of the soldier and sailor is shown by the complete reorganization of this manufacturing industry under the direction of the war department. The lesson was first learned at the time of the Boer war, but it is being applied on an enormously greater scale. The United States Consul at Dundee, Scotland, reports that the weekly output of tins of jam by one firm alone would, if stood on end, make a column fully forty miles high. It is not unusual for this firm to deal with 100,000,000 oranges, and other purchases of fruit are on a similar scale. The whole country is being organized with a view to utilize every possible element of domestic supply, and the season's crop of raspberries was commandeered by the government. Cardboard containers are being successfully employed as substitutes for tin, earthenware and glass, and sugar for making preserves is being assured by reducing the allotment for confectionary to one-fourth of the pre-war estimates.

TRAINING NECESSARY.

The experience of many Americans whose zeal outran their judgment, and who hastened to France with the nebulous notion that somehow they were going to perform a service, has shown that untrained help is not of much value anywhere nowadays. Mere enthusiasm does not atone for lack of ability to do some one thing well. It has recently become necessary to issue a warning to persons who are only consuming food that is needed for the workers and the fighting men to make room for others, and it is being made increasingly difficult for individuals to obtain passports unless they have definite missions.

It must be a shock to any young man or woman to learn when a crisis comes that he, or she, cannot do anything worth while. When one's room is more valued than his company, there is something the matter somewhere. There is probably some defect of early training, and evidence at least of delayed awakening to the serious side of life. These volunteers for service have come largely from the ranks of those who are able to pay their own way, and who ask for no emolument. But they are not wanted. They are literally not worth their salt.

Great numbers, similarly willing but incompetent, have been turned back before embarkation. They thought that nursing was work that anyone could do, or that they could serve on the line of communications, or help in the reconstruction of the country behind the lines. But they have been sadly out of touch, all their lives, with their fellowmen. They did not comprehend that training is required for the doing of anything worth while.

The adventure will not be without its value if it awakens them before it is too late. Home again, they can apply themselves to learning to be useful in some special way. The damage to their vanity will be easily repaired. It will be a spiritual as well as an economic lesson—one of the many of the war.

WHO BENEFITS?

If a Congressman of the United States may sell his services to an entertainment bureau, and make public appearances for purposes advertised as patriotic, why may not a Cabinet officer? If a Secretary of State may be sandwiched between the yodelers and bell-ringers of a Chautauqua circuit, why may not a Vice-President? If Vice-President Marshall may hire himself exclusively to an enterprising lyceum course, why may not a President?

If it be said that the President may, the answer is that the President doesn't. The answer also is that the others do. La Follette, Bryan, Marshall, all have eked out a more or less satisfactory career as public officials by capitalizing their oratorical talents as a side line. But President Wilson, and all his predecessors, have regarded their employment by the people as Chief Executives as exclusive.

It may be agreed that the obligation upon the others to dedicate themselves wholly to the public service is somewhat less explicit and compelling than on the President. Indeed, it may be that it is quite seemly that they should Chautauquaize whenever the public interest does not suffer. Logically, the same rule, indeed, might apply to the President. Except that he is always the President. Besides, we have the high authority of the President himself that he doesn't care a peppercorn for logic. But obviously he cares a great deal for the dignity of the Presidential office.

The Vice-President appeared here the other night, ostensibly under the auspices of a very estimable patriotic organization, the Girls' Honor Guard. The reports are that they made $100 out of his appearance. The public, however, paid many hundred dollars. Just how much of it was paid because of the patriotic appeal, there is no means of knowing; but the proportion to the Guard is small.

With no thought of criticising the Guard, but for the protection of the public, it is well enough to say that when the public supports any project—fair, lecture, concert, bazaar, dance, or what not—in the name of patriotism, the proceeds should go to the beneficiary and not mainly to the promoter.

THE NATION'S PHYSICAL VITALITY.

One of the outstanding lessons of the amazingly large proportion of rejections of apparently sound young men who have volunteered for military service or have been drafted since the war began is that the condition calls for prompt and definite action if physical impairments are not to be permitted to develop further and gravely handicap the Nation in the serious work of the years to come. Those complacent ones who have rested secure in the conviction that young Americans were physically the finest men in the world must have suffered a shock if they read the figures. But it will prove a good thing for all concerned if it shall result in a general awakening.

In the last full calendar year before our war began—1916—there were 106,392 applications for enlistment in the Navy, and the report of the Surgeon-General shows that 70 per cent were rejected. Of 3400 boys who applied for admission to the Naval Academy, the same proportion were rejected. There have been approximately 1,300,000 volunteers for both Army and Navy since the war began, but only 448,859 have been found physically fit, the rejection rate being 66 per cent. Relaxation of requirements under the first draft is expected to reduce the proportion somewhat, but it is still expected to be close to 50 per cent.

Summed up, it all indicates that there are in the United States between the ages of 21 and 31 five million men who are unfit for military duty. It is estimated by insurance statisticians that there are eight millions above the age of 31 who are physically inefficient for any active military service, although some of these may have been qualified between the ages of 21 and 31. The impressive fact, which calls for reflection and corrective action, is that so many defects exist in men who should now be in the height of their physical powers.

This problem, in the view of E. E. Rittenhouse, commissioner of public service and conservation, expressed in a pamphlet issued by the Equitable Life Assurance Society, is one of race protection, as well as of National interest. If five million men between the ages of 21 and 31 are already showing signs of health impairment, they will naturally be the first to give way to the strain later. Our declining death rate for the years of early and middle life has not furnished proof of increased vitality—"of increased power of the blood and organs to resist disease"—but has been due almost wholly to knowledge of how to avoid such diseases as typhoid fever, tuberculosis and diphtheria in earlier life.

There has been, on the other hand, a positive increase in the death rate above group ages of 45 to 50. We have learned to avoid certain diseases, but have not meanwhile built up resistance to others. On approach of the age of degenerative diseases, we find ourselves unprepared to combat them. Security indicated by the lowering mortality of early life is fancied, not real. If it lulls us into a fatuous optimism, it may do us in the end more harm than good.

One danger is that we shall be deceived by limited observation. We mistake a "fine-looking body of men," as we call them, for a physically perfect body of men. Our war experience is disillusioning. Most of the rejected volunteers "looked fit." We are deceived, too, says Mr. Rittenhouse, by the apparent increase in the number of children and adults who take physical exercise to protect their health. The number of these is still only a microscopic fraction of the mighty total who ignore this need. Nor are the health statistics of a single locality of much value. The vitality of more than 100,000,000 people cannot be judged by a superficial standard.

The lesson of the Army rejections, therefore, must not be ignored. It is, perhaps, the most impressive one we have ever had. It should teach us that it is expensive to delay the education, particularly of youths, in sanitation and personal hygiene. It is not enough merely to avoid dying in earlier years; they must be taught so to build up resistance as to keep fit, and to be able to resist later attacks which are now being invited by neglect. It cannot be said that the American people are scientifically unequal to the task, but it is a moot point whether they will be individually aroused. Much depends upon our ability to impress the necessity, and the duty, of physical conservation upon every young American.

September was the third consecutive month of this year during which American exports were less than during the corresponding month of last year, though prices have risen 40 per cent this year. This is not due to diminished demand, to which there is no limit, nor to the embargo on neutrals, which did not become effective till September 24, but to scarcity of tonnage, which has been aggravated by withdrawal of ships from commerce for military service. Yet the value of September exports was never equaled in any month before August, 1916, and is 64 per cent greater than that for the month preceding the outbreak of war. The facts add force to the plea for more ships, for with us as with Britain foreign commerce supplies a large part of the sinews of war, and if we do not provide ships for commerce as well as for war, we shall be in the position of the grocer who cannot sell his goods because he has no delivery wagon.

Italy's war expenses to the end of June were $4,502,000,000, of which $1,770,000,000 has been raised by popular loans and a large part of the remainder by loans from banks, the Bank of Italy having lent $602,000,000 to the end of August. Great Britain and France to August 1 had lent $750,000,000, and the United States to date has lent $485,000,000. Italy has a war profits tax much like ours in graded percentage.

Up in Saskatchewan men from the provincial offices at Regina, business and professional men have been spending their vacations and their evenings helping the farmers in the wheat fields, where labor is hardest to obtain. In some places rivalry sprang up between bank managers having farmers' accounts as to who could supply the most volunteers.

If Germany can keep what she now holds, she has kept all that her dreams contemplated when the war began.—From President Wilson's address to the American Federation of Labor.

This expresses, in a sentence, the reason why every interest in America should unite and remain united until the war is won.

Organized local dairymen will retail milk at 12½ cents, the price set by the late milk commission. If this is more than some people now pay, they have the comfort of knowing that commissions seldom reduce prices.

More than 4000 I. W. W. are convening in Omaha, and if the running over the Missouri bridges is not good before night, there will be dereliction of duty on the part of somebody.

Von Tirpitz says that Germany must retain part of the Belgian coast for submarine bases, but Field Marshal Haig is likely to have a word to say on the subject.

The Prince of Wales is on the Italian front and the Crown Prince "somewhere in France." Pity the two cannot meet and put on the gloves.

The moment may be delayed, but it is going to be mighty hard going for the I. W. W. who are without cover when the storm does break.

Giving emblematic rings to soldiers presupposes they will meet an honorable enemy. Will somebody please locate him in Europe?

The officer and enlisted man can fraternize on the battlefield to advantage of both, but not elsewhere. Why the foolish vaporizing?

It might help the food conservation movement to revive the old notion that a meatless diet is good for rheumatism.

Judge Littlefield's resignation is offered to become effective November 30, and anything may happen meantime.

When you get a letter from a boy at the front written on Y. M. C. A. stationery, you know you helped.

Bryan gets the last laugh in the matter of grapejuice, and he deserves it.

The Peripterous.

Peripterous—A Structure Having Rows of Columns on All Side—Dictionary.

(Synopsis of preceding synopses.)

The Oregonian, a great morning newspaper, employs a distinguished literary architect to construct a peripterous.

He does it. It has rows of columns on east, west, north and south.

The Peripterous becomes a Free Auditorium for the expression of incompetent, irrelevant and immaterial opinions, news, verse and anecdotes.

The Peripterous discovers seven wonders of Oregon.

A Department of Scientific Investigation is established and solves the Great Hat Rack and other fascinating problems.

The Canned Music Department is now running full blast, as a novel saying goes. Numerous entertaining suggestions have been offered and enthralling experiences related, a few of which are herewith given:

Mrs. Hygh T. Tyghtee, of Tygh Valley, writes to commend the value to children of a musical education. Prior to installing a phonograph in the home her young son, Percival, did not know one tune from another. But the other day while hunting through the records for a target for bow and arrow practice he showed marked discrimination by choosing a selection from "Robin Hood."

Mr. Cowan Kalfe, the prominent dairyman of Columbia Slough, writes to say that he has conclusively confirmed the theory that cows appreciate and understand music. Having installed an instrument in the milking barn, he finds that "Coming Through the Rye" stills the most nervous heifer, while all the animals paw and bellow as though the scent of blood were in the air when the Toreador record is put on.

Mrs. B. Z. Canner, the well-known authority on Hooverizing, writes to announce that she has discovered a practical use for worn-out wax cylinder records. They make an excellent substitute for paraffin for sealing jelly.

"Build a hot fire in the stove," writes Mrs. Canner, "and put the records in a kettle over the flame. Then leave the room. As soon as the fire is out return and open all the windows. Skim the melted wax with a long-handled dipper, the longer the better, and apply the remainder as if it were paraffin."

Mrs. Canner has adopted a pretty little conceit by sealing crab apple jelly with "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree," blackberry jelly with "Old Black Joe" and currant jelly with "Song of the Brook."

Cattle Country Gone to Dogs.

Curley D. writes an incoherent letter from Central Oregon. As near as we can make out from it the saddlemaker at Skullspring has opened a garage, the chauffeurs are wearing chaps, the ranch foreman has bought a limousine, the railroad is only a hundred miles away, his cayuse stumbled over a town lot stake near Wagontire Mountain, all the bootleggers have been pinched and it ain't no place for a buckaroo no more.

Terrors of a Dry State.

A long time ago we solicited advice on the best way to loosen the glass stopper of a decanter. The problem again confronts us, and we have forgotten, if we ever knew, how the trick is done. We recall one helpful suggestion, "Cover a small hammer with flannel and tap gently on the lower end of the stopper," but we are afraid of breaking the decanter.—Chicago Tribune.

A long time ago we solicited advice on the same subject, but, chastened in spirit by circumstances over which we have no control, have now come to the conclusion that anybody who has a decanter from which there is any reason on God's earth for drawing the stopper is too lucky to need advice from anybody.

As Blind Man Sees It.

Old Tom Moon, the blind newsboy, remarked the other day that from what he could gather from passing conversation, the proper way to sacrifice in the interest of food conservation is to lay in a Winter's supply of everything of which there is likely to be a shortage.

Well Wishes Tinged With Pessimism.

Ernest Haag, the gentlemanly and affable store clerk, leaves today for Olympia, where he has accepted a position with the telephone company. The best wishes of our community go with him, but some of us think it's a case of matrimony.—Walville cor. Willapa Harbor Pilot.

Ex-Congressman Gigglety, who is a candidate again and yet for Representative, writes to say that conditions are still desperate. If he does not get that office he may have to go to work.

The former Representative takes opportunity to point with pride to the superhuman services he rendered his country in the Presidio trenches. He has wired an offer to the President of further war service and, meanwhile, is giving a wide berth to recruiting stations where only privates are accepted.

Mr. Gigglety goes on record for food conservation, but adds confidentially that if he ever gets back to Washington at $7500 per he'll make the chef of the Willard Hotel think the Bolsheviki are in the dining-room.

UPROAR IS BLAMED ON GERMANY

Chinese Resentment of American-Japanese Understanding Inspired.

PORTLAND, Nov. 11.—(To the Editor.)—The hue and cry which resounded in the dispatches from Tokio on the 10th instant over the identical notes recently exchanged between the United States and Japan was undoubtedly a German propagation. That Chinese diplomacy could vent itself in such a superficial and explosive manner is incredible.

The international doctrine of territorial propinquity which these notes introduce acquires its validity from the usages and customs of Japanese and Chinese subjects under the tolerance and sanctions of their respective governments. It is a new step in cosmopolitan liberality which tends to cement the friendly dispositions of neighboring nations and to foster a spirit of charity and brotherly love which should be all-pervading.

In the recognition of the doctrine Japan extends to the Chinese the same privileges on Japanese soil which she claims for her own subjects on Chinese soil. These reciprocal privileges may be lawfully extinguished by the government on either side of territorial line and they certainly could not thrive if the people were taught that the fatherland is "surrounded by enemies," but when China on one side of the line sanctions and encourages them and Japan on the other side of the line sanctions and encourages them, surely every other nation on earth should respect them. Such privileges and customs being local and reciprocal, only the people along the dividing territorial line can enjoy them.

Heretofore only such rights and privileges as were established by treaty were recognized by third party nations; but hereafter they are to recognize and respect such reciprocal rights and privileges as attain validity from the customs of neighboring peoples.

JAMES B. CARR,
508 Everett street.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE DOES NOTHING

Election Cost Higher, but Neither Good Nor Bad Is Accomplished.

PORTLAND, Nov. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Woman suffrage is no longer a live issue in Oregon, but your editorial remarks on the New York election are none the less interesting. Although New York adopted woman suffrage, it is pretty safe to say that nothing politically startling will happen in consequence. It is now generally agreed among keen observers of contemporary politics—newspaper and magazine editors, political reporters, regular politicians and priests—that woman suffrage is a mere bugaboo. It disturbs only in the prospect, so wedded to the established and habitual is the human mind.

Once the women have the vote a peculiar thing happens. Those women who made the most noise in the campaign for suffrage subside into private life or leave for fields where new worlds remain to be conquered for the cause. In a word, they do not go in for political careers and public service. As a rule, after having accomplished their high and noble task, they are, as regards public activity, never heard of more. Perhaps they make one or two attempts to be elected to office, are defeated, and then reconcile themselves to obscurity. Is this becoming modesty mayhap due to the fact that the striving for, rather than the realization of, our ideals is the more interesting and exhilarating thing?

No evidence exists that there is an independent entity in politics known as the "woman vote." Politicians are learning this fact rapidly. Election returns from equal suffrage states show that women differ in their political opinions among themselves in about the same degree as men. There seems to be no sex solidarity or distinctly feminine way of looking at political questions. Even prohibition is not a woman's idea. Sixty years ago 25 states were in the prohibition column, and at that time "votes for women" was considered hardly a decent phrase. Kansas and Maine had prohibition long before woman suffrage was adopted or formally proposed. Maine only recently definitely rejected woman suffrage, but still retains prohibition. The movement for industrial efficiency explains more of the prohibition movement of today than votes for women.

What can women obtain by the vote that men are not willing to give them for the asking in these United States? Foreign observers and men of the world have long ago discovered that the American man is a woman worshiper. Long before women got the vote in any state we were practically living in a matriarchate. All the provisions of the common law which were looked upon by woman's rights advocates as oppressive to their sex were repealed more than half a century ago, both in this country and England. There is practically nothing left to be done.

The situation in brief is simply this: That women either vote or they don't vote. If they don't vote, elections cost less. If they do vote, some of them get appointed to election boards. This flatters them, and they have a chance to look important at the polling-places on election day. In addition they thus earn a little extra pin money, which may be regarded as "velvet," and is soon spent for finery. The only certain and indisputable effect of woman's suffrage, therefore, is to increase the cost of elections, both to the candidates and the public. I'm not objecting to this. The price we are paying to see how the claims of reformers do not work out is by no means too high.

K. K.

The Devil's Masterpiece.

The devil was looking quite solemn and glum
As he took a survey of the land,
He felt that his business was all on the bum.
There were no deeds of darkness at hand,
For the Lord had been getting more souls than he had,
Though he'd worked late and early with vim.
And the peace that was reigning supreme in the world
Was so irritating to him.

"If I could but manage to pull off a stunt,"
Mused the devil, "to even the score
And teach a vain world to appreciate me."
You see, now, the devil was sore.
He cast a dark eye o'er the still sleeping world,
And the lightning flashed out o'er the land,
And he tore the black clouds with his furious breath,
As in desperation he planned.

Then he hatched up a plan so eternally dark,
So filled with black murder and spite,
And he carried it out with an infinite care
Through the deep purple shades of the night.
He chose the adobe of the Mexican soil,
Where scorpions for eons have fed,
And the buzzards wheel high in the coppery sky,
And the centipedes crawl o'er the dead.

He carried a lump to his black kneading board,
And he molded it up nice and fine,
Then, to make it mold better, he dipped his big fist
In the dark, turgid flow of the Rhine.
Throughout the black night he worked, and he grinned,
And he reviewed the dark lines of his plan,
And he molded it up, to a semblance at least,
Of an honest-to-goodness white man.

Then he turned to the earth for the finishing touch,
Where the African's jungle streams wind,
And there, in the gray of the still early dawn—
A cobra! The luckiest find!
He placed in the breast of his great masterpiece
The heart of the reptile, then,
Pronouncing it perfect, he breathed in it life,
And, behold! a leader of men!

And the angels they wept, and the devil he laughed;
He chortled with heathenish glee,
And he chose him a place on Germany's soil,
And, presto! the Kaiser you see.

ELVA C. PERRY.

Lonerock, Or.

Time for Regret.

Washington (D. C.) Star.

"Before that colleague of yours gets through he'll say something he'll be sorry for." "I have my doubts," said Senator Sorghum. "It takes a considerable degree of intellectual perception to enable a man to know when it's time to be sorry."

Her Business Sense Lauded.

Birmingham Age-Herald.

"Hubby, aren't you proud of me?" "What for?" "I've just bought a liberty bond with my pin money." "Yes, I'm proud of you. That's the first time in your life you ever bought anything that wasn't marked down."

Fool and His Money Weighed.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

"A fool and his money are soon parted." "That may be, but the difficulty of getting hold of money makes me believe there are fewer fools in the world than is popularly supposed."

In Other Days.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of November 13, 1867.

Chicago.—The Tribune's special says Seward has instructed Minister Marsh to offer an asylum to Garibaldi in this country.

Washington.—The trial of Jeff Davis will possibly be postponed.

Philadelphia.—Under a recent decision of the Supreme Court, the city railroad cars ran today (Sunday) and were largely patronized. The ministers strongly denounced the affair as most wicked and unchristian.

New York.—The Board of Councilmen have resolved to tender the freedom of the city and a public reception to McClellan upon his return.

London.—Dickens sailed for America on the 9th.

London.—The bread, riots at Barnstable on the 5th exceeded in ferocity and destructiveness the riots of Exeter. The mob plundered butcher and baker shops and set them on fire. The police and military were obliged to fire on the mob.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of November 13, 1892.

Berlin.—A meeting of anarchists was held here today, at which the anarchists executed at Chicago for the Haymarket massacre were extolled as martyrs.

London.—The adoption of the man's saddle by a number of ladies who have devoted themselves to the Somerset hunts is the prominent topic in society. It is startling to see these ladies attired in divided skirts, blouses and mannish hats foremost in the hunt astride their horses.

London.—Plans for his forthcoming Arctic voyage are being discussed by Dr. Nansen, the famous Norwegian explorer.

Berlin.—Many German papers, in welcoming Cleveland's election to the Presidency of the United States, seem to think his advent will involve the early disappearance of the McKinley tariff.

The first pile of the Burnside-street free bridge was driven with appropriate ceremonies at 3:15 yesterday afternoon.

PUBLIC LET IN ON HUCKLEBERRIES

Mr. Woodward's Letter Attracts 100 Persons to Big Forest Patch.

PORTLAND, Nov. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Some weeks ago the writer, with his family, returning from Eagle Creek, on the Columbia Highway, called attention through your columns to the welnigh unlimited crop of huckleberries untouched in the Forest Reserve, lying back from the Highway some five miles. The result of this letter is aptly set forth by the enclosed communication from Forest Ranger Wiesendanger, which the writer believes is of sufficient interest, in view of the need of food conservation, to justify publication.

Residents of Portland may well make notation in their plans for an outing next Fall, to include a trip to one of Uncle Sam's hitherto sequestered huckleberry patches, combining health, pleasure and economy in one trip.

WILLIAM F. WOODWARD.

PORTLAND, Nov. 7.—Dear Mr. Woodward: The following is in answer to your request regarding the approximate number of people who made the trip to Wauna Point for berries and the number of gallons picked:

After Mr. Woodward's article appeared in The Oregonian regarding the large crop of huckelberries on the Wauna Point trail, which leaves the Columbia River Highway near Eagle Creek, over 100 people made the trip to the top of the mountain for the luscious fruit. One family made their main camp at the Eagle Creek camp grounds and each day for five days made the trip to the top of the mountain, a distance of 5½ miles. At the end of the week they returned to Portland with 80 gallons of berries. Many others made the trip also and few returned with less than three gallons. In all there were over 350 gallons of berries brought down from the mountain. The berries can seldom be purchased and when sold they bring $1 per gallon.

As a result of Mr. Woodward's activity in letting the people of Portland learn of this method of cutting down the high cost of living the Forest Service will probably post the Wauna point trail with proper signboards which will direct those going for the berries to the many large patches. The Forest Service will also plan to notify the press when the berries are about to ripen so that those desiring to go for them will have ample time to get ready for the trip. Persons making the trip by auto can safely leave their machine at the Government camp grounds at Eagle Creek.

ALBERT WISENDANGER,
U. S. Forest Ranger.

THE TRAITS OF A TRAITOR.

The traits of a traitor are those of guile,
He grips your hand with an oily smile;
Cheers for the flag of the U. S. A.,
But winks and sneers as he turns away.

He's a conscientious objector, too,
Friend of the Kaiser, through and through;
Doesn't believe in the draft at all,
And doesn't answer his country's call.

Says that the Government's wasting lives
"Better stay at home with your loving wives;
Let England and France conduct the fight,
A world is waging to aid the right."

Says papers should print what isn't news!
Movement of troops and naval crews;
Name clearing ports and ports of call,
So the Kaiser may submarine them all.

Says hold peace meetings throughout the land!
Meet the iron fist with an open hand;
That La Follette isn't understood,
And only speaks for his country's good.

—G. HERB PALIN.

War Aims of United States.

PORTLAND, Nov. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Has there been, according to any advices or accounts so far, any agreement or contract with the allied powers by the United States as to compensation or rewards for taking part in the war? Would not the United States be entitled to something? If not money, territory or other compensation?

Does not reparation include actual war expenses as well as damages to property by the enemy? And has not same been the rule among civilized countries, the defeated party to pay cost of war, i. e., if the winning party is able to secure same, or collect it?

J. P. LINSCOTT.

The President clearly expressed the position of the United States on those points in his war address to Congress April 2, 1917:

"We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when those rights have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them."

What Is Your Birthstone?

Baltimore American.

"Our birthstones are supposed to control our destinies. What is your birthstone?" "Judging from my experiences, I should say it was a brickbat."