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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14, 1917.

CENTRAL CONTROL MEANS VICTORY.

Appointment of a joint Anglo-Franco-Italian military commission to direct operations on the entire western and Italian front is the most encouraging event which has grown out of the breakdown of Italy's offensive and defensive power, and which has accompanied the revolt of the pacifist radicals in Russia. Its ultimate consequences may prove so beneficial to the allied cause as to compensate for these two great misfortunes. This action of the allies has anticipated and prepared the way for the broader proposal in the same direction which the American commission is expected to make at the Paris conference.

One of the main causes of reverses for the allies has been the central control which Germany exercises over all the manpower and material of the central powers, while the allied efforts have been but loosely co-ordinated. This has enabled Von Hindenburg to handle all their armies as a unit, and to use Austrian artillery on the French front, German troops on the Austrian front against Russia, Roumania and Italy, and on the Turkish front against Britain, while Turkish troops have been used in Galicia. This control, together with the central position of the Teutonic powers, has enabled him to organize an independent striking force which has been hurled with great success against Russia, Serbia, France, Roumania and Italy in succession.

In contrast, the allies have maintained separate control of their forces and have acted in concert only to a limited extent. Each has made war on its own account against a common enemy, pursuing its own special aims, though these might contribute but slightly to attainment of the general end. There seems to have been no well thought out, general strategic plan in charge of a central body having authority to order troops of any ally to any point or to modify the general plan quickly in accordance with unforeseen new developments. Small contingents from one army have joined another for moral effect, not to carry out such a plan.

Because co-ordination was thus lacking, Serbia was left to shift for herself and was crushed; Russia was left to herself and fell a prey to treason; Roumania was permitted to enter the war before plans for her campaign had been made by a great general staff and before adequate provision for her reinforcement had been made; Italy made separate war and paid the penalty in disastrous defeat.

The United States is in a peculiarly favorable position to insist upon a radical change through adoption of the German plan—central control. This Nation has no lost provinces to recover, no unredeemed territory to win, no severed Nation to unite, and therefore cannot be accused of serving such selfish ends by any proposals it makes. Our only aim is that which all of the allies have in common—to smash Prussian militarism. We can demand that all particular aims of the several allies shall be subordinated to this one, for we are to provide the money and material and the main reserve of manpower which can carry all over the top to victory. When the common end is attained all of the separate aims which are justified will be attainable.

The American commission is not likely to demand, for that is not the Wilson way, but will surely counsel, united control. It will have a moral claim to have its advice heeded, for much of the money which the United States has already lent has been wasted through lack of co-ordination, and we should not permit further waste. Allied superiority in men, money and material, while great, is not fully utilized, and though the resources of the enemy are being used up, so are those of the allies. Victory can be hastened and won only by marshaling our resources on the field of battle in such superior weight on all fronts that the enemy will be overpowered.

By insisting on united action this Nation will incur a moral obligation to exert all its energy, to lose no time in its preparations and to gain all the time possible. That will require that every individual shall spare no effort, intellectual or physical, to hasten the end. By that means the allies will be enabled to bring such pressure to bear on all fronts that the enemy shall have no reserve striking force to hurl against any point, and that all the allied armies shall press forward until they join hands across the gaps and shall enclose the enemy in a steadily contracting ring which shall finally crush him. That way lies victory without indefinite prolongation of the war.

Possibility of "reviving" Latin as an international tongue is being seriously discussed by educators in Europe, who deny that it is a dead language and assert that it is already the international language of science so far as such an international language can be said to exist at all. The suggestion has been received with favor by at least one professor at Cambridge, who says that he has always taught it as a living tongue, and that by doing so he has been able to turn out proficient scholars in one-fifth the time found necessary where the old-fashioned classical methods were in vogue. Many educators seem to favor Latin in theory, rather than such makeshifts as Volapuk, Esperanto and Ido, but there is frank recognition of the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient number of teachers qualified to breathe life into the old bane of the average high school boy, and a vast number of teachers will be required, it is admitted, if the movement is to have any practical value.

IN DRY MANHATTAN.

Few persons who have not enjoyed the blissful privilege of having been reared in Kansas ever heard, before this year of grace, of the city of Manhattan, county of Riley. The only information the available gazetteers vouchsafe about Manhattan is that it is the seat of the State Agricultural College, and that it had in 1910 a grand aggregate population of 5722. Yet, while in mere point of people, Manhattan may be somewhat behind its great namesake of New York, in other respects it is quite up to date—after the Kansas fashion. It has ideas which give it a unique distinction even in bleeding Kansas, and which make it the very antipode of its great metropolitan rival.

Manhattan has in its vicinity Fort Riley, and Fort Riley has as a part of its environment Camp Funston, where there are many thousand soldiers in training for the war. Observing the presence of these lively and robust young Americans, Manhattan conceived a great alarm for their morals—or its own—and got busy. It enacted an ordinance of the fiercest puritanical kind for Sunday observance. It closes all ice-cream parlors and candy kitchens, drugstores, grocery stores, bakeries, restaurants and garages. It forbids streetcar service within the city limits by interurban cars. There are to be no deliveries of cream or milk, and no jitneys. It closes up the newsstands, so that no Sunday papers can be bought. In short, it makes sweeping provision against every kind of social or commercial activity common in every American town during week days, and for the most part on Sundays.

There are people who have been sorry for the soldier boys at Camp Lewis, who were in danger of being forbidden to visit Seattle. Let them imagine the far worse state of the soldiers at Camp Funston who have to live near a village such as Manhattan, and occasionally to indulge in the sad pleasure of a trip into its dreary confines.

BOXING.

Preparations now being made by the Commission on Training Camp Activities to employ a large number of expert boxers to teach the soldiers in cantonments the art of protecting themselves with their fists point to a revival of interest in a sport that ought to take first rank in athletics, and that would now stand on a much higher plane if it had not suffered from the abuses of professionalism. There is as much difference between boxing as an athletic exercise and the game as practiced in the prize ring, with its altogether unlovely surroundings, as there is between polo and bull-fighting. It is no more brutal, when properly regulated, than fencing or the combat of the too-much-neglected singlestick.

Under military regulations it will be possible to put boxing on the plane where it belongs. It was once frowned upon in West Point, but is taught there now, and surreptitious fighting with bare fists has practically ceased as a consequence. It calls a good many muscles into play, it quickens the eye and the brain, and, practiced with approved gloves, it hurts no healthy youth.

But its best claim to athletic recognition probably rests upon its distinctly personal quality. It is eye to eye, and give and take. There is something peculiarly manly about looking straight at the other fellow. It is the psychological foe of sneaking sins and secret vices. The rules call for magnanimity and fair play. The boxer does not strike a man when he is down, customarily, and when he does the crowd makes him sorry for it. It instills personal respect for the other fellow, makes a man a good loser and stimulates a healthy spirit of emulation.

Boxing can be revived without bringing back the plug uglies and touts that follow the professional ring. It needs only to be put on a basis of athletics. Young men of reasonable proficiency in boxing will be better qualified to take care of themselves in many emergencies. In this war, for one thing, they will have an opening advantage over their enemies if they come to close quarters, for the Germans as a nation do not box. Enthusiastic advocates of boxing will be inclined, perhaps, to draw a moral from the fact. Boxing, as we have said, promotes clean fighting, and German methods of warfare do not deserve to be classified under this heading.

ALASKA COAL FOR PORTLAND.

If the plans now in process of execution or under serious consideration for the improvement of the Port of Portland should be completed, one thing would still be lacking, aside from equitable railroad rates and regular shipping lines, to put the port on an equality with its competitors. That is an abundant supply of good coal at the same cost as at other ports, and facilities for quickly filling a ship's bunkers. At present a ship loading here must go to either Seattle or Nanaimo for fuel, which adds a week to her voyage at a time when a ship's time means more money than it ever meant. That being the case, she would rather load at Seattle and be done with it.

The announcement that the Government railroad in Alaska will begin to run regular trains before the end of next season suggests a way out. The road will then be in operation to the Matanuska coal district, and the shipment of coal should begin. The distance by sea from Seward is no greater to Portland than to Seattle, therefore Alaska coal brought directly to modern bunkers in Portland harbor should solve the fuel problem for ships coming to the Columbia River. It is estimated by a man who seems to be well informed on the subject that a steamship of 2500 tons towing a seagoing barge could bring 5500 tons each trip at a cost for freight of 65 cents a ton. Although the Alaska transportation business is at present closely tied up with the copper companies in a close combination, an opening for competition will be made when the Government railroad is finished. There will be no discrimination on the railroad or at its water terminals. The coal steamer could then be loaded back with merchandise at a profit, and Portland's long-deferred Alaska steamer line would become a reality.

This plan requires that coal mines be developed in Alaska, and as yet only a beginning has been made by the Government alone to supply the railroad and the Navy. No mines are being opened under lease, and none are likely to be under the present law. Pacific Coast Senators and Representatives should secure relaxation of the more stringent provisions of that law as an inducement to business men to put their money into the business. A time of fuel famine the world over, not excepting this country, is no time to keep the Alaska coal fields in cold storage.

FIRST PRINCIPLES.

The Oregonian had thought that there were left none of the old flat-money crowd of debt repudiators, public and private; but the health department of Prosser, Washington, has in its museum of antiquities a well-preserved specimen of the nearly extinct species. He writes a letter to The Oregonian today which is a resounding echo of the "greenback" era of National agitation and quack finance. It is printed because it is well enough both to know that some minds are still groping in the darkness of economic ignorance; and it is also well enough once in a while to give an enlightening fact or two about the difference between sound money and unsound money, between solvency and bankruptcy, between honesty and dishonesty. To that end The Oregonian will be quite "fair," as the health officer of Prosser requests.

The Oregonian has said, more than once, that greenback or flat-money finance is a delusion; it is far worse, indeed, but the characterization will for the present suffice. There is said to be "no difference" (we quote from the Prosser letter) "between a non-exception greenback and a four per cent bond, except the time limit and four per cent." It is that precise difference which makes the four per cent bond the finest security in the world, and which caused the greenback to depreciate more than fifty per cent during and after the Civil War. The bond bears four per cent interest and is redeemable at par, in gold, at a given date, or dates, in future. The final date of maturity is for the 3½ per cent war bonds 30 years, and for the 4 per cent 25 years. The Government has no alternative then but to pay in gold, though it has indeed the option of paying sooner.

The greenback bears no interest, is made legal tender for all debts and obligations (with certain exceptions), and it has no promise on its face to pay in gold, or silver, or anything, at any time. Only the expectation that the Government would pay in coin at some time, as it did, and will, prevented the greenback's going down to nothing.

The reason why the greenback was not made legal tender for interest on the public debt was doubtless because it would have been a too glaring and purposeful breach of faith with the holders of Government bonds, payable in coin. It is likewise plain that, if the Government had been willing to accept its own irredeemable paper, it would have been used to pay customs and other duties, and the only result would have been to bring the greenback back immediately into the Government's treasury. Would not every person who was obliged to pay the Government a dollar for any purpose exchange his gold or silver for the depreciated greenbacks, which would have been legal tender? What an orgy of speculation in the Government's own paper, at the Government's expense, would have followed! It was bad enough, indeed, that other debts should thus be payable in greenbacks; yet the Government thus contrived in a measure to escape the penalty of its flat finance.

The Oregonian is able to find in no available history of government finance the extraordinary incident of which our flat-friend writes, wherein the "exceptions" were left off $50,000,000 in greenbacks. Undoubtedly another delusion to which such minds are so prone to be sorry victims. The yarn about Lincoln and Wall Street undoubtedly belongs with the apocryphal history of other sayings by Lincoln—for example, the Lincoln "prophecy" wherein he had a vision of the downfall of the republic. The "prophecy" was outright fraud, as undoubtedly is this latest Lincoln quotation.

Let us say that a "non-exception" greenback, which the Prosser financial authority proposes, would inevitably sink to a low figure, far below par, for the reason that it is not money, not even token money. It would be a mere scrap of paper, which the Government might tear up, or pay, just as it pleased. Since a greenback distinctly contains no promise to pay anything, at any time, it has far less value (or had until specie payment was resumed) than a treasury note, or a bank note; both are made redeemable in coin—real money. Nowadays a greenback (Civil War issue or reissue) is worth par because the Government will exchange gold for it, and for no other reason. That is what was meant by resumption of specie payment, January 1, 1879.

THE ENEMY AND HOW TO BEAT HIM.

President Wilson's speech at Buffalo was great in its plain exposition of the issues of the war and of the manner in which democracy can fight without sacrifice of its own principles. He brushed aside all that is merely incidental and fastened his hearers' attention on the central fact that Germany began the war for the deliberate purpose of gaining world domination. He showed that, if Germany were to succeed in extending dominion from Hamburg to Bagdad, with her allies as vassals, she would have gained her end, military, political and economic.

The allied democracies will not have gained their end until the power which thus uses the forces of the central empires is destroyed and until the broad belt of territory which it now controls has been divided among the several nationalities as free, independent democracies. Adjustment of boundaries, by which bits of territory change hands here and there and to which the Pan-Germans seek to distract attention, would not destroy this power, for it would not break up the solid block of empire stretching through the heart of Europe into the heart of Asia. Even were Germany to pay indemnity for the wrongs she has done, it would be a mere buying off of the forces of world law unless Pan-Germany were dismembered.

Seeing clearly that the aim of Germany is to reduce the world to economic servitude as an accompaniment of political power and that permanent peace is impossible, and that the world will be unsafe for democracy until Germany's end has been rendered unattainable, the President has no patience with those pacifists who permit emotional hatred of war to blind their reason to the truth that the only way to get peace is to win the war, "if you want it for more than a few minutes."

The President sees that, if Prussianism were to win, as it would have won if peace were made according to the present military map, it would "in the long run dominate the labor and industry of the world." In that event all "the instrumentalities by which the conditions of labor are improved" would be destroyed. They can be preserved only if democracy is preserved, and in order to preserve democracy, "it is every man's duty to forget himself, to forget his own interests, to fill himself with the nobility of a great National and world conception and act upon a new platform elevated above the ordinary affairs of life, elevated to where men have views of the long destiny of mankind."

This requires that "the power of this country and the productivity of this country be raised to its absolute maximum, and that absolutely nobody be allowed to stand in the way of it." The President wisely proposes to accomplish this result by democratic means and thus to vindicate the efficiency of democracy. He correctly assumes that the great mass of labor is loyal to the Nation and to the cause which it has championed. He therefore assumes that labor is willing not "to stop the processes of labor until all the methods of conciliation and settlement have been exhausted." While he has found labor to be "reasonable in a larger number of cases than capitalists," he does not exonerate either from blame, and he looks to both sides "to come down to business." He calls upon each class to co-operate with all other classes.

That is the genuinely democratic way to raise the productivity of this country to its maximum, but we should be blind if we were not to recognize that there exists in each class an element which refuses to co-operate. It is small in numbers, it is true, but influential because it conceals a disloyal purpose behind an appeal to men's greed, prejudice and passion. These are the "horses that kick over the traces" and which, the President says, "will have to be put in a corral." These, in the ranks of both capital and labor, require something more than those "new instrumentalities" which will induce men to "yield to and obey common counsel," of which the President speaks, for they are unwilling to co-operate and can be dealt with only by some form of compulsion.

Every good citizen will endorse the President's deprecation of mob law as a remedy for "those organizations whose object is anarchy and the destruction of law," but he must surely recognize that, when the instrumentalities of law are used to defeat the purpose of law, a people whose minds are concentrated on that purpose will thrust the impotent or perverted machinery aside and will improvise new instruments which accomplish that purpose. The remedy for mob law is not only to punish the mob but to infuse more vigor into law enforcement.

The most impressive fact about Mr. Wilson's speech is the sure aim with which he penetrates to the core of our quarrel with Germany. He shows that the target at which the combined forces of the allies should be aimed is the monstrous autocracy enthroned at Berlin, and that if that autocracy were to win final triumph, the whole structure of democracy, whereof free labor is a part, would fall into ruin. When such a danger threatens, what folly it is for any men or any class of men to think of their personal or class interests except in relation to the cause of democracy itself. Whenever a man forgets his duty in this regard, he should remind himself of it by looking at that map to which the President referred, with a broad, black band stretching athwart the old world, and should think of what it portends to him and his children, to his country and to the future of democracy.

This Y. M. C. A. fund is not going into ornate buildings nor into fancy salaries. The money will be spent in the line of doing good to the soldiers and will be handled by men who know best how to expend it.

When a man like Scott Nearing, who spouts treason, is only fined $50, he gets off too easily. He should be put where he must work his arms and legs and will have no audience for the product of his jaw.

Restriction of candy manufacture works a hardship on employes dismissed and other work must be found for them. This is one of the problems of war time that all must help solve.

One of these days Von Tirpitz, who declaims against "the all-devouring tyranny of Anglo-Americanism," will have his beer shut off by prohibition enforced by the same "tyranny."

Mr. Justice McCamant will do as he pleases, bearing in mind that a seat on the Supreme Bench of the state of Oregon is an honor not to be placed in the pass-it-along column.

What a terrible thing it would be if the society women who pay 50 cents for a shinbone for Fido should be reduced to the necessity of eating darling little Fido himself!

Mr. Bryan may enjoy the aroma of grape juice in Washington, but does he hold his nose against the whiff of whisky which comes to him while passing through Ohio?

A picture fixes an impression that the text cannot convey. Take the boys and girls to the Land Show and give them a lesson on Oregon, her manufactures and products.

One aid to spruce production is capture and punishment of the men who practice spruce destruction by burning trees. Hunt the I. W. W. out of the woods.

Now is the time to brush up your Bible history and recall the events linked with the names which British victories in Palestine are bringing into notice.

Russia presents the greatest moving picture drama since the French revolution, and there are several reels yet to be seen.

Monday was a great day for King George. Colonel House had his feet under the royal dining table.

Try this today: Corn cakes for breakfast, johnny cake for luncheon and corn muffins for dinner.

Send only the best tobacco to the boys in the trenches. Its fragrance will help the "kamerading."

If turkey prices are high, buy a smaller bird and clean up on the day of the big eats.

You can identify the wheat hog today.

Go to the Land Products Show.

How to Keep Well.

By Dr. W. A. Evans.

Questions pertinent to hygiene, sanitation and prevention of diseases, if matters of general interest, will be answered in this column. Where space will not permit or the subject is not suitable, letters will be personally answered, subject to proper limitations and where stamped addressed envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Requests for such services cannot be answered.

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HOUSING CONDITIONS AND CONSUMPTION.

On October 16 the sixth annual housing convention, in session in Chicago, was shown a spot map of the cases of consumption in the central eight square miles of the convention city. A complete survey of the consumption situation had been made by the administrative officers of the municipal sanitarium and the report of their findings was made by Health Commissioner Robertson.

During the 10 months this survey was in the making 12,017 cases of consumption were reported at the Health Department. The number of cases reported per year in recent years runs about 14,000 and the number of deaths recorded is around 3500. The number of cases of tuberculosis found unrecorded in this limited area was 14,282.

From this Dr. Robertson concluded that there are 165,700 cases of tuberculosis in Chicago. This means that more than one-twentieth of all the people have tuberculosis. No such consumption rate is found in Vienna, one of the worst cities in Europe from this standpoint. To which Dr. Robertson replies that no survey of Vienna to discover what their true rate is has ever been made.

In certain high-grade hotels and restaurants a large percentage of the help were tuberculous, though the guests knew nothing of it and the management had never given the matter thought.

But the bright side of the survey was this: Assuming that the figures are even near correct, tuberculosis is a very curable disease—almost as much so as pneumonia and typhoid fever. If there are 165,000 cases of tuberculosis and the number of deaths from the infection is less than 4000 a year, then the great majority of those infected must get well.

The surveyors found the majority of those infected were going about their business wholly unaware that they were infected. Infected boys and girls were found playing happily on the streets without thought that they were sick.

The majority of the tuberculous had infection of the glands only. Glandular tuberculosis is a mild disorder and cure can be expected if the infected person gets any sort of a chance. It is just such mild, favorably disposed cases of tuberculosis as developed in violent types when the French threw them into the trenches in 1914.

Dr. Robertson thinks our plan of combatting consumption is not getting on as favorably as it should for two reasons. The first is that it never reached more than a few thousand where nearly 200,000 need it. In the second place the open cases—the cases which infect homes and workshops—are not controlled. They should be kept in hospitals and sanitaria for their own good, the good of their families and of the community at large.

Mr. Todd reported upon the housing conditions in about 20 of the blocks included in the tuberculosis survey. A part of a programme for the control of tuberculosis must be provision for better homes for persons of small means.

This housing conference is said to have been the most successful ever held in the country. Certainly the attendance was the largest and best in the history of the society. But whether it was the most successful conference ever held will depend upon whether Chicago, the host city, undertakes housing work as its reaction.

Arrests the Disease.

C. J. P. writes: "(1) Will you please advise me through the columns of The Oregonian whether a localized tuberculosis infection of a bone can be permanently cured by the injection into the body of the tubercular serum, or whether such a serum only has the tendency to arrest the infection and prevent it from spreading?

"(2) I am also desirous to obtain the names and addresses of one or two of the leading medical journals in the United States that are published largely in the interest of children's diseases."

REPLY.

1. The use of tuberculin produces an immunity to the toxin of the tubercle bacillus. Combined with rest, open air, heliotherapy and good feeding it brings about an arrest of the disease. It is held to be somewhat inaccurate to call this condition a cure.

2. The best are American Journal Diseases of Children, Chicago, and Archives of Pediatrics, New York.

Relief From Neuritis.

J. M. writes: "Which is better for neuritis, sulphate of soda or phosphate of soda? Does sodium sulphate contain all the valuable properties of sulphur springs, such as West Virginia, Mount Clemens, St. Joe, etc.?"

REPLY.

One is as good as the other. The properties of sulphur springs are due to the heat of the baths and the massage. Taking sulphate of sodium will not give you any of the effects of sulphur baths. Neuritis is sometimes indirectly benefited by the use of purgatives. Especially is this liable to be the case where the inflammation of the nerve is due to bacteria absorbed from the intestine, the gall bladder, or the appendix. In most cases of neuritis the focus of infection is not in the abdomen and sulphate or phosphate of soda is as useless as rain water.

Complexion Wafers.

L. A. S. writes: "Is there any harm in using arsenic complexion wafers? So many women seem to be using them."

REPLY.

This letter is accompanied by a circular advertising patent medicine. An emphasized statement in this circular is a warning against patent medicine. My advice is that you heed the warning.

Meaning of "Maximalist."

PORTLAND, Or., Nov. 13.—(To the Editor.)—Please explain the term maximalist as applied to the Russian radical revolutionists. What are its origin and derivation? INQUIRER.

"Maximum" has the same meaning in Russian that it has in English. The Maximalists are those who demand the immediate carrying out of the maximum programme of socialization, that is, the common ownership of all means of production.

REASON FOUND FOR DEPRECIATION

Writer Locates in Wall Street Trouble With Civil War Greenbacks.

PROSSER, Wash., Nov. 12.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian's comment on the letter of Sida De La Mer is carefully noted and I feel that you have not been fair to her, as well as to the rest of your readers. You either went too far or not far enough when you called greenbacks a "delusion"—"an old delusion revived."

Had you been fair to us you would have stated that a greenback, with an exception clause printed thereon, is not money. The exception clause on the greenback was to create a market for gold, as no import duty or interest on the public debt could be paid with the greenback.

There is no difference between a non-exception greenback and a 4 per cent bond except the time limit and the 4 per cent. There is nothing behind the bond but the taxing power, and that would be behind the greenback, and a non-exception greenback would never fluctuate any more than a bond, which The Oregonian well knows.

The Oregonian refers to the French assignats and our own greenback, which went as low as $2.85 for a dollar in gold. Had the editor been fair he would have told us the reason, viz.: That neither of them was full legal tender, not being good for import duties and interest on the public debt, and thus the banker was the big hog in the trough.

As proof of what I say I will refer to the first $50,000,000 of greenbacks issued, with no exception clause thereon. They never depreciated one cent, and went into all transactions where gold went, and the bankers, seeing their graft was slipping, had Congress slip in the exception clause, which is still printed on every greenback today. When President Lincoln read the bill putting in the exception clause he said: "The Wall-street leaders ought to have their devilish heads shot off." But it seems that the editor would rather stand with Wall street than Lincoln.

When the 4 per cent bond has served its purpose, the 4 per cent is paid and the bond burned, and, as well, when the greenback has served its purpose it is also burned; but no banker has had his finger in the pie, and I will here state that history teaches us that the greater portion of Government bonds ultimately end their career behind the glided cage.

I repeat that a non-exception greenback will not sink below the value of a 4 per cent bond, because the ability to tax and pay are vested in the same Uncle Sam.

We will patiently await your comment on this letter, knowing that in future you will try to be more fair.

D. M. ANGUS, M. D.,
City Health Officer.

GERMAN MUSIC PLAYED IN LONDON

Opposition Aroused in America Not Heard in England, Says Writer.

PORTLAND, Nov. 13.—(To the Editor.)—It has been amusing to read of the opposition to German music in this country. I have in my possession copies of the programmes played in London during October. If there was justification for suppression of German music, protests should come from London people and not from Chicago. The results were as follows:

Each Monday night was set aside for Wagnerian compositions only. On Friday night was German, mostly Beethoven. Taking other nights except Tuesday, which was the Russian night, most of the programmes were German. It should be noted that owing to the raids, the evening concerts were transferred to matinee performances. But though inconvenienced because of the change, there was no change in the programmes.

The violin recitals by Albert Sammons, the English virtuoso, were solely devoted to the whole of the Beethoven Sonatas, while Mark Hambourg gave special programmes from the works of Beethoven and Schumann.

In opera at Drury Lane there were two "alien" operas each week during the month. It was the first night of October that witnessed a raid causing the interruption of "Tristan and Isolde." The London Times the next morning had a headline, "Wagner in an Air Raid."

It is about time that the professional antagonists of German music kept a discreet silence. They are only disclosing their ignorance of the function of music by their childish tactics. All the raids and atrocities performed by the German army and navy will never cause the lovers of music in England to behave in the manner that some unreasonable beings have in this country. MOSES BARITZ.

German Patent Law.

PORTLAND, Nov. 13.—(To the Editor.)—In an editorial Saturday, November 10, under title, "German Patents," you contend that Germany has stolen patent rights on the Holland submarine.

It does not matter what we think of anything which Germany has done, we must be fair and correct in our allegations of her conduct in specific cases. I have before me the Gebrauchsmuster or German patent law of 1891, which I do not think has been changed since that date and as I know The Oregonian does not wish to make an erroneous statement intentionally, I call attention to a provision of German law.

In section 5 of article 1 it is provided that a patent shall have no validity if, according to the decision of the Imperial Chancellor, the invention is to be employed for the army or navy or otherwise in the interest of the public welfare. Nevertheless, the owner of the patent shall have, in this case, a claim to adequate compensation on the Empire or federal state demanding in its own interest the limitation of the patent, such compensation, failing a mutual understanding, to be determined by law.

From this you will observe that it must be assumed that a private arrangement was made with Holland or that his claim was afterwards adjusted by negotiation or in court, or he still has his just claim to be settled.

ROBERT C. WRIGHT.

Do Soldiers Prefer Home Dinners?

PORTLAND, Nov. 13.—(To the Editor.)—From my own experience as a member of the Second Oregon United States Volunteers, I should say that it would be much more satisfactory to the soldiers to have a fine spread in the Armory or elsewhere than to go by twos to private homes.

We were not "sissies," and were not pining half as much as people liked to think. At Oakland, Cal., we were met by women who doled out a sandwich or two, but could not give us a second 'hand-out" because there was not enough to go round.

Give them good "chuck" and plenty of it, and they will enjoy it on a wooden bench, where they can "whoop 'er up" much more than in a "family gatherings" where they would be bored to death in an hour.

SANFORD SMITH,
Ex-Private, Company L.

Battleship Kearsarge.

CLATSKANIE, Or., Nov. 12.—(To the Editor.)—To settle an argument would you give a description of the U. S. S. Kearsarge and the kind of fuel it burns? OLD SUBSCRIBER.

The Kearsarge is a battleship built in 1896. Its displacement tonnage is 11,520; speed, 16.82 knots; main battery, four 13-inch, four eight-inch and 18 five-inch guns. It uses coal for fuel.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of November 14, 1892.

Chicago.—This evening three meetings were held in the Anarchist Club halls to celebrate the memory of the Chicago martyrs. The speeches were, without exception, violent and inflammatory.

Oregon City.—The engine that is driving piles for the East Side electric line is within less than 700 feet of the city limits. Before the first of December the iron rails will reach from the city limits to the heart of Portland.

Recently the steam railway division of the City & Suburban Railway on the Mount Tabor line from East Fifth to the cemetery was electrified, the steam motors being retained from the former point to the terminus at Mount Tabor.

The first pile of the Burnside-street bridge had hardly been driven on Saturday afternoon when an application for an order restraining the city of Portland from constructing the bridge was filed in the Circuit Court. Plaintiffs in the suit are C. H. Lewis, Henry F. Allen, George H. Flanders, Mary H. Couch and W. S. Ladd.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of November 14, 1867.

We had the pleasure of a visit yesterday from Mr. Chris Taylor, who has been absent in the states for about five months.

London.—In Disraeli's speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet, he said better feelings had arisen in America since last year, and he had every reason to hope for the maintenance of the friendly relations demanded by their interests and by every moral feeling.

Victoria.—The birthday of the Prince of Wales was duly celebrated yesterday. At the races held in honor of the event, the American horse, Greyhound, won the $1000 purse.

New Archangel, Alaska.—The formal transfer and delivery of Russian America to the United States Government took place October 18.

Very many of our business men and families are now using kerosene oil for lights as more economical than gas.

Alas! 'Twas Ever Thus.

By James Barton Adams.

Rob Reckless took his best girl out upon an auto spiel with one hand cinched around her waist, the other on the wheel; he struck a curve and lost control and o'er a bank took flight. They now are where the motive power is wings of purest white.

Miss Kitty Kareless rose at night and to the cupboard sped and groped in darkness for some stuff to ease her aching head; she got a bottle by mistake containing poison dope and when the doctor came he said she'd vanished up the slope.

Artemus Artless knew not that his gun contained a load and blew into the muzzle and the gun it likewise blowed; his head was soon in fragments from the chin to bulging brow and scattered o'er the scenery; he's with the angels now.

Sylvester Sickles rashly thought that he could safely fool around the back aft end of an unbroken army mule; the critter raised its after deck away above its prow and gave its heels a backward flirt; he wears a halo now.

Joe Jenkins was so deaf he couldn't hear the thunder crack and started for an evening stroll along the railroad track; the locomotive came as swift as lightning driven plow and tossed him off the right of way; his hearing's better now.

Tyrannus Tupper saw a wire, upon the ground it lay, and thought that he would drag it from a passing teamster's way; he seized it with his naked hand and wildly hollered "yeow-w-w!" The wire was full of unseen life; he's wearing pinions now.

Karl Knowitall, with head full of abnormal self-conceit, blew in to tell an editor just how to run his sheet; the Coroner sat on his shape and found a verdict that he died from a concussion of the fungus 'neath his hat.

Alas! alas! 'twas ever thus, and thus 'twill ever be till time performs its stunt and fades into eternity, the reckless ones will get theirs, sure, all over christendom and quit their habitation here for bunks in kingdom come.

TACOMA FRIENDSHIP IS OFFERED

Committee Would Make Life More Pleasant for Your Soldier Son.

TACOMA, Wash., Nov. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Among the thousands of men in Camp Lewis, Tacoma, Wash., there may be some men from your city who find camp life monotonous and lonely, and who would enjoy making friends in the city. We have many people here who are anxious to be of service and who would gladly open their homes to the soldiers.

If there are mothers and fathers in your city who would like to have us look up their boys and to interest them in church, lodge, home or club, I am sure we shall count it a privilege to do so if they will give us their regiment and company address. We can find them without this, but it takes time and trouble to do so. However, if the boy has not written, send us his name.

I am writing only to the papers in the larger cities in Oregon and I shall be very glad to have you give this letter as prominent a place as possible and also to ask your country papers to copy. RAY F. CARTER,

Secretary Tacoma Committee for Recreation of Soldiers.
Tacoma Building.

Export of Corn Meal.

ELMA, Wash., Nov. 12.—(To the Editor.)—I have heard several arguments about sending corn meal to Europe and have it keep. Some say you can't, and I maintain that you can and not have it spoil. P. MURRAY.

Corn meal absorbs moisture and moulds easily, so it is not considered an economical food for ocean shipment, even were the unacquaintance with it in England and France overcome. Probably containers could be devised that would protect it, but cost is an important factor.

War Economy Practiced.

Washington (D. C.) Star.

"Is your husband economizing?" "Yes. He threatens to smoke such inexpensive cigars that we are willing to cut down every other household expense rather than suffer."

No.

PORTLAND, Nov. 13.—(To the Editor.)—Are clerks and deputies of military age employed in the various offices at the County Courthouse and the City Hall exempt from the draft?

ENQUIRER.