

# The Oregonian

Entered at Portland (Oregon) Postoffice as second-class mail matter.  
Subscription rates in advance:  
(By Mail)  
Daily, Sunday included, one year.....\$3.00  
Daily, Sunday included, six months.....2.25  
Daily, Sunday included, three months.....1.50  
Daily, Sunday included, one month......50  
Daily, without Sunday, one year.....2.00  
Daily, without Sunday, six months.....1.50  
Daily, without Sunday, three months.....1.00  
Daily, without Sunday, one month......35  
Weekly, one year.....1.00  
Sunday, one year.....1.00  
Sunday and weekday, one year.....1.50  
(By Carrier)  
Daily, Sunday included, one year.....\$3.00  
Daily, Sunday included, six months.....2.25  
Daily, without Sunday, one year.....2.00  
Daily, without Sunday, six months.....1.50  
Daily, without Sunday, three months.....1.00  
Daily, without Sunday, one month......35  
Weekly, one year.....1.00  
Sunday, one year.....1.00  
Sunday and weekday, one year.....1.50  
Local, express order or personal check on your local bank, stamps, coin or currency and at carrier's risk. Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.  
Postage Rates: 12 to 16 pages, 1 cent; 17 to 20 pages, 2 cents; 21 to 24 pages, 3 cents; 25 to 30 pages, 4 cents; 31 to 36 pages, 5 cents; 37 to 42 pages, 6 cents. Foreign postage, double rates.

**Eastern Business Office—Vernon & Conklin,** 1200 Broadway, New York City.  
**Branch Office—Vernon & Conklin,** 1200 Broadway, New York City.  
**Branch Office—Vernon & Conklin,** 1200 Broadway, New York City.

**MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.**  
The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches carried by this paper, and also the local news published herein.  
Special dispatches of special interest are also reserved.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, DEC. 29, 1917.

## GERMANY'S PEACE TERMS.

The peace terms proposed by the Central Powers to Russia are convincing evidence that the Teutons deliberately ignore the war aims of the allies. The governments of the four monarchies certainly know why their enemies continue the war, although they have carefully kept the truth away from their peoples as far as possible. They have cultivated a fiction about the cause of the war and about their own aims, which necessity compels them to keep alive in the minds of their people and which they hope to propagate among enemy peoples for the purpose of promoting division in the ranks. They strive to put their enemies in the wrong by making it appear that they seek no conquest or territory, but that the democratic powers persist in fighting for the purpose of conquest and of exacting indemnity. Foreseeing that their terms will be rejected by the western allies, they hope to make the eastern allies, and Russia in particular, feel that the sound sense of a separate peace with Russia, as a result of which they would have at their disposal the vast resources of that chaotic country.

The proposals of the Central Powers are unacceptable because they contemplate a permanent and undemocratic division of the world into nations which by word or act, or both, have proclaimed that treaties are scraps of paper. Germany frankly adopted that doctrine by the invasion of Belgium and by the speech of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg in announcing that fact. Austria-Hungary had already adopted the same theory by annexing Bosnia and Herzegovina in violation of the Berlin treaty. Turkey has always followed it, most recently by agreeing to administer the mandates of the defeated allies and by massacring her non-Turkish subjects wholesale. Bulgaria is also guilty, for King Ferdinand continued negotiations to join the allies long after he had made secret treaties to join the Central Powers.

For these reasons the allies will make no treaty with the Central Powers until the latter are so completely defeated that they will recognize their impotence to break treaties in defiance of the world, or until the governments of the Central Powers are so radically changed that the allies will know them to represent the sentiments of their peoples instead of a small, ruling caste. In short the allies regard the present governments of the Central Powers as the criminals who have acquired control of entire nations and who must be disarmed and brought to justice as a necessary condition of world peace.

The first clause of the German proposals denying the intention of "stable" territorial reforms, which have been during the war "would put in effect the drawn game. With Germany undefeated, the drawn game would leave her three allies practically annexed. Germany has military control of their armies, and economic control through war loans and commercial union. Thus the Hamburg to the Persian Gulf scheme would be realized, and the nucleus of Pan-Germany would be an accomplished fact. The political independence of Germany's allies would be merely nominal. While Germany would on the face of things have renounced annexation, she would in fact have annexed vast territory having a population of 75,000,000. She would retain Roumania and Greece would nominally regain their independence, they would be so weakened by war and would be so isolated that they would pass under economic control of Germany and that the latter could complete their annexation at leisure. Peace without annexation and with Germany undefeated would be a German victory and would be a mere truce, the duration of which would be used in preparing for the next war to complete the scheme of world-conquest.

Although the Central Powers declare that it is not their intention "to deprive of political independence those nations which lost it during the war," the German proposals show that these nations mangled and ruined and open to that economic penetration by which Germany reduces political independence to a mere shadow. German contempt for treaties implies that no respect would be shown even for this shadow. By consenting to the drawn game the allies would confess their inability to defeat Germany, and the small nations would cover before the apostles of ruthlessness.

The most cynical of all the proposals is that "the question of subjecting to another country 'of those nationalities who have not political independence' must be solved by each government, together with its people, in a manner established by the constitution." A fine chance of independence the Poles, Danes and Alsations would have under the German constitution, or the Poles, Bohemians, Rumanians, Roumanians, and Italians under the Austro-Hungarian constitution; or the Armenians, Arabs, Greeks, Druses and Maronites under the Turkish constitution; or the Serbs, Greeks and Rumanians under the Bulgarian constitution. That chance means that these peoples shall not become independent, though the allies are pledged to liberate and unite subject and divided peoples and though they cannot defeat the German plan without so doing.

By proposing that all belligerents "renounce not only indemnification for war costs but also indemnification for war damages" the Central

Powers ask that they escape scot free for all the infamous crimes which they have committed in Belgium, France, Serbia, Roumania, Italy, Armenia and Palestine. These countries are to be returned to their peoples in a state of devastation and ruin, and upon them is to be thrown the huge burden of restoration, while the Central Empires remain practically intact, suffering no loss except that which is the inevitable consequence of war. Justice demands that the war itself be stamped as a crime committed by Germany, her confederates, and that every act which they have committed in violation of the laws of war be branded as a crime by exaction of full reparation. Exact justice would require that the Central Powers be indemnified equal to the entire cost of the war to the allies, but President Wilson has renounced such a claim, and the allies have assented.

The allies are ready to secure the rights of minorities in rearranging frontiers on the basis of nationality, but they would not let the despots which avowedly crush subject nations have a hand in the job.

When the time comes to dispose of the German colonies, the allies will consider the manner in which Germany has governed them, and will also have regard for the wishes of their people. They will have in mind the massacre of the Hereros in Southwest Africa and the harsh treatment of natives in Cameroon and German East Africa. Until those people have progressed to the point where they are capable of self-government, some white nation will rule them, but as a trustee for their own interests as the United States governed the Philippines. The question will then arise whether Germany will then arise whether Germany will be a fit trustee.

The allies cannot be expected to consider the German terms, because it would be folly to make a treaty with an undefeated Germany, still ruled by the criminals who committed the crime of 1914, and because the terms offered are themselves deceptive and because their acceptance would accept defeat and would condemn the world to another period of ruinous armament.

## MAKE IT INTERESTING.

Quite likely the voters of Oregon are observing with customary futility the serious deliberations of the Farmers' Union and State Federation of Labor leaders as to whether to unite under the banner of the Farmers' Non-Partisan League. Quite likely, too, the voters' fortitude will still be maintained if the merely titular leaders of these organizations in their wisdom decide to embrace the principles of the North Dakota organization. An election without a league of some kind to present something tasty in government novelty would be an empty and unsatisfactory affair.

It might as well be the Farmers' Nonpartisan League as a league under any other name. True, that organization seems to have reached the crest of its development elsewhere and is not in the best of patriotic odor, but the Farmers' Union and State Federation of Labor have been on methods of raising money for campaign purposes and a league with a sack has its advantages—yes, indeed. Of more interest than announcement that the three organizations have conjoined under a euphonious name is the statement of what it is that is desired. Is it political offices? Is it a legislature that will pass some law that the people would not adopt if presented by initiative? Is it a set of initiated bills, none of which would carry if standing alone, but all of which might be put over by swapping votes? Or what is the programme that makes formation of a nonpartisan league seem worthy of consideration in a state where anybody can start a measure on its way to obtain a hearing and open expression of public opinion?

In any event, let's have a league of some sort. Without one buzzing about the public is likely to become careless and then no telling what kind of laws may be adopted.

## ABATING THE NARCOTIC EVIL.

The supreme necessity for supplementary measures to check the menace of narcotics in this state has been met only in part by Federal and state laws licensing the sale of these drugs, has been brought to attention recently by hearings held in New York City by an investigating committee of the State Legislature. Present laws need fortification with provisions for the treatment of addicts as sick persons and not as criminals. There must also be such an awakening of public sentiment that drastic, even harsh, penalties shall be imposed upon those who deliberately engage in the illicit traffic. It has been disclosed that fines do not deter the class of men who trade upon the misfortunes of their fellows.

The New York hearing has derived added interest from the fact that addicts are being treated by the State of New York with a leniency that is a far cry from the treatment meted out by the Federal Government. The hearing has agreed quite generally that so-called "cures," based upon the principle of gradual withdrawal of the drug, fall short of expectations, and that a more extensive and more drastic course of treatment is required. Such a course is hardly possible in public hospitals in which drug addicts are only an incident in the routine. The pathology of addicts was strikingly emphasized by the testimony of the hearings were not abated by their treatment in prisons and detention hospitals. When they emerged from these institutions they became prey of unscrupulous vendors who awaited them at every turn.

It has been made clear that reconstruction of narcotic victims requires special study of individual cases, and that it can seldom be accomplished by routine measures such as are presently carried out in the "cure" institutions. The psychology of the addict is quite as important as his physical condition. It also has been demonstrated that complete cure is a complex and difficult combination of physical, moral and physical building-up. Withdrawal of the dangerous drug, or the substitution of others, and even diet and exercise, are only part of the needed regimen. Re-awakening of interest in life and revival of normal ambitions are brought about slowly in complicated cases, and require tact and patience in high degree.

It is desirable that public interest in the narcotic problem be aroused now because the problem is one that will require co-operation for its solution, and because the practically unavoidable use of narcotics on the battlefield constitutes a special peril. Witnesses before the New York committee have testified that they began using morphine when suffering agony from wounds in Europe, that they found it easy to buy narcotics in Eng-

land, and that when they returned to America they were driven by the Federal anti-narcotic law and the international treatment of the larger cities to seek relief in forbidden channels of the underworld. Many of them, however, sincerely desired to be cured, and so far as their weakened powers made it possible were willing to co-operate to that end. The lesson is that illicit traders should be exterminated with as little mercy as one would show to a den of rattlesnakes, and that in addition special measures should be adopted for the relief of the sufferers themselves.

## WHY NOT?

The New York World, Democratic—more nearly the National newspaper voice of the party than any other organ—protests vehemently against adoption by Congress of the prohibition amendment and holds the Southern Democratic representatives directly accountable therefor. The article by the World is so blunt and pertinent, and it goes so directly to the heart of an abuse which has been tolerated by all parties for so many years, that it is reproduced elsewhere.

Emphasizing again the Democratic origin of this protest, let us quote here a single paragraph on another phase of the subject:

Southern domination of the present Congress has not been accessible to anybody in the North, Democrat or Republican. Men like Claude Kitchin have been treating the rest of the country like a conquered province, imposing outrageous burdens of taxation and giving the South a possible return. The price of wheat for the Northern farmer is fixed by process of law, but the Southern farmer is free to sell his cotton at all that the traffic will bear, and is demanding more. Well, these chickens come home to roost some day.

When the war began, and the price of cotton took a slump, the Southern Brigadiers in Congress got busy, and through Secretary McAdoo, many millions of the public moneys were placed at disposal of the cotton growers.

If cotton, why not wheat, or corn, or fruit, or sheep, or cattle, or hops, or wool, or other products of the soil and range in the North and West?

## THEIR OWN MEDICINE.

A speaker at a dinner of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society is reported as complaining that the United States Government is "hounding the Industrial Workers of the World from pillar to post." He is quite indignant over this effort to suppress anarchism, sabotage and treason in time of National peril.

It is largely a matter of choice of words. "Hounding" in this instance consists simply in suppression of such a driving spirit into the law so that they will destroy the machinery in sawmills and perhaps kill workmen who have as much right to live as any member of the I. W. W. It means punishment of arson, and food poisoning, and a hundred crimes plotted in secret, and executed by sneaks. Of course, the I. W. W. are not "hounding" anyone. "Direct action" and such phrases cover crime with euphemism. But they do not make it less criminal.

It is a time for being mealy-mouthed in dealing with the menace of the I. W. W. Whether they are "hounded" or something else, their seditious activities must be suppressed. The "intercollegiate" label on a few of their apologists is no certificate of immunity. It is a fact that no member of the I. W. W. is in the slightest danger who behaves with reasonable circumspection. But if he tries to inaugurate a reign of terror he has no business to complain if people are afraid. He is diluting dose of his own medicine. And the dose will be less and less diluted as time runs on if he does not respond to mild treatment.

## A BUDGET SYSTEM NEEDED NOW.

Second only to war legislation in importance is establishment of a better system of making appropriations by Congress and of controlling expenditures by the Government. Annual expenditures have suddenly grown from a billion to about thirteen billions a year, and immense sums are being drawn from the people in direct taxes. Congress will be asked that the question of a budget system has become a live topic of public discussion, for public indifference to Government finance will pass away when public revenue is no longer derived solely from income taxes, which "you pay without knowing it."

But Congress has paid no serious attention to the recommendation of President Wilson that the House entrust the preparation of all appropriation bills to one committee instead of dividing them among eleven committees, each of which is out to grab all the money it can. The only step toward carrying out the President's recommendation is the introduction by Senator Kenyon and Representative Fear of a joint resolution creating a joint executive and congressional commission to prepare a budget system and report at the next session. If this commission's plan should be adopted, the new system could not apply to expenditures prior to July 1, 1920. By that time the war, probably be over, yet it is precisely to regulate the vast expenditures of the war that budget reform is urgently needed. The joint commission scheme is an admirable way to look for a door after the door has been stolen. The House should adopt the single appropriation committee at the present session before it has acted on any of the appropriation bills.

Members of the House cling devotedly to their pork barrels and are loath of capturing votes for re-election. They should remember that for many years to come millions of voters will pay direct taxes and will want to know where their money is going. They should stop voting for such wasteful appropriations than by getting Government money spent in their districts. The time may be near when committees of citizens will watch Government expenditures as they now scrutinize the annual budget of the City of Portland and Multnomah County.

## OUR MILLIONAIRES.

There are only two states in the Union, according to the figures of the Income Tax Division of the Internal Revenue Department, that possess one or more millionaires. These are Alabama and Mississippi, and the statistics are not final as to them. According to the theories of those who maintain that rich men are the backbone of communities, it would be assumed that these states were especially blessed. But there has been no recent mad rush to live in them. They do not stand out over other states as Utopias.

It is interesting to learn, however, that the number of millionaires in the United States in 1916 increased 7925 by comparison with 1915. Opportun-

ity to accumulate a fortune is quite widely disseminated. This is shown not only by the statistics of the forty-six states of the Union, but also by the returns from Alaska, the Philippines, Hawaii and the District of Columbia. Thirteen states have names in the group with fortunes of \$50,000,000 or more. The total number of millionaires is 22,696. In 1915 it was only 14,771.

The figures of the Department are arrived at by capitalizing at four per cent the incomes upon which Federal tax is paid. The secrecy provided by the law prevents the public from learning who are the richest Americans, but some shrewd guesses will not be omitted from any calculations. Many will place Henry Ford among the leading ten. He is a comparative new name, showing the possibilities for rapid advancement the country still holds. Henry Clay Frick, Andrew Carnegie, J. P. Morgan and George F. Baker may be others in the same class. Two women, Mrs. E. H. Harriman and Mrs. Russell Sage—are tentatively listed there by students of financial affairs.

Great Britain, according to the Blue Book of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue for the year ended March 31, 1916, had only 5154 millionaires, or about a quarter of the number in the United States, but whereas there are only ten Americans possessing \$25,000,000, in Britain there are seventy-nine. We have nine others with \$10,000,000—more to Great Britain's sixty-eight; fourteen with \$7,500,000 to \$10,000,000, where Britain has forty-five; thirty-four with from \$5,000,000 to \$7,500,000 to Britain's seventy-three, and forty-two with from \$2,500,000 to \$5,000,000 to Britain's sixty-one. But below this point, the United States leads. We are particularly strong in newly-made fortunes.

But rich men are finding out that wealth has its burdens. As shown by the statement of tax collections. The income tax yielded \$180,108,000 in 1916, as compared with only \$67,943,000 in 1915. This increase was recorded before the law was changed to reduce the rate downward. The present fiscal year is expected to yield a further increase over the revenue of 1916.

With ordinary grades of apples selling for 25 cents a pound, gold, in China, is valued at \$100 a pound by our Consul at Hongkong, there would seem to be a wide opening for the extension of the market for western fruit in the Orient, as soon as transportation facilities have been restored to a normal basis. The prediction made a few years ago that China would soon be able to supply its own demands has not been justified by events, and although the apple has been grown there from remote ages, it is a scanty cultivation, yielding little or no progress. Fostering demand, however, is a complex problem. The reputation of the apple is now suffering from the inroads of inferior grades and most of the class of people who are able to buy fruit do not know the really delicious apple such as that which has made Oregon famous. It will also be necessary to provide cold storage facilities which are now lacking, both in transit and in the commercial centers of the country.

Major Aubert says that history will be Germany's worst enemy, but if the German plan had worked out the only versions of history which would have survived would have been made in Germany. They would have been the tales of the terrible war which the barbarous Belgians fell on the highly cultured German soldiers. That is one of the reasons why Germany could not afford to lose.

An American sentry was found with his throat cut from ear to ear, and the cause was traced to a man who was expected from the cowards who whimper "Kamerad!" when they are captured. Part of the equipment of the American should be a meat ax or cleaver.

Some of the jobs put over past comprehension. In New York a cloth shrinker is in jail because 350 bolts of olive-drab uniform cloth, worth \$50,000, are missing. Some shrink, that!

Before this war is over the United States will be known as the generous Nation. Assurance to Switzerland of food stuffs is a start toward acquiring the name.

When a windshield is obscured by rain it is time the car driver sacrifice a little comfort by opening it and give the pedestrian a chance for his life.

Owning 20,000,000 acres of land, the negroes have a stake to fight for in this country. A share of the soil is the best assurance of patriotism.

A complete new vocabulary is being made by Tommy Atkins and the poets. We now await a rich contribution from the Sammies.

When the aero squadron at Vancouver begins practice Portland people will see something in the air.

Major Patton speaks of his "Memory of the Revolutionary War," but it is certain he doesn't "look it."

Nevertheless and notwithstanding, there was official deficiency yesterday in rainfall of 1.06 inches.

Why not a revenue stamp on a meal check above a certain sum and let the waitstaff pay it?

Michigan City, Ind., is so near Chicago it is little wonder an alien enemy was elected Mayor.

Since all German peace proposals are passed on by Lloyd George, nobody need worry.

Thousands of men will be seen on the streets today minus the Red Cross button. Why?

Government easily can increase railway rates. Look at the 3-cent stamp.

Somebody must invent rainproof hosiery if styles and showers continue.

Up in the isothermal country about Duluth it is only 32 below.

The optimist shows his blood when rains are heaviest.

The President was 61 yesterday and is still some goer.

## DEMOCRACY BETRAYED BY SOUTH.

Democratic Newspaper Condemns Sectional Domination of Congress.

New York World.  
Section 2 of article XIV of the Constitution of the United States provides that "Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of Electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state or the members of the Legislature thereof shall be denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being 21 years of age and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation shall be computed on the basis of the whole number of such male citizens 21 years of age in such state."

This provision of the Constitution, together with the Fifteenth Amendment, declaring that the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of "race, color or previous condition of servitude," has been nullified since the Federal troops from the Southern states.

For 40 years the right of negro citizenship in the South has been persistently denied and the penalties provided by the Constitution have never been enforced. No Southern state has ever been permitted to represent its representation through its refusal to permit negroes to vote, although the Fifteenth Amendment is mandatory upon Congress.

This over-representation which the South has held for more than a generation, and which the Northern states, who have protected the Southern states from a punishment which Democracy general has denied, is a gross infringement upon the sovereign right of every state to regulate its own life and its own affairs. But the Southern states are preparing to ignore the principle of local self-government to which the Democratic party has adhered since the time of Jefferson. Their Senators and Representatives in Congress have already begun to ignore the principle of local self-government in the resolution submitted to the House for the amendment to the Constitution of the Southern States. The Southern Legislatures are expected to ratify it.

Without the votes of the Southern Senators and Representatives this resolution could not have been submitted; without the votes of the Southern Legislatures the amendment could not be adopted. Nation-wide prohibition, if it comes, will be imposed by states which have turned their backs as squarely as the Russian Bolsheviks have turned their backs upon the obligations of democracy. The cry, "No Negro domination!" will fall upon deaf ears. If the South is determined to have a centralized government which regulates the personal habits of the American people, it must accept a centralized government that regulates negro franchise and all that pertains thereto.

Before many years have passed the inevitable swing of the political pendulum will bring about a Republican Congress—a Congress that is Republican both in the House and the Senate. When that Congress convenes it is certain that another attempt will be made to reduce the representation of the South. Southern domination of the present Congress is a disgrace to anybody in the North, Democrat or Republican. Men like Claude Kitchin have been treating the rest of the country like a conquered province, imposing outrageous burdens of taxation and giving as little as possible in return. The price of wheat for the Northern farmer is fixed by process of law, but the Southern farmer is allowed to charge for his cotton all that the traffic will bear and is demanding more. All those chickens will come home to roost some day.

Nobody can object to the Southern states imposing the market on themselves, but when they undertake to rule New York and Pennsylvania and Massachusetts and say what the people of those states may eat and drink, then the Southern Democrats have again cut themselves off from the body of Northern Democrats effectively as they did in 1860 when they demanded that the Northern Democracy must absolutely surrender to their views of the institution of human slavery. Northern Democrats will no sooner think of surrendering on the issue of personal liberty than on the issue of slavery.

If the South is determined to go ahead with this insensate policy—if this new sectionalism of prohibition is to be imposed upon Northern and Eastern states by the South and West, then the Southern Democrats will have again taken themselves out of the Democratic party and must abide by the consequences, whatever these may be.

## Men at Fort Stevens Grateful.

MEN AT FORT STEVENS, Or., Dec. 26.—(To the Editor.)—I would like to express through The Oregonian the deep appreciation of the men at Fort Stevens for the help, generosity and assistance rendered us by the Y. W. C. A. Red Cross, the Ladies' Guild of Trinity Church, the ladies of the Catholic church and the other citizens of Portland. It is a joy to have men as some of the joys of a homey Christmas, which would not have been possible without the co-operation and assistance of the persons mentioned.

The Red Cross, with its gifts of money and Christmas packages, all of which came from Portland, was particularly lavish in showing the boys of the Oregon Coast Artillery and the regular and drafted troops stationed here the kind of Christmas which most of them would have missed so sadly. ALBERT K. MATHEWS, Chaplain United States Army.

"Safe Place" for Registrant.  
ALBANY, Or., Dec. 27.—(To the Editor.)—(1) What advice could you give in this case?

Those men joined the National Guard in peace times, was sent to the border. In some way he gained his discharge. He comes under the draft; the farmers would be exempted, so became a farmer, but shipbuilders were exempted, so is now in the shipyards. Is this a safe place or should he hunt another?

(2) Can you give a recipe for instilling patriotism into a very unpatriotic community?

READER.  
(1) The penitentiary is a safer place if one considers only his disinclination to go for his country, but if he considers it has its drawbacks. A state office is also safer, but we understand it is hard to obtain.

(2) We know of no general formula that would fit every case.

## "Hun" as Name for Germans.

SEASIDE, Or., Dec. 26.—(To the Editor.)—To settle an argument will you please state definition of the word "Hun" as generally used in connection with German nationality.

SUBSCRIBER.  
"Hun" is a descriptive name applied to German soldiers because of the similarity of their inhuman practices to those of the Huns.

## RURAL SCHOOL LIGHTING WRONG.

Standardized Type is Straining Pupils' Sight, Says Experienced Teacher.

HOFF, Or., Dec. 27.—(To the Editor.)—It is surprising to note how the public in general can be led to do almost anything nowadays. Among the numerous follies now resting upon us, the most cruel may be found in our standardization of rural schools—the fundamental requirement at that. That is, have the windows all on one side of the house, so that the light which the almighty intended should come from all sides is to come from a few loopholes on the left.

It seems that some ambitious gentleman a few years ago aspired to fame and, all other avenues being closed to him, suddenly sprung this one on an unsuspecting public. And our leading educators, men and women who never, as a rule, taught in a one-sided building, took to the scheme like ducks take to water, as though they knew all about it. They tell you that light coming from opposite sides meets at the center, comes to a halt, turns at right angles and hits your two eyes, keens-flam! And they say it with such gravity that one would think the heavens were about to fall. The public, believing these persons ought to know what they are talking about, say "Amen."

To avert the threatened calamity they are working with sleeves rolled up, cutting the windows out from the wrong side and crowding them with much dignity as the situation permits on the newly established "right" side! I have taught school over 30 years in common sense and the common sense placed windows on both sides of the house equally and the light was permitted to enter and mingle in the room continuously on one side or the other, bright then gradually shading off to semidarkness on the side where there are no windows.

Common sense would convince anyone that light from one side only will compel the opposite eye to strain in order to equalize the light in both eyes. Common sense and the common light must strain the opposite eye to an extent that is alarming.

It so happens that I am now teaching in the same district I taught nearly 20 years ago. The building is an old-fashioned one you know, windows on both sides, but no eyes were being rubbed continuously on one side or the other. Today I am teaching in a so-called "standard" school, windows all on one side, and the manner in which children on winter days must strain their eyes, particularly those on the opposite side of the room, is a crime on the part of the state demanding such a "standard."

If the almighty had intended that light should enter our orbs from one side only, in his wisdom he would have built an extension along the opposite side of our face and also along the back of our head. Instead of such a standard, let us return to the path that leads to safety to our children's eyes and to the general benefit of all.

ROBERT GINTHER.

## Persons Blinded in Halifax.

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—(1) In The Oregonian of a few days ago there was an editorial about the victims of the Halifax disaster who were blinded by looking up. A maintainer that they were blinded by falling debris, while B argues that they were blinded by the force of the explosion. Which is correct?

(2) Kindly state where one may join the home guard and the the other.

GORDON FALK.

(1) Persons were blinded both by flying glass and other debris and by the concussion.

(2) The Oregonian will publish a detailed article on the Multnomah Home Guards next Sunday.

## Enemy Aliens and Draft.

PORTLAND, Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—An Austro-Hungarian of 24 years of age, residing in the United States four years, having first citizenship papers for three years, subject to draft under any circumstances?

He is not.

SUBSCRIBER.

## WILL THE WAR BE A BLIGHT OR A BLESSING?

—Famous Men Answer in—

## The Sunday Oregonian

Will a breath of idealism waft away the murk of battle when peace comes to the troubled world? Auguste Rodin prophesies that it will. Who will be the determining human factors in the days that follow? The returned soldiers, says Lord Northcliffe. When a generation has passed a great literature will spring from the soil of strife—art will surpass itself—the relationship of states will be founded on an enduring and stable basis. These are but a few of the predictions of noted men, appearing in a special Sunday article.

**PATRIOT WOMEN OF PORTLAND**—Appearing in the Sunday issue will be a resume of patriotic service work accomplished by the women of Portland during the past year. A special story by Edith Knight Holmes, relating but a portion of the unselfish efforts and sacrifices of those who "wait at home."

**RED CROSS OVER OREGON**—This is a story that explains the inner meaning of the little scarlet cross, which patriots wear as the badge of their membership in the world's mightiest, tenderest organization of mercy. It tells of Oregon's share in the task—of loyal women who labor without recompense other than the inner light of love—of Christmas gifts—of bandages—and of true bravery at home. Read it.

**FIGHTING THE WAR WITH FARM TRACTORS**—Speed! The slogan of war rang from the cornfields of Illinois to the vast wheat ranches of the Columbia. There must be fuel for the fighting men of America and her allies—nor could delay be brooked. And that was where and when the lumbering big farm tractor went into action. Read Frank G. Carpenter's Sunday story of the vogue that machinery is winning over farm labor in the drive for victory.

**WHO IS NUMBER ONE?**—It doesn't matter where you "cut in" on this super-mystery yarn so cleverly spun by Anna Katharine Green, for in every paragraph is swift action, tense drama. The whole is a tangled skein that amazes as it unravels. Read it in The Sunday Oregonian and then witness it in the films at your picture-house.

**THE WORLD THROUGH CAMERA LENSES**