The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, DEC. 31, 1917.

FOOD THE MEANS OF VICTORY.

Food Administrator Hoover has given a convincing answer to the attacks of Claus Spreckels on his handling of the sugar supply. It is evidence of the hostility shown by Chairman Reed, of the Senate committee which is investigating the food administration, to Mr. Hoover and the entire policy of food control, that he has persistently refused to give Mr. Hoover a hearing and that the latter has been obliged to get his case before the peo by a direct statement. When Senator Reed obstructs the policies necessary to win the war, it is useless for him to profess zeal for the Na-

the central buyer of sugar for all the lished in the Boston Transcript allies, and that that country had made an article by "An Old Soldier" from large purchases from producing country the London Post. Accepting his dicalready boosted the American consumers' price above that paid by allied peoples and might readily have sent the American people's impoverishment. order to prevent speculation and to obtain sugar for the American people on the same basis as the allies Mr. Hoover arranged with the allies that he should handle the supply for them as well as for the United States. The sugar supply reaches its lowest

in the late Fall and early Winter, before the new crop comes on the The Hawaiian crop is harvested first, and Mr. Hoover made arrangements with the planters and refiners of that country which stabilize the price. He then arranged with the beet sugar refiners and with the Louis- Saloniki, and then be transferred to iana cane growers. Finally, came an upon a price to which they had strennously objected. He thus insured that the refiners should sell to the jobbers 14 cents, though the public might easily have been compelled to pay 25 to 30 cents a pound if the market had not been controlled.

The shipments to Canada and France, about which Mr. Spreckels made an outcry, were made in acpeople of that section have not complained, though they have been withtimes their purchases have been limof the normal quantity in October. November and December was necessary in order that the other 30 per cent might be shipped to our allies. who are on much shorter allowance

An attempt is made to asperse the motives of the committee which made Cuban agreement because the price which it made had the effect of raising the price obtained by Mr. dian troops in that country, the dis-Spreckels' rivals and thus of increas- tance from Bombay to Basra, the port ing their profits. That transaction is open to explanation free from any ground for suspicion. The Cuban planters control the largest supply of cane sugar and are citizens of an independent country, to which the American food control law cannot apply. They were, therefore, in a positon to drive a better bargain than were any American producers. If any not be helped, when the purpose is to The alternative of equalize prices. free speculation in a deficient supply would have mulcted the American people so much more heavily that they can view with equanimity the relatively small addition to the cost of Hawailan sugar. As to the Javan stock of 900,000 tons, the shortage of ships puts it out of reach until vessels can be spared to import it.

Restriction of American sugar con sumption is necessary in order that our allies may be supplied. It is necessary that they be supplied with this as well as other foodstuffs in order that they may do their part in winning the war. Mr. Hoover's state-ment that food will win the war is amply sustained by the experience of The morale of part of the Italian army was broken by reports from behind the lines that the people were suffering from shortage of food and that bread riots were frequent Germany worked on the sentiments of the soldiers by circulating among them thousands of copies of forged editions of leading Italian newspapers which contained exaggerated versions of the facts. Morale was broken, and Italy suffered defeat. When the people are called upon to choose between trust- doubled efforts to speed up food proing Mr. Hoover, who is working for duction, in their search for a substi-victory by sustaining the morale of tute for the sun in the stimulation of our allies with ample food and whom plant growth. Experiments with elec- and in many states a township or the British and French governments tricity, begun several years ago, and trusted implicitly with the expenditure continued perfunctorily before the trusted implicitly with the expenditure of tens of millions of dollars,

they should not hesitate. statement issued by three professors where formerly operations were confortably without it prior to only about portion to the area of land involved. two centuries ago, and it was com-

paratively uncommon even in Napoeon's time. Nature has a way of pro-viding sugar in sufficient quantities in readily available, and our deical professors have made the suggesbe cooked with the breakfast cereal. This is offered for the guidance of outward manifestations, however, do church cannot easily be persuaded to families in which parental discipline not explain the forces which are at take another road. is not equal to the solution of dietary problems.

FINAL DRIVE FOR THE RED CROSS. Portland is called upon for a great final effort to bring its Red Cross membership up to 100,000 before the New Year opens. All the Elks have taken up the task, and as they never fall at anything they undertake, there should be no doubt of their success, but they should have the aid of every Eastern Business Office—Verres & Conkn. Brunswick building, New York: Verree
Conklin. Steger building, Chicago: San
arket street.

but they should have the aid of every
good citizen. Those persons who are
not already enrolled in the Red Cross
should not wait to be asked, but
should seek out a canyasser and give should seek out a canvasser and give their names and subscriptions.

The United States is the fortunate brother among the warring nations, for all those in Europe have had hos tile armies in their soil, killing and destroying. They have endured it for nearly three years and a half, while we have been only to a limited extent in the war for nine months. It therebecomes our duty to help the suffering among our allies by giving to the Red Cross. Upon that nobl institution our soldiers and sailors trenches.

Then a strong pull should be made today to enroll 100,000 members for Portland and 240,000 for all Oregon that the state may maintain its record for always being first and that the old year may be finished with a good deed.

IMPORTANCE OF DISTANCE IN WAR One of the main reasons why the allies have made their principal attack on the Germans along the Franco When the United States entered the Belgian front is strikingly illustrated war it found that Great Britain was by a map and table of distances pubwith tries, leaving the remainder at the tum that "the basis of all strategy is mercy of New York's one thousand the study of communications," we find speculative brokers. The latter had that on the western front the allies are near an equality with the Germans as regards distance from their base, while German troops sent from it higher, to their own profit and to Lille to attack the Italians on the Isonzo had to travel 700 miles against 860 miles traveled by the British from Arras. The Germans have the same advantage in going to Trentino, for the distance from Colmar is only 340 miles against 500 miles to be traveled by the French from Belfort.

When the Macedonian front is con sidered, the advantage is still more on the side of the Germans. A German troop train can go straight through from Lille to the Greek frontier, a distance of 1350 miles, while French troops must go by rail to Marseilles, to be transferred to steamer, sail to a railroad to reach the front, the miles, with two transfers and with a voyage of 1500 miles through seas

infested with submarines. Not until we come to Palestine and Mesopotamia do distances approach from Lille for the Germans, and the Bosphorus at Constantinople and anbreach of faith. He ascribes the Arras, the British going by rail to shortage in the Northeastern states to these shipments, though the actual cause is lack of cars and ships. The with the coast, it shortens the discharge that the coast of the coast, it shortens the discharge that the coast of with the coast, it shortens the dis tance until they reach Aleppo and quately support, say, not more than Alexandretta. If the main Mesopoout sugar at many times, and at other tamia army should then effect a june tion with the Palestine army and if where, with the mild ited to two pounds. They understand the advance should be continued westthe situation and accept it in a pa- ward near the Mediterranean coast of shows that The Oregonian erred. Can triotic spirit, needing no such cham- Asia Minor, the British would shorten pion as Mr. Spreckels. Reduction of their own line of communication in American consumption to 70 per cent the same proportion as they shorten which can give only three or four suffi-

that of the enemy. The disparity in distance from the west to Samara, on the British front in Mesopotamia, is greatly in favor of Germany, for it is 6960 miles from Arras for the British and only 4940 miles from Lille for the Germans. But the British turn the scale heavily in their favor by employing chiefly Inof the Tigris, being only 2100 miles. Other reasons for concentrating the attack on Germany in the west are vaded territory, from which the Gerthe war; there the allies are in the

that there is the most valuable inmans draw coal and iron to carry or best position to invade Germany and cripple their most powerful enemy by depriving him of the coal and iron of of the latter incidentally profit, it can- Lorraine and Westphalia; and there is the shortest line of travel for troops and supplies from the United States and Canada. By wearing down Germany's main force there and by driving it back into Germany, they can force withdrawal of troops from other fronts until their armies in Italy, Macedonia and Turkey can take the offensive in confidence of uninter-

rupted victory. The end would be hastened how ever, if the alliance were provided with such abundance of ships that it could begin an earlier offensive on the more distant fronts. Then there would be a prospect of cutting the Teutor empires off from Turkey and Bulgaria, putting the two latter countries out of business and carrying help to Rou-Plenty of ships would make mania. possible a simultaneous offensive on all fronts which would foil the German game of shuttling troops from one point of danger to another. Nothing else can neutralize Germany's advantage of shorter lines of communication.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE SUN. English physicists have made enprogress, as a result of rewar began, have recently been fosa disgruntled sugar refiner, tered by the Government under the pressure of necessity, and the pessimistic tone of the original commenin leading medical colleges that "so ducted on a small and academic scale, far as the adult population is con- and the outcome will be watched with matter of fact, people got along com- that will bear an outlay large in pro-

feel the effect on the hair of the head, as of a cobweb on the face. These outward manifestations, however, do not explain the forces which are at work. It is not yet known whether work. It is not yet known whether

causes the crop to multiply. by clouds. There are plenty of cloudy days in the locality in which the work good? is being done.

must chiefly rely for care of the sick \$300 a year, will restrict its use, but as he says, been "ministering for forty and wounded, and for comforts when it should be borne in mind that the years to the needs of various groups This cost would be greatly reduced in offers this pointed assertion: he vicinity of cheap water power. The value of the entire enterprise, lowever, probably does not lie so much in the actual food it will pro duce in the coming year as in the fact that it appears to have stepped upon the threshold of an important physical discovery. We appear to be only on the outer margin of our understanding of the chemistry of air and sunlight and electricity, and the industrial life of the world.

WHY HAS RURAL CHURCH GONE BACK? no one would disagree with its moderate observations on the rural church and its decline, the other day, for its and the communities to information was from the common served. and its conclusions were exactly in churches dying or nearly dead. accord with the available reports and findings of qualified and earnest inagreement with the Cuban planters total distance from Arras being 2190 there is a certain credit to be given \$1,577,000,000. to the opinions and statements of any and service are, presumably, qualified of production. to discuss a subject exactly related to their own life occupation. If five from Lille for the Germans, and the clergymen cannot tell us what is the journey requires a transfer across the matter with the rural church, who These clerks come in the can't was a constanting of the can't was a con cept the counter assertion of the skilled labor, and organization of can? We are not quite content to accordance with the agreement, and they where there is a gap in the Bagdad protesting clergyman that there is workmen under that classification is could not have been withheld without railroad. Gaza is 2500 miles from nothing the matter. Clearly there is.

four or five." Attention is invited to the letter of Dr. Cline, printed elsequery as to whether there is anything therein that there be any warrant for twelve churches in a towir or community cient nourishment, be it financial, spiritual, or social? Our critic, indeed, does not directly say so; yet that is the whole purport of his argu-

ment. There is no sound analogy between the present condition of the rural school and the rural church. not at all a correct statement that the any other nation which makes precountry school languishes as the country church does, and for the same reasons. Let us take a trip into the Willamette Valley, say, and report what we see. It will be that the district schools as a rule have a thrifty look, while the adjacent churches are in Portland next year. neglected, unkempt, and often abandoned. There is at least one community where the church has been given up wholly, and the meetings of several denominations are held in the tion. schoolhouse, just across the road. The reason is, of course, that the school building is neat, clean and comfortrepair, and it takes money, which the neighborhood can ill afford, to make t habitable and comfortable. The taxpayer, of course, supports the one, and volunteers the other. Yet the more like the end of militarism. noney for the one is ungrudgingly provided; and for the other, not so Why is that? Doubtless it is because the community feels that it is getting service from the one.

has not got it from the other, at least in that instance. The rural church has suffered greatly from the great industrial movement to the cities. In pioneer days it was a flourishing institution, supplying genuine need, and responsive to the wants, thoughts, moods and longings of its members and patrons. Those were the days of the circuit rider, of rugged and even stentorian leadership. and of genuine consecration by preachers and laity. But a change came, with familiar change of conditions, and the rural church went back. At the same time, we are told, the rural school lost ground. If so, it has surely regained it, by methods which good men and women now think should be

applied to revival of the church The district school has in many cases given way to the union school, county unites to build and maintain a the high school. Where there was ona single room, now there are several rooms, with a staff of teachers. The standards of instruction have unquestionably been raised, for there tators has given place to one of ros- better equipment, better paid teachers shortage with alarm because they be- eate optimism. The British Depart- and a far more diligent general interlieve that it will have a serious effect ment of Agriculture has installed a est among pupils. There is a recor upon health will be quieted by a large plant at the Hereford station, of a union school, to which the pupils were taken by the carry-all, where there was but a single instance of tardiness in ten years. cerned, sugar is not essential." As a interest wherever crops are grown the young scholar would be called for was a great stimulus to the practice of promptness.
So it is true that the problem

cording to a writer in the Electrical rural school is being solved, because Experimenter, who has seen the plant it has been adapted to the require in operation. Spring wheat, barley, ments of the community. It is hard oats and clover have been sown, and to understand why there should be the pendence upon sugar is largely habit. the method adopted is to string wires slightest resentment against an en-In response to the contention of pa-over the field, supporting them on deavor, from the inside, by friendly rents that their children cannot be short poles, giving room for loaded hands, to reorganize the rural church. rents that their children cannot be short poles, giving room for loaded hands, to reorganize the rural church. persuaded to eat sufficient quantities of porridge if they are deprived of their accustomed sweetening, the medical content of the superscience of the supersci One who walks beneath the wires can there are many gates to heaven, and tion seriously that currants and raisins feel the effect on the hair of the head, that the member of one denomination

> Now, we have no thought at all of it is so-called "ionization" of the at- trampling on anyone's sectarian toes, mosphere, or something else, which and it is not necessary, in the plan causes the crop to multiply. of a federated church which is now Concurrent experiments conducted finding acceptance, for any one to unby a private owner of vegetable gar- denominationalize himself. In a comdens in Wales have led Sir Thomas E. munity too poor to sustain a single Roberts to believe that the effect of organization, it ought to be easy for electricity upon the soil is chiefly to all sects, or several of them, to agree promote nitrification so essential to to hold services and to do social work and the farmer who has not yet moved the well-being of the plant. The dark together. In a single place in Illinois to town, when Sunday comes, takes green tissue and the building up of six denominations—Wesleyan, Metho-his damily in an automobile and in a new cellular tissue are regarded as dist, Methodist Episcopal, Episcopal, few minutes runs to the city to church, where they hear good preaching, good evidences of greater vigor. In some Christian, Baptist and Seventh Day way which we do not yet understand Adventist-formally united in a union the electrical current supplements the church. The organization, it is resun, but not the light of the sun. It ported, consisted simply of the electron of two deacons, and a committee rent was supplied on bright days its of three to engage a pastor or supply effect was actually detrimental. Best for the pulpit, and an agreement to results have been obtained by its em- take the Holy Scriptures as the only ployment just before dawn and just rule of faith and practice, and Chrisafter sunset on sunny days, and on tian character the test of fellowship. other days when the sun is obscured This plan has stood the test of forty-

Cost of the permanent plant, which friends will be interested in the testiis estimated at \$1500 for twenty-four mony of a preacher, Dr. Charles B. acres, and of maintenance, another Taylor, of McArthur, Ohio, who has, maintenance figures are based upon of country churches among the hills electricity produced with coal as fuel of Southwestern Ohio." Dr. Taylor Dr. Taylor

The first thing to do is to get the church at large awake to the need of centralization of country churches. The present condition of these churches is a weeful waste of the Lord's money, the labors of his ministers and the energies of his people. It is a detriment to the spiritual life of the country communities and a hindrance to the upbuilding of the kingdom of God in the souls of men. Whenever the church is ready awake to these truths, we will find a way to centralize.

A way is being found. The Ore work so modestly begun in England gonian is told that the Interdenomimay not unreasonably be expected to national Committee in Oregon is makdevelop into something fraught with ing decided headway. A part of the momentous consequences to the entire plan is to agree that competition shall be eliminated where there is room for one and not for two. In some cases, one denomination will give way, in The Oregonian had supposed that other cases another. So, in this way, there will be a better chance for the denominations as a whole to prosper, A live church anywhere is church organization fund of knowledge and experience, surely better than no church, or two

How great a flood of wealth is be vestigators, both denominational and ing accumulated by the farmers can non-denominational. But we hear to-day from a well-known clergyman that The Oregonian is mistaken, that day from a well-known clergyman the aggregate value of this year's that The Oregonian is mistaken, that crops with those of former years. The little or nothing is to be done about total of \$21,000,000,000 would pay the it, and that the committee of five entire cost of the war and the Gov-churches which made the Lane County ernment for the year ending next survey, and offered certain well-de- June, and is \$6,500,000,000 more than fined and well-matured remedies, do not speak with authority, but were \$4.659,000,000, compared with \$2,296. "self-constituted." We shall not argue 000.000 for 1916, \$1,723,000,000 in that point, beyond the suggestion that 1915, and an average for five years of \$1,577,000,000. The wheat crop is worth \$1,320,000,000, an increase of body of men who are of good public \$294,235,000 over 1916. The increase of repute, and who by their professions in value far exceeds increase in cost in value far exceeds increase in cost

The union of railway mail clerks

Oregon lives up to its record by small sums, which is a hint how the total for war savings certificates can be rolled up.

There is no getting away from the income tax. Employers will be required to report payments of more than \$800 to any one during 1917. If Harriman and Hill could have

seen the power which McAdoo wields as a railroad king, they would have English army (two already killed) felt like very small kinglets. The Germans have a grudge against

tense of culture, so they try to destroy the evidence with bombs If Judge Rossman continues to imose fines at the present rate, there

with less labor must apply to the dian custom and wear badges repre county agent for advice and instruc-

which are not directly injured by war home. able, while the other place is out of are shaken by the convulsions of na-

> If Count Czernin really wants peace he will speak in a voice that sounds With a 10 per cent increase in pay

> all Northern Pacific employes will consider it a happy New Year. Don't worry; Winter may stray

> across the Rocky Mountains about the time when Spring is due. If you do not wear a Red Cros button today it will not be a happy

New Year tomorrow. If you are waiting for "a cold day" to begin something, start now. It may come at any time.

Government will reduce the number in the cars.

it tomorrow. Suppose the Oregon troops were at Camp Mills now, with temperatures in a necessary agricultural enterprise below zero?

Done anything to anybody during

the year that is closing today? Square

It's "auto polish" now in Seattle, his local board. Failure to report is and by and by may be embalming punishable by one year's imprisonment. fluid.

What the East needs is two fuel administrators working overtime. Honolulu is asking for prohibition Port Said next, may be.

Thermometers in the East indicat a shrinkage in mercury.

"Fat" contracts go with war, de

Dr. Cline Decries Proposal That Rural

Worshippers Unite. PORTLAND, Dec. 30 .- (To the Edtor.)-The Oregonian's editorial December 26 on the decline of the rural to hit the mark.
As a matter of fact, the country

to his neighbor, who buys everything joining him. This process has been going on for years in every Northern state and in California and Oregon. Country schools, once vigorous and crowded with children, are now aban-doned, or reduced to only a few pupils. In the meantime the church comes in for its share of the same fate. The old constituency of membership is gone, where they hear good preaching, good singing and stay for the well-organized Sunday school. This practically comblame' As to there being too many churches

the towns, something may be said both sides. While the survey at Eugene a year or two since, compose of self-constituted critics, is quoted by The Oregonian as conclusive, it is well to remember that one swallow does five years. Who will say it is not not make a Summer. Critics who ex-good?

Doubtless some of our doubting evidently to find fault with it, especially in church matters, are only a bunch of pharisteal dyspeptics. This writer had had 40 years, and

more, observation and work among the smaller churches in country and town, and the principal aim among them, ad-mitting that there may in some places be too many, is not proselyting mem-bers from others, but unselfish useful-ness, sympathy and harmony with their neighbors. In most blaces in Summer months all these churches unite in the evening service, the pastors taking turns in preaching. Instead of induig-ing in jesious rivalry and hatred, every one of them is trying with Intelligent one of them is trying with intelligent fidelity to do its work in its own way— work that one big organization (usu-ally filled more or less with drones) could by no means accomplish; and nearly all this talk at Chautauquas and by the press about "waste of effort and money" is without foundation in fact. Nor is it fair to require of these churches to furnish amusement to com-pets with the village dance or country dance hall, which requires neithe daylight, space, nor choice of associa

tion.

Nor must the fact be lost sight of that these different church organiza-tions administer to the different tem-peraments of the people where they are, far more effectively than could one big

It is well known that nothing is exactly the same to any two persons; and it is well that it is so. Religious views and religious experience differ in different people. The ox does not view a sunset with the same appreciaoften is. So there are people in every community, like the Methodists for in-stance, whose richness and intensity of emotion appeal to persons of singu-lar temperament; while others, equally and useful in all the walks of think the ordinance of baptising administered in a certain mechanical way is the only door to the sheepfold. It is only waste and folly to attempt to make the two types into one. It cannot be done, and the money expended in maintaining a church for each supplies an actual need in every community, and who shall say the money thus used might not be spent for far less profitable things?

Nor is this all. Instead of engender-ing ill-will in the members of one of these churches against another, they, by laudable competition in good works skilled labor, and organization of are growing the best material for the contesting clergyman that there is not him the matter. Clearly there is not open to criticism. There is much not open to criticism. seldom a young minister of the gospel more than doubling its quota of the war library fund. It came mostly in small sums, which is a hint how the of them in one little town, too many you say; and yet it is here the best men are grown, like the tall Oregon fir that shoots up straight trees for ship

timbers in this our time of need. C. E. CLINE. British Service Badge.

PORTLAND, Dec. 30.—(To the Editor.)—I am a British subject and have an uncle and six cousins serving in the permissible for me to wear or hang in the window a service flag, or does i apply to Americans only.
A BRITISH SUBJECT.

The service flags made of our National colors and displayed in this country represent, with their stars, men in the United States Army. While it is improbable that anyone would will be many very careful motorists object to your displaying a service flag to represent your relatives in the Brit. ish army, it would be more appropriate The farmer who would plant more for you to follow the English and Canasenting the British contingents in which you have relatives serving. The considered just or equitable until the enlisted men can obtain and send the company is required to cut out all use Those countries, like Guatemala, badges to members of their families at

> Enlistment of Canadian. SALEM, Or., Dec. 29 .- (To the Editor.)-I have a wife and four small

children; wife and myself born in Can-ada; lived in United States nine years; children born in this country; have never applied for citizenship. (1) Can be conscripted in the British army or Canadian army? (2) Could I enlist parallel lines on First. Second. Third. in U. S. Army? READER.

(1) No. (2) If you are of registration age and expressly relinquish claim of exemption on the ground of alienage you will be classified as though you were a citizen of the United States. acceptability for immediate military duty would depend upon whether your family is mainly dependent on your labor for support.

When Registrant Changes Occupation HALSEY, Or., Dec. 29 .- (To the Ed-Government will reduce the number itor.)—Suppose a man fills out his of one motorman and run at greater of trains, but must put more straps questionnaire and returns it as a farm-intervals. Instead of the Public Server, can he engage in any other occu-pation, or does he have to remain a farmer? Some say he can't.

If he has been given a deferred classification on the ground of engagement he may change his occupation, but mus report such change within five days to After change of status has been reported the board may on its own motion proceed to a reclassification.

Stage Hero Wanted.

London Ideals.
Officer—Do you know anyone lodging here named Romeo Binks?
Maid—Yes, sir, 'E's playin' the 'ero at the Theater Royal in "Simpkins the Officer-Well, you go and tell him Charles D. Hilles.
he's wanted for dodging military President Wilson's secretary is Joseph

SPECIAL NEED FOR EACH CHURCH UNITY IS DEEMED IMPOSSIBLE No Unnecessary Church Will Consen-

to Elimination, Says Writer. SILVERTON, Or., Dec. 29,-(To the churches you say "there is no economic church and too many churches in the justification for 12 churches in a place small towns, while ably written, falls which can adequately support not more than four or five." Ah! "there's the rub. What four or five would it be? of the dozen look upon the other 11 as spurious, or at least not possessed of true religion, pure and undefiled.

The Baptists and other believers in immersion view with concern those who think they can get to heaven by sprin-kling. The Protestants think the Cathkling. olics the biggest humbug on the face of the earth, and the Catholics share the

same opinion of the Protestants.

To show the fellowship and feeling that exists among the faithful, our town has just had a case in point. A disciple of Pastor Russell advertised a free lecture explaining how the Bible and the Misses Cornelius and Terry.

foretold the present world war. One of our clergymen immediately posted Church, at Seventh and Yambill, wa of our clergymen immediately posted the following notice: "Another pious fraud coming to our already over-churched little city; come to our church frand Sunday night and hear him exposed!" He gave the Itinerant preacher hall Columbia. I will submit, as will all sane people, that we are over-churched, but how to get rid of the surplus is tantalizing question.

There are nearly a dozen churches here. Our militant clergyman's de-nomination has three of them, and each contending the other two are wrong. In the United States this church has 23 offshoots or independent synods, and last Summer an effort was made at St. Paul, Minn., by representatives of these divergent bodies to lay aside their differences—join together and fight the devil under one banner. The effort failed. I believe that any attempt on this line will fail. In this country are 16 Methodist, 15 Baptist, 12 Presby-terian, six Advent, four Reformed, four Dunkard and four Brethren bodies, nine faith associations, and some dozen more with two or three branches, be-sides others that are still intact.

Altogether there are more than 169 different Christian bodies in the United

States.
So there is no doubt that the superfluous church is here, but it is it to be a hard job to eliminate her. jurors will necessarily be drawn from their own congregations and each will vote unanimously to eliminate the oth-er fellow. The trial will naturally end in a draw-failed to agree-and there you are, right where you started, with a whole lot of hard work and hard words for nothing

OSCAR REDFIELD,

cents for standing room?

The streetcar hog is abroad in the city, or more noticeably since the car service has been curtailed. Take any car on the Union-avenue line from 6:30 to 7:30 in the morning and you will find from six to 20 women going to laundries and factories standing and trying to pull the straps from the car, while the seats are filled with the foreign element, decorated with Red Cross and union buttons.

For the past two months I have not seen a man get up and give his seat to a woman. Really it is amusing and painful to see a big, able-bodled man get a row started. The chivalrous youth must be "somewhere in France."
Some time ago there was a writing and wailing about the Heights car being overloaded—moral influence and all the rest of that talk. That was tame.

of hay baler? In this way a few fares could be added to each trip.
One instance in particular occurred about a week since on an Alberta car. Only one woman passenger and she was tanding. Just think of 32 thing ande in the image and likeness of Go standing. allowing one poor woman who had probably been taken from a good home by another man of their kind and later left with a few children to support, going out into the world to battle for an honest living, while these big hus-kies sat on their haunches and allowed

her the privilege of standing.

In the name of humanity, men, let us wake up. Where are the clubs business men's leagues. Chamber of Commerce committees, vice control en-thusiasts? Guess they all ride in cary and do not see the indignities suffere by the women and children whom mis-fortune has marked and who must patronize the Portland streetcars

Yours for a 5 and 10-cent fare, C. RANK.

Efficiency Expe. Needed. PORTLAND, Dec. 29,- (To the Editor.)-One phase of the street railway question which has not, to my knowl edge, been given due consideration is the elimination of useless lines and less expense. In the hey day of rail-way exploitation these franchises were of such great value that twice as many lines were built as were ever needed, and now that the automobile has made serious inroads into the revenues of the railways one of the first matters that should receive attention is how expenses may be cut down without im-

parallel lines on First, Second, Third, Fifth and Seventh (Bro.dway) streets Two lines would be sufficient and could be so placed that no one would need to walk over 300 yards to reach a car and the other streets would be all the better for team and automobile traffic. Two of the bridges should be unobstructed by carlines and a carefully worked out system of loop and belt lines using the tracks already built could be made to furnish in-finitely better and more convenient service and at a decided saving in maintenance and operating costs. Outlying districts should be served by lines of two or three cars in charge ice Commission granting the increase of fares now so beseechingly asked for, it had better, require the railway company to call in an efficiency engito tell what is the matter and

how to remedy it.
THOMAS S. WILKES, civil Engineer.

Secretaries to Presidents. COOK, Wash., Dec. 29 .- (To the Edi tor.)—In order to settle a dispute please states the names of the private secretaries of ex-Presidents Roosevelt and Taft, and also that of President Wilson. REGULAR SUBSCRIBER.

President Roosevelt's first private secretary was George B, Cortelyou; his second was William Loeb, Jr.

President Taft had three private sec etaries in the order named: Fred W Carpenter, Charles D. Norton and

In Other Days.

Twenty-Five Years Age Editor.)-In your editorial on too many From The Oregonian, December 31, 1892 The rate meeting of all transcontinental lines has been called for Paul, Minn., January 9. It will be wast importance to Portland.

Colonel John Adair, of Astoria, one of the trustees of the projected Goble railway, returned yesterday from New York, where he has been in conference with trustees and the capitalists who are to build the road.

The tuneful opera, "The Pairy Grotto," was produced by local talent last night at the Marquam Grand. Among those who took part were Mrs. (Alisky, Mrs. E. G. Finck, Mrs. Mae Bradley, Olga Bartsch, Lena Hender-son, Emma Fife, Miss May Cook, Agnes Henderson, Mrs. Hellner, C. A. Deane,

The 25th anniversary of the Unitarian Church, at Seventh and Yamhill, was celebrated last night. Rev. T. L. Ellot. pastor during the quarter of a century, made an address, as did Dr. Stratton, president of Portland University, who was present at the dedication of the church

New York.—Dr. Briggs has won a victory. None of the six charges against him have been sustained. The closest vote was on the charge that he had taught that the Bible contained error of history, but he was victorious, 61 to 68, in that. His case will not be appealed to the general assembly, it is

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian, December 31, 1867. Washington.-From information obthe State Department it appears that Minister Hale has for some time been in communication with the Spanish government concerning the Spanish government concerning the purchase of Cuba.

San Francisco.—The most terrific storm that has swept the Pacific in the hast 12 years is now raging. The waves at South Beach ran 10 feet over the wharves.

San Francisco.—The zouaves last night used the butts of their muskets on the crowd at Casserly's reception at the Occidental.

The Salem flouring mill is now making 400 barrels of flour a day.

G. W. Lawson, of Salem, it is learned, intends to move to California. He has good prospects in that state.

The new church of the Unitarian Society was dedicated Sunday afternoon, Rev. T. L. Eliot, assisted by the Revs. Stratton, of the Nethodist Episcopal Church; Anderson, of the Baptist, and Harpending, of the Presbyterian, officially. Regarding the 6-cent fare, why ciating, Mr. Eliot, the new pastor, arnot make fare for seat 10 cents and 5 The new church of the Unitarian Sociating. Mr. Ellot, the new paster rived but a few days ago by boat from St. Louis, Mo. He is quite a young man, but has the reputation of having man, but has the reputation. The buildquite a good deal of talent. The build-ips dedicated stands on the corner of Seventh and Yamhill streets.

Income Tax Exemptions KNAPTON, Wash., Dec. 29.—(To the Editor)—Are United States Senators and United States Representatives exempt from income tax? If so, why Are other Federal officials exempt?

so, who? The following incomes are exempt rom the provisions of the normal inpainful to see a big, able-bodied man walk upon the feet of others in a mad to be at some poor old lady to a seat. There must be a streak of yellow in such a person, for mything you may say to him will not be resented. I have appointed myself a committee of one to better conditions, but to date have not been able to in office, and the compensation of all offices, and employees of a state or officers and employes of a state or any political subdivision thereof, ex-

cept when such compensation is paid by the United States Government The war excess profits tax, which The bridge cars carry 120 on many trips and no one seems to have time to put up a howl.

We had thought of selling a suggestion to Mr. Griffith: Why not take the seats from the cars and use a kind of hav haler? In this way a few faces.

District of Columbia or any local sub-District of Columbia or any local sub-

division thereof. Representatives in Congress and United States Senators come under the exemption of the latter law only.

Mystics Among the Great. SOUTH BEND, Wash., Dec. 28 .- (To the Editor.)—I wish to say a few words in reply to "A Bookworm," whose let-ter was printed in The Oregonian. He prints a terrible picture of persons who devote their time to the study of mysticism. To one who understands it, there is nothing unnatural about it. It is mind power rightly used.

On the other hand, a great deal of socalled mysticism is really psychism or false occuitism, which is unnatural and dangerous as well. Some of the greatest men of all ages

have been mystics, among whom Christ was the most wonderful. Those of modern times were Shakespeare. Bal-rac, Emerson, Walt Whitman—only a few in a long list. Does "Bookworm's" description fit here? Today some of the bighest positions

in the land are occupied by men mys-tics, who necessarily conceal the fact, so as not to be misunderstood by JULIA HOFLER. rant people. Faisified Exemption Claim.

REEDVILLE, Or., Dec. 29.—(To the Editor.)—What is the penalty if a registrant in order to avoid being placed in class I and subject to the draft, laims he supports a wife and family but contributes nothing towards their support, the wife having to maintain herself and small children! A SUBSCRIBER.

He is liable to imprisonment for one

year, loss of valuable rights and priv-

leges, and immediate induction into

the military service. ALDERDALE, Wash., Dec. 29.—(To the Editor.)—What would they do with a registrant who has rheumatism of the heart and hips and can not hardly walk and is in bed three and four days out of a week? He has had it for 24 years. He is a farmer, has stock and farming implements, a grain raiser and is 36 years old, 5 feet 9 inches tall, weight

165 pounds. If the local board finds his physical condition to be as you represent he will be placed in the exempt class.

THE RED CROSS DOLLAR. Let's dis up another dollar For the Red Cross drives; Every shoulder to the collar

In the pull for lives. Who can spend a dollar better, Who shall count a loss

we break a human fetter. Helping the Red Cross? Can a dollar fence our feeling.
While the soil is red
Far from where we sit congealing

Reading of the dead?

Never since that dollar's birthday Was it better spent Than the time it took the pathway To the Red Cross tent.

Let's dig up another dollar For the Red Cross drives; Every shoulder to the collar In the pull for lives/ —E. B. BIRKENBEUEL