

The Oregonian

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Portland, Monday, January 21, 1918.

GO ON OR GO UNDER

News from Russia and from Germany, the latest speeches of President Wilson and President Lloyd George and the speeches of Senator Chamberlain and ex-President Roosevelt should all be read together in order that the American people may clearly understand and perform their duty to themselves and to the allied nations.

The military party is still in the ascendant in Germany. That is proved by the delay of Foreign Minister von Kuehlmann's speech to the Reichstag's main committee, by the reference to Von Hindenburg of all peace proposals to and from Russia, and by the resolutions of the Prussian House of Lords that the right of the Emperor to make war and peace must be safeguarded and that "peace should be commensurate with the sacrifice which has been made for the political and economic independence of the country."

"AN AMERICAN CITIZEN" By his appearance at the senate floor with Theodore Roosevelt, Elliott Root and Representative Julius Kahn, and by his declaration that the military establishment has "fallen down" in its war preparations, Senator Chamberlain has proved the sincerity of his words: "I speak not as a Democrat, but as an American citizen."

There is a letter in another newspaper from one who says the carmen's wages in St. Paul and Minneapolis are higher than in any other city in the country. It is only five cents, Mr. Griffith has stated for the company that the wage scale in Portland is the highest in the country. Is Mr. Griffith mistaken? Again, there is an insurmountable difficulty to formation of a conclusion. The information in the other direction, but one cannot hope to reach a very satisfactory conclusion on that point by merely speculating.

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he warns the country that mere percentages of rejections do not disprove the contention that the standard of the country is lower than it ought to be. The more unfit the total number of candidates are, he points out, the lower the standard will inevitably be. This was illustrated in the time of the Civil War, when the first, second, third and fourth drafts showed great changes in standards, the rejections being respectively 33, 25, 25 and 13 per cent, the difference being obviously not due to any improvement in the physique of men in the intervals between calls. The records of life insurance companies, which are fairly uniform and are not based upon war necessities, Professor Fisher points out, show that some defect exists in 99 per cent of applicants, and indicate that there is enormous neglect of health, "both in respect to entrance and in respect to maintenance," which calls for earnest study and prompt action.

STOP WASTE OF FUEL AND MOTION. Proposals submitted to Director of Railroads McAdoo for transfer of traffic between rail and ship at Portland and Astoria is so thoroughly business-like that there should be small changes in standards, the rejections being respectively 33, 25, 25 and 13 per cent, the difference being obviously not due to any improvement in the physique of men in the intervals between calls. The records of life insurance companies, which are fairly uniform and are not based upon war necessities, Professor Fisher points out, show that some defect exists in 99 per cent of applicants, and indicate that there is enormous neglect of health, "both in respect to entrance and in respect to maintenance," which calls for earnest study and prompt action.

WHY NOT THREE-CENT FARE? There is ground for fear that restoration of jitney traffic at this time would not affect the price of city transportation. The only reason jitneys do not now run is that they must operate under franchise regulations and carry insurance for the protection of their patrons. To get the jitneys back the regulations must be eliminated, and if regulations are eliminated there will be no power to fix their fares and they, too, may charge 3 cents.

FOOD COMMISSIONER AYER IS RIGHT about the little dairy. To put it out of business will endanger children. Every mother knows the bottled baby cannot be fed indiscriminately. The infant raised "by hand" has a poor prospect at best, and whatever helps must be encouraged.

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for a time. Then when we began to develop our air campaign, it was found that total stocks in the country would meet only a fraction of the demand, and no really efficient substitute has been found. The castor bean grown on the rich black lands of the South produces nearly 50 percent of its weight in oil, is planted and cultivated much after the manner of corn, and yields a succession of crops until it is destroyed by the frosts of Autumn. Necessity of looking far ahead in preparation for war is shown by the fact that the country has been compelled to send abroad for seed to assure even a partial crop of beans during the coming year.

PUT ON THE FORMER JITNEY BASIS The streets would pay no bridge tolls, it would be allowed those machine guns and cartridges to reach that little island of neutrality in a sea of war. Some American soldiers might have been shot with American bullets from American guns. The government does not suspect that the Dutch government would let the gun go to Germany, but there are smugglers in Holland, and they do a thriving business. Besides, we need those guns.

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HOW RED CROSS IS ORGANIZED President of Society is Woodrow Wilson, Elected by General Board. MILTON, Or., Jan. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly give me the names of the National officers of the American Red Cross. Are they elected or appointed?

MR. WILLIAM S. AHERN. The elective officers of the American National Red Cross consist of president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary and all other officers are elected by the general board of the American Red Cross at its annual meeting. Such officers hold office for one year and until their successors are appointed and qualified. The National officers of the Red Cross were elected December 12 at the Willard Hotel at the annual meeting of the general board. They are: Woodrow Wilson, president; Robert W. deForest, vice-president; John Skelton Williams, secretary; Phillip Porter, treasurer; Dr. Stockton Axson, secretary.

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WRITER DENIES JUSTIFICATION OF SCOTTISH RAID ON PATRIOTIC GROUNDS. PORTLAND, Jan. 20.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian prints a communication from Lue F. Vernon, in which he apologizes for the raid and destruction of the Pigott printing plant of Seattle on January 5 by 28 sailors, led by two civilians. The excuse for the wrecking of this plant was that it published the Daily Call, an alleged seditious paper.

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In Other Days. Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of Jan. 21, 1893. Fremont, O.—The last day of the year 1892, Mr. Rutherford B. Hayes, who had slept beneath a mantle of snow by the side of the devoted companion of his life.

Spokane—The contract for the Great Northern shops in this city was let this afternoon. The contract price is \$30,000 and the construction of six buildings is provided for, to cover 40 acres.

The Dalles—The mercury has hardly risen above the freezing point since the heavy snowfall of December 19, and for a month stores and other places of business have closed their doors at 7 P. M.

At a special meeting of the water committee yesterday it was decided to advertise for bids for the construction of the Bull Run pipe line.

There was ice sufficient for skating on Lake Columbia yesterday. Col. Sullivan and Sullivan's Gulch, but it was hardly strong enough to be safe. A number of persons were out, however.

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian of Jan. 21, 1868. The stepmother of Abraham Lincoln still lives near Farmington, Calaveras County, Illinois. She is 93 years old and still contains two rooms. Aunt Sally Lincoln, as the villagers call her, is now 80 years old and is very feeble.

New York—John Jacob Astor died today in his 64th year.

The old Winter King seems to be frolicking decidedly strong these days, and his olden days are not so dreary as one would imagine. The freezing wind will come from the northeast and when a change may be expected has not been telegraphed.

Several persons are reported as having broken through the ice on Saturday for skating on the Columbia river. Prudence while skating on or crossing the river.

ETHICS IN FOOD AND DRUGS. One feature of the recent annual report of the United States Department of Agriculture which deserves emphasis is its record of the development of ethical standards for correcting long-standing abuses in the food and drug industries. The Federal food and drug act of June 30, 1906 has been in operation practically a decade, and opposition to the enforcement of the law in principle has practically died out. The great gain to the public has lain in the fact that it has obtained protection previously regarded as im-

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