

The Oregonian

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THE MAN, NOT THE SYSTEM.

Contrary to general belief the fuel crisis is not due to decreased production of coal, says the Financial Chronicle, for there was an actual increase of 60,000,000 tons in 1917 over 1916.

It is not that the man in charge has been so incompetent, but that the system has broken down. The reason is that the man in charge had proved that he knows his business. It is too early to say that Government operation of railroads has broken down.

LET'S HAVE SINCERITY. It strikes one as a cruel thing to encourage persons of moderate means who live in Montavilla and similar outlying districts to believe that they can get relief from the 6-cent fare by supporting restoration of jitney traffic.

PLAN THE GARDEN NOW. The moderate weather now being experienced in the Northwest gives point to the advice of the United States Department of Agriculture to all who contemplate cultivating a home garden during the coming season to begin work now.

NOT ORGANIZED FOR WAR. Every change made in the organization of the Nation's fighting departments is designed to promote co-ordination, but efforts at that desirable end have failed in every instance.

HELP FOR THE FARMER. Secretary Baker is said to have under consideration a plan for releasing soldiers for work on the farms, after they have received preliminary training in the cantonments and have shown a degree of efficiency which it is believed will not be seriously impaired by leave.

Address of Retired Officer. PORTLAND, Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly advise whether there is a way of finding the whereabouts of any retired United States Army officer?

Old Song Is Traced. MONTESANO, Wash., Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—Please say who wrote the song, "Break the News to Mother," and what year it was written.

Neutral With First Papers. PORTLAND, Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—With only the first paper, will a person who has been out how many days to draft in the Army? A. STUM.

LENIENCY WITH WAR OFFENDERS.

It Must Give Place to Capital Punishment for Spies and Traitors. PORTLAND, Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—A military juggernaut, dominated utterly by one unholly purpose, finds no insuperable obstacles in soldierly democracy.

Twenty-five cities of the United States, by destructive methods employed in the handling of their garbage, waste an enormous amount of material which could be used advantageously now.

Effect of the fuel shutdown in the East is shown in graphic style by the Chicago Herald. A calendar for February is published with all idle dates cancelled, which on Sunday advanced the four Mondays on which factories are to be idle.

That two steamships loaded with ammunition cleared for Copenhagen in December does not speak well for the vigilance of New York port authorities. There is no report, however, of remaining destination, and perhaps the Germans did not profit.

The magic formula 16 to 1 appears again, but now the sixteen are German airplanes brought down, and the one is a British aircraft. If the British keep up that ratio they will leave little work for the American aviators.

At least Senator Chamberlain has stirred Secretary Baker into action against cruel Army doctors who let sick soldiers die of neglect. Doubtless they are few, but they should be weeded out without delay.

Timberworkers Who Understand Question Oppose It at This Time. HILLSBORO, Or., Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—What has the Northwest done those who occupy the seats of the mighty, that the lumber interests should be given the full time every day.

Eight-Hour Day Is Inopportune. PORTLAND, Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—What has the Northwest done those who occupy the seats of the mighty, that the lumber interests should be given the full time every day.

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WOMEN CALLED ON TO PROTEST.

Soldier's Mother Would Back Chamberlain in Fight for Betterments. CASTLE ROCK, Wash., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Permit me to say a few words as a "silent patriot" and mother of an only son who enlisted in Battery B of Oregon, 147th Field Artillery, 61st Division, as a volunteer, at the age of 20 years.

Secretary of War Baker says there had been a few cases, but they had been remedied. How do we know but he might be mistaken or misinformed. Just as he was when on the witness stand? He said that all soldiers were fully equipped.

Appeal for Classification. BUXTON, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—I am of draft age, am employed in a mill cutting lumber for the United States Government.

Knit! Knit! Knit! Oh, Betty, my wife, The star of my life, Is knitting for soldier boys; For morning till night, She knits herself, quite, Knitting for soldier boys.

Rank in Army and Navy. EDDYBURGH, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Please publish the names of the officers in their order of rank, both in the Army and Navy.

Weight of Soldiers. SHERWOOD, Or., Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—Please publish the names of the officers in their order of rank, both in the Army and Navy.

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IN OTHER DAYS.

Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian January 28, 1893. Seattle.—Mrs. Minnie E. Yeager, Dr. J. Eugene Jordan and Dr. H. Martin Van Buren were arrested at 5 o'clock yesterday morning on a charge of stealing and concealing the will of the late Henry Yeager, millionaire pioneer and husband of the first-named prisoner.

Washington.—James G. Blaine died this morning shortly before 11 o'clock. He had been sick a long time and the end was quiet and peaceful.

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian January 28, 1868. A late Danish newspaper says of the treaty between that country and ours that the substance of the sale and the contract concluded is the sale of all the islands of the North Pacific, but however, having a right of pre-emption to St. Croix, the sale of that island is dependent on said right not being enforced.

The Alert made an attack on the ice in the river yesterday and opened the river from Albany to Portland. Ex-Governor Gibbs will deliver a lecture on railroads this evening at Oregon City.

Why Some Dogs Are Worthless. Trainer Must Have More Sense Than the Dog, Is Secret of It. TURNER, Or., Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—I used to know an old sheep man who had a number of dogs.

The Midnight Train. Whining wheels, oh! shining wheels, Rolling your way o'er gleaming steels, Into the darkness, under the light of Speeding, unheeding, into the night— Precious the cargo that follows along, Some lot of sorrowing, some with a song.

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