

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1918.

LOSS OF THE TUSCANY

The sinking of the Tuscania with its loss of life at the very time when the American people were reviewing the first year of unrestrained submarine war and were congratulating themselves that the fight with the U-boat is not yet won.

But the shock of this blow should not permit us to overestimate its importance. We must keep in mind the fact that the Tuscania is the first loaded transport to be sunk, though we have been sending troops to France for more than eight months.

The fact still remains that unrestrained submarine war has been waged by Germany for a year to February 1, and it has not won. It was to have reduced Great Britain to submission in three, or at most six, months, but that country is now the backbone of the democratic alliance.

Just what did the submarines accomplish in the last year? Estimating tonnage where official reports give only numbers of ships aboard, or certain categories where more exact reports are not brought down to the end of the submarine year, the Germans have destroyed about 6,500,000 net tons of allied and neutral ships.

This is only a little more than half the total destruction which the Germans predicted, for their government boasted that it would sink a million tons a month. Not only has it failed by nearly one-third to make good its boast for the entire year; it falls far short every month.

On the views of a mossback. We have with us today a respected brother of one of the church denominations at Forest Grove who is complaining at the proposal of temporary minor peace negotiations in that city and who intimates that ulterior motives are the impelling force of the movement.

Most encouraging, too, is the assurance of Mr. Eric Geddes, First Lord of the British Admiralty, that the submarine is "held in check" by the allied navies as steadily gaining in the war on it, so that the number sunk or captured equals equals Ger-

many's output of U-boats. Significant of the large part which the American Navy and American invention have played in producing this result is the fact that, since the quarter ending June 1917, when our destroyers got into action, there has been a steady decrease in sinkings of merchantmen and a steady increase in sinkings of submarines. The depth bomb and other new American devices are proved successes, and perseverance with an enlarged fleet of destroyers and with a growing supply of these devices should clear the sea of the lurking murderers in another year.

Many hints come from Germany that defeat of the U-boat is realized there, with the allied nations are grudgingly bearing their privations, the people of the central empires suffer more intensely through the shutting off of American supplies which formerly leaked through neutral countries.

HOW TO GIVE CONFIDENCE. The New York World, an outright supporter of the National Administration, and without any personal bias, critic of Senator Chamberlain, nevertheless offers the following judgment on the methods of mystery and secrecy which have prevailed in war preparation and operation:

There is one lesson that the War Department should learn from the unfortunate episode, which is the necessity for war publicity and for taking the American people into confidence. Confidence in their government in all matters that are not unduly military secrets, everything that is of the nature of a secret, should be told long ago.

THE WAR IS SOMETHING BESIDES A MILITARY PROCESS. It is a political and social evolution. It is quite as necessary to have united, enthusiastic, effective and comprehending support at home as it is to devise sound strategy, and to fight with a well-equipped Army abroad.

CHOKEDNESS DOESN'T PAY. Homer P. Ford, defaulting bookkeeper, pleaded guilty to the theft of \$12,000 from his Portland employers, adding nothing new to the sum of human experience when he said, in confessing his crime:

BOHEMIA AS A REPUBLIC. To the extent which the expression of sympathy by Washington with the revolution in Bohemia gives encouragement to the promoters of the republic of Bohemia, dismemberment of Austria-Hungary will be advanced and the cause of the central powers weakened.

INVENTIVE GENIUS HAS PRODUCED A DEVICE THAT THROWS OFF HEAT BY ELECTRICAL ENERGY. Just the thing when conserving fuel. Costs more, of course, but it is one of the penalties of being alive.

Disasters are certainties, not chances, and must be expected to happen. If you don't like Oregon, go East and freeze.

STUMPS FOR FUEL. There is a chance for some inventor of practical turn of mind to devise a method of reducing stumps to "stove lengths," so that they may be used as fuel in this time of shortage and high prices.

WITH OPEN EYES. Over and over it is said that America does not realize that it is in the war. It is not true, America realizes fully.

PERSECUTION OF LONG STANDING. Armenian Massacres of Other Days Are Text of Poem of Protest. Apropos of the drive for \$75,000 for the starving Armenians, now on in Portland, the poem, "New Dark Days," by Edward Seeger, an Armenian poet of considerable note, written in 1877, concerning the disarming and subsequent massacres of the Armenians by the Turks, is of significant interest:

THE FOREHEAD PURE, THE SACRED VELL OF THE ARMENIAN MAID. Shall her hands touch and hell's hot breath.

TO SAVE OUR FLAG. It's a meatless bone and whetless bread; It's a headless stove and a shellless head.

CONGRESSMAN AND INCOME TAX. TACOMA, Wash., Feb. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly advise me whether Representatives and United States Senators are exempt from the income tax law.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENTARY LAW. ASTORIA, Or., Feb. 6.—(To the Editor.)—To settle a point of parliamentary law, please let me know if nominations for officers are organized by ballot or by a vote of the members.

PAY IN FOREIGN SERVICE. ASTORIA, Or., Feb. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me if the 29 per cent increase of pay for foreign service is for enlisted men only, or for both enlisted men and officers.

UNCLAIMED FREIGHT. PORTLAND, Feb. 7.—(To the Editor.)—Is there a law governing the length of time a railroad company has to keep unclaimed freight before offering it for sale, and if so, how long?

FEDERATION IS NOT PROBABLE. Correspondent Tells of Difficulties Confronting Forest Grove Churches. FOREST GROVE, Or., Feb. 6.—(To the Editor.)—I lack the facile pen of the writer who so glibly set across the path in the realm of fact in a recent article concerning the federation of the churches in Forest Grove.

IDEALISTIC IS NOT OBTAINABLE. Word Itself Cannot Be Defined for Practical Purposes, Says Writer. VANCOUVER, Wash., Feb. 6.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian prints a letter regarding the "Realm of Myriad" in the "New Dark Days," which says, "Too much idealism is a danger to be guarded against. No no truer words were ever written."

ARMENIA! "Am I, then, my brother's keeper?" 'Tis a question old and gray, Used by every sort of slacker everywhere.

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