The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON.

Entered at Portland (Oregon) Postoffice as second-class mail matter.

Subscription rates—invariably in advance.

(By Mail.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$8.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months	4.25
Daily, Sunday included, three months	2.25
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	6.00
Daily, without Sunday, six months	3.25
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.60
Weekly, one year	1.00
Sunday, one year	2.50
Sunday and weekly	2.50

(By Carrier.)

Daily, Sunday included, one year	$9.00
Daily, Sunday included, one month	.75
Daily, without Sunday, one year	7.80
Daily, without Sunday, three months	1.75
Daily, without Sunday, one month	.65

How to Remit—Send postoffice money order, express or personal check on your local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at owner's risk. Give postoffice address in full, including county and state.

Postage Rates—12 to 16 pages, 1 cent; 18 to 32 pages, 2 cents; 34 to 48 pages, 3 cents; 50 to 60 pages, 4 cents; 62 to 76 pages, 5 cents; 78 to 92 pages, 6 cents. Foreign postage, double rates.

Eastern Business Office—Verree & Conklin, Brunswick building, New York; Verree & Conklin, Steger building, Chicago; Verree & Conklin, Free Press building, Detroit, Mich.; San Francisco representative, R. J. Bidwell, 742 Market street.

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MARCH 7 1918.

ANOTHER SHORT STEP FORWARD.

Although President Wilson condemned Congressional investigations of war organization as having "contributed a great deal to such delay and confusion as had inevitably arisen," his subsequent action has evidently been prompted by the discovery of weakness which has been made by Congress. Every step he has taken has been a practical vindication of Senator Chamberlain and his associates. Several of Secretary Baker's bureau chiefs were shown to be incompetent and they were supplanted. Military bureaucrats gave place to civilian business men. Bureaus were reorganized on lines which have been successful with big corporations, and E. R. Stettinius was installed as Surveyor-General of purchases, that is, a sort of Minister of Munitions for the War Department alone. The President admitted the need of wholesale reorganization of the Government by causing introduction of the Overman bill, which gives him full discretion.

The President did not await action by Congress in reorganizing the War Department. Nor has he awaited that action to appoint Bernard M. Baruch chairman of the War Industries Board with broader power of decision, which makes that official correspond somewhat to a Minister of Munitions instead of being one among a body of equals. He is to decide all questions ultimately, including those of priority among departments.

This is a forward step, but all the steps so far made by the President, although in the right direction, fall short of the mark. In the twelfth month after the United States declared war we have not attained the efficiency of organization which Great Britain had reached in its twelfth month of war. On the first anniversary of its declaration of war that country, with less than half the population, one-third of the wealth and dependent mainly on imported raw materials, had wiped out party in its government, had established a Ministry of Munitions with full power conferred by law and was producing a torrent of guns and shells which has since steadily grown in volume. It had an army of two million volunteers, to our million and a half, half of whom have been drafted, and was fighting in France and Belgium, at Gallipoli, in Egypt, Mesopotamia and East Africa. It has blundered sadly in diplomacy and strategy, but it has greatly excelled us in organization and in development of man power and industrial power. Although our munition industry had been highly developed in supplying the allies for three years, little advantage has been taken of that fact and we have profited little by the experience of our allies.

American performance still falls short of that by which Great Britain has become the backbone of the alliance. The advance toward that point in organization which has been made is to a large extent without the sanction of law, and the President asks Congress to permit him to reach it by giving him blanket authority which would amount to practical abdication of its legislative function. There is no authority of law for the appointment of either Mr. Stettinius or Mr. Baruch and they have not been confirmed by the Senate, as the Constitution requires. After denouncing the Senate military committee for proposing that we organize in the manner by which Great Britain has succeeded, the President has by his acts admitted that the committee was right, yet he insists that the thing shall be done in his way and by him alone, or not at all. This in spite of the fact that near the end of our first year we have only a few skirmishes to our credit as compared with a long list of battles extending from Mons to Loos in the west, to say nothing of hard-fought campaigns in four other fields, to the credit of the British.

All this preparation for our boasted speeding up should have been completed long ago, and we should have been going at full speed in all departments by this time. It is imperative that no time be lost in completing the machinery and getting it all into smooth operation. The longer we delay, the firmer grip Germany will gain on Russia, the more of Russia's resources will have been developed for use against us, the more of our allies' resources will have been consumed and the greater will be the drain upon our own. The time is not remote when British and Italian resources in men will begin definitely to decrease and when America must supply enough men not only to add to the allies' strength, but to fill the gaps in their ranks. With Russia in Germany's power, we can no longer reckon upon the decline in the enemy's morale which has been produced by the blockade. Time is running against us and, if we continue to waste it it may eat up even our supposedly inexhaustible resources.

Even the use of "victory bread" will not be sufficient, unless it is also accompanied by consumption of less bread of any kind, according to the experience of Canada, which is not unlike that of the United States, in the respect that supplies of rye, barley and oats are also found to be exhaustible. The real duty for which we must now begin to prepare ourselves is the eating in their season of as large quantities of vegetables as possible. It has been found that employment of potatoes, carrots, turnips and onions in the diet is definitely noticeable in cutting down the amount of bread consumed. The food controller of Canada predicts that by the end of Spring, if the minimum needs of Europe are met, there will not be a single pound of wheat or flour on the continent in excess of the amount required for home consumption on a minimum basis. The situation, he says, is serious, and will become terrifying unless the people recognize their individual responsibility. Substitution will be good only so far as it goes; alone it will not save the day.

TWO U. S. ATTORNEYS.

The nomination of Mr. B. E. Haney to be United States Attorney for Oregon will be well received by the bar and the general public. He is a lawyer of experience and probity, and he is a citizen of patriotism and understanding, so that he is well equipped for the heavy tasks of his office.

The United States Attorneyship in any judicial district is just now a place of peculiar responsibility and importance. The attorney is no ordinary prosecutor of lawbreakers, or counsel of the Government in civil litigation; but he has had imposed upon him by the war new problems which require prompt solution, and new tasks which tax every resource of legal skill, learning and common sense. Questions of the draft, multitudinous and perplexing in their variety, the status of alien enemies, with nearly every case depending on its own set of facts, the activities of the I. W. W. and their fellows, investigation of charges of sedition and disloyalty—all these and many more are within the purview of the District Attorney's office.

The Government was fortunate in having in Oregon for several years, and until quite recently, as its United States Attorney, so capable and zealous an official as Clarence Reames, now assigned to special work elsewhere; and now the service is to be undertaken by Mr. Haney. That it will be performed with thoroughness and fidelity, there can be no doubt.

WHY ANY MISUNDERSTANDING?

The Oregonian will say to the aggrieved Brother Baker, who writes today from California, after his expulsion from Grants Pass, that if there is any public misunderstanding of his mission, or a misconception of the purposes of the Millennial Russellites, it is their fault, and theirs only. But does the public misjudge him and others with him?

Brother Baker is not opposed to the war or the war programme; but he declines to support the war plans "whole-heartedly and unreservedly."

He is not opposed to the Red Cross, but he is not a member nor supporter of the Red Cross.

He is not opposed to liberty bonds nor the war savings; but he subscribed for none of these.

If the plea that he has no money to invest in bonds, or war savings, or Red Cross, is made by him, or his co-religionists, there is nothing more to be said, unless, indeed, it is known to be ill-founded. He does not offer that plea. So, if he is for the war, and the war plans, and against any present peace, why does he fail to uphold the only practicable way of financing and carrying on the war?

Brother Baker is a type. He is, or says and doubtless thinks he is, hostile to the Kaiser and autocracy; but the Kaiser and autocracy have no fear about any citizen, or group of citizens, or any sect, or race, or people, who, professing to oppose them, refuse to join or support the army which has set out to make war on them.

The plain questions asked of the twilight-zone patriot at Grants Pass could and should have been answered "yes" or "no" without embarrassment or hesitation. They are not comparable to the smart interrogatory which Baker offers as an illustration of the impossibility of giving a reply without qualification. He was not asked "Have you quit subscribing for liberty bonds?" or "Why did you cease to be a member of the Red Cross?" If the brother were to be asked if he beats his wife, we suppose he could complain that he could not answer directly or in the affirmative or negative. Why not?

ANOTHER TEST OF INTELLIGENCE.

The vocabulary test of individual human intelligence continues to hold interest, notwithstanding the strictures of those critics who hold that it does furnish a complete, or even a fair, standard of measurement of capacity for "doing" as compared with ability merely to give expression to one's thoughts, and to put the results of observation and experience into words. Perhaps the latest test of the kind is one devised by Professor Lewis M. Terman, of Stanford University, in his book, "The Measurement of Intelligence." It has, however, the merit of being readily available as a not unprofitable form of entertainment, and as a test of the relative accomplishments of men and women already possessing a fair degree of education.

The system devised by Professor Terman is simplicity itself. He has made a list of 100 words, by choosing the last word of every sixth column of a dictionary containing 18,000 English words, presumably the most common in the language. It is assumed that this sampling is extensive enough to afford a fair index of the vocabulary of the subject. Theoretically, the method is the same as that by which early estimates of the results of elections are made, and the latter are frequently surprisingly reliable. The words, having been thus selected, are arranged in the approximate order of their difficulty, the examiner beginning with the easier words and progressing to the harder.

Then, as in the case of the Binet-Simon and similar tests, an arbitrary gradation of relative "intelligences" is made. Of the entire 100 words, it is found that an average child of 8 years should have command of twenty, one of 10 years thirty, and so on, up to the superior adult, who should be able to give acceptable definitions of seventy-five. This feat, it is interesting to know, betokens a vocabulary of 13,500 words. The result is arrived at by multiplying the total number of words defined by 180. The child of 8, defining twenty words, would have a vocabulary of 3600 words. But how many children of 8 are there who really possess such a vocabulary? It is said that there are whole regions in the United States whose people, although not highly educated, are, nevertheless, competent to manage their own affairs after a fashion, with a vocabulary of some 800 words. It would seem that the vocabulary test, by itself, is rather a test of opportunity, or association, or vocation, than of fundamental ability, as is required by the immigration regulations, so to conduct their ordinary business as to make negligible the probability that they will become a charge upon society.

But what could be more diverting for a reading club, or a fireside circle, than a game of testing intelligence by reference to the dictionary? The individual with the most ordinary education and experience, for example, will not find much difficulty in the first word, which happens to be "orange," especially when it is known that such a definition as "it is to eat," or "it is yellow, and grows on a tree," is rated as "acceptable." At intervals, as the words grow "more difficult," come "guitar," "dungeon," "civil," "shrewd," "peculiarity," and on down to "sudorific," "achromatic," "homunculus," "shagreen," "limpet" and "complot." Of course, lists obtained by selection from other dictionaries would differ in substance, but perhaps not in essence. Only one-third of the adults examined have scored 75 per cent on Professor Terman's list.

It will surprise no one to learn that ability to pass the test is relatively independent of the number of years a person has attended school. "Business men show even a higher percentage of passes than high school pupils." But this, also, probably depends largely upon the nature of the business and the amount of correspondence carried on by the subject, and his leisure for reading on general topics. A man might be in business a good while without coming in contact with the word "homunculus."

THE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

If there ever was a time when the country needed a deep sense of responsibility on the part of all its people, that time is now. War should have a sobering influence. The spirit of give and take is necessary to the solution of every-day problems. Aimlessness and restlessness should be counteracted as much as possible.

That we have something still to achieve in the way of self-restraint will be affirmed by most employers nowadays. The mistaken notion that the way to exhibit "independence" is to quit a job without notice, or upon slight pretext, prevails more generally than it ought to do. It is sometimes reflected in a disposition to perform tasks indifferently, and with small concern for the wishes of the "boss." If the latter doesn't like it, he can "get another man." Of course. But meanwhile industry, in whatever line it may be, suffers. One way for the individual to contribute his mite toward the lubrication of the great machine is to keep his head, hold his job until he has reasonably assured himself of a better one, keep constantly going and invest his surplus in war stamps rather than in longer periods of idleness than he would regard as desirable in normal times.

There is nothing romantic, perhaps, or sensational about just keeping a level head at home, but this in its own way is important, and a lot more comfortable, and safer, than standing in a wet trench. It will do some of our young men good, when they are thinking of throwing up a job on mere impulse, to reflect that more than a million of their fellow-citizens are in situations that they must hold fast to whether they are pleasant or not.

A GREAT IRISH LEADER DIES.

By the death of John E. Redmond not only Ireland but the British Commonwealth of Nations, as the Boer General Smuts has renamed the British empire, suffers a serious loss at a critical time, when he was rendering service to both which few, if any, other men could have rendered. He has proved his devotion to the cause of democracy by trying to rally the Irish people to support the allies, and his brother met his death while fighting for that cause in Flanders.

Mr. Redmond was the first Irish Nationalist leader to recognize the identity of aim between his own party and the democracy of England, Scotland and Wales, and to act upon that conviction by forming a political alliance with the British Liberal party. By so doing he antagonized that element in Ireland whose hatred of England is so deep that it has always refused to do anything except fight English parties. Yet he won four-fifths of the Irish members of Parliament to this policy and by pursuing it he won. Though civil war seemed imminent, he enjoyed the triumph of seeing the home rule bill approved by the King just as the war broke out, and this was the climax to a century of struggle.

His most shining proof of devotion to world-wide liberty was the truce by which operation of the home rule law was deferred until after the war. Mr. Redmond followed this up with a recruiting campaign in Ireland. His action and the weak administration of Secretary Birrell gave the anti-English extremists an opening which they did not neglect. The Sinn Fein organization spread rapidly, formed a league with Germany through Sir Roger Casement, and the Dublin rebellion of Easter, 1916, was the result. As usual with English statesmen when dealing with Ireland at such times, the Asquith government blundered and permitted military severity which made suppression of rebellion a means of recruiting the rebel organization to alarming strength.

Premier Lloyd George made a master stroke, which had Mr. Redmond's approval, when he called a convention to draft a constitution for Ireland, but it had evidently reached a deadlock when death took one of its ablest and most devoted members. Mr. Redmond, if any man, could have found the means to break that deadlock. One of Ireland's misfortunes has been that at such junctures her hopes are often dashed by the folly of her own people or by the hand of fate.

REWARD OF SPECIAL FITNESS.

General Pershing's statement, made in support of a bill to abolish special pay allowances for aviators and aeronauts, that the increase is no longer necessary to get personnel, is a direct testimonial to the patriotism of the splendid young men of America. Our boys are asking themselves, not "How much is there in it?" but "In which branch of the service can I do the most good?" But the question remains whether there ought not to be special compensation for special fitness, which normally is the way of the world.

It is no disparagement of any other branch to say that the air service demands of its recruits that they shall be as nearly perfect—physically and mentally—as it is possible for a human being to be. The National Service Handbook explains that the physical requirements for any aviation division are extremely rigid. Applicants must have perfect sight and hearing, sound lungs and a first-class heart. The slightest weakness disqualifies. The examination includes various objective tests calculated to show the applicant's ability to maintain equilibrium under the most trying conditions. He must possess the faculty of muscular co-ordination in high degree. He must be a man of the type that does not easily become "rattled." His nerves must be in perfect order, his thinking process tuned to the highest pitch, every muscle responsive instantly to the message from the brain. "No applicant," says the Government publication, "need consider the aviation service unless he is in the prime of health and athletic condition."

It may be said that such a constitution, such physical and mental powers, are gifts of nature and should be placed freely at the service of one's fellow-men. But they are more than mere gifts, for they are evidence that their possessor not only was born fit, but that he has kept himself fit. Too few young men nowadays appreciate the value of a sound body and the sacredness of their duty to preserve it. It is not alone those who have begun life under good eugenic and hygienic auspices, as the faddist might say, who are called to service in the air, but those who by their own conduct have preserved their physical and mental talents. There would seem to be no impropriety, at least, in rewarding them appropriately. There never has been any proposal to diminish the pay of others.

There is comfort for the friends of the airmen in General Pershing's further declaration that aviation is no more hazardous than trench fighting. But it is no doubt true that this is due in not inconsiderable measure to the very process of selection by which all but the very pick of our young men have been rejected in advance. For that matter, there might well be special rewards for special service in every branch of the National service. To a great extent there are. Men who devote themselves diligently to their work are practically certain to win advancement. There probably never has been a time in the history of our military organization when merit was as certain as it is today to get its reward.

We do not suppose that there is a man in the flying department of the Army or Navy who would not have entered it just the same if the pay had been upon the basis which General Pershing proposes. The spirit of service has dominated here, as elsewhere. There is, nevertheless, a certain justice in paying men what they are worth, and in awarding special pay for special worth. And aviation and aeronautics, as has been seen, have a special standard of their very own.

The florists of some of the states farther east have set a patriotic example, through their organizations, by urging their members to devote as much greenhouse and hot-frame space as possible to the raising of vegetable plants for this year's war gardens. If these gardens are increased numerically as much as it is hoped they will be, there will be a large demand for tomato, cabbage, cauliflower and pepper plants, especially the early varieties. This service will be especially valuable to gardeners who are novices and who do not understand the niceties of "hardening off" which is so necessary if best results are to be obtained. The florists of Indiana have based their appeal on patriotic grounds. There is, however, no general desire to give up the growing of flowers altogether. The plan is simply to make use of all resources and the equipment which the florists more than any others possess for this particular purpose.

The lumber industry of the Pacific Coast is truly represented by the men who joined in singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Auditorium, not by the men who have befouled the good name of the United States with their crimes. They will fight the Kaiser, not their own Government.

What if the rails are torn up between Ambassador Francis and the Pacific Coast? The man who stood off a Bolshevik mob with a revolver will find a way through, but he will not quit his job as long as he can do anything at it. He is no quitter.

Generally the Marshal of a small town is chosen for his skill with a gun. He is law and order personified. John Pebels, of Davenport, Wash., is that kind. He killed one burglar and crippled another a few nights ago. John Pebels is a good man.

A man died Sunday while taking a bath just after breakfast. Medical men can give an explanation in enough technical terms to scare a man away from a tub, but simplified it means that safety lies in waiting a few hours after eating a hearty meal.

A few years ago there was much talk about an armor plant in the United States. A little item of $25,000,000 for an ordnance plant in France now passes almost unobserved in an appropriation. Thus does war expand our ideas.

A man who died last week in Washington County was noted as the father of eighteen children, but his real fame rests upon the fact that, aided by his boys, he cleared his large farm of the giant firs.

If Sweden allows German occupation of the Aland Islands, she is in danger of becoming a vassal state in fact. Through intrigue and fear she has been a near vassal for a few years.

The bargain hunter cannot join the Sons and Daughters of Democracy, whose object is to boycott German-made goods. The real bargain hunter cannot see beyond the penny change.

Men who refuse to pay just debts deserve almost anything they get, but some of the collection agencies are worse than the debtors in their methods of bulldozing.

A mudboat floating down the river is not a war emergency, but several hundred people on the wrong side of an open draw think they are all kinds of it.

Oregon to the rescue again. It must supply the Government with platinum, now that the Bolsheviki have handed over the Russian output to Germany.

If the United States has a patrol-boat near Valparaiso the Chilean authorities will be glad, perhaps, to surrender the crew of the Seeadler.

The man killed by a train at Willbridge while walking to Linnton could have found better walking on the paved road alongside.

Ben Tillman is old enough to know better, but the lure is strong and four terms as Senator are not enough for him.

"Plant seeds sparingly" is good advice, but do not be in too great hurry to plant is even better.

Potato with butter is better than bread and butter, and two potatoes are twice as good.

Not all spirits are ghosts, but some of them arise to haunt the illicit buyer.

Stars and Starmakers.

By Leone Cass Baer.

THE Bob Edesons, who, like many another theatrical pair, used to advertise their perfect wedded bliss, and gave out interviews on all occasions about being "all in all to each other," whatever that may mean, are divorced. Mrs. Edeson received an interlocutory decree and the custody of their little adopted daughter, Roberta. The usual "other woman" was named, but her name has been kept out of the proceedings. Rumor says she is a lovely, very youthful California girl whom Edeson met during his Pacific Coast visit in "Fine Feathers" about five years ago.

* * *

The present—or rather the recent—Mrs. Edeson was Georgie Elliot Porter, the daughter of the late Albert Ross, the novelist, whose real name was Linn Porter. Miss Porter and Edeson met for the first time almost 20 years ago, when Edeson was appearing at the Boston Museum. In the meantime she had married Charles D. Mackay, a Boston stage favorite.

Mackay, by the way, had appeared for a season as juvenile with the Baker Stock, and had a lot of friends here. At the time of their marriage Miss Porter was but a schoolgirl and it was a case of love at first sight. In 1907, however, the young bride astounded Boston by filing a suit for divorce against Mackay, naming as co-respondent a Boston actress.

Trial of the action resulted in a decree for Mrs. Mackay, which, besides awarding her a large weekly alimony, gave her the right to resume her maiden name.

* * *

Then, on July 8, 1908, just two years after Edeson's first wife, Ellen Berg, died, Miss Porter was married to Robert Edeson, whom she had met while she was selling flowers at a theatrical benefit. They moved to Sag Harbor, L. I., where Edeson built a large Summer home, naming it Strongheart House. Few persons knew of the matrimonial differences which resulted in the present divorce until the court proceedings were begun last November. Testimony in the action was taken behind locked doors and little of the facts in the case have become public property. All the papers in the action are officially sealed and deposited in the County Clerk's office.

* * *

Marjorie Rambeau is in St. Luke's Hospital in New York with her leg broken in three places, mending in a plaster cast. She broke it by falling while ice skating. Miss Rambeau, who was for a brief while one of Willard Mack's wives, has been an ardent devotee of skating this season and has spent several hours each week on the ice of the various New York rinks, but had not sustained any bad falls until her recent accident. There was a crowd of skaters on the ice at the time, and considerable excitement was occasioned. The rink physician rendered first-aid treatment and then a call was sent in to St. Luke's.

The actress' role in "The Eyes of Youth" has been taken by Norma Winslow.

* * *

The ashes of the late William Winter, who died June 30, 1917, were interred on February 28 in the Silver Mount Cemetery, Staten Island. They are inclosed in a severely simple bronze casket and they rest, deeply imbedded in cement, beneath a massive block of Massachusetts granite. The sides of the stone are rough hewn. The north face of it, which is polished, bears this inscription:

"William Winter—Born July 15, 1836—Died June 30, 1917. His life was gentle and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world: 'This was a man'."

On the base is lettered: "Erected by W. J. W."

Interment was made at 10:30 A. M. There were no services. The only persons present were Mr. Winter's son, Jefferson Winter, and the stonesetters.

* * *

Winifred Bryson, who played leads at the Baker for a few weeks about three years ago, has just been married to Warner Baxter in New York. The marriage is the culmination of a romance which began a long time ago in the motion picture studios of Los Angeles. The pair became acquainted in film work, and the friendship grew when both joined the company playing at the Burbank Theater. When Oliver Morosco engaged his cast for "Lombardi" he took them along to New York.

* * *

There is a difference between playing the crook and being one. H. B. Warner, who is a clever stage crook in "Among Those Present," playing in Chicago, reflected bitterly on this difference as he mourned the collection of silk shirts, fine handkerchiefs and gorgeous cravats he will have to replace in his wardrobe. There were even more unpleasant thoughts in the mind of Hazard Short, a colleague of Mr. Warner's. Mr. Short is short, indeed, short more than $500.

A well-dressed mulatto come to the stage door of the Blackstone Theater, where Mr. Warner is playing.

"I am Parker, Mr. Warner's valet," he said to the doorman. He was permitted to pass. He went directly to Mr. Warner's dressing-room.

"I am Parker, the house valet," he said. "Anything I can do, sir?"

Parker made himself useful. He was an able valet. Then Mr. Warner went on the stage. Mr. Short also went on. The valet went into their pockets for the keys to their rooms in the Blackstone Hotel and to their trunks.

"I am Mr. Warner's valet," he said to the clerk at the hotel. "Mr. Warner sent me for a bag. May I go up?" He went up, took an admiring survey of the room and filled a bag with some of Mr. Warner's dearest wearing apparel. He found no money. He proceeded to Mr. Short's room and unlocked his trunk. There he found $500. Mr. Short's wardrobe he scorned.

"He was a nice looking man," said Edwin Wopper, manager of the theater, to detectives who came from the South Clark-street station. "I hope you find him."

"Parker" took no jewels, an abstinence, that, in the eyes of the police, marks him as a wise thief. Mr. Warner is grateful for the impulse that prompted him to put all his cash in his stage clothing when he went before the footlights Saturday night.

* * *

Reply to Inquirer, Corvallis: May Irvin has made no appearances this season. She will appear in a sketch at the actors' fund benefit performance on March 1, and then retire again to her home on Long Island.

"BIBLE STUDENTS" AND THE WAR.

Central Figure in Grants Pass Incident Denies Disloyalty.

PARADISE, Cal., March 4.—(To the Editor.)—The editorial article in The Oregonian on the Grants Pass incident in which I figured, has come to my attention. I would hesitate to dignify the circumstance by an explanation, except that you appear to be laboring under an honest misapprehension, both as to my position and the attitude of Bible Students, in general, on the issues of this war.

We are not opposed to this war, nor the participation of the American Government. For more than 30 years we publicly taught the coming of this war in the Fall of 1914. Believing the Bible to teach that this world-war would come and be followed, not by peace, but by revolution and world-wide anarchy, now that it has come, why should we oppose it?

Neither are we "pacifists" except it be in the sense that every sane person prefers peace and quiet. I am not preaching nor advocating peace, for this would be contrary to that which the Bible indicates to be in store for the nations. Neither do I pray for peace. With our worthy President, I believe there can be no lasting peace so long as the present unrighteous systems exist.

It is not for me to sit in judgment upon the Grants Pass representatives of the peace and dignity of the law, who, in defiance of all law, prevented the deliverance of a sermon favorably received elsewhere in the United States and Canada, but I am surprised that your columns should be prostituted for the advocacy of violence and persecution. History shows such chickens once hatched, have a dangerous habit of coming home to roost.

Finally let me say, I am not opposed to Red Cross work, believing it to be a most worthy philanthropy, even though I am not a member of it nor any other human organization. Nor am I opposed to liberty bonds, war savings stamps campaigns, or the war programme. For years I have been preaching the gospel of the coming Kingdom of Christ. My time and means were consecrated to the work long before this war, and if faithfulness to my consecration, by the peculiar alchemy of war logic, can be so construed to make me appear an enemy to my country, I will take comfort in the fact, that so persecuted they My Master before me. Luke 23:1-7.

Applying the "Grants Pass way," which you so highly recommend, answer "yes" or "no," no debate, "have you quit beating your wife?"

W. A. BAKER.

SELF-DEFENSE IS NOT MURDER

To Wish Death of Enemies of Fair Play Held Laudable and Righteous.

ALBANY, Or., March 5.—(To the Editor.)—Permit me to express my approval of your editorial under the title "Not Going Far Enough."

The I. W. W., it appears by their creed, are "patriotic" for their own class only. They appear to be against our Government, enemies to our flag and, in substance, "traitors," as legally defined.

I disapprove of the assertion of one of your correspondents, who states in substance: "To wish to kill a Hun is that murder might be done." It is not murder to kill in self-defense nor is it murder to kill in time of war our enemies, who are endeavoring by the foulest of means to destroy the lives of our patriotic soldiers and citizens.

To wish for the death of our murderous enemies, that liberty and free republics may not perish from the earth, is not only laudable but righteous.

I hope to hear soon that our brave boys are firing into the ranks of our enemies the most deadly poisonous gas shells that can be invented. To make a fair, sporty fight against such barbarians as the Huns should have ceased long ago and they should have been given a double dose of the poisonous gas that they are trying to give our boys, such a dose until they cried "enough."

Some women, like some men, are born fighters, and the spirit in the little poem expressed by the mother that she would like to be a bullet to kill a Hun is the spirit that heroes and heroines are made of.

I am in sympathy with the women who in this time of great provocation can exclaim:

If I were a cannon full of poisonous shell,
Full of deadly gases that emitted a fatal smell,
That would at one fire shoot a billion balls or more,
Into the German murderers, killing a million score;
T'would be but simple justice to autocrats galore,
For then the flag of liberty would wave forever more.

GEORGE WILLIAM WRIGHT.

Buying Flour and Substitutes.

WESTLAKE, Or., March 3.—(To the Editor.)—If I buy a quantity of potatoes from my grocer—say 10 bushels delivered at one time—does that entitle me to its equivalent in flour at certain periods without having to buy any more substitutes? I have already bought the potatoes.

Now my grocer says I have to buy more potatoes or other substitutes in order to get a sack of flour.

What would be the amount of flour allowed per month to a family of six?

A SUBSCRIBER.

The grocer is wrong in stating that you can take credit for potatoes in making flour purchases. Bakers get some credit for flour substitution on the potato he includes in bread and rolls, but housewives are still restricted to the original list of substitutes. You are supposed to buy the required amount of substitutes at the time of buying the flour. Families are restricted to a maximum of 49 pounds—one sack—of flour at a single purchase, and if they observe the spirit of the rule they will not make another purchase until this supply is exhausted, or nearly so. The amount of flour permitted to a family per month is not specified but purchase of an obvious excess would be treated as food hoarding, and dealt with as the circumstances of the particular case might justify.

On Idiomatic English.

OLYMPIA, Wash., March 5.—(To the Editor.)—Recently several of your readers here have been amused over your discussion directed at a "gramatical" critic who confesses that the too frequent use of the expression, "as best he can," fails to harmonize with his own ideas of correct "english." Instead of defending its use by quoting near authorities the editor might have removed all doubt as to established precedent by quoting directly and liberally from a pioneer of the short story in literature—one Giovanni Boccaccio, who seems a much greater offender in the employment of this phrase than The Oregonian, and who varies the expression by the use of "might," "could" and other signs of potentiality. It is possible that if your "gramatical" critic could be persuaded to read the English translations of this author discerningly he could locate some other kinks in expression that might lead him to a broader view of the matters concerning which he complains and at least to the conclusion that his ideas as a purist were old while the world was still new.

OBSERVER.

In Other Days.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian, March 6, 1868.

The marriage between Adelina Patti and the Marquis de Caux has been arranged. Patti's dot is $200,000. The Empress Eugenie has written a letter of congratulations to Mlle. Patti in which she expressed the pleasure with which she will receive the great artist at court as the Marquise de Caux.

W. A. McPherson, Esq., is now at work on the editorial columns of the Unionist.

It is said that Gilson, the absconding and defaulting Secretary of Idaho Territory, has been seen in Paris.

Dickens, it is reported, has sent $1000 to Mrs. Clemm, Edgar Allen Poe's mother-in-law, who has been in straitened circumstances.

No one is authorized to sell copies of The Oregonian for a greater price than 12½ cents each.

Washington. — Before adjournment the Senate resolved to constitute itself into a high court of impeachment and receive the managers of impeachment from the House.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, March 7, 1893.

Washington.—Crowds of visitors besieged the White House and President Cleveland was forced to forego his work.

London.—Ali Ben Said, Sultan of Zanzibar, is dead. His son, no sooner than the word was announced that he was dead, gained entrance to the palace, ostensibly for the purpose of claiming the throne in defiance of British authority. He was overcome, however.

The Old Ladies' Home was incorporated yesterday by H. W. Corbett, C. A. Dolph, W. W. Spaulding, Richard Williams and Charles E. Ladd.

The annual meeting of the taxpayers of School District No. 1 was held last night. It was a quiet affair, and the recommendations of the board were followed.

The college students of the Portland University have completed the organization of their new society, the Hesperus. Fred J. Brown was chosen president and Ed Sanders secretary.

ADJUSTMENT OF DAIRY PRICES

Mr. Townsend Finds Ground for Optimism in Industry's Outlook.

PORTLAND, March 6.—(To the Editor.)—I read with much interest your editorial in The Oregonian entitled "What Is the Matter—What Makes the Alarming Conditions in the Dairy Industry?"

To me the future looks good for dairymen. What are the conditions? Let us analyze and see.

A world war: After the European war began and had been in progress for two years, Great Britain, France, Belgium and Russia found they were in great need of dairy products, especially milk, and began calling on this country for all the condensed milk they could get; and this making an unprecedented demand, caused many "new condensers" to be built and for two years or more the condensers have enjoyed an enormous profit on their product.

Next came the cheese factories, which were called on for large quantities of cheese, and they, too, felt the comfort of big profits; and because of the high prices the condensers and cheese factories could pay for milk, every dairyman that could market his milk to either of these did so, while the unfortunate creameryman (butter man) has worked with very short supply of cream. Hence for two years the creamerymen have suffered severely. So today there is an "over supply" of both condensed milk and cheese, with a "shortage of butter."

It has always been so and will always remain so, that when the above conditions exist there must be an adjustment, an equalization. This equalization can be brought about by 25 or 30 per cent of the dairymen, who are now selling their milk to the condensers and cheese factories, turning their product to the creameries; and this equalization would not stop with the dairy products, but would be far reaching—because when the cream only is sold from the farm the skimmed milk is left to feed the calves, hogs and chickens, and with hogs at $16.85 skimmed milk is worth, according to ex-Governor Hoard, of Wisconsin, who is authority on dairying, 80 cents per 100 pounds, and butterfat at 55 cents gives the farmer $3 per 100 pounds for his milk. So why should the dairyman be discouraged and think he must kill off his cows because the condenser drops "his buying price" to $2.50 per 100 pounds for milk?

A still better reason why the farmer should retain the skimmed milk on his farm is that he may raise all his female calves, and he cannot make money faster, for after the war is over we will not only have to furnish the European countries with our dairy products, but they will also draw on us for cows to build up their now "completely wiped out" dairies.

So why not look at conditions from an optimistic point of view and prepare ourselves for the great developments that are in the near future?

T. S. TOWNSEND.

Home Study Health Course.

TENINO, Wash., March 6.—(To the Editor.)—Please advise where I may obtain a copy of "Home Study Course in Health and Culture of Body and Mind," as published by the Life Extension Institute, this being in line with one of your editorials of March 4, "Mr. Taft on the Art of Living."

SUBSCRIBER.

The address of the Life Extension Institute is 25 West 45th street, New York.

Postoffice Surplus Years.

ENTERPRISE, Or., March 4.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly advise if the Postoffice Department has ever paid a profit over and above operating expenses prior to June 30, 1916. R. L. LILLY.

Revenues exceeded expenditures in the following fiscal years: 1800, 1810, 1850, 1857, 1865, 1882, 1883, 1910, 1911, 1913, 1914, 1916.

Difference in His Mood.

Yonkers (N. Y.) Statesman.

Patience—Why do you look so disparagingly at that man? He stood up for you at the meeting the other night when you were being abused. Patrice—Yes, I know he did. But I came up on the same trolley car with him tonight, and he wouldn't stand up for me there.

FREE SERVICE AND INFORMATION.

The Oregonian has established a bureau of information and service at Washington City for the benefit of its readers. No charge is made for a reply to any question relating to Governmental affairs or for procuring any available Government publication. For reply send 2-cent stamp. Address Frederic J. Haskin, director Oregonian Information Bureau, Washington, D. C. Do NOT write to The Oregonian at Portland.