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	3.50

(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	2.10
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.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper, and also the local news published herein.

All rights of republication of special dispatches herein are also reserved.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1918.

TO BE USED WITH CAUTION.

The Illinois (Collinsville) fashion is to hang offensive pro-Germans through mob action.

The Oregon (La Grande) method is to inflict upon slackers the coercive and deadly stamp of public denunciation. Doubtless it will be called moral crucifixion. We think it is. But it has a different motive, a different method and an entirely different result from the lawless and thoughtless act of the frenzied mob which chokes its victim to death.

The one is deliberate, open, orderly, informed; the other is cowardly, sneaking, violent, merciless, unjust, unfair and subversive of all order and decency.

The one punishes by the moral power of public opinion. The other takes vengeance by the brutal weapon of the assassin.

Sixty citizens subscribed their names to the proclamation against the slackers at La Grande. The darkness and stealth of midnight covered the names and faces of the Collinsville lynchers.

If the sixty at La Grande are wrong, their victims have the remedy of law. If the perpetrators of the Collinsville act are wrong—and they are, whether or not Praeger was a pro-German or a spy, or both—the law will take a hand; but it is too late to restore life and safety to Praeger.

The La Grande way is severe, and it cannot be unreservedly commended. But it will be salutary in cases where slackerhood is notorious, offensive and defiant.

UNITED COMMAND WILL WIN.

The lucid explanation of the military situation in France which has been given by Premier Lloyd George shows that, in beginning the present campaign, the Germans had the advantage in only two respects—initiative through taking the offensive and unity of command. The Germans were about equal in infantry, slightly inferior in artillery, inferior in cavalry and considerably inferior in aircraft. Then their successes must be due to the two respects in which they had the advantage, with reckless sacrifice of men as an important contributory cause.

The Kaiser's boast to King Constantine—"I shall beat them, for they have no united command"—proves that he relied for victory upon his united command as against the allies' dual command. That is proved also by his having struck at the junction point of the British and French armies, and his judgment is vindicated by his success in forcing the British fifth army, commanded by General Gough, to retire and by the critical situation which ensued. The evil consequences of dual command are proved by the British Premier's admission that "there was a serious gap and the situation was retrieved owing to the magnificent conduct of our troops," and by the fact that "the French reserves came up with remarkable rapidity." Thus the fine quality of British troops and French ability in handling reserves saved the day.

These points enable us to appraise at its true value the unity of allied command which has now been established and the fact that a French General, Foch, has been appointed generalissimo. Unity of command has welded the three armies—French, British and American—into one army, as the soldiers of ancient Greece hooked their shields together to form the famous phalanx. There will be no more weak junctions in the line, at which the Kaiser may strike to open gaps. There will be no more delays in sending reserves of any nation to fortify any part of the line which has been attacked and where weakness has developed. The line is now a phalanx, and can be strengthened instantly where help is needed.

Supreme command was properly given to a Frenchman, not only because the war is being fought in France and because the French hold 300 of the 425 miles of line, but because the French Generals, alone among those of the allies, have had long experience and training in handling troops in large bodies. They learned by the bitter experience of the battles of 1870 and have ever since applied their experience in study and maneuvers. The British Generals three years ago had practice only with an army of 200,000 men at the most, and there is not an American General who has commanded more than an Army corps in maneuvers. One of the most important elements in command of large armies is quickness and skill in handling reserves. For lack of these qualities the British suffered repulses at Neuve Chapelle, Loos and Cambrai. Through possession of them the French won at the Marne and saved Verdun. Foch is the General for the task, because his skill as a strategist and in using reserves won the battle of the Marne.

Having lost the advantage of united dual command, the Germans will lose their sole remaining advantage when the allies use their army of maneuver in a counter offensive. Their gains have been made at exorbitant cost in men, which should have reduced them to inferiority in numbers as well as in other factors. General Foch is probably waiting until the German offensive power is exhausted and until his own forces are massed near the chosen points. Then we may expect him to strike the worn German army with fresh forces. He beat them at the Marne when they outnumbered the French three to one, when they outgunned the French and had fought no such gruelling battles as they are now fighting. He should beat them now with forces superior in most particulars and equal in all others, after their best troops have been used up. That would be the fair reward of learning from the enemy and of turning against him the last weapon upon which he relied for victory.

AFTER TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED YEARS

There is nothing new under the sun. The prototype of the conscientious objector was well known in the sixth century before Christ.

It was at about that period, according to more or less reliable history, that Aesop lived and related his highly moral fables. Aesop tells the following:

"A boy was bathing in a river and got out of his depth and was in great danger of being drowned. A man who was passing along a road hard by heard his cries for help and went to the riverside and began to scold him for being so careless as to get into deep water, but made no attempt to help him. 'Oh, sir,' cried the boy, 'please help me first and scold me afterwards.'"

It was an earnest man of whom Aesop tells, a conscientious man. He had a duty to perform and he performed it. Whether the boy finally drowned the chronicler does not say, but it is a safe conclusion that if he did the conscientious man departed from the scene firmer than ever in a righteous conviction.

We have with us in Oregon a scholarly man who will not subscribe for liberty bonds because he earnestly believes that the war should have been financed in another way.

We have with us also a conscience-gifted librarian who scolds the Nation for getting into deep water, but will not assist it to get out.

They are but types. They are met in all affairs. It may be the financier who tells the pending bankrupt how he could have kept out of financial difficulties and kindly shows him the door, or it may be the pious person who gives a life convict tracts on the success of moral living. They are everywhere. They are long on advice but short on assistance. But the wonder is that in all our progress we have not been able to shuck them in twenty-five hundred years.

EQUIP SHIPS COMPLETELY.

For the establishment and maintenance of Portland's prestige as a shipbuilding port, it is highly important that this port should turn out completed ships, fully equipped and ready to go to sea. An enviable reputation has been made by Portland in building not only hulls but boilers and auxiliary machinery, and in installing engines. An undeserved slight has been put upon the Grays Harbor cities by towing hulls built there to other ports for installation with machinery, on the apparent assumption that Grays Harbor lacks facilities to do the work. This militates against the placing of more contracts there, for the Shipping Board naturally prefers to complete ships at one port.

Portland is well provided with boiler and engine shops, which have installed machinery in many of the steel and wooden hulls built here. Progress along that line will cause the building of many more ships here for war service and will help to fix the industry here permanently. There are woodworking shops which can make interior fittings and there are factories and warehouses which can supply furniture and carpets, as they become acquainted with the peculiar needs of ships. Scope remains for houses which deal in nautical instruments, charts and pilot books and general ship supplies. If the port can provide only a part of these articles, the entire contract for equipping a vessel is likely to go to some other port which can supply all of them, for the Government is averse to splitting a contract. So many vessels are building and likely to be built here that firms engaging in that business should find it profitable.

By becoming qualified to supply everything from the keel of a ship to the last item in its equipment, Portland will take rank as an all-around shipping city, and will establish a reputation which will prove of untold value in the sharp competition among ports which will come in the not distant future.

FOR THOSE WHO "WANT TO KNOW."

A writer in the Editor and Publisher, taking as his text the amazing development of the Haskin information service, with which readers of The Oregonian are now familiar, makes the sage observation that "the oldest human urge is 'to know,'" and adds that "to take the question mark out of life would be to take away its worth and zest." But even more interesting to the seeker after precise information is the writer's description of the institution which Mr. Haskin has built up, in co-operation with several of the leading newspapers of the United States, including The Oregonian, and which he describes as a "real bureau of information, a bureau unique in the scope of its public service."

The question, "Why don't the people who want information write to the Government direct?" is answered with the statement, which almost any reader can confirm out of his own experience, that few know how to address a question to the Government. Notwithstanding the perfection of the Government's system, the multiplicity of its departments and subdivisions, and the fact that the libraries of the National capital are a mine of useful information, there still are millions of Americans who are unacquainted with what the Government is doing and the practical value it would be to them if they could utilize it. A large proportion of the information given comes from the departments of the Government. The so-called executive departments of our National capital make up the most efficient and far-reaching service of information that the world has ever seen. The information bureau is the co-operative activity by which the Government's resources of knowledge are made available to the people.

A flood of inquiries which has reached as high as 36,000 in a single day, the Editor and Publisher remarks, represents a formidable undertaking and "marks another milestone in the history of constructive enterprise in which American journalism leads the world." Mr. Haskin's acquaintance with Washington has taught him that in some part of the great National organization an answer may be found to almost any conceivable question. But success in handling an enormous number of inquiries rests upon knowledge of the sources of information. Many, but by no means all, of the questions can be answered by sending a Government document, the existence of which was not known to the inquirer. Others, of a special and highly technical nature, are referred to the "man who knows" for a written answer. Still others are obtained by painstaking research, consultation with Government experts and reference to the archives of the bureau and of the Government. It will be seen that the system is at the same time both simple and complex.

It is significant of the seriousness of purpose of the American people that the vast majority of the questions asked have some bearing upon the greater efficiency of the writers. The war has developed a new demand for counsel as to how specialists in many lines can make their services most valuable to the Government. Many thousands of persons want to do all they can to be helpful, but do not know where or how to apply. The great patriotic movements, the liberty loans, the home garden campaigns, home canning work and meat and wheat conservation have called for specific information of various kinds. It is known to comparatively few citizens that the Government for years has studied practically every household problem, for example. Only the applicant who knew the extent and detail of the Government's own work would be able to obtain results quickly by direct communication.

The thirst for knowledge, as has been said, becomes more intense with realization of need for efficiency in every branch of human activity. And it is a hopeful sign, not only that this exists but that it is being met. An interesting, and conclusive, feature is the value placed upon the service by readers whose questions have been answered. "Every day," says the Editor and Publisher, "Mr. Haskin receives checks proffered in payment for service rendered." These, it would seem unnecessary to add, are always returned. It is characteristic of modern newspaper service that it co-operates fully with its public in this as in many other matters.

PREPARE FOR WATER LINES.

Though the shipbuilding capacity of the country during the next year may be taken up too much with ocean craft to leave much margin for boats and barges for inland waterways, the present time is not too early to prepare for water transportation. No less important than the vessels are the wharves and connections with land lines—railroad and highway—and these should be in existence when the boats begin to run. It is time for river communities to begin action on the suggestion of Harold Rands, who is surveying Upper Columbia River transportation for the Port of Portland Commission.

All the conditions now favor building solidly the most modern and economical wharves, warehouses and machinery for loading and unloading at river ports. Hitherto capital has avoided such investments because they depended for traffic on steamers which might be driven out of business by railroad competition and by their own obsolete character. The railroads are now in the hands of the Government, which will not permit the competitive practices which were formerly in vogue, and the railroads are so overloaded with traffic that they no longer compete for it; the traffic competes for transportation. The Government is eager to restore water transportation for the purpose of carrying the great volume of traffic in excess of the capacity of the railroads, and will build river craft as fast as the more pressing need of ocean craft diminishes.

It is morally certain that, after having revived water transportation to meet the emergency of war, the Government will not permit it to fall into disuse again. The status of the railroads will be radically changed after peace is restored, and provision will surely be made for full co-ordination of water and rail lines, under which they will be woven into one system. Then all communities which use the waterways can safely proceed to build anew in confidence that water lines are coming back to stay.

Building and operation of river craft are as much the affair of the towns up the river as of the cities where river boats meet seagoing ships, for they benefit also. Provision of steamboats and barges is a partnership business in which up-river towns and Portland should join for mutual advantage. As the great port and the largest city of the Columbia basin, Portland will naturally do the most, but the best assurance of success is to be found in a combination of forces between the upper and lower river cities.

LARGELY A BUGABOO.

An interesting contribution to the laying of the German super-efficiency bugaboo is made by Herbert H. Dow, an engineer, who says that while "we say off-hand that the tricks of the trade are with Germany so far as the chemical industry is concerned," for example, reflection will show that the tricks of the trade are really with the United States, when it comes to handling material and consideration of any industrial problem as a whole. Americans have no reason to despair because of the "efficiency" of the enemy. They have efficiency of their own to spare. In this war, it needs only to be converted to the special purpose.

The problems of chemistry are largely mechanical, after they have passed the discovery stage. Mr. Dow takes the manufacture of sulphuric acid, by the consumption of which it is said the industrial progress of a people can be measured, as typical. Costs enter largely into the question of availability and consequent consumption. The German would be content with old methods of manufacture year after year. The American engineer would constantly decrease costs by the installation, for example, of a superior type of crane for handling pyrites, by employing heavier locomotives and hopper cars and by improving his sulphur burners, and so on with every step of the process all along the line. The chemistry of the problem would not change, but the mechanical processes would call for constant exercises of inventiveness and efficiency, and this, Mr. Dow believes, exists in the United States to an extent found in no other country in the world.

It stimulates the confidence of self-deprecatory Americans, whose pessimistic pose is annoying when it is not positively menacing to the spirit of the people, to be reassured upon these subjects. It is well, also, to analyze the claims of the admirers of Teuton culture before permitting ourselves to be awed by them. Dr. Townes Randolph Leigh, a professor of chemistry in Georgetown University, some time ago dissected these claims, and found that the principal thing left to the credit of the Teutons was the designing of the stamp, "Made in Germany." "Their scientists," he observed, "have kicked up a fair amount of spray as they gamboled in their pool, but the world has yet to hear a mighty Teutonic splash. Time and again French, English, American, Spanish and Italian inventors have sent tidal waves around the globe."

Professor Leigh runs down the list of the world's epochal inventions. The steam engine, which revolutionized the industrial life of the world, was the work of Englishmen and Scotchmen, and it was applied to navigation by Englishmen, Frenchmen and Americans. The telegraph was an American invention; the wireless the work of an Italian. The cotton gin, which had a revolutionary influence on the textile industry, was American. Agricultural machinery was conceived and developed by Americans and Englishmen. Photography is French, the motion picture is American. Neither the telescope nor the microscope, to which science owes so much of its progress, was German. It was a French biologist who first showed the connection between microscopic organisms and disease, and Englishmen who led the way in antisepsis and vaccination. Anesthetics were given to the world by Americans.

These facts are appropriately pointed out at this time, not in idle disparagement of the abilities of a people who have become our enemies, but because they ought to help to restore self-confidence and to nullify the feeling of dread that has possessed those who accepted the German version unquestioningly.

A famous Civil War General found inspiration in the reflection, when he was moved to gloomy forebodings, that his enemy probably was in as serious a plight as he was. Although it was a negative sort of inspiration, it was not without its value. We need to disabuse our minds of fear that Germany can master every situation by studying her past performances and comparing them with our own in every field. It is a necessary part of the cultivation of our confidence as well as our will to win.

One of the directors of the bureau of conservation of the New York State Food Commission, Dr. Mary S. Rose, has started a campaign for the wider use of oatmeal as a substitute for wheat, and she declares that of all the cereals it is the best for growth because "it contains more of the elements which make bones and blood for children than any other cereal." She says it would be a good thing for the youth of the country if all would eat bread made from cooked oatmeal or finely-ground oatmeal flour, and that much of the trouble attributed to the war breads of Europe would have been obviated if the grains had been better ground before being cooked. Oat flour is credited by Government analysis with a larger percentage of minerals than any of the other common grains and it also possesses higher general food value. Its use is also commended now because of the prospect of an excellent crop and the growing demands upon our wheat stores made by our allies.

Texas tolerates no half measures with the seditious. Its Legislature unanimously passed a law imposing two to twenty-five years' imprisonment on any person who speaks or writes disrespectfully of the American flag or of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps or of any of their standards or uniforms, or who mutilates, defaces or defiles them, also on any person who has in his possession the flag, standard, color, ensign or coat of arms of any nation with which the United States is at war. Persons convicted of such offenses are denied the benefit of the suspended sentence law. It will be very unhealthy for the disloyal in Texas.

The Teuton labor propaganda which led to the collapse of Russia will not succeed in the countries in which the education of workingmen has not been neglected. Those who can think for themselves will realize that they have nothing to hope for from the victory of Prussianism. Inability of the Kaiser's statesmen to comprehend this fact is another evidence of their curious faculty of ignoring plain facts which are against their interests.

It would be more interesting to read what Kaiser William said in private about that letter of Kaiser Francis than to read his published assurance that he does not believe Francis wrote it. Poison gas would be harmless by comparison.

Oregon has put itself on the map by the most meritorious form of boosting—practical proof of undiluted patriotism. All eyes are now on Oregon, and Easterners will now be ashamed to ask where it is.

The big surplus of potatoes must be put out of the way before the new crop comes. They must be eaten. Hoover asks us to do it, and he must not ask in vain.

There are not many women like the wife of Dr. Thomas, the Chicago sociologist, and there are not many men like the Doc, a good thing all around.

That Tacoma burglar who could not resist temptation to tickle the toes of the sleeping young woman at the risk of capture is a humorous fellow.

If there are four or five thousand idle men in and around the North End, their source of support must be investigated. Comb the district.

An Englishman at Baker, charged with disloyalty, was found to be insane, and that is partly much the trouble with all of that kind.

The submarine which bombarded Monrovia had to go a long way to find a place where it need not hide under water.

In the matter of enrolling boys for various kinds of war work, the privilege of wearing a uniform will be an inducement to enlist.

What might sound like profanity in the mouth of a Yank on the western front is mere American enthusiasm of the killer.

Bombardment of the capital of the little republic of Liberia, that cannot hit back, is typical Hun work of destruction.

Advice to buy next Winter's coal early, if generally followed, will discourage the practice of moving to save rent.

The Emperor of Austria is rapidly qualifying for membership in Colonel Roosevelt's famous Ananias Club.

Duplicating subscriptions is a cure for over-optimism in the third liberty loan.

Oregon did not elect Wilson, but she is backing him with her dollars.

NEWS EXTRA OF 53 YEARS AGO

How The Oregonian Told of Lincoln's Assassination Is Recalled.

PORTLAND, April 14.—(To the Editor.)—Fifty-three years ago today, April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater, in Washington. The President died the next morning. The whole country, rejoicing that the Civil War had ended, was plunged into the wildest excitement and grief, though some Southern sympathizers illy concealed their exultation. Telegraphic communication was not so perfected or general then as now. The news was received in Portland "by overland telegraph" at noon April 15.

In the 1917 session of the Oregon Legislature I was standing in the rotunda of the State Capitol talking to Judge Julius C. Moreland, who has since died. George H. Himes, secretary of the Oregon Historical Society, stopped and exchanged a few words with us. After Mr. Himes had left us, Judge Moreland said:

"George has done good and faithful work for the Historical Society, but of late his memory is not so clear as it used to be. For instance, he tells how the news of Lincoln's assassination was received in Portland, and I know that he is wrong. I was attending the Portland Academy and Female Seminary, located at Seventh and Jefferson streets. I had learned the trade of a printer, and was working some on The Oregonian to help pay my way through school. The morning when the fatal news came I was up early, and some one whom I do not now recall told me that news had come that Lincoln was assassinated. Immediately I hurried to The Oregonian office, finding Mr. Pittock there. The printers had not come to the office yet. Mr. Pittock and I set the type for an extra, containing the brief story then received, and printed the news on a proof press as an extra. Mr. Himes' story about Mr. Scott saying to get out an extra cannot be correct, as there was no one there but Mr. Pittock and myself."

James L. McCown, foreman of The Oregonian at that time, says he has a distinct recollection of the circumstances connected with the receipt of the news and of its giving to the public by means of an extra. When told by the writer of Judge Moreland's statement, Mr. McCown, who is now day proofreader for The Oregonian, said:

"The Oregonian was then published in a building at the northwest corner of Front and Washington streets. The composing-room and the editor's room were on the second floor, and the business office on the first floor. A stairway led from the business office into the composing-room. Mr. Pittock and Mr. Scott came up the stairs and went into the editorial-room. I noticed they were agitated. Mr. Pittock called me into the editorial-room and told me they had news that Lincoln was assassinated. Mr. Scott said that we should get out an extra, and Mr. Pittock told me to get ready to carry out his order. I went out into the composing-room, where the printers were distributing type into their cases, to see about handling the extra quickly when the wire should come with authentic news. A printer named Snyder, known as a Southern sympathizer, came to me and said:

"'What is the matter, Jim? Have they killed Lincoln, Grant and Seward?'

"'How the h—— did you know that, Snyder?' I quickly retorted, as thoughts of a talked-of conspiracy by rebels flashed over my mind.

"Snyder turned away and said no more.

"In a few minutes the copy for the extra came to me. I cut it up into short 'takes' and gave it out to printers to set. The type was put on a galley and printed on a proof press. The late George E. Watkins kept account of the sheets as they were printed and looked after giving them out to boys to sell. The first extra was only a third of a column long. As additional news came it was set and added to what had constituted the first extra.

"The Herald, a Democratic morning paper, had its office across the hall from ours, and we were very careful about letting out the big news till our extra was ready for the street."

W. C. DUNIWAY.

THINGS ONE SEES IN THE MOVIES

Officer With Cavalry Trousers and Bandman's Hat Commands Infantry.

PORTLAND, April 12.—(To the Editor.)—W. G. Caldwell's letter in The Oregonian relating some of his observations anent the inconsistencies of the movies reminds me that some time ago I witnessed a scene portraying a patriotic meeting in an Eastern city in which an American General presided. He was garbed in the regulation blue uniform of an Army officer and wore the stars of a General on his shoulder straps, but, alas, it was the first time within the past 40 years that we ever saw an American General wearing an infantry officers' stripe on his trousers.

Another scene depicted a detachment of infantry at a frontier post in Alaska commanded by a Lieutenant who wore an artillery or cavalry officer's stripe and who also wore on his campaign hat the insignia of a bandman.

Again, I have often observed that the movies is the only place in existence where one can get married without a marriage license.

A FILM FIEND.

Flight of Airplane Bomb.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., April 12.—(To the Editor.)—For the purpose of settling a friendly dispute, will you give us a little information as to the course of a shell dropped from an airplane 10,000 feet high while traveling at a speed of 100 miles an hour. In other words, would the shell have a tendency to follow the machine to the extent of landing at a point directly beneath the machine, or would the machine have passed on to a point a considerable distance from a point directly over the place where the shell landed.

"THE SMOKE."

The shell would move forward, as well as downward, but would gradually lose momentum and would then drop in a straight line. As the airplane's speed would be continuous it would be beyond the point of impact of the shell.

A good way to obtain a practical illustration is to shoot one out of a flock of ducks rapidly flying over the Klamath marshes. Doubtless one of the disputants can recall such an incident. The duck when shot is going just as fast as his companions, but does not keep up with them after being shot. The shell is going just as fast as the airplane until released. It then has no further propelling force back of it. Moreover, to fall directly beneath the airplane, it would have to develop greater forward speed than the plane for it would, in that event, travel the longer course of the hypothenuse of a right-angle triangle, while the airplane would travel the shorter course of one of the sides.

Ages in Draft Treaty.

PORTLAND, April 13.—(To the Editor.)—Is an Englishman, 48 years of age, who has been in America for over 25 years and a resident of the United States since 1909, and who has taken out his first papers for American citizenship, liable for draft in the British army? A RESIDENT WEBFOOT.

As the treaty was originally drafted it did not apply to men over 40. It has not been ratified, however, and is subject to change.

RIGHT TO DISLOYAL VIEWS UPHELD

While Conceding Such Views Are Wrong, Writer Would Not Interfere.

PORTLAND, April 14.—(To the Editor.)—When the Library Board meets tonight it will have before it the concrete problem of whether under present financial conditions a public employe should be compelled to subscribe to liberty bonds or forfeit her position. It is easy under pressure to lose our poise and also the vision of that for which we are fighting.

Every great conflict has brought with it a period of mob rule, and, subject to slight qualifications, it is only a matter of degree which separates the action of an Illinois crowd which strings up a man who refuses to kiss the flag, and that of a committee which says: "Buy bonds, or lose your business life."

Americans will remember how William Lloyd Garrison was dragged through the streets of Boston because he held the views of an abolitionist, and how Henry Ward Beecher was mobbed many times in England on his mission to educate the English workingmen to see the justice of the Northern cause. These two members of the Hunt family are cited from a list of a score of patriots whose work in this country has extended over more than two centuries to show that popularity has not been a guide to action, and that, perhaps, even without Miss Hunt's subscription, which I hope will be forthcoming, the family has contributed no inconsiderable share to the creating and preserving of complete liberty in this country.

I have never been able to comprehend the prevalent opinion that one by becoming a public official ipso facto makes himself a legitimate target for mud-slinging, or why the fact that one serves the library in a clerical or administrative capacity, giving service at par, should distinguish her, so far as accountability to the public is concerned, from a company which sells heat or books to the library. And yet the proponents of Miss Hunt's expulsion would hardly go to the extent of boycotting all firms which sell to public institutions, the members or employes of which have failed to subscribe their quota.

It should be noted in this connection that Miss Hunt's position as assistant librarian does not bring her into active contact with the general public, and that she has not been accused of foisting her views upon others. Like many others whose brothers are on their way to the front, I feel that we should back them to the utmost, and that Miss Hunt's viewpoint is wrong, but so long as Oregon has made an oversubscription, so long as the Government desires this part of the financing of the war to be carried on voluntarily, is it not wiser to adopt other means than coercion to make clear to those who hold back the fact that, while all war may be undesirable, this war, so far as we are concerned, was absolutely necessary.

It would be too expensive to send all of our pacifists to Europe to grasp this distinction, but possibly those who have returned may do some missionary work. In any event, let us not degenerate to the conception that might is right. J. HUNT HENDRICKSON.

On the contrary, it does not appear that Miss Hunt has been nursing her views in strict privacy. On April 3, 1917, she visited Washington City as the avowed representative of Oregon pacifists. The President's war address had just been delivered, the war resolution was pending in Congress and the country had rallied to the President as never before.

Miss Hunt, representing no one but herself, but pretending to voice considerable public opinion, called on each Oregon Senator and each Oregon Representative and urged each to vote against the resolution, asserting that the newspapers did not reflect public sentiment.

The following is quoted from a letter written by George A. Thacher to the editor of The Oregonian since the meeting of the Library Board:

I have known Miss Hunt, of the Library, very well for several years. She is absolutely disloyal, as I know, and her influence has been distinctly bad for a long time. I told her two years ago that if Americans took her position we might easily be called upon to submit ourselves to the German government and to the Kaiser. She responded that she would not object to that and thought we might be as well off as we are now.

While she may be acting on personal conviction, she is absolutely disloyal in her utterances and influence and has been for many months. She said to me two weeks ago that many people though she ought to be in jail. It is silly to say she has not used her influence actively.

OFFER IS MADE TO START FUND.

Soldier's Mother Would Provide Ticket to Germany for Objector.

PORTLAND, April 14.—(To the Editor.)—In the name of loyalty, patriotism and common sense, some of us cannot understand the retention of the assistant librarian after her most easily understood utterance, "conscientious objector!" Why, I. W. W.'s, German spies, pacifists, and some ministers of the gospel are such and for their conscientious objections have been interned.

She does not approve of the methods employed in carrying on this war. One having such marked ability as she in knowing just how such a stupendous matter should be managed, should at once have a seat beside President Wilson—close up—to advise him how and when to act.

Young women in and out of offices with salaries one-half or one-third this woman's have supported the Government in every measure to help keep the Hun from his bestial ravages and make liberty a possibility not only in our own great land, but among people of other lands who have never known what liberty means.

I think there are enough loyal women in Portland to see that transportation be given her to the land of the Hun and I will start the subscription with $1.

Hurrah for W. F. Woodward. Let him ask for any office in this city and he will receive my support. I am the mother of a soldier.

MRS. W. C. KANTNER.
830 Colonial Avenue.

No National Distinctions.

MONITOR, Or., April 13.—(To the Editor.)—Referring to an article in The Oregonian April 12 on page 3, headed "Marion County Hits Gait," I wish to say that the person who wrote this evidently knew very little of conditions around Monitor.

The people of this vicinity are Americans, though a large percentage of them are of Scandinavian descent and a few of German descent, and nearly every one 100 per cent American. No German-American, Scandinavian-American or American-American element put us over the top, but all as Americans working together.

Our 325 per cent was subscribed through having a first-class town organization and a bunch of live solicitors who were out with the birds Saturday morning. Monitor is the banner precinct all right and hard work put it there.

A 100 PER CENT AMERICAN.

Not Ground for Divorce.

PORTLAND, April 14.—(To the Editor.) — Is barrenness a legitimate ground for divorce in the state of Oregon? Has it ever been so used? Of what does the burden of proof consist?

A CONSTANT READER.

It is not ground for divorce.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.
From The Oregonian, April 15, 1893.

London.—The debate on the second reading of the home rule bill continues in the House of Commons.

Councilman Eugene Shelby has received from his sister a postal card written on top of Mount Vesuvius, indicating that Mrs. Shelby and Miss Shelby are sojourning in Italy now.

Congressman Ellis has received notice that he is to name two cadets for the Annapolis Naval Academy.

The Government has let a contract to Emil Courand to carry the mail from Station A, Portland, to Montavilla, 12 times a week.

Half a Century Ago.
From The Oregonian, April 15, 1868.

Washington.—Washburne introduced a resolution, calling for an inquiry into the rumored intention to turn over to private parties the Island of St. Paul, which is in property embraced in the treaty with Russia.

President Albert L. Johnson has called a meeting of the East Portland Library Association for April 20.

It is learned that smelt are very plentiful in the Sandy River. The other day 12 men got five wagon loads by scooping them up out of the water with dip nets.

Chief Engineer Weed, of the fire department, has ordered that firemen report in uniform at stations tomorrow morning for the purpose of attending the railroad celebration on the East Side.

SALVAGE IN WORN-OUT SOCKS

Writer Suggests That Soldiers Send Home Upper Half for Reconstruction.

PORTLAND, April 13.—(To the Editor.)—To Hooverize in every way is not only a privilege, but our duty. Waste particularly wanton is always a shame. In these strenuous war times it is a crime, especially if that waste be of wool and the labor of our wives, mothers, sisters and sweethearts. I say this because I believe that thousands of pairs of woolen socks are discarded and destroyed when they are worn out either at the heel or at the toe, or, for that matter, in both places.

Wool is at a premium; woolen garments are greatly needed by our soldiers and sailors, and the wool in the upper part of these socks is good and can be worked over for other purposes, but even that would entail a needless waste of labor, because any knitter with little experience can knit an entirely new foot onto the upper part of a discarded sock, making it as good as new and thereby saving all material and labor that had gone into the upper part of such a sock.

This idea is not new with me. It is not visionary. It is practical. I know that waste is prevented in foreign countries by utilizing the upper part of discarded socks, and there is not only no reason why it should not be done in America, but under the existing conditions there is no excuse for not doing so. I feel that the proper officers at the different cantonments should take cognizance of a matter of this kind, but if my suggestion that it be made an Army regulation meets with no favor, it should at least appeal to the individual soldiers and sailors. They should send their old woolen socks home and the family can renovate them at little expense and with little trouble. They will be as good as new.

A SUBSCRIBER.

QUAKER DESCENDANT PROTESTS

Persons Who Set Good Examples Now Wanted in Public Places.

PORTLAND, April 14.—(To the Editor.)—One cannot help but contrast the dignified sentences of Dr. Foster last Tuesday night as he concluded his eloquent lecture. He acknowledged his secession from pacifism and his knowledge of the justice of this war and the downfall of militarism.

The bombastic utterances of Miss Hunt have drawn the wool over the eyes of the directors, who should know better. The Library affairs went on very nicely during her absence. There is as good a fish in the sea as ever was caught, and good example-setting men and women are wanted now.

The "Friends," of whom I am proud to be a descendant, have given money in abundance to the Red Cross and hospitals. One will overlook much if Miss Hunt will give $500 to the Red Cross, but not forgive.

Thank heaven one director picked up Miss Hunt's gauntlet of defiance. Honor he to him. I close in the words of "Phineas" in "Uncle Tom's Cabin:" "Friend, thee art not needed here."

E. CARMICHAEL DAVIS.
270 East Sixteenth street.

Road Through Neighbor's Land.

TILLAMOOK, Or., April 13.—(To the Editor.)—(1) A man is absent from home, but his wife still lives on place; I get permission from his wife to build a bridge across the river where an old road goes through and there are no trespassing signs. If her husband comes home could he stop me from going through?

(2) How do they saw timber for quarter sawed-lumber?

A SUBSCRIBER.

(1) It is a privilege that may be revoked. If, however, you have no means of access to a public road except through your neighbor's property, you can force an egress by legal process.

(2) The log is first sawed into quarters and then into boards, planks or veneer by cutting alternately from each face of the quarter.

French Tales Worth Reading.

PORTLAND, April 14.—(To the Editor.)—To every anxious heart, with son, sweetheart or husband in France, the writer suggests as a balm and as a bit of reading full of absorbing interest and of color, that remarkable collection of short stories by Alphonse Daudet, known as "Monday Tales."

They tell so graphically the conditions in France which surrounded the Prussian war—the simple life of the peasant folk; their self-sacrifice; their wholeheartedness, bravery and self-denial. The descriptions of town, country and people are so vivid that the reader will be entranced with every scene as pictured between its covers.

Some hours of illness, confining the writer to his home, have given to him the opportunity to feast upon descriptions which he fain others would share.

W. F. WOODWARD.

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.