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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1918.

WHY NOT THE TRUTH?

The Oregonian has from an Anti-Saloon worker in New York an anxious inquiry as to the truth of certain statements in a leaflet entitled "Brewery vs. Labor: Prohibition did this in Portland, Or.," and widely circulated by the Presbyterian Board of Temperance of Pittsburg, Pa.

"The matter in the pamphlet," says our correspondent, "has passed current for some time in temperance literature, and is one of those statements that has been taken for granted, so universal is its appearance. . . . The brewers now take exception to the facts and figures."

The "facts and figures" about Portland and its happy experience with prohibition are:

Wet (employed)—Rainier Brewery, 156; Portland Brewery, 109; Pacific Coast Brewery, 123; total employed, 379.
Dry (employed)—New a tannery, 1600; new a furniture factory, 600; new a shoe factory, 2500; total employed, 4700.

If we gather the drift of this overpowering argument for prohibition, it is that one brewery is now a tannery, another a furniture factory, and the third a shoe factory, and that the change has marvelously made 4700 contented workers where there were only 379 before. Wonderful, if true.

The trouble is that it is not true, and bears only the faintest semblance of truth in the instances cited. Why was so much "taken for granted" by anybody, when the facts are easily available, and they are favorable, unquestionably, to prohibition? Why was it assumed by the Presbyterian Board of Temperance of Pittsburg that gross and astounding misrepresentation will serve better than a calm statement of the real situation?

There is not, and never was, a Rainier Brewery in Portland. Seattle enjoys the distinction of being the site, or the grave, of that delectable institution. There is not, and never was, so far as we can recall—and we have a fairly good memory about affairs Portland, including institutions for the making of beer—a Pacific Coast Brewery in this city. There was a Portland brewery, months since gone hence; but it has not been transformed into a furniture factory.

Portland is a manufacturer of furniture, in various establishments, and employs many hundred men in that industry. So it was in the old wet days. It has a number of tanneries, but no one employs the grand total of 1600 busy and sober tanners, or any number approaching it. As to a shoe factory, let our New York inquirer be content with our assurance that the total in that employment is less than 2500.

The Oregonian would like to know where the stories, such as are put forth by the Pittsburg propagandists, come from? Why are men so willing to accept and proclaim, without investigation, statements about anything, much less about any matter in controversy? Do they fear that the truth will not serve them, and they must rely upon manufactured evidence? It would almost seem so.

But the truth is decidedly in their favor. Let the temperance workers of New York ignore the rosy fictions of the hired anti-saloon crusaders, and go to disinterested sources for their information. Nothing could be more effective, for example, than the plain testimony of any large employer of labor in Oregon or Washington. Take the logging camps and the sawmills. The benefits of prohibition there are not to be questioned by anybody. Or take the shipyards of Puget Sound or the Columbia River. Without consulting any shipbuilder, The Oregonian ventures nothing in the guess that all responsible makers of ships will say that the efficiency of labor has been increased greatly by prohibition; and that prohibition prohibits, not absolutely, but measurably. There is no loss of time, or very little, from drunkenness, no waste of money in saloons, no demoralization in the yards from debauchery, and no poverty in the home because of liquor. Or not so much, by an immense percentage, as formerly.

So it is in all industries, in all walks of life, in every town, city and county. Here and there are wet spots, and there are numerous infractions of the dry law. But the consumption of liquor has enormously decreased. There can be no dispute of that statement. No figures as to present-day use of liquor are available, and they would be worthless if they could be had. The real evidence is to be had in the changed condition. Any eye may see it; any tongue may tell of it, and it will be true. A drunken man on the streets of Portland is a novelty. A saloon is a memory. A bootlegging joint is a rarity. Not one citizen in a thousand knows where it is to be found, and a surreptitious drink may be had. There are left-over stores, doubtless, in many places, but they are not dispensed, and are not for miscellaneous use.

If a suggestion from The Oregonian to the prohibition workers of New York, or any wet state, should prove in order, it would be for them to retire the professional agitators to the background, and to import a flying battalion of plain citizens from the Pacific Northwest, to tell what they think and what they know? They will say that a return to former conditions is unthinkable, that families are better cared for, that fathers and sons are more regularly employed, and that prohibition is beneficial.

WHAT IS KEEPING YOU?

My offer to serve in the trenches, and in any capacity, will stand so long as the country is at war.—From the campaign pamphlet of A. W. Lafferty.

Thus we hear from Lafferty, who offers also a noble and appealing picture of himself, in his advertising brochure, "in the uniform of a private soldier"—are Lafferty's very own. He is proud of his soldierly appearance, and, being equipped for war, says he wants to go to war.

What is keeping you, Mr. Lafferty? What is keeping you? Here you are, a fine, healthy, handsome young man, patriotic (you say it yourself) and anxious to serve "in the trenches or in any capacity." You also say that yourself.

Can you give, Mr. Lafferty, or can anyone give a reason why you should not go to the nearest recruiting office and enlist as a private soldier in that same uniform which you wore last Summer? Why not wear it again?

What is keeping you at home, running for office, when you say you want to go to war?

NO STRIKE; BUT ADJUST THEIR WAGES.

A strike by the telegraph operators would be a disaster, not to say calamity. The men know it, of course; the companies are fully aware of the consequences. They have prevented unionization by the operators in the past and they have always maintained a flourishing black list, and they are not inclined to any other policy now. They are not greatly disturbed, apparently, by the changed conditions of labor shortage and higher living cost. They know that the Government is vitally interested in free and uninterrupted telegraph service during the war, and must maintain it, at all hazards. There is also a more or less substantial understanding between employers as a class and employes as a class that there shall be no strikes to recognize any new union during the war and no strikes to non-unionize any unionized employment. Very well.

Yet it is true that the telegraph operator (commercial) is poorly paid—among the poorest paid of the skilled employments. We should like to see a statement of the wage scale of the average operator. We should like to know how much increase these industrious and efficient men and women have had in the past ten years, or the past year, or the past month. How does their wage compare with the well-paid press telegraph operator? How does it compare with the pay of men in kindred employments, such as linotype operators?

If it be true that the United States Government and its welfare are so deeply involved in continuous operation of telegraph lines that a strike must and will be prevented, it should also be true that the Government, through its mediation bureau, is enough interested in the grievances of poorly paid operators that it will adjust them and see that they have a living wage.

ADVENTURES IN SOCIOLOGY.

The defense offered by a professor of the University of Chicago, who is a member of the faculty of that institution no longer, in justification of the unconventional plight in which he found himself and in which the wife of a soldier absent in France is embarrassingly involved, is highly convenient, but it is not new. The professor, according to his own version, was simply conducting some experiments in sociology—doing "laboratory" work, as the scientist might phrase it. Perilous work he admits it to be, as, indeed, it is; but he takes to himself the flattering thought that he is more a martyr, for example, than the intrepid geographer who risks his life in uncharted wilds, or the bacteriologist who inoculates himself to put his own theories to the test. For the other scientists only stake their lives, while the sociologist defies public opinion and puts his good name in the balance. In the instance in point, he even risked the good name of another than himself.

Then, of course, there is the other familiar defense that the accepted standards of society are all wrong. We grow to expect, when we read about a sociologist gone wrong, that he will have something to say about the injustice of "man-made laws." The "great error" of society, it seems, is that while it expects from its members creative work, it "continually hinders them from doing it by all kinds of special regulations." Among the hateful regulations are certain antiquated notions that even a professor of social science ought to observe some old-fashioned proprieties and outward restrictions in his relations with the wives of other men who may not have been consulted and who probably do not understand the ways of bohemians. Also, it is safe to say, they do not sympathize with them.

The professor, it seems, is a student of romance and of the human emotions, with especial reference to their bearing upon the question of sex. He is not content with the methods of the historian, although "history is the most elaborately organized of all the social sciences and has made the most minute and painstaking contributions." The trouble with the historian is that he attempts to present lessons to the present from the past. This method the professor rejects in toto. He finds that it accounts for the "failure of intellectualism." He prefers the "case method," which invokes association with all sorts of persons, including "prostitutes, thieves and bums"—and, also, it appears, the wives of absent soldiers. Only in this manner can human conduct be analyzed to his satisfaction—in no other way can the well springs of emotion be sounded to their depths.

So the intrepid social explorer goes his unfettered way—at least he is unfettered until a scandalized hotel proprietor and a too conventional policeman interfere with his investigations. A hidebound university dispenses with his services. Reporters who also have a taste for probing the human emotions ask him deeply personal questions. It is a cold world. The search for Truth, with a capital "T," is hampered, as usual.

It was always thus. At one time, Professor Thomas reminds us, it was a sin to rescue shipwrecked sailors in Scotland; a moral act in England to burn a boy for repeating a bit of profanity which he did not understand. Once widows were burned in India, and the use of the iron plow was condemned as blasphemy and the telegraph was rejected by the British war department. The Aristotelians, if we remember rightly, made life uncomfortable for Galileo. Now a twentieth century world pillories a sociologist because he prefers the case method to the time-honored way of the historian in his efforts to support a theory that society does not know what it is doing when it sets up certain standards to govern the relations between men and women, and enacts marriage statutes and holds fixed opinions on the subject of the sanctity of the home.

The average man, who prides himself on the possession of homely common sense, will look askance at the experiments of men of this professor's type. For if we are to let down the bars to investigation, there must be no special favors for professors of sociology. All are seeking for truth, each in his own way. What a merry-go-round of licentious adventure we should have if the "case method" were to become universal! The perfect, automatic defense against every social crime would be established, superior to the alibi, or even the claim of mental irresponsibility. We can better afford to grope along in the twilight, finding our way as best we can by the sense of touch and the familiar landmarks here and there, for a while longer. The defense of Professor Thomas is interesting chiefly for its ingenious elaboration; it will not be safe for some time to come for others to adopt his methods of "investigation."

LIBERTY CABBAGE.

A desirable article of food, and one that represents the essence of conservation, promises to go to waste because there is prevalent in some quarters a curious notion that the eating of cabbage which has been salted and permitted to ferment in its own juice constitutes a "pro-German" act. It is perhaps true that this article of diet is of Teutonic origin, although data are lacking as to precise time and place of its invention, and it is a fact that its common name is undubitably German. Nevertheless, there is no copyright on the recipe for putting up cabbage in any form, nor any patent on the process of fermenting it, and there are few who will subscribe to the doctrine that one's character is influenced by what he eats, and those who are fond of sauerkraut, either with spare ribs or pickled pork or plain boiled will not be contributing to the winning of the war by denying themselves this particular item. In fact, it would serve the German purpose for Americans to waste any food.

Prejudice against the use of an article of "unmitigated German origin," it seems, is widespread. Officials of the Federal Food Board in New York were told the other day that consumption had fallen off fully 75 per cent since the war began. One dealer testified that he had four hundred tons on hand, with no prospect of a market. There are immense quantities in stock in the United States—enough to feed a good-sized German army, which would be glad enough to get it.

Some of the dealers have suggested changing the name to "liberty cabbage," in the hope that this will restore it to popular favor. No harm will be done by adopting the plan, perhaps, although the necessity for it is not fully apparent. Still, the point is that we must continue to consume our vegetables so far as possible, and no better way of carrying cabbage through the non-growing season has been devised than the pickling of it. Let it be liberty cabbage, if that will remove the prejudice against it, and let us eat up the thousands of barrels of it now in storage. The notion that it is food fit only for the Kaiser ought to be dispelled in the interests of economy and conservation.

EQUIP THE NATION FOR COMMERCE.

Foreign trade was recognized by the recent National Foreign Trade Convention as one of the essential means of success in the war, as well as for carrying the burdens which will rest upon the Nation after the war. For our success in the war we must maintain trade with all the great markets which supply war material and the raw material for our domestic industries, and we must tear out the tentacles which Germany has fastened on our domestic trade and finance. We must also occupy the fields of foreign trade from which our enemies have been driven by the war. To insure our prosperity after the war we must equip ourselves to maintain and strengthen, under the intense competition which will then prevail, the hold on foreign markets which we gain while competition is at the minimum.

These things require vast reorganization, improvement and extension of our internal machinery for production and transportation. Under this head come:

Improvement and extension of railroads, especially terminals and car distribution, and co-ordination of the railroads with each other and with waterways; also National regulation of all interstate roads.

Improvement of waterways, construction of water terminals and establishment of modern lines, co-ordinated with railroads and secured from destructive railroad competition.

Distribution of ocean commerce among a larger number of ports on all coasts, in order to do away with the glut of traffic at a few ports and on the railroads leading to them.

A large addition to the present ocean tonnage, not only for direct military service, but to maintain and extend foreign trade by means of American shipping lines, and during the war to bring raw materials from abroad for war purposes and for domestic consumption as well as to sustain and add to our economic strength as a means of financing the war.

Development of all our neglected resources in the shape of water power, minerals of all kinds, agriculture, especially on arid land, timber and grazing land.

Training of an army of young men and women in our schools and colleges for foreign trade, that they may know the products and the needs of the countries with which they will do business, may write and speak the languages of our foreign customers, may know American and foreign business methods, and may be missionaries of American commerce inspired with a patriotism which cannot influence the many foreigners who have hitherto been employed abroad by American exporters.

Portland and the Columbia River should play an important part in this expansion of trade. Railroads lead directly from one of the broadest, richest and most productive areas to this port, and are paralleled and intersected by great inland waterways. The port is reached by a navigable channel from the sea which is deep enough and broad enough for the greatest ships. It is the center of the wooden shipbuilding industry, and plays no small part in building steel ships. These facts point to it as one of the new, neglected ports which should be used to relieve the congestion prevailing at those few ports where our commerce is centered. It is the natural gateway through which the products of the Pacific Northwest should flow to the sea, and it produces the vessels to carry them.

The Columbia River and its main tributaries should enter into any comprehensive scheme of water transportation.

The shipbuilding industry should be fostered here, both for the purposes of war and for the present and future purposes of commerce.

Oregon has as large a share as any state of the undeveloped resources which are needed both in war and commerce, and they should go to market through this gateway.

In the Agricultural College at Corvallis and in the Benson Polytechnic School at Portland, Oregon has institutions which train men and women for industry, agriculture and science, and in the University of Oregon at Eugene it has a department which trains them for commerce.

All the equipment for a great part in expansion of commerce exists in Portland and Oregon. It waits only to be used.

Complete organization of the United States for foreign commerce also demands much Federal legislation, of which the laws authorizing American banks abroad and combination of American exporters for sales abroad are but the beginning. The consular service should be improved by release from hampering restrictions, by payment of more liberal salaries and by enlargement of its staff, that it may become efficient in gathering first-hand information. The tariff system should be revised to become an instrument in bargaining for protection and extension of foreign trade. Since direct taxation has become, and seems destined to remain, our main source of revenue, the contribution which customs duties make to the Treasury should be regarded as merely incidental to these purposes. Adjustment of duties should therefore be entrusted to an administrative body, in order that the tariff may be flexible and may be used in driving bargains between this and other nations.

Several departments and bureaus would have a hand in this work under existing law—the Departments of State and Commerce, the Federal Trade Commission and the Tariff Commission—and their functions are apt to conflict and overlap. Each works too independently of the others, and official jealousy often causes friction. One of the important uses which the President might make of the authority granted by the Overman bill is to consolidate and co-ordinate these bodies so that they shall do efficient teamwork with an eye to a single end. The present emergency and the coming commercial struggle forbid that time and energy be wasted by division of authority to do the same or kindred work among several officials or commissions.

All of these things are needed to enable the Nation to bear without strain the burden which will be a legacy of the war. It is quite conceivable that, by wise legislation and administration and by patriotism and enterprise among the people, this Nation may so increase production, improve and economize transportation and expand foreign commerce that it will bear the added burden of the war as easily as it has hitherto borne the burdens of peace.

While the British chase one Turkish army up the Euphrates Valley toward Aleppo, another fights the remnant of the Armenians and reconquers the territory lost in 1878 in the vain hope of establishing a Pan-Turkish empire which shall extend into Central Asia. But the fate of that country will be decided in France and on the Rhine, and America will have a hand in the decision.

In the case of the young man Haines found guilty of perjury, there is little good that can be said. He gave his two children a name only when he hoped such action would keep him out of the Army. When, finally, he gets into the service, it is to be hoped that he will be awakened by the things he sees.

McAdoo frowns on the railroader seeking office and objects to employes mixing in as obstructive to the service. What a situation it would create if all employers felt that way, and only the worthless, shiftless and good-for-nothing could be candidates.

Villaistas are as bad as Huns, if the story from El Paso be true, that refusal of delivery to them of three young girls brought on the massacre of an entire village of forty-seven people.

The Walla Walla officer who arrested a man making an insurance map was not much to blame. A man in that occupation has a suspicious look in times like these.

Pope Benedict's intent is commendable, but the time is not here. When victory shall be gained with unconditional surrender, Christian nations will listen.

The rumor that Kitchener is alive and in a German prison can be dismissed. A vainglorious princeling, full of wine, would have boasted of it long ago.

That Lewis County man, father of five and drafted because of non-support, will not make much of a soldier, but may serve a useful end.

Toledo, Wash., is not a big town, but it is large enough to regulate the loyalty of Lewis County. There is need of many Toledos.

The most appropriate penalty for the Hindu conspirators would be to compel them to live under German rule.

Mr. Huston's name will be left off the ballot. Has any other gentleman a similar desire? Ladies, also?

That three-pound catfish caught near Ridgefield is not bad, considering the distance from Missouri.

As eighteen is to thirty-three, so are Oregon's wood shipyards to those of the entire country.

It's all right to use women for window cleaning, but stand from under. They might fall.

The Hunnish beast seemingly is squatting on his haunches, licking his wounds.

The strongest objection to chain letters is that they are so hard to stop.

No public utility can be bigger than the Government in war time.

Russia has many governments, but few rulers.

Stars and Starmakers.

By Leone Cass Baer.

AREN'T women exacting and queer? The wife of a nice actor, in her divorce petition, alleges that when they were first married he referred to her as "The Wife," later that became "The Old Woman," and now, although she is not yet 30, she claims to have overheard him saying to a friend, "Have you met The Hag?"

* * *

In these pestiferous times of worry, I certainly envy that woman found wandering in the streets who, when questioned, said: "I know my name is Lena Dike and that's all I know about myself or anybody or anything else."

* * *

Walter Regan is playing with a stock company in Providence, R. I. May Buckley is the leading woman.

* * *

A likeness of Geraldine Dare's colorful brunette beauty has been made into the principal figure for a poster to be used in patriotic work. The artist is Tmaino Suki, a Japanese girl, whose magazine illustrations are widely known. She met Miss Dare while the latter was in motion picture work in Los Angeles, and Miss Suki was having a holiday in Southern California. In the poster, which is idealized, of course, the little Dare girl is pictured against a background of Old Glory, her lips placed to a trumpet and one hand outstretched, appealing for support for the liberty bond.

* * *

The son of Marc Klaw will likely go into productions next season for the legitimate stage. He is Joseph Klaw, now auditor in the Klaw & Erlanger office, in which firm his father is partner.

* * *

The all-star cast which George Tyler has assembled to present "Out There," on tour for the benefit of war relief charities, is about completed. Dorothy Donnelly and Viola Allen will be with the company. There is a possibility William Elliott will have the role Arnold Daly was to have played.

Others in the cast are: Laurette Taylor, George Arliss, George M. Cohan, H. B. Warner, James T. Powers, Chauncey Olcott, James K. Hackett and George MacFarlane.

The company opens at the National, Washington, May 13. This aggregation of stars will not come to this Coast, but will play in the extreme Eastern cities.

* * *

Arthur Guy Empey, who wrote "Over the Top," has written a song called "Your Lips Are No Man's Land but Mine," which is being sung in vaudeville. The chorus runs like this:

I'm coming back some day
When the fray is over, my darling,
I know you'll be true, dear;
So I'll never be blue, dear;
Across the foam in No Man's Land I'll
soon be fighting.
But I know your lips are no man's land but
mine.

* * *

After I read it over I decided that some songs might come under the title of horrors of war.

* * *

Eva Tanguay is canceling vaudeville dates again. Whenever a critic takes a gentle rap at Eva she gets so mad and cuts off her own nose, cancels a lot of engagements and rushes into print with a million-dollar advertisement to prove that the critic was all wrong. Now Eva is mad at some Chicago writers, and she's going to come to the Pacific Coast. She doesn't say what part. Hope it's Aberdeen or San Diego.

* * *

Jack Girard, a member of the Lowandies, the equestrienne act which appeared a few weeks ago at Pantages and now appearing in Oakland, was last week taken into custody, accused of violating the espionage act by making pro-German remarks. Girard denied the charges against him and protested his loyalty. Sentence was suspended.

* * *

George Beban has commissioned Harry Weber to secure vaudeville engagements from June 15 onward. Mr. Beban will reappear in his former sketch, "The Sign of the Rose."

* * *

Speaking of Pantages, it is announced on authority that Alexander Pantages has secured a theater site in Kansas City and plans to build there about May 15. Pantages circuit is constantly growing and the shows are universally good.

* * *

Eddie Foy has canceled his vaudeville engagements to go to Dallas, Tex., where Mrs. Foy is convalescent from a serious illness. He is going to take her to their home in New Rochelle, N. Y.

* * *

Carter, the magician, who comes to Portland occasionally and magishes around and has all the women in town pouring their secrets into his ears, or rather the ears of his assistants, who really answer the questions, has tried to magish in New York and failed. He essayed to give effete Broadway a whole evening of magic at the Belmont and to have the New York girls all fussed, just as he gets 'em in Walla Walla and Eugene, and they wouldn't be interested a bit. One reviewer says that the most Carter made in one night was $65. So Carter is coming out to the Pacific Coast again, he says.

* * *

Madame Chilson-Hyphen-Ohrman, who visits us each season on the Orpheum circuit and sings classical songs in a pale blue dress and blonde hair, is the latest exponent of the notion that love doesn't run smoothly in operatic circles. Madame Chilson-Hyphen-Ohrman is divorcing Elmer L. (no Hyphen) Ohrman in Chicago. He lives at the Chicago Athletic Club. He was head of the Ohrman Mortgage Company, and, according to his wife, formerly had an income of $100,000 a year. The divorce is sought on the grounds of non-support, desertion and cruelty.

* * *

This may interest some local theatrical fan who has some sheet music he would like to see passed on to an appreciative destination:

Fort Leavenworth, Kan., April 16.—Editor Variety: I am a piano player; we have a new piano at our barracks, about 25 musicians in our crowd, but no music. Am getting together an orchestra. We could use any and all kinds of music.

Whatever you can do for us in the way of getting us a supply of music will be greatly appreciated.

HARRY D. CHICHESTER.
Fifteenth Service Company, Signal Corps, Barracks 230.

* * *

Carrie Jacobs Bond, composer of "The End of a Perfect Day," is reported seriously ill at Los Angeles. Mrs. Bond was caught in a sandstorm and her illness is the result of inhaling quantities of the sand. Her condition is critical.

LAFFERTY'S COOL EFFRONTERY

Own Linking of Name With Lincoln's Suggests a Striking Contrast.

PORTLAND, May 1.—(To the Editor.)—I have before me a 64-page booklet, containing much that pretends to be political argument, and two half-tone photographs. They are excellent likenesses of Abraham Lincoln, the martyred President, and of A. W. Lafferty, pretender to Congress at the coming primary election.

I marvel that presumptious egotism should so overreach itself. Lincoln, I fancy, looks in the picture much as he did when Booth killed him in Ford's Theater, when he paid in full the price for such Americanism as the world will remember when the 20th century is ancient history. Lafferty wears the uniform of a student at the Presidio training camp.

The booklet is Lafferty's bid for the Republican nomination to Congress. Beneath his likeness appears the declaration: "I feel prepared and am ready to serve my country in the trenches in any capacity. My offer to this effect is on file with the War Department and will stand as long as the country is at war."

May I be pardoned if I ask why Lafferty does not press his offer? Surely one who rates his Americanism with that of Lincoln should not hesitate to bear arms in a struggle for freedom. Does he wait until the War Department shall send a special embassy to beg his enlistment?

The facts are that A. W. Lafferty sought a commission at the Presidio and that he was discharged. We are not concerned with the reasons for his dismissal. Hundreds of able young men, lacking somewhat in the Army standards of leadership, were sent home without their shoulder bars. Nor would we be concerned with the case of Lafferty did he not have the presumption to flaunt this worthless record as an argument for his election to Congress.

My dear sir, it is my privilege to know of a young man who, like Lafferty, sought a commission at the Presidio and failed. But resemblance ends there. For this one choked down his disappointment, turned his face toward the colors and enlisted as a private in the Army of American democracy. I have no doubt that he is in Picardy today, offering his body to the Prussian bullets that "the world may be made a decent place to live in."

I hold it to be evident that we have passed the time when any man should be permitted to pledge his faith to America and yet shrink at the test. If Lafferty, as he declares, is ready for service, why in the name of martyred Lincoln does he not answer the call? Is it not loud enough? Is it not clarion clear? It is with reverence that I direct his tardy attention to the many thousands who have heard and who have answered.

There is but one place for the man who "is ready to serve." It is with the colors. The trenches wait. The boys are crouched for the word that will send them over the top. Death blows a lusty gale across No Man's Land.

But this self-professed hero, this Lafferty person, lingers at home and runs for Congress on the self-satisfied assurance that he will enter the ranks whenever the War Department makes a special request for his presence.

My dear sir, as I observe this booklet of Lafferty's, I note that it is issued as his "platform" by "A. W. Lafferty, candidate for Congress, primary May 17, 1918." It is recent, it represents the full fruition of Lafferty's ablest thought on the issues of the day. Very well.

Let Lafferty offer this gem of evidence of his sterling patriotism, of his deep understanding of the principles for which certain Oregon boys already have died in France. It is taken verbatim from the booklet; it is written by Lafferty:

"I am for peace now, just as I was for peace in 1916. I believe in being constant in my purposes and my friendships, and when I once believe in a man I do not lightly change."

My dear sir, at the heel of that paragraph rests a declaration that is staggering, unwholesome and appalling. One turns from it as from a stench. Here it is:

"I am still for Woodrow Wilson," asserts Lafferty, "but I am also still for Robert Marion LaFollette. I believe that they are both honest and patriotic—that they merely differ in judgment."

Let that "citizen" of Oregon who still stands for Robert Marion LaFollette, who believes in the betrayal of America and the death of world freedom, who would pet the Prussian brute who slavers with the blood of Belgium and of France, whose secret blow struck down the Lusitania—let that "citizen," I suggest, arise now to make public profession and to vote for Lafferty.

Lafferty is not pro-Hun. It is granted that his heart beats with American blood. It is granted that he would die, gloriously and gladly, for American rights—if the issue were thrust before him past all escaping. But, he is pro-Lafferty. And, being such, he seeks to ride two horses, and he rides to fall.

It was Lafferty who, in 1916, gave to the German societies of Oregon his pledge that if elected he would fight against the exportation of arms and munitions to the allies. It was his way of seeking the German vote, of petting the Prussian; it was his solicitude for Lafferty.

My dear sir, I present the fact that A. W. Lafferty was willing to lend his aid in the garroting of France, was ready to tie the brawny arm of Britain, in order to regain a seat in Congress. Let there be no talk of discrimination; the traffic in arms and munitions was sanctioned by international law. It was as open to Germany as to the allies. To set it aside at the behest of Germany would have been dishonorable and a violation of neutrality.

There was joy in the German societies when that declaration of Lafferty's was read before them, when it was published in the German language papers. They were willing to pay the vote for the service. Listen to Lafferty, even now, as he speaks in his booklet:

"Had I had my way about it every energy of this country would have been exerted from the first day of the war for peace. We would not have exported a dollar's worth of arms and ammunition while we were neutral."

Nay, we would not, had Congress been rife with Lafferties. And at the end, with Europe in slavery, the Prussian beast would have lifted bloody eyes toward America and set forth to new conquest. Have we forgotten, as Lafferty seems to, what the Kaiser told Ambassador Gerard:

"America had better look out. I shall stand no nonsense from America after this war."

I fear, my dear sir, that I weary you, who know as much of Lafferty and more. And yet I hold that these matters should be known to all. Pardon my intrusion, but the linking of Lincoln and Lafferty was, frankly, too much for me to pass with patience.

MRS. F. W. SWANTON.

Names on Service Flag.

COVE, Or., April 26.—(To the Editor.)—It is suggested that the name and branch of service of each soldier, sailor and flyer be printed with indelible ink on a bit of white linen cloth and sewed with red stitches, within his blue star on the service flag, thus: "C. R. Kelley, 5 F. A., Bat. F." Any job printer who puts up butter wrappers uses a blue ink which withstands ill effects from hot, cold, fresh and salt water and weather conditions. Needless to say no other colors than the National red, white and blue should be used. Whenever one loses his life in the service, let the word "hero" be worked in blue thread under the name line. I think many more reasons can be given in favor of this suggestion than against it. N. R. G.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, May 2, 1893.

Chicago.—President Cleveland yesterday touched the button and the World's Columbian Exposition formally opened. There was an auspicious crowd and attending excitement. The spectators on opening day numbered more than 200,000.

Monte Carlo gambling receipts last year were $5,000,000 and a 41 per cent divident on $6,000,000 nominal stock was paid.

James Whitcomb Riley, it has been disclosed, does not share in the general adulation of Walt Whitman.

President Seth Low, of Columbia College, has inherited from his father a large estate.

Mrs. James Abraham, whose recent munificent bequests prospectively go largely to endow the school of theology at the Portland University, was a visitor of Mrs. Hall in University Park last week.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian, May 2, 1868.

"The Spirit of '76," a drama illustrating the possible result of the women's rights movement, which has been performed with great success by amateurs in Boston, is soon to be produced in Selwin's theater in that city.

Proposals are advertised for by the Postoffice Department for the carrying of mails from Salt Lake City to The Dalles.

Dr. Benson writes the Advocate from New York that the removal of the President is a foregone conclusion.

Miss Mary C. Wiggs and W. H. Tidd were married April 29 at Lafayette.

At the Union course this afternoon there will be a race between Acker's mare, "Legal Tender," and Shea's mare.

WHERE SCHOOL BEGINS AT 7:30

Crabtree High Students Are Ready for Farm Work Soon After Noon.

CRABTREE, Or., April 30.—(To the Editor.)—Some officials are asking that our school year be shortened, as if begrudging to the growing American mind the insufficient training it now receives. The Oregon School Superintendent asks that all persons possible be kept in schools and colleges. "Efficiency" is the watchword. Our government is now calling, calling and almost in vain for well-trained and educated men and women. In the face of an awful shortage, is it possible that there are persons who wish to strat a retrace of the heart-sickening journey up from the caveman?

Carry the idea to its logical conclusion and we would soon be among the early-day Indians; and what could they accomplish against the Kaiser with all his well trained, well educated officers and their men. It will take efficiency to put the Hun back of the Rhine. It is more of a combat of brain and skill than of brute force.

That word "efficiency" is the pivotal point and it is attained only by concentration of mind and educational training. Those equipping long lines that bear on our war efficiency should be kept in school during the entire year until the close of war. Members of Crabtree High, in student body with their own officers, took up the matter and handled it effectively. They voted to meet at 7:30 A. M. in continuous session, dismissing at 1 P. M. Some live five miles in the country. The principal, who lives in Lebanon, 10 miles distant, coming and going on train morning and evening, expressed doubt as to students being on time. To prove their courage, the day the new rule went into effect, March 19, the students came early, went to the depot, formed a semi-circle to greet their teacher on his arrival. They marched him to the school and pointed to the clock.

April 1 clocks went forward one hour. We now meet at 6:45 A. M., sun time, quitting at high noon, putting in as many hours as formerly with no more tardies. Students are ready for farm work at 1 P. M., standard time. This was done without orders or request. The students appointed a committee to get consent of the directors. Coming early while mind and body are renewed from a night's rest and nature is at her best, there seems to be more industry and harmony. Results are most gratifying and students are surely doing their "bit" both mentally and physically.

OSCAR INGRAM,
Principal.

Where to Get Training.

PORTLAND, May 1.—(To the Editor.)—Some time ago I noticed in an article in The Oregonian, that the American Press Association was considering opening up a telegraph school for Class A-1 men who had had previous telegraph experience; also in another article that the Benson School would give instructions in wireless.

I have had telegraph experience and some wireless and expect to be called in July, and wish you would advise me if there is any school like this, or places I could receive a little military training, or drilling during my spare evenings, or two or three afternoons a week. J. A. M.

The Portland Y. M. C. A. has been conducting a radio course, open only to men of draft age. Consult L. G. Nichols, director of the educational department. Military drill might easily be obtained by joining the Multnomah Guard.

States Without Death Penalties.

SISTERS, Or., April 28.—(To the Editor.)—How many states have abolished capital punishment, and which were abolished by a vote of the people and which by the State Legislatures?

HAROLD KLINE.

States that do not impose the death penalty are the following: Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin. Available records do not disclose in which states capital punishment was abolished by vote of the people.

No.

PORTLAND, May 1.—(To the Editor.)—Does the ruling that exempts soldiers from having judgments given against them in case of debt apply to men who are past draft age who have registered in the public service reserve of the United States and are working in the shipyards and have been awarded a "service flag" by the Shipping Board? A READER.

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