

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1918.

ARE WE SPENDTHRIFTS?

The argument is offered in behalf of the tax measures on the city ballot—and seriously, too—that this is an opportune time to obtain certain costly things that it would be nice to have yet are not essential. The people are in a spending mood. They are subscribing such great sums for liberty bonds and for Red Cross work and other organized war activities, that smaller amounts expended for municipal improvements will not be misused. The idea is that the public is in a spending mood, and that the time to get municipal frills and embroidery is while the spending is good. Otherwise we may never get them.

There would be a serious internal consequence if a patriotic sacrifice should be turned into a spendthrift spirit. There is always a reckoning day for the extravagant. The advice and solemn admonition of the highest Government authorities, recognizing this fact, are in the other direction. It is their counsel that purchase of non-essentials be postponed or given up and that resources be directed to the prosecution of the war. It is the right course.

These four revenue measures on the city ballot. Only one of them is an essential war measure. Only that one is limited in its effect to the period of the emergency. Only that one is needed to protect the proper functioning of the city. It is the one which levies a tax of one mill for payment of increased expenses due to the war. Without it the two most important protective departments—police and fire—will be depleted of men. The members of these departments cannot live decently on present salaries. In justice to themselves and to their families they must seek employment elsewhere unless the city be given means to raise their pay.

We must have adequate fire and police departments. We cannot maintain a health department, or keep the streets clean, or operate a water bureau or conduct the general affairs of the city without competent employees. But we can get along with the collection of garbage. We have done it a great many years. We can get along without a two-platoon system in the fire department. We have long denied ourselves that luxury. We can get along without relieving the street-cleaning company of its carts, bridges, tools and other charges.

EXTERMINATING A FLEA. A world-wide yellow fever is now within the realm of possibility. It is interesting to note that even while war has been raging the International Health Board has been able to continue its work of delimiting the sources of infection of the disease and had brought appreciable headway in the time when it will be nothing more than a memory. It has claimed many millions of lives in the past, and has hampered the development of fertile tropical countries to an extent that is incalculable. It is pointed out in the report of President Vincent, of the Rockefeller Foundation, that notwithstanding the fact that Surgeon-General Gorgas, of the United States Army, the leading authority on yellow fever in the world, has been compelled to devote himself to his war duties, it has been possible to ascertain that there are in the whole world four sources of yellow fever infection. These are at Guaya-

quil, on the west coast of South America, at another region along the south shore of the Caribbean Sea, in a strip along the north coast of Brazil, and in a certain area on the west coast of Africa. Definite knowledge to this effect is important because it permits concentration of future effort.

NOT FREE NOR EASY. Here is a fragrant paragraph from a news account of meetings of hotel men and caterers on the interesting subject of garbage, held in Portland the other day, with delegates from Seattle, who know all about the latest costly experiment in "free" public service:

The garbage remained on the Seattle streets for 12 weeks, or almost uncollectible, said the men from up country, and it has been impossible to find corroborative evidence. They give cause to seek a German agent behind any disturbance, and they convey to loyal American workmen a hint not to join readily in such a compromise arranged by Lloyd George.

PUTTING WAR PRISONERS TO WORK. Any feeling on the part of idle civilians that they should be permitted to dispose of their leisure as they see fit, so long as prisoners of war and interned enemy aliens are maintained in idleness at the Government expense, will be removed by the regulations of the War Department which now require that all classes of prisoners shall be required to perform labor necessary for their own comfort and the upkeep of their barracks and grounds. The prisoners are to be divided into units and officers and other who are physically unfit.

U-BOAT TRAP IS CLOSED. Blocking of Ostend harbor seems to have been surprisingly easy for the British, but may have been due to their having correctly read the minds of the Germans. The latter probably assumed that the British would not repeat the error of the previous year, and that the British would be at Zebrugge, but the British may have counted on the enemy's making this assumption, and events show that they counted correctly.

BRITISH JUNKERS DEFEATED. Premier Lloyd George puts to rout the old guard of British politics and of the British army as effectively as the new army mows down the advancing waves of Germans. In both cases democracy is the victor. The difference between the two is that the British army and the caste of junkers which rules Germany is a difference in degree only, not in kind.

THE CAMPAIGN OF TERRORISM. The piece of German propaganda circulated in Spain which has been put into the hands of the United States Government is most illuminating. It shows the extent to which German influence in Spain has grown and the neutral countries have been forced to make submission to German outrage. Frightfulness is an engine deliberately used by Germany to terrorize not only the invaded countries but neutrals also. Though the latter may lean toward the allies, they are coerced into stretching their neutrality to the utmost in favor of Germany.

Free garbage collection is not actually free. The assessment to pay for it is somewhat differently distributed; that is all. A Brigadier is allowed to resign "for the good of the service," while a private goes to prison. Yet the former gets his wages. The Grand Army reunion in August in Portland will escape the usual extreme heat experienced elsewhere. What is a little thing like a tornado these days? Just a cupful of wind, as an old salt would say.

Only six days of a primary election and the political temperature ranges low. The candidate doing much advertising needs an up-to-date photograph. The pro-Huns in New York are selling third liberty bonds below par. No Rose Festival, but one great, big, No. 1 Fourth!

of money and dynamite. Pascual took alarm, and the project was dropped. The railroad strike last August is said by Pascual to have been due to German instigation, German agents having driven the labor unions into it by charges of cowardice, slackness and lack of interest in the workmen. At Barcelona and Bilbao the Germans have understandings with workmen to provoke disputes and strikes and to delay production, paying some of them a regular salary. They work through the Syndicalists, another name for the I. W. O.

These confessions of a Spanish I. W. O. tend to support the suspicion that the Germans have been behind the operations of the I. W. O. in America. Though it has been impossible to find corroborative evidence. They give cause to seek a German agent behind any disturbance, and they convey to loyal American workmen a hint not to join readily in such a compromise arranged by Lloyd George.

War prisoners may be required to work for the public service, and may also be authorized to work on their own account. Authority for their employment by private persons, however, is not given. The way to make them productive in regions where labor is scarce and opportunities for guarding against desertion exist. Incentive for work is given by the provision that payment shall be made "according to the work executed," and that the wages of prisoners shall go toward improving their position, any excess being paid to them on their release, after deducting the cost of their maintenance.

When he professes horror at the thought that "no country will agree to renounce the use of gas," the Prussian Minister of War gives the lie to the statement, made at the same time, that "the enemy has not caught up with us." If Germany were still in the lead in this nefarious form of warfare, there would be no talk on its part of abandoning it. The probability that the allies, being forced against their nature to incline to fight an unscrupulous foe with his own weapons, are treating him to an experience that is baffling even his vaunted chemists, and that he would like to let go if he could. The event furnishes another illustration of the disadvantage of the German position.

Democrats registered as Republicans, aghast at the contest between King and West, can change colors primary by swearing in their votes, according to a ruling of the Attorney-General. Mr. Brown is, indeed, kind. Pamphlets for voters cost more this year—on account of the war, of course. By and by the cost of the individual vote will approach the dollar mark. Let the eagle scream!

One man has been found on Coos Bay who asserts he is a Republican and is opposed to Simpson. It is possible he takes that stand to be qualified to move to make it unanimous. Bombardment of cathedrals quite accords with the Prussian character. It is the Prussian way of expressing hatred of the beautiful.

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RETENTION CANNOT BE FORCED

Plan Offered to Prevent Cash-in-of Bonds by Slackers. ANTELOPE, Or., May 9.—(To the Editor)—For the past few weeks the papers have been filled with reports of the forced buying of liberty bonds by those who would evade their manifest duty, whereby I have been greatly pleased. In the last days, however, a doubt as to the propriety of such action by the justly exasperated neighbors of such bonds has arisen, for this reason:

A liberty bond is transferable, is legal tender for all monetary purposes, and as easily convertible as a treasury note of the same value. There is no means of compelling the "money-slicker" to retain possession of the bond purchased under compulsion. The only punishment he gets is loss of the use of a few dollars for a month or so, and the onus thrown upon him by exposure of his un-Americanism.

When Status Changes. PORTLAND, May 10.—(To the Editor)—(1) A man of draft age put in class 2B has no children and later has one. Would this change his classification, or would he go about it to have it changed? (2) Why is it some boards put all married men without children in class 2B and others put them in class 4? This seems unfair.

The great truth that "lack of occupation is a great destroyer of men" is the text of an article by Charles B. Towns, an authority on the treatment of alcohol and narcotic addiction, in which the writer says that there is no such thing as "curing" a case of alcoholism unless the patient co-operates with the physician and that the fundamental necessity in any treatment is rehabilitation of the moral force through creation of interest in healthful and stimulating work. In this respect the vagrant is a better off than the pauper.

It is said that Alexander the Great was interested in submarine invention. One writer reports the destruction of English ships in 1372 by fire carried under water. A submarine boat was exhibited on the Thames in 1624, and English patents had been taken out on types by 1777. In the Revolutionary War Sergeant Lee attacked the British ship Eagle in New York Harbor in a submarine built by David Bushnell in 1776, but did not succeed in attaching the torpedo to the ship's bottom, as was necessary in that period. When and by whom the first undersea boat was built will probably never be known.

Wrong Date for Davis' Capture. MCINNIVILLE, Or., May 10.—(To the Editor)—In the Oregonian, May 5, George Himes gives an extremely interesting account of the first news of the assassination of President Lincoln. He says: "On April 11 news came of Lee's surrender and the capture of Jeff Davis." It is not often that Himes nods, but he does at times. The capture of Jeff Davis was at Irwinville, Ga., May 10, 1865, by detachments of Michigan and Wisconsin cavalry regiments sent out by General James H. Wilson, commander of the cavalry corps, then halted at Macon, Ga.

MY SERVICE PIN. Dear little Service Pin, With your one blue star, I wonder if you really know How very dear you are, Whenever I pin you on A vision you bring to me Of my brave soldier and his fate, Who is far across the sea.

Shipyard Flag Not Distinctive. PORTLAND, May 10.—(To the Editor)—As one of the members of 80 soldiers and Sailors of Oregon, I wish attention called to thousands of war service flags displayed on windows in public places, which only the experienced person can tell from the flag or flags representing the men facing sacrifice upon the exalted altar of our country. That, by way of comparison or resemblance, those working in industrial departments, extracting the highest remuneration ever known before in the history of the world, should expect so near a comparison is unfair.

MOTHERS' DAY, MAY 12. O! Mothers of this great Nation, Don this insignia today, Wear a pure white carnation, 'Twill gleam through fair blooms of May. 'Tis a debt all owe dear Mother, For love, the secret's now guessed, Today wear a white carnation Upon each true, loyal breast. —JUNE MCILLEN ORDWAY.

American Name Favored. BEAVERTON, Or., May 9.—(To the Editor)—After all that has been said about our good old "sauerkraut," it seems to me it would spoil if called "ensilage" when here are so many more appropriate names. Why not "baste" far better if called "pickled cabbage"? SUBSCRIBER.

THEY SACRIFICE TILL IT HURTS

That Is Spirit That Put Lake County 5000 Per Cent Over. LAKE, Or., May 7.—(To the Editor)—In a recent edition of the Oregon Voter Mr. Chapman paid a glowing tribute to the patriotic spirit of Lake County for having been the first Oregon county to "go over the top" in the third liberty loan, over-subscribing its quota \$50 per cent.

Wanted the praise of sunny June; We sing of the bee—it's honeyed tune— Forgetting the month of faithful May, Ignoring her work in sight today, 'Tis May that from hidden stores of earth Unerringly draws the sap for birth Of flowers and trees, yes, garden, and grains, 'Tis she that dares rule the "Cause" domain. Fair June in her splendid, gorgeous dress, Strolls forth and disdains crude May's caress; And when in our hands June garlands We credit not once May's free bequest. The feathered, proud nestling flies from home; Enchantments of nature bid it roam, Not knowing that May's staunch, faithful hand With buds had bestrewn June's fairy realm.

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In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago. From the Oregonian of May 11, 1893. Washington.—The special session of the Supreme Court yesterday heard arguments on the Chinese exclusion bill. Attorney Choate presented the arguments for the Chinese and Solicitor-General Aldrich replied.

Chicago.—Summer weather has arrived and the crowds at the fair have increased. Marie Bredull and Ida Roeder gave the music patrons a delightful treat at Arion Hall last night. Mrs. Ella Higginson, wife of the Wheaton druggist and daughter of S. B. Rhodes, of Oregon City, is editing the June number of Peterson's Magazine, which will be devoted largely to the Pacific Coast.

Mr. and Mrs. John Donnerberg will sail for Germany May 16. The affairs of the Portland cable railroad, which have been in a tangled state for many months, probably will be straightened out soon, according to word from San Francisco.

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THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN Framing It Up for William.—The bloody old tyrants of history, who wrote any number of scarples pages before they retired to eternal desuetude on the Houseboat on the Styx, are chatting this Sunday about Bill of Potsdam, who they hold to have out-barbarian the wildest, wickedest old sinner of the lot. These week-end trips with John Kendrick Bangs to the silent river are always productive of beneficial thought, though one laughs at the whimsical humor that dresses the truths he portrays. "We Are Thinking of American Mother"—In London-town there are women of title and wealth, scores of them, who have cast every social obligation aside for the higher duty of caring for the boys who fight in France. These women, many of them of American birth, many of English blood, have not forgotten the mothers of America. They are ministering tenderly to our lads overseas. A splendid Sunday story, replete with loving kindness. On the Avenue.—Straight to the fore as an interpreter of American types has come that admirable illustrator, W. E. Hill, whose page in crayon is a feature of The Sunday Oregonian. "Among Us Mortals," as he calls the contribution, won at the first glance and remains a favorite. Humor, gentle pathos and wholesome common sense characterize the page. Sculpturing the Angel of War.—Interpreter in deathless stone of the spirit of America in the great war is Signor Fucignas, of Italy and New York. In the Sunday issue appears an illustrated article on his art, written by Lucy Cleveland, cousin of the late Grover Cleveland. His latest work, the "Angel of War," is a tribute to the work of the Red Cross and other organizations for the alleviation of suffering. As Seen by the Camera.—A page of pictures—that's all. But they were taken in the distant parts of earth, and each portrays with the infallible eye of the camera some incident of current history—a British tank lurking through the trenches, Old Glory fluttering bravely down the streets of London, and others of equal interest. With paragraph notes of explanation. Managing the Navy's War Business.—It's some job—that of directing the vast affairs of an organization that scours the high-seas of the world, not to mention the touch-and-go hazards of work in the English Channel. In a special story in the Sunday issue, Frank G. Carpenter tells about it—tells of the enormous sums appropriated, how they are expended, and what they mean to the vital force of the Navy. A story that should not be slighted. Women's War Work.—Each Sunday issue contains a complete review of the patriotic work of various women's organizations, edited by Edith Knight Holmes, embracing city, state and National endeavor and accomplishment in this important phase of winning the war. To be well informed, to realize fully how much the women of America are doing for the cause, readers should keep pace with this page. All the News of All the World THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN.