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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1918.

BRITAIN'S FOURTH WAR ANNIVERSARY.

The fourth anniversary of Great Britain's declaration of war is a fit occasion to pay tribute to that country for the service which it has rendered to mankind. A review of what it has done is the more interesting to Americans, because its people are of the same blood as most of us, it has institutions similar to ours and, except in one vital respect, it entered the war in the same state of unpreparedness.

The one respect in which Britain was prepared will in the long run prove decisive, for that, together with American intervention, will surely be pronounced by history the means by which Germany was defeated. The British navy was ready, and British naval power was supreme. But for that fact, a German army might have landed in the rear of the French army, Germany might have drawn supplies from abroad, and the war might have ended in a few months with German victory. But for the British navy, even if the United States had intervened at the beginning our intervention might have proved ineffective, for the German fleet was superior to ours and could have annihilated the French fleet before ours got into action. If we had won at sea, Germany could have destroyed the French army before we could have landed in Europe even as small an army as the first British expeditionary force. France disposed of, Germany could have turned her whole force against Russia, and we can conceive from what was done by half of it that a few months would have ended the Russian campaign with overwhelming German victory. The junkers' plan of "a short and merry war" would have been executed, and no other nation would have dared to lift its hand against triumphant Germany.

That was what the Kaiser hoped when he tried to buy off Britain, and his realization that his hope was blasted explains his fury at the British declaration of war and the hatred of England which filled every German breast. The "contemptible little army" went to Belgium while the German fleet hid in port, and it delayed Von Kluck just enough and added just enough strength to the French to make the victory of the Marne possible. It held the line at Ypres with unequaled valor and it held the enemy at bay while the navy kept the seas safe and while the sons of Britain came from the mother country and from all the ends of the earth under its protection. At the same time, that navy and its thousands of auxiliary vessels took a strangle hold on German commerce and industry until the breath of economic and physical life was being slowly squeezed out of the nation and its confederates. Under its guardianship food and material and munitions were brought from all countries and commerce was kept moving to supply the money which is the sinews of war. A great army was organized and was sent to fight kultur not only in France but in the Balkans, Asia and Africa. The entire non-combatant manhood and even the womanhood of the whole British family of nations went to work with a will, producing a volume of implements of war which hammered respect for this "decadent" nation into the enemy.

Germany was not beaten but she was balked until the United States came in to lift the chief burden from John Bull's stalwart but weary shoulders and to take the lead in administering the final beating. The British army has taken a small part in the recent fighting, though it keeps its hand in by striking a blow now and then, and some may say that it is taking a rest. It has earned a rest. It bore the brunt of the German blow in March and April, and took—and gave—such punishment as has rarely been seen. But it is gathering force for another blow which the Boche awaits with ill-concealed anxiety.

Let us not forget, while we rejoice over the laurels which American soldiers have won on the Marne, to do honor to the British nation which has fought for four years that the liberty which sprang from it might live and spread throughout the world.

MISS OR MADAM?

The further introduction of women into the ranks of industry formerly almost exclusively filled by men prompts a correspondent of the New York Evening Sun to inquire whether they should be addressed as "Miss" or "Madam." He has particularly in mind the conductorettes now being employed by streetcar companies. Probability that women barbers will be more widely employed on the Pacific Coast gives the question a local significance.

Now that we come to reflect upon it, we do not recall that it ever has been found necessary to address either a male streetcar conductor or barber by any title, and it is to be presumed that women will not be any more insistent upon being addressed than are the men whom they are replacing. The correspondent says that he wants to omit no act of politeness, but he overlooks the fact that a man may be exceedingly polite without wasting a single word.

The essence of politeness consists of making life easier for others, and this may be done in various ways. We should think, for example, that a conductorette would appreciate no act of a passenger more highly than his tender of the exact fare, followed by his immediate disappearance as far "up front" as possible. There need be neither "Miss" nor "Madam" about it. If he will simply keep moving, and not clog the aisles, he will help the conductorette to make a record for efficiency, which is all that any conductorette who is strictly intent on her business probably will expect.

The rule of conduct for the barber shop will vary only in non-essential details. The customer who is truly considerate can find many ways, besides conversational ones, of showing it. Indeed, the change would have its compensation if it should mark the decline of barber shop dialogue, in which the occupant of the chair with his mouth full of lather is nearly always at a disadvantage. The question of "Miss" or "Madam" can well wait. The thoughtful citizen, desirous of seeing women succeed in their new fields, will be able to find many ways of expressing himself besides in words.

NO HELP.

A cynical intimation is expressed by Mr. Thacher in a letter today. He fancies for the convenience of his argument a sudden delivery from Oregon's ramshackle penitentiary of a number of pickpockets while the Legislature is in session. Loss of their own pocketbooks might induce the members, he thinks, to appropriate money for a new penitentiary instead of uselessly referring the matter to vote of the people.

It is fanciful, indeed, to imagine a pickpocket hovering about a $3-a-day Legislator at any time. Next Winter, after the member has paid increased railroad fares, and war taxes on top thereof, and contributed to the higher cost of living which exists at Salem as elsewhere, it is inconceivable. There is no trades union and there is no Government mediation board to help the Legislator. His pay was fixed by constitution when a per diem of $3 was worth striving for.

Now it may be assumed that he who runs for the Legislature is thinking more of glory than of money. It may be suspected, too, that the same thing has been true for several sessions. Barring consideration for the 6 per cent tax limitation, the Legislature, we think, submits such questions to the people because it does not wish to run directly counter to public opinion. Public opinion is opposed to the expenditure of money for a new penitentiary.

It may be admitted that the Legislature knows from personal observation and investigation better than the public the need for a new institution. But therein arises the interesting question as to its duty as a perfunctory adjunct of a pure democracy. Should it override the public will in a matter concerning which it is better able to inform itself than the public? If it should, how can we expect to induce men to be candidates for the Legislature when there is nothing but glory in the job? And how can one get political glory by doing that which the public condemns?

Mr. Thacher is wrong. A jail delivery will not help. The Legislator has nothing to lose except the encomiums of his constituents.

BIG TASKS OF LONG AGO.

The stupendous work begun by America, and already partly achieved, in the construction of a great naval and transport fleet is not a new illustration of the latent capacity of a democracy to act effectively in an emergency. Here is a paragraph from James G. Blaine's "Twenty Years in Congress":

> By the end of the year 1863 the Government had six hundred vessels of war, which were increased to seven hundred before the rebellion was subdued. Of the total number, at least seventy-five were ironclads. It may be instanced with laudable pride that one enterprising man, honorably distinguished as a scientific engineer, constructed in less than one hundred days an armored squadron of eight ships, in the aggregate of 5060 tons burden, capable of steaming nine knots an hour and destined for effective service upon the rivers of the Southwest. When the contractor, James B. Eads, of St. Louis, agreed to furnish these steamers to the Government, the timber from which they were to be built was still standing in the forest, and the machinery with which the armor was to be rolled was not constructed.

The deplorable condition of the American Navy at the beginning of the Civil War was not generally known or understood until hostilities had actually begun. There was nominally a fleet of ninety vessels designed to carry 2415 guns. Actually there were but forty-eight ships in commission, but either through lack of foresight or disloyal design, nearly all of them were in foreign parts. Twenty-eight ships, carrying 874 guns, had been dismantled, and could not be made ready for service in long weeks or months. The entire available force for the defense of the Atlantic coast was the Brooklyn, twenty-five guns, and the storeship Relief, with two guns. Sixty commissioned officers resigned and entered the service of the Confederacy.

A Connecticut editor, Gideon Welles, was made Secretary of the Navy by President Lincoln. He set forth with all his known energy to build a Navy, so that at the end of four months there were forty-three armed vessels engaged in the blockade of Southern ports and in defense of the Eastern coast. Before the end of 1861 the Secretary had put into commission 137 vessels, and had contracted for the construction of a large number of steamships for patrol, transport and other service. Undoubtedly the Navy was during the whole war under competent direction, although it is true that the American merchant fleet suffered enormously from Confederate raiders, such as the Alabama and Shenandoah.

The Alabama destroyed about fifty-eight ships, the Shenandoah forty, and the Florida thirty-eight, and other vessels, which had been outfitted in England and for which Great Britain acknowledged responsibility, brought the total up to 172 vessels.

It is interesting to recall that Great Britain had granted the Confederacy belligerent rights, and had permitted her ports to be made a rendezvous for the privateers. There was a powerful sentiment in America, at the close of the Civil War, to stand the loss of her sea commerce, with the definite idea of applying to the fleets of Great Britain, in any future war of the Empire, the same system of profitable neutrality which she had observed. But other and wiser counsel prevailed, and the Joint High Commission at Geneva awarded the United States $15,000,000 for the losses inflicted by the Alabama and others of her class.

The troubles of Secretary Welles were manifestly more varied and perplexing than the difficulties of Secretary Daniels and the Emergency Fleet Corporation. There is no question now, and was not at the beginning of the war, of the entire loyalty of the Navy, and no question of united popular support in the Navy and for any construction and operation programme. Now the whole Nation demands that ships, ships, and more ships be built, and willingly furnishes the men, the money and the materials; then the Secretary was sure of nothing, but he went ahead and, having created a fleet and manned it, devised a naval policy which succeeded. The National and political policies had already been determined when America began its mighty scheme of a bridge of ships; only the industrial and labor problems remained. They were serious enough, and they have been grasped with energy and vision, and, barring some errors, with wisdom.

FEWER CHRONIC DRUNKARDS.

The report of the head of the psychopathic department of Bellevue Hospital, New York, perhaps the most famous clearing-house for acute alcoholics in the world, is interesting for the revelations it makes of the declining influence of the demon rum even in those parts of the country which have not been formally declared "dry." The figures are truly amazing. In the six months just passed the ward has treated 1053 cases, as compared with 3375 cases in the corresponding period of last year. In other words, the number of men with snakes in their boots has declined to considerably less than one-third of the old figure, in spite of greater industrial prosperity.

Dr. Jewett, the physician in question, is a student of therapeutic rather than sociological problems, and he contents himself with only brief comment upon the statistics, yet who shall say that he is not right in his conclusion that the thrift campaigns, the importunities of volunteer salesmen of liberty bonds, and the general appeal to patriotism have not exercised a mighty influence in accomplishing the result? In a word, it has become unfashionable to incapacitate oneself by drink for high service to the Nation in its time of need. The drunkard, and, in lesser measure, the drinker, are in disgrace nowadays. It is realized that they are not only reducing their own value, but also consuming food material needed for the winning of the war. By far the great majority of people are influenced by example. They do not defy conventions which are rather firmly insisted upon. Drinking seems to be going out of style.

There are incidental factors, of course, which have operated against John Barleycorn. The demonstration that abstinence not only does not unfit a soldier for fighting but actually makes him fit for it, and the production records of the "dry" states have forever silenced the argument that any set of men cannot do their best without their alcohol. The high price of liquor probably has had little to do with the change. Wages in some of the more highly paid employments have kept pace with the increased cost of intoxicating beverages, and it is also true that if men really demanded it, price would not stop them. The "two-bit" whisky days on the frontier were times of excessive drinking.

The fact seems to be that alcoholic liquor has been a victim of many circumstances. To the many real arguments against it, there has been no defense. We are called upon to be patriotic, to be thrifty, to be efficient. We are none of these when we are drunk. It is a fine sign of the intelligence of the people as a whole that they have seen the point. They are going to let nothing whatever interfere with winning the war.

A PAGE FROM OREGON HISTORY.

The Albany Daily Democrat, published at Albany, Linn County, Oregon, is an old paper, considering the age of Oregon as a territory and state. But it has borne its present name only since 1895, the first issue appearing under the present name on the first Friday in August of that year; but it did not have the word daily attached to the name at that time, being published weekly. It was called the States Rights Democrat at the start and was a successor, so far as equipment goes, of the Oregon Democrat, which was established in Albany by Delazon Smith. Just when is a matter in dispute. It is generally understood that it first appeared in 1859. That was the year in which Oregon was admitted to the Union as a state. But Delazon Smith had left Oregon and gone to Washington shortly after the Spring election in 1858, having been elected one of the United States Senators, Joseph Lane being the other. Lane was already in Washington, being the territorial delegate in Congress. It was supposed that the state would soon be admitted and Smith went on to draw straws with Lane for short or long term. Lane drew the long term and Smith awaited in Washington admission of the state, then served as Senator from February 14 until March 3, the close of the session. LaFayette F. Grover had been elected the first representative, and he took his seat the same day Lane and Smith were seated.

The records show that Delazon Smith, a well-drilled newspaper man from New York state, started the Oregon Democrat, and his name at the head showed him as owner and editor. The life of the Oregon Democrat was short and full of thrills. It became so hot after the death of Smith in Portland in the Fall of 1860, that its Southern sympathies could not be overlooked by the Federal officials and at the instance of Secretary of War Stanton it was suppressed. This was probably in 1862.

The plant most likely remained idle until 1865. James O'Meara then bought the old plant and on the first Friday in August of that year issued the first number of the States Rights Democrat. O'Meara was a capable newspaper editor and manager and ran the paper with success until 1870, when he sold it to Dr. J. L. Hill, of Portland, O'Meara going to the larger field at Portland to manage and edit a paper established by Ben Holladay, called the Bulletin. As a matter of fact Hill took the paper for the wages due him for work done in the Democrat office.

Hill held it for a short time only and then sold it to M. H. Abbott and Mart V. Brown, the latter quitting his job as compositor on The Oregonian to take charge of the editorial work on the States Rights Democrat, as it was still called. Brown was a good writer and a fine gentleman in every way and was so well thought of that he was later elected County Clerk of Linn County, County School Superintendent and State Printer for two terms and was a Brigadier-General of the Oregon Militia. Brown had bought the interest of Abbott and sold it to a young Albany attorney by the name of C. B. Bellinger who edited the paper during Brown's office-holding days. The firm became Bellinger & Brown and remained so until about 1874, when Bellinger removed to Portland and opened a law office, later gaining great distinction as a jurist, being at first Circuit Judge of Multnomah County and then Federal District and Circuit Judge.

Brown held the paper until the following year, 1875, when he sold a half interest to Claib H. Stewart, who had begun his newspaper career as a devil in the Democrat office in 1869. Stewart is now serving his second term as Postmaster at Albany. Brown died in 1878 and Stewart sold the half interest to another young Albany attorney, George E. Chamberlain, who is serving as one of Oregon's United States Senators. Chamberlain edited the paper until 1884. But Stewart had sold his interest in 1882 to T. J. Stites, Stewart having been elected County Clerk. Chamberlain sold his interest in 1884 to F. P. Nutting, Chamberlain later removing to Portland to shake the Democratic plum tree—which he did with success.

We should, however, go back to August, 1878, for at that time a new "devil" went to work in the Democrat office, a lad by the name of Edgar B. (Ted) Piper, who had for a short time before that acted as carrier for the paper. This is the same Edgar B. Piper, who, for many years, has edited The Oregonian. Mr. Piper was one of the few employes of the Democrat who was not inoculated with the Democratic serum.

When Chamberlain left he sold his interest to F. P. Nutting, the firm becoming Stites & Nutting. Stites must have been quite a politician, for he also was elected County Clerk, School Superintendent, and for several terms a member of the Legislature. About 1890 Stites sold his interest to Nutting, who was sole owner until 1912. But it should be noted that in 1895 Nutting changed the name from the States Rights Democrat to the Albany Democrat. Mr. Nutting, by the way, is holding an important Federal position in the Portland Custom-House.

In February, 1912, Nutting sold the paper outright to W. H. Hornibrook, from Twin Falls, Idaho, a man who had had large newspaper experience. He ran the paper until February, 1915, when he was appointed minister to Siam, and turned the management over to Mr. Nutting. Then, in February, 1917, Mr. Hornibrook did an unexpected and almost unexplainable thing—he resigned. The idea of a Democrat resigning an honorable and lucrative position is almost beyond belief, but Mr. Hornibrook says "a day in Albany is worth a cycle in Siam," and as his wife agrees with him, and some other good Democrat fell into a fat job, all is well. So Mr. Hornibrook came home, relieved Mr. Nutting, and The Albany Daily Democrat will probably go on as an incubator for Democratic office-holders.

John Milton wrote in Paradise Lost, "They also serve who only stand and wait." In much current war comment he is quoted as saying, "They, too, serve, who stand and wait," which spoils the rhythm and mars the sense. There are dictionaries of quotations which would preserve writers from blunders of this sort. They should be consulted at times.—Portland Evening Journal.

So they should be. Consultation of dictionaries of quotations would also preserve this careless writer from blunders of another sort. Not in the entire length of the many thousand classic lines of "Paradise Lost" appears "They also serve who only stand and wait." It is in the Miltonic sonnet "On His Blindness" and the full quotation is:

> . . . Thousands at his bidding speed,
> And post o'er land and ocean without rest:
> They also serve who only stand and wait.

They also serve badly who only stand, and stand, and stand, and mumble about literature they do not read.

John F. Logan is a member of the state parole board. His is a mind comprehensive in all essentials, with seven years' experience in dealing with inmates of the penitentiary. What he deems best for those men can be taken by the people of this state as that needed to be done. New housings and new industries must be provided and plans made for segregation. Consideration of these matters by the people will benefit the state, for there will be but one result.

The engineer of a locomotive keeps his hand on the throttle and his eyes on the tracks, with all the chances in favor of safety. The driver of a car has at least one hand on the wheel while his eyes rove, and over the grade he goes. That's why fatalities ensue.

The number of men in the United States Navy, its reserve forces and the Marine Corps, was 503,792 on July 23. This is about 20,000 more than the number in the British navy and auxiliary services, according to latest reports.

It is very nice in the prominent man to get into overalls and help in war work, and it is just as nice when the more modest and less renowned individual does the same. The greater glory is his, though he is not aware of it.

The information that the two pounds of sugar per month means six and two-fifths spoonfuls (level) daily is gratifying to the patriotic spirit of the man who holds himself to one spoonful in his coffee.

Advice to upstate storekeepers: When a passing stranger wants change on his check in money, call the police. The honest man will not resent, and the rascal will.

American casualties since entrance total over 15,000, and if we have a million and a half men there that is about 1 per cent, including everything that can happen.

A compiler of statistics finds that crimes against women were forty times greater in Germany than in England in a ten-year period, which is about the Hun size.

The Hun destroys everything as he retreats, but will appeal to the world if that should be done by victors across the Rhine. The Hun is a coward at best.

Dr. Davis says the Crown Prince is careless about keeping appointments. He has just broken another dinner engagement in Paris.

The new record of $19.15 for hogs at North Portland is something to make Oregonians proud. Long live the red-haired hog.

It will be observed the Germans never were on a real defensive until America got in, though the Italians have a push of their own.

When the barbers' union admits women to membership the obnoxious term of "lady barber" must be abandoned.

Germany terms the retreat "a soldierly achievement," and so it was—goose-stepped, so to speak.

Only an airplane now can approach the Oregon penitentiary, and that runs a risk.

This is Red Cross day at the Oaks. Nothing further need be said.

About the best a U-boat can do is get a hospital ship.

WHY FRANCE DESPISES HEARST

Paris Paper Recounts Injuries Received at Publisher's Hands.

(From Le Matin, Paris.)

One September afternoon in 1914 one could see an open automobile halting in front of one of the most sumptuous apartments of the most sumptuous avenues, Riverside drive—which is the Avenue de Bois of New York—at the hour when the number of passing vehicles and people on foot is especially great. A certain individual stepped out from it with ostentation, slowly pushed the electric button at the entrance door.

"Look," said one passer-by, "that's Bernstorff coming to pay Hearst a visit."

It was, indeed, Count Johann von Bernstorff, Ambassador of his majesty the Emperor of Germany, who was going to pay an official visit to M. William Randolph Hearst—to M. Hearst, who never wanted to receive either President Roosevelt or President Taft, or President Wilson; to M. Hearst, the owner of seven newspapers, the most widely read but the least considered in the United States, who is a partner in several dozens of magazines and several hundreds of moving picture theaters.

In order that no one might ignore this visit a dispatch was soon cabled, announcing it. A few days later the Vossische Zeitung wrote in an editorial:

"Our Ambassador to America, Count von Bernstorff, was particularly well inspired when he paid a visit the other day to the king of American newspapers. . . . To win M. Hearst means to win a battle, because M. Hearst is the owner of the pictorial, which unites all the moving pictures of America. Mr. Hearst's rivals, no doubt, will attack him, but no accusation can touch this man of bronze."

In all this affair one thing was true: That is, that Count Bernstorff had indeed won Hearst—a much easier thing than to win the battle of the Marne.

* * *

Count von Bernstorff had won him well, and never did a man serve Germany better; for never did a man serve her with a more evil obstinacy.

The brutal, rough, violent German agent is soon discovered and quickly falls among the rubbish, as an object of disgust and repulsion. The skillful, subtle and prudent German agent who never pronounces the name of Germany, who piously crosses himself when speaking of France, who bewails the torrents of blood shed, offers more difficulties to being discovered and nailed to the pillory. William Randolph Hearst played this role for three years, and he played it so supremely well that Frenchmen, by spiritual definition, were deceived by it.

* * *

M. Hearst never allowed an attack against France to appear in his papers. Oh! He simply did it because of prudence. France is held so highly in the affection of the Administration of the United States that the Americans would not have tolerated a word wounding the nation when they are surrounded by a sort of sacred cult. M. Hearst did not blaspheme against France simply because he did not dare to do it—that's all! But he did everything else.

On November 18, 1914, he came with the following expression in his San Francisco paper, The Examiner, about the sacred nation, Belgium: "The Belgians must lay the blame on themselves if they are victims of the war. They wanted to play the role of heroes (jouer aux Heros). It is not we Americans who ought to pay the expense of Belgian heroism."

In the meantime, less violently and more wily, Hearst made a campaign against everything that could serve the allies and for everything that could serve Germany.

* * *

Campaign against the first Franco-British loan of September, 1915—"Citizens, let us refuse to loan to those murderous madmen (fous homicides) of Europe a single dollar until they will be cured of their lunacy of war."

Campaign that America forbid the exportation of munitions to Europe—"No cannons! No munitions! Peace could be concluded in 30 days if the United States refused to send arms for the prolongation of the war."

Campaign for King Constantine—"On whom the allies have inflicted indignity after indignity and whose people are submitted to sufferings which surpass everything one can imagine, and everything the Belgian people ever could have suffered."

Campaign for peace, "which Germany desires and for which she has offered conditions with an astonishing liberality." (San Francisco Examiner, September 27, 1916.)

On February 2, 1917, America broke off relations with Germany, and the visitor of Riverside drive, the victor of the Hearst battle, Count von Bernstorff, was invited to recross the ocean. What is the visited man going to say?

Oh! That's shrewd enough! He will say: "All right, let us break off with Germany, but no alliance with the allies." Let us quote:

"We will oppose with all our force that America should pay the debts of England and support the obligations of Russia. England served herself with France, Russia and Italy in order to make war; it is not for us to pay her bill."

* * *

When the French mission of Joffre and Viviani arrives he shouts louder than the others, publishes photographs much greater than the others and tries to cover his evil purposes with the spotless mantle of Joffre. He collects all clippings, everything that had been printed in regard to the unforgettable visit, pastes them in an album and has them transmitted to the victor of the Marne.

Then he returns to his dubious business.

The Pope has no more fervent admirer when in August he offers his mediation. And in his zeal to serve the papal cause he wants that America should use force in order to compel . . . the allies to make peace. "We can do it," he exclaims. "It is enough for us to withdraw our support from them and to make a separate peace with Germany; then they will be destined to defeat." (New York American, September 3, 1917.)

The man who had received the visit of Bernstorff was marked to dine with Bolo Pasha; he dined there with his wife, his manager and one of his writers. He must have produced there such an effect upon Bolo that the latter, on his return to France, wrote dithyrambic articles about the great man, the great journalist who did not want to owe any grudge to France for having been neglected. Without malice! What a prodigy of goodness!

There was no need of a dinner offered by means of the Kaiser's money, and with the agent, Pavenstedt, sitting on the throne in order to determine America's opinion about Hearst. . . . England is also determined.

* * *

But if there are any Frenchmen who have some doubt, we hope they give it up after all this.

Help for Soldier's Dependents.

PORTLAND, Aug. 5.—(To the Editor.)—I have not received my allotment for May, June or July as yet. I have written to the Bureau of War Risk Insurance twice, but have had no answer to either letter. I am the mother of a 3-months-old baby and my husband is in France.

What would you advise me to do? Could you give me the address of someone who would attend to the matter for me? A SUBSCRIBER.

Representative C. N. McArthur, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., shows a lively interest in such matters. In writing be sure to give the full name of the soldier and the military unit to which he is attached.

BOOM SPIRIT SEEN IN PRICES

Use of High Wages of Few to Govern Charges on the Many Is Speculation.

PORTLAND, Aug. 4.—(To the Editor.)—S. L. Osborne, who comes back at "Ex-Real Estate Dealer," asking for a statement of details on the housing question, is logical, but he is inquisitive. However, since he also asks for a fair discussion of the question on a basis of accurate information without bias or prejudice, I shall take him at his word and lay my cards on the table for what they are worth, reserving the right—as past experience has taught me—to be wary of the valuation placed upon property by an ambitious owner or by an optimistic and clever salesman.

Another basis for placing valuations on home property and for raising the prices of commodities, either for offsetting increase in wages or for handsome profits in business, is as follows: The purchasing power of the working element who sustain the volume of business is too frequently based upon the $12 a day paid to a few mechanics in the shipyards, not upon the actual average wage paid to the vast majority of workers, from the foreman down to the common laborer, men and women inclusive.

The volume of revenue to meet the rising cost of living is far short of what it is estimated, which is only another form of speculation corresponding to that of the real estate boom from 1905 to 1911. The purchasing power of the public is not only overestimated, but is being anticipated months and months ahead when the people are induced to pledge themselves on a basis of a $12-a-day income when their actual income is $2 to $4 a day.

Now to answer Mr. Osborne's direct questions:

The home was in the Richmond district; was purchased against my better judgment as to its value of $4200, but the salesman said: "It is well worth the price and, after buying, if you are not satisfied, I can sell it again in 30 days for $4500." As I had given possession of another home for $3500 which had cost me $2850 and was also interested in a "platting" proposition that required my presence on the premises, I wanted to get my family housed before leaving the city at once. So I closed the deal. These transactions took place between 1910 and 1912.

In the meantime I was offered a vacant lot adjoining this home for $600 and a reliable builder offered to duplicate the house for $1700 cash or $2000 on terms. The house had six rooms and was up to date at that time, but would be considered out of date today, yet it is a fair sample of the homes that owners are offering to the shipyard workers for $30 a month rental.

This same contractor told me that he had built better houses than this one for $1700 and had built shells to last for the life of the first mortgage for more than $2000, according to the purpose of the owner and the terms on which he constructed the houses. This lot, vacant of a house, but with sidewalk and pavement in and paid, in my estimation is worth $800 and Mr. Osborne doubtless can tell what it will cost now to build a modern house suitable for a banker to occupy or for a wage earner to live in. He also should consider that houses for rent today or for sale were built several years ago and that the depreciation in "cheap bungalows" is too great not to overlap all reasonable advances in sympathy with the times.

I am now considering the purchase of a six-room house on 100x100, with sidewalk in and paid and 35 minutes out. The house is not modern, but has a good frame to support remodeling, which will cost approximately $700. Three years ago this property was offered for $1500, but today the price asked is $2500. My bid is $2000 on terms as it stands. The house is rented to a permanent tenant who has not had his rent raised above a very fair figure in consideration of not only keeping the premises in repair, but making improvements. Which is another suggestion to property owners, tenants as well.

EX-REAL ESTATE DEALER.

TURNING POINT AT MARNE BATTLE

Effect of American Counter Attack in Great German Offensive.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Aug. 4.—(To the Editor.)—I have been informed upon good authority that there appeared in the National Tribune of recent date an article relating the cause of the change from defensive methods to that of offensive on the part of the allies in the Marne battle I have never seen any mention made of this in any of the Portland dailies and should like to know if it is really true.

It is stated that the defensive methods had become very tiresome to the American troops and after they had been unsuccessful in holding out at one point, the General in command sent the following message to the General in command of the French. "We regret being unable upon this occasion to follow your counsel, since the American flag has been forced to retire and the situation has become unendureable Our soldiers would not understand why they were not asked to re-establish the situation and retake the lost ground: It is humiliating to us and reflects upon our country's honor. We are going to counter attack."

And they did attack with such fury that they sent the German army flying back from the lost ground like straws before a whirlwind. Like a true knight of honor, the French commander saw the wisdom of the American way and hastily commanded his army to follow the lead made by the Americans, and soon both French and British commanders took up the offensive, since which time they have driven steadily on from one victory to another.

It would seem that we should have heard of this incident through some of our Western papers, as it certainly is a bit of news that should cause the heart of every patriot to thrill with a joy unutterable to know our boys over the sea were on the job so thoroughly in so short a time We are proud of our armies and our flag, for we feel that our cause is just and we are fighting out our battles along the same lines of righteousness at the present time, just the same as the American armies have ever done since we became a Nation. I. R. WHITNEY.

An American General was quoted by a French newspaper as having made a statement of that import; the story was copied by the Associated Press and it was published in The Oregonian July 18. Its bearing on the plans of General Foch are probably exaggerated, as it was indicated that the American commander was merely advised that it was not necessary to the general plan of campaign to counter attack immediately to recover a purely local gain. Without depreciating in any way the American spirit, it may be said that the general counter offensive was executed by the French generalissimo in accordance with plans previously and fully made.

Mayor Thompson Politically Dead.

Forum.

Mayor Thompson, of Chicago, evolved the theory that the war was unpopular in the West. William Hale Thompson, with a laudable civil record behind him and a comparatively honest municipal administration to his credit, is politically dead in Chicago and Illinois.

His Wife's Request Soothes.

Boston Transcript.

"Just think, old man, if your absent wife knew you spent the evening playing poker." "That's all right. Her very last words before leaving were: 'Don't forget to feed the kitty.'"

In Other Days.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian, August 6, 1868.

Washington.—The new Chinese Treaty, as concluded between the embassy and the state department, provides that Chinese subjects be admitted to all our schools without being subject to religious or political restrictions.

Washington.—A report on an ordnance officer of the War Department charges him with fraud, receiving commissions on an order for $50,000 worth of condemned projectiles.

With a population of 7500, good commercial relations and much building in progress, Portland will ultimately grow to be a great and populous city.

Mr. J. W. Lewis, of Oregon City, will start to manufacture his new kind of plow. There will soon be no need of importing farming implements from the East.

Hotels will stop carrying baggage from boat and train to hotel if travelers are not more considerate. A lady yesterday secured the transportation of six tons of baggage from the boat to the hotel and back without extra charge.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, August 6, 1893.

Washington.—The Democratic, Republican and Populist members of the House have met in caucus and the Populists have declared in favor of Silver.

Four bank suspensions were announced yesterday.

Zurich.—The Socialist conference which opens tomorrow, will be largely composed of German and Austrian delegates.

Tacoma.—The Tacoma Yacht Club regatta, an all-Northwestern event, took place yesterday over a 17-mile course.

Through travel on all railroads is lighter than at any time in the past 10 years. On one New York-Chicago train the passengers numbered less than the crew.

TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE

Pickpockets Break Out of Dilapidated Penitentiary and Rob Solons!

PORTLAND, Aug. 5.—(To the Editor.)—Your editorial Saturday concerning the need of a new penitentiary building at Salem suggests the idea that it was a mistake to appeal to the voters in Oregon for a new prison on the grounds of humanity and common decency. The appeal was killed by a vote of two to one on the theory, presumably, that any kind of a hole was good enough to put a man in who violated the law.

Now if the appeal had been made under the alluring title of "The bogey man will get you if you don't build a decent prison," and if it had been accompanied by cartoons showing bad men of the type of Tracey, Hassing, Jeff Baldwin and Bennett Thompson (according to the popular conception of him), the majority for a new prison would doubtless have been as large as it actually was against it.

And yet, it was the Legislature that was to blame for "passing the buck" to the people. The members knew the need of a decent prison from the reports of committees as well as from personal inspection. However, another Legislature is coming. Perhaps some of the worst sneak thieves and pickpockets may break out of the dilapidated old "pen" about the time the temporary inhabitants of the Statehouse have drawn their munificent pay of $3 per diem allowed by a generous state and if such a regrettable thing should happen perhaps the aforesaid "sneaks" and "dips" will "frisk" the honorable members so thoroughly that they will have to borrow carfare to get home. That would be very sad, of course, but I believe it would start something and it would not be in the guise of a bill "referred to the people by the Legislature" either.

"Sweet are the uses of adversity," and while we prayerfully hope that nothing of the kind will occur, still it has been demonstrated again and again that prisoners can saw through the old roof or bore through the rotten brick or tunnel underneath the walls of that disgraceful old wreck known as the Oregon Penitentiary, and why should not it happen next Winter as well as this Summer?

GEORGE A. THACHER.

Problem of the Header.

PORTLAND, Aug. 4.—(To the Editor.)—I note your solution of the "Problem of the Header" for Old Subscriber, Sundale, Wash., and I do not agree with you, as you do not give the inside team anything to turn on the first round but a tack, while in reality it takes some little room to turn in.

Both teams cover exactly the same ground during the day, with the exception of the first and last round, the smallest circle being by the inside team on the first round, and the largest circle by the outside team on the last round, and the difference in these two circles would show the distance traveled by the outside team in excess of that traveled by the inside team.

Rule: Subtract the circumference of the smallest circle traveled by the inner team from that of the largest circle made by the outer team.

This applies to a single trip around the field or a thousand equally as well.

If Old Subscriber wants proof he can demonstrate the above on a merry-go-round, and he can figure to a fraction of an inch how much farther he can travel for a nickel by riding the outside row of horses.

If you insist on doing it your way you will have to make that first circle with only one three-horse team, and I doubt if they can pull the header.

A. E. P.

The correspondent who submitted the problem did not ask The Oregonian's opinion on the ability of a six-horse team to turn a header in its tracks. His problem seemed to assume that the team did so and the answer was given accordingly. With the new premise interjected by the second correspondent the latter's answer is correct.

Wages in Spruce Camps.

CLIFTON, Or., Aug. 4.—(To the Editor.)—(1) What number received the Liberty Six automobile that was to be given away at the Liberty Theater July 10?

(2) What wages do they pay in the spruce camps for chokermen and chasers who are soldiers?

DAVE WRIGHT.

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(1) To answer this question would make The Oregonian's publisher liable under Federal law to fine and imprisonment, inasmuch as lottery information is denied the mails and The Oregonian circulates in part by mail.

(2) Enlisted spruce workers are paid the "going wage" prevailing where they are employed. The hourly wage last announced for chokermen and chasers was 55 cents.

Disposal of Black Walnut.

HILLSBORO, Or., Aug. 4.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me through the columns of your paper just where or to whom I could write for information concerning black walnut timber. I have two trees I would sell.

DAILY READER.

Write to Portland Council, Boy Scouts of America, Northwestern Bank building, Portland, Or.