

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, Oct. 11, 1918.

IMPOSITIONS.

It is opportune to remind the people of Oregon that in the midst of the larger and more absorbing interest necessary to successful prosecution of the war there are certain civic duties that must be performed...

An election is to be held in three weeks away. The voters are called upon to elect a United States Senator, a Governor, Representatives in Congress, two justices of the Supreme Court...

Out of a doubtful wisdom, born of interest in economy, the people lately voted to combine city and state elections. Thereafter the duty of the elector the task of choosing two Commissioners for the city of Portland.

The same combination of elections brings about the necessity of submitting charter amendments and ordinances at the same time that state and county officers are elected and state laws and constitutional amendments are passed upon.

This year with their other burdens the voters of Portland will be called to approve a bond issue of \$5,000,000 for port improvements. They will be asked again to pass upon the two-plant system for the fire department, now presented as a war emergency measure.

In addition to these tasks, conditions have complicated the state election. The vacancy on the Supreme Bench caused by the death of Justice Moore must be perpetually filled. No candidate can have his name printed on the ballot. Therefore the voters must acquaint themselves with the spelling of names and with the unusual acronyms that must be observed in such circumstances.

The interim appointment of Senator Olson, of Portland, to this vacancy causes a similar condition on the state Senatorial ballot. There, too, the names must be written in by the voters interested.

There are some election duties that should not be avoided or slackened. There is no way to fill elective offices except by election. Charter amendments can only be prevented by vote of the people. Enough appears in the list given to consume all the attention that the voter can spare from occupation or business, from war activities and from the interest in the war, under a pledge of the normal board appearing in the pamphlet. It seems to follow, therefore, that the people or the Legislature can just as well take up the matter after the war.

The second measure appropriated is \$200,000 to establish a home for dependent, delinquent and defective children. The plan for establishing this school is disapproved by numerous qualified persons on technical grounds. The bill is seriously defective.

The third, a referendum, brings up the old question of regulating fishing in the Rogue River. It has been decided once by the people and reopened twice by the Legislature. It is a local issue on which the voters cannot hope to inform themselves.

The fourth, another referendum, pertains to the closing of the Willamette River to commercial fishing below Oswego. It is another issue on which the people would have the greatest difficulty in intelligently informing themselves. Characteristic of such issues are two statements presented by opponents of this measure and printed in the official pamphlet. These statements are flatly denied in a letter from the United States Bureau of Fisheries, printed in The Oregonian today.

The fifth is an initiated bill that does not directly concern the taxpayers at large. It proposes to dispense with the public notice of tax delinquencies, now made after failure of the property owner to respond to a mailed notice. The published notice is paid for by the individual delinquent.

The sixth and last seeks to regulate the prices which newspapers shall charge individuals for certain forms of advertising. The measure is inspired in a newspaper quarrel.

In all the list there is not one issue or pretended issue that could not better be adjusted or settled by the Legislature. In there is no issue of importance to justify a recommendation to the voters that they spend time needed for other affairs and in other duties to study it.

The Oregonian will from time to time have more to say about these bills, but because they are one and all measures distinctly in the class upon which the people employ a Legisla-

ture to pass after full hearing and investigation. The Oregonian now advises the voter to make up his mind to register a general vote of "no" and devote their attention to Congressional and state and county officers, and to the important amendments that will appear on the city ballot.

There is this qualification: A vote of "yes" sustains the Legislature on a law referred by petition and is a rebuke to the petitioners. Both of the fishing controversies, it may be assumed, will appear in the next Legislature regardless of the outcome of the election. They are long-standing quarrels that will not down. They affect a comparatively small number of people. They have been "settled" time and again, only to crop out at the next opportunity. Regarding the fish bills, the voter may go it blind if he prefers. He may vote "no" or "yes" or forget them altogether without affecting the issues to a great extent. They promise to be always with us.

On all other the old injunction "When in doubt vote no" has a stronger force this year than ever before.

TOO MUCH PROSPERITY. It is an unpopular doctrine to preach that anyone can be ruined by material prosperity, but it is up to the work slacker to prove by his actions that it is not so.

The estimate of prosperity in war work is depreciated 14 per cent by failure of men to work full time who are wholly able to do so does not seem unreasonable to the observer. If high wages and military patriotism cause these workers they do not deserve them.

Those who are working only half time because they can satisfy their simple wants with half their full-time earnings are making the mistake of the whole man power of the country. The Hog Island shipyard, which made every provision for the comfort, convenience and entertainment of its men which experts could devise, is a recent example of this.

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can be enforced in principle by private action and if all will observe it will be no cause for serious alarm.

THIRTY MINUTES FOR LUNCHEON. There is special point in the question, addressed to women by Anna Lewis Pierce, a writer in the New York Tribune: "Would you rather have indignation yourselves or live with a man that has it?" The text of her article is a recent discussion in Wisconsin of the length of time that women workers should have for luncheon. The doctors have agreed, it seems, that "the meal period of women employes should be not less than an hour," that forty-five minutes will do, but that thirty minutes is unworkable, and that the right to life, health and welfare of women employes.

This encountered the objection that in many lines of industry men were allowed only thirty minutes for luncheon and that it would cause great confusion to give women twice as long. Hence the question asked by Mrs. Pierce, who believes that the women would not answer, if they were no alternative, that they would rather bear the physical than the mental anguish. But, there being no known difference between the digestive systems of the male and that of the female, it would be better for all concerned that the luncheon hour be extended in both cases.

Authorities seem to agree upon the point that where one eats with great deliberation, a smaller amount of food is consumed. It is admitted that many of us eat more than is required to nourish our bodies. The practice of bolting food results in stowing away an unnecessary amount of it before the feeling of repletion is produced. The signal of the stomach is the satisfaction of hunger. The late Dr. Fletcher and Oliver Wendell Holmes expressed the thought in their different ways, the latter with his "one bite for each word," the former with his "conveniently arbitrary rule for prolonging the meal hour, and the former laying more stress upon thorough mastication than upon the time consumed, but arriving at the same goal. Both were efficient food consumers.

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sides as he crawls out. Not much of an army would then escape. If the Germans should pull back in time to avoid this disaster they might make a temporary stand on a subsidiary line before Valenciennes, but they would find no strong, defensible line west of the Scheidt and Meuse rivers. To reach it they must abandon practically all of occupied France and all of Western Belgium, which would be an undeniable confession of defeat, fraught with grave consequences to the military morale and to the political situation in Germany and Austria. The Americans also are astride the Meuse north of Verdun, are pushing along it and might extend their front of attack to the frontiers of Belgium. One thing may save the Kaiser from the disaster suggested if all else should fail—bad weather. He would do well to pray with superfluity to the gods of the sky, for the weather name was Odin—to send rain and snow, with violent storms.

CLOTHING FOR THE BELGIANS. It may be that Portland people have fallen short of furnishing their quota of worn clothing for the Belgians for the excellent reason that previous campaigns have exhausted their tonnage. It is probably true that they are wearing their old clothes much more generally than formerly. But it is likely, also, that there is some lack of appreciation of the situation. If it were understood that, as Herbert Hoover put it recently, some millions of refugees in Belgium and Northern France "are facing shame, hunger and death," it is probable that there would be such a searching of closets and attics as there never has been before.

The business of obtaining clothing for these people is not in the hands of the Liberty Loan campaign or any other "drive," past, present or prospective. The Red Cross, under whose direction it is being conducted, is not asking for money at this time. It is admitted that many of us seem not unreasonable in all the circumstances, and the announcement that it has been only one-tenth completed with the close of the week is frankly disappointing. The campaign should be extended to give all who can do so an opportunity to contribute.

The people of Belgium are asking for only the bare necessities of life. They are not asking for luxuries, formerly well-to-do, to a friend in the United States which is quoted by the Indianapolis News, visualizes graphically the situation of the more fortunate. It says:

Perhaps you will laugh when you hear that the "well-to-do" in Belgium are wearing their old clothes much more generally than formerly. But all this is only dress, by comparison with the wretchedness of the masses. We remain calm and confident of victory.

It is not this portion of the population, reduced to making its clothing from bed sheets, table cloths and burials that are now asking for aid. Make-shift as it is, such clothing is serving a purpose. But these people are the "well-to-do" of Belgium and Northern France. The ordinary folks, the refugees of war, the children, the children, undernourished and threatened with a score of the maladies of childhood, need all the help that can be given them.

It must be remembered that there is hardly a word of garment in the possession of an American but will serve some good purpose. Not only clothing, but blankets and mufflers, are in demand. Let there be no hoarding of old clothes, or, which is just as serious, let there be no apathy toward the needs of our suffering friends across the sea. Let the overhauling of trunks and bureaus and chests of drawers be begun at once.

If somebody had told Darius Green, who made the flying machine long ago, that one day a plane would be carried across the Channel in an airplane, the Yankee enthusiast would have responded, "Of course!"

Long trousers instead of breeches are to be worn by American soldiers abroad, but they are to be tighter around the lower leg than the old Army trousers, as leggings are to be worn over them.

The riveter who earns \$64 in eight hours cannot keep the gait a week or a month or a year. That is the law of compensation. But the bug who hits it slow and steady is the boy who gets there.

Dufur is not a large town and its quota was \$30,000. It went over \$30,000, 30 per cent of its deposits. Suppose the other cities took on at that rate—would McAdoo be worried?

The Hartney County News prints the Republican ticket at the head of its editorial page, with the line: "Why Make a Change at This Time?" That query is good everywhere.

Another policeman has been dismissed for unbecoming conduct. The bad actors do not last in the bureau that is one of the prides of Portland.

When a soldier stands at salute, especially at night, give him the ride. He may be in a hurry to get back. It is worth the chance.

The curfew limit is 18 years, yet many of 16 are wiser than those of 20. Law makes no distinction, however.

The belligerents will not sit around a table discussing peace terms. The Hun will sit outside with the office boy.

Death from the "flu" cannot be ascribed to alcohol in the system. There's "no such thing as more."

If you think you have all the bonds you want buy another for a Christmas present to yourself.

Boxing is to become a municipal function, and that gives it a standing in decent entertainments.

The "flu" travels through the mouthpiece of