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PORTLAND, MONDAY, OCT. 21, 1918.

AUSTRIA'S DAY OF GRACE GONE.

Secretary Lansing's reply to the Austrian peace proposal brings welcome reassurance to those who saw in President Wilson's speech on January 8 undeserved leniency to the dual monarchy. The Hapsburg monarchy is in some respects a worse offender than that of the Hohenzollerns. It is older, more persistent in crime against freedom, has made more promises to its people, and has broken more. No weight can be given safely to the promise of federal self-government made by Emperor Charles in his extremity, for the danger which now threatens him would no sooner pass than he would forget it. Further, the United States has no right to decide for the subject peoples of the Hapsburgs. According to our own principles, first proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence and reaffirmed in several statements of our war aims, it is for them to decide whether they will remain under or cast off the Hapsburg yoke. The Czecho-Slovaks have already decided this question by their declaration of independence, and the United States is committed to their support by having recognized them as belligerents.

As usual with doomed despots, Charles has acted too late, yielding that which he no longer has power to withhold and no more. It is well that the President has given practical notice that the principles announced on January 8 are not the limit of the allied aims. As principles they will still apply, but the application will be more thorough-going and drastic than was then contemplated.

This is just, for many things have happened since that date. At that time Russia was prostrate in the hands of Germany's agents, Lenine and Trotzky, with no apparent power of resistance, the full military strength of the central powers was about to be exerted against the western allies, and only a small American force was in the field. Since then the Brest-Litovsk perfidy has been perpetrated, the Bolshevik revolution has been proved to be of German origin, the allies have beaten the central powers on every front, Bulgaria has deserted the Kaiser and 2,000,000 Americans have gone to France. The certainty of final victory justifies the allies in going the full limit in the cause of freedom and permanent peace. The autocrats have wasted their day of grace, and the longer they resist the harder will it go with them.

The President and the American people have gained clearer vision of that with which they have to contend, and of the means to overcome it. Had Austria-Hungary been simply reorganized as a federated monarchy of autonomous states, not only would the Czechos and Jugo-Slavs have been cheated of the independence which they crave and to which they have an undeniable right, but the way would have been open for the Hapsburgs to play off one nationality against another in order to retain and increase their power. The monarchy would then have remained an inviting field for Pan-German intrigue, and the opportunity would have survived for Germany to use it as a bridge for aggression in the Balkans. With Bohemia an independent republic, Galicia divided between independent Poland and Bohemia, Hungary separated from Austria and Jugo-Slavia also independent, a barrier will be set up against German expansion either to south or east, and the peace of Central and Eastern Europe will be safe. By making all these nations free, the allies can make Europe safe against militarism. Both policy and principle point out the same course.

HATRED A RELIGIOUS DUTY.

One of the remarkable reversals of sentiment brought about by the war has occurred in the attitude of the churches. Ten years ago their conventions were passing resolutions in favor of arbitration, and were denouncing war without discrimination as un-Christian and contrary to that brotherhood of man and that gospel of love which the Christian religion teaches. Now they are foremost in demanding war until the unconditional surrender of the enemy, and in preaching hatred of the Kaiser and Germany in general as a Christian virtue.

Chancellor Day, of Syracuse University, says: "It is religious to hate the Kaiser, because the Bible teaches us to hate the devil and all his works." Bishop Quayle, in the Northwestern Christian Advocate, condemns "a moral flabbiness in discussing the German which has a sinister aspect," and says: "All this indiscriminate, flabby, spineless, godless talk about loving the German ministers to a wrong peace." He insists that "we are at war with the Germans, not the junkers, not autocracy, not Prussianism, not the Kaiser," for "the German people is committing the unspeakable horrors which set the whole world aghast."

A writer in the London Spectator says much to the same effect, but he goes farther. He says that "long before 1914 Christianity had ceased to exist among the younger generation of Germans," and that "since 1870 a new race of Germans has arisen which knows neither pity nor truth" and with which "no thing of beauty is there but to be befouled or destroyed." He writes of "the unutterable degradation of the modern German" and calls him "a pariah unfit to associate even with ordinary criminals." His idea of how far to carry the war and how to deal with Germany is conveyed by these words:

> We cannot extirpate him, but we can so deal with him that he will wait for a century; we can refuse to have any dealings with either him or his produce. If this is not done, let us be under no illusions . . . This time the weight of metal is probably too great for Germany to win, but the German race is the strongest, most pertinacious and most dangerous on earth. They stick, and will stick, at nothing to achieve their ends. In the long run, unless we and our allies set our house in order and excise the cancer of party warfare, the German will dominate the world.

The churches have become possessed with the religious zeal of the crusader, for they see the war as a struggle between the elemental powers of good and evil, which admit of no compromise and no mercy. Nor is evil, in their estimation, to be overcome simply by destroying the Kaiser and the junkers as the ruling caste.

NOT A SECTIONAL ISSUE.

The argument most dangerous to the ultimate establishment of new normal schools is to advocate them on the ground of sectionalism, as a correspondent seems to do today. The normal school issue will never succeed on the mere claim of any locality that it has been neglected in the expenditure of public funds. The bill's final passage does and must depend upon the need of normal schools to maintain the standard of the rural and city education.

It is admitted by those in position to know that the normal school bill would not have been referred by the Legislature had the entrance of this country into the war been foreseen. The educators who deem additional normal schools necessary would not have asked for its submission.

Moreover, new normal schools are not now needed. The attendance at the one school has this year declined more than 50 per cent. Young men and young women simply are not interested in fitting themselves to teach because other pursuits are more attractive. The lack of present need is confirmed by the announcement of the normal school board that if the bill passes none of the money appropriated will be expended so long as the war lasts.

Yet the bill levies an annual tax. If it is passed taxes will be increased and the additional direct appropriation will be set aside. There will be virtually money spent with no present return, for it will be taken out of the pockets of the taxpayers to lie idle pending use for it.

The Oregonian believes that it is economic wisdom to await that time before making the appropriation or levying the tax. It suggests postponement of the question. That is all. It has announced that for one it will not accept defeat of the measure in the coming election as final settlement of the question.

THE EFFICIENCY SYSTEM IN PORTS.

By voting that $5,000,000 of dock bonds at the November election Portland will be the first American port to provide for its equipment on the efficiency plan put forward by Chairman Hurley, of the Shipping Board, as the means of overcoming the difference in cost of operating American ships and those of other nations. The grain elevator and dock now under construction are a good beginning at adoption of these efficiency methods, and the new bond issue will provide for construction of the second unit at St. Johns and of other units and facilities.

As the standard ship built by American bridge-building methods, as described by Mr. Hurley in a recent article in the Saturday Evening Post, will be built in normal times as cheaply as ships are built in other countries, so will the standard port with American docks and machinery for taking cargo on and off enable us to operate ships as cheaply as any other nation without lowering wages paid to American seamen—and hereafter our seamen will be Americans. It is simply a matter of efficiency, as Mr. Hurley shows by reference to shipping on the Great Lakes, where "wages are high and freights low because through modern terminal machinery a lake carrier gets in and out of port quickly and is working all the time, cutting down costly delays in port, which eat up profits in overhead charges." In war traffic, by better organization of cargo and improved handling devices we have cut seventeen days off the time spent in port on the round trip, which is equivalent to 2000 tons on a 14,000-ton ship. Instead of dropping goods through a hole in the deck of a ship, he says, why not open up her sides?

The plan by which the Shipping Board proposes to keep our ships on the ocean is to build standard ships like freight cars, to equip them for docks which have sufficient methods of handling cargo, to build and equip such docks both at American and foreign ports and to run the ships between such ports. This will be application to ships of the methods pursued in our railroads, which have given us the lowest average freight rate in the world with the highest wages.

Portland is in line to lead in this development, being the first to do its part in the new programme. Then there will be no question about ships coming here, for cargoes will be sent here, because we shall have the facilities to handle them efficiently.

CHEMISTRY ON THE FARM.

It is pointed out by R. Adams Dutcher, a member of the American Chemical Society, that if it had not been for the chemist famine would already be abroad in the land. Food production now practically depends upon him. His work in the development of artificial fertilizers is the most conspicuous example of this, but the point also is illustrated by comparatively recent discoveries in scientific feeding, in the correction of unfavorable soil conditions and in combatting parasites. The world also owes a great debt to chemistry for the discovery of the test for butterfat, which has been the greatest single factor in the development of the dairy industry upon a sound commercial basis.

Our present knowledge of the principles of plant nutrition has its beginning in experiments conducted less than eighty years ago, and these have been, perhaps, the most momentous years in the industrial history of the world. The development of the nitrogen-extraction industry which followed virtual exhaustion of the Chile saltpeter supplies has been one of the most important occurrences of the present century. It is impossible also to estimate the debt which we owe to the man who devised the simple, foolproof method by which any farmer may determine whether his soil is excessively acid and the extent to which he needs to apply lime to correct that fault. This phase of agricultural science is only now beginning to be appreciated in Oregon.

Our ability to keep the enemies of crop production in control is also founded upon chemical researches. Without artificial fertilizers and without spray materials it is difficult to see how we would now be able to feed our own people, to say nothing of making any contributions to our allies. The chemist seems to have made out a good case for himself as the most important scientist with whom we are called upon to deal.

PARCELS FOR CANADIANS IN FRANCE.

Instructions for the mailing of parcels to men in the Canadian army in France, giving the procedure followed by a Portland mother who has five sons with the Canadians, need correction and supplementing because of a new order, effective since October 9.

Except for Christmas parcels going to the American boys in France, it is now necessary that the person mailing or shipping parcels to France, Italy or England first obtain an export license from the War Trade Board. The Portland office of this board is in room 748 Morgan building. Licenses will be granted only for the sending of articles not embraced on the export conservation list. This list is extensive, and anyone thinking of sending gifts to the specified countries would do wisely to consult it before buying or preparing the article.

The Portland mother referred to reports that because of difficulties encountered in mailing gift articles and because of the readiness with which American money passes in France she is confining gifts to her sons almost exclusively to small bills, enclosed in her letters. She commends the practice to all having relatives on the western front.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING.

It is significant of the coming of a new era in foreign language study that more emphasis is being placed than formerly upon "speaking knowledge," as distinguished from the merely reading acquaintance which is stressed in the schools of England and the United States. In this we have followed our literary bent, and, having made language a part of the "literary" rather than the commercial or scientific course, have often made its study merely a tool with which to unlock the door to a foreign literature. But a reading knowledge, as is pointed out in a recent issue of the Commerce Reports, does not imply any writing knowledge or any speaking knowledge, and for the purposes of commerce may well be regarded as negligible. Now that the problems of our trade after the war are being seriously considered, it is time to formulate a plan of language teaching in the schools which shall serve our purpose. It has been demonstrated repeatedly that even those students in this country who have specialized in languages in the universities have little more than the reading knowledge. "They generally know next to nothing of the spoken language," says the article in the Commerce Reports, "and are not equipped to write idiomatic letters in foreign languages."

Discussion of this branch of education will receive fresh impetus from the report of a British government commission which was appointed in 1916, visited all the universities in England and Scotland, and took testimony from many witnesses and received many answers to a questionnaire. It is a problem which America faces in common with our allies, particularly of England, France and Italy, so that the report will have universal application in these countries. The commission, for example, said:

> The evidence seems conclusive as to the need of foreign languages in business, especially under the new conditions which may be expected to prevail after the war. So large is the part of our industrial product marketed abroad, so universal our carrying trade, that any impediment to our success will react not only on those firms directly interested in foreign markets, but also on the prosperity of the whole country. Our foreign trade does not compose the whole of our activities, but the whole of our activities depends upon it. In a great part of our foreign trade a knowledge of foreign languages will be directly and abundantly remunerative.

It is significant that only a few of the firms which sent replies to the questionnaire—fewer than 4 per cent—urged the policy of making the English language universal, and deprecated foreign language teaching as tending away from that purpose. These were only partly supported in their contention by the fact that English already is the most important language on the globe, but this fact explains the reluctance of English-speaking peoples to acquire other tongues. Incentive heretofore has been lacking. We have a wide literature, which is regarded by many as self-sufficient, and English is understood in other countries because the people of those countries have been willing to take the trouble to acquire it. Even the Germans have admitted this, and in one of their most practical manuals of foreign trade, issued before the war, the following appears:

> Above all, thorough study should be given to the language of the foreign country, its political and geographical relations and its trade and industry. I assume that the reader of this book has a certain familiarity with geography and foreign languages, especially English, which is indispensable as a world language for overseas trade.

The British report is free from insularity and chauvinism. It holds that the importance of any language may be judged by the significance of its people in the development of modern civilization, by the intrinsic value of its literature, by its contribution to the valid learning of our times, and by its practical use in commercial or other national intercourse. On this basis the report candidly holds that "French is by far the most important language in the history of modern civilization." It does not, however, scorn German for practical reasons, and it speaks particularly of the "wide extension of German activity and the general use of German in the business of Russia and the Balkan peninsula." Of course, the value of German after the war will correspond with the importance of German competition, and this is yet to be determined. But there are other important languages. In Europe these are Italian, Spanish and Russian. For Americans there will be added opportunities through Chinese and Japanese. We already lead among the nations in our acquaintance with Spanish, but in this, it seems, Germany is our chief competitor.

Italian is now being newly appraised. Exposure of German plots for the merciless exploitation of Italy would seem to have prepared the ground for a new commercial alignment, in which Italy can be expected to meet us more than half way. We have, however, depended in the past in our trade with Italy upon the acquaintance of Italians living in this country, whether American citizens or otherwise. Few Americans have learned the language and it is taught thoroughly in practically none of the schools. Russia, that other field of German penetration, also offers a fruitful field. To the cultivation of it a knowledge of the language is virtually indispensable. It is a curious fact that it is the English, the least inclined of any people to take up foreign language study, who have banished the bugaboo that Russian is too difficult to be learned. There has recently been marked progress in the study of Russian in that country, with practical results.

The entire matter goes back, nevertheless, to the necessity of teaching any language upon a speaking basis. This in the past we have consistently failed to do. It is not essential, however, that the student should acquire his specialized technical vocabulary in school. It is even desirable that this should not be attempted too early. The British report suggests that "excepting the universally current forms and phrases, the terms of a trade can be satisfactorily learned only when the nature and purposes of the special business are fully understood." This somewhat simplifies the work of the schools, but does not remove their responsibility for turning out pupils who can talk a language so as to make themselves understood.

One of the handicaps to extension of language teaching in the past has been that the polylinguist has been rather poorly rewarded. The difficulty here has been, perhaps, that those who might have been perfect babels within themselves were nothing else than that. Now, the mere interpreter is not likely to receive very high wages, but languages may still be a highly valuable accomplishment in the possession of a man otherwise efficient. In the case of a traveling salesman, for illustration, they would be indispensable, especially in competition with salesmen who were able to approach prospective customers on familiar ground. It is probable that our foreign trade will be increased to unheard-of proportions after the war, especially in view of the demand that is bound to be manifested for our raw materials, and since we have no devastated areas of our own to restore we shall be able to enter with a free hand in the helping of others in their work of reconstruction. The outlook would seem to call for knowledge of the countries with which we expect to trade, and even for some knowledge of German, if we are to keep ourselves informed as to the machinations of a possible competitor.

Demobilization of the Bulgarian peasant army has come too late to affect the price of attar of roses, but this may be one of the first products to decline as the result of that nation's surrender. Bulgaria, as a recent government report points out, has long been the world's center for the production of roses from which is made the essence which constitutes the basis of most genuine perfumes, and rose cultivation has been one of the principal industries of the country. The necessity for giving careful attention to the nice details of cultivation is illustrated by the fact that during the war, while gardens were neglected, it required about sixty pounds of petals to make five grams of essence, while the average normal quantity is only thirty-five pounds. There are many things which the world needs more than perfume, so that it is possible that the industry will not be re-established on its former basis until some years have passed.

Oregon's last-minute spurt for the liberty loan shows that the old state had not quite emptied its pockets or dried up the springs of its patriotism in the intensive campaign.

When a colored man is charged with crime he is a negro. When there is something to his credit he is an Afro-American, the sole use of the hyphen allowable.

There is no excuse for any girl to be idle while there is such a scarcity of nurses. A girl can at least become a nurse's assistant and may graduate into a nurse.

The Victoria Cabinet will decide today whether confiscated liquors shall be given to hospitals for influenza patients. It's great to be a Canadian!

Keeping a cow in concealment at Lille through the four years of German occupation was a fine performance, but how did the cow like it?

Election day is two weeks from tomorrow, and Oregon Republicans must bear in mind that politics is not adjourned by the other fellows.

The man who does not clean up his order at a public eating place sets a bad example and hinders rather than helps.

Colliding with the patrol wagon can be due to nothing less than reckless driving. By whom, it is unnecessary to say.

Hungary need not boast of devotion to Wilson's principles and claim independence. She is one of the criminals.

It is just as well that big bison did not go to Dakota. Suppose we use him in the fifth loan drive as a mascot?

The "unsinkable" ship went down, while the concrete affairs are ramming around somewhere.

Though green as to actual war, the 26th division took to fighting as a duck takes to water.

Submarine warfare is restricted by general conditions and by the disposition of the Hun.

The boy who gets an accidental charge of birdshot in the leg is a vacation hero.

Belgium well may rejoice. Never again will the German get in unless under arrest.

Idaho has more politics this campaign than all the rest of the Union.

'Twas a joyless day for the man who did not fill his tank Saturday.

The unsinkable ship is in the same class with the invincible army.

The loan drive is over, and begin your Christmas shopping.

Gossiping over the phone is the hallmark of ill-bred people.

Tears are one of the tools of the shoplifter's trade.

Wilson to Austria: "The tail goes with the hide."

NO PUNISHMENT IS ADEQUATE

Only Approximate Justice Can Be Meted Out for Wrong Done by Germany.

ROSEBURG, Or., Oct. 19.—To the Editor.)—P. A. Linscott, writing in The Oregonian of the 14th inst., notes "with painful surprise" the general apathy of the American people toward the German peace move. The whole tenor of the article is a plea for sympathy for Germany, and would pass for a very The argument is that, as Germany has agreed to the President's peace terms, fair specimen of German propaganda, which includes "no material compensation for the sacrifices which we shall make, no conquest, no dominion," etc., therefore we should permit Germany to march her armies back to Berlin with drums beating and colors flying; leaving ruin and desolation behind them where but erst dwelt a happy, contented, prosperous people.

Now, Justice demands that wrong shall be righted; and who but the perpetrator of a wrong can right it? Who should be held accountable for the countless unspeakable crimes against humanity that have been perpetrated at the instigation of the Prussian autocracy for the glory of "Me und Gott?" In the name of Justice, not the despoiled, but the spoilers. An agreement to a cessation of hostilities on any other terms would be a German victory; and the lifeblood of the flower of our manhood that is being poured out on foreign soil that civilization may be freed from the menace of Prussian militarism will have been spilled in vain.

Then let us have nothing short of unconditional surrender; after which we can safely leave to the peoples whose lands have been despoiled, whose wives and daughters have been carried away to a captivity worse than death, and whose children have been maimed and butchered before their eyes, the settlement of indemnities; and in the meantim let Justice take a hand to see that her scales shall balance to a hair.

And the instigators of this reign of terror, whose crimes smell to high heaven, what of them? There is much to be condoned in the barbarities of a benighted savage who has never had opportunities to be anything else; while acts by those who have had all of the advantages of civilization are a descent to the lowest stage of human depravity and deserve nothing less than vengeance swift and sure.

The human mind can no more conceive of an adequate punishment for even a fraction of the crimes that have been committed at the instigation of the Prussian oligarchy than it can compass the bounds of space; but they can be stood up against a wall before a firing squad, which would rid the world of an unspeakable nuisance, which certainly would be ammunition well spent.

This expresses the opinion of not only one American citizen, but of hundreds of thousands of them. A short time ago the writer happened in a considerable concourse of people who were discussing this very subject, and all were agreed without a dissenting voice that there was no punishment that human ingenuity could devise that would adequately fit the crimes for which the German oligarchy was responsible.

F. M. SEBRING.

THINKS PORTLAND IS SELFISH

Ashland Writer Protests Against Opposition to Normal School Bill.

ASHLAND, Or., Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Two editorials have appeared in The Oregonian recently in regard to the initiative measures that are to be voted upon at the coming election that take a view of them that, to say the least, is somewhat selfish.

Several people of the eastern and southern part of the state had an idea that anything that did not bring immediate profit to Portland received little or no support from some of the newspapers, and many of the firms and interests of that city, but they were unprepared to see in The Oregonian frank statements to the voters "to protest abuses" by voting "Yes" to those measures that were helpful to Portland and "No" to those measures that were not immediately helpful to Portland and The Oregonian. This is the gist of the editorials, as near as I can make out.

When Portland was in the dumps, bank clearings dropping and Seattle was grabbing all the business, the slogan was "Build up Oregon." When Portland cannot even house all the people who are working in their shops and the country villages are depopulated to furnish these workers, the cry is "Give 'em h—l."

In Ashland, which is away out in the suburbs, the feeling is prevalent that a generous view of our small demands for a normal school serving this part of the state would at least put the matter before your readers on its merits, rather than calling it an abuse, and that it can wait. Is it because Portland needs the money for a $5,000,000 dock? I do not think the $125,000 we ask for would, or will, conflict with reasonable Portland improvement.

I hope you can give us some real help; we need it. H. S. WHITED.

The correspondent has not read The Oregonian carefully. The Oregonian has indorsed only one measure and that is not on the state ballot—the $5,000,000 port bond issue. It is a local measure, involving in no way the remainder of the state. In recommending a "No" vote on the state-wide measures, it has included in its opposition the bill appropriating $200,000 for a home for dependent and delinquent children. That bill specifically provides that the $200,000 shall be spent in Portland. Sectionalism has no part in the normal school issue or any recommendation The Oregonian may make. The subject is discussed at more length in another column.

GRAVITY HARVESTS HIS POTATOES

Farmer Strikes Gusher on Rich Side Hill Patch in Umatilla.

PENDLETON, Or., Oct. 18.—(To the Editor.)—An editorial in The Oregonian, "The World's Potato Record," suggests to me that good editorial writers are not necessarily pastmasters in the peaceful pursuit of spud growing.

Miss Pallas Eudora Von Blurkey,
She could not tell chicken from turkey.
High Spanish and Greek, she could fluently speak,
But her knowledge of poultry was murky.

"They say" that on Bill Slusher's farm southwest of Pendleton, a tenant planted a patch of potatoes on a steep side hill where years ago used to be a sheep corral.

During harvest, desiring some spuds for household use, said tenant uncovered one end of a row of potatoes and that an even hundred bushels ran out before he could stop the hole.

Mr. Slusher was not the man who told me this spud story. N. BERKELEY.

No Knowledge of Seed Prices.

ABERDEEN, Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—An article appeared in The Oregonian, October 12, which credits me with the statement that potato-ball seed is worth $20 per ounce. What I did state was that I had heard a rumor to that effect, but as a matter of fact I have no knowledge of its commercial value.

I have received a great many inquiries in reference to the matter, all of which I have forwarded to Mr. A. T Cook, seedsman of Hyde Park, New York, who is in the market for all the potato balls he can get. I shipped 60 pounds to him recently and he made returns at the rate of $15 per hundred, which was more than the market price of the potatoes that produced them.

SAMUEL BENN.

CHURCH OFFERS PANIC REMEDY

Prohibition of Prayerful Communion Is Held to Be Mistake.

PORTLAND, Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Strange indeed are the signs of the times when in the face of the most appalling crisis the world has ever witnessed, the churches of this country should be closed. It is only a few weeks ago the people of Oregon were summoned by the Governor of the state to join in prayer for the success of our arms. In fact many citizens are, at noon each day, bowing in prayer for the success of our cause and are being encouraged in so doing. General Foch, the man to whom we are all looking with confidence and pride, has said, "We shall be saved by prayer." When the news of the defeat of the German army at the battle of the Marne in 1914 was received in England, Lord Roberts said: "Only God Almighty could have done this!" General Kitchener reading the dispatch, said: "Someone must have been praying."

Yet in the face of these acknowledgments and in the face of a panic of fear which is being so industriously fanned into the flame of an epidemic, comes the order to close our places of worship and to abandon our church services. There is a quite general belief prevailing among the rank and file of our people that in the calm and meditative atmosphere of our church services is to be found, in prayerful communion with God, the most potent antidote for fear; and, therefore, the most effective preventive of disease; for does not the great Book of Books teach, "The prayer of faith shall save the sick?"

The Washington (D. C.) Star, protesting against the closing of churches at this time, in an editorial of October 11 has this to say:

> Church assemblages are essential to victory in the spiritual war as well as the physical war and to conquer sin, satan and the Kaiser.
>
> The same editorial further along says:
>
> An integral part of Christianity is public worship, the collective petitioning of the Almighty. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them." Are we to forbid for very long the gathering together of men and women in Christ's name for communion with their Saviour, to pray collectively for victory in the war, and, for the checking of a threatened epidemic, to be delivered from plague and pestilence?
>
> It should be assured that church services are short and so distributed through the day that no service is crowded; and that the church buildings are properly heated and thoroughly ventilated. If epidemic actually rages. . . . with these precautions the churches should be put on the footing of essential war industries and of factors which tend to check and not to promote an epidemic.
>
> Rightly used, the churches, through their influence on the minds and souls of men, can do more to win the war even than clerk assemblages in Government departments. Rightly used the church will furnish a minimum of promotion agency to distribute influenza germs and a maximum contribution to destroy the panic fear in which an epidemic lives and moves and has its being.

A. O. FREEL.

VOTE SLACKERS BAD AS OTHERS

It Is Part of Elector's War Business to Study Candidates and Bills.

PORTLAND, Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—A very deceitful slogan is made use of in political campaigns during these war times. It is, in effect, "re-elect the man in office, this is no time to change." No self-respecting voter would stand for autocratic dictation of that kind in normal times. Why should he now? Every candidate, whether in or out of office, ought to be viewed as to his real qualifications. Some ought to be re-elected, others should not.

If there ever was a time to keep home fires burning, it is right now. There are important state and city offices to be filled. No candidate who cannot measure up to the office he seeks should be allowed to slip it over this community with that kind of a slogan.

War is our business now, and a part of it is to see that proper and qualified men are elected to office. A voter who refuses to take an interest in his home politics is a slacker and a coward as much as one who runs from the field. It is high time people here exhibited some genuine interest in this part of our war business. Besides candidates, there are very important measures on the ballot. The election is only a few days off. Voters should get ballots and inform themselves. Do it now! ROBERT C. WRIGHT.

Military Police and Guards.

PORTLAND, Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Please tell me what reconstruction work is and to whom I should apply for such a course? I have heard that some college in this city trains students for that work. Where could I get more definite information?

(2) Are women eligible as well as men?

(3) Is the Multnomah and the Home Guard the same unit?

(4) What part of the United States Army does the Military Police belong to?

(5) Is the state militia the samething as the old Oregon National Guard?

CONSTANT READER.

(1) There are many phases of reconstruction work, but the general aim is that of helping injured soldiers regain physical strength and capacities and fit them for some occupation. Reed College, of this city, is giving reconstruction courses and full information can be obtained at the college.

(2) Yes.

(3) The Multnomah Guard is essentially a home guard body and its existence makes it unnecessary for Portland and vicinity to have a home guard.

(4) Army units regularly detail detachments of their men to serve as military police. If, however, you are referring to the Oregon Military Police, that is a specially created state force.

(5) The Oregon National Guard is embraced in the term "state militia," but this also includes the Oregon Guard, created at a time when there was no recognized National Guard.

Faith in "Gott" Wavers.

PORTLAND, Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—In a paper from Charlotte, Mich., which contains several letters from boys in France, I find the inclosed extract in one of the letters, which I think too good to keep:

> "We asked a German prisoner who could speak English if he thought they would win the war, and he said, 'I don't know. We have God with us, but the allies have the Americans.' We think his god must be the Kaiser."

The paper was the Charlotte Republican of October 11.

MRS. N. M. WARD.

Status of Filling Station Employes.

PORTLAND, Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Can you tell me if the gasoline filling stations that the Standard Oil Company and Shell Company have are essential, or will a man who works in them be made to quit and go to other work providing he is in class 1, 2 or 3?

E. M. DUKE.

Work in service stations has not been classed as nonessential or nonproductive employment.

Water on Premises.

PORTLAND, Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—I have been told that the law is such in the state of Washington that rent cannot be collected from a tenant unless water has been furnished upon the premises. Kindly state whether this is true. A SUBSCRIBER.

There is no such law in Washington.

In Other Days.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Morning Oregonian, Oct. 21, 1868.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company's ship Falcon arrived at Panama yesterday from Guayaquil bringing the news of an earthquake in Ecuador, August 18, when 40,000 lives were lost. The catastrophe occured at night and whole pueblos were swallowed up, it is said.

Fifteen years ago there were few horses in Oregon other than Indian ponies. These were seldom more than 14 hands high and sold at from $10 to $15 apiece, according to their docility. There were few "American horses" in the country and they brought a remarkably high figure. It has been estimated recently, however, that more than 500 fine horses have been sent from Oregon to California, and these are offered for sale in San Francisco as "fine, large Oregon horses."

The son of an Irish nobleman, whose pedigree has been a matter of public interest of late, and who has been employed by Father Kelly across the river, was recently charged with assault and battery in the Police Court and fined $20.

Salem, Oct. 19.—The committee of the whole has under coisideration today the bill to appropriate $350,000 for the purpose of assisting the Willamette Falls Lock & Canal Company to construct locks and a canal around the falls at Oregon City, and reported it back to the Senate with favorable recommendation. The bill will therefore be passed.

Twenty-Five Years Ago.

From The Morning Oregonian, Oct. 21, 1893.

Battle Creek, Mich.—Twenty-six lives were lost today in a head-on collision between the Raymond and Whitcomb special train returning from the World's Fair and the Pacific Express, which was west bound. The accident occurred through the negligence of the engineer of the Raymond and Whitcomb special.

Atlanta, Ga.—Mrs. Douschka Pickens Dugas, known as the "Red Shirt Heroine" of the Wade Hampton campaign of 1876, which redeemed South Carolina from carpet-bag domination, died at her home in Edgefield County, South Carolina, today. She was the daughter of Governor Frances Pickens, of South Carolina, a former United States Minister to Russia, and she was born in the palace of the Czar in Petrograd.

The Oregon Bar Association opened its annual convention yesterday at the United States court room. The following officers presided at the opening session: Rufus Mallory, president; L. R. Webster, J. W. Hamilton, Gorhe H. Burnett, L. B. Stearns, F. P. Mays, R. Eakin, vice-presidents; O. F. Paxton, treasurer; Charles H. Carey, secretary.

Clackamas County has completed a new bridge across Johnson Creek at Milwaukie at a cost of $1634.

STATE IS JUST LIKE INDIVIDUAL

Rising Costs Make Extra State Tax a Grave Necessity.

PENDLETON, Or., Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—There comes from Salem an urgent request for the voters of Oregon to vote for that measure on the ballot which provides an extra mill of state tax needed because of war conditions. This request comes from our State Board of Control, consisting of Governor Withycombe, State Treasurer Kay and Secretary Ben W. Olcott. These men are our duly elected agents. They are trying to do for us what we would do for ourselves. They say that expenses can not be held down to the constitutional limitation without utter neglect of our state institutions and lack of that police protection which existing war conditions make imperative.

When we take stock of our individual needs and the enhanced cost of supplying them we have strong evidence that the state can not maintain itself so cheaply as formerly. For the state hires labor, and it feeds and clothes and shelters hundreds upon hundreds of the charges in our penitentiary and hospitals for the insane, yet the cost of supplies and labor to the state rises no less than to individuals.

Lack of funds will force our State Board of Control to use the credit of the state; and a failure to vote this tax to meet these demands would impair that credit and weaken the state now, when the full vigor of its powers is needed to carry us through these days of stress. C. P. STRAIN,

Assessor of Umatilla County.

UNCLE JABE'S PROFANITY.

I has been a Hahd Shell Baptis'
Since my pickaninny days—
Nebber got to go to dances,
Nebber 'tanded any plays;
But since di wah has busted out
I'se longed to cuss 'em blue,
But I only quotes our preachah—
Calls 'em
"Pots damn crew!"

Donno w'y he puts "Pots" to it,
But I spects it he'ps him out,
When he's prancing in de pulpit,
Knockin' Germans all about;
And Mirandy sittin' by me
Gibs my ribs a little hunch
When he gits to yellin' louder
'Bout dat
"Pots damn bunch!"

So I guess if pahson says it,
Uncle Jabe can say it too;
Guess de Lawd will sure forgib me
When he 'members what dey do—
All de orful, 'trocious actions
Dey commits in ebery place;
Dey'll sure meet 'em in do jedgement—
Dat ole
"Pots damn race!"

MINA HALL EPLEY.

Philomath, Or.

Tracing Missing Soldier.

CONDON, Or., Oct. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Can you tell me where I can get information regarding missing soldiers or what has become of one last heard of in France? A READER.

Perhaps your local Red Cross chapter could set an inquiry in motion. If not write to Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C., giving soldier's name in full the unit and organization to which he was attached and his last known address.

Notice of Rent Increase.

PORTLAND, Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me if a landlord can or is permitted by law to raise one's rent on a notice of less than 30 days?

This is "open season" on shipyard workers and I just received mine to the tune of $30 plus $10 equals $40, from an apartment-house, effective in 15 days. A SUBSCRIBER.

The notice is sufficient if the tenant is renting from month to month.

Call of Oregon Units.

EUGENE, Or., Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.) — Please advise me which was drafted into the Army first, the old Third Oregon or the Coast Artillery? A SUBSCRIBER.

The Third Oregon was called to do Federal guard service March 25, 1917, and the Coast Artillery received this call July 25, 1917. Both were mustered into the National Army on August 5, 1917.