

The Oregonian

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"makings," and who would still be attracted to the "Y" if they could not get it. We do not propose to answer the question. It is but presented for the candid inspection of those who may be interested.

THE GENERAL OF FOOD.

Future generations may acclaim Herbert Hoover as the greatest General of the war, although he has not worn the title of General or any other military title. But he marshaled the world's food supply in such masterly fashion and he enlisted such a vast army of volunteers in food production and economy that the entire world peoples had enough to sustain health and strength. He was the General of the food army.

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PORTLAND, MONDAY, DEC. 9, 1918.

THE "Y" AND TOBACCO.

The small furry of newspaper letter writing caused by Dr. Carl G. Doney's criticism of the distribution of tobacco among the American soldiers in France now seems like an incident of a remote period.

It will be recalled that Dr. Doney had spent six months in France as a medical officer, and he had returned to the United States with a reputation as a Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. He would not permit shipments of tobacco to the troops or allow its sale in the "Y" units.

It is not the purpose herein to revive a profligate controversy. We might talk about it until the boys come home without affecting a change. The purpose is to record that word of Dr. Doney's opinion has been presented "over there" through the medium of Stars and Stripes, official newspaper of the American Expeditionary Forces.

One is from a Corporal who writes for numerous Oregon soldiers. He says in part:

We are men in France—men stripped of all old petty ideas of right or wrong. We are men who have seen the world and know that the only right is to do what is right. We are men who have seen the world and know that the only right is to do what is right.

The other letter is from Lieutenant Clifford A. Perkins, 11th Engineers. He is inspired to write by the "kidding" the Oregon boys are undergoing from the lack of tobacco in their states. We quote this from his letter:

Did you ever hear of the minister who kept a cigarette burning all day in his lips in order that the tired and battle-scarred soldiers would have something to smoke during a match shortage at the front? This minister felt like Dr. Doney did when he went up there to see the boys. He mastered his routine creed and in the twinkling of an eye he became "one of the boys" and a man who, we are told, eventually won the Cross de Guerre.

There is something to be read between the lines of two quotations that impresses one with the broader outlook upon life that is generally the reward of Christian workers for going among soldiers in battle. There is disclosed, as our Corporal says, that some of our old ideas of right and wrong are being cast aside.

But there is in the Lieutenant's letter a statement that gives rise to speculations of a more practical than spiritual nature. He informs us that of the 2,000,000 American soldiers in France fully 90 per cent are now cigarette smokers, and that the others are on the way. He closes his letter with the sentence: "I am going out to the Y. M. C. A. for a can of 'Prince'."

General addiction to the cigarette in the Army, representing as the Army does so large an element of the youth of the country, causes one to ponder upon the fate of future attempts at more drastic cigarette legislation. It is not conceivable that there will be a disposition to relax laws which deny sale to minors, but the oft-recurring efforts to exclude cigarettes from sale completely or to prevent their advertisement are likely to be ineffective.

And there is the Y. M. C. A. itself. One cannot speak so positively about its future policy, but one may well wonder what it proposes to do as a peace time organization about the cigarette. It has in war benevolently trust its organization upon the armies in the field and has won its way into the heart of the soldier. It has accepted the demand for tobacco as a condition that cannot be theorized away and it has met it. It has in this manner, indeed, helped to spread the tobacco habit.

THE VICTORIOUS AMERICAN ARMY.

There is just cause for pride in General Pershing's report on the part which the American Army had in winning the final campaign of the war. When it began to arrive in France it was an unknown quantity in the problem of both the allies and the Germans. Because it suited their purpose, the German Generals said first that an American Army could not be organized and trained in time to influence the result of the war; then that, if it should be formed, it could not get to France; then that, if it got to France, it would be too green and undisciplined to prove of any military value.

The Army got to France, to the number of over two million men, but the allies anxiously awaited its test in actual battle. It was given a try-out in a small independent action at Cantigny, and it made good. It was tried again on a larger scale, but in conjunction with the allies, at Chateau Thierry and near the Meuse, and again it made good gloriously, winning praise from the allies and wholesome respect from the enemy.

AN OCCASION FOR A PRECEDENT.

If the ex-Kaiser should be tried for his crimes, it will be the first case on record of the ruler of a nation being brought to trial before an international court constituted by other nations. Other kings have been tried and executed, but by courts of their own people. Other cases have been decided by an international court—that at The Hague—but they concerned disputes between nations and were voluntarily submitted. If the Kaiser should be brought to trial, a most revolutionary precedent would be established.

The offense warrants the making of a precedent. By his frequent assertions that he alone is the ruler of Germany, the Kaiser has accepted responsibility for the actions of his government. Comparatively few years before the war Germany had become a party to treaties which recognized the rights of neutrals and defined the manner in which war should be conducted. As King of Prussia he was bound not only to respect the rights of neutrals, but also to respect the rights of the German people. He has violated all these obligations and he stands accused by the public opinion of the world as the greatest murderer and perjurer on earth. His own ministers, agents and people now figure among his accusers.

MEMORIAL TREES AND THE BIRDS.

It is an appealing argument in favor of the planting of memorial trees for our soldiers and sailors who died in the war that this will not only commemorate the sacrifices made by these men, but at the same time will do more for the preservation of the bird life of our country than any other thing which could easily be done. The suggestion is made by T. Gilbert Pearson, executive head of the National Association of Audubon Societies, who is himself a deep student of the bird problem. The memorial tree idea, it should be borne in mind, is proposed as a substitute for other memorial schemes which are now in embryo.

It is a coincidence that the memorial tree movement, with its possibly significant bearing upon the preservation of bird life, comes at the same time that naturalists are beginning to see the danger of the disappearance of the bird life of our country. The ornithologist and author of many scientific papers and monographs, sounded a warning recently in the Bulletin of the New York Zoological Society that man's mastery of the air meant, in the distant future, the complete end of the bird life of the world. The only reason why these splendid wild creatures of the earth have held their own as well as they have, he says, is that man in his travels has hitherto been confined to practically two planes of space. His imagination pictures the day when the airplane will be the means of his travels and the uttermost routes of migration will be barred to the commoner—the aerial pot-hunter. The New Guinea mountains and the Brazilian jungles will be "alike tragically accessible to man."

It is the view of the philosopher who views the world in terms of periods, that with the disappearance of insects and birds of flight, terrestrial organic evolution, too, will cease. "Thousands of airships will come slowly spinning through the blue ether, and the world will be a vast, empty place, for a brief season, for barnacles and worms; then to dissolve to ooze." It is a graphic, and a gloomy, prospect, illustrating the high sense which these scientists possess of the dependency of vegetable, and consequently animal, life upon the creatures of the air. Man, it seems, is to master the new element only to his own ultimate undoing. But our peril is imminent only in the scientific sense. We have, according even to the evidence of the

prophets of disaster, some sons in which to prepare, ages in which to fight for the Government to pay the principal over to the members of the tribes and to let the individuals thereafter take care of themselves is working toward completion.

Public schools for white children are to be founded in every locality of the United States and the doors of none of these are closed to the Indians. As reservations are being thrown open the Indian children are being sent to the public schools on the same footing as the white children and the need for Indian schools is therefore constantly diminishing. Bird protection laws are being enacted and increasingly enforced. Game preserves are created and respected. In many ways we are acknowledging the debt to our feathered friends.

Tree planting is a good idea. Every child should be trained in time to consider it. If it will help preserve bird life on the planet, so much the better for it. It is perhaps appropriate also that a memorial to those who made the world safe for democracy should take the form of action which may help to save the world itself.

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Longheaded economy should have prompted the War Government to discharge men from the Army only as fast as the Labor Department could find employment for them. It would be a disgraceful thing to have to start relief work for discharged soldiers before Winter is over.

Editor Smith, of the Washington Farmer, just returned from conference in Washington, says the Department of Agriculture recognizes two sections in this country—the cotton belt for one and all the rest the other. Just so.

Music is not an absolute need in discussing a meal, otherwise the house-furnishing men would supply a "graph" something with the range, but it helps butter the mental parsnips just the same.

Just as the milk, cream and butter business gets settled into normal activity, along comes a rise in express rates to jar the whole system. When it isn't one thing, it's something worse.

Pendleton's plan of advertising its attractions as a city in which to live is good. That it has them is shown by the fact that one seldom hears of people moving away from there.

The height of sartorial ambition used to be to have suspenders for each pair of trousers, but since two-bit "galluses" have gone to double or more, the luxury is denied many.

In order that Uncle Sam may hold four kings in his hand, Albert, George and Victor, Immanuel should bring King Peter of Serbia along when they visit the United States.

If peace is to take many charming young women out of olive-drab breeches, then give us war or death, to paraphrase the immortal P. Henry, so to speak.

When, soon, most of the young men will be wearing medal or button, the fellow who stayed at home must be conspicuous only as a special something.

White Salmon berry plantations need a supply of calendars, that fool small fruits may attend to business instead of blooming in December.

The merriest Christmas of all this year will be in France, Belgium and Serbia, though the people will not have much to celebrate with.

No man feels smaller than those whose names were on the list of men who were actively pro-German in the early years of the war.

The "Seattle to Sacto" aviator missed Portland in the fog, of course, though Portland did not pull off the fog for that purpose.

Discharged soldiers should be allowed to retain their uniforms. They will be fine to don on Fourth of July for years to come.

Germany tried Bolshevism on the dog—Russia—and found the effect so disastrous that she will take none of that medicine.

It's getting so the only "safe" way to bring whisky into Oregon is by airplane, and that plan has its disadvantages.

Colonel House is at the Hotel Crillon attending to the preliminaries. Being a Texan, the Colonel knows what is what.

The "dollar-a-year" men are resigning, but those who grab the big money have a hanger grip on the job.

Another sign of a hard Winter. Baker County's ice crop is three to five inches thick and growing.

The great exodus of dollar-a-year men from Washington may bring rents down a peg or two.

The whole royal gang will be over after Wilson's return. We ought to get a few for Portland.

The hero of a fake holdup misses the point when he neglects to wound himself.

The hardest work now of a member of a "council" is to hang on to the job.

San Francisco again must don masks and the hold-up man can be happy.

Ice cut up in December keeps best.

CAUSES OF POOR PHONE SERVICE.

Operator Acquits Both Fia and Government Demands on Company. PORTLAND, Dec. 7.—(To the Editor.)—In answer to the letter of December 1 by "Experienced Operator," I wish to make a few remarks to defend the public and also the Public Service Commission which has been misjudged.

In the recent investigation of the telephone company to trace the cause for poor service, it was found that a great many competent operators living within a stone's throw of some one of the offices had applied for positions time and again and were turned away with the reply, "We will call you when we need more help." Why shouldn't the commission berate the company for such conduct?

The next thought that comes to you is, why were they refused? They were members of the Telephone Operators' Union and had gone out on strike against the telephone company in 1917 for better wages and working conditions. At the time these girls were being refused, their ads were being carried in the daily papers pleading for help.

"Experienced Operator" further states that Oregon and the Public Service Commission, especially the city of Portland, should remember that a large number of experienced operators have been sent to France and camps in the United States by the Government. These operators were not furnished in such large numbers from the city of Portland as to cripple the service in any way. It will be safe to say that not more than half a dozen girls left the city for foreign service. As to the camps in our own country, it is a liberty from the Government. Camp Lewis with operators and possibly a few have been transferred from Portland and some from Seattle. She can't be organized and trained in time to influence the result of the war; then that, if it should be formed, it could not get to France; then that, if it got to France, it would be too green and undisciplined to prove of any military value.

The public will remember that only a short time ago the girls who were discharged from the company during the first few weeks of the epidemic and will say that this shortage existed long before the "Y" appeared. These excuses are pushed as a means of securing the sympathy of the public.

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Supremacy of Sea. PORTLAND, Dec. 7.—(To the Editor.)—What is the full meaning of "Supremacy of the sea"? What is gained by power holding this distinction? Shall the nations of the world, now being formed, will assume this responsibility of policing and protecting ocean commerce.

Supremacy of the sea means preponderance of naval power. Intentions of the proposed league of nations have not been fully formed, but it is indicated that England will oppose relinquishing of her policy of maintaining a navy equal to the navies of any other two countries. It is looked upon by England as a war defense measure, necessary to an island country dependent in part upon water borne commerce for food and supplies, and necessary to an empire whose dominions are scattered over the globe.

Discharge of Marine. THE DALLES, Or., Dec. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me if a Marine who enlisted June 2, 1917, for the duration of the war, can apply for and receive a discharge or must he be mustered out? The Marine in question is sadly needed at home.

The young man has the privilege of applying for a discharge. This should be presented to his commanding officer and should be supported by statements of relatives showing the particular need for his services at home.

Not Yet on Return List. MABEL, Or., Dec. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Could you tell me where the Sixth Field Artillery is stationed? Battery D, First Division, I think—and will they be among the first to return home? My son enlisted in April, 1917, for duration of the war. K. H.

Military authorities here have no data regarding the Sixth Field Artillery. It is impossible to forecast when this unit may be sent home. It has not yet been listed for return.

Toast. Here's to good "Old Glory" And the British "Union Jack." In battle fierce and gory 'Twill fight, boys, back to back. We're brothers yet; Birds of a single feather; With flags unfurled, We'll stand and die together. SUBSCRIBER.

Assignment of Engineer Regiment. HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly let me know what division the 23d Regiment of Engineers belongs. L. K. HURLBURT.

IT WOULD BE BUT PART PAYMENT.

America Owes Allies More Than Is Represented by Their Money Debt to Us. LA GRANDE, Or., Dec. 6.—(To the Editor.)—Permit me a word of comment on the letter of I. L. Mars where he takes issue with Senator Chamberlain on the question of American cancelling the allies' war loans.

While Senator Chamberlain displays the true American spirit of honor and love of fair play, I. L. Mars fails to grasp the cause of the war and the object of the war.

The allies did not start the war; neither did they fight for territorial gains. These gains, by the way, will be for many years to come more of a burden than a source of revenue.

The allies while in an unprepared state were called at the drop of the hat to stand in and stem the onrush of barbarism, fully equipped and determined to circumnavigate the earth, governed by no law other than of the jungle and leaving behind nothing but desolation. Against this combination of pride, lust for gain and brutality the allies fought for liberty, truth and justice in order that civilization and democracy should not perish from the earth.

Long the allies fought and long did they look for America to come and help, and while she hesitated the allies went down by hundreds of thousands and by millions, but ever the cry was "Close up the gaps; they shall not pass."

Then America woke up to the fact that it was not 2000 miles of ocean, but the life blood of the allies that prevented the shores of this land of liberty from being polluted by the feet of the Hun.

The \$7,000,000,000 that I. L. Mars contemplates the loss of with such righteous indignation is not amounting to a drop in the bucket as compared with the debt which the whole world, America included, owes to the allies.

BOYS MAKE EASTERN FRIENDS. Entertainers of Oregon Soldiers Anxious Again to Hear From Them. NEW YORK, Dec. 2.—(To the Editor.)—While the Rainbow Division was in England, the boys of the Oregon contingent had the great pleasure of entertaining at dinner the following young men from Portland, Oregon: Messrs. Lee P. Smith, Charles A. Gledhill, B. P. Wallace and also Joseph H. Gledhill, of San Francisco.

As we have never heard from them since, the boys of the Oregon contingent wish the parents of these boys would let Mr. E. A. Pratt, of the World Building, New York, know just how they are getting on. The boys of the Oregon contingent will be able to entertain them again.

Work Still for Prohibitionists. PORTLAND, Dec. 8.—(To the Editor.)—I read with gratification your editorial, "Oregon's Record as a Dry State." Oregonians may well be proud of such a fine record, but there is one thing that should be overlooked. Many mothers with growing sons have a feeling of security for them, thinking (as I did) that with the state home dry the drink temptation would be wholly removed.

No Change in Allowances. PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 7.—(To the Editor.)—Please state if families of soldiers overseas will receive allowance from the Government as usual? Will they also receive the same wages they have been getting when the war was going on. A SUBSCRIBER.

Pay and family allowances continue until the soldier is discharged, except that an extra 10 per cent of pay allowed for foreign service will be discontinued upon return of the soldier to the United States.

Release of Sailors. CORVALLIS, Or., Dec. 6.—(To the Editor.)—My son enlisted in the Navy April 6, 1917. Will he have the same chance to get his release as boys who enlisted for the duration of the war? ANXIOUS MOTHER.

He will not be automatically released as will be those who enlisted for the period of the emergency. It is said that those who enlisted for four years will later have opportunity to obtain their release on what is known as an extended furlough.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of Dec. 9, 1893. Suit was brought in the U. S. Circuit Court yesterday by the North-Western Electric Company against the East Side Railroad Company for the appointment of a receiver, and the foreclosing of a mortgage on the railroad for \$67,000, which the court granted, appointing Joseph Simon as receiver.

Mr. Ailing, of Tacoma, is importing Mongolian or China pheasants to pine on Fox Island. He expects the woods to be full of them in a few years. With the Willamette Valley so well stocked with pheasants, it seems a needless trouble to send to China for the birds.

The contract for an electric light plant in Port Angeles has been let to W. C. Williams, who will take \$37,000 in city bonds as his pay.

St. Louis—The city is facing an unprecedented water famine. The Mississippi, fully equipped and determined to circumnavigate the earth, governed by no law other than of the jungle and leaving behind nothing but desolation. Against this combination of pride, lust for gain and brutality the allies fought for liberty, truth and justice in order that civilization and democracy should not perish from the earth.

Fifty Years Ago. From The Oregonian of Dec. 9, 1868. Newcastle, Del.—Several persons stood in the pillory, and were flogged for various offenses.

The Willamette River, despite all the late rains, is again falling and nearly as low as last year. The water of the past few days has probably frozen the mountain sources of the streams.

We learn from Captain Kellogg that the P. T. Company's steamer Onward made a trip to Colfax from Forest Grove and back. The water is low, and navigation difficult, though an immediate improvement exists. A large amount of grain is in store along the river, awaiting the river's rise to enable its transportation.

Access to Scenic Beauty Would Draw Thousands to Enjoy Them. PORTLAND, Dec. 7.—(To the Editor.)—Having been associated with tourists from all over the world for over 25 years in Portland, in the capacity of an artist, I am in a position to feel the pulse of their sentiments toward our magnificent scenery. They have expressed their wonderful admiration to me and regretted the fact that we were not better advertised. Tourists who have traveled almost everywhere have told me that our highway could not be excelled anywhere for scenic beauty, and our Mount Hood and Mt. St. Helens snow-capped mountains were wonderfully attractive, and all it needed to bring the tourists of the world to our door was to have the facilities open for them to enjoy it.

RYMN OF VICTORY. (Dedicated to the National League for Women's Service.) Arise, all ye people, give glory to God, Who humpeth the foe with his chastening rod, Who reigneth on high, the all-glorious one, Arise ye and thank him for all he hath done.

We thank thee, our Father, for mercy and grace Revealed in the Christ, who redeemed our race. We praise thee for blessings thy spirit hath brought, To all who sorrow his presence have sought. In darkness and trial thou wast our stay, As seen in all on this glorious day. Through ages and ages all peoples shall see That all our help was, Jehovah, in thee.

We praise thee for men who were ready to die, For mothers who waited through dark days gone by, For fathers and brothers and daughters that gave Their means of help for our freedom to save. Praise God, all ye nations, and worship his name, Who was and who is, and remaineth the same, Whose might through all time and in every land Unshaken and unchallenged, victorious shall stand. —WILHELM PETERSEN.

NOT "OVER THERE" BUT HERE. I gaze into the starry skies; Love, you are ever near; I there behold your smiling eyes, Eyes ever fond and dear. I walk upon the rocky shore, Your loving voice I hear, Afar above the ocean's roar, In accents sweet and clear. I glance into the shaded pool, I there see calm and clear, I there see the water cool, Your tender face so dear. I hear the rippling of the waves, Dashing against the pier; Naught but your laughter 'tis to me, Love, you are ever near. —EMILY GRANGER.

Annexation of Hawaii. PORTLAND, Dec. 8.—(To the Editor.)—A contents that the United States took the Hawaiian Islands by force, without recognition, is correct. Please advise through your columns which is correct. CONSTANT READER.

Neither is correct. At the time of annexation the Hawaiian Islands had been a republic for four years. Annexation was by mutual agreement.