## The Oregonian

PORTLAND, OREGON. 

Bunday, one year
Sunday and Weekly
Dally, Sunday included, one year
Dally, Sunday included, one month
Dally, Sunday included, three months
Dally, without Sunday, one year
Dally, without Sunday, one month
Dally, without Sunday, one month.

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, DEC. 17, 1918.

WHAT KIND OF A LEAGUE?

The league of nations, to do justice between nations and keep the world's

be free, dominated by any one nation? Or is the league of nations to control Britain's navy? Then, of course, Great Britain will control the seas and to that extent-a very great extentdominate the league of nations.

Perhaps Great Britain will turn its great navy over to the league of na-Perhaps. Then, of course, the navy of the league will be an instrument which may be turned at some time against Great Britain.

America, too, is thinking now in Great Britain's. On what conditions is it planned that America shall support the league? Will it also surren-der its Navy? If so, and if Great Britain does likewise, the two greatest navies will be the league's very own. It becomes important, then, to consider how the league itself is to be formed and controlled. Are Great Britain and America jointly to dominate? Or is each to have the same voice and authority within the league

as other nations? Shall America, for example, have more to say, or less, in the league, than Italy, or Siam, or China, or Liberia? Or shall it have power commensurate with what it may have surrendered to the league, and with its true position in the world? If so, and if other nations have the same, the league will be dominated by the great

Perhaps that is the intention. America can, of course, commit its has already sailed for France and he ownership and to charter them to pridestinies to no combination of nations is to be joined abroad soon by eight vate operators. It has already begun that reduces it in prestige and in- presidents and deans of American agpower whatsoever. No one desires it, in cofective, without concessions all around the course of study is significant. -by America and all the others-has

not yet been made clear.
What concessions to a league of nanation?

Is America ready to neutralize the Panama Canal? Let us not say that a league of nations is impossible or even impracand practicable.

the fourteen Wilson articles of peaceternational agreements. But what

THE GOVERNMENT IN BUSINESS

One of the new devices which has grown out of Government activity in commerce and industry to meet war emergencies has been the Governmentowned corporation, which enjoys all the rights and is subject to all the liabilities of a private corporation. The first of the kind was the Emergency Fleet Corporation, but several others have been formed in imitation of it, one having taken charge of spruce production in the Pacific Northwest. Where these industrial and business operations were necessary to provision of war supplies, there was good cause

for their segregation in this manner. But it has not stopped there. The Commerce Department has organized a corporation with Federal officials as directors and with public funds as capital for the purpose of trading with Siberia. That is as far as the Government has gone toward supplying the economic needs of Russia, since a declaration of Administration policy toward that country was made last Summer. At that time it was proposed to send an economic commission, but no more has been said of that scheme Instead, the Government uses the people's money to engage in the import

No war emergency justifies this pro cedure. Private enterprise is ready to enter the field whereever stable and safe conditions have been established and to advance as fast as the country becomes pacified. Government traders provisional government of Siberia or the allied forces have restored order. If Congress had been asked for authority for the Commerce Department

into foreign trade, something would surely have been heard about it There is a decided tendency for the Government to undertake to do anything and everything that needs to be It does not exist for that purpose, and it is not qualified to do the work well. The Department of Commerce was established to discover and make known opportunities for Ameri-

WITHOUT MONEY OR PRICE.

The Red Cross succors and saves. It gives without stint, and helps without quibble or question. When the soldier is hungry, the Red Cross feeds him; when he is wounded, the Red Cross cares for him; when he is sick, the Red Cross cures him; when he is

No one who has been in France can fail to acclaim the Red Cross. Every oldier who is there, and every sol dier who has returned, knows about its good work, and will tell about it. will tell you that it is efficiently organized, but that it has the human such, and it is in sympathy with the soldier and he is in sympathy with it. Good men and good women are there to carry the Red Cross to the Army. They are doing it.

If any father, or mother, or brother, or sister, or friend of a soldier has any doubts about the Red Cross, let such one ask that soldier, or any soldier.

The record of reduction in food

But after reducing waste by 936 tons in October as compared with August, the seas? If so, how? Through Great the logging camps still wasted 1219 tons of food. There was still much room for economy, for they had made farther to go before the irreducible marines. How well they bore it, at minimum is reached. The incentive belieau Wood, around Soissons and at to economy will continue through next year, for the whole world is short of food, and will not begin to make good the deficiency make good the deficiency make good to achieved by Mr. Hurley's efficiency methods that no aid from the Government would be needed to equalize labor cost, for the American standard could be maintained. But it must be able to make good the deficiency methods that no aid from the Government would be needed to equalize labor cost, for the American standard could be maintained. But it must be able to make good the deficiency methods that no aid from the Government would be needed to equalize labor cost, for the American standard could be maintained. But it must be able to make good the deficiency methods that no aid from the Government would be needed to equalize labor cost, for the American standard could be maintained. But it must be able to make good the deficiency methods that no aid from the Government would be needed to equalize labor cost, for the American standard could be maintained. But it must be able to make good the first three matters of the Belleau Wood, around Soissons and at the Belleau Wood, around Soissons the deficiency until a harvest has been reaped in Europe.

But that incentive will always exist terms of a large Navy, as large as We have been reminded by the high cost of living since millions of people suspended production that prices are fixed by the action and reaction of supply and demand. Those who waste liminish supply, thereby increase denand and raise prices. stop waste, they would in effect in-crease supply, reduce demand and reduce prices. Decrease in production might follow, but at least the consumer would get one lap ahead in the race. By waste the consumer himself raises the price of what he cats.

> KHAKI COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE. The ambitious scope of the plans

for the "University in Khaki," which is being rapidly organized for the benefit of our soldiers overseas, is revealed by the announcement that espe-

which is inseparable from efficient instruction in farming, exist in France tions is America willing to make in and Belgium, where intensive meththe way of modification of the Monroe ods of cultivation have reached a state charge lower rates than foreign raildoctrine, involving its domination of of near-perfection attained nowhere the Western Hemisphere, and the right else in the world. In these regions, success to quick turn-around of lake to develop its National existence with- for example, the use of fertilizers is ships and to the many points in which out consulting any European or Asiatic made to correspond most nearly to the American railroads keep down cost, needs of the soil and the profit to be all by the efficiency methods on which Is America willing to consult and derived from the crop. There is not he relies. be guided by Europe as to its expan-sion on the Pacific? the same tendency as has recently ex-isted in the United States to expect isted in the United States to expect ward by Captain Robert Dollar as hazard way. The student farmer will would be "destructive and disastrous," be particularly unlikely to come un- and that Government chartering to ticable. We hope it is both possible der spell of the German potash propa-A league committed ganda, which has been responsible He proposes that the Government sell to certain definite principles—such as for use of quantities of this fertilizer the ships at prices to meet competigreatly in excess of needs in America. tion, one-fourth cash, the rest in two is within the range and scope of in- Indeed, the German experience, near three and four years with 4 per cent at hand, is likely to operate as a reelse? Are we to have a paper league straining influence, for it is now well that of foreign ships and charging to or some other kind of a league? known that during the war, while the the war the difference between cost product of the Stassfurt mines has to the Government and price to the been diverted to munitions plants, buyer. German production has not suffered

thereby.

It is in the department of anima husbandry that Americans will profit to the American scale. His solution most by contact with their allies, for is to let ship owners pay their crews breeding is a fine art in both France American wages and that the Governand Belgium. The same is true of ment pay the difference between these feeding to obtain maximum results, a and Japanese wages. He says: study of which is particularly advisable now that the United States is approaching the end of the free range nd cheap pasture period. There will be something to be learned in hortiulture, although Americans themselves have been well in the fore in this industry in recent years. Anther department in which the method of study by visitation ought to be that "65 per cent of the crew be cerilluminating is that of farm economics and country life. Our European brethren have succeeded conspicu-Our European usly in solving the problem of making the farm community also a com- able seamen to go around." Licensing munity of homes, and by catching the of officers must also be modified to pirit of this we shall do much toward be the same as that of our competitors. checking the movement away from Americans, however, will not stand the

It is worth noting that French intheir intention of placing all their fa-cilities at the disposal of Americans. n doing this they show their wisdom, no less than their benevolence. It will not be altogether a one-sided bargain European farmers have something to learn from Americans-in particular as to the conservation of man power, by the use of modern machinery and can flag. The American system of cannot go any farther or faster, for by economies of arrangement of the trade is practicable only where the farmstead. The ideas of the European American ships 25 per cent more than provisional government of Siberia or peasant may be greatly expanded and that of British ships of the same cargo society. The American way has no all port charges, pilotage and drydock doubt been wasteful, but it usually has charges. By the admission of General been nicely adapted to the needs of Goethals, Panama Canal tolls on an its time. Sweeping condemnation of American ship are \$500 more than on It is probable that justified. pean and American farmers will learn Pacific Coast lumbermen: from one another, to the ultimate ad-

vantage of all concerned. The Department of Agriculture re-

transportation costs.

WORK OF THE MARINES.

Major-General George Barnett, commander of the United States Marine the giant transport Leviathan,

waste effected in one month in the and numbered many veterans of the provision "is so drastic and victous

tensively drilled force which we pos- ship, and a larger day watch is needed came necessary to make a showing

RIVAL SHIPPING POLICIES. Of equal importance with the quesion, What shall we do with the railroads? is the other question. What shall we do with the ships? The end of the war will find the Government with a great tonnage in operation or under construction. It was built as Army transports, but a year hence only a small proportion of that which is already affoat will be needed for that purpose, and employment must be found for the bulk of this tonnage. The only profitable employment will be commerce. The American people have determined to expand their commerce, to employ their ships in that work and to retain them under the American flag. The immediate question is, How shall this be done?

Two alternative plans are proposed one by the Shipping Board, the other by private ship owners and operators The Shipping Board proposes to sell veated by the announcement that esperature of the study of agriculture. President Butler, of the allies and neutrals, to retain Massachusetts Agricultural College, the larger ones under Government has already sailed for France and he ownership and to charter them to prito carry out this plan by establishing fluence to the status of Liberia and ricultural colleges, who are to act as an operating department, which allo-Siam. But, on the other hand, it must regional directors of the "world's cates ships to various ports and chartake no chance of endangering its greatest university." The educational ters them to operating companies. sovereignty in any pooling of inter- system is being whipped into shape by Chairman Hurley believes that by imests, real or supposed, with any other the Young Men's Christian Association, proving harbor facilities and by applyoperation with the Army Educa- ing American efficiency methods we and no one, so far as has been dis-tional Commission. In view of the can pay, feed and accommodate on covered, proposes it. But the way to probably prolonged stay of our Army board ship American seamen on Amerget into the league, and make it ef. of occupation, the practical trend of lcan standards and still compete with foreign ships which would retain their Sundry opportunities for field work, lower standards. In support of his high is inseparable from efficient insteamers on the Great Lakes, which operate profitably at lower cost and roads and ships. He attributes this

> The ship-owners' plan is put forchemicals to atone for poor cultural their spokesman. He says Governnethods and to apply them in a hap- ment ownership or operation of ships individuals would be a "fatal mistake." interest, keeping the price

As to wages, he says the American cannot be leveled down to the foreign scale nor can the foreigner be raised

This is no subsidy to shipowners, but only in equalization of American versus foreign If this were done, "such fine young Americans as are being trained in great numbers now would be sure to continue to follow the sea when the full crew was American." This would especially be so if the clause in the seamen's act were abrogated requiring tificated able seamen." No other na-tion makes this requirement and it would tie up half our ships, "as there are not nearly enough of the so-called work in the fireroom on ships running stitutions of learning have indicated they would work in the steward's department on those ships. Captain Dollar says that no further financial assistance is needed from the Government than to equalize wages and to pay for mail service.

But he details many particulars in which our laws and regulations raise the cost of operation under the Amerimeasurement makes net tonnage of his wisdom broadened with profit to capacity, increasing in that proportion American agriculture, which has lately a British ship of the same size. Capecome fashionable, is not always tain Dollar makes this remark in tha connection, which is of interest to

It might be pertinent to ask why an American ship carrying a cargo of lumber pays more tolis than a ship carrying mer-chandise, coal or iron. Under American regulations all can citizens to do business abroad and veals that which is no secret to true work must stop while inspection goes!

to facilitate their operations, not to go epicures in making known the delights on. On British ships it is made while into business itself. The United States of sweet potato pie, but it has con- cargo is being handled, and, if it is not Government was never intended to ferred a boon upon humanity, and, completed when the ship is ready to ecome a huge co-operative enterprise, incidentally, extended widely the mar- sail, the ship is allowed to proceed which should branch out into every field of endeavor, and before it becomes such the people must be constructed from dehysulted and must give their decision. A halt should be called on Secretary Redfield's exploits.

Ket for an excellent vegetable product, by demonstrating the ease with which this pie can be constructed from dehysulted and must give their decision. A halt should be called on Secretary Redfield's exploits.

To buy a soda fountain to replace the bar in his hotel at Great Falls, Mont., is the purpose of A. J. Brietenstein's tion "racks the boilers and pipe, causes much expense and shortens the life of the boilers." Other nations do not the product, by demonstrating the ease with which port. Thus quick dispatch is probable to product, by demonstrating the ease with which port. Thus quick dispatch is probable to product, by demonstrating the ease with which this pie can be constructed from dehysulted and must give their decision. A halt should be called on Secretary and pumpkin will now need to look to their laurels, but they are placed of the boilers." Other nations do not the product, by demonstrating the ease with which port. Thus quick dispatch is probable to product, by demonstrating the ease with which this pie can be constructed from dehysulted and must give their decision. A halt should be called on Secretary and product, by demonstrating the ease with which this pie can be constructed from dehysulted and must give their decision. A halt should be called on Secretary and in the product, by demonstrating the ease with which the port. Thus quick dispatch is product, and inspection is finished at the next port. Thus quick dispatch is product, and inspection is finished at the next product, and inspection is finished at the next product. The system of boiler inspection is finished at the next product, and inspection is finished at the next product. The purpose of A. J. Brietenstein's transfer and product product. The product to their laurels, but they are placed of the boilers." Other nations do not on an even footing by being dehydrated also. It is predicted that the American Army in Europe during the remainder of the period of occupation it is claimed that Americans can do will be appelled with research and the control of the period of occupation it is claimed that Americans can do will be supplied with greater quantities more and better work than any others, of dehydrated vegetables than were the regulations require an American ever produced in the world's history. ship to employ 30 per cent more men Dehydration is halled by one authority in the engine-room than any other as having done more for the farmers nation requires on the same sized ship. dying, the Red Cross comforts and of the United States than any devel- It must have four licensed engineers dying, the Red Cross comforts and relieves him. It is always on the job. It asks no reward, exacts no price, but just serves and gives.

No one who has been in France can to the United States than any development in fifty years. It is counted to the British four; three oilers, while turned Saturday night from Washington, D. C., which is as near the war greaser do the oiling on foreign ships; and to increase profits by reducing and three water-tenders, who are unterlined to the British four; three oilers, while turned Saturday night from Washington, D. C., which is as near the war greaser do the oiling on foreign ships; and to increase profits by reducing and three water-tenders, who are unterlined to the British four; three oilers, while turned Saturday night from Washington, D. C., which is as near the war greaser do the oiling on foreign ships; and three water-tenders, who are unterlined to the British four; three oilers, while the donkeyman are the war greater of the donkeyman are the war greater o known on foreign ships and who "do tel Portland. nothing but sit on a box in the fire-room and draw wages."

clauses of the seamen's law should be amended or repealed. He would re-Corps in France, returning home on tain the provisions for safety and for has better accommodations for the crew, especial reason for being proud of the but would eliminate that requiring 65 men whom he commanded while per cent of the crew to be able seabroad. It does not detract from the men, which was "so impossible and J. V. records made by other units to make unreasonable because they could not Lundy, of Ione, two prominent stockreference to the service of the marines be obtained that no notice has been men of More County, brought shipsummarized recently in the report taken of it during war-time." He con-

sessed. For this reason when it be- to keep up the ship in good condition. Possibly if the bandicaps enumerwith American troops in order to ated by Captain Dollar, all of which heighten the morale of our allies, a are imposed by law, were removed, intelligent man that wholesale revision of the shipping and seamen's laws would accomplish far more for days. the merchant marine than would Government ownership and operation. We need less, not more, Government interference, and we need more comm sense mixed with the law that remains.

The story of the latest Tampico inident reads somewhat better than that of 1914, when American ships left British and German ships to rescue American citizens from a mob and when Secretary Daniels told them they glad they were alive ught to be There are fighting Americans on every ship, and, when attacked, they do not await orders from Washington shoot.

The Canucks-they are all that, fron ocean to ocean—take a solemn and serious view of vice. A former prohibition commissioner of British lumbia has been given six months or \$1000 for importing liquor.

Perhaps the British found it neces. ary to put Cologne under martial law n order to suppress those seventeen distinct odors which an English poet said he could smell at one time.

The question of Government control

the country press, each member of which is out five or ten dollars a month since McAdoo took over the roads. It is within the law to shoot

urgiar entering or in action, but no when departing, as the danger to life is past. It is well to be safe, however,

a lot of good people. A kind Government might allow a "Don't Open" label if asked. The Portuguese republic is decidedly

Spain also became a republic and ceased to be a refuge for monarchist It is all very well for Dr. Conklin, of the University of Oregon, to spy out the superstitions of his students

rickety, but would gain stability if

The more intricate the plan of muggling "booze," the easier caught. Officers look for the brainy ways, while something simple gets by.

but would be walk under a ladder?

Washington desires to copy the Ore-gon system of licensing cars. Oregon has a lot of systems of which Washington can have the originals.

These are the days when the old gentleman's pocketbook has the "Open Evenings Till Christmas" sign on it in

An aviator has crossed the Andes. would be better off without it can we Now if he will go up and knock the blame a university president for sug-An aviator has crossed the Andes spots off the sun, we shall be satisfied.

The better way is to give something aseful and something frivolous. Why be too serious at Christmas time? The suffragette "martyrs" in Wash-

ngton do not get medals of leather,

but those are what they deserve. Secretary Olcott, who has auto plates to sell, should know the Procrastination family is strong in Oregon,

Perhaps one reason boys go wrong is for lack of a little pocket money and opportunity to earn any. The best Christmas cigars are se-

lected by the bands and box trim-mings. Any wife knows. Somebody was thinking of T. R. when the Arizonans were made the guard of honor at Paris.

Italy will not demobilize for a while. She was late getting in and wants to be sure of the finish.

Did those Parisians expect to see Wilson on the mourners' bench? Why not make the Christmas turkey a goose this year?

Mars can depend on Mexico all the time.

1. It has not.

\_ Where's your buttom? Those Who Come and Go.

that morning the famous old bar of the Rainbow Hotel will disappear. In that In barroom have been consummated some of the big political and financial deals the n the history of the state, and its bar-tenders have served notables of the world as they visited Great Falls. Mr. Breitenstein expects Montana to remain dry for a long time to come.

Alex Nibley, who left Portland to be

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Miller, of Newport, arrived at the New Perkins yesterday According to Captain Dollar, several to do their Christmas shopping.

> Charles Ehrmann, of San Francisco, are at the Benson. They represent the Ehr-mann end of the Mason & Ehrmann at the Benson.

> J. W. Beymer, of Heppner, and J. M. ments to Portland yesterday and are at the Imperial.

peace, is a noble idea. But it is one month in the peace is a noble idea. But it is one thing to have a commendable conception, shared in by all right-thinking men and women, and another to apply it to practice. That is the reason that the league of nations is as yet but and the league of nations is as yet but an attractive generality.

Already we see that Great Britain will insist on its old status of a two-power nation. It will have, if it can, a navy, twice as powerful as the next may. Will it be desirable to have the seas, which are hereafter to the league of particular to the seas which are hereafter to the seas, which are hereafter to the league of particular to the seas which are hereafter to the limber industry of the pacific Norths, service. Of these, approximately 50 that it also has not been enforced. The condemns the clause allowing a service. Of these, approximately 50 that it also has not been enforced. The condemns the clause allowing a service. Of these and not been enforced. The condemns the clause allowing as that it is also has not been enforced. The condemns and many tering in provision to that it also has not been enforced. The condemns and many tering in provision to service. Of these and not been enforced. The condemns and many tering in provision to contest we service. Of these and not that it also has not been enforced. The condemns and many tering in provision to sever the timber to allow the timber to allow the same to collect half his carned to read the timber to allow the seas allowing a saking the requestive same to collect half

vesterday, registered from Denver.

H. W. Beecher, representing the C. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hayter, of Dallas, are at the Hotel Portland for a few

W. T. Haskins arrived from Francisco yesterday and is at the Multnomah. He carries a pet billiard cue in a leather case and no bell-hop is permitted to lay profane hands upon it. He expects to have a few contests with local cue experts before he leaves town.

A. C. Marsters, a member of the State Fair Board, is at the Imperial, from Roseburg.

Miss Helen M. Engberg, a teacher from Condon, is visiting in the city and is staying at the Benson, Max Roberts, a business man

Joseph, Or., is at the New Perkins. Cal. E. Stone, general passenger agent for the Great Northern Railroad, was at the Multnomah yesterday, and confirms predictions of other railroad men that travel toward the Coast will

Mrs. L. W. Hilliard, of Seaside, has engaged apartments at the Imperial for the Winter. G. W. Woodworth, a preminent or-chardist of the Hood River country, is

at the Hotel Oregon Otto H. Wolf, a big cafeteria operaof railways might be left to vote of companied by his sor

Find Reason for Beginning.

VANCOUVER BARRACKS, Dec. 15.— (To the Editor.)—I have been interested lately in some of the letters written and get him coming.

Get your parcel post packages into the mails early and avoid overworking the mails early and avoid overworking president of Willamette University or

president of Willamette University or an excuse by the writer for burning up his money. Now if anyone has a good reason for the use of tobacco I would like very much to see it written in the form of an argument and not as a letter to satisfy a personal feeling.

One writer, if I remember correctly, says that tobacco wiped out a plague in India some years ago, and that it is a nerve quieter, maker of friends, helper in business and in general it is good for everything. But he fails to explain how it does these things. Anyone can make a general statement, but it takes evidence with proof really to defend the use of tobacco, or anything else that may or may not be objeceise that may or may not be objectionable.

Six months ago when I enlisted I wondered what kind of a soldier I would make if I didn't smoke. I was willing to be convinced and ready to willing to be convinced and ready to take my first smoke if anyone would offer a good reason why I should start. To my surprise, I didn't find anyone who would even offer me a cigarette the second time. Every fellow wished he was as lucky and had never started himself. I have asked a thousand or more men during my time.

(1) History of the Pacific Northwest, no report yet issued that the 145th Field Artillery has been ordered home. Your query relating to headquarters troop does not furnish details necessary to identify unit in mind.

(2) The Rev. John Rigdon, of the College about 1856.

(3) The Oregon Historical Society has no records of Ames Harvey as an Indian arent. As Ames Harvey as an Indian arent. As Ames Harvey as an Indian arent. thousand or more men during my time Indian agent. An Amos Harvey was a here what they think about smoking, fruitgrower and farmer in Polk County, and have the first one to find who doesn't say that he wished he had never started. When fellows who have tried tobacco for a number of years say they would be better off with the started to the county of th gesting at a public meeting that "those who want tobacco should be expected to buy it themselves"?

Why not put aside all personal prefudice and consider the question for what it really amounts to. If tobacco is good, let's all use it; if not, let's keep still and not try to make an excuse for its existence. I want my little brothers to have the best that certain amount to each one, or mention in the still real to the still amount to each one, or mention in the still real to the still civilization has to offer and the world each name, in order to make it legal is full of boys needing the same, so if there is anything to this idea that obacco is necessary, healthful or any-

thing else, let's have it.

I am a member of the "fighting 27th."
now stationed at Vancouver Barracks,
where I will not be found, as I just
got my discharge. We have a record
for big victories. On payday we al-

Ninety-first Division

WESTPORT, Or., Dec. 14.—(To the Editor.) — (1) Please state if the 91st Division has been designated for return. (2) Is it true that there are at Camp Lewis, soldiers wounded out of the 91st Division? (3) When will the casualty list appear of the same?

A CONSTANT READER.

2. Wounded men, are arriving at Camp Lewis and it is possible some of them were of the 91st Division.
3. Casualties are not published by divisions. Probably the names of wounded now at Camp Lewis have alseady appeared in the lists,

NEEDED REFORM IS EASILY MADE Transfer of Probate Matters to Circuit

Courts Desirable in Oregon. McMINNVILLE Or. Dec 15 - (To the ditor.)-While our judicial system in this state may not be the best that could be formulated, it has stood, without any material change, ever since the state was admitted into the Union, a period of nearly 60 years.

In one respect, it seems to me, that a material change should be made by the Legislature at the ensuing session. Article VII of our state consti-

sion. Article VII of our state constitution, as originally adopted, created a
County Court for each county and
conferred upon this body jurisdiction
of all county business, and, also, of all
probate matters and a limited jurisdiction of actions at law.
Under this system, in all counties,
except Multnomah, all county business
is transacted by the County Court, consisting of the County Judge and the
two Commissioners of the County

two Commissioners of the County Court, while all probate business and he law cases are determined by ourt composed of the County Judge practice, the County Judge is

either to neglect road and other

county business, in order to be at his office to attend to probate matters which need his attention and presence office to about every day, or neglect probate matters, in order to examine and at-tend to road, bridge and other county business that seems to need his atten-tion. It is a fact, that, in all of the larger counties, there is probate busi-ness to be attended to by the County About 8000 American marines engaged in heavy fighting in France, heing among those first employed on the
ing among those first employed on the
waterfront sorehead," and says the
waterfront sorehead," and says the
terviewing the powers that control
terviewing the powers that the first that the powers that the first that the powers that the first that the powers tha

I. I. Boak, head of the Woodmen of education are unfit to grapple with at Constantinople has been the result the World, was at the Hotel Oregon probate and law matters that come be- of their representation.

probate and haw matters that come be-fore them and that the trial of such causes before such officials is and al-ways will be a miserable farce.

It may be suggested that litigants, in such cases, have the right to appeal from their decisions to the circuit courts, but it is not right to place such men in such important offices and ompel litigants to try their cases be-ore them and force them, in order to btain justice, to appeal to higher ourts. Legislature has,

mendment to said article VII, adopted n 1919, power to abolish the county courts, and to transfer jurisdiction of probate matters to the Circuit Courts. In California and Washington, they ave Superior Courts in each that have about the same jurisdiction which our Circuit Courts have and they ave, also, jurisdiction in probate mat-

In Montana and Nevada district courts have probate jurisdiction and these systems, existing in the states eferred to, work well and give gen-

ral satisfaction.
A short act of three or four sections, passed by the Legislature, could abolish county courts and confer pro-bate jurisdiction upon our circuit courts and another act of similar length would be sufficient to create a Board of County Commissioners of three mem-bers to transact all county business and the present County Judges and Commissioners could be transferred to and constitute these boards of County Commissioners. Multnomah County has uch a board. The clerks of the Circuit Courts could

se authorized to make exparte orders appointing administrator admitting vills to probate, authorizing the sale f personal property, etc., when the ircuit Judges shall be absent from the id set aside, for cause, by the court. If you know the soldier's complete unit By adopting the system suggested, supra, each county would have a Board of County Commissioners to transact law business and the probate and law business, now within the jurisdiction of the County Courts, would be companies.

vested in the Circuit Courts, tribunals presided over by men "learned in the law," and all important probate matters would have to be determined by ers would have to be determined by

The adoption of the plan suggested would not necessarily increase the ex-penses to the taxpayers, already too out. The fact that the advance schools heavily burdened with taxatl

JURIDICUS.

Facts of Early History. McMinnville, Or., Dec. 15.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Where can I get a good early history of Oregon? (2) Who founded the Bethel College, in Polk County, in early days? (3) Was a man by the name of Amos Harvey connected with the early history of Oregon as Indian agent at the Grand Ronde or Siletz Reservation? (4) Was The Ore-gonian in its early years a Democratic READER. or independent paper?

(4) The Oregonian has always been an independent newspaper, but has number?

Descent of Property.

HALSEY, Or., Dec. 15.—(To the Editor.)—My husband and I wish to make a joint will, so that if we should both die unexpectedly our property

In the circumstances it is advisable that you have a lawyer assist you in drafting the will. If either husband or wife dies and no will has been made the property all goes to the survivor, if there are no children. On the death ways went through the pay line, and of the surviving spouse the property on Thanksgiving day we licked Turkey, would all go to his or her relatives, PRIVATE GUSTAV A. ANDERSON,
27th Casual Det.

27th Casual Det.

27th Casual Det. nearer relatives of the deceased sur-

> Not Designated for Return CORNELIUS, Or., Dec. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly tell me if the Eighth Division, which arrived in France two days before the armistice was signed. has orders to return soon. A READER.

It has not been so listed. Battery Ordered Home. PORTLAND, Dec. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Has Battery D, 145th Field Artillery, been ordered home? J. F. C.

The 145th Field Artillery has been

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian, December 1 T. 1893 Five hundred and seventy-three apdications for enlistment in the United States Army have been made since May. of which 117 have been accepted. From resent appearances many more will oin and aid Portland in furnishing her share of the 14th Infantry.

A 620-foot eigar-shaped raft which has grounded on every shoal in Coop Bay has finally been taken across the bar and is on the first lap of her week's trip to San Francisco. The raft con-tains 5215 piles, each 70 feet in length.

Leipsic.-The French spies were sentenced today, Dubois to six years and Malavas to four years' imprisonment, the sentences to be served in the fort-The men were convicted of steal-

In a concert in the Kaiser's new palace in Potsdam the trumpeters blew through their new seven-foot tubes. The Emperor himself conducted the orchestra when it played a march by at his Reethoven

Fifty Years Ago.

im The Oregonian, December 17, 1868. The whipping post is still among the herished institutions of the state of claware, to which torture some half dozen people were subjected recently The report of the case says that the punishment was strictly in accordance with the laws of the state.

General Grant's report deprecates any resent reduction of the Army, as the endition of the Southern states and the Indiana are likely to need all men ow in the service

Vienna,-Memorials to the Queen, asking for the release of the Fenians imprisoned in various parts of the country, were circulated and extensively signed at the Catholic churches Sun-

New York .- It is reported that the epresentatives of France and England at Vienna have been instructed to represent to the Austrian government the dangers to the European peace from that its attitude upon the return question, legal. The recall of the Austrian Ambaesador

If I might ask of God one priceless gift To bless my life and make it strong and fine. To help me from the choas ever sift Those things which are immortal an divine;

If it were granted that one blessing fall Upon my earthly path, my joy increas-I'd ask for broader charity toward all, And in mankind a tender faith, un ceasing.

If I might plead a second time and The favor that I craved all else above. I'd ask the power to scothe another's And warm some hopeless soul with

human love. Then, when these gifts had all beer And God the last and choicest one was sending.

I'd ask once more-still broader charity. And in my fellowmen a faith unend-ing! - -GRACE E. HALL.

Cablegram to Soldier. OREGON CITY, Dec. 15 .- (To the Ed-

itor.)—Please inform me as to the present location of the Eighth Infantry, of the Eighth Division. Am desirous of sending news of the death of a sister to a member of this unit. would a cablegram be practicable?

SUBSCRIBER. SUBSCRIBER Probably due to the fact that it reached France just at the time the armistice went into effect, location of ounty, but all orders made by the lerks should be subject to be reviewed this division has not been unnounced this division has not been unnounced.

itor.)—Can you give me any informa-tion of the Eighth Division—where they are located or whether the entire the Circuit Courts and not by men, "jerked up off the grass" and made County Judges, without having any proper qualifications for such posi-

address you would use in sending him

a letter, except that it is directed to

SUBSCRIBER. Information regarding the Eighth and artillery detachments of the division have been ordered home may or may not indicate that the entire divi-

sion is to be demobilized.

148th Field Artillery. HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly tell me if the 148th Field Artillery, Battery C, 41st Division of the Fifth Company, is still in Europe? Are they listed for return? Is the headquarters troop, Third Army Corps, in this artillery? If not where are they and will they soon be coming home?

SUBSCRIBER.

PORTLAND, Dec. 18.—(To the Ed-itor.)—In what part of France is the Army Postoffice No. 767? Are the clerks stationed there likely to come home soon? What is their division

Unless some reader is able to supply answers to the first two questions you probably cannot get them short of the War Department at Washington. The

When Soldier Does Not Write. RIDGEFIELD, Wash., Dec. 16.—(To the Editor.)—My brother enlisted July 1 the Editor.)—any product entire and was stationed at Camp A. A. Humphrey. Company L. Fourth Regiment. I have not heard from him since I got the card that he landed safely overseas. Could you tell me where to write to

find out about him—to locate him MRS. GEORGE GOLLINGS. Write to the Adjutant-General, United States Army, Washington, D. C.

Name of French President. ALBANY, Or., Dec. 15.—(To the Editor.)—Is President Poincare's name pronounced in two syllables or in three? Is it Pwan-ca-ray or Pwan-car?

It is pronounced in three syllables.

Marriage After Divorce. PORTLAND, Dec. 16.—(To the Editor.)—Please state how long a person must be divorced in the state of Wash-ington before marriage in legal.

SUBSCRIBER At least six months. Sorry She's Married.

"And when you told him I was mar-ried," said the girl who had filted him, "did he seem to be sorry?" "Yes," re-plied the other, "he said he was very -although he didn't know the