

The Oregonian
Entered at Portland (Oregon) Postoffice as second-class matter...
Subscription rates: Invariably in advance:
Daily, Sunday included, three months... \$3.00
Daily, Sunday included, six months... \$5.00
Daily, Sunday included, one year... \$8.00

How to Remit—Send postoffice money order, express or personal check on local bank. Stamps, coin or currency are at owner's risk. Give postoffice address in full, including county.

Eastern Business Office—Verre & Conklin, Brunswick building, New York; Verre & Conklin, Erie street, New York; Verre & Conklin, Free Press building, Detroit; Verre & Conklin, 201 North Main street, St. Paul.

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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, DEC. 20, 1918.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WORK

In his annual report President Corbett, of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, reviewed a year of great achievement by the city in which the Chamber did its full part. The war made such urgent demands for all that the city and the surrounding country could supply.

Naturally, shipbuilding fills a large place in the report, for it is the principal among those subjects now before the public. Having won recognition of the city's primacy in building wood ships, the Chamber now calls attention to the sacrifice involved in sailing the type of vessel to the war emergency without regard to the trade conditions of the Pacific coast.

That argument is unanswerable "so long as the Government is building ships for peace purposes." As fast as it completes steel ships on the Pacific coast, it takes them to the Atlantic and keeps them there. The least it could do for the Pacific coast would be to continue building wood ships suited to Pacific trade.

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ressive spirit which actuates it is evidenced by these words:

We join with the Dock Commission and Port Commission in the belief that preparations must be made for a larger volume of business than has been handled before through this port. In planning the Chamber to take care of the most urgent and likely needs first and have in reserve ample funds to provide for any requirements that may occur as the business unfolds.

It would be possible for the Dock and Port Commissions, after frank and frequent consultation with the Chamber as the representative of the business interests, to determine which are the most urgent needs and to support them promptly.

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KAHN'S PLAN FOR THE NEW ARMY.

One good result of the Republican victory at the election last November will be that Representative Julius Kahn, of California, will become chairman of the House select committee, and in that capacity will have charge of the legislation for permanent organization of the Army on a peace basis in the light of war's experience.

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to be eaten by optimists and recent events disclose that there are plenty of optimists among the egg eaters of Gotham.

The winter egg problem is always with us. We have a choice of solutions. We may store our own eggs, according to a well-known formula, and consume them on faith. These are, indeed, most commonly a very desirable food. Or we may buy in "open market" putting aside for the moment our ultra-fanciful notions as to what an egg ought to be.

If we reject all these plans, there remains only the alternative of doing without in one or two of the succeeding months. We did this very thing a generation or so ago, and did not seem to suffer.

The four-minute men. The country will not part without regret with its four-minute men, announcement of whose approaching demobilization is made. It is not so much, we think, that we are doing without their addresses, brief and to the point, on all occasions, as that we appreciate the service which they have done to oratory as an art by demonstrating how much can be compressed into a limited space of time.

The four-minute period, it seems, was chosen because it was approximately the length of a short film, and experience had shown that this was about the length of time which an orator could be counted upon to fix his attention upon a topic of passing interest.

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connection that there is need of effort to "Americanize" some of our Indian wards. Yet we are told that there are in at least one section numbers of wards who are covertly disloyal to the Government, and "have been the victims of pro-German propaganda." This has commonly taken the form of efforts to reintroduce pagan practices, with a view of causing disunion when these were suppressed on grounds of public and moral policy.

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Those Who Come and Go.

Oswald West has returned from Washington, D. C., where he remained one day. "Baker" learned the ropes," says Mr. West, "I used to cool my heels for days at a time waiting to see the head of a department. It isn't always getting his name in the papers who is the real man in a department. The man you want to know probably is a quiet fellow off in a far corner. When you know who these real men are you can dispatch your business quickly.

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ANNOUNCEMENT TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF SOLDIERS OVERSEAS.

For the information of the many readers of The Oregonian who have relatives in the American Expeditionary Forces, The Oregonian on Sunday will publish in tabular form a list of the names, rank, company and field artillery composition of the leading 37 divisions in France, with the names of the commanders of the armistice, announcement as to present disposition and whether listed in the armies of occupation, together with a summary of all units ordered "for convoy up to December 10, 1918."

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In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian, December 26, 1893. "The force of the carpenters will commence work today clearing the lumber from the great production of 'Cleopatra,' to be prepared by the American Expeditionary Forces, The Oregonian on Sunday will publish in tabular form a list of the names, rank, company and field artillery composition of the leading 37 divisions in France, with the names of the commanders of the armistice, announcement as to present disposition and whether listed in the armies of occupation, together with a summary of all units ordered 'for convoy up to December 10, 1918.'

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Zeppelin Team Could Frigate Acres in Only 2250 Trips. PORTLAND, Dec. 19.—(To The Editor.)—"The utilization of Zeppelins working in teams from special bases to spray dry regions with artificial rain." This we are told by press dispatches from the U. S. Navy is one of the subjects of the Nobel committee of the Norwegian Academy, with a view to diverting the Zeppelins from their present employment to the best suggestion on this and other ways of converting the enginery of the navy to the uses of peace.

WAYS TO OBTAIN LAW'S DELAYS.

DALLAS, Or., Dec. 18.—(To The Editor.)—The use of our judicial system has been revised so as to avoid unnecessary delays and to administer justice as it should be administered. It is possible to revise our system of pleading and practice that every case will be decided upon its merits. There are many who are claiming that laymen as well. It seems to the writer that much of one criticism directed against the courts is of no small value in that it falls to point out specifically wherein the present system could be improved.

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