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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, DEC. 21, 1918.

THE EAST BUILDS THE YARDS.

Hog Island is well named, for it has put both forefeet as well as its snout in the public trough. That great shipyard, built at Government expense, was originally to have cost at most $27,000,000, or with additions ordered by the Emergency Fleet Corporation $33,000,000, but it is estimated to cost $61,000,000. As it will not be finished for sixty days, we need not be surprised if the revised total of $33,000,000 should be doubled. For all this great expenditure all that the Government has to show is one ship completed and five launched.

Somewhat more than a year ago a great uproar was made in Washington about waste of money on a wood shipyard on Puget Sound, but it is doubtful whether the waste in that case was one-fiftieth of that on Hog Island. No more money has probably been spent on all the shipyards in the Columbia River district combined than on Hog Island alone, but since January 1 Portland has launched 144 vessels aggregating 633,250 deadweight tons. Evidently the West builds the ships, while the East builds the yards.

As usual when Government money is wasted, the investigators find that nobody is to blame. The money just went. The case is similar to that of an Irish politician who, pleading the impossibility of keeping account of election expenses, said that he counted the money in his pocket when he went out in the morning and the amount remaining when he came home at night, or next morning, and put down the difference as "spent." Those millions have been just "spent" on Hog Island, and nobody is to blame.

In face of such records of Governmental inefficiency, Postmaster-General Burleson asks that the telegraph and telephone lines be turned over to him to run, and Director-General McAdoo proposes a five-year experiment with Government operation of railroads. This inefficient business organization points proudly to its glorious record of failure and impudently asks for another trial.

If Mr. Burleson, Mr. McAdoo, Mr. Hurley and a few more like them have their way, not many years will pass before the United States will have changed from the richest to the poorest Nation in the world, and we may have to appeal to the captains of industry of Poland, Czecho-Slavia or Jugo-Slavia to come over and put our affairs in order.

TAKE AWAY ARBITRARY POWER.

It is high time that Congress took such action as the Senate has taken on the initiative of Senator Jones, of Washington, in regard to limitations placed by the Shipping Board on construction of ships, of either wood or steel, for foreign buyers. It has become nothing less than a public scandal that this board has assumed dictatorial power over the shipbuilding industry. It refuses either to buy the product of the shipyards itself or to let them sell vessels to others. It in effect exercises the power of life and death over a great industry. This is a power which Congress itself would hesitate to exercise. If it should attempt to do so the courts would be apt to annul its action as confiscatory.

The Shipping Board pursues a dog-in-the-manger policy. The world needs all the ships which can be turned out at all American shipyards for years to come, but the board vetoes further production. Having done all in its power to injure wood shipbuilding by extravagantly enhancing cost and forcing adoption of uneconomical designs, it now makes its own blunders the excuse for condemning wood ships in general without discrimination between those of good and bad design or those of good and bad construction. It now goes farther by forbidding acceptance of French contracts for steel ships by a Portland company, the capacity of which it neglects to use. This is the depth of ingratitude to France, which had lost much of its tonnage in fighting our enemy for two and a half years before we recognized that it was our war by doing our part in it. France has earned all the help which the United States can give, in the shape of ships as well as armies, money and food, but asks freedom to buy—not a gift. The least the board could do would be to build as many ships as possible and charter some of them to the allies, if it insists that they remain under the American flag.

The Shipping Board proclaimed, until the armistice was signed, that Oregon shipyards had responded to every demand that had been made upon them, and it backed up its words by awarding them prizes. It has condemned some Southern and Eastern yards for inefficiency; it called on the Pacific Coast to help them with its big timbers, yet now it includes this Coast in its general condemnation of wood ships. By withholding contracts from one of the most efficient wood shipyards on the Coast, which is to be converted into a steel yard, and by forbidding it to take French contracts, the board lays its paralyzing hand on the steel shipbuilding industry of the Pacific Coast also. It has nothing to say about the failure of its particular pet, the great Hog Island fabricated steel shipyard, to come up to expectations as to output. Good sense dictates that it should permit ships to be built where experience has proved that they can be built best and fastest, rather than at the overgrown giant on the Delaware River.

The best thing Congress can do for the shipbuilding industry is to deprive the Shipping Board of its arbitrary power, and to set the industry free to build for all who wish to buy. If it will then expeditiously revise the shipping and seamen's laws in such manner as to relieve the American ship owner of the handicaps under which he labors, Chairman Hurley's efficiency methods in handling ships may enable the ship owner to pay American wages and continue American working conditions to American seamen and still to compete with foreign ships. That being accomplished, abundant contracts may be forthcoming from American owners to keep all our shipyards busy. The first thing to do is to set this new industry free from the paralyzing clutch of a bureaucracy which is trying experiments upon it.

WORRYING A PRESIDENT.

President Wilson, it is said in a cable dispatch, is "beginning to show some concern over Congressional developments in the United States."

The Congressional developments which give our absent President so much worry have to do principally with the league of nations. Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, for example, has suggested postponement of the question by the Paris conference until the terms and conditions of peace shall have been settled. He is furiously denounced now—in Portland—as a "junker" and as a "spokesman of privilege" and the sponsor of a "bloody programme" because he has ventured to call for a calm and deliberate consideration of the league of nations idea.

Senator Knox does not know what the league of nations proposal of President Wilson is. The Senate does not know. The American people do not know. If President Wilson knows, he has not taken the Senate, or the people, or anybody who is at liberty to speak, into his confidence.

Now that the war is over, and now that the press and the public are disposed to exercise their restored right of free discussion, withdrawn from them during many months of stress and trouble, it is likely enough that the American people will want to have something to say about the part they are to play in any league of nations. The idea is attractive; but the basis of any league to be effective must be mutual concessions and surrenders to the international body.

What concessions? What surrenders?

President Wilson has given little consideration to Congress in his plans for peace. He has gone over himself to make peace, or to lay the foundations for it. The conference will prepare the treaty, but it must be ratified, so far as America is concerned, by the Senate of the United States, by a two-thirds vote, for the following provision has not been repealed or eliminated even in time of war by the people, nor by the State Legislatures, nor even by the fiat of the Chief Executive (Article 2, Section 2):

> He (the President) shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur.

The advice of no Senator is being asked by the President, and the consent of all Senators, or two-thirds of them, must yet be obtained. What a Senator of the United States has to say about the peace treaty and its methods and terms is, therefore, not without its importance. Apparently, the President is beginning to think so. It would have been so, whether it was a Democratic Senate, as at present, or a Republican Senate, as it will be after March 4.

COMPOSITE SOUND.

Recent technical achievements of the electrical engineers who have announced an amazing improvement in multiplex telephony, by which two wires may be used for ten simultaneous conversations, are made a little clearer to the lay mind by the explanation of a scientist who has succeeded in taking actual photographs of the human voice as it traverses a wire. The multiplex system, if it could be photographed, would produce a result analagous to the composite photograph which is currently popular among college students around graduation time.

The person who appreciates the difficulty he would have if required to separate a composite photograph of five or ten men into its constituent originals will have a sense of the problem confronting the inventors of the multiplex telephone. If the composite photograph were printed in a different color for each original, and he were able to interpose a color screen for each which would exclude all other colors, his problem would be solved.

The effort of the electricians has been to give each current that goes over the wire a distinctive characteristic, and at certain points on the wire to separate the currents and send each to its destination. The importance of the new invention, in view of growing costs of construction and maintenance of telephone circuits, it would not be easy to overestimate. But engineers are already suggesting that it is capable of almost infinite expansion. It would require a daring prophet to attempt a prediction of what we shall be doing with electricity even a decade hence.

WIT-MATCHING IN THE COURTS.

It is encouraging to advocates of court reform to observe a genuine interest in the subject by judges of the Circuit Court. Without doubt the communication from Judge Belt, of Dallas, which appeared on this page Friday, was expression of the thought that is in the minds of many of the men on the Oregon bench. It is because the judges recognize needs so clearly and have no interest except administration of exact justice that The Oregonian was so ready to indorse the plan submitted by Judge Carey and Mr. Selling of the Committee on Law Reform. Their system would invest the judges of the courts with the rule-making power and enable them gradually to change the methods of the courts to obtain the best results.

Judge Belt again calls attention to the delays incident so often to the selection of jurors. He proposes that the judges examine the jurors. He observes that lawyers generally know in advance whether they will exercise a peremptory challenge on any particular juror, and that they still often continue questioning interminably. Delays due to errors in pleading are generally observed only by the litigants, the lawyers and the judges. Reform of procedure therein is demanded, but such delays do not force themselves upon public notice as do those incident to the selection of jurors. No criminal case reported conspicuously by the press but drags on and on in its preliminary stages to the wonderment and disgust of those who read.

While it is doubtless true, as Judge Belt remarks, that lawyers generally know in advance whether they will exercise a peremptory challenge on any particular juror, the suspicion is justified that lawyers often would wish to exercise more challenges than the law permits. Whims, prejudices and suspicions actuate them as to some talesmen. If the juror under examination can be confused into making some prejudicial statement his discharge for cause may be obtained and the lawyer has one more peremptory challenge in reserve. Hence his tiresome interrogation. Yet it is idle to insist that justice is promoted by the freedom with which lawyers consume the time of the courts in this particular. It is essentially a wit-matching process between defense and prosecution to determine which side shall have a favorable jury. Wit-matching is profitable for lawyers but for no others. Other countries have banished it insofar as it is an indoor sport by resting in the judge authority to examine jurors. There are no loud outcries there that justice is impeded or diverted, while our own system is an object of amazement and criticism by foreign observers.

KEEP UP THE 100 PER CENT RECORD.

Although fighting has stopped and powder is no longer being burned, war expenses continue, if on a diminished scale. The Government looks to the banks to advance the money needed to meet its obligations from day to day, and reimburses them from the proceeds of the next liberty loan.

This, in brief, is the reason why it is still the patriotic duty of every bank to subscribe for treasury certificates. The banks are enlisted in the work of financing the war just as truly as the soldiers and sailors are enlisted in that of fighting it, and, while fighting has stopped, financing must go on.

Oregon has made a 100 per cent record in certificate subscriptions by banks on three occasions—that is, every bank has subscribed, and this record should be kept up. The first offering of a new series of certificates was made on December 5, and Oregon banks have subscribed $4,901,000 against a quota of $4,500,000, an oversubscription of 9 per cent. But a few banks, mostly small state banks, have not subscribed, apparently believing the necessity to have passed or that their contribution would be so small as not to be worth making. In order that the glory of Oregon may be perfect, it is necessary to make a 100 per cent record not only of amount subscribed, but of banks subscribing. The banks of the state should take as much pride in a 100 per cent certificate subscription as a shipyard takes in a 100 liberty loan subscription.

GREEN STAMPS AND BLUE.

The buyer of war savings stamps who intends to complete his "book" of green ones will do well to make haste about it. The color is to be changed on January 1, 1919, to blue. The current cards, redeemable in 1923, will not carry over into next year, according to an official announcement. The card, however, whether it is filled or not, will be redeemed by the Government at maturity at the rate of $5 for each stamp.

It will be well for those who have begun saving in this manner to fill their books as nearly as possible with green stamps before the style is changed, if for no other reason than that it will set a higher mark for them to aim at in 1919. There is a certain definite value in the spirit of emulation. In this instance it will be well to try to outdo in the coming year the record of the past. The race between the green stamps and the blue may be made quite interesting, and there are only a few days left before the flag will fall on the green.

Next year's savings and thrift stamps, both blue, will mark the second stage of the great thrift contest. The latter will be redeemable on January 1, 1924, at full value. They will begin at $4.12 as did the present issue. They represent an opportunity for putting small sums of money to work such as is within reach in no other form of the average individual.

A BASIS FOR INDUSTRIAL PEACE.

The most hopeful sign for the future industrial peace of the United States is the coming together of employer and worker in clearer recognition that the special interest of each is best promoted by respecting and serving the common interest of both. They realize that they have just accomplished a great work by pulling together as a team for the common end of patriotism. In the comparatively short period of nineteen months they provided the material means which, in the hands of American soldiers and sailors, have completed the task which the allies, unaided, were unable to complete—that of bringing the proudest military empire in the world to its knees. While so doing they have enormously increased the volume of production, and both employers and workers have enjoyed a degree of prosperity without precedent in human history. Both now consider whether the spirit of co-operation and justice which patriotism has awakened cannot be kept awake with like returns in the era of peace.

They have before them two warnings of the possible consequence if they should fail and should renew the industrial conflicts of the past. In Russia they see a nation reduced to famine in a country which had always produced a surplus of food, and they know the reason to be that Russia has fallen into the power of men who blow out the brains of industry and who destroy the security without which industry cannot live. In Germany they see a nation reduced to ruin by the despotism of an allied military aristocracy and a plutocracy, having just escaped from their power and striving to avoid the abyss into which Russia has fallen. The aim of America must be to establish industry firmly on a permanent basis of co-operation between employer and worker, and thus to avoid the evils which have befallen these two nations.

On behalf of the worker Samuel Gompers has declared that wages shall not be reduced as a first step in readjustment to peace conditions until after cost of living has fallen. President Gary, of the Steel Corporation, has responded with a declaration that profits must fall first. In our own section of the country the Lumber Association has shown the same spirit by declaring that "until there is a marked reduction in the cost of living we oppose any reduction of wages, even should lumber fall in value, and then not until after a conference with the Loyal Legion." The recent Reconstruction Congress of manufacturers and business men at Atlantic City, which was called by the United States Chamber of Commerce, went farther by unanimously indorsing the principles of industrial relations proposed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and by receiving with approval eight principles proposed by the council of the United States Chamber.

Mr. Rockefeller condemned the standpatters in industry and recommended:

> An attitude which, not waiting until forced to adopt new methods, takes the lead in calling together the parties in interest for a round-table conference to be held in a spirit of justice, fair play and brotherhood with a view to working out some plan of co-operation which will insure to all those concerned adequate representation, an opportunity to earn a fair wage under proper working and living conditions, with such restrictions as to hours as shall leave time not alone for food and sleep but also for recreation and the development of the higher things of life.

That policy was embodied in eight principles by the council of the United States Chamber, which are condensed as follows:

1. Industrial enterprises should be conducted with a view to the greatest opportunity for all concerned.
2. Regularity of employment must be striven for.
3. The right of workers to organize must be admitted, and collective bargaining must be conceded.
4. Impartial agencies must be set up to interpret and apply agreements and to make prompt and authoritative settlements of differences.
5. The right of all workers to a minimum living wage is declared.
6. High wages and national prosperity go hand in hand. Therefore, whenever the volume of business declines, the last item to be reduced should be wages.
7. A standardized and established wage should represent a standardized measure of performance.
8. In all plants where the number of workers is large a responsible executive should be charged with the superintendence of relations between the workers and the management.

Out of this discussion, or from the working out of the new policy, may grow a final solution of the problem which is at the bottom of all labor controversies—what are fair wages. In the mind of the worker is a suspicion that he does not get his fair share of the price of the commodity which he and his employer jointly produce. That suspicion is the cause of attacks on the entire wage system. The individual workman is not able to calculate what his fair share is, but his suspicion wins a ready hearing for advocates of socialism, syndicalism or communism. It may be possible to work out some plan by which each workman is taken to represent so much capital, based on his earning power, and is paid monthly dividends on that basis in place of wages. If the industry did not pay or did not pay well enough, he would be free to withdraw his capital — himself — and transfer it to some other which paid better.

In the immediate future it will be necessary for the Government to act on the principle which the draft has revealed—that the Nation's man power is its greatest asset. We have learned from the draft that there is an undue proportion of physically unfit or defective men, and that legislation will be necessary to reduce this number to a minimum by forcing the "standpatters" among employers up to the standards set by the council of the United States Chamber. The causes of unfitness have been revealed as child labor, woman labor at unsuitable occupations, low wages, long hours, insanitary factories deficient in light, air or heat, ignorance of sanitary principles, of food values and of the relation of morality to health. The health of our Army has been maintained at an unprecedentedly high standard by observance of rules in this regard. By educating both employers and workmen up to the observance of like rules and then by enacting them into laws backed by public opinion, the civil population may be raised to the same high standard. After all, health, in its broadest significance, is the first requisite to industrial efficiency and personal happiness.

The Washington correspondent of an evening paper has discovered a new province in Russia which he calls Lettonia. Apparently he thought the Letts must have a province bearing their name, but they have none. They are much scattered, but are chiefly concentrated in Vitebsk, Courland and Livonia, near the Baltic coast.

The men who have been shown up as lacking in Americanism in their votes in Congress would do well not to call attention to the Security League's record of how they stood, for they only bring into prominence the blemishes on their record.

The sick soldiers at Camp Lewis want pie. All the women of the Northwest are called upon for a barrage fire of pie—not the kind with soggy under-crust, but light and flaky, open, striped or covered.

It is refreshing to read that the Federal Trade Commission does not propose that the Government take over the packing business, for it is so rare an exception to the rule.

The turkey profiteer is not the worst rascal, because you are not compelled to buy a turkey, for the one time a substitute is as good and perhaps better.

There seems to be doubt whether Germany will be able to keep up a show of democracy until the peace treaty is signed.

In some cases influenza flags are put on after recovery of the patient, the doctor's tribute to authority.

Wahkiakum County is seeking publicity, and a good start will be to tell people how to say it.

The slickest thief in Portland is the fellow who took a case of eggs from in front of a store.

It is disgraceful that force almost is needed to complete the Oregon Red Cross quota.

What matters decreased flow at Tampico if she spouts in Harney and Malheur?

Father always waits until New Year's before he stocks up on handkerchiefs.

Hog Island whitewash at $63,000,000 will cover a multitude of stuff.

Saturday afternoon off means that much less in the pay check.

If Hindenburg is plotting, he will be the last to disclose it.

Something electrical fits all members of the family.

The Saturday shopper fears not the "flu."

Portland milk may come high, but it tests high.

Practical advice: Give good smokes or don't.

Shortest day in the year and shop early.

Those Who Come and Go.

Huntington Taylor, of Cedar Rapids, Mich., J. P. McGoldrick, of Spokane, and J. M. Crawford, of Walla Walla, are lumbermen and millmen who arrived at the Hotel Portland yesterday, and are here in connection with the situation in the lumber industry.

A Lieutenant in the Army who stopped at the Multnomah yesterday related how a conductor on a certain train between Portland and Tacoma secured ventilation in one of the cars Thursday night. A woman passenger asked that a window or two be raised. The conductor seized a window stick and passing through the car knocked the glass from half a dozen windows. Then going into the vestibule where some soldiers were standing, the conductor reached back of the men and jammed out some more glass. The car was well aired when he finished the job.

W. L. McDougal, of Salem, was visiting with his wife and Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Livesley, at the Benson yesterday. Mr. McDougal has been in the military service and received a commission, and is now on his way home.

C. C. McCormick, a Marshfield business man, is at the Perkins for a few days.

A. J. Nolan, who was formerly a salesman in Portland, returned yesterday. For months he has been in the aerial service and was stationed in California.

Colon R. Eberhard, recently elected a member of the State Senate, and who is expected to have a place on the ways and means committee, arrived from La Grande yesterday, and is located at the Imperial. He was conferring with various members of the Legislature in the afternoon.

An inside political deal in Idaho's recent state election came to light at the Multnomah yesterday, when Thomas Wren, of Spokane, told how the state will appropriate $20,000 each year to support the Lewiston Livestock Show. The stockgrowers of Idaho demanded that this be done, and as president of the stock show association, there was nothing for Mr. Wren to do but go to Boise and arrange to get the money. The coming year will be the third that Mr. Wren has served the association as its chief executive. Last Winter the president went to the state capitol and annexed about $20,000, to be used as awards for the exhibits at the show that should have been held at Lewiston last October. Then the "flu" came along and the show stopped, so the officers of the association placed the $20,000 in the construction of a new show ring and another exhibition building and let it go at that.

Mrs. Mabel Settlemeir, of Woodburn, is making a week-end visit to Portland, and is registered at the Imperial.

James H. Humphreys, who is engineer for the American Express Company, registered from San Francisco at the Benson yesterday.

A. A. Hudson and H. W. Preston, of the North Bend Lumber Company, are here on business.

Mrs. J. G. Megler, connected with the well-known cannery people, is at the Hotel Portland from Brookfield.

Mrs. J. S. McDonald, who has been at the Multnomah for some time, left last night for her home in San Francisco. Mrs. McDonald expressed the belief that the last "wet" New Year celebration in San Francisco would be worth watching from a housetop, and determined to be an onlooker.

Colonel L. M. Maus, of San Francisco, was among the arrivals at the Hotel Portland last night.

Kenneth Mackenzie, member of the Supreme Court of Washington, registered from Olympia at the Benson. He will remain in the city today.

F. L. Pope and family, of Merrill, Oregon, are at the Multnomah. Mr. Pope is a farmer who hit the market at the right time during the past two years when prices were abnormally high.

Ora Jane Foster and Ruth Handley, of Astoria, are in town for Christmas shopping and are at the Benson.

E. P. Smiley, a lumberman of Warrenton, accompanied by Mrs. Smiley, is at the Multnomah.

CAMPAIGN SCARE THAT FAILED

Writer Recalls Statement That Republican Congress Meant Loss of War.

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—There are certain bluffers whose bluffing should be handed down to posterity during these post-war times. I would class bluffers in general as the sublime and the ridiculous.

One need only refer to the files of the papers to recall the sublime bluffers of Prussian birth. "To the last man" they were going to fight; no question could be settled in this old world hereafter without Prussian consent, and so on ad libitum. But I desire especially herein to call attention to the ridiculous brand of bluffing which so far the alert correspondents of The Oregonian have not called attention to.

A few days before election a so-called Independent paper published in Portland told us that if a Democratic House of Representatives and Senate were not elected, "the war is lost." Those were the words. What happened? A Republican Congress was chosen, and six days after, the central powers unconditionally surrendered.

It looks as though if the Republicans had been as good bluffers as the Democrats, they would have said before election that if Republicans obtained a majority in Congress, the Germans would immediately throw up the sponge; that the records of the Republican party in the Civil war and in the war with Spain were such that this conclusion would be justified.

R. M. TUTTLE.

Pronunciation of Word.

BELLINGHAM, Wash., Dec. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Please give me the proper pronunciation of the word "casualty." Is the accent on the first syllable, with the short sound of "a," or is it pronounced as if written with two dots over the "a" and the accent on the third syllable and two dots over the last "a"? I have had an argument over the word. A friend says she has found the word in three different dictionaries pronounced the last way, and I have found it in three the first way.

BELLINGHAM SUBSCRIBER.

We have never heard of the pronunciation your friend gives the word. Possibly she is thinking of casuality, which ahs the accent on "al," though it does not take the broad sound of "a." Your pronunciation of casuality is correct.

Determination of Day's Pay.

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—In estimating the daily rate on a 26-day monthly salary for such a month as December, wherein there are five Sundays and one holiday, what fraction of the total salary would each day represent? Also would this rate apply in case of an employe being paid off for a part of the month?

UNEDUCATED.

There is no fixed or legal rule. Some institutions determine a day's pay by dividing the monthly salary by the number of working days; others by dividing the monthly salary by the full number of days in the month.

JOHN H. CRADLEBAUGH AS POET

Notable Verses on Oregon Pioneers Written by Late Salem Jourpalist.

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—The late John H. Cradlebaugh wrote a very remarkable poem entitled "The Land Where Dreams Come True." I read this poem at the annual meeting of the Oregon Pioneer Association held in June, 1911. This poem was published in the transactions of the association for 1911. Before it was published I wrote to Mr. Cradlebaugh, sending him a copy of the poem and asked him if he desired to make any corrections or changes in it. In reply I received the following letter:

> Salem, Or., June 9, 1913.
>
> My Dear Mr. Holman:
>
> Enclosed please find copy of poem as you requested, also the correction made that you pointed out. I delayed sending it, as I intended to rewrite it, but find I have not time just now as I am doing double duty on the Journal.
>
> I cannot express to you how highly I appreciate your kind words of praise. I have never claimed any more genius than that of ability to write newspaper jingle, hence am the more pleased to be forced to believe that I "builded better than I knew."
>
> It affords me much pleasure to send you the signed poem—Thanks for the "hunch." I am, Very truly yours,
>
> JOHN H. CRADLEBAUGH.

The following is the poem:

THE LAND WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE.

They came of brave and hardy stock,
Those Oregon pioneers.
Their sires had braved the wilderness,
The van of the wild frontiers
From where the fierce Atlantic waves
Lashed the wooded coast of Maine,
To where Missouri's yellow flood
Poured out of an unknown plain.
Crusaders they, of the modern days,
Who came with the axe and plow—
Their flags, the wagon's canvas tops,
And "to win" their only vow.
Dreamers and "seers," who, dreaming, saw,
And seeing, they dared to do—
Turning their faces toward the West
And the land where dreams come true.

Dreamers they were, those pioneers
Of the "forties," three and four,
Who braved the unknown of the plains
In search of an untried shore.
Brave of soul were the women folk,
And the bearded men were strong;
They counted not the trail was rough,
Nor cared that the way was long.
Week after week, month after month,
Steadily, surely but slow,
They pressed on till they reached the stream
Where the waters westward flow,
And they could see the mountains where
Night drew her curtain of blue,
Beyond which lay the land they sought,
The land where the dreams came true.

And from the lofty mountain tops
The valley was wondrous fair,
For billowed plains of dimpling grass
And winding streamlets were there.
Land where the red man wandered free,
Nor civilization trod;
Rich as the fields of Eden were
When fresh from the hand of God;
An emerald world, a turquoise sky,
A hundred amethyst streams,
Crown jewel of the continent,
The land they had seen in dreams.
Worth all the toil they had endured—
The hardships they struggled through—
Land of the elves and fairies' homes
And the land where dreams come true.

It was a dream, a vision fair
To the weary pioneers,
A dream come true to you and me
In the lapse of seventy years;
Billowing fields of waving grain
To set the jewels in gold;
Miles upon miles of orchard bloom
In place of the forests old;
The busy mart, the whirring wheels
And the things that man has made;
Churches and schools and pleasant homes,
The gift of the "Un-afraid"—
Gift of the women strong of soul,
Of the men who dared to do—
Who, dreaming, saw—and showed the way
To the land where dreams come true.

FREDERICK V. HOLMAN.

FRENCH WINES DO NOT CHARM.

American Major Says Vinegar and Water Will Please Him as Well.

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—During the past month many of your correspondents on this page have been disturbed over the possible lowering of the morals of the United States soldier, who has seen overseas service. Some have been greatly disturbed over the fact that a large percentage of soldiers in the trenches have acquired the cigarette habit. Others have seen fit to excuse the soldier, taking into consideration the circumstances. One of your correspondents, a Frenchman, sees a possible element of evil looming up from the use of light wines and beers, which have been permitted American soldiers in France. The case for and against the cigarette habit has been pretty well discussed editorially by The Oregonian.

In the matter of the use of light wines, customary to France, I should like to offer the following testimony from a letter from Major Joseph H. Sayer, M. C., U. S. A., who for eleven months was assigned to active duty with the French army. I quote briefly from a letter relating his experiences:

> As this station was in the Champagne country, you can imagine that it was not necessary to drink water unless you wished. In fact, at times it was much easier to get the best champagne than water that you could drink at all. The headquarters of this section was in the home of a maker of a certain brand of champagne. While I was with the section, the owner was allowed to come into the town to look over his property and he was invited to dinner with us. He went into his cellar and brought us some champagne that was so old it was gray, and I never tasted anything like it in my life. Fortunately, it is a kind of champagne that cannot be shipped, so there is no danger of my acquiring the habit.
>
> The wine that they have here will certainly never have any attraction for me. I have tasted it and when out to dinner, of course, have to drink some of it, for they do not serve water, but some vinegar thinned down will do me for the best they have.

JAMES J. SAYER.

What of That Lower Rate?

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Referring to the agitation for a port of the Columbia, there is a matter that apparently is being overlooked. I recall that when Astoria was petitioning for a rate on a parity with Portland and the Sound, it was said that Portland would be in a better position to obtain an even lower rate than Astoria and the Sound after Astoria had secured its parity rate.

It is evident that if Portland now joins Astoria and other Lower-River towns in a port of the Columbia, Portland's hands will be tied. Therefore it would seem that Portland's course of action regarding the original programme first should be determined upon. If the fight for the lower rate, to which Portland is entitled, due to its unique location, is not to be made, or is made and lost, then will be time enough to discuss the port of the Columbia question, and not before.

Do you believe we should throw up our hands after the first blow? Spokane exhibited more stamina than that.

SUBSCRIBER.

Status of Engineers' Company.

GRESHAM, Or., Dec 19.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me in what division Company C, Sixth Engineers, is and if it has been designated for return or not.

CHARLES WILLIAMS.

Official data are lacking, but we understand it is in the Second Division, being held in reserve in France.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, December 21, 1893.

Washington.—Representative Bowers was before the House judiciary committee advocating the adoption of his resolution calling upon Attorney-General Olney to defend California settlers against the Southern Pacific Company's suits. The committee postponed action.

Colonel C. F. Beebe yesterday received a dispatch from his agent at Astoria stating that the long-looked-for ship Santa Clara was outside with a pilot on board. This will be good news to a great many merchants here who have goods on her. She was 175 days out from New York.

No one need look for a cessation of the storm which is abroad in the land until tonight or perhaps tomorrow morning. Ever since about 8 o'clock yesterday the wind has been gradually increasing in force from simply a "blow" to a young hurricane. The entire southwest corner of Third and Morrison streets was submerged ankle deep.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Irvington Driving Park Association the new board of directors was elected, consisting of A. G. Ryan, Charles Lanier, Mr. Bates, L. P. W. Quimby, R. C. Smith, John Mann and H. H. Emmons. Tomorrow the directors will elect officers.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, December 21, 1868.

Vancouver.—T. R. Brooks is now surveying up the Cowlitz river. Mr. Brooks started his survey from Vancouver to Fourth Plains, thence to Patterson's mill, thence to the south fork of Lewis River, down the south fork to Hon. Columbia Lancaster's place, thence across both forks of Lewis River to Martin's Bluff, at which point he left.

On Saturday night about 10 o'clock a negro burglar was detected in the store of A. Meier, on Front street. At the moment some persons entered the front door the fellow jumped through a back window, breaking out the sash, and fell several feet upon the wharf below, where he was subsequently found, badly hurt and bleeding profusely. He admitted that he was the burglar and was taken to jail to await an examination this morning.

Parties just down from the eastern counties report the prevalence of very dry, cold weather. Snow has fallen to a depth of several inches on the mountains above Umatilla. No rains have fallen in the country east of the Blue Mountains and the roads are as dry and dusty as in Summer.

The steamer Nez Perce Chief, while descending the Columbia River last Wednesday, ran upon a sunken rock at Canoe Encampment, 25 miles below Umatilla, and stuck fast. She still remained there when the Owyhee came down on Thursday, though it was thought she was not seriously damaged and would be got off in a short time. The latter steamer took off her passengers and freight and brought them down to Celilo on Friday.

HIS SOLITARY WISDOM WONDERFUL.

Mr. Geer Astounded That One Man Knows More Than Millions

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—The letter of Mr. O. C. Fenlayson which appeared in The Oregonian a day or two ago is, on the whole, one of the most satisfying and timely contributions I have read in many a day. He settles with one fell whoop a matter that has in a measure puzzled many of the great statesmen of the world, to wit, who was responsible for the great war just now coming to a close. In detail he describes how the press and pulpit are directly culpable through deceit, their motive being a desire to make money out of the war which they contrived for 40 years to bring about.

Boiled down, his reasoning is as follows: The preachers, "for 40 years have stood at God's altars, knowing that Germany was preparing to conquer the world by brute force," and "the press has advocated preparation so as to be able to do the other fellow before he could do you." Newspapers cannot live without advertisers, he says, and all advertisers want war in order to make money. The preachers he would have officially beheaded, and the papers should be divided into the classes, one to be without advertising of any kind in order that its members could tell the people the truth.

This solution of a difficult question is timely, as I said, because it comes just as the peace conference is preparing to grapple with it in all its phases. Perhaps, to make it clearer, Mr. Fenlayson will tell us what he would do when he discovers that the other fellow is going "to do him"—sit down and be "done"? Evidently the press and preachers of the United States, England and France had been off their job, seeing that those countries were wholly unprepared for war and, indeed, in consequence, came within an ace of being "done" to a frazzle.

Of course, the fact that 99 per cent of all advertisers in the newspapers are poor people and have no opportunity to make money out of a war is a fact that offers no obstacles to this admirable disentanglement of a vexatious problem.

Since only those who read the papers and hear the preachers are misled into supporting a war, any war, wonder how Mr. Fenlayson knows what these two misguided and deceptive forces have been doing and how amazed he must be when he ponders over the astounding fact that he has all along known these things which hundreds of millions of others were unable to bump into.

T. T. GEER.

Why Drive Is Slow.

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—The article in The Oregonian intimates that the Red Cross drive isn't up to expectations.

There are reasons. Solicitors who have walked miles feel it their duty to call attention to the thoughtlessness of men and women who knew this dollar drive was on and yet through the better residence districts apparently the financial head forgot to leave the dollar or the lady of the house not wishing to be disturbed asks you to call again, never thinking of the solicitor's time or the endless walking and climbing of steps that this entails.

If there were a readier response to first calls the drive would come up to expectations and probably far exceed them.

FOOTSORE SOLICITOR.

Disposition of Willed Property.

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—To the Editor.)—A has two sons and one stepson and dies leaving a will providing that his wife inherit all his property during her lifetime, the property then to go to the stepson, the will not stating the same to go to the stepson's heirs.

The stepson dies before A's wife, so doesn't inherit. Where does the property go? Do the stepson's heirs inherit or do the nearest relatives of A's wife inherit, she leaving children of her own?

PUZZLED.

The will should be submitted to a competent lawyer for examination, if advice is essential at this time. Not enough information is given in your inquiry to warrant an answer as to disposition of the property.

Term of Senators.

FALLBRIDGE, Wash., Dec. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly give the period in years that the Senators from the state of Washington are elected for.

L. H. SKINNER.

State Senators, four years; United States Senators, six years.