

The Oregonian

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GETTING AT THE TRUTH. The Oregonian simply got off wrong. Nobody wants to destroy the wooden shipbuilding industry of the Northwest, but all who are interested in it want to see this section built to see it put on a permanent basis. The best it could do was to continue to give the public a picture of the industry as it was, and not as it was being run. The Oregonian's attitude was not only unjustified by war, but also by the fact that the industry was being run in a way that was not only profitable but also was giving work to thousands of men.

THE OREGONIAN PROPOSES TO KEEP alive discussion of wood shipbuilding so long as there is a single unconvinced citizen or ignorant editor in Oregon, or prejudiced and unenlightened shipping administration at Washington. What The Oregonian has demanded, and the shipbuilders have a right to expect, and the public will approve, is that the Shipping Board carry out its contracts.

THE WOOD SHIPBUILDERS OF THE Columbia River were making commercial vessels, which were practicable and sensible. They were required, under their contracts, to build vessels which were not practicable and were therefore, not saleable. Because of its own gross blunders, the Emergency Fleet Corporation says the wood ship is a failure. The wood ship is not a failure. The type of wood ship designed by the Government may be a failure.

THIS SALEM PAPER DENOUNCED wood ships as wooden tubs, and talked recklessly and falsely of waste by the contractors, and of the loss of money as subsidy-hunters and grafters, and wanted an end put to the whole business of wood shipbuilding. It is hard to have patience with an attitude so grossly prejudiced, and with expressions so wantonly and wickedly untrue. They do not at all help the great work of building up Oregon.

HERE AND THERE. Although Oregon copied its referendum system largely from Switzerland, it does not seem wholly to have acquired the spirit that pervades the small republic. It is not surprising that the Oregonian, in its editorial, should have rejected a proposal slightly to increase the salaries of the smaller-paid school teachers. The proposal was based on the increased cost of living.

tiful, else the price would not be inordinate, and that every drink consumed from now henceforth brings us that much nearer to the day of actual drought. It is absurd to suppose that any moonshining industry that may spring up will be able to satisfy more than an inconsequential fraction of the old demand. It looks at this writing as if the country would be dry for all but a few of the foothold on the mountains before the terms of world peace are finally fixed by the Paris conference.

RATES STILL GO UPWARD. Two peculiarities of Government operation of railroads are that every revision of rates is upward and that all changes in rates are adverse to the shipper. That is the case with the new rates proposed for forest products from the Pacific Coast to the Middle West and East. Already half the mills in this section are closed because of business has stopped, and peace business has barely begun, yet the Railroad Administration gives the screw another twist.

EVERY TURN OF THE SCREW raises the cost of living on the Pacific Coast and in the Northwest. Take a living. We must pay more for all we eat or wear or use or put into buildings, and must be handicapped by high transportation cost in selling our products in competition with districts which are nearer market. Perhaps the alternately blizzard-swept and sun-scalded East thinks we should be compelled to pay for the privilege of living in "God's country."

ENLISTED FOR THE WAR. Speaking of The Oregonian, we have heard some complaints. It has been said that it is the effect that it filtered too much with the opposition. The reason is now made plain. The Oregonian, according to its own confession in its issue of the 12th, has no independent opinion, but is a mere mouthpiece for the Government. It is a mouthpiece for the Government, and it is a mouthpiece for the Government, and it is a mouthpiece for the Government.

ATHLETICS OVERSEAS. Plans afoot in France for a big series of athletic meets, modeled somewhat after the Olympic games, promise a revival of athletics which will be far more than offset by the loss to competitive sport brought by the war. General Pershing, it is said, has given his approval to the proposed meets. In the Army which, aided by the athletic organizations of the Young Men's Christian Association, Knights of Columbus and other bodies, will combine the accepted athletic events with the more military features, such as target shooting and grenade throwing.

THE 84,284 Jobs secured for soldiers by the Federal Employment Service do not include the jobs that were won by the men when they came back, and the two together will go far toward laying the bugaboo of unemployment. It is not yet demonstrated that there will not be a labor shortage, but the surplus, in the reconstruction times.

THE APPEAL OF MR. BILL STRANDBERG for more nuts for the kids' Christmas should be heeded. If every "nut" in the city were to send a pound he would sleep better this week. That Polish editor who says the Jew is an agitator is a long way off. The Jew has been a persuader and lately became a fighter, but agitator never.

WITH PROBABILITY OF SNOW at the end of the week, the small boy who reads the papers will flounce on a sled in his stocking Christmas morn. That murder from ambush in Baker County was not long by a mystery. Bootleg whiskey will loosen the tongue of the murderer. If a woman could stick a few pinfeathers in a fish and stuff it as she would a turkey, it might be a fine substitute.

YOUR GUEST ON THE \$1.50 slipped to a hotel man never will know who did it, but he will have a great opinion of you. That alleged murderer at Muskegon, Mich., pleaded guilty Saturday night by hanging himself. Oregon is not lagging in the Red Cross. It's her usual gait, with a slam-bang finish.

each did his part to bring honor to his home state. Again, in 1912 at Stockholm, athletes from Oregon showed that the victories of the previous Olympiad were not accidents, but were real products of a great country where great athletes were developed. Martin Hawkins, of Portland, won third prize in the high hurdle events, losing only to Americans, while Sam Bellah, vaulter, and Walter McClure, distance runner, were the victors of the nations and lost only to Americans in his finals.

PORTLAND, therefore, may be pardoned if it looks on the Olympic games with a certain amount of pride, as there it has been made to show to the world just what it can produce. Now, in the reorganization of the games which war will doubtless bring about, Oregon is again ready to vie with the rest of the world. These boys have become as well versed in things military as they formerly were in things athletic. The Olympic games have had, as a prominent feature, centuries ago and again in the modernized games, events based on the sea. It is a relic of a long-forgotten weapon, although history does not make its origin clear, and it is possible the disc may have been used in the past.

THE NEW SHIPPING BOARD headed by Edward N. Hurley has not been too friendly to the wood ship, as its report on the tonnage which it has produced of wood, excluding requisitioned vessels of both wood and steel. While the depleted wood vessels have been going regularly into the water and carrying cargoes across the sea, Hog Island has been devouring millions of dollars, is not yet finished and has completed only one ship. Events are justifying Mr. Denman's opposition to the Goethals policy.

THE OREGONIAN'S EXPERIENCE proves the utter incapacity of the Government to put through a big enterprise economically and quickly. Waste and inefficiency are the inevitable consequences of spending other people's money when there is no independent vision, and the 100,000,000 Americans whose money is going into Hog Island cannot possibly keep a close watch on the job. That experience also indicates that there is a point beyond which an enterprise cannot be carried, and still produce greater economy and good, quick work. The limitations are those of any one man's capacity to keep his eye on everything in his control.

THE AUSTRIANS might have foreseen that they would be defeated when they saw that archdukes were put in command of their armies. Only one Austrian archduke won important battles in the last four years—and he won his victories in Europe while the little corporal was in Egypt. The other archdukes won their victories in the fields of matrimony and diplomacy.

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DISPOSITION OF TROOPS GIVEN Table and Article in Sunday Oregonian Answer Many Inquiries. In the Sunday Oregonian, December 22 (page 21, first section), was published a table showing the assignments to divisions of numerous military and other units. Also there was therein given latest available information as to the status of the various military organizations in France, and these designated for early return were indicated.

PARADOX SEEN IN SHIP-SINKING. Men Who Plan League of Peace Fear to Attempt Minor Adjustment. PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 22.—(To the Editor.)—Can it be possible that the press dispatches are correct in stating that peace commissioners are seriously considering sinking the German fleet for fear that it could not be divided among the allies without causing trouble? It surely seems that there must be some mistake.

OPEN LANDS FOR SOLDIERS. WILLAMETTE, Or., Dec. 21.—(To the Editor.)—I am writing you for information concerning Oregon Government lands that may be filed on by the soldiers that will be home after the war. I am sure that the 15th Ammunition Train, C. A. C., listed to return soon.

LET RED CROSS HAVE WAR FLEET. Writer Would Turn German Ships Over to Society to Be Scraped. PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 22.—(To the Editor.)—Under date December 18 from Paris, appeared an article wherein it was recounted that the American Red Cross would take its stand for the sinking of the German fleet which has been surrendered. If this "peace flier," well and good; but the Red Cross should not be asked to pause before a set of foolhardiness, to say nothing of lasting regret, is committed.

NEGLECT IN CASUALTY REPORTS. Wife of Wounded Soldier Sees Gross Inefficiency Somewhere. PORTLAND, Dec. 22.—(To the Editor.)—I have received the official announcement that my husband "was killed in action" and degree undetermined, about October 8.

WARSHIPS WORTH SALVAGE. GRESHAM, Or., Dec. 21.—(To the Editor.)—Why sink the German warships? Millions of human beings are suffering from the agonizing cries for food, and the kindred organizations are earnestly appealing to the public for funds with which to carry on their mammoth work. Why sink the warships?

POPULATION OF THE WORLD. PORTLAND, Dec. 22.—(To the Editor.)—(1) To settle a dispute with you please give the world's population? (2) Also, what nation has the most people per square mile? CHAS. B. WILSON.

RELIEF FROM NAVAL DUTY. FOREST GROVE, Or., Dec. 21.—(To the Editor.)—I have a brother in France who is a member of the 162d Infantry, and would be in it if it is ordered home. I am a member of the 162d Infantry, and would be in it if it is ordered home. I am a member of the 162d Infantry, and would be in it if it is ordered home.

IN OTHER DAYS. Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian of December 23, 1893. Fernambuco—Startling rumors have reached here that the insurgent fleet at Rio Janeiro after two days of desultory fighting made a determined attack in force and captured the city.

THE FALL TERM OF THE UNIVERSITY of Oregon closed today. Graduates of the class of '94 are the Misses Melissa Hill, The Dalles; Amy Powell, Astoria; Emma Wold, Mary Collier, and Carrie Friendly, Eugene, and I. M. Glenn, Seattle; J. A. Laurin, Anacortes; G. F. Wainwright, Astoria; J. W. Underwood, Clatskanie; E. M. Underwood, McMinnville, and G. W. Jones, Salem.

PROSPECTS FOR A RAY evening at the Washington Guard armory are flattering. Turkeys are considered "out of reach" as good-sized fat turkeys are selling as high as \$1 apiece.

DEATH OF DOUGLAS W. TAYLOR Reminds Classmate of Time's Ironies. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 19.—(To the Editor.)—The death of Douglas W. Taylor, following closely the passing of J. M. (Jim) Blossom, forcibly reminds me that but few of the old Portlanders who have passed away have contributed to the memory of their departed schoolmates.

THE REDEEMED MAN. A vicious savage, rude and selfish he; His wit and strength made him the king of beasts; He was a cunning, where he held his feast; What's in his belly craved or eye could see; And when for his power made him free; To take, he said, "The hills their Mine are the fruits of forest and of field; Aye, all is mine and all was made for me."

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