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PORTLAND, MONDAY, DEC. 30, 1918. TIMES' UP.

The series of articles on the report of the Commission on the Administration of the Oregonian, given only the high lights of that interesting document. The full text of the report is both voluminous and complex.

The commission has clearly gone beyond the ordinary form of a cabinet form of government with the Governor as chief executive and only elective officer. Numerous departments are to be created, headed as to which would be appointed by the Governor...

The later officers, boards and commissions were created in response to a more or less public demand. But as each was called into being there was an attempt to give it the functions which might not be performed by an officer, board or commission already in existence.

But with all its complexity there are some pertinent money-saving suggestions in the report. One is a recommendation that the state should eliminate and that the state provide only certain administrative expenses.

It is not found in the report, but it may be said in this connection that one profit from the reorganization system has been so far overlooked in the state. Numerous circuit courts were created and districts formed when and where the burden of the court business was trial of persons in injury cases.

It is such conspicuous examples of needless expenditure that should gain the attention of the Legislature, if the report is given no further consideration. As heretofore remarked in these columns, the 6 per cent tax limitation was adopted by the people to test the ingenuity of the Legislature in circumventing it.

It is easy to see, for illustration, that ten acres in grain could not be made to pay the most skillful farmer, even if he were to grow crops to grow his horse feed, and that for our meat supplies we need broader acres still.

Acres crop records in some foreign countries give an erroneous impression of the profits of agriculture under average conditions. The department holds that there is a point at which high yield may cease to be desirable because obtained at the expense of profits.

The subject is important at this time because of the movement to divert returned soldiers to the farming districts. There is a quite general impression among city men that the acres highly cultivated will solve the problem. In fact, about the only small thing that a successful business man is willing to contemplate is a return from the land to the city.

It probably would not be difficult to enforce a law providing as a condition of receiving a passport that the traveler should make a declaration of property which he is taking with him, and also that he should show that all

his taxes have been fully paid. Yet there is a question whether it would be much worth while to throw any obstacles in the way of any alien who wants to leave the United States. Those who have absorbed the spirit of Americanism are welcome to remain; others are not wanted, and the taxes we would lose by letting them depart would hardly offset the benefit of their going.

THE PAY OF TEACHERS. The salary problem discussed by the superintendents and principals of Oregon schools at their convention in Portland last week is not a new one, and it is growing in interest because of increasing cost of living and superior claims of other forms of employment.

THE BOLSHEVIKI AND THE SCHOOLS. It is a curious fact that the Bolsheviki in their attitude toward the schools are copying precisely the policy which was employed by the Russian autocrats to keep their people in subjection. Education finds no encouragement among people whose present sorrow is due to lack of that very thing which education is supposed to demand.

Now Bolshevism, even when transplanted to the soil of Germany, runs true to type. The president of Brunswick, formerly a tailor, has appointed his washerwoman to be Minister of Education, and she in turn has placed a relative at the head of the Brunswick Academy for Girls.

SMALL FARMS. A recent survey by the Department of Agriculture of 342 farms in the best farming region of Kentucky with a view to determining the relationship of profits to number of acres owned is interesting because it confirms the growing belief that there is a point of size below which the farm is not a profitable venture.

BEST FOR BOTH WOOD AND STEEL SHIPS. After the United States Shipping Board has been induced by the political influence of Eastern Senators and shipbuilders to strike a vicious blow at the wood ship industry of the Pacific Coast by cancelling many contracts...

There is a movement on foot to initiate a Congressional investigation, but the House is not likely to do anything, and they are tedious affairs at best. The thing that is wanted is reform in the whole pay system of the United States.

The regulations governing soft-drink places are almost as stringent as those of the sale of alcoholic liquors. They may be needed, probably are; but a man will be dead before he becomes intoxicated on the stuff he drinks in most of these places.

The vote is in and Lloyd George is returned to Parliament, which puts him at the peace table. There he will say less and do more than most of them.

The Third was the first American Division to jump into the fight at Chateau-Thierry—the division that held the line when the German offensive began, and the one longest in the line during the Argonne campaign.

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It proposes to build all the French ships on the Pacific. Thus the impartial judgment of the able, successful business men at the head of the company is in favor of the Pacific Coast. The French government has no cause for particularity as between the two coasts; it desires to have the ships built where they can be built best, quickest and cheapest.

DELY IN PAYING SOLDIERS. The justice, no less than the expediency, of granting additional pay to the discharged soldier being taken for granted, there remains another act of justice for the Government to perform.

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Your Boy in France. What He is Doing and Thinking About as a Gleaner From the Stars and Stripes, Official Newspaper of the A. E. F.

Your boy in France, if this is his first Winter there, will know none of the hardships of those there a year ago. The triumphal occupation of German territory is accomplished, and while military discipline still prevails in its fullest extent, there are no more trenches, no more dugouts, no more tanks to be manned, no poison gas to be avoided, no more of the horrors inefaceably connected with the great struggle against the most devilish and murderous warfare the world has ever known.

If you haven't received your Christmas card from the boy "over there" you will get it very soon. There was a scarcity of letter paper when the armistice was first signed, but that was quickly remedied. The Y. M. C. A., the K. of C. and the Red Cross have plenty of stationery.

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LIFE BETTER WITHOUT TOBACCO. Five Sons Cleaner Mentally and Physically for Not Using It, Says Father.

MONROE, Or., Dec. 27.—(To the Editor.)—Ex-President Roosevelt has given us a vivid picture of a worthy life in "The Great Adventure." He did not go into details as to habits, either good or bad. Neither did our Lord say anything of the many habits that man has accumulated along the way, and we are very interested in one course in life quite accurately from his statements.

God gave to the Israelites rules to be observed, such as the Ten Commandments and many others, and the reason given was that they might live long upon the earth; that it might be the most out of life. A long, happy life is what the normal man or woman desires. Every true parent is very much concerned about the health of his boys and girls. He desires that they shall grow up to manhood and womanhood strong of body, keen in intellect, and clear at heart.

W. C. BELKNAP. "Let everything be done decently and in order," is a good proverb.

CAUSE OF RAILWAY PAY VARIANCE. Car Repairers Given Large Increase Because of Shipyard Demand.

EUENGE, Or., Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—The Editor of the Oregonian has a very interesting article by Edward Hungerford relative to Governmental railway inefficiency. He makes a very good case, but in one instance that he speaks of he has his wires badly crossed. He either lacked the hold the car repairers are paid to the wages of the car repairers and the terminal agents. The car man gets paid \$25 a month and the terminal agent only \$15 a month.

NEW INCOME TAX LAW. PORTLAND, Dec. 27.—(To the Editor.)—The Editor will find the income tax payable? Does a person pay on the first thousand or everything above it? (2) How much in the way of tax to keep in touch with their local boards after the U. S. Government ceases drafting and the records are closed up.

MARINES IN SIBERIA. CORVALLIS, Or., Dec. 28.—(To the Editor.)—I have a brother who is a Marine and is being sent to Siberia. He wrote October 18 that he "was 2000 miles from where he had been," but as letters were still censored he did not say where he was. We can hear nothing more from him and think he may be at Archangel, although the Department says he is in Siberia. If so can mail be sent to and received from there during the Winter? How can I learn where he is?

NO SETTLED RESIDENCE. ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT. "Where are you going to lecture tonight, my dear Mr. Wise?" "Oh, it is my wife, a prominent equal-suffrage lecturer."

12th Aero Squadron. HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 27.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me in what division the 12th Aero Squadron is, and if they will be returned soon? Where located at time of signing of armistice? Also location at present time.

RETURN OF 306th INFANTRY. HUBBARD, Or., Dec. 27.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Please tell me what division Supply Company, 306th Infantry, is in. (2) Are they booked to return home soon? A SISTER.

IS ARMY OF OCCUPATION. The military organizations inquired about by the following correspondents are listed in the following position: Sister, Ruth, Or., 18th Field Artillery Company, Battery B. Reader, Laurel, Or., Company K, 11th Infantry.

IN OTHER DAYS. Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian, December 30, 1893. Chicago—Frederick, the murderer of Carter H. Harrison, will be hanged for his crime. The verdict of the jury said it and the people of Chicago approved it.

Work on the telegraph lines between The Dalles and Umatilla is to be completed by the end of the month. The section between the two points named was a part of the line between Portland and Boise City.

Vienna—The Grecians are fleeing from Turkey. A great number of threatened war. Several families of fortune have been received by the people of Roumania.

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Chicago—Calls have been issued for a National convention of women's rights and colored men to meet in Washington about the middle of January.

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