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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 1919.

GRAVE PROBLEMS.

The Oregon Legislature which meets today has in one respect obligations that have rarely if ever confronted a similar body in Oregon. In the past issues have usually been of long standing or have been propagandized by political parties or individual politicians. The members have had the benefit of long consideration and much discussion. But in the present, matters of large consequence confront them and there is little in record or history for their guidance.

A great war, in which the resources of the state were suddenly called upon in greater proportion than for any other purpose ever before, has as suddenly closed. Oregon contributed something like 30,000 men to the armies of the Nation. They came from the offices, the farms, the factories, the colleges. There was thereupon a labor adjustment in which men and women from other states were factors, and the Oregon women entered more largely than ever before into the industrial and professional life of the community.

There must now be a readjustment. The young men who sacrificed positions, careers or study, must be given the consideration by the state that every debtor owes his creditors. The state is indeed indebted to these young men. It cannot rightfully receive them with a mere pat on the back. The demand is not for charity, bounty or award, but for practical legislation that will enable them once more to resume as congenial, as remunerative, and as promising positions in civil life as they held before.

Clearly the Government has a larger duty in the situation than the state. But if the Federal Government shall be wholly or partly remiss, the state is not thereby relieved of its obligation. Rather, its duty is enhanced. As an expression of universal sentiment in Oregon an earnest memorial to Congress for speedier consideration of the returned soldier's rights and proper expectations would be appropriate. The locally practical legislation requires its most earnest, thoughtful and extended consideration.

Similar in the respect that the issue has been suddenly thrust upon us without rule or guidance for legislative action, is that raised by the influenza epidemic. There is nothing so important as the public health. The epidemic has revealed a weak spot in the laws for preservation of the public's physical wellbeing. Oregon has its State Board of Health, the counties have county health officers, and the larger cities have municipal health officers. But there is no coordination. Each goes its own way, following its own methods, except wherein voluntary co-operation may be had. The organization in Portland now combatting the influenza is by agreement and its work is promising. But there are other communities in which various health agencies either are in disagreement among themselves or are engaged in heated controversies with business elements.

However successful Portland's united campaign may be in minimizing the epidemic in this city the desirable end has not been reached if, through lack of co-operation, influenza flourishes elsewhere in the state. It will be but a matter of time until it is brought to Portland once more. Likewise every other community that succeeds within itself is menaced by each community that does not. The interest of one community is thus the interest of all. It is a problem so serious that in itself it calls upon the Legislature to face the danger of congregating in an infested city without thought of adjournment until measures of relief have been devised.

In considering both the problems discussed herein the Legislature will be confronted by requests for appropriations, and these appropriations, if granted, must be in addition to the ordinary expenditures of the state. But expenditures of the state raised by general taxation are limited by constitutional provision. The question therefore arises as to whether the state to meet these possible needs and the enlarged demands upon the state treasury induced by the higher cost of food and supplies, shall seek new sources of revenue outside of general taxation or make reductions in what have been the ordinary expenses of state government. We think that the answer is plain. So far as it may be possible, without doing injury to the welfare of the state, the cost of government should be reduced by eliminating duplicate work, by consolidating departments, and by cutting out frills and fancies. Luxuries and costly experiments should not be permitted to harrass the members. Even such additions to state service that would be attractive in other times, yet are not the height of necessity, should be put aside for consideration of the really vital matters that call for appropriations.

That which has herein been said concerning new sources of revenue is meant to apply only to revenues that would be made continuous in order to sustain a permanently established policy or to maintain duplications or unnecessary departments. Wherein genuine emergencies are discerned that cannot be cared for in any other way it is not to be believed that the people will resent adoption of some new revenue-producing method. The thing desired is a cutting to the bone of nonessentials, that there may be sufficient means to promote education, road-building, public health, industrial and business readjustment, proper care of the state's wards, and other activities that every self-respecting state should perform.

The Oregonian is not one that lacks confidence in the good intent and high citizenship of the Legislature. It believes that the members, almost without exception, strive to ascertain the true course of public opinion and to give the public that which it desires. It voices herein only that which it deems to be public opinion and it emphasizes again that it believes that the public desires, above all things, a serious effort to economize, that the people may have without undue financial burden an improved commercial and industrial life, better health, a comprehensive highway system, adequate, not topheavy, educational facilities, and proper institutions for those whose care has been forced upon them.

THE ANTI-INFLUENZA CAMPAIGN.

The need of the time is a well-organized campaign against the influenza, and the directing force of such a campaign should be a competent and forceful physician. So The Oregonian said the other day. Now the city, the county and the school district have united their forces to fight the epidemic, and they have chosen Dr. E. A. Sommer as their director-general. It is an ideal choice. He knows what to do, if any one knows, and he has the courage to see that it is done.

The measures already set under way commend themselves to the public as both wise and necessary. Dances are to be prohibited, certain restrictions are imposed on the theaters, hospital facilities are provided, inoculation is recommended, and special emphasis is laid on the quarantine. Certainly, the patient and not the public should be isolated.

In spite of warnings and enforced precautions the public in the past has been careless about the dangers of influenza. This carelessness has extended to persons convalescing from the disease and to those who were well for the time being. Stricken employes have been anxious to get back to work. Employers have been unduly anxious for their return. In such cases employers have an absurd absence of forethought. The return of one employe not yet free from influenza germs almost invariably means the absence, within forty-eight hours, of several other employes because of illness. The public itself has at every inviting opportunity congregated without apparent thought of the consequences.

A quarantine, one in which not only the authorities do their duty, but physicians are prompt and honest in reporting cases, is the only promising method at present of forestalling the menace of negligence and indifference of patients. The restrictions on crowding of streetcars, stores and theaters are a precaution against public negligence, but these only reduce the danger if germ carriers are at large.

LET THE NEW CONGRESS DECIDE.

Director-General McAdoo shows undue anxiety for action on his proposal that Government operation of railroads be extended to five years after peace is concluded. The subject is too controversial to permit of adequate consideration by the present Congress, for the life of that body will end in two months. Nor should a majority party which has been discredited by defeat legislate on so important a matter.

The matter is one for the new Congress to consider. The 66th Congress is fresh from the people and expresses the latest phase of public opinion. It could decide promptly on the future of the railroads if an extra session were called in the Spring, and it would have ample time for that and other legislation incidental to readjustment, for it would have no regular appropriation bills to pass. It could provide for the return of the railroads to their owners or for the perpetuation of Government operation well within the limit of 21 months after peace which has been set by the present law. The harm resulting from continuation of present conditions for a few months would be far less than that arising from a hasty decision by a moribund Congress. The process of scrambling the roads which Mr. McAdoo has begun could not be carried much farther during that period, but it might be carried so far in five years that unscrambling would be most complex, if not impossible.

Mr. McAdoo's declaration that he is opposed to Government ownership does not square with his urgent appeal that Government operation continue for five years, nor with his opinion that adoption of his policy would keep politics out of railroad affairs during that period. All that was said and done with regard to the railroads, by their operators, owners, shippers and the public in general would have in view its effect on what should be done at the end of that time. We should be doomed to five years of debate on railroads, compared with which an old-fashioned tariff controversy would, for fury, resemble an old ladies' tea party. Already some of Mr. McAdoo's chief subordinates have used the results of Government operation as an argument for Government ownership and have done much to align the employes in favor of that policy. That campaign would be continued throughout the five years, appointments and employment would be governed by the question whether the man seeking a job was for or against Government ownership, and every official act would be colored with a like motive. At the end of the five years skilled political manipulators might have organized the vast railroad army into a compact machine for the purpose of swinging the election of 1924.

The way to get the railroads out of politics and to get politics out of the railroads—they are already in—is to thresh the matter out and decide it next Summer at a session to be devoted to readjustment for peace, as that of 1917 was devoted to legislation for war.

INCREASING CONSUMPTION OF FISH.

From the mass of statistics presented in the annual report of the United States Bureau of Fisheries we gather the significant fact that consumption of fish was increased as a result of the war to an extent which is likely to be helpful in the days of peace. The report should be read in connection with the conclusions of the agricultural commission which recently visited Europe and which found that for several years to come Great Britain, France, Italy and probably other countries will need to import large supplies of meat. This does not indicate early return of cheap meat in America. It is desirable, therefore, that the meat ration shall be supplemented so far as practicable with fish.

The part which prejudice played in restricting our use of certain fishes is well illustrated by the results of the campaign of education conducted by the fisheries staff. No fewer than twenty-four varieties of fish and three varieties of sea mammals were sold in considerable quantities which formerly had been ignored or neglected. The expedient of changing the names of certain varieties, such as those now known as grayfish and tilefish, was justified by results. But wider use of the carp, which had been discredited by incompetent cooks, and of Alaska herring, red fish, sea robins, certain kinds of sharks and numerous other fishes which had rested under a ban, was also promoted to an extent that gives encouragement for the future.

It is significant that on the Pacific Coast alone some 32,500,000 pounds of burbot, grayfish, sablefish and whiting were marketed largely as the result of educational campaigns. These represented a clear gain to the food supply, in addition to some 600 tons of whale meat. It will be remembered that the whale was unfamiliar to Americans as a source of meat as recently as two years ago.

Important progress made in the utilization of fish waste and in development of aquatic sources of leather is interesting, but not so significant as increasing use of fish directly as human food. Interdependence of sea and land industries, however, is illustrated by the estimate that the nitrogenous product known as fish meal, made from inedible fishes, can be utilized by farmers as part of the ration in feeding hogs, to the extent of 3,000,000,000 pounds a year, thus becoming an important factor in production of pork and releasing important grains for human consumption. Lower prices of pork may thus be influenced by the products of the sea.

The prime economic advantage of fish consumption is that it makes no inroads upon the soil. The feeding resources of the sea are practically illimitable. The Government has done well to foster demand for fish, and its educational propaganda has been distinctly valuable. The future of the industry will depend upon the thoroughness with which the lesson has been learned.

THE WOUNDED SOLDIER'S RETURN

The War Department has failed as completely in providing for the wounded soldiers on their return from the battlefront as it did in providing guns, aircraft and tanks a year ago. Their victories were won with French artillery and tanks and mainly with French aircraft, because the War Department was slow and blundered in applying our vast industrial capacity, which was expected to be our principal means of victory. It has failed as utterly in providing for demobilization, and maimed and wounded soldiers are coming home by the thousand with no hospitals ready to receive them and without money, their pay months in arrears. Nor has any provision been made to release men in the order in which they are needed or can find work in civil employment, or in which they are needed to support their families.

It has again fallen to Senator Chamberlain, at the risk of drawing upon himself the wrath of the administration, to call attention to the degree to which the War Department has fallen down. It is a story of shameful incompetence and neglect which he told, and it is plain that martinets and bureaucrats are efficient only in promptly punishing those who complain of their failures.

A result of the failure to produce aircraft was that several thousand young men spent months in France waiting for training which they could not get because there were no planes available. The Senator told of two young officers who got tired of this sort of thing and "asked to be transferred to the artillery or to the infantry, or to any place where, as red-blooded, splendid, well-educated Americans, they could do their bit for their country." The answer was that "they were sent to one of the points of debarkation in France, and in a few days ordered back to America with their commissions revoked, and they were relegated to private life" by their personnel officer. Fortunately, the Senator had an opportunity to bring their case before General March, the chief of staff, who secured the restoration of their commissions and their transfer to the tank corps. They had not been paid, either, and were "down to bedrock" in funds. They were punished for being impatient to fight. No plan has been provided by which soldiers can obtain redress for such wrongs, and these young men obained it only by good luck.

But the wrong which requires immediate redress has been and is being done to thousands among the 179,000 sick and wounded who are returning from France. Representative Royal C. Johnson, of South Dakota, who served in the Army as a private and was commissioned as First Lieutenant on his return from France, says that twenty or more officers and men returned with him who had not fully recovered from their wounds. Though the captain of the ship sent word by wireless to the hospital authorities at Camp Merritt that they were coming, Mr. Johnson wrote:

> They were put on a train at Jersey City on the day of our arrival and were given no nourishment until 10 p. m., although they reached Camp Merritt in a few hours. At Camp Merritt the sick men were placed in ordinary barracks. Those who were able to get about skirmished around for blankets and other bed clothing for themselves and the others.
>
> These men were kept in barracks for two days before they were removed to the camp hospital.

The Senator read from the New York Times a statement that in the week ending December 20, 7000 sick or wounded soldiers landed at New York and that "from a large number of them are coming complaints, often bitter, that their pay is far in arrears." Some have been unpaid for "as long as ten months, and a delay of four months is almost the common rule." Mr. Chamberlain also read a letter from Mrs. C. P. Farrell, of New York, in which she said:

> My niece, Mrs. Walton Brown, and I are in daily touch with our returning soldiers and we have yet to see one who has received any pay for months—beginning as far back as February and the majority in April. They come to us and to Pershing House, next door, in large numbers every day from the Greenhut Hospital and from Ellis Island. Their spirit is wonderful—no complaints of any description—but their position is a very difficult one. The majority were severely wounded, having lost legs, arms, and eyes.

Attention of Brigadier-General H. M. Lord was called to public criticism on this subject and he explained the delay in pay by saying that:

> The resultant condition is a necessary outcome of actual conflict, where troops are fighting and advancing day and night and are necessarily separated from their records, and when wounded separated entirely from their commands, never again to get in touch with them.

He tells of "revolutionary procedures" by which "these casuals on their arrival in this country are given something on account." He says that last June "a paycard was instituted which would serve, when a soldier was separated from his command, as an identification card and would contain enough of his military history to provide for his payment." The officials in France thought "a more durable document would be necessary, and a pay book which the soldier should carry with him was prepared, but this was not put into effect until November."

These explanations instantly suggest the thought that the administration was getting in good shape to fight the war when it ended. Any person with any more foresight than a bat should have known on April 6, 1917, that men would come home sick and wounded, and would need hospitals, and he would have provided them beforehand. Such a person would have foreseen that men would get separated from their units in battle and would need their pay, and he would have provided against that contingency. He would have known that some sick and wounded Americans would be scattered among British and French hospitals, and would have provided for their being paid and sent home. But the War Department did not arrange such a system till the armistice had been signed and the fighting stopped. It could hardly have been more deliberate if it had been arranging for a war to be fought in the 21st century.

Equally heartless and branded with bureaucratic tyranny not far inferior to that of Prussia have been the court-martial sentences. The Senator told of one man who had been sent to Fort Bayard, N. M., suffering from tuberculosis. He did not believe he could get well there, so asked for discharge. His application was turned down, so he wrote to Senator Chamberlain for aid, saying:

> There is an outstanding order against a soldier asking outside aid for a discharge and a letter being written.

By some slip that letter got to the War Department, and the soldier was called before a board of inquiry and his pay for fifteen days was forfeited as punishment for "having had the temerity to write to his Senator." The Senator took the case up with Secretary Baker himself and was informed that the man could not be relieved of the penalty, but that he had ordered the obnoxious rule revoked.

Other cases of court-martial were cited which go to show that excessive sentences are imposed at the dictation of commanding officers. In one case a commanding officer demanded a sentence of six months in the guard house and, because the sentence given was only five days, a young officer was removed from detail to the court-martial. For going home to see his mother, who was ill in hospital, just before going overseas, a private was sentenced to dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay, and 25 years' imprisonment, while for a like offense another was given only 15 years, though both returned voluntarily. Both sentences were excessive, but why the difference? Because the commanding officer practically dictates to the court-martial, and his opinion of the sentence merited is decisive. In these respects, American military law is more autocratic than that of either France or Britain, and it needs radical amendment.

The Government has been guilty of culpable incompetence, neglect and petty tyranny in caring for the American soldiers, in supplying his needs and in securing his rights to prompt payment and just treatment. It has failed of its duty in this respect as it failed in providing the instruments of victory. The President and his lieutenants talk much of justice and humanity for the whole world, but they have not practiced those virtues in their treatment of the American soldiers. Justice and humanity, like charity, begin at home. We need more of them in the American Army.

What is there about a wrist watch that makes it unbecoming for a lawyer, or about a lawyer that he is unworthy to wear one? Judge Landis should have explained farther. A soldier needs it because his hands are always full and he needs to know when to go over the top. The principal use a lawyer has for a wrist watch is to see how long he has talked without stopping gesticulation with both hands, though this is hardly necessary, for every courtroom has a clock. Still, it is an obvious convenience for any person, soldier or not, to learn the time at a glance without putting his hand in his pocket. The judge seems to be over-fanciful.

Why could not the New York water transport men's strike have been arbitrated before it began? That question arises after almost every strike which ends in an arbitration agreement. The explanation seems to be that somebody is stupid or obstinate or thinks he can win something by a strike which he could not win by arbitration. The belief that might is right did not die when Germany surrendered.

Portland has plenty of parks, at more or less distance, but few handy for leisure moments. Whether it be wise to vacate the little breathing spots is debatable.

The inter-allied conference sets superstition at defiance by holding its first meeting on January 13. Perhaps the allies think the hoodoo will attach to Germany.

Millfeed suffers another advance today and it's a long time to new grass. Alas, the poor cow, and alack, the worse dairyman—not to mention the consumer!

Though he left an estate of half a million, Roosevelt carried heavy life insurance. Like other men of affairs, he realized the value of cash in emergency.

The 36-inch gamecock at the Chicago show is a grand bird to exhibit, but unpractical in the yard for his immensity.

It is easy for the soldier with little money and no prospect of work to drift into the welcome of the Bolsheviki.

More deadly germs than of influenza threaten the session that begins today. Freak laws are the worst.

When the Grant Highway is open from Portland to Boston, the webfoot flivver will become famous.

Machine guns have the casting vote against Bolshevism in both Berlin and Buenos Aires.

Under "flu" conditions, a legislative job may not be the easy picking as of yore.

Brisk, not moderate, southerly winds are needed to revise "flu" to "flee."

Masks would hinder the kissing bug, but, happily, two are not a crowd!

Your Boy in France.

What He Is Doing and Thinking About, as Gleaned From The Stars and Stripes, Official Newspaper of the A. E. F.

Coblenz, the principal town on the left bank of the Rhine, occupied by the American Third Army, lies at the junction of the Rhine and the Moselle, the latter being by now almost as familiar to the Yanks as the Mississippi or the Missouri. In peace times Coblenz had a population of about 50,000, and the fortress of Ehrenbreitenstein, which lies just across the river, is capable of housing a garrison of 100,000 men.

The city is situated on a sort of triangular peninsula, formed by the junction of the two streams. In the early days of the Roman army of occupation, not much store was set by the site, and instead of being elevated to the dignity of a "castrum," "camp" or "oppidum," Coblenz was merely a posting station on the Rhine road.

"Ad Confluentes," Caesar called it—"at the confluence"—which the later Germanic tribes shortened and roughened, as is the way with things Germanized, into Koblentz.

Coblenz, during the Thirty Years' War, was alternately besieged and garrisoned by Swedish, French and Prussian troops. In 1688 the town was nearly destroyed by French cannonading, but successfully resisted the siege. After the rise of the French republic and the defeat of the Prussian army at Valmy, the city passed into the hands of the French, but with the downfall of Napoleon it became Prussian again, remaining so until occupied by the Americans.

It was the birthplace of Metternich, that famous statesman, who declared that Italy was "only a geographical expression."

* * *

Old John Alcoholism, gasping his last in the States, after a body blow calculated to put him down and out, is also on the mat in France. The French Minister of War recently issued a circular declaring "the consumption of alcoholic drinks has now become a menace to the country," and the American G. H. Q. also takes a few punches at him in G. O. 213, which calls upon C. O.s to aid in the enforcement of French laws as well as rigidly to enforce the instructions of the American commander.

All alcoholic liquors are prohibited to soldiers under French law. The sale is permitted only of wine, beer, cider, pear cider and hydromel. American officers are instructed to consult local French authorities as to the best means of co-operating in the suppression of the drink habit.

* * *

A published letter is typical of the thoughts of 2,000,000 other American mothers who offered their greatest treasures to the righteous cause. It was written in America, November 11:

> My very dear boy: The days we have longed for and prayed for are here—the days of peace—and I for one do not realize it. There must be millions of us who wake with the old horror still heavy on our hearts, and will for many days to come. . . .
>
> When we think of what the young, untried, boyish, buoyant Army of ours has done, our heads go up with a toss, I assure you. How we long to show every man of you the tender pride our country holds for our boys. . . .
>
> You speak of the anniversary of the day you left and went out where our arms could no longer enfold you, and when we suffered not only all the perils and dangers you met, but all that had ever been told or written. But—peace has come! What a birthday this has been for me! What a Christmas this will be for everybody! . . .
>
> We will all have some dinner parties some day, and you shall all sing of the arms and the men at my fireside. . . . I shall forget—no, never forget—but cover up all this last year's agony and hear young, happy, exultant voices and laughter, and know that youth has come into his kingdom again.
>
> God bless my son, above them all, for all his brave, steadfast confidence that this day would come, as it has come.

* * *

"Belgium's Destroyed Art" is the title of a sonnet modestly signed "H. T.":

> Here lieth Beauty in the Belgian gate,
> Done to her death by yon distempered host;
> Here in the dust of slaughter have men lost
> A loved form, child of the pregnant weight
> Of centuries, born of no sudden fate,
> But like a babe with travail and great cost
> Brought in the world, nourished amid the frost
> And flame of time and reared to ripe estate.
>
> And shall the Butcher pay? Aye, even now
> The bloody cleaver from his hands we wrench;
> Gold shall he give and the labor of his days;
> E'en though he sorrow in his time, and bow
> In penitence, still shall he bear the stench
> Of his own murder while he fully pays!

* * *

This brief editorial, which bears the caption, "For France's Critics," may not be altogether new, but nevertheless is quite as timely as when first written:

> Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.
>
> And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thy own eye?
>
> Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, "Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye"; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?
>
> Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

* * *

French-speaking officers of units ordered back to the United States are to have a chance to remain in France a few months if they desire. Upon application, if qualified, they will be assigned to the renting, requisition and claims service to assist in disposing of claims from French inhabitants.

* * *

Each soldier will be allowed to keep and take back to the States with him his old tin derby (Yank for steel helmet) and gas mask to prove that he really has been a soldier. A recommendation that he be allowed to keep these two pieces of haberdashery after demobilization has been forwarded to the United States War Department.

* * *

Most of the Army in France sees most of the country, or at least much of it. But in the base ports you will find men who got off the boat there, have been on duty there up to 17 months ever since, and who are now looking forward to the day when they will set sail from there for home. Some of them have not even been outside the city limits of the port they were set down in. The war has been no tourist jaunt for them.

* * *

The A. E. F. has not been small town stuff for a long while. Also, France is as big as Texas. Yet there are people who forget the boys were 2,000,000 strong. A woman who had just arrived in a base port as a member of an auxiliary organization inquired of an M. P.:

"Have you seen Private Brown, of the Umpth Division?"

"Don't know him, ma'am," said the M. P.

"That's funny," said the woman. "His division landed here three weeks ago."

* * *

Some A. E. F. "brigs" are notoriously comfortable and the prisoners are messed accordingly. Officials in one port woke up to this fact when a man attached to a neighboring hospital where the living conditions were not to his liking, got himself arrested six times.

He rather gave things away the last time by calling up the M. P. office from the hospital.

"I'm going AWOL (absent without leave) again," he said. "Send up a couple of guards."

CITY SCHOOL COSTS COMPARED.

Portland Next to Lowest of Sixteen Western Cities.

PORTLAND, Jan. 12.—(To the Editor.)—In these days when budgets, taxpayers' meetings, and expenses are in the air, it is interesting to note these facts published in 1916 by Dr. Cubberly of Stanford University, and his associates in a survey of the Salt Lake City schools. In the tables showing relative expenditures for school purposes, Portland is compared in each case with other western cities.

Cost per capita for schools, based on the total population:

San Francisco, Cal.	$ 4.27
Portland, Or.	4.73
Tacoma, Wash.	4.95
Seattle, Wash.	5.06
Spokane, Wash.	5.43
Butte, Mont.	5.71
Denver, Colo.	5.72
Sacramento, Cal.	5.72
Oakland, Cal.	5.74
San Diego, Cal.	6.01
San Jose, Cal.	6.26
Salt Lake City, Utah	6.71
Berkeley, Cal.	7.60
Colorado Springs, Colo.	7.64
Los Angeles, Cal.	8.66
Pasadena, Cal.	10.11

Rates of tax on each $100 of actual wealth necessary to produce estimated per capita support for schools:

San Francisco, Cal.	$ .20
San Diego, Cal.	.292
Portland, Or.	.269
Sacramento, Cal.	.289
Los Angeles, Cal.	.289
Pasadena, Cal.	.320
Seattle, Wash.	.335
Spokane, Wash.	.370
Oakland, Cal.	.41
Berkeley, Cal.	.461
Salt Lake City, Utah	.473
Tacoma, Wash.	.527
San Jose, Cal.	.546
Colorado Springs, Colo.	.572
Denver, Colo.	.58
Butte, Mont.	.614

Since there has recently been a great increase in our school population and but few additional teachers employed, the comparative cost of schools in Portland at present, is, in all probability, even lower than these tables indicate.

A TAXPAYER.

BIG WOOD DOCK IS NOT NEEDED.

Mr. Supple Advocates Concrete Dock of Half the Capacity.

PORTLAND, Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—I notice that the Dock Commission has decided to build another wooden drydock, capacity 12,000 tons, to cost over a million dollars. The cost figure is no doubt the estimated cost of the dock alone. Adding the necessary equipment to carry on the work at such a dock would raise the cost to not less than a million and a half before ever a ship was docked, and this, too, for a wooden dock.

As I see it, this dock is not now necessary. What we need is a dock with a capacity of 6000 to 7000 tons and built of concrete, at a cost not to exceed $200,000. Such a dock would take care of 95 per cent of the requirements of all the ships that come into this harbor and the old dock at St. Johns would easily handle the balance.

If the Dock Commission wishes to relieve the congested condition of the lumber market I would suggest that some means be found to use that money to build lumber carrying vessels. This would use considerable lumber in hull construction, would provide means to carry lumber to markets where it is badly needed, would give work to many returning soldier boys, and would give us a start toward a Portland-owned merchant marine.

The only way we can be assured of steady business for our dry docks is to own some ships to carry our produce to market and not wait for some tramp vessel to enter our harbor in distress and then possibly take a load to market—after she is repaired.

JOSEPH SUPPLE.

About Colonel House and Others.

PORTLAND, Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—(1) What position was held by General Eagan during the Spanish-American War? What charges were preferred against him and what sentence did he receive?

(2) Who is the President pro tem. of the U. S. Senate? Does he receive a higher salary than other Senators?

(3) In Charles E. Hughes' report 31,500 were declared to be guilty of profiteering or grafting. What action was taken against them, if any? Is any effort being made to bring them to trial?

(4) Has Colonel E. M. House any record as a statesman? Did he ever receive any military training? How did he get the title of Colonel?

A CONSTANT READER.

(1) General Eagan was Brigadier-General and Commissary-General. In 1899 he was tried by court-martial for using violent and abusive language before the war investigation committee regarding General Miles and was sentenced to six years' suspension from military duty and honors.

(2) Saulsbury of Delaware is President pro tem. He receives no additional salary.

(3) The Hughes aircraft report charged only waste and incompetence, and held that, except as to four Army officers, technically guilty, no acts had been committed in violation of law or military regulations.

(4) Colonel House has never held public office, if that is what you mean. He has had no military training and his title is said to have no other basis than Southern courtesy.

More Guides for Jay Walkers.

PORTLAND, Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—I have thought of something new to educate the jay walker. While the city is chalking the streets why not chalk arrows as well? The arrows will show that pedestrians must keep to the right.

This method will be no additional expense to the city and will cause the outside world to talk about the Rose City.

Let us be original.

JAMES HENRY NIXON.

Co. C, 144th Machine Gun Battalion.

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Jan. 12.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me the whereabouts of Company C, 144th Machine Gun Battalion, of Washington. Were in France November 1.

AN ANXIOUS MOTHER.

The 144th Field Artillery has been returned, and there is reason for expecting that the machine gun battalion will follow, though it had not been listed up until January 10. What remains of the 40th Division, embracing the unit, was last reported at Revigny, France.

Battery D, 58th Artillery.

REDMOND, Or., Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me the whereabouts of the 58th Artillery, Battery D. Is it still in France? My mother is very worried, as she has not heard from my brother for a long time.

ANXIOUS SISTER.

The 58th Coast Artillery, if that is what you mean, has not yet been assigned for return from France. The Field Artillery of this same number has obviously not been in France.

Purchasing Agents in France.

OREGON CITY, Or., Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—My son's address is "general purchasing agent, care Adm. 116, A. P. O. 717, France." Can you tell me where he is and whether he will start home soon or not? W. H. C.

Army Postoffice 717 is at Tours, France. We have no information as to when purchasing agents may end their work and be returned.

In Other Days.

Fifty Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of Jan. 13, 1869.

Washington, D. C.—A bill to regulate the price of cotton and so encourage its growth was introduced in the Senate today.

Paris.—Aetna continues to emit fire.

Paris.—It is rumored that an insurrection has broken out in Milan. Madrid dispatches report that much agitation has broken out in all Spain.

Many of the pupils in the Salem schools are being kept at home for fear of smallpox. The Roseburg paper says no more smallpox cases have broken out in Canyonville.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of Jan. 13, 1894.

Chicago.—The French exhibition at the World's Fair now place losses at Monday night's fire at $80,000.

Washington, D. C.—The executive committee of the Republican National Committee today did what it considered a fine stroke of policy by adopting resolutions, first, for the admission of Utah to the Union; second, for the admission of all territories into the Union as states.

An eight-foot vein of steam coal, separate from a six-foot vein of thin slate, which latter vein has been worked 500 feet, has been discovered in the Blue Canyon mine in Whatcom County, Washington.

The market was overstocked with eggs and poultry yesterday, and prices weakened very much.

Expenditures From Highway Fund.

McMINNVILLE, Jan. 10.—(To the Editor.)—(1) How many miles of hard surface road has been completed, up to this time, from the funds of the $6,000,000 bond issue?

(2) How many out of the Bean-Barrett bill?

(3) How much money has been spent by the State Highway Commission?

A SUBSCRIBER.

(1) Four and eight-tenth miles, concrete; 45.2 miles, bituminous; 79.8 miles, macadam; 32.2 miles, gravel roads constructed; also grading in Hood River, Clatsop, Jackson and Columbia Counties as provided for in $6,000,000 bond issue bill.

(2) Only $28,539 so far expended under Bean-Barrett bill, and that for grading work only.

(3) $2,288,257.

62d Engineers.

HOSKINS, Or., Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—(1) Why did our Government buy the Danish West Indies, and what is the actual value of them?

(2) Did England ever get a tariff from other countries for running on the high seas, if so how long ago?

(3) Are the 62d Engineers slated for early return, and are they attached to some division? M. A. KOPPLIEN.

(1) Because they were for sale and this Government deemed it wise that they should not fall into the hands of another nation. Their actual value to us is probably the amount paid for them—$25,000,000.

(2) No.

(3) It is not part of a division, nor has it been listed for return.

110th Regiment, 28th Division.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Jan. 10.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly tell me if the 110th, 28th Reg. is scheduled to come home or has already arrived in some Eastern port. AN ANXIOUS MOTHER.

PORTLAND, Jan. 10.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me if Company K, 110th Infantry, is listed for early return or are on their way now.

MISS GRAFF.

"Anxious Mother" undoubtedly refers to the 110th Regiment of the 28th Division. The unit and division is a part of the army of occupation and not billed to come home. Headquarters three weeks ago was Heudicourt, France.

Battery D, Fourth Trench Mortar.

POWELL BUTTE, Or., Jan. 9.—(To the Editor.)—Tell me, please, if Battery D, Fourth Trench Mortar Battalion, has been ordered home. If so, when are they to arrive and at what camp will they be mustered out?

H. W. WELLS.

It is sailing homeward aboard the Montana, due to arrive at New York, January 17, according to announcements. Nothing said as to where it will demobilize, but this is generally at or near the place of mobilization.

M. R. U. 309.

PORTLAND, Jan. 12.—(To the Editor.)—We have a boy with the Army in France and are unable to tell just where. We address his letters "M. R. U. 309, M. T. C., A. E. F., France," and he gets them. Can you tell in what division he belongs and at what place he is, also if that unit is coming home soon? HIS PARENTS.

The repair unit has not been located nor assigned for convoy in announcements to date. It is not a part of a division.

Company L, 305th Infantry.

GOLDENDALE, Wash., Jan. 10.—(To the Editor.)—My husband went overseas with Company L, 157th Infantry, 40th Division, but is now with Company L, 305th Infantry. Where are they stationed at present and what information have you relative to their return? What division will they return in? ANXIOUS WIFE.

He is now in the 77th Division, Les Vignettes, France, and will return with it unles transferred again. The 77th is not yet on the sailing list.

Lonesome Club in Portland.

PORTLAND, Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly tell me if there is a Lonesome Club in this city. Am a stranger here and rather lonely. Kindly give the address and name of club.

E. B. C.

There is a Lonesome Club, organized last December, in Portland. No meeting for the future has been scheduled, but you may learn of the organization by inquiring of Mrs. Roa Bunn, 129½ Twelfth street.

15th Ammunition Train.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—My brother was last reported in San Antonio, Texas, Stanley B., 15th Ammunition Train. When and where will he be mustered out?

SOLDIER'S SISTER.

It is impossible to say, but more than likely will be sent to Camp Lewis for release.

Tenth Balloon Company.

NEWBERG, Or., Jan. 11.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly inform me if the Tenth Balloon Company, now in France, is listed for early return and if the balloon companies are listed as aero squadrons. P. H. M.

The unit has not been listed for return. Balloon companies are distinct organizations and are so referred to.