

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1919.

INDICATED PRECAUTIONS.

The uncertain, freakish course of the influenza epidemic, which makes it extremely difficult to put one's finger upon the cause, yet indicates that every precaution which gives a little more safety is worth the effort, is shown by the variable success which has attended methods of prevention attempted in different communities. If, however, a correlation can be established between influenza and any other circumstances which do not appear to be mere coincidences, it would seem that a step forward had been made.

The United States Health Bureau has recently published statistics showing the mortality rate due to the epidemic in forty-six of the largest cities in the registration area of the country, and has, as to fourteen of these cities, published also the comparative details for 1917 and 1918. The latter figures are especially worthy of study because they indicate a rather constant relationship between "normal" death rate and the mortality rate as the result of epidemic. It is noted that there are no exceptions to this rule in the list of fourteen cities, and also that it would be desirable to have a larger number of cities upon which to base a conclusion. The Springfield, Rep. and the Chicago, Ill., figures are especially worthy of study because they indicate a rather constant relationship between "normal" death rate and the mortality rate as the result of epidemic. It is noted that there are no exceptions to this rule in the list of fourteen cities, and also that it would be desirable to have a larger number of cities upon which to base a conclusion.

In the list of fourteen cities, beginning with Milwaukee, which had the lowest death rate per thousand in 1917, and ending with Pittsburg, which had the highest, there are almost no exceptions to the rule that the mortality rate in 1918 was in excess with influenza and its sequel, pneumonia. Newark, N. J., San Francisco and Cincinnati appear out of their order in the list, but it is pointed out that there may be other reasons for this than appear on the surface. Newark is practically a suburb of New York, and San Francisco is a seaport which presents unusual opportunities for spread of plague. These facts might account for the unusually high proportionate influenza rate. Cincinnati, on the other hand, which appears to have had fewer cases than its position in the list would indicate, did not begin to suffer until rather late in the year, and the figures there may be misleading because incomplete. But there seems to be some relation between those conditions which upon the whole have made for a healthful city and those which have contributed to the spread of the new plague. This has been said, in at least worthy of more detailed inquiry.

The present epidemic has proved, if it has proved anything, the futility of generalizations from these times in progress will be made in the long run if data are perfected by extending the "registration area" and taking additional factors into account. The theory that "septic throats," due to defective municipal sanitation, are related to the occurrence of influenza in influenza cases may not be accepted without reserve, and yet it will have been noted that heavy rains in Portland, which operate to cleanse the streets and also the air, have been followed by a subsidence of the death rate. It is true that other measures have been adopted, and we shall not give the rain all the credit; but perhaps it has helped. It is not a new thing, the idea of thorough washing of everything as a preventive of sickness of various kinds.

This would point also to the advisability of cleanliness in every form, not only of streets and alleys, and house-tops and cellars, but also of the person and the things around him. It will be admitted that the cleanliness is worth the cost of keeping it clean for many reasons; if we add to this even a gambler's chance that it also reduces the influenza death rate, there is sufficient reason why such measures ought not to be ignored. The face mask is only part of the scheme. Physicians have all along preached the advisability of using antiseptic gargles and mouth washes. The hands could be kept more than commonly clean. Frequent abutions are indicated. As to the city itself, when rain does not favor it, it will be well to wash the streets a little oftener. The thing is to keep the city as clean as possible, and to keep it as clean as possible.

Addition of the word "Victory" to the designation of the next liberty loan will serve the purpose of reminding buyers that when they buy the victory could not have been won, but they must not overlook the fact that the fruits of victory cannot be enjoyed unless there is orderly reconstruction. Reconstruction in these times is an expensive process, and we are beginning to find out. It is so important, however, that it shall be completed that the duty of the individual to subscribe to the best of his ability is not less than it was when the war was at its height. Uncertainties

of the future, moreover, should give greater incentive to thrift, and the buyer of a liberty bond has absolute security, with a rate of interest high in proportion to that security. It would be a fine thing if the bonds and notes were as widely distributed as those of war.

CONSERVED FOR ETERNITY.

Alaska has called on Congress for funds to fight influenza, and an appropriation of \$100,000 is proposed by the House. The bill is drawn from settlement that there are fewer settlers to tax. The bill gave rise to these remarks in the Senate:

Mr. Weeks—There are less than half the number of inhabitants here (Alaska) than there were two years ago. Mr. Smith, of Arizona—The great bulk of Alaska's population is made up of transient soldiers. It is being kept for posterity. Mr. Thomas—It is being kept for posterity. A few years ago we were told that Alaska was a land of vast wealth and that hosts of greedy fellows were waiting to grab a piece of the country. But the rangers and inspectors would get in without a passport, and it made strict rules to govern mining of coal. Strictly half of the greedy men in Alaska came away, and those who remained stayed away. They have lost their appetites for Alaskan wealth. We could make good use of Alaska's wealth now. We need its coal, copper, gold, fish; even the meat of its musk ox and reindeer begin to look good to us. But the rangers and inspectors and special agents are on guard in those far northern solitudes, deserted by half the population, and Alaska's wealth is conserved for eternity.

WORK FOR STATE COMMISSION.

The activity of the public service commissions of several states in resisting the arbitrary attempts of Postmaster-General Burleson to raise local telephone rates without complying with state law proves that they fill a useful place just when there is much to be done. The Oregon Public Service Commission is now in the midst of its work. It is a body of five members, appointed by the state, and its duty is to regulate the rates of public utilities. It has been successful in many instances, and its work is of great importance. It is a body of five members, appointed by the state, and its duty is to regulate the rates of public utilities. It has been successful in many instances, and its work is of great importance.

THE POSSIBLE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The league of peace scheme at Paris is still in embryo, but the tendency seems to be toward a league of the nations that are already leagued against Germany, in which the great powers of the world are to be included. The league of nations is a subject of great interest to the people of this country. It is a subject of great interest to the people of this country. It is a subject of great interest to the people of this country.

KEEP THE HOME FIRES OF INDUSTRY BURNING.

The plan offered by P. C. Knapp for the improvement of the industrial situation in Oregon is a plan to keep the home fires of industry burning. It is a plan to keep the home fires of industry burning. It is a plan to keep the home fires of industry burning.

Local Bolsheviks have as deep a hatred for the ballot box as Bismarck had, and for the same reason; they want minority rule.

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United States, Brazil and other nations of the new world in line with the law-abiding nations of the old world, and they would be vastly stronger than at the outbreak of the late war. They would not come straight into this field one at a time, but would spring forward together to arrest the lawbreaker. They might rely on a concert of purpose for concert of action without any formal agreement.

Elimination of the world army and navy under the direction of a league council, which would, in effect, be a world government, would dispose of the most serious objections to the league which have been raised in America. We should surrender no part of our sovereignty. Each of the principal nations of the league would undertake the duty of policing the part of the world nearest to its own shores, and under that arrangement the American hemisphere would naturally fall to the United States. This country would be solely responsible for maintaining the Monroe doctrine, and would not be a single step removed from the minimum by disappearance of aggressive autocracy from Europe.

The league will be stronger and more enduring through omission of the Russian Bolsheviks. We should rejoice if the highest ideals of the sanguine optimists could be realized, but they cannot, and any attempt to realize them now would break the whole scheme. If the league is to be a success, it must be based on the fact that the world as it is, its work may not only endure but develop into something which will in time realize those ideals. As yet the nations are only half weaned from the idea of force, and the state of fusion and others hate each cordially. They are not the material out of which a republic of the world can be formed.

THE RUSSIAN BOLSHEVIK.

The Russian Bolshevik is not alone in the twisting of the scripture. Others are given to misquoting the phrase. The Bolshevik is not alone in the twisting of the scripture. Others are given to misquoting the phrase. The Bolshevik is not alone in the twisting of the scripture. Others are given to misquoting the phrase.

THE GERMAN SOLDIER.

The German soldier, who the Yankee might think of as the scum of the human race, under the leadership of the German people has shown a surprising amount of courage and endurance. The German soldier, who the Yankee might think of as the scum of the human race, under the leadership of the German people has shown a surprising amount of courage and endurance.

THE RETURNING GERMAN SOLDIER.

The returning German soldier and the American pass each other stiffly and with a certain amount of reserve. The returning German soldier and the American pass each other stiffly and with a certain amount of reserve.

SOUVENIRS AS A DRUG ON THE MARKET.

The market slumped badly when the returning German soldier and the American pass each other stiffly and with a certain amount of reserve. The market slumped badly when the returning German soldier and the American pass each other stiffly and with a certain amount of reserve.

CONGRESS PUTS FORWARD APPROPRIATION BILL.

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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.

If the Man from Mars were to visit Rhenish Prussia these days, and journey into the Argentine, Moscow from the frontier to the Rhine—from Trier to Coblenz—he would have to be an unusually keen observer were he to suspect that the American soldiers he saw were "conquering troops," making their victory certain by taking over for a time one of the fairest provinces of the enemy.

FRENCH INTERESTS IN THE FAR EAST.

The effect upon the plans of the Zionists for the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine of the announcement of the French Foreign Minister, M. Pichon, that France's rights in Syria, Palestine and Lebanon were "incontestable" is believed to have been partly cleared up by the fuller text of the Foreign Minister's speech. By this it is made to appear that he said that, although the subject was one with which the conference might deal, the Zionists were not to be regarded as having any right to be considered by agreement with Great Britain.

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OWN MERIT IS BEST FOUNDATION.

Writer Discusses Efforts to Build by Destroying Others' Greatness.

BOHING, Or., Jan. 19.—(To the Editor.)—I was again pressed with the spirit of fairness The Oregonian has shown toward our "Daguerrotypes" and while reading a recent issue of the North American Review's War Weekly, in these days when liberty speaks for the highest ideals and freedom will not cringe before the altar of selfish idolatry are not we Americans big enough to arrange and rearrange the various questions before us without being fault-finding disturbers of the present constructive work? I am wondering why large eyes (like Colonel Harvey's) are sometimes so small visioned that he raises the cry: "Have we lost our republic?" even a little louder than Mr. Hughes in his recent address at Columbia University. Is it because such eyes cannot focus on a larger perspective than individual or party desire? Or is it because they are so small that they help one to sense the pulse of the public and, though not in sympathy with the "Daguerrotypes," to be touched of ridicule evidently intended to create a "feeling" against the "powers that be," still I enjoy trying to measure the attitude of the man who cannot help but wonder how much of the spirit of the "divine right" is hidden in the position of which can accept the great works of another who was not born in the same political lineage? Big thoughts from big men, small as they may be, are not to be despised, and to be fair one must study the various causes which make the critical vision blow.

NATIONALITY OF T. J. MOONEY.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Is Thomas J. Mooney a citizen of the United States; also when and where was he born? A SUBSCRIBER.

How Influenza Is Spread.

PORTLAND, Jan. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me if "Mooney" is the real name of Thomas J. Mooney. What is his nationality? INTERESTED.

30th Motor Transport.

ESTACADA, Or., Jan. 20.—(To the Editor.)—(1) To what division does the 30th Motor Transport Corps belong and is it slated for return? (2) To what division does the 21st Engineers belong and where are they located in France? AN ANXIOUS SISTER.

20th and 26th Aero Squadrons.

PORTLAND, Jan. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly advise the approximate time of departure of the 20th and 26th Aero Squadrons will return to the United States. A. L. B.

65th R. T. C. and 162d Infantry.

EUGENE, Or., Jan. 19.—(To the Editor.)—If possible give me information as to when Company C, 65th R. T. C., and Company M, 162d Infantry, 41st Division, will start for America.

Answers to Military Questions.

The following correspondents whose inquiries were received too late to appear in The Sunday Oregonian will find the information they seek in answers given to other inquirers on page 3, section 5, of The Sunday Oregonian, January 19, 1919.

Motor Transport 308.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Jan. 19.—(To the Editor.)—I am a member of the Motor Transport Corps 298 is now situated and whether or not it is listed to come home? AN ANXIOUS MOTHER.

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From The Oregonian, January 21, 1919. Washington—In the Senate, Corbett presented a memorial from the citizens of Washington Territory against the submission of the question of the ownership of San Juan Island to arbitration.

Madrid.—The returns of the elections for the Cortes show an overwhelming majority in favor of a monarchy. Lexington.—The largest distillery in the country has just been finished here. It will be able to make 2400 gallons of whiskey per day.

Twenty-Five Years Ago. From The Oregonian, January 21, 1894. Portland.—In the middle of the week and rain falling in torrents the Oregon Agricultural College football team won the championship of Oregon by defeating the Lincoln Junior, 6 to 0.

New York.—Chiquet, a French Canadian sword swallower, today swallowed 12 22-inch swords at one time and tonight his unconscious and suffering body was taken to the Oregon Union Square Hospital.

Yaquna.—The hay is excited over a coal vein that has been struck within two miles of Yaquna City and that is three feet thick and carries 84 per cent of carbon.

The Committee of One Hundred held its weekly meeting in the Worcester block yesterday afternoon. Among the speakers were: Chairman Corbett, Mr. Woodward, W. E. Houghton, J. W. Cook, Charles L. Ladd, and Mr. Henry.

HYSTERIA SERUM IS GREAT NEED.

Calm Mind and Doctor's Services Aid Quick Recovery From Influenza. PORTLAND, Jan. 20.—(To the Editor.)—The doctors are hopelessly in disagreement as to the cause, epidemical nature and effective treatment of the present spread of influenza. To begin with, the word influenza is a hideous misnomer. It has been contracted in the usual American way—by "flu." The word is commonly used to embrace almost anything in the nature of a disease of the nose, throat, lungs, stomach or intestines. The doctors take no time to differentiate the precise epidemic in the minds of the public, hence it must be assumed that people are getting to believe that every death now is due to influenza. It causes great fear whenever a slight ailment is mistaken for influenza, and a most unfortunate mental condition and hastens real trouble.

No encouraging word has appeared in any reliable notice advising people to look upon the ailment in a business-like way, consult a physician promptly, and above all, not for one moment to give way to terror, or hysteria.

Furthermore, nothing has been heard of a systematic plan to stop this epidemic, whatever it is, from spreading. The Government quarantines every ship from foreign shores. We allow a steady influx of travelers to come here without any check, and whatever, of course, it will make expense to inspect them, but money might be saved if the government would do such a purpose. The state should undertake this matter, as it is too great a burden for this city and some others. Small places can do nothing to stop the disease. If done, it ought to be with thoroughness. The Legislature can do this quickly. They seem to need very badly to get out of their "shell" against hysteria, more than one for the disease. In other words, let our people be calm, and have a clear mental condition and encourage people to rush to buy any old cure and do a mighty deal of harm to themselves.

ROBERT C. WRIGHT.

TREES AS SOLDIERS' MEMORIALS.

Planting in Honor of Both Living and Dead is Commended. PORTLAND, Jan. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Memorial trees planted by the soldiers who gave up their lives in the struggle to overthrow autocracy are called the "living trees" that can be paid those heroes. It is a noble and proper thing to plant a memorial tree for whatever memorial may be adopted by the municipalities of the various countries. An avenue of the allies lined with trees in honor of the allied nations is one suggestion. It is a noble and proper thing to plant a memorial tree along the Columbia Highway. Churches can plant memorial trees in honor of members who fell in battle.

The park department could interest itself.

What finer tribute can be paid the man who came out of the struggle alive than the planting of a living tree in his honor—a living tree that will grow on after he is gone and keep fresh the memory of his deeds?

What finer tribute can be paid the man who gave his life in the great cause? E. E. F. GILLESPIE.

Soldier in Allied Army.

PORTLAND, Jan. 20.—(To the Editor.)—Please inform me who I should write to in order to locate a friend of ours we have not heard from for several years. He would either be with the French or Italian Army, as his home was in Italy. MRS. BUTLER.

Alaskan Waters Free.

GREYSVILLE, Or., Jan. 19.—(To the Editor.)—In connection with "Freedom of the Seas" with a friend, he claimed that in shipping freight from Seattle to Astoria, the rate was 10 cents per ton to England for 100 tons of freight shipped because we must go through English waters.

I never heard this assertion before and I think he is wrong so please answer. J. A. FERSCHWELER.

Vale Irrigation Projects.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Jan. 19.—(To the Editor.)—I am interested in the handling of the irrigation project at Vale, Or. Have they an office in Portland? Where can I obtain information (general) concerning Vale and vicinity. C. E.

278th Aero Squadron.

BANDON, Or., Jan. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Can you tell me when the 278th Aero Squadron will be released or when I may look for my son home who is in this unit? Can he come before his three years are up, or will he be August 25? SUBSCRIBER.

The squadron has not been assigned for return. As your son needs to be released, you may need hardly expect his release until his term of enlistment has expired.

Motor Truck Company 961.

HERMISTON, Or., Jan. 18.—(To the Editor.)—Can you give me any information as to Motor Truck Company 961, A. P. C. 747? What does A. P. C. signify? M. C. WATKINS.

The company is with the First Army, or was with it at the time you received the address. A. P. O. means Army Post-office and we think this was what the correspondent wrote, and not A. P. O. G. COOK.