

Morning Oregonian

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OUR ARMY ON THE RHINE. By following presentation to the allies of a bill for maintenance of the American army on the Rhine with the decision to withdraw all of our troops from Germany before July 1, the administration gives practical effect to its opinion that we have no direct interest in collection of the reparations indemnity or in any of the political purposes of allied occupation of the Rhine bridge-heads.

But it is not to be inferred from the fact that Mr. Hughes has handed over the bill that he intends immediately to demand payment. Though senators may shout till they are hoarse that the allies should be forced to pay, they know, or should know, that payment at the present time would do more harm than good and would tend to defeat our most urgent purpose—restoration of prosperity in America by restoring it in Europe.

It is safe to guess that Secretary Garrison is in the hands of the reparations commission belongs to the United States and wants it set aside to be disposed of as our government shall direct. That would be the best thing we could do and Germany that we have some slight interest in reparations. It would be a hint to our irreconcilables that proper care for our interests requires that we have no part in the reparations commission.

By hastening disarmament and financial adjustment, the demand for payment of our war cost would help to remove the worst obstacles to American participation in an economic conference, if not at Genoa in April, then at some other city. Mr. Hughes is using tactful pressure to that end and has passed a milestone on the road to Genoa.

The first effect of the American withdrawal may be disappointment among the allies and joy among the Germans, but it will be compensated and discounted by the complete agreement between Premier Lloyd George and Poincare in their recent conference at Boulogne. Nothing but the actual drafting of a treaty remained to effect a complete alliance against Germany. They know that they must pull together in order to collect anything, and Lloyd George may be restrained from making any ill-founded claims that, if driven to it, Poincare is ready to send a French army into Germany to take all that it can get, without British help and regardless of British protest.

A QUESTION OF ETHICS. A nice question of ethics is involved in the refusal of a distinguished British scientist to co-operate with officials of the government in chemical warfare research. The ground of his declination is that he desires to have nothing to do with work of investigation that is essentially destructive in its character.

But a point that the scientist seems to have missed is that if the nations which abhorred poison gas, and which have refused to employ it, have refrained from using it if they had known about it, were materially handicapped by want of knowledge when the time came to effect it with counter inventions of their own.

of dynamite, which is likely to prove in the long run to have been more important in industry than it has been destructive in war. The scientist's conscience, of course, is a possession of his own. We may honor his consistency without agreeing with him in his intention to abstain from the use of dynamite. The matter under discussion, has no one-sided problem to solve.

SHOW US THE WAY. Eastern Oregon people want lower taxes and more about it. Their attitude is standing firmly against the tax payers. It is not perfect, it is not ideal, but it is a step in the right direction. The tax payers are pretty good evidence of the fact that they will support any measure which will be successful in accomplishing anything very desirable, since the same old party voters will be elected to the legislature, pledged to economy in advance, and determined to vote for any money-saving scheme proposed, especially if it creates an opportunity for a few party workers who must be "taken care of" by the legislature.

Party government? It is not party government where there is no equal balance, or anything near it, between the parties, and when there is no party responsibility or accountability of any kind. But let that pass. What system can the Guard be back-roomed by those for whom it speaks, that will assure better men in public office, and particularly more highly qualified men and women in the legislature, and other tax-appropriating and expending bodies, than are now elected?

REVISING AN OLD PROVERB. The scientists are rapidly reconstructing our ideas of what constitutes the impossible, reminding us that the impossible is only a matter of time. The history of civilization, said the philosopher Huxley, "details the steps by which man has succeeded in building up an artificial world within the cosmos." Yet even the term "artificial" is relative. Why is it that we should regard creative effort, in which the mind and the hand are employed, as a thing of which nature has provided articles which nature has provided for him in their raw state, as more "artificial" than the shelter which he constructs from forest trees or the things that he weaves from the wool on the sheep's back?

WASTE IN INDUSTRY. A committee of the Federated American Silesian Engineers, which has been making a study of the extent to which waste in industry is preventable finds that a tremendous burden is being carried by society as a whole which is preventable. The waste is preventable, but it is preventable only if we are willing to pay the price. The price is the cost of the waste, and the waste is the cost of the price.

Waterfront rehabilitation, to cost \$10,000,000, has been shelved to await conclusion of more important affairs. A ten-million proposal is not to be treated hurriedly. What we need is co-ordination, so that the bait-digger will leave the ground in condition to plant the spring garden in.

By making a silk purse from a sow's ear the chemists have done more than fabricate a useful receptacle for loose change. They have gone a long way toward destroying the illusion that the ingenuity of man has limitations, and have called attention to a new definition of the word "artificial" and a new conception of the function of scientific chemistry. For scientific achievement in industry is after all but another step in the effort to control the forces of nature, which man should shape to his own ends.

unnecessary unemployment. The spectacle of men who have spared no pains to fit themselves to do work of high grade, unable to find a market for their wares, only because the industry of which they are a part is badly organized, suggests that we should be more realistic. The typical industries investigated included the building trades, men's ready-made clothing, boots and shoes, printing, the metal trades and textiles.

PLAIN DEFECTS. It seems that the Oregonian believes in restoring the conventional system of labor conflict, seasonal operation, unemployment, high labor turnover, speculative booms and over-production. It is unreasonable to conclude that these can be prevented in the instances because they have been eliminated in some instances, but the successes of certain exceptional types of management at least furnish us a high standard toward which to work, and a foundation for future hope. Managers probably do not realize their moral responsibility to society as a whole, which may be as great as the obligation they owe their employers to make a profit for them.

But the fact seems to be, as is illustrated by a charge made against the shoe industry, that duty to society and duty to dividend-expecting stockholders are not necessarily inconsistent. The shoe manufacturers are accused directly of lacking a system, taking the business as a whole, for the economization of material, while to workmen, waiting for work and material amounts to more than a third of the time. Of course it is understood by the veriest tyro that waste of leather where the waste is not necessary, but the waste of shoes, and that the loss in time also reacts upon the consumer, although it also works a hardship upon the workman.

REGISTRY OF EMPLOYERS. The direct primary entered the field as a fetish. It is still a fetish, for which, because it is a fetish, and for no other apparent reason, many are still content to pay with hard money for the privilege. There is a middle ground between the extremes of old-time convention and modern direct primary that would be an improvement on both.

REALTY AGENTS' CONTRACT. PORTLAND, March 20.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me to what committee the realty agents' contract is referred. I am a realty agent and I am interested in the contract. I am a realty agent and I am interested in the contract. I am a realty agent and I am interested in the contract.

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SCIENCE APPROACHES SOLUTION. Phenomena of Thought Waves and Subconscious Acts to be Understood. PORTLAND, March 20.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian's account of Dr. Walter Franklin Prince's investigation of the "Canada ghosts" with signal success, is highly interesting, especially to those who are not novices in the field of psychology. I am deeply interested in this report from the fact that upward of 25 years ago I predicted (and I am 60 and 90 days) that some of the first business people who would really bear me out that the day would come when all these scientific phenomena would be properly and correctly explained "on scientific principles."

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THOSE WHO COME AND GO. Tables of Folks at the Hotels. "Boolegers are taking up a good deal of our time in Gilliam county," says T. A. Weinke, district attorney. "We have prosecuted a large number and have won every case with a single exception." Weinke says that the bootleggers are not doing a rushing business, for money isn't very free. There is a fellow who boasted that he has a still out in the country and he even took a man in the vicinity several times and defied him to discover it. The place is said to be concealed in the sagebrush and is so arranged that even the smoke cannot be seen. That fellow will yet be caught.

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