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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, DEC. 20, 1914.

IN THE EASTERN BATTLE ZONE.

Action and reaction continue to follow the forces in the eastern theater of war. While Berlin is busy celebrating what some Germans please to call the crushing of the Russians...

From observations of past fighting for the control of Russian Poland, the conclusion may be drawn that the side pressing the enemy back on its own bases and lines of communication invariably withdraws before a severe counter stroke.

Just now the two huge armies appear to be intent on readjusting their dispositions and rearranging their strategy. The Germans have thrown the bulk of their reinforcements into the battle area south and east of Thorn.

Distances along which this titanic struggle between Teuton and Slav is being waged are immense. From Cracow to Moscow following the boundary line, is a distance of 750 miles.

It has been the universal opinion among military observers that Winter has a large element of success in the first great decision and that advantages held by one side or the other when heavy snows set in will be very difficult, if not impossible, to offset.

If it is true that the side enabled to throw in the heaviest reinforcements will hold the upper hand in Poland, then the Germans have every tactical advantage that of superior railway facilities.

having the superiority in numbers, has but a single direct line from Petrograd to Warsaw and the distance is 875 miles. Another line runs direct to Lublin and thence to Warsaw, a distance of 850 miles.

PREMATURE TALK ABOUT 1916.

No doubt Mr. Myron T. Herrick, late Ambassador to France, is a wholly admirable gentleman. He spent \$400,000 of his private fortune in discharging the difficult and delicate duties of his office at Paris, before he was recalled to the room of a politician.

Mr. Herrick was Governor of Ohio from 1903 to 1906 and was defeated for re-election by a Democrat. Republican elsewhere were generally successful. Even Oregon contrived to elect a Republican United States Senator in 1906.

It is not probable that what Mr. Herrick did in Paris will be sufficient to elect him President of the United States. But, if he is a candidate, there will be close scrutiny of his political and public record in Ohio.

Emerson's friend, Margaret Fuller, reviewed Browning's Parnassus in the Boston Dial of April, 1847. This was near the middle of the last century when a British "lady of rank" asked the American Minister in London whether Browning was not born in an American village.

Edgar A. Poe was a great admirer of Mrs. Browning's poetry and reviewed it repeatedly in the periodicals for which he wrote. In 1844 he said in the Evening Mirror that "she was worth a dozen Tennysons."

The figures given by Mr. Bursleson to show that his department has a surplus in the last fiscal year will need some analysis before they can be accepted as correct. They do not include the sums expended under the heading "Postoffice Department."

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famous "Notes" would "make her rabid." She "could not possibly love or admire Dickens' biting comments." Most Americans now admit with a rueful smile that the "Notes" were substantially true and for the most part richly deserved by our tobacco-chewing, slave-worshipping countrymen.

There was quoted in The Oregonian the other day the old saying that "a man who will take a dare will steal sheep," and a subscriber was asked to know whether the word "wont" was not unintentionally omitted from the expression.

BOYS AND DICTIONARIES.

It is recognized that custom, if so inclined, may eventually prevail, but the unanimous testimony of lexicographers whether custom among children will do it in this instance is a matter of interesting speculation.

Postmaster-General Bursleson persists in recommending that the Government assume a monopoly of the telephone and telegraph business of the United States, and contends that the efficiency of the mail service demonstrates the capacity of the Government to do the business successfully.

MR. BURSLESON'S FAD.

There are a few facts to consider before the American people engage in this business. Government telegraphs and telephones are operated and compared in efficiency with the privately-owned systems of the United States.

The American people would require some guaranty that the telephone and telegraph service would be more nearly free from politics than is the postal service before they would favor Government operation.

The president of an engineering company makes affidavit that 5 to 10 per cent of the profit on the public works contracts was demanded of him for the Minister.

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whole Puget Sound country. It exploits Seattle's attractions for the investor and the pleasure-seeker with pictures which are among the best examples of the photographic art.

DOLLAR DIPLOMACY A LA BRYAN.

Secretary of State Bryan is accused by the New York World of having caused the appointment as Minister to Santo Domingo of James Mark Sullivan, of having ignored charges against him and of having white-washed him and sent him back to his post.

Sullivan was appointed at the instance of William C. Beer, a New York lawyer, who has been denounced in the House as a Morgan-Perkins lobbyist.

The Commission estimates that hydro-electric power can be profitably utilized in the manufacture of fertilizer. Superphosphate, the base of all artificial fertilizer, can be made by heating phosphate rock in electric furnaces.

WHAT MAY HAPPEN AFTERWARD.

Assuming that Germany brought about the present war, Leo Pasvolsky, a Russian, writing to the New York Tribune, offers an answer to the question that naturally arises from his postulate: "Why did Germany provoke war at this particular time?"

He explains that Russia's ambition to reach the open sea would not be satisfied by the acquisition of an outlet to the Mediterranean by way of Constantinople, for Russia desires a share of world trade and would be shut in by Suez and Gibraltar.

The children are now in the seventh heaven of ecstasy. Three days more for belated shopping. Fine. Everybody's winning again. Luxury of a Bell, Anyway.

Reverend (N. Y.) Telegram. "I tell you," said Poots, "there is an individual named of luxury in lying in bed and ringing one's bell for one's valet."

living with Sullivan when he was indicted in New York. On his return he said he had gone to look into the contracts by Sullivan's invitation.

There has been a series of revolutions in Santo Domingo as the result of Sullivan's alliance with the exploiters and the United States has been put to the expense of investigations and intervention.

Receiver Vick filed charges with Bryan against Sullivan last December and many others have complained to the State Department. Sullivan's friends have retailed with charges against Vick, but the latter's superiors in the War Department said that he "left a record for efficiency and devotion."

UNUSED RESOURCES.

One of the most impressive chapters in the report of the Oregon Conservation Commission is that devoted to water power. It is hardly conceivable, but nevertheless true, that one-third of the water power resources of the United States is in the Columbia River Basin.

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Russia, with her enormous resources, confronted Great Britain across the North Sea?

These questions raise doubt whether the world will be able to realize the hope that this will be the last great war. After aiding Russia and France to destroy German militarism, Great Britain may be compelled to arm as never before against Russian militarism and against a Russian navy.

The present war in Europe should convince workingmen that they have a more vital interest in National safety than have the well-to-do and wealthy. The war has put an end to industry in Belgium and has deprived the working people of the means of earning even their daily bread.

GLIMS THROUGH THE MIST.

Of in my life I've looked about With vision mild and pensive, And noticed persons, without doubt Quite meek and inoffensive, So gentle-souled were they, ah, lack, No insult made them answer back, But ah, their mistiness was not half The mildness of the photograph.

Think, think of the waste past believing; How Fate throws our fortune away— On Christmas eve, when we're reveling, And then swearing off, New Year's day.

WHAT, ONLY ONE FOOT?

Honored Sir: Kindly look up the correct pronunciation of any foreign name hereafter, before inserting them in poetry. For instance, every line in which "Fah-mish" occurs is one foot short.

Our soul is greatly uplifted by the information that our readers have some education. We take it that Mr. T— is only an occasional reader.

You can dig up lots of things out of the ragbag that are almost as good as new. See: The boy stood on the burning deck, In whose arms all his countrymen were, He did not think of "Safety First," But hero tales he'd read.

Easy After the First. Boston Advertiser. Pat and Mike were taking a walk in the country one Sunday morning when the former suddenly paused and turned to his companion with a reflective smile.

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Let a minute, Molke," said he, "Kin yez tell me why the kinsin' av yez zuz is loike a bottle av olives?" "Shure, an' Ol' kin no!" was the quick response of Mike.

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