PUBLIC OPINION ON TIMELY TOPICS TOLD TERSELY

DALY METER SCHEME OPPOSED

Thomas McCusker Praises Mayor for Stand Against Plan.

PORTLAND, May 22.—(To the Editor.)—I want to commend the attitude of Mayor Albee on the meter question.

A great deal has been said in an effort to convince the voters that by spending several hundred thousands of dollars we will be saving money as well as water.

In this I agree—that is, to the extent that there will be the same kind of saving. At the present time the water is going to waste over the "spillway" and the money will go in the same manner.

I do not charge Commissioner Daly with any willful waste of money or any lack of honest intention, but I believe that this meter business is getting to be a personal matter with him, so much so that through his desires he has lost sight of the practical side of the question.

When this meter question first came up it was said that the average life of a meter was seven or eight years. They are trying now by "scientific talk" to prolong this life a few years.

Be that is it may, there is no question but a system of meters would be somewhat similar to perpetual motion, about the time the last one was installed we would have to begin replacing the first ones, so that all the money derived (if any) from conserving water would have to go to maintain the system; consequently there would be no sinking fund to take care of the bonds.

I notice that they have obtained the opinions of engineers in Omaha, Boston and other Eastern cities and some of those engineers express the hope that we will adopt the system and that it will save us money.

This goes to prove the old saying that you can get any kind of an opinion from an expert by just letting him know what you want. You will observe that these experts give an opinion based upon their own local conditions and it may not apply at all to our conditions any more than if we had an opinion from a Chicago florist as to how best to cover our rose bushes in Winter to keep them from freezing, based upon his local climatic conditions.

The Mayor has said, and I have heard it from others, that more water runs over the spillway at the Bull Run head works than comes to us through the pipes, and if anyone will take the trouble to inspect the amount of water running away into the river from our reservoirs he will hardly be convinced of the necessity of meters to conserve our water supply.

No doubt everyone has seen the little dinky reservoir on Seventh street, in South Portland, the source of our former water supply. This reservoir will hold about enough water to give a Jitney bus a shower bath. This reservoir took care of our needs when we were younger, the water being pumped from the river into it.

Suppose we still used this reservoir, still pumping the water from the river, there would, of course, be a shortage of water during the Summer season.

Now suppose someone suggested that we install a meter system in order to conserve the water supply. What do you think would happen to him? Then we have the river with its abundant supply. Is it not reasonable to believe that someone would suggest that we could enlarge our reservoir capacity and obviate the necessity of spending all that money for meters, and we would be better supplied in the end?

In my opinion that is the key to the present situation.

In the irrigation districts large reservoirs or dams are constructed to conserve the Winter snow or water, so as to keep the flow uniform during the Summer.

By a moderate expenditure a dam or reservoir could be constructed so as to form a large lake, large enough to hold a Summer supply of water at the head works, and as the same amount or water flows into it regularly, the extra supply would not be drawn on except when an unusual demand was made at this end and this would take care of us for the next 10 years and perhaps longer.

By the alternate day system we had a sufficient supply last year, which was the dryest year ever known in Oregon and not likely to occur again for 50 years.

Meters should be used on large buildings and factories, so that an adequate return could be had for the water used, and, as suggested by Commissioner Dieck, it might be well to conserve the water on the hill where an extra pumping is required, but it would, in my opinion, be ill advised to vote for a general meter system at this time.

I am informed that a bond issue was voted some years ago for the purpose of installing an auxiliary pipeline in the business section, pumping the water from the river, to be used for fire purposes. Much good water is wasted in this manner, as well as a great waste in flushing our streets with Bull Run water.

I believe the time will come when we must use river water for the purposes mentioned and I would much rather see a bond issue for the construction of such works. The installation of such a pipe line would put a great many men to work and would also be of benefit to one of our industries that needs patronage.

THOMAS M'CUSKER.

MUSIC SYSTEM IS COMPLAINT

Teacher Explains Lack of Science Makes Education Difficult.

BROWNSVILLE, Or., May 21.—(To the Editor.)—In your editorial on Saint-Saens May 19 you ask the question "Why is music so much harder to learn than any of the other common bits of craft?"

One of the chief obstacles that stands in the way of acquiring a musical education is our inartistic and unscientific system of musical notation. The characters used to represent sounds do not give to the brain through the eye anything like the idea of the author of the music, and it is burdened with so many exceptions and irregularities, all of which have to be learned and which uselessly consume the time of the student, that the study of music is rendered about four times more difficult than it should be.

Now that we have practically abandoned the diatonic scale and have accepted, or rather substituted, the tempered scale in our greater musical creations, there is no use why we should retain the system of using sharps and flats, which are so confusing to the student of music.

Even in writing for voices, where the distinction is made between F sharp and "G" flat, there is no need of writing that distinction, because the voices will naturally make it in their natural processes in passing from one harmony to another.

Another thing that renders the study of music difficult is its nomenclature. Nearly all the terms used to express the qualities, quantities and rhymics of music are borrowed from other arts and are inappropriate and misleading in their application. For instance, we speak of a tone being sharp or flat. How is it sharp or flat? Is it sharp like a knife or flat like a sidewalk? The terms are not appropriate.

We speak of a high tone or a low tone when, in reality, there is no such thing. Some tones have a greater number of vibrations than others, but that one tone should be higher than another is ridiculous. If one person should get upon some high place and produce a tone and another person should get in a lower place and produce the same tone, the one tone might be said to be higher than the other.

One of the greatest difficulties that music teachers have to contend with is to disabuse the mind of the student that one tone can be higher than another—the idea of altitude. This is especially true of those who teach the voice. The erroneous idea that certain tones are "high" and that others are "low" is largely responsible for the ruin of many otherwise good voices. It is also responsible for 93 per cent of the inaccuracies in piano tuning.

The dots upon the lines of the stave do not convey to the mind the idea as to whether its neighbor is one-half or a whole tone distant from it and one has continually to bear in mind the places where the half tones will occur. This requires a great amount of training and one must be well versed in scale formation before he can have a comprehensive idea of the subject and makes reading music at sight difficult.

What we need is a revised musicography in which there is neither sharps, flats or rests and in which the true relations of tones, one to another, is clearly expressed, that a certain chord shall always have the same appearance to the eye, no matter where it may be placed upon the stave. We also need a new nomenclature, applicable to the science of music only, that shall not give false ideas as to its art.

With this we will be rid of much of the mystery of which you complain, the study of music will become pleasant and profitable and a musical education can be acquired in about one-half the time it now requires.

CLINTON A. CASE.

STREET EXTENSION OPPOSED

Benefits of Greeley Project for Rank and File Are Doubted.

PORTLAND, May 22.—(To the Editor.)—Mention was made in The Oregonian recently of extending Greeley street to Delay street, at an estimated minimum cost of $360,000, to be paid by taxing 14,450 lots about $25 each. Most of the lots in this district are 25 feet to 33 1-3 feet wide and, as I suppose, would be assessed various amounts, according to location or estimated benefits, ranging, it may be, from $10 to $60 each. If it is necessary for the rank and file of those who now feel keenly the pinch of dull times and high cost of living to add this expense for the purpose of saving an hour or two in a year or two, or adding selling values to the real estate of a few capitalists, the latter being the cornerstone of the so-called "big project," then why not wait until we vote St. Johns into the city? The people of St. Johns certainly would be benefited as much as the bulk of us, if not more, and certainly ought to help pay, and possibly would not forgive us if not invited into the "big project."

About a year ago, when this same street extension was being urged upon us by the few interested ones, the people here took their word for truth that the range of cost per lot would not exceed $3 to $15 and signed their petitions so understanding.

What reliable assurance have we with the precedents at hand that the streetcar company will not demand that if we want the extension we must build it and guarantee the company a remunerating per cent for operating it?

It looks to some of us as if some one is getting in an unbusinesslike rush about this matter.

Please do not "holler" back "kicker" or "mossback," for that is not in evidence. We are always in favor of necessary improvements which we can afford, but hold it to be a crime to spend public funds hastily or unwisely.

G. B. TUCKER.

CANADA WELCOMES TOURISTS

Idea Americans Need Passports Misconception, Says Official.

VICTORIA, B. C., May 20.—(To the Editor.)—We find there is a great misconception on the part of the American public as to their admission into Canada under the present circumstances. Our city has spent a great deal of money during the past two years in attracting people to the Pacific Coast, not simply to Victoria, but to the whole Coast, such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Tacoma and Seattle. We should be obliged if the press in our neighboring cities would help us to remove this misconception.

We have pleasure in drawing your attention to the circular issued by the various transportation companies, as follows:

"The Superintendent of Immigration at Ottawa has issued the following statement:

"Numerous items have lately appeared in the press advising residents of the United States to secure passports when visiting or passing through Canada. Inquiry was made of government officials regarding the necessity of so doing. The Immigration Department announces that its officers are in no way interfering with bona fide tourist traffic, and that persons desirous of visiting points of interest in Canada or passing through Canada en route to other places will be accorded the same courteous treatment as was customary before the outbreak of war and that passports are not required."

This removes all doubt as to the conditions upon which tourists and citizens of the United States are admitted into Canada.

Our association (the Victoria and Island Development Association, Ltd.) representing all public bodies, would appreciate very much indeed your cooperation with us in this matter.

HERBERT CUTHBERT,
Commissioner.

DOCTORS AID ORPHAN BABIES

Sisters of Mercy at St. Agnes' Home Extends Hearty Thanks.

PARK PLACE, Or., May 22.—(To the Editor.)—The St. Agnes Baby Home at Park Place, as its name indicates, takes care of young children, and all who have in any way devoted themselves to this line of work will agree that it is a constant source of anxiety. Children in their own homes are always the first thought of fond parents, and justly so, since some day they, in their turn, will be the men and women of the next generation.

Often in their tender years and before the ordeal of school life begins, they will require the care of a physician, and how grateful the loving mother is when the little ones are once again restored to health!

If such be the case in private homes, on a much larger scale is the physicians' devoted care appreciated in an institution, and particularly on this account, the Sisters of Mercy, who are in charge of St. Agnes' Baby Home, extend their grateful thanks and appreciation of the services rendered to the home by Dr. C. H. Meissner, Dr. W. E. Hemstead, of Oregon City; Dr. P. J. Payne and Dr. J. C. O'Day, of Portland. The poor motherless orphans have found charitable friends in the abovementioned physicians. Many of the little tots have been operated on within the last couple of months, having adenoids and tonsils removed, Dr. J. C. O'Day being so kind as to give from four to five days to those operations.

Those who were old enough realize the great benefit it has been to them, and with cheerful voices will always welcome the doctors' return to their bright and happy home.

SISTERS OF MERCY.

STAY AT HOME, ADVICE GIVEN

Foreign Travel Declared to Be Endangering Country's Neutrality.

PORTLAND, May 21.—(To the Editor.)—To those who have not seen a ship of the magnitude of the great ones which are being lost and destroyed with such frequency of late years it is hardly possible to convey an idea of them, and even when for the first time we see them, it is not so real to us then. They seem to come out of the realm of impossibility and to return to it. Therefore the disaster connected with the loss of the Lusitania is difficult to comprehend, just as the magnitude of many of the tragedies now being enacted in the name of war are incomprehensible to us, so far away.

Is it curiosity that takes people away from these peaceful lands to see what those fighters are doing over there? Is it a desire to embroil our Nation in a fight which seems deplorable? It is at any rate like a lot of little ducks whose mother is a hen, falling into a pond, where she knows goblins fond of little ducks are waiting for them. We are placing our Government in a position which is hazardous in many ways by curiosity and love of adventure or whatever it is that causes people to sail on a vessel whose doom is sealed and settled and of which they are advised beforehand.

Is this proper or ethical? Would it not be better for Americans who are really neutral to show it by staying at home and keeping out of the fight? Even if we do "take action," as Teddy the Brave advises, where will we take it? We will get our ships sunk, our young men killed and we will have a lot of crippled fathers for our future generations of men. We have hardly recovered from the Civil War and begun to produce prize babies now. Our men have regained that loss of physical perfection and we have a good place to stay in and plenty to live on, and why don't these venturesome and curious citizens stay here and go out on their farms and produce foodstuffs to care for the children of men who are being killed and who represent the future men and women of the earth and its human types? We need every bit of grain, of stock, of textile production to meet the demand to be made upon us as the warehouse of the world and its most dependable country today. When the war is over we can ship our goods, we can sell our products, and now is the time to go back to the plowshare and to the loom and distaff and prepare for that time which will come. We can raise our products and manufacture them and store them in their various ways and keep out of that fight and away from it. In this way and perhaps in this way only will we be able to preserve our neutrality.

American people don't stay at home enough. Our women don't stay at home enough. They take the excuse of "getting fresh air" to cover this spirit of going about and much mischief is occasioned by it. We should counsel our women at this time to cultivate a more equal poise and aplomb and to stay at home and make it a place where those who also have it for their headquarters will want to stay. We can in this way regain much of the prestige we need to repair public opinion about us and at the same time have the most desirable influence and power to be given to women and that is the power of our home influence on the community.

Much depends upon our women in this particular war, more than in their activity outside of the home and away from the preserving, the baking and the care of the babies. Those realms are best ruled by women and we should realize it. The divorced women of Rome caused its downfall. We should not foster animosities, lack of home life and a desire for public activities and all at the cost of the Nation's foundation—the home. This is the peace policy and it will cause the peace angel to dwell in our midst even when other nations are rent with the shriek of shrapnel and the cries of its dying youths and men. It is the peace ground and women should hasten to take it in the United States of America.

SAFETY FIRST.

MOTIVES CALLED IMMATERIAL

Value of Submarine Attacks Not of Interest Here, Says Writer.

VANCOUVER, Wash., May 21.—(To the Editor.)—A communication appears in The Oregonian under the heading "Best Keep Cool and Quiet, Too." Like all other anti-American contributions, it harks back to causes and motives leading up to the murder of American citizens by order of the German government. Such arguments or pleas are absolutely irrelevant. The American citizen is in no way interested in Germany's motive for committing this crime.

We care not what gain it was to Germany. Nor do we care what loss it was to Britain. We are Americans. But two pertinent questions come to us at this moment: First, is Germany under any conditions justifiable in murdering noncombatant citizens of the United States sailing the high seas on an unarmed vessel?

Second, will Germany give us satisfactory assurance that it will not be repeated?

The future course of our Government hinges on the answer we receive to these two questions.

I would, as an American, say to all un-American citizens, this is an ily chosen time to express anti-American views. Surely they can see by the tone of our press that the American people are in no mood to listen to unpatriotic sentiment expressed by residents of this country who are held in leading strings by any foreign ruler, prince or potentate. I would therefore say to them "Best keep cool and quiet, too."

AN AMERICAN.

COLONEL SANDERSON A GENIUS

Death Recalls Management of Extensive Stage System.

STEVENSON, Wash., May 21.—(To the Editor.)—A brief dispatch in the daily press announced the death of Colonel Jared L. Sanderson at his home in Boulder, Colo, the 10th instant. He lived to the remarkable age of 95 years and from the days of his early manhood, when he forsook his Vermont home, until a short time before his death he was one of the foremost of the empire builders of the great West.

The lure of the gold fever of 1849 took him from the driver's seat of a Burlington stage line to the great bend of the Missouri River and before Kansas City had a name he chose that strategic point as the base for the operation of the most gigantic overland transportation concern the country had ever seen.

From "Westport Landing" he organized, equipped and maintained a system of stage lines extending thence to Fort Scott, 100 miles; Santa Fe, 300 miles; El Paso, 1200 miles, Tucson, 1600 miles; Los Angeles, 1900 miles, and to San Francisco and Portland, more than 2000 miles. Each of these were great through lines with numerous branches ramifying the country adjacent and reaching every important town, mining camp and industry of whatever character.

The Barlow & Sanderson Transportation Company at one time shortly after the Civil War employed 5000 horses, 1200 men and more than 200 Concord coaches. To manage such a concern, secure the supplies for men and horses and tens of thousands of passengers, build and maintain stations at short intervals across plains, mountains and deserts, keep them stocked with provisions and forage and in numerous instances with water hauled for miles, and to defend them against Indians and highwaymen; to repair damages and losses by the elements and withal to care for and protect the precious mails of Uncle Sam, required executive ability of the highest order.

The senior partner may have furnished the capital, but Sanderson did the business. It was his farsightedness, daring, industry and generalship that made success possible. His eyes were everywhere. He anticipated emergencies and provided for them, from the smallest detail to the largest undertakings. His pulse was quickened by the need of 100 tons of oats at the mountain stations before Winter set in or by a letter from some irate passenger saying that the water at a certain station had given out or wasn't fit to use, and both matters were given immediate attention. He went over the lines frequently and in this way during the many years that I enjoyed the favor of a pass I met Colonel Sanderson and learned his strength of character. While he was king and required his men to obey his every command, whether they could see a reason for it or not, he was also a humane and considerate man.

He looked after the wants of his employes like a father anticipates the needs of his family. If a faithful man became sick he was sent to the hospital and his pay went on just the same. If a passenger became sick he was cared for in the best way possible, regardless of expense or inconvenience. If a horse became sick or injured it received the best of care until it was fully fit for the road again. He was chivalrous toward women passengers and gave strict orders to give them the choice seats, whether outside of the coach or inside. The strictest deportment was exacted of all drivers and drunkenness or improper language were punished by dismissal. He was generous also. Many a man could testify that when he was "broke" Colonel Sanderson gave him a ride on the "hurricane roof" and a seat at the table with the rest. Many an old man in Colorado and New Mexico and I dare say in any of the states from the Missouri to the Pacific, paid a tribute of tears as he read that Colonel Sanderson had passed on and prayed that he might make the "home station" in safety.

ALBERT R. GREENE.

SOAPBOX WORSE THAN BANNER

License Given Freak Orators Bad Advertisement for City.

PORTLAND, May 22.—(To the Editor.)—We have been cleaning and painting our houses, trimming the rose bushes and in a general way preparing to impress tourists en route to the Panama show with our cosmopolitan accomplishments.

A movement is on foot to banish the banner hikers that parade the streets with an imaginary grievance against some reputable merchant, but no one seems to offer any protest against the continuous performance of the Sunday soapbox orator down on the lawn in front of our magnificent Courthouse.

Tourists as a rule are exceptionally representative of the culture and refinement of their respective communities. They come from localities that are represented at their public gatherings by men of brains. Their orators are men of high ideals. They use chaste language, say something, quit when they get through; their discussions make for the betterment of the community and their personalities are a tribute to the high standards of our present-day civilization.

Imagine a group of these cultured sightseers strolling along on the Sabbath viewing our magnificent public buildings and, lured by the crowd, suddenly find themselves on the Bowery in front of Portland's 2x4 open-air freak, with a face like a discarded doorknob, features that imply a struggle to keep the parole, limbs that resemble a contest between two matches, a voice that would stampede a donkey. There he stands, smile redolent with egotism, feet, tongue and arms moving automatically, haranguing the crowd. He bears about the same relation to the real thing that a cocoanut does to a bald head.

A mere phonograph, all but the framework, he reviles the Christian religion, uses guarded profanity, intimates that every public official is a scoundrel and we tolerate it by consoling ourselves that "he that hath evil in his own heart imagines evil in the hearts of others." Under the guise of free speech he poses as the champion of some of the unemployed. He uses language that would not be tolerated in the same location in any of the intermountain states.

If law is public sentiment crystallized surely 90 per cent of Portland's population are entitled to some relief. Strangers drawn unexpectedly into the vortex of such a mixed conglomeration of nomadic nationalities are liable to get wrong ideas of progressive Portland.

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

RECORD DESTRUCTION WRONG

Judge Gatens' Removal of Evidence Against Children Not Liked.

PORTLAND, May 22.—(To the Editor.)—It may possibly do some credit to the heart of the Juvenile Court judge that he tears up 2500 criminal records, but it can hardly do credit to his intelligence. To the sentimental the announcement of the judge's intention and the picture of the judge with his two assistants engaged in the act of pulling to bits the records of the young persons who have appeared before him is doubtless touching. It may even occur to this soft-hearted judge that he is actually wiping out the crimes with the records. I have heard worse logic from the bench. It is a pretty idea.

But let us consider the thing from a calm viewpoint. "Frequently," says Judge Gatens, "parents come to me and ask that the records against their child or children be destroyed." There is not the slightest doubt that the judge receives numerous requests of this kind. Almost any person prefers to have his or her offspring unencumbered by a court record. It is one of the appendages that is regarded as undesirable by most of the human race.

Undeniably, there is a prejudice, if not an abhorrence, of a court record. But when parents, through ignorance, negligence or badness, fail in the proper up-bringing of their children and permit them to do things for which they are punished in the Juvenile Court, why should their sentimental plea be listened to? There is no disgrace in having been a ward of the court in itself. The records often show that a child was guilty of nothing but being an orphan, unfortunate or financially dependent.

What is the use of keeping records if they are to be destroyed? What is the use of wasting time and money? Why should not Judge Cleeton have the benefit of his predecessor's experience?

The Juvenile Court records are, as are any other records, primarily a protection; they protect the judge, the public, and last, but not least, the unfortunate little offenders themselves. Therefore it is the duty of the people to see that they be preserved. They should be preserved with dignity and with respect for the sacredness of the court. The records should never be given to the public gaze. The Juvenile Court should not be used as an advertisement nor as a sob-kerchief, but as a defender of the young.

AN OREGONIAN.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM ADVISED

Woman Will Then Cease "Selling" Herself, Says One Mother.

PORTLAND, May 22.—(To the Editor.)—I have read with interest the letter by Louis Barzee and the answers that have appeared recently in The Oregonian and I would like to add a few remarks to what has been said.

The writer mentions the fact that a great change has come over woman within the past half century. Indeed a change has come to woman as well as to man. In the past woman helped man rear his children—spun, wove and sewed their clothing—prepared their food, etc. But most of the duties that woman performed half a century ago have been taken from her and are now handled by machinery in our large factories and mills. Children are employed to a large extent to run this machinery. So we see today that instead of woman spinning, weaving and making clothing for her whole family, child labor is grinding out this food and clothing; and millions of thoughtless women are heedlessly spending their time and energy overdressing and overfeeding themselves and families, forgetting that the children who operate these machines are stunted by their occupations and can never develop into normal men and women.

I am glad to see woman taking her place beside man on the industrial and political field. She has occupied the place of "queen," doll and slave and furnished food for factory, mill and cannon long enough. Now let her work with man as his comrade and equal. It is time she was exercising a voice on the political field. It is right that she should help shape conditions under which her posterity shall live. And there is no better place for her to become educated for her political duties than on the industrial field where she comes in contact with the ills of society. This association will cause her to make a deeper study of the use of the ballot and will enable her to see beyond the four walls of her own household and make her feel that she is indeed the mother of the race and responsible to all children for their future. And her mother heart will surely awaken and respond at the ballot box.

With "more than 1,000,000 jobless men" why should woman be impelled to marry and bring more human beings into the world to go hungry and compete for the jobs? Isn't it time she stopped and looked about her to see what she can do to help right these terrible conditions in society? What wonder that the girl who has been forced out in the industrial field turns her back on her sweetheart and shuts her eyes to the vision of shadowy little forms and faces and the thoughts of soft little arms, etc. The bread and butter question of life is speaking so loud that she cannot hear the call of love, and so she decides to make her own living or wait for old Money-bag.

I see no danger to society in the fact that women are fitting themselves for, and successfully filling, positions formerly occupied only by men. But there is a danger to society from the parasitic lives lived by many women who are kept in luxury and idleness and who look on marriage only as an opportunity to live a life of ease and luxury. Many earnest "breadwinners" are supporting women with so little useful work to perform that they spend their time following fashions, cooking unnecessary and unwholesome food and lavishing their maternal affections on poodle dogs. Woman's advent into the industrial field greatly lessens the loveless marriages. With other avenues open to her and with a chance to choose marriage and motherhood, rather than to accept it merely because it is practically the only field open to her, we will have better mothers and better children. And then she will more readily see her way clear to accept relief through the blessed institution of divorce rather than remain in marriage prostitution.

Give woman her economic freedom and she will cease selling herself for a home for herself and children through life, as is the case with our loveless marriages. If woman has a useful duty to perform (instead of being a dolled-up "queen," or a slave to passion) she will at last reach her crowning function in society as an object for the pure affection of man and the guiding inspiration of his and her children.

LYLITH M. CANNON.
(Mother.)

BUKRAM SQUINT IS ANSWERED

J. Hennessy Offers Congratulations and Some Comment.

PORTLAND, May 22.—(To the Editor.)—The following appeared in an afternoon paper in this city:

Impossible though it might appear to the surprised world, Germany is destined to win in this gigantic struggle, and in the final settlement she will claim and take possession of Ireland, and she will so fortify it that never again will England claim to be mistress of the sea. And when there has been as complete an exodus of Irish from Ireland as when St. Patrick expelled the snakes, then Ireland, under German control, thrift and development, will become the Garden of Eden spot on this mundane sphere, the Emerald Isle in perfection.

BUKRAM SQUINT.

I congratulate the well-known intransigent, Mr. Wacht on the Rhine, commander-in-chief of the Rausmittem Micks, his sauerkraut legal advisers, professors, chaplains and through them all the Bockwurst Irish, on the holy cause they espouse so ably set forth by Bukram Squint and for which they so earnestly strive for—that delectable future, "when there has been as complete an exodus of the Irish from Ireland as when St. Patrick expelled the snakes and when Ireland under German control, etc."

Personally, I don't believe that you could smash the point herein through their hard-surface domes with a pile-driver, but the good Lord is merciful and if they will but attend the Armory meeting next Monday night they may possibly leave it with a chastened mood and conclude that Bukram has another Squint coming.

J. HENNESSY MURPHY.

WAR DANGER NOT BELIEVED

Germany's Exhaustion Considered Assurance of Peace.

COTTAGE GROVE, Or., May 21.—(To the Editor.)—I would like to commend to the attention of the writer of the article in The Oregonian entitled "Too Weak, Not Too Proud to Fight," an editorial May 15 in the Saturday Evening Post, entitled "That Invasion."

It seems strange and decidedly ill-timed that this persistent outcry and appeal to prepare for war by battleships and armies should grow loudest at the very hour when such a policy seems to profoundly discredited in the eyes of the civilized world. Is it—should it be—our highest ambition to convince the world that we are not a nation of weaklings and cowards by parading armies and navies in sight? What nation in the world is in any serious danger of believing that we are a Nation of weaklings and cowards?

Another thing: It seems remarkable that this refrain of self-protection, this outcry of warlike preparations, should grow most insistent at the very time when, judged by all ordinary standards, our danger is the least apparent, our safety most secure. Never in her whole history has our country seemed in less danger from foreign invasion than it is today.

The nations that might be able to attack us seem to be wholly lacking in the motive and the desire. The one nation which might be assumed to have the motive and the desire must, in the very nature of the case, for a long time to come lack the ability to do so successfully.

You say "If Germany were not at war with other nations and if those other nations did not shield us, we could not stand against Germany." Perhaps so. But why not allow the two facts conceded to bear their full weight in the argument? Germany is at war with other nations—and not only is, but will be till her military strength is exhausted. Those other nations not only shield us, but must, for their own protection and safety, continue to shield us in the future. If they do not succeed in sufficiently humiliating her in the present war, an attack on us would afford them the opportunity they must covet for completing the task. Germany must know this and must hesitate long before giving them the opportunity.

"Should we now elect to return the blow Germany has given us, etc." But we shall not elect to return the blow, not in kind at least. This Nation is not in the mood to return Germany's blow in kind nor enforce her demands by war. Nor yet will her course in the matter be such as to expose her to the charge of being weak and cowardly.

There are other means of enforcing those demands without appeal to arms, means which comport better with her principles and her practices in the past and with the yet higher career which she has set for herself in the future.

T. W. DE LONG.

METER PLAN IS CALLED WASTE

Idea of Measuring Out Water When City Supply Large, Not Liked.

PORTLAND, May 22.—(To the Editor.)—The meter question being an issue before the people at the coming election, it is opportune that it be discussed from all angles.

The Oregonian is truly right on the meter issue. To let each user of city water have, proportionately, for his full need is more equitable for the community than the purchasing of meters that cost the city $500,000, and which bring absolutely nothing in return. To use meters to limit a practical use of water is like restricting an individual from breathing a full lung capacity because another cannot contain a similar number of cubic inches. A waste of water is far better than a waste of taxpayers' money.

Truly you mentioned but a few of the "inequalities" set out in your comment on I. W. S.' letter. For instance John D. Rockefeller has much more wealth than he can utilize for his own immediate needs unless we accept as need, the dog-in-the-manger policy of hoarding and keeping from others that which is in his possession, as the water is in possession of the city. John D. is running this meter business to a fare-you-well. The whole capitalist system is founded upon it. It is not every one according to his need, in this life, as the good book teaches us to observe, but the depriving of others without benefiting ourselves.

Of course this plan of water distribution to the citizens of Portland is not capitalistic. It is quite socialistic and may be somewhat anarchistic. The fact that it opposes our much-loved capitalist system, of depriving ourselves to accommodate no one, should not prejudice us into purchasing meters unless our water supply demands such conservation, which it does not, at least for the present. This man-made meter system which says you can only have of the bounties of nature, regardless of your capacity or need, that which you are able to purchase from some one else who happens to be in possession of it, is a foretaste of that biblical hell. Defeat the water meter bonding measure.

C. W. BARZEE.

HOW TO WHIP GERMANY TOLD

Supply Munitions to Allies and Let Them Do Job, Suggested.

PORTLAND, May 22.—(To the Editor.)—There has been quite a little talk about the inability of the United States to do anything in case Germany refuses to recognize the President's note of warning. The Army and Navy have both been belittled and the claim has been made that the United States is helpless. But we wish to say that the United States under existing conditions can wipe Germany as a nation off the map within four months and never lose a man. Of course you will say that this is an idle dream, but it is not.

It costs a vast amount of money to carry on an army, in the way of food and supplies, but with the United States it would be far different. We can call for a volunteer force of from 500,000 to 2,000,000 men and guarantee them a wage of from $3.50 a day up and get the army immediately. When this army has been assembled it will not be in one place, but all over the United States, the Government can take over every public and private shipyard, steel and iron plant, auto truck manufacturing concern, copper and other resources to make ammunition; then put these 2,000,000 men, working at good wages, to make munitions of war. Then cable England, France, Italy and Russia: "What do you want in the way of munitions of war? We will give you anything up to 50,000 Gatling guns." Four months' active service of 1,000,000 or 2,000,000 men will put enough munitions of war in the hands of those people, who really want to fight the Germans, actually to overrun and kill every man in the empire.

But we are satisfied that the German nation will not antagonize the United States to the extent necessary for a declaration of war.

FRANK LEE.

ROSES AROUSE APPRECIATION

Correspondent Finds Artist Nature's Masterpiece in Portland.

PORTLAND, May 22.—(To the Editor.)—This is the time of roses. We see in Oregon's lovely gardens and parks clusters of beautiful roses, painted in the richest hues by the lavish hand of that glorious artist, Nature, and dispensing on the soft air soul-permeating perfumes compounded in the crucibles of her laboratory.

What flower is more beautiful than the rose? The queen of the floral kingdom, showering her favors alike on rich and poor, and gladdening the hearts of little children and cheering the solitude of some lonely recluse. It carries God's sunshine and love into the hovel as well as the mansion, to the hospital and the prison, and is the sweet envoy of many a loving message from lovers to each other, and is also the gracious sentinel on many a lonely grave, custodian of our tears and sorrow, yet a fitting emblem of a life anew. Look around and view the pictures, more beautiful than were ever depicted on the canvas of a painter.

Here we see a deep, rich crimson, its curving petals inviting one to pause and breathe a kiss; there, near by, in sweet profusion the dainty "Maiden's Blush" blooms under a canopy of "Cloth of Gold"; there the glorious "Caroline Testout" uplifts her head beneath the banners of "La France" and whispers secrets, borne on the breeze, to the lordly "Marechal Neil," but, glorious above all others, and in rich profusion among her sister-queens, we see unrivaled "American Beauty," the peerless "monarch of all she surveys."

MARIE WITTMAN DIXON,
350 East Thirty-seventh street.

DETECTIVES WHO OWN AUTOS

Secretary to Mayor Tells the Awful Truth of How It's Done.

PORTLAND, May 21.—(To the Editor.)—I notice in The Oregonian where our city detectives all have their private automobiles. I cannot understand this, as they do not receive such pay as would enable them to afford such expensive things. I would like to find out the system.

O. E. ALFREDSON.

The following information is furnished by W. H. Warren, secretary to Mayor Albee. The latter is Commissioner of Public Safety and as such has supervision of the bureau of police:

It is always a pleasure to answer honest inquirers, especially when the subject is one of such general interest as that concerning which Mr. Alfredson writes. Not using any names, but merely furnishing the information asked for by him, the facts are these:

One captain of police has two cars in his family; a suspicious person might, not knowing the facts, think there was something wrong in this. One is a low-priced car which he purchased by practicing economy, the other was won by his daughter in a contest, which required a lot of hard work and "hustling" by herself and friends.

One lieutenant of police has two cars at his home, a low-priced car purchased by exchange for a lot near St. Johns, the other a touring car left by a deceased sergeant; his daughters are under the care of the lieutenant and wife, the lieutenant being administrator of the estate; the touring car is used only for the benefit of the children.

One detective sergeant has a car purchased for him by his father-in-law, it being a small runabout.

Another detective sergeant has a low-priced car purchased by himself by denying himself and family enough other things to save the money.

One detective, whose wife works hard all the time as a public stenographer, because she wishes to be useful and to assist her husband, has the use of a low-priced car for the reason that she bought it with her own money, while her husband is paying for the home.

Another detective, unmarried, saved enough to buy a car for the express purpose of taking his aged mother out for drives to improve her health.

Still another detective has a small second-hand car, paid for by himself.

There are 30 men in the detective division; five have inexpensive cars for the reasons set forth and 25 have no cars, so that Mr. Alfredson is misinformed when he states that all of the detectives have them.

Hundreds of thousands of working men own small, inexpensive cars these days, many of whom, no doubt, are receiving smaller salaries than our detectives and detective sergeants, so that there need be no suspicion attaching to the ownership of one by a citizen, even though he or she may chance to be a public official.

It is earnestly hoped this information may be of use to Mr. Alfredson and perhaps of some interest to other readers.

GAMBLER'S CHANCE TAKEN

Discretion Should Have Kept Americans Off Lusitania, Says Writer.

THE DALLES, Or., May 21.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian I notice an article by Father Gregory which is so near my way of thinking that it could be looked upon as an article from me. I wish to congratulate Father Gregory.

While in a barber shop the other day there were seven others present, only one of whom was of German parentage, and all but one of the seven agreed with me on the pros and cons of the victims of the unfortunate Lusitania.

As American citizens every one of them had a right to go wherever they pleased on the high seas or on land for that matter. They had a right to go between the trenches of the allies and Germans, but they didn't. Their discretion told them not to do so.

Their discretion for the same reason should have told them to stay away from the warring countries at this time, either by land or by sea. But they preferred to take a chance.

They gambled with fate, their trip was the game, the excitement of running into danger and then running out again was the inducement, they played their stakes on the card of English promises and believed the card of German warnings to be the losing one.

They played and lost. Like all other gamblers, had they been lucky enough to win out, to run away from the German submarines (for they all expected to meet them) there would have been no end to their glorying about their great adventures and successes. And, also, like all other gamblers, when they found that they had played on the wrong card, burst out with the ever-recurring howl that they didn't get a fair chance.

There is nothing like being open-minded at this time as well as at any other time, and I write these lines principally to show that there are many of that frame of mind. At least in one crowd of sight, accidentally brought together, there were seven who thought that the victims of that unfortunate ship should not have taken the chances.

Regrettable as the whole thing has turned out to be, 10,000 times the most regrettable part of it all is the fact that innocent and trusting children were taken by their parents on such a fool's excursion.

ROBERT (BOB) WHITE.

Stand of The Oregonian Commended.

SALEM, Or., May 21.—(To the Editor.)—I wish to commend you on your editorials in The Oregonian concerning the sinking of the Lusitania. They ably represent the feelings of the American people, despite a few of your pro-German readers. Why was Germany the aggressor in this war if she wanted peace? One of your correspondents says, "Germany has craved American sympathy with childlike fondness." By repeated insults to the United States culminating in this latest murderous deed, sending so many innocent men, women and little children to premature graves, have they shown their affection for the Americans?

The exportation of munitions of war is legal. It is the exportation of guns and ammunition that has made Krupps and other firms as big as they are today. They had no qualms of conscience about making widows and orphans in the Russian-Japanese war and the Balkan wars and the Boer war. We all want peace, but it must be peace with honor. The American people are firmly behind the President in this trying time.

GILBERT WHITE.

Let Well Enough Alone.

Atchison Globe.

Sometimes good luck is a result of just holding to a job.