

The Oregonian

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WANTED—A WAR SLOGAN.

Although it has failed to produce on the spur of the moment a new patriotic song deemed worthy of general adoption, the budding genius of the country still has work to do. Now a war slogan is wanted—a battle cry for our soldiers abroad. There will be no reward but the consciousness of duty done. There is no doubt of the inspirational effect of a slogan pitched in the right key. The slogan itself is a song; its acceptance will depend on the humor of the soldiers themselves. No rules will govern it, and no mandate of the Government will force it upon them. Its value will depend upon its spontaneity.

TOO RECKLESS.

There is a growing carelessness in the handling of automobiles, apparent to one who but scans the newspaper columns for accidents. We do not now refer to those who go out and injure only themselves or some secluded grade or hairpin curve, but to those who not only place their own lives but those of careful persons in constant danger.

A TRUE NON-PARTISAN JUDICIARY.

The unexpected death of Judge William L. Bradshaw the other day terminated a service of twenty-six years on the Circuit bench. During that time he was regarded as one who so faithfully and so well, Oregon witnessed not a little agitation in favor of non-partisan election of the judiciary. It was argued that because of the preponderance of one political party in the public mind, the services of those of another political faith whose attainments would grace the bench.

WAR LOANS OF THREE COUNTRIES.

For a people so unaccustomed in the main to investments in Government bonds as are the American people, it is no small feat to have found about four million subscribers to the first war loan. This is an evidence of the financial wellbeing of the people in general, and also that they are quick to learn the value of this kind of investment and it augurs well for a far larger number of subscribers to the next and succeeding loans. The belligerent nations had had nearly three years' experience in raising money when Americans' education began, and we have made a much better beginning than Britain made or than others would have made with like inexperience.

COMPLETING BRITISH DEMOCRACY.

One of the longest steps in completing the British democracy, Great Britain is the suffrage bill now before Parliament. It is revolutionary, by comparison with the existing order, in the fact that it gives votes to women and also in the fact that it gives votes to practically all men. Another change, little less revolutionary in principle, is the almost complete abolition of plural voting. That practice is to be limited to one vote in the district where a voter resides and a second in that where he does business. This is a radical change from the theory that votes represent property, either owned or occupied, although extended to the point where the tenant of premises having a rental value of only \$1 a week had a vote. Under the old system a man had a vote in every district where he owned property, and many men spent several days at election time in traveling from district to district to cast their ballots, the voting being at different days in various districts for their accommodation. Another exception to the rule of one man one vote is made in favor of the universities, which are to have distinct representation for their graduates, though the latter will have a second vote where they reside.

limited to freshers, and old, decayed forms still had as many representatives as in the days of their prosperity, the seats being in effect the property of great land owners, while new centers of population were totally unrepresented. The first reform act removed nearly all of these abuses and began to make Parliament truly representative, but not until 1867 was household suffrage in the boroughs granted, to be followed by a similar measure for rural districts. The open ballot, which was caricatured by Dickens in his story of the election at Eatonville, was not abolished until 1872, long antedating the same reform in the United States. Great steps in purifying election were made when Parliament delegated to non-partisan commissioners trial of contests and of corruption charges and rigidly restricted election expenses.

WASTE OF WAR VERSE.

It is a pity that we have no way to transmit into food-pounds or calories or some other measure of the prodigious efforts that are being exerted to produce bad war verse. There is a vast amount of this, as any editorial waste basket would testify, if it could talk, and the most sorrowful feature is that it represents a truly enormous amount of sincere, hard work.

THE MIND AND THE LAW.

Two recent but widely separated occurrences in England—the death of a vicar of a village church and the rendition of a judgment by the House of Lords—serve by association as a reminder of recent changes in the interpretation of the law. The judgment of the peers, given last month, upholding the custody of the Secular Society, Limited, in effect was a reversal of the position taken in 1878 by the British high courts that opinion such as are said to be held by members of the Secular Society is a matter for the custody of her own daughter. It is a curious coincidence that the Secular Society, Limited, should have figured in both cases, divided by nearly forty years of time.

The vicar in question was the Rev. Frank Besant, who for forty-five years had filled an inconspicuous niche in a town in Lincolnshire. It is not likely he would ever have been heard of if it had not been for his wife, Mrs. Besant, a widely known writer on theosophical and other occult subjects. The Besants were married in 1867, and in 1878 a judicial separation was arranged by the terms of which Mrs. Besant was to have the custody of their only daughter.

THE NEW SALESMANSHIP.

Recent advances in what may fairly be termed the "science" of salesmanship have kept pace with the broadening of other departments of industry, as was pointed out recently by Charles M. Schwab, head of the Bethlehem Steel Co., at the World's Salesmanship Congress at Detroit. Mr. Schwab summarized the spirit of the new era in the statement that "the highest salesmanship consists in making a buyer understand the true merit of the article you are seeking to sell."

REMINISCENCES.

There is always a certain amount of joy in reading the reminiscences of a personage if, happily, the writer has that great gift of the imagination which tells him what to omit. Certain experiences are common to mankind—at least some parts of them are—and in comparing them and noting the points at which they differ upon our own that we find our chief pleasure in this form of reading. This thought Sir Rabiadrnanth Tagore makes quite clear in his Oriental way, in his "Reminiscences," only recently published when he draws upon the painting of the memory pictures and the writing of history.

HOPE AND CULTIVATE.

It is important for the amateur gardener to remember that his duty to his country did not end with the planting of his seed. It is one of the laws of nature that is favorable to the growth of desired plants is equally favorable to the propagation of weeds. These must be kept down or they will capture the ground, and the soil must be kept in a fine state of tilth if the crop is to mature to the best advantage.

chance has been removed from buying. Great commercial enterprises are built up not only on integrity but upon the principle that the buyer's interest receives first consideration. It is no longer regarded as sound business policy to trick the consumer into buying beyond his needs. Business is being broadened, it increases in volume, and it is increasing because of its broader methods. The same practices, applied to our foreign trade, are also operating in our favor and are making our American business man the most prosperous in the world.

RETURNED GOODS.

The suggestion of the Council of National Defense that the practice of buyers of having goods sent home on approval be abolished presents some interesting considerations not unconnected with the general public interest. It probably is not realized that returned goods have come to be an important factor in the high cost of living. Together with the demand that everything be delivered at our doors, in the case of a village store and that goods be put up in the most ornate containers possible, excesses in the custom of buying articles on approval and changing one's mind about keeping them are responsible for large amounts of goods going back.

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as one of the laws of the universe that is for the Big to hurt and for the Small to be hurt. But this view, too, has been changed. "It has taken me a long time," he says, "to learn the opposite truth that it is the Big who suffer and the Small who cause suffering." Which is another issue upon which, it would seem, the East and the West can find common ground. The trouble seemed to be that the whole burden was thrown upon the servants, and the whole burden is a thing difficult to work, even for those who are nearest and dearest.

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Gleams Through the Mist.

By Dean Collins. THE UNIVERSAL TOPIC. "All roads lead to Rome," said the proverb of old; And in application we find it will hold About conversation throughout the whole Nation— Its trains all bring up at the same union station. Top can't head it off, throw a switch or jump stop it; You can't back it up; you can't leave it or drop it. No matter what object you start it out for, All topics in talk lead you straight to the war.

The text of the sermon the preacher intone Is a good starting point for the submarine zone; Baseball, with its pitchers, releases and trades, Leads straight to the trenches and throwing grenades. A chap may start talking of frolic and wine, But the talk will veer round to the Hindenberg line. Your whole destination's a certainty, for All topics in talk lead you straight to the war.

You may start to make love to the girl you adore, And conscription's the theme 'ere the subject o'er; You may try to buy Bibles in bookstores today, And the Manual's yours when you finish your say; On the wings of the morning you may rise from a cot, and you may be a student of English at a university, fell into his hands. He read it all, although at least nine-tenths of the words were unknown to him. Yet, with the vague, the confused, the uncolored thread on which to string the illustrations, "Any university examiner," he observes, "would have given me a great big zero, but the reading of the book has not proved so empty as all that." But it ought to be explained that the poet's strictures upon university professors are inspired by a limited experience. He would perhaps be surprised to know that there are many, especially in America, who are as sympathetic as he would have us believe.

Use of the wooden shoe in England has introduced a new element into life in the factory towns where the workers in wearing them for reasons of economy, and of the suppression of unusual noises have been compelled to modify their propaganda to meet the new situation. In the United States Commerce Reports, which usually are devoid of humor, one of our consuls tells of an American visiting an English city who was struck by the great clatter in the street below his window and asked his host the cause. On being told that it was the factory operatives going to work, he observed that they were the most prosperous workmen of whom he had ever heard, to be able to ride to work on horseback. There was a time in Holland, and even in England, however, when this sound was not at all uncommon. It is the "clang of wooden shoes" was part of the life of every town. "Courting clogs," which are especially ornate, as the name would indicate, are being revived in some parts of Lancashire, and are being worn quite as extensively as the more comfortable shoes of leather that are being discarded.

It is not surprising, when one thinks it over, that it should be easy to raise a number of children who have been starved to death in Belgium and other parts of the world. The fact is that mob courage is not the stern stuff of which real soldiers are made. Two or three hundred men chasing a small party of criminals, and keeping at a safe distance from the guns of the deputies guarding them until the force is sufficiently large to overpower them, have a task that does not even remotely resemble a charge on the German trenches. The kind of men who are recruited to lead a lynch party would have small stomach for real fighting, and the kind that make the best soldiers would be found among the upholders of the law.

The camping season will give the Boy Scouts a splendid opportunity to practice some of the arts that will come in good play when they grow up to be real soldiers. Discipline and first aid and resourcefulness are good things to be familiar with, whether the boy ever has actual need for them or not.

Kansas wheat crop shows improvement and it also appears that the shortage of farm help in the Middle West is as serious as was first reported. With the help of the home gardens, it looks as if the American farmer might be able to save the day, after all.

There are still a few back yards that have not been planted to their full capacity, and the householder who neither bought a liberty bond nor subscribed to the Red Cross fund would better begin studying the vegetables that are good for late planting.

About every country not fenced in by the iron ring of the allies has sent a mission to this country, and it is to be hoped, in the interest of our knowledge of geography, that San Marino and Andorra will not forget us.

It looks as if the search for the man of the hour in Russia would have to be abandoned, but a few minute men might still do excellent service in an emergency.

Austrian schoolchildren no doubt are writing most of their graduating essays this June on the familiar topic, "Beyond the Alps Lies Italy."

Germans are warning Russians that they are going to fight, and, judging from the temper of the Duma, the desire is mutual.

Judging from the weather reports from Switzerland, Constantine will have no trouble in keeping cool among the Alps.

The Roumanian, who wants to go home to fight for his country will have no trouble getting his passport.

There is no such thing as "too much of a good thing" when it comes to helping the Red Cross.

That New Society. The new society that was announced last week is to be organized at once with as many charter members as we can get. The patron saint of the organization, as most of our readers have guessed already, no doubt, is the late Little Jack Horner, of whom it will be remembered: "He put in his thumb and pulled out a plum. And said: 'What a great boy am I!'" The constitution and bylaws of the new society are comprised in those ringing words—also the qualifications for membership. Right off the bat, we have an inclination to nominate Tom Lawson for charter membership, and we can think of several others that we will mention later.

Well, Finley, Whaddaboutit! Dear Ed—Please let me abandon my work as poet bound until we can settle dispute that has arisen about the poem a girl sent me last week about "The Wren."

Mrs. J. A. Hyde, of St. Johns, writes denying that a wren sings "sweet tweet," and she says that she knows a wren in St. Johns that has a trained voice, and that she has quite a few pieces, such as "I'm So Happy" and "Me, Me, Look So Sweet!"

And she says the poem must have meant an English sparrow. Perhaps it did mean an English sparrow, the moral pointed out in the poem would have been the same.

But the question that has been stirred up in my bosom by Mrs. Hyde's letter is this, or rather are these: 1. Do wrens sing? 2. If wrens sing, do wrens sing in St. Johns? 3. If so, why?

Won't you please refer this matter to W. L. Finley, for I am worried about it, particularly the last question. Yours agitatedly, G. PYTHAGORAS BIMELECK, Pote Hound.

Important directions have just been received and the starting of the expedition to discover and explore the LAST ANALYSIS has been halted until the subject can be investigated thoroughly.

A. W. N. has sent in a statement that to her best belief and information the LAST ANALYSIS is through the looking glass. She says that she is convinced of this because, dealing with a looking glass, the deeper you go into it the further you have to get away from it.

"In the LAST ANALYSIS," our venerable friend, Ted Lansing, remarked to us the other day, "this whole enterprise of yours is plain nut stuff."

This gives us an added incentive for seeking to discover and explore the mysterious realm of the LAST ANALYSIS.

Address all communications to the Expedition to the LAST ANALYSIS, care of the PRESENT CRISIS.

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