

# The Oregonian

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 PORTLAND, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1917.

## OUR ANTI-BRITISH SCHOOL BOOKS.

We are hampered in our study of the history of the American Revolution not only by the studied propaganda of pro-Germans, to which public attention has only recently been called, but by the anti-British tendency of many of our school books. However we are not to be discouraged, escape, in the writing of histories for the more mature, from narrow partisanship which borders on jingoism, we have not always, in most of the textbooks prepared for the very young, been wholly free from similar commission and omission. The latter predominate, it is true. There are not many histories worthy of the name which make actual misstatements as to facts, but there are not a few which give an impression of the underlying spirit of events. A common example is the history of the war of 1812, which many of us read when we were young. By such literary devices as the placing of the battle of Lake Erie and the glowing over of the affair at Bladensburg they create a superficial, and at least partly erroneous, idea of the relative courage and patriotism and efficiency of the peoples of the countries then at war, and now allies in the great struggle to re-establish the world in peace.

## ABOVE PAR.

The Oregonian knows of a banker in a country town, patriotic and astute, who acquired at par ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars in Spanish-American war bonds, floated by the United States Government in 1898. The bonds bore three (3) per cent interest, and were sold to the public at one hundred cents on the dollar.

## THE RECORD.

When the indictment against German autocracy shall be made up, it will be found that it includes the following transgressions against the laws of humanity, the recognized rules of civilized warfare:

1. Violation of treaties, beginning with the 1864 Geneva Convention.
2. Execution of hostages.
3. Enormous exactions under guise of tax.
4. Enslavement of people, including boys and girls.
5. Exploitation of women for gratification of soldiers.
6. Destruction of churches and libraries.
7. Pillage.
8. Cruelty in many forms.
9. Deportation of non-combatants.
10. Imprisonment and punishment of non-combatants.
11. Destruction of orchards and fields, with their ripening crops.
12. Sinking of merchantmen without warning.
13. Ignoring neutral and non-combatant rights.
14. Blowing up industrial establishments in neutral countries.
15. Poison gases and flames.
16. Murdering innocent people in small boats.
17. Starving and slaying prisoners.
18. Murdering innocent people in small boats.
19. Aerial warfare on undefended towns.
20. Spreading disease through anthrax and glanders germs.
21. Treachery and treachery based on treachery, falsehood, bribery.
22. Conspiracy against sovereignty of neutral nations.
23. Complicity in Armenian massacres.

## A GERMAN POLITICAL TRICK.

In measuring the importance of the naval mutiny as bearing on the war, Americans would do well to remember that the German government never does anything, never permits any fact to become public, and never allows anything to be known until having in view the effect on the political situation within and on the military situation without the empire. By considering the mutiny in this light we may arrive at a correct estimate of its value to the allied cause.

## RIOTING OVER THE SCHOOLS.

School children are rioting in New York in protest, it is said, against the introduction of the so-called "Gary system." That is the ostensible reason for the outbreak of juvenile lawlessness. But there is nothing in the Gary plan, per se, to start a riot. The trouble in New York is the direct and indirect result of the growth of making a question of educational administration an issue of partisan politics.

## BATTLE DANGERS EXAGGERATED.

Authoritative statistics of the danger to the individual soldier fighting on the side of the allies grow more and more optimistic. Most of the men, however, who are in the front lines, editor of the North American Review, after analyzing some of the available official figures, has arrived at the conclusion that if the percentage of American casualties in an average month of 6 months in 1918 does not exceed that of the French last year, more Americans will perish from intentional and accidental use of firearms in the United States than in Europe. "Nor," he adds, "is there any reason to doubt that this will be the case."

some reference to general political conditions in England at the time; eleven do not refer to general conditions in England, but make favorable mention of several prominent Englishmen; several discuss general conditions but mention Pitt and Fox neither outline conditions in England nor give credit to any Englishman for friendship toward the colonists. Conditions have improved in later years, but—

The children now studying American history in the public schools of a far greater number of textbooks available which give complete information on this subject; but the improvement is by no means sufficiently marked to prevent the continued growth of unfeeling prejudice against England.

It is the sins of omission with which the historian in this instance is most concerned, for they constitute the "spirit" of the whole. It is, indeed, possible, by the use of the facts to realize in dealing with our own Civil War, either to create a wrong impression without misstating a single fact, and so to present the facts as to instill proper feelings of patriotism while at the same time giving recognition to such high motives as were possessed by the enemy. How far the traditional individual who never finds out the name of the patriot who is kept in his cave of darkness, the school historians is a matter for each to measure for himself. But it is at least encouraging that we are making progress in the right direction. It is a high time, therefore, to begin appropriate distinction between the Prussian apostles of Junkerdom and frightfulness and the body of the German people toward whom, even in the midst of war, we feel little or no bitterness.

## WESTERN APPLES.

A good deal has been said about the comparative flavor of the apples of the East and those of the West. It used to be a favorite contention of the croakers that whatever the West might do it could never duplicate the indefinable something that the New Yorker detected, for example, in his up-state Baldwin, or his "Sopus," or that the New Englander found in the cherry of Rhode Island. There were some charms in the alchemy of western soil and sunshine, they would have it appear, that was lost from the soil and sunshine of the West. But more probably it was simple, unalloyed appetite of youth. The "good old days" are always the days when one is young. So Leslie's is right when it remarks:

There is no reason for the constant assertion that the Western apple, magnificent as it is and beautiful in appearance, does not come up to our Eastern standard of juiciness and flavor. The Western growers have not the same knowledge of their own soil and climate as the Eastern growers who take infinite pains with their orchards and send to the market a product as perfect as science and art can make possible. The few New York growers who do the same thing command a market as large and high priced as that of the Western growers. If the Western apple is so inferior, why do the Eastern market let it be done by this sort of excellence, and in no other way.

## THE TRAGEDY OF LEPROSY.

Discovery by a Montana State Senator that he is afflicted with leprosy marks the beginning of a real tragedy. The world has not made much progress in five thousand years toward the cure of this dreaded disease. We have improved our methods of treating the victims, and in some cases our attitude toward the sufferers has improved. But the individual leper is still shunned by society. In isolated communities, where there is a tendency to exaggerate all perils, extreme measures are sometimes adopted to be rid of what is popularly known as "the red spot." No district wants a leper on its hands.

## UTOPIA THAT FAILED.

There died in New England the other day a romantic and engaging man whose passing serves to remind the world briefly of the futility of efforts to demonstrate that the character of men is the product of their environment, a theory which is a theory of would-be social reformers. He was William Lane, of Auckland, editor of the New Zealand Herald and founder of the "Communist set," known as "New Australia" and "Coser's." It is a curious fact that Lane should have left Australia, which since then has become a battle ground for social "freedom" of various kinds, and have gone to Parana, where he had a religious purpose in establishing the ideal of a community which he dreamed. But it is not so strange that he should have failed. He might have foreseen his own doom, if he had been a reader of social history. He had a religious purpose in founding on the rocks of imperfect human nature. Their industrial problems had been well thought out, but there was failure to take account of certain frailties with which, it would seem, he was not to be born.

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## WONDERS OF OREGON, No. 5.

A shepherd who owns an automobile. This unprecedented wonder of Oregon exists in the Cascade National Forest. Every Sunday he cranks up "Hizzie" and travels 70 miles over the old immigrant road to Washburn to see his best girl. His partner herds the sheep until he gets back.

## Old Stuff.

Mrs. E. R. sends by special delivery the announcement that this Hoover business is nothing new in her young life. She began Hoovering when she married Ed 12 years ago.

## War Garden Note, No. 3.

H. H. H. writes to say that in response to patriotic demands last Spring he planted his first garden. He succeeded in raising some calms—with the neighbors' chickens—but that was about all.

## The Peripterous.

(Synopsis of preceding synopsis.) The Oregonian, a great morning newspaper, employs a distinguished literary architect to construct a peripterous. He does it. It has rows of columns on east, west, north and south.

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## Vote of Confidence in Prof. Heep.

WHOOPLA, OR., Oct. 10.—(Special)—A petition for retention of Prof. U. Heep, Saturday lecturer on Appreciation of Bathtubs, who participated in the robbery of the Overland Limited, was circulated today among the faculty of Gurf University.

## Great New Humane Society.

The humanitarian efforts of the Peripterous to protect the titles of all Colonels by Courtesy is receiving commendation from all quarters. The idea is rapidly coming into favor throughout the world. For many years enjoyed the distinction of complimentary military rank should not at this late date be deprived of them, merely because the Government is creating so many real Colonels.

## It Was No Circus.

Arthur Winebarger returned from Peaville Sunday with a report that fair at that place was much better than it was advertised to be.

## Spring.

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## All the Modern Conveniences.

Beside the road, that leads from Prineville to Burns, in the Blue Mountain Forest Reserve, stands Buck Mountain Hotel. It is nothing but a scorched juniper tree and there is no habitation for many miles around. This is how it got its name.

## Four Railroad Men Travelling in an Automobile.

Four railroad men travelling in an automobile were wrecked near the spot. Another automobile carrying Colonel Bill Hanley, the guide of the party, and Louis W. Hill, was in a van. They knew not of the plight of the others, but went on and on.

## The Stranded Ones Found Colonel Hill and the Railroad President at Burns 26 Hours Later.

The stranded ones found Colonel Hill and the railroad president at Burns 26 hours later. They had a tale of woe and were sore over their desertion. They told tellingly of an all-night camp around a burning juniper tree, a cold fire of a mountain-side, serenaded by snarling crows, and of the rain that made cute little rivulets about their receding forms.

## "I See," broke in Colonel Hill.

"I see," broke in Colonel Hill. "All outside apartments, open fires, music by the band and running water in every room. What'll do you expect 150 miles from a railroad?"

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