

THE JOURNAL

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TOO GREAT COST OF PRESERVING PEACE. THERE ARE some signs that not only the taxpaying, burden-bearing people but those who in one way or another are set in authority, are weary of the generally programmed method of preserving peace by building more and still greater and more costly battleships.

The former excuse for these rival fleets was that they were necessary to make war on enemies. So, occasionally, they were employed, at immense and needless destruction of life and property. Now, the excuse is that they are necessary not to make war but to prevent it. But if this theory is sound, then the only way for any nation to be safe at all is to have the greatest navy.

Mr. Roosevelt perhaps did nothing better while he was president than in his advocacy and efforts in behalf of improved rural life. For the better that conditions of country life become, the easier and healthier and happier people will be who live in the country, the more will remain or go there to live, in proportion to those who go into or remain in the cities.

But who are going to war and what about it? If there is to be and should be and must be no more war among civilized nations, then why the necessity of this enormous expense to keep the peace? And isn't the best way to insure peace to have no means of warfare? Why not hire a few honorable, able diplomats and lawyers and let them settle whatever differences may come up?

As far as the United States in particular is concerned, it has no need of an immense navy because it is peculiarly situated and is too big for any belligerent brother nation to tackle. Even cocky little Japan is not likely to attempt the feat of licking the United States.

DISPATCH last week under a London date line told of the organization in that city of a trust to control the output and price of the copper of the world. The capitalization, it was stated, would be \$200,000,000. Though reputedly organized in London, it is to be presumed that if such a trust has been formed, some Americans, including former Senator Clark and very likely Mr. J. P. Morgan, are largely if not principally concerned in it.

ONE WHEAT FIELD'S YIELD. THE WHEAT yield in portions of the famous upper country wheat belt has not been up to the average, but on most of the lighter and less dependable lands—the wide fringes of the "belt"—it has been good, greater in fact than ever before.

When the votes are counted in November, it will be found that many good men have been elected to office whose names and pictures did not appear in the state pamphlet.

Production of copper has kept pace with the demand for it, and under normal conditions the price of the metal should be low. There are vast and probably inexhaustible stores of

in various parts of the world. The cost of mining and smelting it is said to be about 10 to 12 cents a pound and a fair return to owners of the deposits and investors in the copper producing industry would raise this price perhaps 2 cents a pound. The price recently has therefore been reasonable and about normal. But if this conspiracy can succeed, the price may be raised to 20 or 25 cents a pound, which would cause worldwide industrial depression.

There need be no wheat shortage in this country for many years to come if enough wheat raisers will use the best seed and employ the best methods in raising their crops. Thus the wheat yield of the country can be almost indefinitely increased.

CITY AND COUNTRY POPULATION

ACCORDING to the few scattering returns from the census that have been made public, there has been an unexpectedly large gain of population in American cities, notable instances being Pittsburg and Detroit. This fact seems to indicate that the hoped for "back to the farm" movement has not taken place, or at least not to so great an extent as had been thought by some observers.

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who were in touch with his teachings. The farmer of these days needs to be and is becoming the student, the scientist, the scholar, in his line of work. And these he becomes partly through the country's agricultural colleges.

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STATEMENT ONE THE BEST SOLUTION

THE PRIMARY law of California provides that "the vote for candidates for United States senators shall be an advisory vote for the purpose of ascertaining the sentiment of the voters in the respective senatorial and assembly districts in the respective parties; provided, further, that the members of the legislature shall be at liberty to vote either for the choice of their respective districts expressed at said primary election, or for the candidate for United States senator who shall have received the indorsement of their party at such party election in the greatest number of districts electing members of such party to the legislature."

Judge Works of Los Angeles received a plurality of the popular vote for United States senator in the recent primary election and so the legislature, if a majority of it should be Republican, has been "advised" to elect him. Mr. Spalding, a San Diego millionaire, also received a good many Republican votes, and the legislature, under this law, is not bound to elect the choice of the people of the state at large, but may elect the choice of a majority of legislative districts. Under this rule, Spalding is likely to win, but it is by no means certain yet that a Republican majority will be elected to the legislature.

The Oregon law is simpler and better. Direct the legislature positively to elect the candidate for senator, regardless of party, who receives the highest vote. This eliminates all dicker and bargaining.

Of course, a legislature, as Judge George will inform anyone, doesn't have to elect the people's choice at all; it is entirely unconstitutional for the people to take a hand in the senatorial game; but it is coming about that unless candidates for the legislature will positively promise to elect the people's choice, they won't be sent to the legislature. The constitution is to be respected, of course; we would have no argument with Judge George on that; but the people are to be respected even more, and their will, as nearly as it can be ascertained, should be done. The Statement No. 1 of the Oregon law is the best solution of the matter.

Figures gathered by a reputed statistician show that there are now 350,000 automobiles in use in the United States, and 7,000,000 vehicles of all kinds drawn by horses. Investments in plants producing motor cars are said to amount to about \$400,000,000, and in these and auxiliary plants 200,000 people are employed. The horse has by no means been put out of business, but the automobiles and motor vehicles are certainly doing a large, lively and varied business. And they are a creation of only yesterday!

Those Broadway bridge bonds should be subscribed promptly. Portland's big property owners and business men owe it to the city in which they have succeeded so admirably to do this. Let it not be said that because of the malevolent tactics of a few obstructionists this greatly needed bridge cannot be built, or the bonds for it cannot be fairly marketed. It will be splendidly to Portland's credit for its own citizens to subscribe for these bonds, and so insure the speedy erection of that too long delayed structure.

Vice President Sherman, it is announced, "will take the stump in Illinois." What a whole lot of luck the Democrats are having this year. Speaker Cannon "took the stump" not long ago in Kansas.

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place for them than to have them playing in the streets. It is not only better for the children themselves, but it is better for the parents and for the public in general. This public playground with its various devices offers a solution of the problem.

Letters to the Journal should be written on one side of the paper only and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. The name will not be used if the writer asks that it be withheld. The Journal is not to be understood as endorsing the views or statements of correspondents. Letters should be made as brief as possible. Those who have their letters returned when not used should include postage. Correspondents are notified that letters exceeding 300 words in length are at the discretion of the editor, to cut down to that limit.

Letters From the People

Esperantist Makes Reply. Portland, Aug. 22.—The Editor of The Journal has requested that you please present a few facts concerning the Esperanto movement which seems to be pertinent just now.

In the first place, to your criticism that it is impossible for Esperanto to become a world wide language, it is only necessary to state that Esperanto has already become a world wide language, with adherents in every country of Europe. It is found also in Asia, Japan and South America and many are studying it in America.

There are hundreds of books, pamphlets and magazines published in the language, and on all subjects. About the literature, I wish to state that some of the finest literature in the world has been written in Esperanto, including a large portion of the Bible, a number of Shakespeare's plays, works of Goethe and others. I personally have read a number of these works and I can testify from my reading as to its sterling worth and beauty. Scores of new books are appearing every year.

This I consider to be a complete answer to the assertion, "No literature of value can be thus manufactured." It is spoken in all the countries where Esperantists come together. In hotels, restaurants and public gatherings; in fact in all places where Esperantists meet. It is just as comprehensible to all who understand it as any other language.

There have been six world's congresses within the past seven years in which were present all the way from 1500 to 3000 Esperantists, representing 30 different languages, and their debates and all exercises were carried on entirely in Esperanto. Contrast this with some of the attempted international peace congresses in which it was necessary to carry on business in three or four different languages, and the different groups could not understand one another.

They say that Esperantists are enthusiasts, and so they are, but we are not impractical. We claim that one of the chief objects of the Esperantists is to bring about a common neutral language between different nations is the lack of a common neutral language. Esperanto does not aim to interfere in any way with any native language, but simply to present a common neutral idiom which all alike can use, and so understand each other.

It is one of the great modern peace movements. It would break down the barrier of conflicting languages. Esperanto is easy to learn. One can master it in a few weeks. In one month a fifth-part of the time it takes to master any modern native language. It is easy to speak and easy to read, and is fully capable for all purposes.

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COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE. Mayor Gaynor may live to do a lot of good yet.

It is possible that Roosevelt also can't "come back". Aldrich and Cannon do not regard insurrection as sane and safe.

There is still time for the rest of the assembly candidates to resign or decline.

It would be funny to hear Chinese laundrymen, for instance, talking Esperanto.

There are people credited with commencing to predict that a Democrat will be elected the next governor of Oregon.

It is improbable that women will take office in another year or two, people—but not very many—may be traveling from New York or Boston to Portland, Or., in aeroplanes.

The cost of preserving peace with battleships is becoming a burden that the people are becoming weary of growing dissatisfied.

It can be possible that the traditional voters who took to the woods because the tickets didn't suit them have started these forest fires?

When the Republicans "throw over" or "sacrifice" Cannon, Aldrich, Sherman and Blount, where will the party be at?

August 23 in History—Sir William Wallace

Sir William Wallace, the national hero of Scotland, is still so vital and actual a personality today, more than six centuries after his execution, that it is a shock to realize that all the authenticated history we have of him covers only the deeds of less than two years. Before 1297, when he began to lead his countrymen against Edward of England, he was an obscure outlaw, whose birthday can only be set at 1270 by vague guesswork, his wanderings and doings only vouched for by the famous minstrel, Blind Harry, who, coming 200 years after, had nothing but uncorroborated legends to depend on.

Wallace's defense against the charge of treason was simple and unanswerable as it was unavailing. "A traitor to my king," he said, "I never was his subject, never swore fealty to him."

Wallace is supposed to have been the second son of Sir Malcolm Wallace, of Elderslie, in Renfrewshire. No one knows whether he received a good education. The essentials for that age of force he possessed by tradition, great stature, a strength almost fabulous and lionlike courage. It is probable that tradition speaks truly, for he has been called "the man the other could have achieved such ascendancy without them."

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OREGON SIDELIGHTS. The M. E. church of Echo with a \$10,000 plan for improvements, making it a modern structure, was dedicated last Sunday.

A Myrtle Creek man recently killed a doe with horns, said to be a rare thing, the same as a woman with whiskers, remarks the Albany Democrat.

The celebration at Springfield is the formal recognition of the coming of a new era to the upper Willamette valley, says the Eugene Register.

There are three teams at work straining the road east of Echo, before the heavy hauling commences, says the Echoes.

Haines Record: With the numerous hay baling outfits in operation throughout the valley, the grain harvest on and the threshing season approaching, the Lower valley farmer is about the busiest man in the country.

Medford has approximately 400 automobiles for a population of between 9000 and 10,000. Of these 150 are new machines.

A correspondent of the Dallas Observer says "For a real enough picture of prosperity in Oregon, one should pay a visit to the 150-acre farm of Glenn O. Helman. Here is a large orchard, with many trees 50 years old.

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TANGLEFOOT

By Miles Ovarholt. AMUSEMENTS FOR A RAINY DAY.

Try drinking out of a water faucet with the right hand side of the mouth.

FRIGIDITERS. Prunes. Roosevelt fellow (alleged). Moving picture shows. Jack London.

IN summer time when it is hot, the best thing is to get a cold. And we are grumpy with our lot. You couldn't start a fire with some shavings.

"We Told You So." From the Los Angeles Times. All through the summer there have been misgivings as to the various great crops on whose abundance the prosperity of the country depends, and, paradoxically, at the same time as to the ability of the American banks to finance the moving of the crops.

We have, time and again, in the last three months, comforted our readers with assurances that the crops would be at least normal, that this country was of immense area, but produces exceedingly various, and that disaster could not reach all the crops in all the country, nor even all of one crop. We were sure to have a large amount of cotton to sell, a similarly large amount of winter wheat and of spring wheat and of corn. We are told now, approaching the end of the season that the corn crop of the United States is likely to surpass anything ever harvested.

Then, as to the ability of the banks to finance the movement, we pointed out that just can't get expansion without the consent of the east in this matter, and becoming more so every year. We saw clearly in this respect, for on Thursday the news came that the banks of St. Louis were shipping out money in millions all over the south and central west to meet the needs of that New York would not be troubled for funds to do this work.

With abundant harvests, and a quick market there will be work for farm hands and railroad men, and there will be plenty of money in circulation to keep the prosperity that has been blessing us for so many years at high-water mark, or so close to it that you can't measure the difference.

THE DRY SPELL. The tree-toad cracks its level head. Until it rains it's in the woods. The yearning is in plexus holds. An' plum wore out, it stops an' folds. It's hain't, or feet, an' just lays back. An' sez its more crack— An' still no rain.

Th' doo goes pastin' round th' place. With his th' blamedest people's face. You ever see? 'Round in th' dark. He ain't got spunk enough to bark. Or growl, or howl, or make out. They's burglars an' such about— An' still no rain.

Th' honeybees is hot an' mad. They buzz like they was talkin' bad. You bet I ain't th' one to tease. An' peester him, th' them beezes. I see 'em workin' 'bout. With their hot tongues a-hangin' out! An' still no rain.

No use a-tripin', either. We thought surely this dry spell 'ud be broke up. We tried th' good old rule— A picnic for th' Sunday school! But things kept right on, dry as—well, An' still no rain!

Disappointed Assemblies. From the Union Spout. No one has been so much disappointed in the assembly as the assemblies. That their work has been disappointing to themselves no one will deny. They are now out to try and obtain the satisfaction of the people for their attempt to defraud them of the direct primary. What the people will do remains to be seen, but assembly nominees are in danger of being turned down by the common, every day voters. This should be the last attempt at an assembly, and probably will. While the direct primary is in effect the assembly is nil.

SOME CONSOLATION. (Continued to The Journal by Walt Mason, the famous humorist, and a regular feature of this column is The Day's Journal.) The work of this life are as many as sands by the wet, walling sea; no mortal lives without any; none lives in perpetual grief. We rise from our beds in the morning from dreaming of gold by the tub, and go to our work, a-pawing our watcher, to buy us some grub. We blow in for potion and philtre, the coin that we earned by hard knocks; to fix up our works, out of kilter, and sleep at the end, in a box. The plans that we make are all batty; our schemes are all burlesque and punk; along comes some middle-aged Matty, and knocks the whole works into junk. Man works like a steer in the furrow, he tills all the heart in his lungs; and all of the plunk in his burrow are gathered at last by the trusts. And I might go on till you're weary, explainin' how futile is life, how dismal, dog-gasted and dreary, how chuck full of grief, but I ain't got to our uncles, they'd be fatter, and sillier, and sadder and tamer; the world would be ugly and brutal, or there'd be no snap to the game. If trouble should never more wound us, we'd shrink to the stature of gnats; no plant would grow, our uncles around us and kick the old world in the ass.

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