

THE JOURNAL

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HELPING BUSINESS

HERE is already abundant proof of the value of the newly established Trade Commission. The body is going about its work with broad vision.

A first consideration by the commission is a proposed plan for increasing American foreign trade. Chairman Davies and other members are anxious to use the powers of the Trade Commission to aid American business in the conquest of distant markets.

The attitude of the commission has been hailed in the east as an evidence of the constructive purpose of the body to proceed along same lines in the great work President Wilson visioned when, in the interest of the whole people of the United States, he programmed the legislation which led to the creation of the great body for superstitious business and for leading dishonest business into honest paths.

ALASKA'S IMPORTANCE

ALASKA'S trade with the United States last year totaled \$66,500,000, an increase of \$4,000,000 over 1913.

The bureau of foreign and domestic commerce in announcing these figures says that as a market for our products, Alaska, having a population of only 65,000, is of equal importance with China with a population of 336,000,000.

The bureau's figures should be of great interest to Portland. Shipments from the states to Alaska last year aggregated \$22,500,000, including approximately \$14,300,000 worth of manufactures, \$6,200,000 worth of foodstuffs, and \$2,000,000 worth of gold, silver and miscellaneous materials.

Shipments to the United States were valued at \$4,000,000. They included fish and fish products, \$20,000,000; salmon, 200,000,000 pounds; gold shipments \$14,600,000, and copper \$3,300,000.

Trade with Alaska has doubled in ten years. Receipts of Alaskan gold alone rose from \$9,090,957 in 1904 to double the sum paid by this country to Russia in 1867 for the entire territory.

IN THE ASHES

PORTLAND'S recklessness with fire is a public misfortune. Here is a case: A boy of 16 opened a suburban store and was putting it in order for the day's business.

It blocked escape by the front door. The only means of exit was through a little back window. It wasn't big enough for the passage of the boy's body.

THE JAIL FOR THEM

BEGINNING today, a man who, without sufficient reasons fails or neglects to support his wife and children, can be sent to the penitentiary.

If there be no just or sufficient excuse for non-support, it is a case of the jail or the penitentiary. There are men to whom the new statute, which goes into effect today, will be wholesomely applicable.

A MAILED GIRL'S LAWSUIT

AN 18-year-old lawsuit is pending in Chicago. The plaintiff is a crippled woman of 27. She was a child of nine when the suit was brought to secure compensation for injuries she sustained in a fall through a broken sidewalk.

A NEAR TRAGEDY

SHALL we pay \$500,000 for sheer inconvenience? says the Oregonian in discussing water meters.

This language is a specific assertion that the meters are to cost \$500,000. It is the deliberate purpose of the Oregonian to convince its readers that half a million dollars is about to be voted away in the meter measure on the ballot at the coming election.

It costs \$2.07 to install each meter, making the whole cost purchase and installation \$7.87 per meter. At those figures, the entire cost of the 5000 meters will be \$39,350, and no more.

Does somebody inquire, then, why does the Oregonian say the meters will cost \$500,000? Nobody knows. Its recklessness of statement is inexplicable.

BUT THE BILL WAS KILLED

SHORTAGE of ships has caused the Reading railway to put an embargo on all grain consigned to Philadelphia for shipment abroad.

The Philadelphia Telegraph, discussing the Reading's grain embargo, says something of this kind was foreseen by experienced business men almost immediately after the war broke out.

We have almost no shipping of our own to depend upon just at a time when the demand for export facilities is so greatly increased. Practically all the merchant ships of Germany and Austria are tied up in one part of the world or another.

The Wilson administration foresees the need of American vessels to care for American commerce. The ship purchase bill, killed by a partisan filibuster in the senate, was for the purpose of supplying the need, and it promised a solution of the problem of ocean carriers and rates.

And the bill was killed. And the railroad yards are overrun with loaded cars of wheat and shipments stopped for lack of ships to carry the grain abroad.

Would it be a good idea to start a night school for the purpose of instructing hotel clerks, railway agents and others who come in contact with the traveling public, where points of local interest are located and how to reach them?

A Washington dispatch says President Wilson smiled the other day when his silk hat was sprayed with arsenate of lead that was badly aimed at a tree. However, it may have been a diplomatic, don't-do-it-again smile.

Roseburg claims to have one of the best strawberry exhibits ever seen in any center of strawberries. What would be the verdict if delivered by Lebanon, another center of strawberries?

The job of American ambassador is no snuffcase these days. The visiting card of our representative at Berlin now reads: J. W. Ger-

ard, Ambassador Extraordinary of the United States, Great Britain, France, Russia, Japan, Italy, Serbia, Montenegro and Italy. In a few days there may be added Rumania, Bulgaria and Greece.

The annual report of the American Bible society shows an increase of more than a million copies of the Bible sold during the past year, in spite of the war. But perhaps it was because of the war, for there never was a time when the world needed Bibles more than now.

The New York Stock Exchange traded in the securities of a corporation two weeks after it had ceased to exist. It was a case of dealing in "pasts" as well as "futures."

By the middle of September the American navy will have an aerial battleship built to carry eight men at 25 miles an hour. It will be Uncle Sam's first dirigible fighter.

After all, there is something to be said in behalf of the European situation. It has made us forget about that aggravating affair in Mexico.

The Oregonian evidently does not believe in the old natural law that as ye meter it out so shall it be metered out unto you.

Reports from the eastern war zone raise the question: Is Permyst to become Przemysl again?

AFTER THE WAR THE WAR LORD

From the Bachs Review. THE budget speech of the British chancellor this week has concentrated attention on the cost of the war.

The statement that has attracted most attention is that the war is now costing Great Britain approximately \$1,000,000 a day. It is impossible to realize the enormous outlay that this means, say, for a full year. Up to April England had expended \$1,635,000,000.

For another full year the budget estimate is \$5,682,000,000. The figures given out by Russia show \$32,000,000 spent in the first three months, against about \$600,000,000 spent by England in the same time. This, for Russia, is at the rate of nearly \$10,000,000 per day.

The London Economist recently published estimates of losses from the war if it lasted one year terminating July 31 next. These estimates are by Edgar Crammond, secretary of the Liverpool Stock Exchange. They include, in addition to direct cost, the loss of production from partially paralyzed industries and agriculture and the capitalized value of the loss of human life.

If we leave out of the figures the value placed upon human life, confining the estimates to the less theoretical items, the losses for the different countries appear as follows: Great Britain, \$4,790,000,000; Germany, 2,480,000,000; France, 6,890,000,000; Austria-Hungary, 6,310,000,000; Belgium, 2,432,000,000; Russia, 6,090,000,000.

A total of \$35,702,000,000. If the capitalized loss of life is included, the estimate becomes \$45,740,000,000.

Lloyd-George, in his budget speech, estimates that the national debt of England, which in 1914 was \$3,475,000,000, and is now well over \$5,000,000,000, will, before long, have doubled, over peace figures. The public debt of the belligerents before the war was \$22,500,000,000. It is generally estimated that the debt will have doubled by July 31, reaching the figures of around \$45,000,000,000.

Following the figures of this enormous expenditure, Mr. Theodore Price in the outlook, discusses the question of whether or not the \$50,000,000 people of Europe who, if the war lasts only a year, will find themselves burdened with this staggering debt, will follow some notable examples in past history and repudiate it. He estimates that this population earned before the war, above national taxation, about \$7 per capita per year, out of which they had to pay living expenses. He asks whether this population which found it difficult enough to subsist on \$7 per capita before the war and will be terribly impoverished at its close, will voluntarily or can be compelled to stand up under the taxation necessary to support and gradually retire this aggregated obligation of \$45,000,000,000, together with the pensions and other financial burdens of the struggle.

The default, he says, if it occurs, will probably come about in much the same way as in the French revolution. Fiat currency will be issued. It will be made a legal tender in payment of public and private debts and will gradually depreciate in value, so that the debt, instead of being amortized by direct taxation, will be absorbed in the diminished purchasing power of the money in use.

This process, he says, in fact, already commenced. Gold is at a premium of about 13 per cent in Germany, 11 per cent in Italy, 5 per cent in France, and although specie payment is nominally maintained in England, the price of sterling ex-

change in New York means that it costs about 1 1/2 per cent to convert British bank credits into gold. The result of inflation, he includes under the highest wages for the working classes and increased cost of production, so that America would have less cause to fear from the competition abroad.

Another result of inflation, in the countries adopting it, is to advance the cost of commodities. It seems probable, therefore, that in addition to the higher wages that will prevail as a result of the European inflation existing and in prospect, higher prices for commodities will be established; and the second reason for American fear of European industrial competition will be thereby eliminated.

For their ability to continue fighting," he says, "the belligerents are now largely dependent upon the things they can buy in the western hemisphere. For these things they can pay only by the negotiation of loans in this country. If they further deplete their supply of gold, their whole credit fabric will topple. If, on the other hand, American bankers and investors comply with European promises to pay are no longer to be relied upon, European ability to buy here will be at an end and the war will stop."

In the meantime the United States will continue to receive in payment for supplies our own securities, the products of other countries, and to some extent gold. Loans to the belligerents have not thus far cut a large figure.

HERALD'S BETTER TIMES

For the Wall Street Journal. THE general opinion of the chief interest in the Pennsylvania car and material orders is that it indicates a settled belief on the part of the Pennsylvania management that an industrial revival is taking place. The crop outlook is promising, but that by itself is not enough to account for the roads' desire for more cars.

Other signs are not lacking that railroad activity is on the increase, from which it follows that other business, which originates traffic, is gaining in proportion.

A FEW SMILES

"I was seeing Suburbo running a new machine this morning." "What kind of a machine was it the latest model?" "I really couldn't say."

"I thought you knew all about automobiles." "I don't know anything about lawnmowers." —Judge's Quarterly.

"How useless girls are today! I don't believe you know what needles are for."

"My absurd you are, grandma," protested the girl. "Of course, I know what needles are for. They're to make the graphophone play."

Her delusion was a belief in her ability to play the same thing as a musician. A violinist and pianist were assisting the singer, who had arranged a program of songs, numbers, and in this way left very little room for the other performers.

A commercial traveler who had drifted into town found interest in a concert, entering upon the concert and, having nothing else to do, bought a ticket and obtained a seat well to the front of the orchestra.

"Promptly at 8 the aspirant for vocal laurels began to sing, and she repeated the operation a short interval for the best part of the hour, while admiring friends applauded. By 11 she had succeeded in singing a little over half of her numbers.

The names of the songs were not printed on the program, so a tall youth with a nasal voice, who had been selected to read the program, began to read the program at 1:30 the young man arose and said: "Miss Smith will now sing 'For All Eternity.'"

"My goodness!" exclaimed the drummer, springing to his feet and upsetting his chair. "I'm all in—let me out!"

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to the Journal for publication in this department should be written on one side of the paper, should not exceed 200 words, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. It is not desirable to have the name published, he should so state.)

"Discussion is the greatest of all reformers. It rationalizes everything it touches. It robs each of his responsibilities. If they have no responsibility, it rationally crushes them out of existence and sets up its own conclusions in their stead." —Woodrow Wilson.

Belgium and Luxembourg

Portland, May 20.—To the Editor of the Journal—I wish to answer Mabel W. Plozman's article in The Journal of May 13. In her last paragraph she says:

"Belgium's rulers missed a rare opportunity, which would have shone as a great light around the world, when they elected to fight."

She seems to think that Belgium's rulers could have chosen, without dishonor, to let the German legions pass through Belgium without opposition. The trouble is that Belgium's rulers consider a treaty as a treaty, and not as a scrap of paper. She may also consult in the public library, the rules of neutrality, article 10.

A Belgian Refugee's Appeal

Shardishes, Halstead, Essex, England, May 1.—To the Editor of the Journal—Being one of the Belgians who have been driven out by the German army, I beg to express my sympathy for the people of England, I would like to do something which I do not think has been done, that is to thank the American nation for their great generosity and goodness they have shown to the Belgians and the way they have shown their sympathy with a nation that has been driven out of its own country. It was quite enough for them to

change in New York means that it costs about 1 1/2 per cent to convert British bank credits into gold. The result of inflation, he includes under the highest wages for the working classes and increased cost of production, so that America would have less cause to fear from the competition abroad.

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HOW WILL YOU VOTE ON THIS?

TO ESTABLISH MUNICIPAL GARBAGE COLLECTING

"An act to repeal the present provisions of the charter providing for a municipal garbage collection system and enacting new provision, reauthorizing the same collection system, and providing for the establishment, maintenance and operation of a municipal garbage collection system, giving the council power to provide for the management of said system, the collection of garbage either with or without charge therefor and giving the council authority to collect garbage free to users, the expenses for collection to be paid from the city's general fund."

"Shall the Charter Be So Amended?" "Yes." "No."

This is the ballot title of one of the measures to be submitted to the voters at the regular city election, Monday, June 7. It was initiated by the city council.

This amendment, if adopted, will give the council power to collect garbage at municipal expense.

In June, 1911, the people authorized the issuance of \$75,000 in bonds to be used for the establishment of a municipal garbage collection system. The same act provides that the city, acting through its health bureau, shall make a regular charge to all users of the system.

The bonds have not been sold, however, nor has anything been done toward the establishment of the system. It is proposed that the city should authorize the issuance of any additional bonds.

If adopted, give the council authority to collect garbage free to users, the expenses for collection to be paid from the city's general fund.

TO ACCUMULATE \$20,000 AT SIXTY

By John M. Oakison. Not very long ago it was an axiom of the savings bank policy holders to have to save regularly.

This was believed in spite of the tremendous successes of the insurance companies, which were able to save regularly in order to meet premium payments.

Now a hope is creeping into the minds of those who are preaching the wisdom of saving in order to build up an investment fund.

In a recent copy of a little magazine sent out by an investment bank, showing what may be accomplished by systematic saving. Its compiler said: "Saving \$1 each year and keeping the whole amount saved at compound interest at five per cent will produce the following results:

\$13.21 in 10 years. \$32.66 in 15 years. \$64.12 in 20 years. \$100.00 in 25 years. \$149.48 in 30 years. \$216.84 in 40 years. Using this table, I have figured the

yearly saving necessary in order to have a fortune of \$20,000 at the age of 60—assuming that you could manage to save at the age of 20. It is a simple process—divide \$20,000 by \$126.84. The result is 157.48—the sum that must be saved each year, plus regular compound interest at five per cent each year for 40 years.

Hundreds of thousands of our people are not saving at all. They are in order to keep up payments on life insurance policies. And the forward looking investment bankers are beginning to see that the regular saving is possible beyond that undertaken to pay for insurance.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Business is born in a man; industry is acquired. People who are too fresh are always getting into a pickle.

Some sentences of a grammatical judge are anything but proper. The glazier must have his glass before he can begin his job.

We all want to go to heaven—but there is no demand for rapid transit. And some men are so full of human nature that they have no room for principle.

Go to a friend for advice, to a stranger for charity and to a relative for nothing.

If a man can't keep his wife from knowing about his pocket, as a last resort he will quit it.

Never tempt your wife with her lingerie. You would probably be single today had she been wise.

If wives could control the moving picture business they would make all the heroes die and ugly.

If a man gives up a dime to see a museum from which he has no curiosity at the same time.

The young wife thinks she isn't jealous because she doesn't object to her husband being polite to his sisters.

When a woman plans to do anything about her neighbors, she always wonders what the neighbors will say about it.

The modest friend who offers to lend you a book when you are broke is far more worthy of your praise than the hero of a hundred battles.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Seventeen days of continuous rain in Baker county record, the Democrat says.

Bound building note in Hillsboro Argus. Book and building contracts for many places in the county, and as soon as the winter season is over, the hauling there will be many crews, says "Macadam."

Salem Journal: They are having real middle west weather east of the mountains. It is raining, and a little of most everything else. The stock back there, in fact, may weather in that section is disgraced, unable than the worst winter storm we have here in Oregon.

The marching organization of the Oregon City Commercial club will be uniformed like the military in the parade, the color is white, with blue pin stripes. The coat will be made up in Norfolk style and white canvas shoes will be worn. The march will be the emblem of the organization.

Straight tip to home buyers in Central Point Herald: It has been some time since the first crop of hay was cut. Every indication points to a bumper crop of hay, wheat, fruit and corn. It is a mistake to buy a little home you had better do it before you want to pay more a little later.

Eugene Register: The architectural department of the old school boys' club has accepted by the Dunn school board a plan for a new school, located south of Eugene. The boy is Eugene Young, son of A. E. Young, a Eugene dentist, and architect. Several other plans have been submitted by Eugene architects. The addition of the building will include a hall, cloak room, lavatories and an entrance.

THE WEDGE OF MILITARISM

From the Salem Statesman. George von L. Meyer, former secretary of the navy, is much disturbed because of the military and naval expansion which has never been willing to make a big lump appropriation for the navy department to spend as it sees fit, under the present law.

If we were to give the navy experts all the money they want and let them spend it as they please, we should naturally have the same thing that we have now. That would mean opening the treasury of the United States to professional fighters and giving their bills to military officers and giving their bills to military officers and giving their bills to military officers.

The professional gentlemen of the restraint and navy chiefs at the restraint imposed upon them by civilian authority. They have always done so, and it is natural enough that they should do so. It is not natural that they should do so. It is not natural that they should do so. It is not natural that they should do so.

No policy of our government is more clearly established than the policy of keeping the military and naval departments under civilian control. And no American policy is wiser. Ever since the birth of the nation we have feared to let the army and navy get into the hands of the government. The present European war has vindicated us with startling completeness.

Write to Mother

By Nellie A. Warnick. Write a letter to your mother. Get it out of your mind. Tell her what you've been doing. Where you work, and how you play. "Thought I write a few lines mother—A little nonsense just for fun—But you'll find it's all true—And I'm your ever loving son."

Munitions to Belligerents

Princeton, May 20.—To the Editor of the Journal—Should Mr. Taft not know that Germany desires that the United States should stop the exportation of arms and munitions to the allies? What Germany wants is equal rights for all. If the allies have the right to get munitions, so Germany has the same right to get munitions for the people at home. But about this question Mr. Bryan and Mr. Taft and all the others are silent.

INDEX OF ADVANCING TIDE OF PROSPERITY

New York, May 21.—(I. N. S.)—The United States today faces a era of prosperity, according to the 250 members of the New York State Savings Bank association, who attended the annual meeting at the Hotel Biltmore, President James H. Manning of the National Savings Bank of Albany, said today savings deposits were now \$2,000,000,000, an increase of \$200,000,000, among 3,000,000 depositors.

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