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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON.......................Publisher

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America asks nothing for herself but what she has a right to ask for humanity itself.
WOODROW WILSON.

Doctrine is the necessary foundation of duty; if the theory is not correct, the practice cannot be right. Tell me what a man believes, and I will tell you what he will do.
—Tryon Edwards.

THE TELEPHONE CASE

THE proceeding before the Oregon Public Service Commission to compel interchange of service by telephone companies is a serious and sober undertaking. Strong people are behind the move, and they undoubtedly mean business.

The action is based on a requirement in the 1913 public service act in which it is declared that whenever public convenience or public necessity requires, there shall be an interchange of service by public service companies doing business in this state. In any question of fact as to public convenience being served by interchange of telephone switching by rival companies, there can be little room for debate or difference of opinion. If one telephone can, through such interchange, be made to serve the purpose of two, it will be unquestioned promotion of convenience.

The complaint sets out that the telephone companies give interchange of service over long distance lines and at hotels, and that it is discrimination against the public not to grant the same interchange to local patrons. A fact that heightens the contention is that the Pacific States Company, when the federal government accused it of attempting to absorb rival companies on the Pacific Coast some time ago, voluntarily consented to the interchange of service on long distance lines. It consented to the interchange rather than face the prosecution that the government apparently intended to bring against it for alleged violation of the Sherman law.

Even more to the point, the constitutionality of the 1913 law under which the present proceeding is brought, has been upheld in the federal court of Oregon. In the proceeding involving interchange of service in the Oregon hotel, the case was carried into the local federal courts, and Judges Bean, Wolverton and Gilbert unanimously held the law to be valid.

The manifest public convenience to be served by the proposed action, in the case before the Public Service Commission will give the proceeding commanding public interest.

OUR DESERTED RIVERS

INVESTIGATIONS made by the department of agriculture into the state of river traffic in the United States are being much discussed. They show that this mode of transportation has fallen into decay, especially as regards passenger traffic.

The report says that old-time packets which maintained high speed on long runs have practically disappeared. The department investigated 102 regular river routes. On but 25 of these is the rate of speed above ten miles an hour. On 37 the average is six miles an hour, no estimates being given for the balance. Few routes are more than 200 or 300 miles long. The regular runs from St. Paul to St. Louis and from Cincinnati to Memphis are the longest in existence.

It is urged that these facts are proof that river traffic has fallen off so much there can be little hope of a substantial revival. They prove nothing of the sort. They may indicate that the days of passenger traffic on the rivers are numbered because time is important to many people who travel. But the inland waterways remain of great potential value as routes over which to send freight.

With a large percentage of shipments a low freight rate is more important than a small difference in time. What is more, if the rivers are used as competitors of the railroads the land carriers must meet the river rate, or at least approximate it. That is how both producer and consumer may be benefited, for every dollar saved on transportation is a dollar placed in the public's pocket.

The eagerness with which any sort of an argument to belittle river transportation is seized by the railroad interests indicates what railroad men themselves think about water competition. So long as they can keep the rivers deserted, the railroads are well rid of the greatest of all regulators of freight rates.

AT NINETY-EIGHT

REV. JOHN FLINN, who has been a prominent and picturesque figure in Methodism in Oregon for a long time, passed into the great congregation Saturday.

His profound faith, his mental and physical vigor at a great age, and a record of more than seventy years as a pulpiteer, made him a notable figure. On a Sunday last November he walked nearly three miles, delivered an open air sermon in front of the Taylor Street church and then walked to Burnside street, where he delivered a second open air address. He was then at the advanced age of 97 years and 8 months, a fact that made his Sunday effort an extraordinary performance.

When Rev. Flinn was born, Napoleon was watching the ebb and flow of the ocean tides from his prison window on St. Helena. The entire circulation of money in the United States was then less than the private fortune of any of the forty-four men who have an income of one million dollars a year.

Rev. Flinn was a living contradiction of the theory of the scientist who averred that men ought to be chloroformed at 60. At 60, Rev. Flinn had scarcely reached his prime. He was not then in the middle of his service as a clergyman. At 60, there still remained more than 37 years of gospel work for him to do and more than 38 years of life.

It was probably his insistence on being a worker that helped to give Rev. Flinn so long a span of life. Work provides physical stimulus and interest in life without which physical and mental forces fail.

The love of the game and the inspiration to play it to the limit and the end, lightens years and postpones the last long leap.

OUR TRADE EXPANSION

A REPORT of the department of commerce shows that our foreign trade expansion has not been limited to Europe. It touches almost every region of the world.

Exports to South America increased from $7,573,487 in June, 1914, to $13,744,000 in June, 1915. In the same month this year we shipped $13,648,403 worth of goods to Asia, compared with $7,252,349 in June last year. There was a gain of $1,191,000, or more than 50 per cent, in our sales to Africa; a gain of more than $2,000,000 in our sales to Oceanica, and a gain of $4,475,000 in our sales to the West Indies and countries of Central America.

These figures may not be impressive on account of their size, but they are significant because they show that our foreign trade is expanding in directions that ought to insure permanency. Exports to Asia doubled and those to South America nearly doubled. The figures indicate what has been done, but they are more important as a pledge of opportunities yet to be seized.

Our trade with nations outside Europe, and especially with South America, was seriously disturbed during the earlier months of the war. But both exports and imports have increased materially. We are assuming a strong commercial position with the neutrals, in spite of the fact that cargo carriers are few and ocean rates high.

While Europe is destroying itself, we are carrying on a commercial invasion that should have been undertaken long ago. When the war ends Europe will not be so large a buyer of the United States. Then the advantages of enlarged trade with non-European countries will be more fully appreciated.

OUR VACANT LAND

FIGURES made public by Commissioner Tallman, of the general land office, show that there is still room in this country for the pioneer. He need not necessarily become the prey of speculators, even though they have secured control of vast areas.

During the last fiscal year more than 11,200,000 acres were eliminated from public domain by homestead and other entries and sales to individuals. But there are still open, or will be, 279,544,000 acres, unappropriated and unreserved, of which 172,987,000 acres are surveyed and the rest unsurveyed.

Nevada is shown to have the most public lands, 55,417,746 acres, of which almost thirty million are already surveyed, and Missouri, with 923 acres, has the least. Oregon has 15,442,178 acres, Washington 1,144,605, California 20,635,923, and Idaho 16,212,273. Of course a great deal of this vacant area is worthless to the homesteader, but much of it is worth taking.

Special interest attaches to the statement that in Alaska there are approximately 300,000,000 acres which will be available to American citizens. It is predicted that Alaska will become an important agricultural section. According to a recent report of the department of agriculture, there is enough fertile land in Alaska which has been thoroughly explored and tested, to make more than 20,000 160-acre farms. The unexplored and untested sections will doubtless provide for many thousands more farms of high productive possibilities.

Grain, hay and vegetables may be produced in great quantities in that vast territory. All that is needed is easy and cheap communication with the rest of the United States and the building of railroads and highways in the territory itself.

COMMANDANT ELDER

IT is surprising that State Treasurer Kay permitted himself to become a party to the removal of Commandant Elder, of the Soldiers' Home.

All along, he commended the efficiency and administrative ability of Mr. Elder. All along, he resisted the efforts of the governor to remove the commandant to make a place for a political henchman. All along, he placed the welfare of the old veterans and the successful administration of the Home above political thimblerigging.

Before Commandant Elder went to the Home it was in a constant state of turbulence. The troubles of the time at the institution are well remembered history. Investigations and charges and accusations were frequent and disturbing.

All these things ceased with the inauguration of Mr. Elder as commandant. He brought peace and quiet to the institution and satisfaction to all the friends of the old soldiers.

From the day of his inauguration, Governor Withycombe has sought Elder's removal. Whether or not the place was promised before election to some political supporter, is of no consequence. Both Treasurer Kay and Secretary Olcott resisted the change until Mr. Kay, for reasons that can only be surmised, consented to sacrifice Elder, and possibly the peace and quiet of the Home.

The change is the lowest kind of spoils government. When the Home of those who fought their country's battles and won an honorable right to a peaceful place for their declining days is made a catspaw of politics, the administration that does it places an ugly scar upon its record.

ITS LARGER ASPECT

PRESIDENT WILSON'S insistence that the rules of international law be observed by the warring nations so far as neutrals are concerned, has a larger meaning than any of the belligerents concede. He is standing for humanity, insisting that civilization be not set back indefinite lengths by this war. International law is a group of accepted customs, the upgrowth of civilization. As the Pittsburg Press says:

They have protected the flag of truce. They have been of humane value in the amelioration of the lot of the wounded and the prisoners. They have made the Red Cross possible. They have made the sea a highway even during war, in so far as civilized war could allow it to be free to neutrals. They have been recognized by an elaborate system of prize courts set up for the purpose of administering these customs under the name of international law.

These laws have not been repealed, and no nation can repeal them. They are the laws of all nations, agreed to in their saner moments so that civilization may survive. It is the president's duty as the representative of a peaceful people and the spokesman for humanity to insist upon strict observance of these laws. He would be censurable should he do otherwise.

During this time of stress fair-minded people will not overlook the larger aspect of President Wilson's course. He is demanding respect for American rights, but, above that, he is holding high the lamp of civilization, insisting that all which has been won for mankind shall not be lost.

Mrs. Smith, president of the Women's Homestead association, wants laws in all the states providing that female stenographers, for their own protection against employers, shall be kept in cages while at work. It is a slander on both employers and stenographers. One is not so bad nor the other quite so helpless as Mrs. Smith seems to think.

George E. Hardy, general manager of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, says good citizenship rather than more citizens should be the chamber's aim. Has he not pointed out one of Portland's great needs? Good citizenship in any city means active participation in every movement for that city's advancement.

Arthur Reynolds, first vice president of the Continental and Commercial National bank of Chicago, says the American people should be optimistic. He was right when he declared in Portland that they have reason to be enthusiastic about the future.

It has been suggested that if all the Browns should rally to the defense of Brownsville, Texas, the Mexicans would give up in despair.

Carranza says he can permit no interference in Mexican affairs by any foreign government, and so he refuses to consent to a peace conference. Does "pride goeth before a fall" apply to Mexico's "first chief"?

An automatic detector to serve as a check on joyriding in the city's automobiles is suggested. A better plan would be to ask some of the city's employes to walk or take a street car once in awhile.

It is said that the Chinese are beginning to chew gum, and the Cincinnati Times-Star thinks we are in a fair way to get even with them for teaching us the chop suey habit.

The New York World says it is an excellent thing to have a president who thinks with his brains and not with his lungs.

INTERNAL REVENUES REACH NEW MARK

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

A PRELIMINARY report by the commissioner of internal revenue, suggests the inference that the war tax imposed by the act of October 23, 1914, which expires by limitation in December, will have to be re-enacted next session if a bond issue is to be avoided. The total receipts of internal revenue for the year ending June 30, 1915, amounted to $415,669,876, an increase of $35,660,982 over collections for the preceding year, which was the high water mark up to that time.

But $52,069,000 of this came from the war tax, without which there would have been a decrease of about $17,000,000. Even with the war tax, the government is running on a monthly deficit of $15,000,000, so that without an unexpected increase in customs or internal revenues or an issue of bonds the supply of cash on hand would soon be reduced to the danger point.

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The receipts from the war tax are divided in the report as follows: Wines, champagne, liqueurs, cordials, etc., $2,307,361.97; grape brandy used in fortification of sweet wines, $138,383.56; Fermented liquors (additional 50 cents per barrel) $18,813,679.88; special taxes relating to manufacture and sale of tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, $2,486,616.36; special taxes, including bankers, brokers, etc., $4,967,179.18; schedule A (documentary stamps, etc.) $20,494,474.75; schedule B (perfumery, cosmetics, etc.) $2,961,490.59; total, $52,069,126.29.

"It should be noted," says the report, "that under the provisions of the act above mentioned receipts are for fractional parts of the fiscal year, as the tax on wines, grape brandy and fermented liquors became effective October 23, 1914, the special taxes on November 1 and stamp taxes on articles enumerated in schedules A and B on December 1 following."

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The spread of prohibition is indicated by the report's statement that ordinary revenues from distilled spirits without regard to the war levy fell off for the year to the amount of $16,924,000, while receipts from fermented liquors declined $6,466,000. In the same time the ordinary receipts from tobacco showed a decrease of $2,515,000.

The corporation tax for the year gave the treasury $39,144,000 and the individual income tax collected $41,046,000. Of this sum $16,577,000 came from the basic or lowest rate of 1 per cent on the smallest taxable incomes. The higher rates on larger incomes produced revenue as follows:

Net incomes exceeding $20,000 and not more than $50,000, $4,098,073.45.

Net incomes exceeding $50,000 and not more than $75,000, $2,496,496.77.

Net incomes exceeding $75,000 and not more than $100,000, $2,099,634.48.

Net incomes exceeding $100,000 and not more than $250,000, $5,943,797.67.

Net incomes exceeding $250,000 and not more than $500,000, $3,328,423.78.

Net incomes exceeding $500,000, $6,439,004.54.

Accepted offers in compromise, etc., $63,646.59.

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No figures have yet been prepared showing the number of persons having incomes of the various amounts. But the collection of about $6,500,000 from persons with incomes in excess of $500,000 a year would mean if $500,000 be taken as the normal that about 345 persons in the United States had incomes of that proportion. As presumably, however, some of the incomes much exceed this lower limit the number of persons must be correspondingly reduced.

The returns approximate the estimates made last year by the internal revenue bureau, which figured the 1915 revenue at $40,000,000 each from corporation and individual tax. In congress, when the law was enacted, the framers of the bill announced that for the fiscal year 1915, the corporation tax revenue would be $39,000,000, and income tax $83,000,000, the latter being double the actual collection from that source.

The world wide depression on account of the war in 1914 partly explained the falling off from the original estimate.

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New York with $10,221,207 corporation tax revenue and $17,417,538 from individuals, produced the greatest federal income tax revenue of all the states. Pennsylvania was next with $4,725,139 corporation and $4,642,557 individual; Illinois, third, with $2,983,527 corporation, and $2,670,630 individual; Massachusetts fourth, with $1,853,057 corporation and $2,683,084 individual; and Ohio fifth, with $2,538,058 corporation and $1,489,491 individual. None of the other states reached the $2,000,000 mark in either corporation or individual income revenue.

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length and must be accompanied by the name and address of the sender. If the writer does not desire to have the name published, he should so state.)

Discussion is the greatest of all reformers. It rationalizes everything it touches. It robs principles of all false sanctity and throws them back on their reasonableness. If they have no reasonableness, it ruthlessly crushes them out of existence and sets up its own conclusions in their stead."—Woodrow Wilson.

Thinks We Are Inconsistent.

Portland, Sept. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal—Will you allow one whose forefathers fought for American independence and to preserve the Union to express an opinion on American neutrality?

President Wilson expressed true neutrality when he said:

"We must be neutral in fact as well as in name and we must put a curb on every transaction which might give preference to one party in the struggle over another."

Is the administration living up to that announcement when Austrian and German ambassadors are sent home because they remind subjects of their nations of the treason laws of their country—which cannot apply unless they return to their native land—while British recruiting officers enlist men for the front all over America, try to steal men from our army and navy, and are not sent home? Is it true neutrality to constantly scrutinize everything done by Germany, Austria and Turkey and at the same time remain blind to the flagrant misuse of our flag by the British, at their pleasure? I think not! I am getting tired of the unneutral "neutrality" of the government in violation of the splendid declaration of President Wilson, when the war began. It is outrageous that England should dictate with whom we may or may not trade. It is time Jeffersonian democracy was applied and the exportation of munitions, and if need be foodstuffs, be prohibited.

W. H. ADDIS.

The War of the Rebellion.

Portland, Sept. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal—Kindly allow this mild criticism of your otherwise very excellent editorial, "The Irrepressible Conflict," in Sunday's issue.

We would like to state that the Republican party never had any just claim to being a party of, by and for the people. The declaration of Lincoln did not refer to political parties but to governments, that "should not perish from the earth."

There were, to be sure, many humanitarians allied with the Republicans as an abolitionist party, and many humanitarian acts were performed. The first issue of paper money during the war was a humanitarian act and was truly "peoples" money; but the war never was a peoples' war, but was a war between the northern and southern capitalists from start to finish. It was financed by these two commercial rivals and the negro's flayed back played no part in the commercial struggle. The negro slave did play a part in that he was used by the southern slave master in competition with northern free labor employers. The north won because his money surety was based on a more reliable thing than human chattels, that could be destroyed by an emancipation proclamation.

We believe it right that the present generation should be made to understand by whom and why the war of the rebellion was fought. This knowledge generally disseminated would tend to make the people wise to the causes of wars and civil strife among the children of men.

Lincoln's reference to the "perishing from the earth" of a government of, by and for the people applies to a democracy as compared with an autocracy. The principle of this and other governments is that of democracy; while, in fact, all are autocratically governed by a small political ring, as your editorial implies. Notwithstanding this fact the people govern, indirectly, in that they have the power to alter, change or annul. As far as they are capable of self government they do now govern. Should they become really capable and understand government there is little of the present form of government that would remain. "Man's nature" is neither improved or changed. Human nature needs no change. It is as nature designed it to be, and any change will tend to make it inhuman. What is needed is education, intelligence, advancement in knowledge. The selfishness of mankind, when applied nationally and internationally, instead of individually, as it now is, is the salvation of his continued existence. It will establish cooperation for a common need. Not until the earth fails in being able to supply all the necessities of man will there be any need or demand for a change in the animal instinct of self interests. We only need to make that interest broad and humane.

C. W. BARZEE.

How Assessments Are Made.

Portland, Sept. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal—Please have the kindness to inform a subscriber, how the assessments are made against real estate for bonded sewer and street improvements. Who makes the apportionment? Is it the city commission or some city officer?

I am charged with $200 for the laying of a street in the southeastern part of the city. The other day I went up to the city hall and asked for some information, but did not get much satisfaction. A clerk in the auditor's office mumbled a few words to me, said something about $200, better pay now, slammed up the book and walked away. Can your newspaper help me out?

SUBSCRIBER.

[Tentative assessment districts are provided by the department of public works and submitted to the council. The council in turn passes an ordinance fixing the assessment district and the city auditor cooperating with the department of public works then makes the apportionment.]

Failure of Air Raids.

From the Atlanta Journal.

A twelvemonth of Zeppelin raids on England has resulted in minor damages to property and in the death of 88 persons, all of whom were civilians and 18 of whom were children. No soldier or sailor has been killed, no defenses have been shaken, no military advantage of consequence has been gained. Conducted by night over a land doubly darkened for safety, these aerial attacks have been unable to distinguish between points of strategic importance and sleeping households.

Have the Zeppelin adventures been worth the cost? They have stirred British anger and quickened recruiting, but the frightfulness they were designed to spread has been momentary and the slaughter of innocent civilians has shocked the moral sense of the neutral world. Had they been directed against military and naval bases, the raids would have been warranted, but against unprotected towns and helpless noncombatants they have hurt Germany more than England.

It is evident, moreover, on the purely practical side that while aircraft are very valuable for scouting and range finding they are of little or no service as instruments of attack. The retaliatory raids of French and British aviators on German positions have brought no appreciable results. All the belligerents can well afford to limit aerial warfare to practices that are of real value and certainly to practices that are in keeping with the dictates of humanity.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Pittsburg Gazette: If this thing keeps up it will be considered profanity to tell anybody to go to Mexico.

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Chicago News: Fortunately President Wilson's abundant backbone does not encroach upon his cerebral cavity.

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Cleveland Plain Dealer: The more we watch Germany in Russia, the less we marvel at what Japan did a few years ago.

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Pittsburg Press: To be brutally frank, it's a toss-up, between poker and baseball as to which is the national game.

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Charleston News and Courier: Now that Uruguay has agreed to help us clean up Mexico, the job no longer appears formidable.

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Cleveland Plain Dealer: The fall of Novo Georgievsk may have been a glorious tumble, but, thank the Muses, it can't be put into a rhyme!

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Walla Walla Bulletin: Heaven preserve the mere man. With the canning season drawing to a close, the women have preserved everything else.

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Cincinnati Times-Star: San Francisco did not burn its fingers on the Panama exposition after all. Instead she burned the exposition mortgage.

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Baltimore Star: Berlin says the Germans are "cutting off Grodno"; well, there are other towns in the same region that are in greater need of shortening.

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Detroit Free Press: Chancellor Jordan of Stanford university says a college president must not smoke. He must get his puffs from the newspapers, we take it.

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New Orleans States: It is no violation of confidence to say that in spite of President Wilson's desire to remain at peace with all the world, the American people are already preparing to absorb a large part of turkey on November 25.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

The Baker Herald hopes that Baker "will be able to invite all these visitors to Baker to see our splendid lighting system soon."

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Building report, in Sheridan Sun: "The brick work on the new city hall began the first of the week. This work has been finished on the school house and the roof is now being put on."

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The advertising manager of the Rogue River Argus has invented something new in front page display ads, in giving publicity to the barbecue that is to take place at Rogue River on October 2.

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Joseph Herald: "Uncle Bud" McAllister of La Grande, is here visiting his relatives—the Hemilwright Gillaspie families. What Uncle Bud knows about the early history of these counties would make the most interesting "blood and thunder" novel you ever read.

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The Klamath Falls Herald claims that up to August 1 the Klamath Falls entrance to Crater Lake was the one most favored by tourists. The Herald says this traffic has nearly doubled, and that 800 more automobiles have gone over the road this year than in the 1914 season.

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Hillsboro Argus: The fact that an artesian well has been struck on the George Robinson farm, near Farmington, has caused a number to sit up and take notice. The stream is a big one and flows about 20,000 gallons a minute. If artesian water can be found down that way the Scholls people will consider putting in a water supply for that section.

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Appreciating the value of a public discussion department, the Willamina Times apprises its readers as follows: "We shall be glad to get more questions from our readers for the legal column, as we are paying the attorney for answering these, whether you ask them or not, and he is only too glad to answer them for you, free to you. Also we will be glad to get more questions for the general question and discussion column."

POLITICS AND "PREPAREDNESS"

From the Boston Globe.

We shall see, in the coming months, a furor of discussion over military "preparedness." The motives of the spokesmen will vary all the way from the sincere and earnest citizen honestly convinced that a given amount of ships, guns and men is necessary to his country's welfare to the manufacturer of ships and guns who is honestly convinced of anything which will sell his wares. But the loudest spokesmen will be the party politicians.

The temptation to politicians to play at ducks and drakes with grave international questions—that, all unhappily, is the besetting plague of a democratic government. A is out of office; B is in. A is firmly convinced that the welfare of his country requires him at the helm. Therefore, he must prove, at all costs, that the party in power has bungled a grave international question. It may be vastly more to the benefit of the country to debate these issues calmly—but that does not advance party interests. Hence the furor.

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Now frenzy is not the only way to discuss armament. Three distinguished public men have just given proof of this. Senator Lodge, though believing that our navy is below par, fair-mindedly adds that he blames neither party for it, but rather both. Ex-President Taft, outlining a painstaking estimate of what he considers our military needs, concludes, "I am trying to make practical suggestions and not a partisan speech." The tone of President Wilson's July letters to the secretaries of war and navy was admirably poised and deliberate. "The important thing now is to know, and know fully, what we need."

That is it: To know what we need; which is a task not for party clamor, but for quiet study.

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The character of warfare is changing from month to month, almost from hour to hour. To load up with expensive machinery which tomorrow's experience or invention may relegate to the scrap-heap is a costly folly. Enlarged enrollment at the twin military academies, shorter enlistment terms in the regular army, with a reserve formed from the retired men; a reasonable expansion of the navy; a larger militia—such simple and obvious measures as these could be permanent in the face of all mechanical experiment and invention.

But perhaps these relatively inexpensive measures do not suit the plans of the agitators. What an orgy of financial extravagance a sudden plunge in military machine-building would loose on us anyone can guess. Last year the war department cost $173,522,804; the navy $139,682,186. To this military expenditure the pensions added $173,440,231 more. By a reliable estimate we are told that more than 70 cents out of every dollar of federal revenue goes, already, indirectly or directly to military expenses. Before incurring deeper debt, it would be well to be sure that we are getting the worth of the money we already spend.

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With our enormous coastline—on two oceans—our unexampled opportunities for political log-rolling, and the dubious return in armament for the money already spent, any headlong rush into so-called preparedness could all too easily become a dive into the bottomless pit of the everlasting pork barrel.

But above all, let us remember, as Senator Lodge and Mr. Taft have so high-mindedly pointed out, that national defense is anything but a party question. The truth is that it has been rather a point of pride with the American people not to be prepared. They have felt it to be something of an honor to themselves and a pledge of their good faith to their neighbors. If, after what has happened in Europe, they now feel it to be common prudence to invest in more firearms, let that decision be a national affair, not a party affair.

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That party pulpiteers should attempt to raise a cloud of partisan dust around the question is only natural. That is their trade, and it would ill become us to complain of them for plying it. But that need not prevent us from refusing to allow them to work us up into partisan excitement about a matter which, if it is to profit us at all, must be treated with cool deliberation. At their sincerest and best such fiery party men are poor advisers, at their worst they are less concerned over the safety of the nation than with getting authority and office into their own hands.

On this question of national defense, therefore, let us, the plain people of the United States, who must pay the bills in any case, be very, very calm.

To Be Healthy on Vacation.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

Ostensibly you go on a vacation to find or to improve your health. But how many achieve it? To most of us a vacation is a respite from toil, with a license to overeat, oversleep and overdo nearly everything that we take in normal doses during the period of hard labor. Who is there who hasn't returned from a vacation spoiled by indigestion, excessive play or a lazy indulgence in doing nothing, with the conviction that the pleasures and increased health he expected to find were a delusion?

The best vacation is not so much freedom from the necessity of working as it is a change, new scenes, new people, new ideas, all taken in moderation. As such they are a tonic. When you start forth, just to avoid the necessity of calling in a physician to diagnose your ailment, take the advice of Jonathan Swift and consult "the three best doctors in the world—Doctor Diet, Doctor Quiet and Doctor Merryman." They will tell you to eat moderately of digestible foods, to let alcoholic liquors alone and then to remember, as Solomon said, that "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Habit Forming Drugs.

From Leslie's.

The evils of drunkenness are known to all, but the ravages of the habit forming drugs, more terrible than alcoholism in their effects, are not properly appreciated by the public. These drugs rapidly undermine the constitution, break down the moral character and make complete wrecks of those who are unable to escape from their clutches. In nearly every city there is a systematic and secret traffic in such drugs. They are even smuggled into prisons. Needless to say there is tremendous profit in it to those who are engaged in the business. The habit is increasing alarmingly in the dry states of the south. Dr. Lucius P. Brown, state pure food and drugs inspector of Tennessee, is authority for the statement that there are 22,500 persons in Tennessee suffering from the drug habit and that $540,000 is spent yearly in that state by habitual drug users.

The general public does not realize what is going on. A man can't drink whiskey without its being known, but the user of drugs can slip off by himself and quietly dope, and no one will know his plight until it is too late.

INDEX OF ADVANCING TIDE OF PROSPERITY

New York—Net earnings of 489 railroads for the first six months of the calendar year increased $47,615,000, or 13.7 per cent, although gross for the same period was smaller by $39,998,000 or 2.8 per cent. The increase of $47,615,000 in net for the first half of this year compares with a decrease of $50,660,000 for the corresponding period of 1914, and an increase of $26,799,000 for 1913.

Railways More Efficient.

From Financial America.

A point of importance not always considered by students of railroad operations is the increasing ability of the carriers to earn more per dollar of investment. The article on "Railroad Economics" which appeared in this paper yesterday morning clearly showed by the use of comparative statistics that by means of greater efficiency the roads have been able to meet the tide of the rising cost of operation, accompanied by largely stationary or declining rates.

Railroad companies, in late years, have invested more liberally in road and equipment than formerly, despite the wary attitude of capital. They have recognized the economic benefits of efficiency thus obtained, and actually have placed in this efficiency, as a means of lifting burdens imposed by modern times, a confidence which they have been unwilling publicly to admit.

Educating the Policeman.

From the Chicago Post.

Paragraphers see humor in the fact that Berkeley, Cal., has arranged for a course of instruction in the relation between mental disease and criminology to be given its policemen. With the average policeman in mind, there may be something funny in the proposal, but that is merely because we have come to regard police work from altogether too low a plane of vision. Berkeley is pioneering in a field that is rich in possibilities. Beginning with the policeman may be venturesome, but it is an interesting experiment. Possibly our own psychopathic laboratory in Chicago is a wiser beginning. Eventually, the policeman must be reached, and eventually his function must be valued much more highly than now.

The Once Over

BY REX LAMPMAN

MRS. CARL NEHREN—who lives just across the street from us—out at Oak Grove—used to be a stenographer.

—and lived in the city.

—and didn't know much about country life in America.

—or any place else.

—until she married Carl—and went out to Oak Grove.

¶And now she understands all the jokes that the papers print about commuters.

—and why a hen crosses the road, and things like that.

¶Mrs. Nehren says she doesn't know about other hens—but she knows that our hens cross the road—to scratch in her garden.

¶And the other day—Carl brought out some friends to dinner.

—and Mrs. Nehren had a lovely bouquet of poison oak—in the center of the table.

—and it made the friends nervous.

¶But they were polite and kept still—until Mrs. Nehren asked them—if they didn't think the foliage was beautiful.

¶And that reminds me how Mrs. Herbert Garr Reed—who knows all about Shakespeare—and Browning—and things like those—went down to Sunset beach—a little while ago.

¶And Mrs. Reed started out to learn just everything—about nature.

—and things began to happen.

¶First Mrs. Reed picked a beautiful bouquet of poison oak.

—and brought it in—proudly.

¶And then one day—177 cans of baby fish came down from Bonneville.

—to make their homes in a little fresh water lake near the beach.

¶And everybody went over to the station—to meet the fish.

—and Mrs. Reed looked in a can.

—and wanted to know—if the fish were in water.

¶She said she thought they were in some kind of a preserving fluid.

—and there was a prohibitionist there.

—and he told her she was right.

—and he was very proud—of his own cleverness.

¶And one time they went to a farmer's to get some milk.

—and the farmer was talking—about the different kinds of separators.

—and Mrs. Reed said—she always thought—that separators were milk pens—in which to keep each cow's milk separate from the other cows'.

¶And the farmer looked at Mrs. Reed and smiled sympathetically.

—and said: "I was in Portland once—three years ago—and—

¶"LISTEN, lady, I got into one of them revolving doors and got rattled—and went 'round and 'round—until I got plumb dizzy."

The Prude's Alphabet.

By Don Marquis in New York Sun.

A is for **Tarsus**, that joins limb and foot.
It should always be covered with spat or with boot.

B is the letter for **Gentleman Cow**—
When he gets in china shop, oh, what a row!

C is a **Stinging Lump** made by tight shoes—
In paring them down one a razor may use.

D is an **Expletive** used by rude men—
It has shocked me again and again and again!

E for an amorous god of old Greece—
If he made eyes at me I would call the police!

F is for **Flirt**, although I demurred
At putting my pen to so common a word.

G for **Intestine** strung on a violin—
The way Kipling spells it is really a sin!

H is the letter that stands for **Embrace**;
When parent clasps child it is not a disgrace.

I for **Eruption** which comes on the skin;
It runs seven years, then again doth begin.

J for the **Burden** inebriate man
Bears home to his hearthstone the best way he can.

K for the **Hinge-Joint** midway in the limb
That bends when we walk and bends when we swim.

L for an **Insect** that maketh its home
On the heads of impossibles, dodging the comb.

M is for **Morals** and **Manners** and **Men**—
They may get together, I'd hate to say when.

N for **Ungarmented**; some artists draw
Scarcely anything else in spite of the law!

O is for **Ostrich**—commendable bird!
He buries his head lest he hear a swear word.

P is for **Pig**, though I much prefer **Swine**—
Yet there's such a thing, really, as being too fine.

Q is for **Quince**; folks have said I was one
In a very mistaken crude effort at fun.

R a toothed **Implement** used to pile leaves,
And also a **Villain** who smiles and deceives.

S is for **Polecat**, so prettily furred—
He's quite undomestic I think I have heard.

T is the **Handle** attached to a cow
Through which they draw milk, I do not know how.

U is for **Usquebaugh**—much nicer term
Than the vulgar word whiskey, I'm free to affirm.

V is for **Waistcoat**, don't get it confused
With a garment for underwear frequently used.

W stands for a **Blink** of the eye—
Sooner than signal that way I would die!

X, Y and **Z** are equations unknown,
So a prudent young person will let them alone.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

"Since I got me a auto, it seems like the pesky people cross the road like flies. Now, when I was afoot it seemed like the cussed automobiles just naturally delighted in hopping almost a-top of men and blowing their horns right in my ear, just to see me jump. Now the folks I meet don't seem to care whether they get out of my way or not. The human critter is past all understanding."
—From the sayings of Uncle Jeff Snow.