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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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

WOODROW WILSON.

He that cometh to seek after knowledge with a mind to scorn and censure shall be sure to find matter for his humor, but none for his instruction.—Bacon.

NEW REVENUES

THE president's suggestions to Congress on the subject of raising new revenue will interest great numbers of people. He mentions first a lowering of the income tax exemption so as to include many incomes which now escape. With this should go, he thinks, a widening of the sweep of the "sur-tax" on incomes above a certain figure. This "sur-tax" is a sort of penalty imposed on excessive wealth. Persons whose possessions are abnormally large may justly be required to pay somewhat more in proportion toward the expenses of government than the petty property owner. As a matter of fact, many of the government's heaviest expenses in the way of courts, militia and legislation are for the almost exclusive benefit of millionaires. The surtax which they are, and may be, required to pay on their incomes seems to be a very moderate compensation for the favors they enjoy.

If the income tax should be extended according to the president's recommendations it will probably occur to Congress that some distinction is desirable between earned and unearned incomes. The British government, which relies heavily upon the income tax for its revenues, makes such a distinction and it naturally appeals to thoughtful men as perfectly fair. A person who lives without work may justly be asked to compensate the country for supporting him, while incomes procured by toil, either of hand or brain, stand on an entirely different footing.

The president mentions other possible sources of new revenue, such as a stamp tax on bank checks, a tax of 50 cents the horsepower on automobiles and gas engines and a tax of 25 cents a ton on "fabricated iron and steel." These imposts would not touch people of small means very seriously, except possibly the farmers who have of late invested pretty commonly in gas engines. A tax of 50 cents the horsepower might fall rather burdensomely on them and even retard the development of the newer agriculture. It can scarcely be thought beneficial to the public to make the farmer's life any harder than it already is, or to discourage the application of gas power to his tasks. But all these minor questions will doubtless be threshed out in Congress when the question of the revenues is taken up. The main point to keep in mind now is that the president proposes to make this generation pay its own running expenses without heaping up burdens for the future to discharge.

WHAT A BOY DID

CARRYING cornstalk canes and wearing cornhusk hats, more than 200 Ohio boys and girls, winners in corn-growing, hog-raising, hay-producing and flower culture contests, marched down Broadway, New York, swarmed for breakfast into the Waldorf-Astoria, rode for three hours in a ferryboat, found the statue of Liberty, inspected it and left it there, ate a meal at the Hotel Astor, attended the Hippodrome, spent the day in a ceaseless round of activities, and tired and spent, left the Pennsylvania station at midnight for home.

"We're rubes and we're proud of it," was the air with which the young farmers swung in line down the big streets, and as all New York looked on, didn't give a whoop whether the curious public smiled or sneered.

And right well, they had a right to tread New York's great gilded thoroughfares as young sovereigns and sovereignesses. The group of fresh-faced rural youth gave the country as great a lesson as ever came out of mighty New York. They made records in farm crops that demonstrated spectacularly the latent possibilities of American farm production.

The boy of 17 who won the first prize in corn growing produced 153 bushels an acre. At the same rate, the corn belt of the United States would produce, not the present three billion bushels, but 16 billion bushels a year.

What mightier fact was ever conveyed to the American people: what outlook so dazzling was ever held before their vision, than is contained in the performance of this Ohio boy of 17 and his young compatriots?

RAIDING AMERICAN TRADE

AS a result of the protests from Washington, requisitioning of the American steamer Hocking has been postponed for three weeks. The postponement was asked by the British attorney general, at the request of colonial authorities.

The Hocking is at Halifax, where she was taken by a British warship. A second American ship, the Genesee, has also been commandeered by the British government, and is similarly the subject of protest by the Washington administration.

The two vessels were recently purchased by the American Transatlantic company, a Delaware corporation, from a Danish steamship company. A British protest against the transfer was lodged, but after full hearing of the facts, the department of commerce gave the vessels American registry.

Notwithstanding the finding, the British government claimed that there is a German interest in the company, and seized several ships of the American company for examination in prize courts, and then requisitioned them for use in its own commerce, even without awaiting the findings of the prize courts.

The action is a raid on the American merchant marine to increase British tonnage. If there is a fragment of international law left, the seizures are wanton violation of that law.

It is a means of recruiting the British merchant marine similar to methods employed by London in extending British commerce by seizure of American cargoes destined for neutral countries, against which the Washington government has lodged strong protest. Goods we ship to Scandinavia are seized on the assumption that they are destined to Germany. While American shipments are thus held up, British exports of the same goods to the same countries are largely increased.

The requisitioning of the Hocking and Genesee and the seizure of American cargoes is a process of increasing British tonnage and extending British commerce at the expense of the United States and under the guise of the necessities of war.

It is a process that Washington should vigorously and indignantly oppose.

PERHAPS

A SIGN of the times which everybody must have noticed is the increasing volume and weight of peace talk. It has long been heard in the United States. Echoes of it now issue from Germany itself as well as from England. It almost seems as if the warring nations had come to the pass where they need nothing but a plausible excuse to meet and set about adjusting their differences. The British people never have felt much enthusiasm over the war. Many men have enlisted as a matter of duty, or under pressure from friends and employers, but there has not been anything like a general rush to the front.

The German people have almost unanimously approved the war, and have endured its hardships resolutely, but their patience has limits and we now begin to hear mutterings of discontent. Food is scarce and dear. The German scientists have done their best to provide substitutes for meat and bread but the imitations hardly equal the natural products either in taste or cheapness.

The chances are, too, that the German people have begun to inquire rather seriously what the reasons are for keeping up the fight. The kaiser and his entourage might find it embarrassing to explain this point clearly.

So there is genuine hope that peace is on the way, though it may travel slowly. It is a time when small accidents and apparently trifling events may have great consequences. Those who have ridiculed Mr. Ford's peacemaking expedition to Europe may see reason by and by to wish they had spoken of it in another tone. His shipload of determined evangelists might possibly supply precisely the nucleus that is needed for a general concentration of pacific influences. It would be odd if Mr. Ford should win the next Nobel prize for peace. In habits and disposition he is quite unlike the American who won it a few years ago.

DROPPING GRAMMAR

EDWIN FARLEY, one of the New York city principals, says he thinks formal grammar study should be dropped from the public schools. His reasons for it are impressive if not convincing. According to his account, formal grammar now takes up about 42 per cent of the children's school time, at least in the elementary grades. Mr. Farley believes the time could be spent advantageously on other subjects. The force of his point will be felt if we suppose our music teachers were in the habit of studying the bones and muscles of the fingers for some thirty minutes out of every hour's lesson.

Grammar is the study of the anatomy of language. Pedagogues love it because it has been thoroughly formalized, reduced to system and has been taught so long that no thought is required to continue teaching it. That is also the main reason why they are so fond of Latin. But Mr. Farley is disposed to think that children would get more good from "drill in the accepted forms of correct speech." A great many other intelligent people think so too.

Good English is not learned by studying grammar but by following the example of people who speak correctly. Grammar explains theoretically how to speak properly. Example does not stop to explain how, which is rather futile but actually shows how, by doing it as it should be done. Learning to speak good English requires a great deal of "shop practice."

A boy might read a dozen big books on mechanics and thermodynamics without learning how to plane a board, but half an hour's showing at the bench is quite likely to make an adept of him. "We learn," as the old copybook said, "by doing," and young people seldom learn much in any other way. Grammar is not "doing." It is a singularly abstract and uninteresting method of explaining how to do.

No doubt it has its uses among the advanced studies of the high school, but hardly in the lower grades. What younger pupils need to perfect them in English, or any other language, is practice. If they got more of it we should hear less about their incorrect speech and general inability to express themselves.

THEIR GAME STANDS EXPOSED

WHAT is equivalent to a judicial exposure of the game attempted with respect to the grant lands in Oregon is to be seen in yesterday's action by Judge Wolverton.

Interpreting the findings of the United States supreme court, Judge Wolverton, in ordering entry of the decree in the grant land case, held that the railroad is entitled to $2.50 per acre and no more. He held that the railroad has no ownership of the timber or of the minerals, or of anything else above the $2.50.

The action is the judicial exposition by a federal court of the decision of the United States supreme court, and it is in exact line with what The Journal has insisted upon all along, and a complete repudiation of the claims of railroad attorneys, of the claims of newspaper allies of the railroad and of the claim of "kept" men, who as decoy citizens seek to induce the public to see decisions and other things as the railroad wants them seen.

The court's action is an indictment of the so-called grant land "conference" held at Salem which went through a lot of contortions and adjourned without making a single demand for action by which the state of Oregon would profit from the supreme court's decision forfeiting all but $2.50 an acre in the lands to the public.

It is an indictment of Governor Withycombe, who publicly demands that the railroad be given its $2.50 per acre and that in addition the surplus from sale of the timber and lands "be divided between the state and the railroad."

It is an indictment of those newspapers which, to their shame, the Oregonian among them, assailed and denounced The Journal for its contention that the railroad is entitled to $2.50 an acre and no more. The Oregonian in its ignorant or crooked devotion to the railroad's interests, jeeringly denounced The Journal's contention as to the $2.50 an acre as an attempt of this newspaper to "reverse the decision of the United States supreme court."

There should now be an end of the sinister attempt to deceive and hoodwink the people of this state. There should be no further willingness by men in high places and men in low places to cheat the people out of their just and established rights in the grant lands. The scheme to humbug the public and give the railroad a greater share in the lands than that to which the courts have declared it entitled, stands exposed and cannot be further pursued with any chance of success. The courts have again spoken, the railroad lawyers are repudiated, the railroad politicical push is discredited before the bar of public opinion, and the public, by judicial finding, is entitled to all the timber, all the minerals and all above $2.50 an acre in the grant lands.

The Journal, whose position is vindicated by the court's action, congratulates the people of the state on what has come to pass.

There is yet a chance to get something out of the almost priceless grant lands for the sacred irreducible school fund and the school children of the state.

CONGRESSMAN CLAUDE KITCHIN

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

THE majority leader in the house of the sixty-fourth congress is an interesting man, but then the while Kitchin family is interesting. Scotland Neck is the capital of the Kitchin country, which comprises rich agricultural land in the valley of the Roanoke and conforms more or less closely to the boundaries of Halifax county, North Carolina. Of Scotch-English stock, the Kitchins are an old family, old enough to be thoroughly southern in politics and in manners.

Twice a year the Kitchins have a tribal dinner. When you stop to think that the immediate family circle of Congressman Claude consists of 16 persons, nine of whom are his sons and daughters, and that he has eight brothers and two sisters, most of whom also have large families, you can imagine a fairly populous town when the whole tribe holds its semi-annual feast at Scotland Neck.

Congressman Claude Kitchin's father was a lawyer. In the Civil war he fought for the Confederacy—"a tough old rebel," says his son—and attained the rank of captain. And though he was bitter for a while over losing pretty nearly everything he had owned, and never quite forgot it, he afterward declared he was glad as anybody that the Union had been preserved. He was the first of the Kitchins to go to congress and left Washington to become a judge. When Claude Kitchin went to Washington 14 years ago his brother, William Walter Kitchen, was there, representing another North Carolina district. This brother afterward became governor of the state. Many of the Kitchins are farmers, and some are famous for their achievements in that progressive occupation. Congressman Claude, besides being a lawyer, is a prosperous farmer and puts his savings into good Carolina soil.

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He went to Lake Forest college, like his brothers, and was graduated at the age of 19. His father had helped him with his expenses, but he himself chipped in with what he could earn in vacation time working at farm tasks and in the family sawmill. Obtaining a clerkship in the office of the register of deeds, he set himself to the study of law. But one of the first things he did, and that was before he was admitted to the bar, was to marry the daughter of one of his college professors. He was afraid, he confessed afterward, that he might be too late if he waited any longer.

In due course he received his license to practice law, and his very first case was the defense of a man who was accused of murder and had no money, or almost none, to spend on lawyers. The youth was opposed by his father, who had been employed by the prosecution. At the preliminary hearing the accused was discharged on the grounds of insufficient evidence.

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Claude Kitchin's first elective office was member of congress. Several times his neighbors had urged him to run for congress, but he had declined on each occasion. Finally, in 1901, he consented to be a candidate for the nomination on condition that he would not have to contribute a dollar, lift a finger, write a letter or make a speech in connection with the campaign, either for nomination or election. His neighbors agreed and he stuck to his plan. The title of congressman was attached to his name when he was 31 years old.

And now, by virtue of something called the "seniority rule," he will be chairman of the ways and means committee of the house of representatives, and responsible beyond any other man except the president for the Democratic record for the next two years. He possesses many of the attributes of that personal power which is expected of a majority leader. In the first place, he is an accomplished orator. He is a rhetorical and argumentative big gun. And he is loaded with facts and figures to the oratorical muzzle. Details of tariff history he knows as familiarly as most of us know the name of the Underwood act. He can give you offhand a startling amount of detailed information about the navy—aye, about every ship, her armor, tonnage, guns, etc., etc. This knowledge extends also to the navies of other countries. Obviously, this is a man who studies diligently the subjects with which he has to deal as a legislator. The tariff, hitherto, has been his main specialty, but it seems that the preparedness question will find him on the firing line next month with views which he will not hesitate to express and fight for with all his personal influence and marvelous command of facts and figures. He is a dangerous antagonist.

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A young looking, genial, good humored six-footer (black haired and brown eyed, by the way, and always faultlessly dressed), he fights without bitterness; though often fiery of speech and skilled in the art of sarcasm and invective, he slashes, but leaves no wound. He has made a reputation as one of the best rough and tumble debaters in the house, and he never makes a better speech than when he is being heckled. Officially and unofficially he is as affable and agreeable a person as one would care to meet. His voice, both in conversation and in public speech, is a pleasant voice, full of little softnesses yet resonant and powerful.

We were speaking of speeches. This accomplished speechmaker has made hardly a dozen out and out speeches in his 14 years as a congressman. He confesses that he is not always prepared to talk on the subjects that come before the house, in which respect he differs from a good many of his congressional brethren. For not every congressman is content to sit by idly and watch the decline of congressional oratory. Kitchin says a man who is always on his feet loses force and effect and finally fails to attract attention. Wherein he shows himself a conservationist.

The country is looking forward very interestedly to his leadership of the Democratic party on the house floor. On several occasions in the past his personal views have been sharply and rebelliously opposed to those of the president, and how he will manage, with all his personal independence, to get along with his new job as majority leader we'll see.

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.

A Defender of Dr. Boyd.

Portland, Dec. 8.—To the Editor of The Journal—Referring to an article published in the Sunday Journal, entitled "Dr. Boyd's Rule for Making a Cook not Accepted by Those Skilled in Cooking," I wish to offer a few words of protest as to the manner in which this subject has been misinterpreted and lightly treated.

To begin with, I am not a Presbyterian and in defending the principles propounded by Dr. Boyd I am not actuated by a sense of loyalty to my creed. However, I am firmly convinced that the thinking people who have heard these illuminating and forceful expositions on the possibilities of self, regardless of their religious beliefs will coincide with me that in the excerpt quoted his was a broader generalization than that set forth by Mr. Dana.

True, Dr. Boyd believes in cultivating the beautiful and higher arts, which the majority of people through ignorance of their own great potentialities consider attainments far beyond the ordinary individual. We have become so accustomed to mediocre ability and mentality that upon acquiring a certain prescribed amount of learning we have ceased to strive, satisfied that we have realized our powers in their full entirety.

But in this day of enlightenment we are beginning to comprehend that we must develop our intellects not along one, but many lines. And the world of women today are aroused as they never have been before to the indisputable fact that increased mentality stands for greater efficiency in home making and motherhood.

Needless to say, the keener the intellect, the greater our proficiency in all lines of endeavor; and this, to my understanding, was the point Dr. Boyd was aiming to illustrate. The excerpt cited in the article mentioned was not only misquoted but unjust and misleading as well. The purport was, "Give me an intellectual woman; and I will go with her to the kitchen and in two hours teach her to prepare a better meal that I could teach an uneducated woman in the same length of time." Who can deny that?

It is impossible to conceive of a man of Dr. Boyd's intellect making the statement attributed to him, and it destroys itself in its inconsistency. Instead of criticising or even "treating in a semi-humorous vein" these splendid and beneficial sermons, why not give him the credit due him for presenting to us the results of his broad and exhaustive experience, that we may profit thereby.

MRS. H. F. SCHROEDER.

Some "Whys" as to Shipping.

Portland, Dec. 6.—To the Editor of The Journal—A few days ago I asked one of the big business men of Portland why Portland had no steamship lines with headquarters at Portland, and why we have no Alaska line. His answer was: "It costs more to load ships at Portland than it does at either San Francisco or Seattle, and the cost at Seattle for loading Alaska bound ships is enough less than the ships will (not can) be loaded for here, that the merchants and shippers make money by sending their goods to Seattle by rail, there to be shipped for Alaskan or Hawaiian points."

Is this true? Do the longshoremen charge less at San Francisco and Seattle than here, and if so, why is this condition maintained?

Why are not the San Francisco and Seattle longshoremen induced to raise their wages so as to have the same scale as Portland workers; or, if this cannot be accomplished, why cannot some arrangements be made so ships bound for Alaskan and Hawaiian points can be loaded at Portland as cheaply as at San Francisco or Seattle?

This letter is prompted by the desire for information, due to this business man's answer to me and his assigned reasons as to the cause for no Alaska ships from Portland, and your editorial, "While We Weep."

D. C. LEWIS.

Producers and Consumers.

Portland, Dec. 7.—To the Editor of The Journal—The owner of a small fruit orchard on the Columbia river a few miles from Portland told me he had a large crop of apples this year, and that he could not sell them, although they were first grade of finest variety of eating apples. He is feeding them to hogs, and many of his neighbors are doing the same.

The fruit stands in Portland are selling two apples for five cents, and the dealers are charging $1.75 per box, that are no better than those being fed to the hogs.

The fruit raisers cannot reach the consumers, but have to take any price dealers are willing to pay. Combinations of middlemen exist in every line of business, particularly the fruit business. Refrigerator car companies, commission houses, wholesale and retail dealers, peddlers, etc., all for the purpose of buying cheap and selling high, frequently destroy good produce to keep up the price to consumers, and hogs fatten on the best of the land while the people go hungry.

The profit system has developed into an exact science throughout the business world. Government is powerless to remedy the evil, because the ethics of business are based upon the same fallacy, that selfish interest is the first law of nature. No greater error was ever taught.

The federal reserve act is solely in the interest of the banking business, and does not touch the fatal defect of a fluctuating money standard of value fixed in gold coin, which gives financiers absolute power to bankrupt all debtors at will. That invisible power must be destroyed before it is possible to sustain credit and prosperity by any law or custom.

The proposed postal express is designed to pick up and deliver all local as well as out of town deliveries for everyone, department stores, retail stores, and individuals, in cities and towns and on rural routes, making periodic deliveries for all, to all, by one service, instead of hundreds of delivery systems running over the same routes. The postal express will fix express charges upon the basis of the cost of service.

The postal express has been under consideration by the authorities in Washington for several months. Senators La Follette and Chamberlain and Lane are interested in its adoption, and it is very probable that the experiment will be tried out between Vancouver and Salem this year.

It would place all consumers in direct contact with producers, and would rob the hogs of their diet on Spitzenberg apples and give the children a chance to satisfy their appetite for apples. It would shut out the trade combinations from all their diabolical machinations to buy cheap and sell high—save and except only the money king, and he is invincible as long as the standard of value is fixed in gold coin for the payment of all obligations public and private.

CLURCEMAL.

A Statement by Mr. Warrack.

Portland, Dec. 9.—To the Editor of The Journal—Referring to an article published in your issue of December 8, 1915, under the heading, "Sees No Good From Change of Bureau to Puget Sound," I wish to state I am credited with statements which I did not make. In fact, what is represented as an interview is built up from two remarks made to your representative on an article appearing in your issue of December 5, under the heading, "Want Lighthouse Bureau." I stated that I did not at the time recollect a specific occasion on which work on aids to navigation on Puget sound had been delayed by the tenders being barbound in the Columbia river. I also remarked that the relighting of aids on the sound, as well as in other portions of the district, was at times delayed by the fact that the tenders were engaged in buoy work in some other locality, and might have to finish up the work on which they were then engaged before proceeding to a distant point in the district on a single errand, and further that when a tender was not available launches or other means were used for reaching aids which had become extinguished.

You must appreciate that I cannot publicly discuss the location of headquarters of this district or other matter of policy, as my interest in all portions is alike and unbiased.

I have, therefore, to request that, since you have given such wide publicity to the matter, you give my actual statements equal publicity.

ROBERT WARRACK,
Lighthouse Inspector.

Let Well Enough Alone.

From the Washington Star.

If Europe can ever get back to "the verge of war" she will probably make a sensible and persistent effort not to be pressed across it.

Where They Belong.

From the Atlanta Journal.

There is always room at the top for aeroplanes—and room at the bottom for submarines.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

A report that saloons will close early New Year's eve may stimulate the early shoppers.

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Roadmaster Yeon having labeled the tax dodgers, it is up to others to keep tab on the labels.

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San Francisco is proving that a second-hand exposition building must be put on the bargain counter to move it.

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It is natural that such a hustling town as Medford should be selected as the home of a moving picture company.

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Thirty-five cents a pound on the hoof paid for the stock show's champion steer makes one's mouth water for even a slice of the hoof.

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With Mr. Ford's peace delegates divided into hostile camps over the president's message, it's about time to organize another peace mission.

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The New York stock exchange will send an ambulance to France as a Christmas present, but "shorn lambs" must limp along as best they can.

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If you are at all particular about the children, it will be well to memorize Fire Marshal Stevens' "don'ts" in connection with the Christmas tree.

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Proposed extensions of the Hawley Pulp & Paper company's mill at Oregon City, giving employment to 200 more men, is another prosperity fact here in Oregon.

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Patrolman Bales has arrested a man for carrying a revolver. Now that a precedent has been established, the police may be willing to obey the law by enforcing it.

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The spectacle of a Southern Pacific attorney standing up in court and threatening limitless litigation unless terms of the Oregon & California grant lands decree are made to suit him inspires neither admiration nor confidence.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Ranchers south of Durkee turned out recently and graded a piece of hill road after waiting a long time for the county to do the work.

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Medford citizens have made all arrangements for a municipal Christmas tree. A plan for utilizing one of the trees in the city park as a Christmas tree met with enthusiastic approval.

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A minstrel show is to be staged by the prisoners at the state penitentiary on Christmas eve for the benefit of the prisoners. A later performance is planned for the public.

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Very few people in Medford and vicinity, the Mail Tribune says, are in serious need of charitable help. The number of such persons is less than usual. Work has been more than ordinarily plentiful during the fall.

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Weather observation in Hood River News: "Local ministers did not pray for rain last Sunday. 'Twill be many moons ere such a supplication will be in order. At one point in the county there has been a precipitation of 21 inches during the past month."

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"Fifty-four years ago," says Tuesday's Albany Democrat, "the water was the highest in the Willamette in its history, though it was just as high on the following day, perhaps on the 8th being slightly higher than on the 7th. The total height recorded, as brought down by the report, was 36 feet, a height never since reached at this city."

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From the Salem Journal's editorial columns the following valued testimonial is taken: "Portland's stock show requires five tents, each as big as the largest circus tent, to house the exhibit. Some of the finest stock of all kinds is there to be seen, and it is well worth the time and money expended in taking a run down to see them, especially if you are interested in the growing of livestock of any kind."

THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE

From the Omaha World Herald.

Seldom in the history of the republic has a congress assembled charged with such grave responsibilities, confronted with such an imperative demand for patriotism and statesmanship, as the sixty-fourth, which convened yesterday.

The fact may as well be frankly faced that there has been shown a disposition to look upon the reassembling of congress with apprehension. The apprehension has been based on a fear that the people's representatives, met to sit in their legislative capacity during a most critical period in the world's history, would be found lacking in wisdom, in discretion, in self-control; that the result would be things said, or done, that would add enormously to the difficulties experienced by the executive department in the effort to steer this country to safety and honor through wildly tempestuous waters. There has been a feeling, in a word, that President Wilson and his cabinet advisers could do better, that the country would be better off, if they did not "have congress on their hands."

Manifestation of such a feeling does little honor to the theory of representative government. It is a confession of distrust in democracy and democratic institutions. Congress, of the three branches of our government is nearest the people, is most directly responsible to them, presumably will be quickest to respond to the popular will and carry it into execution. It is in the congress rather than in the executive and the courts, that the genius of democracy expresses itself. It is congress—a body of the people's elected representatives possessing and exercising real power—that distinguishes self-government from autocratic government. It is congress that crystalizes the popular will into law, which law the executive is directed by the fundamental law to sustain and enforce.

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In governments that are despotic in fact, though as a compliment to the people a congress or parliament may exist, one of the first moves of the autocrat in time of stress is to attest his contempt for and distrust of the congress by dissolving it or ignoring it or limiting its operations. At a time when the people, whose welfare is at stake, are most in need of a real share in government, their voice is accorded the least attention. In the United States the people themselves are the autocrat. Theirs is the power and the responsibility. For them to show a lack of trust in congress, to show, even, positive disrespect for it, or fear of it, is to disclose a lack of trust in themselves, fear of themselves, or lost faith in the institutions they have created to make their political will effective.

The manifestation of such a disposition is in every way deplorable—and it is doubly deplorable if there appears to be any substantial basis for it.

In a free and representative government it is the supreme duty of the people to put their faith in the institution that is the popular, lawmaking body, by whatever name it may be called. And it is equally the supreme duty of the congress to discharge its duty with such single minded patriotism, with such courage and wisdom, as will justify faith in it and vindicate that form of government in which the people really rule. The nearer the peril, the more momentous the duties, to be performed, the graver the crisis, the greater is the need, as we must concede if we be indeed democrats, that the direct representatives of the people be on hand to bear their full share of the responsibility.

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Autocratic governments, at times, have had men with democratic sympathies at their heads, and free governments occasionally have had executives who were at heart autocrats, with little faith in democratic institutions. The chief executive of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, is a democrat, who believes in democracy, who has faith in the people, and who strives unselfishly to serve them according to their will. He is too good a democrat to resent or fear" having congress on his hands." He believes in the wisdom of common counsel, and is keenly aware of imperative national needs that await upon congressional action for fulfilment. While those who distrust popular government are in an internal tremor over the assembling of congress, President Wilson, we may be sure, welcomes it for the relief it will give him and the assistance it will bring. Through many heart-breaking months he has stood practically alone in charge of our government. The great mass of the people whom he serves, though their sympathies and support have been with him, have had poor opportunity to make the fact directly known. They will make it known now, through the congress they have provided. There may be disclosed, among their chosen representatives, men disposed to play politics with problems of the most serious import, to exalt partisanship above patriotism, to embarrass the president rather than sustain him in the discharge of his own particular duties. The patriotism and good sense of the American people may be trusted to rebuke such representatives as they deserve. The people admire independence and courage in their representatives, without which there can be no true representation or honorable service. But they are quick to discriminate between what is genuine and what is sham. They can discriminate between honest differences due to conflicting opinions of what constitutes patriotic duty and real public service, and differences manufactured for the occasion merely to serve what is believed to be partisan advantage.

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And so it is that this newspaper has confidence—and this with the greatest respect for President Wilson and his cabinet advisers—that the government at Washington will be benefited and strengthened by the assembling of congress. It has sufficient confidence in representative government to believe that in such critical times as these the great majority of congressmen and senators, Republicans and Progressives and Democrats alike, will be inspired and guided by love of country more than by regard for party. It has sufficient confidence in the people to believe that the tricksters and demagogues and self-seekers will be detected and stripped of their influence. And it has faith in the providence which rules over this republic to believe that from the deliberations and actions of the congress of the people in these days when civilization itself seems tottering on its foundations will come results of enduring worth to the nation and to the world.

The Once Over

BY REX LAMPMAN

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON—when the esteemed city editor was listening to a committee—that wanted a lot of publicity for a Worthy Cause—I availed myself of the opportunity.

—and got out.

¶ There are certain times—when all esteemed city editors—for some reason—as yet unexplained by science—seem to desire that reporters stick around.

—and answer the telephone.

—and clean up their desks.

—and get up Sunday copy.

—and do a little useful labor—besides.

¶ That's the way it was yesterday.

—but I went out—as though I had to go some place.

—and was afraid I'd be late.

¶ And I was going past the Yeon building—

—trying to remember where I was going—

—and I heard a noise.

¶ And it sounded like 45 cents a dozen.

¶ And I went down into the basement.

—and found myself at the Poultry show.

¶ And I walked around among the cages.

—and mused on the futility of a chicken's existence.

¶ For behold—I said to myself—a hen layeth eggs.

—and keeps it up—200 days a year—more or less.

¶ And having done this—there comes a time—in the life of every conscientious hen—

—when she desires to found a family.

¶ And very soon—she finds herself under an apple box—with a stone on it.

¶ And her eggs go into angel food—

—and Tom and Jerry—

—and cold storage—

—and incubators.

¶ And the wonder is—that under all these discouragements—a hen retains her maternal instincts.

¶ It's almost as bad—as trying to save money—and pay all your bills—at the same time.

¶ And as I mused—on the analogy—between the life of the average man—and that of a chicken—I noticed that a rooster—who had taken no prizes—was watching me.

¶ First he would turn his head one way—and look at me out of that eye.

—and then he would turn it the other way—and look at me out of the other eye.

¶ And presently he spoke to me—or so it seemed.

¶ And he said that the feminist movement—is well under way—in the feathered kingdom.

¶ "And the latest indignity"—he said—"is that the hens say that roosters are unnecessary."

¶ And he sort of choked—and then went on:

¶ "And it's only the result—of that modern contrivance—the incubator—which makes hens forget their homes—and that they should have families."

¶ And he said that was about all he had to say—except—

¶ LISTEN—He asked me—to try to start a movement—to have all "chicken" jokes—barred from vaudeville.

Budapest the Gay

With all other European capitals silent and sombre, Budapest, the beautiful city by the blue Danube, sings on covering up its heartaches, recounts an illustrated article in The Sunday Journal Magazine for December 12.

Other Magazine features for next Sunday include:

What's in a Name?

The census-taker knows, and one who has collected information for Portland's city directory, relates what a fascinating game name-hunting comes to be and how it takes one into strange places and among unusual people.

Gold Again

Years ago Eben Rexford wrote "Silver Threads Among the Gold," a song that has been sung the world around. Later he produced a companion song, "When Silver Threads are Gold Again," which was soon forgotten. Now it is to be revived, and the songwriter tells why his heart is glad.

The Woman Warrior

Is it patriotism, love or maternal instinct that makes her a martial prodigy? A student of woman's characteristics discusses the problem in view of performances of certain women in the present war.

Shoulders Bare

A discussion of an essentially feminine subject by Lillian Russell, renowned beauty expert, whose suggestions also are weighed with no little common sense. This is a new page in The Sunday Journal Magazine and one that is bound to please matron and maid.

For the Housekeeper

A page of practical suggestions intended to make the day's going the smoother for the housewife. Little studies in household economies that are appreciated by all homemakers.

For the Children

The customary back page in color is devoted to the interests of the little folks. Georgene Faulkner, "The Story Lady," tells about "The Forest Christmas Tree," and Charles A. Ogden has drawn another set of his famous cartoonagrams.

The Sunday Journal

Complete in four news sections, magazine and comic section.

Next Sunday

"The Biggest Five Cents' Worth in Type"