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AMERICA ASKS NOTHING FOR HERSELF BUT WHAT SHE HAS A RIGHT TO ASK FOR HUMANITY ITSELF.
WOODROW WILSON.

THE AUSTRIAN NOTE
THE sharpest demand yet made by Washington on any government in the present war, is the note to Austria over the sinking of the Ancona.

As the good relations of the two countries must rest upon a common regard for the law and humanity the government of the United States can not be expected to otherwise than demand that the imperial and royal government denounce the sinking of the Ancona as an illegal and indefensible act.

Stripped of the language of diplomacy, it is a plain announcement that the United States will break off relations with Austria if the Austrian government does not "denounce the sinking as an illegal and indefensible act."

The step was probably accepted at Washington as the final and unavoidable alternative. The action of Berlin in agreeing to give passengers and crew time for escape before sinking a vessel is proof from the viewpoint of the central powers that Austria was admittedly wrong in her manner of sinking the Ancona.

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A CHALLENGE TO PORTLAND
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ARE WE LOVED?
AMERICAN composure was ruffled a few days ago to hear from the lips of an eminent citizen that our country "was more disliked than any other in the world."

NEW ORLEANS is the shining exception to this bad rule of waterfront ownership and control.

fresh light on the reasons for our world-wide unpopularity. His article dealing with the subject appeared in the New York Times. He speaks particularly of the feeling in France, our ancient ally and hereditary friend.

"Today," says Mr. Davis, the French "regard us with contempt." For one thing they felt the president's famous neutrality letter to the American people as "an unwarranted slap in the face."

There is no doubt that European sentiment has grown bitterly hostile to the notion of neutrality. The belligerents on both sides look upon their cause as that of the world's welfare and they cannot understand why a nation which has ideals to defend and principles to maintain should not take a hand in the fight.

GOOD TAXES AND BETTER SENATOR TILLMAN of South Carolina puts a common feeling into words when he declares himself against the proposed stamp tax on bank checks.

No doubt, direct taxes have a way of irritating those who must pay them. This is one reason why politicians so much prefer indirect taxes which suck the blood of the country without giving anybody a sight of the vampire.

And yet there is a choice among direct taxes. Some are far better than others. Congressman Rainey's proposed tax on beer is free from every possible objection.

THE AUDITORIUM
IS PORTLAND a self-governing city? Have the sovereign people of Portland the right to determine public action, or is that authority reposed in a few self-constituted high-brow persons?

Efforts to prevent the building of the auditorium naturally suggest the above queries. In June, 1911, the people by vote, ordered the auditorium built, and supplied the money. That was nearly four and one-half years ago.

ON one pretext and another obstacle have been thrown in the way. The postponements have been so numerous and frequent that people are beginning to doubt the good faith of some of those who were pretending to act for the city.

THE Albany bicentennial committee in 1882 placed a tablet on the Greenbush manor house with the following inscription: "Supposed to be the oldest house in the United States and to have been erected in 1642 as a manor house and place of defense.

THE name was given by William Van Rensselaer in commemoration of his large estate in Holland, known as Crailo or Crailo, literally "Crown Wood," on the bank of the Zuyder Zee.

Whenever the magnate pays his taxes he recoups it from his employees and his patrons and the rest of the public by means that he understands so well. It is the common people of whom Abraham Lincoln said God loved because he made so many of them, that are the real bearers of the public burdens.

FORT CRAILO GIVEN TO THE D. A. R.
From the Chicago Herald. FORT CRAILO, one of the historic landmarks of New York state, where, tradition records, that famous ditty "Yankee Doodle" was written, has been presented to the Daughters of the American Revolution in the state of New York.

LAWYERS AND LAWYERS
THE 240 members of the new Massachusetts legislature come from 60 different callings. The lawyers head the list, as they always do in American legislatures, with 50 members.

MONEY POWER AND PREPAREDNESS.
Portland, Dec. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal.—The power of money has ruled the world from the beginning of political government, therefore preparedness is a fundamental principle of government necessary for protection from the aggression of despotic governments.

PEACE AND PREPAREDNESS.
Portland, Nov. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal.—A great deal has been said about peace conferences, and there is now one on the way.

QUESTIONS MODERN WAYS.
Oswego, Or., Dec. 12.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In reading the journal I notice many statements which are to put the child into a basket or baby car and make him lie down flat on his little head, put him in a baby car and run over him.

GRAMMAR IN SCHOOLS.
Silverton, Or., Dec. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In a recent issue of your Journal I saw an advertisement the suggestion of a New York principal that formal grammar be eradicated from the public schools.

CLIMATE OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN.
The chief peculiarity about Kurma is that the natives believe the place where they live is the exact site of the Garden of Eden.

STORIES OF STREETS AND TOWN.
MRS. HENDERSON is the genial host at Crown Point Chalet, on the Columbia river highway, but she is full of temper with the Chicago Tribune.

AT HOME ANYWHERE.
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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 be more than 200 words in length, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the sender.

DISCUSSION IS THE GREATEST of all reformers. It rationalizes everything it touches. It robs principles of all false sanctity and throws them in a common place.

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SMALL CHANGE
Secretary Lansing's note doesn't read as though Uncle Sam is afraid. The revolver is not so dangerous to the young man who attempted a bluff at suicide as it is to the man who carries it on his hip.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS
The superintendent of the various Sunday schools of Albany are arranged in the following order for the needs of the city. The public school enrollment at Bend has increased by 149 since the opening in September, and now stands at 893.

THAT OLD CURE-ALL, THE TARIFF
From the Salem Journal. The three congressmen from this state, Sinnott, Hawley and McArthur, all find fault with the suggestions made by the president in his message of December 8th regarding revenues.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF
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THE ONCE OVER
BY LONK LANGMAN
NOT LONG AGO—a week ago Saturday—I think it was—there was printed in this kolum some verses—written by a certain "Water Tank Confidence."

"And they were written as though one hobb—waiting for the next freight—was talking to another. —and telling him how he left his home—and his girl—and his job. —and he had to go. —and of course—back yonder—he left his mother. —and perhaps he doesn't write to her. —and perhaps she thinks him dead—only mothers don't think that—until long after everyone else—has given up hope.

"And one of those mothers—I don't know, but I've written me a note. —and it's about her boy—who went away. —And she says he is wandering—she knows not where. —but ever and ever—she prays—that the God who marks the sparrows—will bring him home wherever he strays. —and bring him safe—back home to her—at last.

"And she signs herself—"A Lonely Mother—watching—and praying for her boy." —And in her note—there is a little poem—which she calls "The Lure of the Winds." —and it runs like this: The winds of the world blow sweet, —and called your feet to stray —From the narrow path of duty and love —Into sin's broad highway. —You turned from the friends, that loved you —You hearkened the call of the wind, —You followed, uncaring, unheeding —The hearts you left bleeding behind.

"The winds from the outside called you, —And the wind from the inside called you, —In a home gone dark with your boy, —You were left watching for his eye, —And listened with ears that were throbbing —For his footsteps her heart held so dear. —While the winds "round her cottage —With voices of sorrow and fear. —The winds that with wild mad surges —Called you to the world's highway, —For her have the sound of dirges —As she prays for the heart that is breaking she prays —For God to watch over the wanderer —Midst the world's mad strife and its pain. —And with tender love to gather —The poor lost wanderer in. —And there are a few more lines—in God's own time—to have her boy again. —And of course I don't know—who is going to read this. —but there'll be a lot of fellows—who haven't written to their mothers—for a long time. —I'm pretty sure that I'm qualified to advise anyone—but—

"LISTEN—Boys—it's nearly Christmas—and I don't know any better time—to write a letter to the old folks. —"The Third Ingredient." —We are indebted to Neil Lawson for a mess of hog liver. If someone will take the trouble to buy a feast —Drewsey Pioneer Sun. —Another Exposure. —Kansas City Star. —"Old friend Sam Hythe, for the entertainment of his readers, comments again to show that he knows no more about the presidential inauguration than the average man." —Penny Pennington Treachant, and then adds with a sigh, "and he gets real money for it, too." —Nevertheless. —A. Perry now flaunts his name above the smoke of the smudging Pot kolium of the Medford Sun. —His complete name is Arthur Gott-don Perry. —He discarded the middle initial because so many people thought it stood for Grouch. —That is, people who knew him. —It improves his stuff to have his cognomen suspended above it. —It fixes the blame, so to speak. —However, I have a further improvement to suggest. —It is nothing less than a new name for the colium.

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