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

There never did, and never will exist anything permanently noble and excellent in the character which is a stranger to the exercise of resolute self-control.—Walter Scott.

THE RISING TIDE

RETURNING to Portland from Chicago, E. K. Garrison, district freight and passenger agent of the Milwaukee railway system, says:

I never saw the railroad people feeling so good. They are all just tickled to death. They are full of joy and enthusiasm and are working hard because they like it. And why shouldn't they? They are breaking their records from month to month with their earnings. Business is piling up so fast that it keeps them hustling to handle it.

This breezy description of the railroad situation tallies with information from all other sources. Its own official report shows that the earnings of the Great Northern for December broke all past records. The gross earnings of that road for the month totaled \$9,045,635, an unprecedented figure.

The business of the railroads is a certain reflection of the activity or non-activity of national industrial and commercial life. With the railroads "breaking their records from month to month," and with "business piling up so fast that it keeps them hustling to handle it," there can be no question that the country is in the midst of an extraordinary activity.

Equally significant of the national status, is the increase of 10 per cent in the wages of 200,000 employees, announced by the United States Steel corporation. The advance increases the annual payroll \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000 and the company announces that the increase is voluntary and is made "in view of existing prosperous conditions."

A similar voluntary increase of wages by the Calumet and Hecla and other mining companies in Michigan gives 14,000 employees a ten per cent increase in pay. These are tremendous facts, evidencing the rising tide of American activity, and exemplifying the priceless blessings of American peace.

In Pennsylvania, liquors confiscated by the authorities are turned over to the hospitals for use in sickness. There, it is considered a better plan than emptying it into the sewer.

WORLD FEDERATION

PEOPLE who regard the "federation of the world" as a vain dream never likely to be realized might, improve their minds by taking a look at the facts as they stand today. The western hemisphere is already pretty well federated under the moral headship of the United States. Canada, of course, is out of the sisterhood just now on account of her strong British sympathy, but her friendship with the United States is firmer than most international alliances and there is no likelihood that it ever will be broken. Two countries with an open frontier of three thousand miles, part land and part water, where there is neither a fort nor a battleship, need no formal treaty to cement their friendship.

The rest of the western hemisphere draws more closely together every year. Pan Americanism means good feeling and the pursuit of common interests. It may well pass on into a formal federation. The United States and the South American countries are as good friends now as the thirteen colonies were at the close of the revolution. It may need only a Hamilton with a little band of hard-working helpers to bring them all under a common constitution.

When we look at Europe we see all of it except a few minor countries united in two federations. The first includes England, France, Italy and Russia, with Japan in the far east. In the other are Germany, Austria and Turkey. These

THE REPUBLIC AND ITS PERILS

THE almost insuperable difficulties that beset the president in dealing with war complications were evidenced in part by Wednesday's debate in the Senate. Senator Gore demanded that Americans should not take passage on belligerent ships or even on American vessels carrying contraband. Senator Jones of Washington took similar ground.

Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, a high authority on foreign relations, insisted that it would be an unneutral act for the United States to place an embargo on the shipment of munitions. Other senators argued for an embargo.

Senator Jones urged that the president should proceed very carefully in the submarine negotiations. Other senators insisted that the president has not been strong enough in his demands as to American lives lost in submarine warfare. Still other senators showed opposition to any course that would lead to a rupture of diplomatic relations with any of the warring governments.

Such are the conflicting views with which the president is confronted in a co-ordinate branch of government at home. The wide divergence of opinion in the senate is almost as serious a complication as the issues that he faces abroad. A divided Congress emboldens the European governments which the president is trying to hold to civilized warfare, to resist the American demands. Every open insistence in Congress that the president shall not go to lengths to cause a rupture of diplomatic relations gives recalcitrant governments grounds and encouragement for standing out against the president's contention that American rights shall be recognized and respected by the belligerents.

The attitude of foreign governments toward the United States is bound to be largely influenced by the American Congress. Those governments have already received many assurances of a divided America. In the submarine controversy, the president has already been heavily handicapped by the confidence of foreign chancelleries in the potency of the opposition to the administration of American citizens who have held foreign countries in higher regard than they have held America. The belief is still held in high official circles at some European capitals that the strength of this foreign sympathy is so great that the Washington government cannot count on a sufficient unity in the United States to carry out its foreign policies.

To a self governing nation, there can be no menace from without that is comparable to a menace of division and disloyalty from within. It is a sort of division upon which we have never counted, and with which we are wholly unprepared to cope. It is a kind of peril of which the president recently said to Congress, "We should have been almost ashamed to prepare for it because it would have seemed incredible." Further describing the situation, the president said:

They have formed plots to destroy property, they have entered into conspiracies against the neutrality of the government, they have sought to pry into every confidential transaction of the government in order to serve interests alien to our own.

This propaganda in behalf of foreign governments without regard to the interests and welfare of the United States has done much to strengthen the belief in foreign capitals that America is not united, and that the president in his diplomatic endeavors speaks for only a part of the nation. It has undoubtedly been a main obstacle to the peaceful settlement of the foreign controversies that a war, not of our making, has thrust upon us.

Even though faced with these difficulties, the president has gained from Germany a full acknowledgement of the justice of the principle contended for by America as to safety at sea. In the latest Ancona note, he has gained from Austria an equally important acknowledgement together with a pledge that the principle will be hereafter observed.

In the concessions that he has gained, the president is entitled to receive from Congress that consideration which his victories in peaceful diplomacy merit. Instead of pursuing a course that will undermine and weaken the strength of the administration in foreign courts, Congress should maintain an attitude that will strengthen it.

Unless this session of Congress squares its acts by the test of America first, unless it is willing to subordinate everything else to that precious principle, the future of this nation is darker than at any time since Sumpter was fired upon.

Federations have been formed for war and destruction, but it is conceivable that they may be perpetuated for the purposes of peace. With there is no sound reason why men should use their intelligence solely for slaughter. They may some time decide to use it for the common welfare.

If the two European federations should survive the war, as they may, the world will not be a great way from that union which should usher in a lasting peace. In the economic realm the watchword of our day is merger. We may be on the threshold of a world wide merger of the nations. The benefits of such an arrangement would be immeasurable. The loss would be nothing worse than some little sacrifice of local vanity.

One hundred and forty-one persons died from pneumonia resulting from the grip in a single week in Philadelphia. The public generally underestimate the seriousness of grip.

ELEVEN KINGS

A CONTEMPORARY has gone to the trouble of counting up the kings concerned in the European war. It finds eleven of them, including the president of France who may pass for a king perhaps. We can remember at least one president of the United States who felt quite kindly during his term of office and has not recovered from it yet. To provide entertainment for these eleven kings some 2,500,000 common men have given up their lives during the last sixteen months. Byron excited some sympathy when he wrote of the gladiator "butchered to make a Roman holiday." Here we have two and a half millions of gladiatorial material butchered to make a kindly holiday.

It is inconceivable that the present war would have occurred had Europe been divided up into republics instead of monarchies. To be sure, the French republic is engaged in the fight, but not by her own choice.

Switzerland, the only other important European republic, has kept out of the trouble and intends to keep out no matter how long it lasts. Her frontiers are guarded by citizen soldiers whom none of the belligerents seem to care to encounter. Denmark, probably the most intelligent country in the world, and certainly one of the most democratic in spite of its monarchy, has also kept clear of the fight.

If all the European nations were republics or kingdoms ruled by popular legislatures, wars could not be undertaken against the wishes of the voters. Of course the people might be carried away by cunningly devised excitement, but it would not be so easy to turn the trick as it is when only a dozen kings and their cabinets manipulate affairs in secret. If the war brings democratic institutions

ment. It would probably be impossible to produce a single credible instance where honest home-stealers have been discouraged by the forest management. On the contrary, everything in reason is done to help them, from free timber for domestic use to road building and fire protection. It has been the uniform policy of the forest authorities to give small settlers the preference to large loggers and herd owners, even at the risk of exciting powerful hostility.

The national forests, like the Panama Canal, are examples of honest and competent business management by the agents of the people. Such instances prove that government ownership and control are not necessarily wasteful.

Had he lived to behold the squabbles on the Ford peace ship, General Sherman might have said the same thing about peace.

NOTHING THE MATTER WITH PORTLAND

(The articles published from day to day in this column constitute truly a "Seeing Portland First" series. And there are readers in them. The excursion for the day takes the reader through two establishments that he will do well to learn a good deal about. One of these proves that for the best in utility and the most beautiful in art no Portlander need seek farther than his own home town, while the other is conclusive of the possibility for the future always seeing the man who takes a chance with an article of universal use that has absolutely unique merit.)

HOW many Portlanders know there are \$200,000 worth of brass and steel bedsteads and bed springs annually turned out of one factory at 1186 Macadam street?

Can those who have not known this heretofore give a substantial reason for their ignorance?

Isn't it strange that so many of us know so little about our own town?

The Rudgear-Merle company was established in Portland in 1909, with George E. K. Fichtner as manager. Its brass and steel plant is one of the most complete of its kind in the country. It contains every appliance necessary to producing any and everything in the line of brass bedsteads, brass baby beds, steel bedsteads, steel couches, steel bed springs, etc. It has its own enameling plant, bake ovens, dipping vats and other paraphernalia so peculiar and complicated that one not acquainted with the business would get his head whirling and mind ajar if he attempted to "digest" them. A certain bedspring made by the plant—for a "plant" is what Mr. Fichtner calls it—is said to have no equal in the world, and is sold on a guarantee that it will last and be in perfect condition as long as the buyer lives. How's that for a warranty? Yet it is not so real strange, after all. It's just the way Portland does things. HOME PRODUCTS ARE THE THING.

One might comb the universe or skim it clean, and he could not find a better class of manufacturers than those produced in this city. Life might find something with a little more tinsel or glitter upon its exterior, but he'd get lame as the proverbial duck if he tramped around and around until he came upon an article of superior merit. And about that glitter, too. The products of the Rudgear-Merle company are as beautiful as it would be possible to make them. Their finish is so attractive that it would be safe to display them in competition with those of any "plant" anywhere—and they're genuinely good.

GREAT VARIETY IN STYLES. "How many patterns of bedsteads do you make?" Mr. Fichtner was asked.

"In brass we turn out 130 styles, and 95 in steel," was the reply. "In children's bedsteads, baby beds and steel spring couches we have a great variety—as large as any plant east or west—and it is a satisfaction to tell you that our enterprise is appreciated more and more, and our business continually expanding. Our principal field is that west of the Rocky mountains, and we cover it thoroughly. You will find our goods in all the principal stores in this territory, and they are ready sellers. Our business is the only one of its kind north of San Francisco, and we intend to keep our products so popular that opposition will hesitate to tread upon our corns."

Mr. Fichtner states that this is the only plant manufacturing brass and steel bedsteads, etc., always having duplicate stocks on hand. This is done to expedite deliveries.

"If we receive an order by the early morning mail, it is going to be delivered, if in the city, within three hours, or if to go out of town it will be at the railroad depot at noon. If in the noon mail, the goods are dispatched before the closing of the railroad freight depots. We let no grass grow under our feet, and we keep a double stock of the finished article on hand so we may not be caught napping. We find it pays. Our trade has grown from zero to \$200,000 a year, and it hasn't run after us, either. We have hustled. We have caught it on the run."

So there is nothing the matter with Portland when it comes to demanding the very best "made at home" brass or steel beds, bed springs, as well as other things.

And there is nothing wrong with Portland, looking upon the city from any angle. It's a high class, modern metropolis, and the better it is known the more the town is admired.

Like all others interviewed, Mr. Fichtner says, "We need more factories! There's room for them here. There's business for them here. There's money here in factory investments!" Producers, always welcome to the city, are parasites here and one

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Here's hoping gasoline prices put a crimp in the joyriding habit.

The council has fixed 21 as the minimum age of pot smoking habits.

Have you noticed that the days are getting longer? Spring is coming.

Another thing, 1916 not only will be a better year than 1915, but also a day longer.

It may be pertinent to ask the weather man whether he sent the snow to put the water wagon out of business.

Secretary Garrison neglected to tell the house military committee that men who lead double lives ought to be doubly valuable as soldiers.

The Sunday law may or may not be repealed by the people, but an important fact is that the initiative gives them a chance to say what they want.

The Minneapolis Journal says: "Uncle Joe is upholding the administration of the Frank, because he intends to buy a home and giving a shy but emphatic kick with Uncle Joe's hands must be all feet."

From the Omaha World Herald. Many of the hopes of the "submerged nationalities" of Europe for independence or autonomy as the outcome of the war may leave and be disappointed, merely because there are too many of them and they are too much intermingled if for no other reason.

The day of tribal sovereignty is passed. The jurisdiction of governments is now territorial. Since the fifteenth century the "king of the Franks" became King of France, the idea of personal allegiance has been on the downward grade. A vestige of it remains in the European tenet of indefinite allegiance, but the tendency for centuries has been toward the American doctrine of free expatriation and territorial sovereignty.

The nine nationalities of the Austro-Hungarian empire and the forty odd tongues of the Balkans may each aspire to a sovereignty of its own, but that is impossible. When patriarchy owned their families to the third and fourth generation, and such great families or tribes constituted the nations, the wander about irrespective of territorial boundaries, prey upon each other and maintain an autonomy satisfactory to the patriarchs, and that is impossible. When patriarchy owned their families to the third and fourth generation, and such great families or tribes constituted the nations, the wander about irrespective of territorial boundaries, prey upon each other and maintain an autonomy satisfactory to the patriarchs, and that is impossible. When patriarchy owned their families to the third and fourth generation, and such great families or tribes constituted the nations, the wander about irrespective of territorial boundaries, prey upon each other and maintain an autonomy satisfactory to the patriarchs, and that is impossible.

land market pay us for making our cattle and hogs fat. In other words, a good stock of hogs is a satisfactory price. If a man puts poor or inferior stock on the market he must expect to get poor prices for same.

"Made in Oregon" and "Patronize home industries" have been the cry of a great many of the Portland newspapers for a long time. On December 22 you printed an article written by a man who had been in the market for the Seattle market paid a better price than does the Portland market. This is not the case, cost of shipping to Seattle taken into consideration. It is true that the cost of shipping to a top on a load or two of hogs that is all the way from 10 to 25 cents higher than the Portland market. But one cannot ship from Portland and deliver on that margin. He would lose money. As regards prices of cattle and sheep, Seattle does not compare with Portland.

"I don't believe Mr. Barter raises any livestock. If he did he would know from experience (not hearsay) that Portland is the place to market same."

We farmers help support the state institutions, and we believe that such institutions should be supplied with products of Oregon. From Oregon farms, made in Oregon, grow in Oregon. "Patronize home industries." Let us practice what we preach.

A. B. MANN.

The Kentucky Kick. Portland, Jan. 6.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In the interest of true democracy I wish to make this protest. A certain group of male citizens organized under a false name, misrepresenting themselves as a "democratic club" of this city. There is conclusive evidence, from the fact that the Oregonian is sponsor for its honorable chairman, and gives one of its prominent columns to its insinuating, obnoxious advertising, that it is nothing but a small side show of the Republican party. It is a disgraceful political situation. In Oregon this year it is incumbent upon someone to analyze the situation for the benefit of the uninitiated citizen.

It is well known that Portland and Oregon politics that the president of the so called "Kentucky Kick" has been and is only the end of the crankshaft of the standard Republican gas wagon of Oregon—a necessary but undignified object. His assistants, who I am glad to say, are few in number, are those who in childhood and youth were undoubtedly the leaders of the "Wife." I would like through The Journal to ask her if she cannot arrange her work so that the older children can help her economy. Especially in the winter months, when the tired mother from washing the dishes. It is hard to be cut off from friends, and her husband should endeavor to find a way to take her to church at least a few weeks, so that she could see new faces. Could she not subscribe for one or two good magazines and at least have the pleasure of book friends? If she will tell her friends to buy a few shares of the monotonous, surely he will endeavor to do something to relieve her, if she appeals to his better judgment. A SISTER EASTERN STAR.

As to School Supplies.

Portland, Or., Jan. 6.—To the Editor of The Journal.—In regard to the school supplies, who is supposed to order the books, pencils, paper, etc., does anyone see that it is delivered? When sent to a school and refused, what is there to show that it gets to the store home? Are the supplies purchased by the school? If not, who is the drayman that was accused of borrowing things still in the district's employ? For whose use are the autos the district own? What use have they for an auto truck?

Who Can Name These Birds.

Portland, Or., Jan. 6.—To the Editor of The Journal.—Could you tell me the names of the numerous flock of birds that are now filling our back yards and yards? They are not robins, but look much the same, bristly yellow, black ring around neck, long beaks, yellow stripes on the head.

A FRIEND OF BIRDS.

The Once Over

BY REX LAUREN

DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY — I wanted to find out something about the present location of the village of Armageddon.

And I called up Tom Neuhausen—who is a Bull Moose forever—subject only to revision—from Oysterville.

And Mrs. Tom answered the phone.

And I said—"That's too bad—how does he feel today?"

And Mrs. Tom said—"Oh—just awful."

And she said Tom was sick with the grip.

And I said—"That's too bad—how does he feel today?"

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