

Oregon Journal AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER C. S. JACKSON, Publisher Published every day, afternoon and morning (except Sunday afternoon) at the Journal Building, Broadway and Yamhill streets, Portland, Or.

ly inefficient system, but nobody knows what may happen. There is an active campaign in behalf of the old system, and the fear that it may be successful should put every citizen on guard.

Above all, there is a mayor and two commissioners to elect. No form of government, even commission government, can be successful without competent and honest officials.

Portland has good government now, and it is a precious thing. It would be a great blunder to give good government a setback by electing unfit and unqualified officials.

So far as Portland is concerned, the coming election is, in many respects, as important as a presidential election.

The country will be thankful that the president shows a disposition to take the food situation in hand. Congress has dilly-dallied too long with this serious business.

FROM every source, we are told that food supply for the allies may become the turning point in the war.

The country is called upon to plant the last acre of land and the last vacant lot. The people in some instances, in a universal response, are even digging up their lawns and planting them to vegetables.

It seems unthinkable, in a time of food crisis, that congress should hesitate to forbid use of cereals and edibles in the manufacture of intoxicants.

It is not an issue over which congress would seem to have room for doubt or discussion. Bread will sustain life. Liquors will not. Grains will help hasten the coming of peace.

sound investment from the point of view of money returns alone. It will not be long before we can say the same of the road from Medford to Crater Lake.

But the roads which are to be improved under the bonding act are the old established highways of Oregon, running where they do because the immediate necessities of the people require them.

The farmers in eastern Oregon are entitled to every cut in grain rates they can secure. Any effort by the Port of Astoria to prevent farmers of the Pendleton zone from getting a cut in the rate to Portland is likely to be resisted in the inland empire.

SALEM news dispatch says "The port of Astoria is evidently preparing to resist the movement on the part of the Port of Portland, the Portland Transportation & Traffic association and others to obtain on grain and other produce shipped from Eastern Oregon freight rates based on the distance and cost of haul."

It done, it will be a mistake for Astoria. It will be a mistake for more than one reason.

Astoria needs Portland's friendship and cooperation. It was through Portland's cooperation that Astoria got parity rates with Puget Sound.

There is another and far higher reason. The grain raisers in the Pendleton zone are directly and profoundly concerned in this matter.

These grain growers are entitled to the lowest rate obtainable, regardless of the interest of cities and seaports. Their grain feeds the world and the industry should be encouraged.

As a lawyer, Mr. Bean knows that, were his notorious bill adopted, there is no way to enforce collection of the taxes on the right the railroad has when the grant lands are sold.

and he warned mankind that Pan-Slavism must be checked in its career of conquest or the whole world would be subdued.

His pretended fear of Russian aggression was shared by many people in the United States. We did not feel in immediate danger ourselves but we did not relish the prospect of seeing Europe dominated by a government so cruel, so ignorant and so unprincipled as the czar's autocracy.

As it turned out there never was any Pan-Slavic menace. German intrigue honeycombed the whole of Russia, alienated the government from the people and rotted the efficiency of the army.

The Kaiser's professed desire to combat the czar's ambition was nothing but a cloak for his own boundless ambition. What he really did was to attack the civilization of western Europe and the United States, hoping to destroy it and replace it with medieval autocracy.

Russia has as good as fallen out of the war, for the present at least, leaving her allies in the lurch. The Kaiser withdraws his troops from the eastern frontier and concentrates them against France.

The Kaiser's motive in starting the war now stands revealed before the world.

Letters from the People (Communications sent to the Journal for publication in this department should be written on one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length, and must be accompanied by name and address of the sender.)

"The Tourist Business," Portland, May 15.—To the Editor of the Journal—In your editorial in Saturday's Journal, entitled "The Tourist Business," I think you touched the right nail on the head when you said there was a "good deal of money" being made out of the tourist business.

It is a fact that the tourists travel of the world spends pretty close to \$700,000,000 annually. And I would undertake to say that far more of this amount goes to the tourist industry than to the various walks of life than goes to the hotelkeepers and garages.

month and board and room, with as good a bed as he has at his own home or had before he left home.

Mr. McCone Offers a Correction. Portland, May 13.—To the Editor of the Journal—In the daily papers of May 12 there appeared the text of a message from certain American citizens to the German government.

According to press reports, which were entirely erroneous, it was stated that the message to German Socialists was signed by "the national executive committee of Socialists of America," among those named as members of this committee were the following: Charles Edward Russell, J. G. Phelps Stokes, Rose Pastor Stokes, William English Walling, Winifred Taylor and others.

It is, indeed, unfortunate that the newspapers have not been correctly informed in the matter and that as a result their numerous readers have gained a false impression.

It has become the established policy of the Socialist party of the United States to oppose the war in the affairs of other countries, assuming that each Socialist party in the respective countries is doing the best it can in the fight for victory by its own people.

Opposes Roosevelt's Ambition. Pendleton, Or., May 13.—To the Editor of the Journal—Had any part of the magnificent ability of that wonderful man, Theodore Roosevelt, been devoted to the cause of the oppressed and the underdog, he would have been a man of world-wide fame.

I believe it would be a good investment for Portland to raise a fund to send this man, and some others holding like opinions, on a trip through California or some other sections reaping the fruits of the tourist business.

Military Exemption. Saguinaw, Or., May 11.—To the Editor of the Journal—Please answer through the columns of The Journal the following, as soon as known: Are there any military exemptions in the law, in respect of registration, receipts, in persons between 21 and 30 inclusive. All such must register, and others must do the exempting; no one can do that for his neighbor.

The Word "Halt." From the Deseret News. For the average American to be told, as all recently were told on high governmental authority, "keep your mouth shut," is to impose about as unpalatable an order, and one probably quite as difficult to observe, as the "keep your mouth shut" order under the most stressful circumstances.

PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF SMALL CHANGE Wot's the Wotan line, anyhow? To the student of ancient legends of things, all of Germany's lines look a good deal like the Woden line.

It is doubtless a great comfort to Mr. Joffe in these times to refer to the fact that while he could not have invented the submarine, he didn't. Joffe, waiting his turn in a Chicago barber shop, was not only demagogic in his denunciations of the war, but mastered the English language while he waited.

The first American flag to be taken to the firing line by American troops will be carried by our railroad men. Some flag and in the hands of men who are some flaggers.

Democracy is steadily gaining in the affairs of the municipalities and the commonwealths of the United States, and in a recent issue of Equity, a publication issued quarterly in Philadelphia, an address by the Hon. Charles McMillen, compiled from official reports, election returns and correspondence with residents and active promoters of fundamental measures.

HOW TO BE HEALTHY (No. 1).—Preventable disease alone costs the nation's workmen more than \$360,000,000 yearly, causing as it does an average loss of nine days' sickness wastes the efficiency expected by the modern employer, as well as the contents of the employee's pay envelope.

Swedish Banker Visits. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Palmgren, tourists of Stockholm, Sweden, are registered at the Carlton. Mr. Palmgren is a prominent Swedish banker and has been touring the United States for some time.

Overland From Salt Lake. Carl M. Lipman and his brother David of Salt Lake City are registered at the Imperial hotel, having made the trip to Portland in an automobile.

Question of Remarriage. Vancouver, May 14.—To the Editor of the Journal—Kindly answer the following question through your paper: Can a woman who has been divorced and whose wife divorced from him, be remarried, and he is indicted for bigamy, if the divorce was granted by a court of competent jurisdiction?

On Identifying Patriots. Portland, May 10.—To the Editor of the Journal—In your issue of Tuesday, May 8, you published a proposal on foot to display a certain emblem or flag at each home where one or more persons have enlisted in the army or navy.

Rag Tag and Bobtail Stories From Everywhere (To this column all readers of The Journal are invited to contribute original material, in verse or in philosophical observations, or in any other form, for publication. Contributions should be sent to the Editor's address.)

Blessed Are the Merciful. I WAS just a little, half-grown pigeon, just one of the hundreds who were nesting in the Federal building, but one man risked his life today to rescue it from starvation.

The Old Flag. The old flag flutters for the free; and spotless shall its splendor be, as through the smoke of battle and fire it bears its dancing, gleaming stars of hope and liberty until the cannon's lips grow cold and still and plaintive bugles sound surcease from strife for everlasting peace.

Mnemonics. The Alexander department store last week purchased a Ford roadster for the use of Smoky Nolf of the grocery store, says the Pendleton East Oregonian.

No Argument. "Where'd you get the black eye?" asked Jones. "What was the argument about?" "There was no argument," replied Smith. "Brown walked up to me and told me he would punch me in the eye. And he did."

How It Started. Said a tiny drop of dew To a raindrop (tiny, too), "There is much we should be doing for our country. But at war; But we are so very tiny. Not like oceans, big and briny. That's the way our relationships that voyage near and far."

PERSONAL MENTION Swedish Banker Visits. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Palmgren, tourists of Stockholm, Sweden, are registered at the Carlton. Mr. Palmgren is a prominent Swedish banker and has been touring the United States for some time.

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