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On demand our wrongs we all engage, But write our benefits upon the page.

MONEY OR MEN?

URING popular subscriptions to the Liberty loan, Secretary McAdoo said in an address at Chicago Thursday:

Prompt financial assistance to the allied governments may enable the allied forces to gain a decisive victory before American soldiers may have time to be sent to Europe.

Modern wars are not fought with clubs, spears, swords and battle-axes. Instead of these inexpensive weapons, huge guns, costly machines and highly expensive projectiles are used.

A single torpedo costs seven or eight thousand dollars. The firing of a huge shell is often at a cost of several hundred dollars. The life of one of the huge guns that it requires months to make is limited to a comparatively few discharges. In one of the recent offensives on the western front, 4,000,000 shells were fired by the British forces within 24 hours.

The cost of modern warfare is inconceivable. Battle is an orgy of expenditure. The final outcome is a question of which side has the biggest war chest. The nations whose finances are first to collapse will be compelled to sue for peace.

There is no higher authority on finance as related to governments than Secretary McAdoo has proved himself to be. He says "prompt financial assistance to the allied governments may enable the allied forces to gain a decisive victory before American soldiers may have time to be sent to Europe."

What higher incentive could there be to the American people to subscribe to the Liberty loan? If our money will enable the allies to win the war without sacrifice of our men, what an appeal there is to us to pour out our money?

The Liberty bonds are in denominations as low as \$50. As an investment they are as secure as Gibraltar. They are backed by all the property, by the good faith and by all the wealth of the United States. They draw three and one-half per cent interest, against the two per cent interest on postal savings deposits.

Fighting money for the allies is dreaded by kaiserism. An overwhelming popular subscription to the Liberty loan in America would be a more discouraging fact for the kaiser than was the defeat of Prussianism at the Marne.

Fifty dollar Liberty bonds, and Liberty bonds of other denominations, bought from the savings of workers, joined with the subscriptions of high and low in every city, village and hamlet and on every farm, would hurry the coming of peace and be a tremendous factor in ridding the world of kaiserism and future war.

In the words of Secretary McAdoo it might "enable the allied forces to gain a decisive victory before American soldiers may have time to be sent to Europe."

Women are to replace men on the Chicago elevated lines, as rapidly as men now in the service are enlisted in the army, after which it will be a pleasure to give up your pickel, not a pain.

AMERICANS

DOWN in Mexico some little time ago a handful of colored troopers followed Lieutenant Adair through the valley of the shadow when the word to charge was given. At different times and on different fields of action colored men have followed the stars and stripes faithfully, valiantly and well.

There has been much talk of the "Liberty loan." But comparatively little of the talk has had a metallic tone. The bankers say that Portland people are talking a lot, and buying little.

Saturday an aged colored man and his wife drew their savings from a Portland bank, \$800 in

all, and invested the sum in war bonds. They were too old to do much else to help, they said, but they wanted to do what they could.

They were following the flag. They were "doing their bit." They were being Americans.

One of the proposed councilman charters gives the mayor the veto power over the council, and then gives the council the veto power over the mayor by providing that the august body may "remove" the mayor for cause. What would be a more glaring example of "cause" than the executive veto of some pet measure. Would it not be better to still permit the people to be the sole custodians of the recall?

THE RIGGIN CONFESSION

THE Riffin confession is a dramatic contribution to passing events. It is elaborate in the recital of detail. It recounts enough alleged acts by the confessor from which there would seem to be opportunity to assemble corroborative evidence, if Riffin's story is true.

Riffin's father believes his son is telling the truth. This is in itself strongly corroborative indication. If a father under such circumstances believes the statement and so announces, the public will be similarly inclined.

It is not unnatural for Riffin to confess. With a murder on his mind, a murder for which others are paying the penalty, even the worst man has promptings that are difficult to restrain. There is the constant dread of exposure, the never-absent realization that some accusing finger will yet point out his crime to the world.

Riffin was extremely nervous when he was being prepared for the departure for Hillsboro. He undoubtedly had visions of an exposure awaiting him on his arrival in Washington county. His nervousness may have been the outward expression of a fear that at last his crime had been discovered and disclosures were about to come.

Capital punishment was abolished in one of the states because an innocent man wrongly condemned was barely saved from the gallows by a timely confession of the guilty party. An innocent man was recently released from a Pennsylvania prison after confinement for more than 20 years on a false charge of murder.

If Riffin committed the Booth murder in Yamhill county, the two persons who are serving life sentences in the Oregon penitentiary are falsely imprisoned. The whole situation is full of dramatic possibilities.

E. N. Wheeler, who is also running for mayor, says that if Mr. Daly had laid more large water mains he would not have saved so much money in the water department. Which argument will not go far with the voters who have got all the water they wanted at a reduction of twenty-six per cent in water rates.

BUSINESS AND WARE

TIMES appear brighter for the lumber manufacturer. That inscrutable thing called "the market" is jumping and all the jumps are upward.

During the period of the war, many feel, the manufacturing prosperity that will certainly obtain east of the Mississippi will create new demands for western lumber. And that says nothing of the purely local demand for lumber that will be created by wooden ship construction. After the war, sentiment is verging toward the unanimous, that there will, in addition to such domestic market as continues, be a large export business for fir.

The only problem is cars. This, it is said, will be met not by the slow processes of building new equipment, but by increased efficiency in operation. Wasteful passenger schedules will be reduced, longer divisions maintained, and a general speeding up of freight trains encouraged. A few years ago, Louis, now Justice Brandeis, publicly said that a million dollars or some such large sum per day, could be saved by the railroads through economies in operation. Apparently, there was something in this statement.

Turning from lumber, perhaps Portland's chief economic reliance, to agriculture, of almost equal importance to the city, the future abounds in bright hopes. Wheat for some time must stay above the dollar mark. There is a decreasing supply of food animals, everything in fact the farmer has to sell, finds now and must so long as the producers are engaged in the maelstrom of war, continue to find an advantageous cash market.

What better time than to inaugurate a new campaign of "back to the farm"? Viewed from a purely selfish standpoint Portland could well afford for the next few years to capitalize the prevailing financial advantages of farm life, in a campaign for more rural residents in Oregon.

So, out of a situation that otherwise may well be depressing, it is to be drawn this cheer—that those who are not called into the active service of their country, need not suffer in an economic way if they will but adjust themselves to

the new conditions created by the war. Some lines of business are bound to be disrupted, but in others, quickened by the strange conditions that enthrall the world, those affected may find compensation.

Now that mother's day has come and gone would it not be a good thing to cheer the old man up a little and have a "father's day"? Besides it is getting close to vacation time.

THE ROOSEVELT DIVISION

RESIDENT WILSON has declined to send the proposed Roosevelt volunteer division to France. Explaining his course, the president says:

The responsibility for the successful conduct of our part in this great war rests upon me. I could not escape if I would. I am too much interested in the cause we are fighting for to be interested in anything but success.

The issues involved are too immense for me to take into consideration whatever except the best, most effective, most immediate means of military action.

There seems no other course the country could ask the president to pursue. His is the sole responsibility. He must shoulder the consequences of failure, if failure should come.

War is a grim business. The experts, the president says, on both sides of the Atlantic have advised him against the Roosevelt plan. It would be inviting mistakes and ruin for the president to turn from experts who have seen war as it is and know war as it is, to accept the guidance of uninformed men. It is to have the benefit of their knowledge that we maintain military colleges and train men for the special business of war.

The Roosevelt proposal has been given far more attention in congress and the country than it deserved. It occupied time that should have been given weightier matters. It consumed the time of congress when it was more a matter to be determined by the military establishment than the country maintains for the sole purpose of deciding purely military questions and solving purely military problems.

It is difficult to see wherein Senator Hiram Johnson's dramatic assertion in the senate that Col. Roosevelt "only wants a chance to die for his country" has sound basis in fact or in figure. If dying is all anybody wants to do there is nothing to hinder one from crossing over to France and smiting the forces of the kaiser.

With the matter decisively settled by the president and settled on a basis of the highest and best trained leadership for American soldiers sent to France, the fuss over the Roosevelt proposal will now pass on and congress will turn its attention to matters of weightier moment.

It is announced by several large employers of women in eastern factories that the girls are going to wear overalls during working hours. Little by little man is being robbed of his last marks of distinction.

LET US REASON

THE more we study the six million dollar road bond proposition the less reason we see for opposing it. As the matter looks to us the farmers have much to gain. The bonds will be paid mostly by automobile licenses. And the benefits to the agricultural sections will be beyond estimate.

Naturally many roads will be left in bad condition, but almost every section of the state will at least have some length of good road. This is a benefit not by any means to be despised, since it costs but little.

There is another point to bear in mind if we wish to see the genuine merits of the bond bill. Multnomah county expects to get no direct benefit whatever from the bonds. All the money is to be used elsewhere. Naturally it will be an indirect benefit to Multnomah county to connect up the good roads she has built at her own cost with a state system, but otherwise the entire usufruct of the bond issue will go to other counties.

At the same time Multnomah county pays 40 per cent of the vehicle tax for the entire state. It also pays 40 per cent of the quarter mill road tax. We must be pretty skeptical, therefore, not to admit that Portland and its neighbors have been fairly unselfish in promoting the bond issue. Multnomah county bears a heavy share of the burden and receives only indirect benefits. All the direct benefits go to other counties.

We think the principal obstacle in the way of the bond bill is suspicion. Many fear that somebody has an axe to grind. They cannot believe that anybody is working for the bonds out of pure public spirit. And yet there is such a thing as public spirit. There are men who are willing to work hard to develop Oregon without a penny reward for themselves. Isn't it a good plan to give them a chance?

Rich Man's Troubles.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal. The rich man has his troubles. He has to pay for keeping his automobile tank and his recalcitrant son full, and whenever either of 'em causes trouble he must pay the damages.

Letters From the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, and should not exceed 300 words in length. They should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, if the writer wishes to have the name published in the above column.)

Statement by a Machinist. Portland, May 17.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I notice in the Journal of May 5 some statements made by Thomas McCusker in regard to wages paid the metal trades mechanics of Portland, San Francisco and Seattle. I also his criticism of United States Immigration Inspector Bonham. We have hoped that someone would deny some of the statements of this gentleman. He made the statement that Mr. Bonham got most of his information from the unions. This is not true, as all employers have an invitation to help clear up the situation. If some of our shop owners were one half as patriotic as they would have people think they are doing a better service to the country than in San Francisco there is a working agreement with the unions which runs until September 15 next and the scale for the metal trades mechanics and the employers advanced the wages recently to \$3.75. He also says that the American Can company was forced to pay \$4.50 per day. It was not covered in this agreement.

As we happen to have a copy of the said agreement, we would like to publish the same. It is a very interesting agreement, and if there is any doubt in the mind of anyone we will give \$100 to any person who will prove we are not correct. The fourth section of the agreement would read as follows: "The resolution which forms the basis of this agreement, in so far as it deals with the wage scale, shall apply to the minimum wage for the period extending to October 4, 1915, when the minimum wage of that craft shall be raised to \$3.75 per day and continue until December 7, 1915, and after which the minimum wage of that craft shall be \$4 per day during the life of this agreement."

This shows that Mr. McCusker is careless in statement. What he says is true of the American Can company, as recently this company raised its minimum wage to \$4.50 per day. It is 1000 machinists in San Francisco are receiving \$4.50 and up. All automobile shops have been paying \$4.50 for 3-4 months. Why should we put on a Portland show for that industry?

If any one doubts that the machinists of Portland are getting less than they are in other parts of the country, we would be pleased at any time to show facts and figures. Some of the firms of Portland start machinists at 50 cents per hour, some at 47 cents per hour. Some of the present time are getting 50 cents per hour and a few are receiving more, but they are not. His figures on Seattle are also incorrect. The minimum wage in Seattle is \$4.50 up, in San Francisco and Seattle, Blacksmiths are receiving \$4 per day and up, in San Francisco, and \$4.44 up in Seattle. Machinists are receiving from \$4.50 to \$5 per day in Seattle.

We know what we are talking about, for we have worked in the metal trade in Portland for many years. He also states that "there seems to be an influence at work to knock Portland." We do not know whom he refers to, but we do know that this is true. The people that are knocking Portland are the employers themselves. They would like to blame it on someone else, but they know of one shop in particular that is doing a business that is to be sunk in the concrete. It begins to look like there is a method to their madness. Why should they have a holder of one large shop that the company had not paid over a 4 per cent dividend for many years and that the business is being run at a loss.

Come, gentlemen, let us get together and all pull for Portland. If we will stop fighting one another and all pull together we certainly can make a grand success of it. It can be done with honor to both sides. San Francisco employers are making money. Seattle employers are making money. The shops of Portland are doing everything possible to keep harmony, and they are making money. The unions are not doing anything to hinder the progress of the shipyards of this city. There is a dispute on with the Williams Iron works, but that could be settled if the union would sit down and talk with the union. The unions of Portland are here to stay. The men are anxious to remain in the city. They are willing to do anything to promote harmony. We are doing nothing to discourage the government from coming here with their work. If the government is to be the government and pay the same scale as the government is paying, all will be well. We will be as much love for our country as anyone else out here. Certainly many have a wage that will meet the rapidly increasing cost of living.

We will agree with the gentleman in regard to the government favoring Portland with some of the contracts and we will do everything in our power to make the government happy. We know the government does want its employees well paid, and whenever the employers will play fair they can get the money. We will do all in our power to get men here. We know we can do it. But when we ask men to come here we must pay them. They must be given as good a wage and treatment as they get at other points. E. H. MISNER, Representative of Machinists.

The Food Speculator.

Freewater, Or., May 18.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I notice that the Oregonian is carrying a long article on the food speculator. This is a time to do something toward food control and the elimination of speculators. The question is not yet solved. The very fact that food prices are declining the past few days is the strongest kind of evidence that the high prices were not justified. The food producer has not been increased, neither are the consumers any better than they were a few days ago.

The fact is that the food speculators have been the cause of the continued urging by the consumer would cause congress to enact legislation to eliminate the speculator in food production, and knowing full well that once driven out of the market, they would have difficulty in getting back, they have hastened to act, to hold further speculation in check for the time being. The average falling prices the agitation for government control will cease, after which they can again play their nefarious game.

Much too long already has the consumer paid tribute to the unscrupulous speculator, and the time has come when we can safely dispense with his service. The average consumer must buy his food for day to day, and for this reason is forced

to pay the inflated price, no matter how unreasonable and unjust. And as far as the larger percentage of the population is concerned, it is only just that they be protected in the necessities of life from the unscrupulous, unpatriotic speculators. Let congress see to it that the minimum cost of production, transportation and distribution and with such data in hand proceed to fix a maximum and a minimum price for the necessities of life. This may be socialistic, but we all belong to one great family and the time has come for the systematic plundering of the financially weak by the strong.

The Journal has been doing a good work in keeping this matter before the public, but it should not cease until the work is accomplished and all danger of future speculation in food staples is eliminated by act of congress. G. S. MARTIN.

An Offer in Aid of Portland.

Portland, May 18.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I have been giving considerable attention and thought lately to the question of the food speculator. More or less the past few years about "What is the matter with Portland?" I have been reading all the articles I could get my hands on on this subject lately, and was particularly impressed with two articles in the Sunday Oregonian, one signed by "A. Portland" and the other by "S. E. Holcomb." I have been reading all the articles I could get my hands on on this subject lately, and was particularly impressed with two articles in the Sunday Oregonian, one signed by "A. Portland" and the other by "S. E. Holcomb." I have been reading all the articles I could get my hands on on this subject lately, and was particularly impressed with two articles in the Sunday Oregonian, one signed by "A. Portland" and the other by "S. E. Holcomb."

I believe the time is ripe for coming out fair and square with the O-W. R. & N. The economic conditions of the country are such that unless they break up this combination and give Portland the rate it is entitled to, Portland will be ruined. The means of bringing the O-W. R. & N. to terms by water competition. I believe that if the O-W. R. & N. are broken up, the nation will be benefited. The Port of Portland should immediately arrange to acquire enough steamers to put on a coast to coast line of service. The freight rates on the coast should be reduced to the level of the rates on the long haul on the tonnage receives at Seattle, and this of course will benefit all the producers of the inland empire.

I think we have come to the parting of the ways. If the O-W. R. & N. are broken up, the nation will be benefited. The Port of Portland should immediately arrange to acquire enough steamers to put on a coast to coast line of service. The freight rates on the coast should be reduced to the level of the rates on the long haul on the tonnage receives at Seattle, and this of course will benefit all the producers of the inland empire.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

Small Change. Flat feet be sure, will be as good as an alibi as ever, but cold feet are no good now. The man who says "Let 'er rain," is encountering not the slightest opposition on the part of the weather bureau.

Oregon Sidelights. The Sumner American feelingly remarks: "One question that we seem to have with us always is the pasturing of horses on the New York Eventing Post Magazine, he saw a big negro being pushed in through the door by Officer Murphy. The negro's head was bleeding. "Well, what have you been up to?" said the lieutenant, severely. "Ah ain' done nothin'." replied the negro.

Some All Ye Gallant Buckaroos. This move to organize a reserve cavalry unit may sound a bit like horse-play but the Pendleton East Oregonian's Weekly Hildogger indorses it. He says the New York Eventing Post Magazine, he saw a big negro being pushed in through the door by Officer Murphy. The negro's head was bleeding. "Well, what have you been up to?" said the lieutenant, severely. "Ah ain' done nothin'." replied the negro.

The Small Minority of Skunks. One-man power must change this chaotic situation in which speculators and gamblers thrive. Already it is announced at Washington that what will amount virtually to a purchasing agreement has been made with the Treasury department of the billions to be loaned to the allies, and of the added billions which they will spend in this country.

How to Be Healthy. WHY DUST IS DANGEROUS.—Many people are fully aware that dust acts as a modern dirigerable for the carrying of disease germs. But few realize that at least 10 per cent of all workers labor under conditions more or less detrimental to health and life.

Personal Mention. Mrs. C. O. Gorman, wife of the catnip man, Mrs. F. C. Durkee, Or., who testified for the government in the San Francisco bomb case, is registered at the Imperial. Mr. Gorman is expected to arrive today from San Francisco.

Admonishes the Clergy. Portland, May 17.—To the Editor of The Journal.—I notice in the papers that our local clergyman are requested to back the proposed project. The improbability of using the pulpit in the interest of a purely business project is most apparent, and is generally condemned. M. CLARK.

Dual Conversation. The sale of fireworks to celebrate the Fourth is to be prohibited to save the pockets of the poor. Also it may save some good trigger fingers.

Rag Tag and Bobtail

Stories From Everywhere. (To this column all readers of The Journal are invited to contribute original material. It may be in the form of a story, or a striking quotation, from any source. Contributions should be sent to the editor at the address given below.)

For a Song. POLICE LIEUTENANT HANLIN was reading a report at his desk when he was disturbed by a commotion at the door. Looking in that direction he saw the New York Eventing Post Magazine, he saw a big negro being pushed in through the door by Officer Murphy. The negro's head was bleeding. "Well, what have you been up to?" said the lieutenant, severely. "Ah ain' done nothin'." replied the negro.

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What Show Has a Quail Got? H. W. Ticknor, cashier of the Glendale State bank, is a firm believer in the just will be taken care of and provided for, says the Glendale News. Last Saturday forenoon a quail flew across the street in front of the bank and dropped to the sidewalk. Mr. Ticknor was just thinking about a quail dinner, so he went outside, gathered in the gift from some one, and took it home. A story of a toast, thus cutting the H. of C. of L. The quail escaped the talons of a hawk, only to fall into the clutches of a cat. The quail was a male, and not the Lord, that sent the quail against the wind. Had it been the Lord, he would have sent it to some poor fellow, not to me.

Must Know Everything. The editor sat in his chair, regarding, with sad, earnest eyes, the huge pile of "Questions" his readers had sent him. Had sent, with demands for replies. "Why, these," said the weary quill driver. "Would fill up a moderate book; I'll publish the whole lot together. And if you people see how they look."

Who was it that wrote that sweet little story? Beginning, "I say from—," someone. "Pray let me some certain specific. For changing the color of hair?"

What is the name of the author of "No, we'll never go home"? "Did Shakespeare write 'Down in a Hole'?" "Who was the third pope of Rome?"

Do north polar fishes have feathers? "Was Wat Tyler quartered or hung?" "Where was the first man created?" "Who was it that invented the bun?"

Do buffalo ever eat sauerkraut? "When can I get some small horns?" "Which of the muses is oldest?" "Did Bonaparte ever have corns?"

What was the air Nero fiddled? "How many bolts did poor Job have?" "What will cure a quivering in girls?" "Why are some people red-headed?" "Why don't my young man groan?" "What is the matter with Hannah?" "Why don't I turn out my toes?"

Tell me where Moses was buried. "Did Noah take fleas in the ark?" "What is the best kind of baseball?" "Why is it that hens do not bark?" "I like," said the editor, smiling. "I like these good people who seek for knowledge, and I like to give it. I'll answer their questions as best I can." Uncle Jeff Snow Says: Frank Coniter used to be a preacher, but reformed himself. I remember down to Selma, California, he got in bad attending to his own business. He was a big knothole in his barn next to the diamond, and one time got so enthused that he busted the board off the top of the diamond and bolted. The result was the Lord called him to another pulpit way up in another part of the state.