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 street, Portland, Oregon.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

TELEPHONES—Main 7173; Home, A-6051. All departments reached by these numbers. Tell the operator what department you want.

FOREIGN ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE Benjamin & Kentnor Co., Brunswick Building, 225 Fifth avenue, New York; 900 Mallers Building, Chicago.

Subscription terms by mail in Oregon and Washington:

DAILY (MORNING OR AFTERNOON)
One year.....$5.00 | One Month.....$ .50
SUNDAY
One year.....$2.50 | One month.....$ .25
DAILY (MORNING OR AFTERNOON) AND SUNDAY
One year.....$7.50 | One month.....$ .65

America has furnished to the world the character of Washington. And if our American institutions had done nothing else, that alone would entitle them to the respect of mankind.—Daniel Webster.

TO AMERICANIZE AMERICA

A BILL at Salem would reestablish Washington's birthday as a holiday in the public schools of Oregon.

"The United States is acknowledged to be possessed of absolute freedom and independence," said Washington. "If their citizens should not be completely free and happy," he added, "the fault will be entirely their own."

Such was his ideal—freedom and happiness for the people he had struggled so hard and sacrificed so much to make free. Freedom to live out their own lives in their own way, liberty to play a part in the world's work unhampered by the tyrannies and oppressions that had always beset mankind, the right to be governed only by their own consent and full freedom in the pursuit of happiness, was the thought that this great figure of the American revolution cherished for his countrymen, then and to come.

Under wooden crosses in France lies a generation of Englishmen. More than a generation of Frenchmen wrapped in the tri-color, are asleep in the valleys of France. The heroic dead of America, Italy and the others lie amid the wild flowers, the vines and the hills where liberty has just made her great stand for survival.

These dead are mute evidence of the grand assault which the ever living, never dying doctrine of force and divine right recently made on government of, for and by the people. The awful stillness of their silence is a tremendous warning of the peril to which freedom must always stand exposed.

Freedom is so sweet that we thought it unopposed. We dozed and dreamed in our fancied but false security. We even foolishly flatter ourselves now, after these dead have made their sacrifice for the cause, that liberty is forever safe. We continue to forget that the struggle of the few to prey upon the many is as old as man himself and that the conflict between force and freedom will go on until the mountains fall.

The public schools are the nursery of ideals, fair and false. America dry is the fruit of a generation of idealism in the American public schools. If we have been warned by the late attempt of autocracy to overrun the earth, then, as prudent people we should begin the Americanization of America. The awful sacrifices we have just made should impel us to go into that nursery where the man and woman of the future are moulded and fashioned, and there, in the public schools, hold up before the children the ideals of America as George Washington visioned them.

Except that transcendent figure that walked in Galilee, there is no nobler model for the schools than our first president. Washington is of everlasting fame. There never was a more majestic character. In patience, wisdom and patriotism he stands alone.

Until then history furnished no counterpart to the scene when Washington, resigning his commission to congress, presented a carefully itemized account of his personal expenses during eight years of war and refused to accept compensation of any kind for services that freed a people and established a continental republic.

His labors were without price, though his service was priceless. He asked no title, no diadem, no preferment, no special honor. All the reward he sought was his own inner consciousness that he had helped establish for his countrymen the principle that men are created equal and entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. On this rests Washington's immortality.

The bill at Salem ought to pass.

The new federal employment bureau is proving its usefulness. Thus through the intimate touch of the central authority at Washington with agents in every state and all large cities, the exact status is constantly known, and on January 12 the Washington office reported a shortage of labor throughout the South, and a surplus in these 12 states: California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon and Utah.

HOLD YOUR BOND

DO YOU know the truth about your Liberty bond?

Have you noticed how many people are eager to buy your bond? Have you noticed the advertisements and heard of the persons who go to the industrial plants bond hunting and seen the offers that come by mail proposing to exchange oil stock or some other stock for Liberty bonds?

Have you thought what it means when so many are eager to buy your bond, or to swap something for it or by some means to get it away from you?

It means that your bond is not a scrap of paper. It means that it is as good as gold, better, in fact, than gold, because it is becoming more and more valuable every day. There could be no stronger proof to you that you should hold your bond and get for yourself the value that so many others are trying to take away from you.

Of the more than twenty million people who bought Liberty bonds, few ever saw a bond before. It is because of that ignorance of the true value of bonds by the many that the Liberty bond sharks are trying so hard to get something for nothing.

The sharks know that the bonds will soon be worth more in the market. They want that increase and can get it only by depriving you and your kind of it. They count on your ignorance of the true value of your bond, and are hot after you, expecting that in your ignorance they will be able to cheat you. They want to suck profit out of the sacrifice you made when in your patriotism you were helping your country fight the war through to victory.

Hold your bond. It is the best material possession you have. In the increased value and increased purchasing power it will take on, it will return you a bigger profit than any other investment you have. If you are compelled, through financial pinch, to get money on your bond, inquire at Liberty loan headquarters, or consult your banker if you have one, or go to some legitimate broker whom you know or whom some friend will tell you about. In any event, do not sacrifice the best thing of material value you ever had or ever will have to some Liberty bond shark.

The senate bill to make Washington's birthday a holiday in the public schools of Oregon is presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution, of which there are 11 chapters in the state. As an organization they are trying to keep alive the beacon fires of liberty lighted on the New England hills in 1776. After what we have just passed through, how can any member of the legislature oppose their bill?

PROBLEMS OVER THERE

IN MANY a way there has been a most delicate situation for America in the negotiations at Paris.

Here is a case: During the war, America, by great exertion, by conservation and by stimulated production, has amassed surplus food and other commodities. This surplus was still below the demands of the allies.

The armistice suddenly freed much shipping for voyages to distant ports like Australia, from which supplies were not to be had during the war on account of the shortage of tonnage. The sending of ships to those ports left America an over-supply of commodities, with her warehouses congested, terminals crowded and docks piled up.

There was a further factor: The blockade of central ports which remained effective after the armistice, prevented the Amerian surplus from going in quantities to neutral countries and newly liberated peoples. It was a situation very detrimental to America.

For weeks American representatives have been earnestly arguing for modification of the blockade, says David Lawrence in the New York Evening Post. He says:

It is difficult to explain all the influences involved in this delicate situation. President Wilson, Herbert Hoover and Colonel House have been much concerned with the prospect. They knew that an excellent chance to absorb United States production would be offered if neutrals adjacent to Germany were permitted to receive food from America for the next two or three months. Sudden decrease in orders from the allies for American foodstuffs while no other outlet is available, has been disquieting to American representatives.

After weeks of delicate negotiation, President Wilson's view relative to the gradual lifting of the blockade has been accepted by the allies. The effect will be to permit American surplus products to go into neutral countries as well as to newly liberated peoples, and at the same time liberate American products for a freer flow over the Atlantic.

The agreement to use 2,000,000 tons of German shipping for carrying food and other products from America is the first fruit of this successful negotiation. Another will be more ships for bringing a largely increased number of American soldiers home.

There is a great deal which, by his presence at the scene of negotiation, President Wilson is able to do, that could not have been accomplished otherwise.

After all, a burglar is not to be criticized for throwing up his hands in the presence of a woman with a revolver. He knows first that the gun might go off, and second, she is liable to shoot, and third, that it is better to be a live captive than a dead burglar. Nor does his surrender in the least dim the fame of Mrs. Etta Farrow, whose apartment house burglars will hereafter be skittish about entering.

NEITHER HOT NOR COLD

EMERSON says of Montaigne that he has been more read and better liked by men of practical mind that any other author. Perhaps our New England philosopher would have hit nearer the fact if he had linked Montaigne and Horace together in this judgment, for both of them are very dear to readers who seek the middle way between wrangling fanatics.

Both the French essayist and the Roman poet were Laodiceans—neither hot nor cold. Horace lived in an age of reaction. The Romans had tired themselves out with fighting one another, and had finally settled down to peaceful indifference under the despotism of Augustus Caesar. "What's the use?" was the watchword of the age. "For the last hundred years we have been busy killing one another and what has come of it? Nothing but more killing. Let us take a rest and get what we can out of life."

This feeling is the backbone of Horace's poetry. The "Gospel Hymn" interprets him pretty well in the line, "Let us gather up the sunbeams lying all along our path."

He himself condensed his philosophy in the magic formula "Carpe Diem," which Emerson translates, "Seize the day and make the most of it for it will never come back again."

After every period of fanatic fighting comes an Augustan Age of reaction when everybody forgets what the battle was about, and thinks only of sucking the honey as he plucks the flowers of life. It was easy for Horace to be a Laodicean—neither hot nor cold, because that was the spirit of his time. It must have been hard for Montaigne, because he lived, not at the end of a period of contention, but at the beginning of the fiercest the world has ever seen.

The year of his birth, 1533, came only a little while after Luther posted His Theses on the church door at Wittenberg and opened the tragedy of the reformation. His adult life coincided with the wars of the Huguenots, which divided and ruined France for a whole half century. But Montaigne contrived by some wonderful magic to be friends with both sides.

The Guises and Catherine de Medici, the Catholic leaders, all liked him. When he was thrown into the Bastile on one of his rare visits to Paris they intervened and saved his life. Henry IV, the Protestant hero, liked him just as well, and went out of his way to visit Montaigne twice at his little chateau not far from Bordeaux. The Bordelaise also liked him and showed it by electing him mayor of their city for two terms.

King Henry's friendliness to Montaigne is not astonishing. He was a Laodicean himself, neither hot nor cold. And Catherine de Medici was a politician of the Machiavellian type, who had too much sense to be a fanatic at heart. She put on a cloak of fanaticism in order to make tools of those who were in earnest, like our own profiteering patriots. The tricks of that trade are very old.

Neither side saw any danger in Montaigne. He was not a "menace" because he kept his ideas to himself, or only talked them to people of intelligence, who let them go no farther. It is only the mob and the mobocrats who hate the Laodicean. So long as he keeps within the rather narrow pale of intelligent people he is fairly safe.

When Montaigne was 48 years old he left his countrymen to fight among themselves over religion as much as they pleased and retired to his chateau, where he built himself a tower for a study and spent the rest of his years writing essays. Those essays, like Horace's poetry and the "Meditations of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius," are textbooks of the Laodicean philosophy, which can be summed up in a few simple precepts. Here is an instance:

Men are hopeless fools. They do not know how to be happy and they never will learn how. No sooner do they make a little progress toward common sense and comfort than they go crazy and destroy it. It is useless to try to teach them anything. It is useless to try to do anything for them. The only course for a rational man is to keep out of the blood and filth as well as he can, seise the day as it goes by, and amuse himself with his pen or some other hobby.

The Laodicean is always a man or woman of moderate opinions. He does not affirm a great deal. He is slow to deny. He keeps an open mind, always ready to welcome truth and give due weight to evidence as it may turn up. The world's greatest statesmen have been of the Laodicean type. The Emperor Augustus himself was one, which explains why he was so fond of Horace.

The chief work of Augustus during his long reign was to reconcile the old Roman factions, the reactionaries whom Brutus had led and the Liberals, who had followed Julius Caesar. Under his beneficent tyranny they forgot their points of difference and thoroughly enjoyed themselves as slaves together. Queen Elizabeth of England was another Laodicean. She never was more of a fanatic than the fanatics who tore at each other's eyes around her obliged her to be. It was her indifference to their quarrels that enabled her to see her course clearly and steer the ship of state safely into harbor.

The long line of English statesmen have been notable for their cool indifference to superstition of all sorts. Elizabeth had her Cecil, whose brain stuck implacably to the main point of the game, never missing a trick because of preference or prejudice.

The statesmen of 1688, who framed the British constitution upon the theories of John Locke, were Laodiceans, cool, keen, unexcited, thoroughly informed. They builded well, for the constitution they made, or remade, has lasted to this day, ever growing stronger. No supreme court has dared to wreck it by interpretation. Our revolutionary fathers were also of the Laodicean type, students of the French pre-revolutionary authors and indifferent to superstition.

Benjamin Franklin, with his exquisite love of literature and science and his eye keen for the main chance, was the perfect type which they all resembled. Washington's common sense was as amazing as his integrity. He was devoted to the cause of the colonies, not for abstract reasons, but because he saw the practical advantages of independence. Had he not coolly adjudged those advantages worth fighting for he would have kept out of the trouble if he could.

Lincoln was another Laodicean, who never permitted fanaticism to blur his mind. Surrounded with blazing zealots he remembered constantly the wise principles of moderation. Always ready to conciliate, always merciful, always with his face to the future, still, like Washington, Cecil and Augustus, he held to his purpose inflexibly because he understood its advantages. A wise Frenchman said of the Bon Dieu that "He forgives all because he understands all." Lincoln was like the Bon Dieu in that particular and some others. The race of the Laodiceans is ancient. Socrates is the first of them whom history remembers, but there must have been many before him. The world has been a slaughter house age after age in spite of them. What would it have been without them?

War or rumors of war in Portugal, in Russia, in Germany, in Poland and otherwhere give us glimpse of the need of a league of nations. Happily, the Paris conference yesterday began discussions of the plan. History is waiting to write the great story of mankind set free from the turmoil, agony and sacrifice of recurrent wars. Until recently we of America have lived in little apprehension of conflict. But over there peoples and governments have been under constant dread and amid constant sacrifices to be prepared. Yet America seems to have supplied the mind and the man for pacifying and harmonizing the nations through an organized league.

HUMAN WASTE

SOME years ago C. B. Smith was sentenced to the penitentiary for passing a worthless check at Eugene. He has been residing there ever since, except for an interval when he was out on a parole which he violated so that he had to be locked up again.

It is now announced that Smith has invented an improvement for auto-trucks which may be valuable. Even in prison, where the environment is not stimulative to the mental faculties, his brain has been at work, perhaps to the profit of the world.

The question forces itself upon one what kind of a man Smith would have been had his career been started differently. Suppose a competent vocational leader had studied him as a child and noted his inventive gift. Suppose there had been schools accessible where a child with the inventor's mentality could have been put in training to develop his talent.

And suppose that, after Smith had been thus trained, he had been provided with an opportunity to demonstrate what he was capable of. Would the world have been the gainer or loser? Smith's proclivity for passing worthless checks showed perverted ingenuity, perhaps, rather than hopeless depravity. His mind hungered for tasks upon which it might exercise its innate powers and not finding any legitimate ones it turned to the illegitimate.

It is not agreeable to contemplate the wealth of undeveloped and unused human capacity which is permitted to go to waste or to run in harmful channels. The world is prodigal of its human as it is of its inanimate resources. While we permit our waterpowers to lie useless and pay exorbitant prices for fuel and light we can hardly be expected to care much for the latent capacities in the brain of a schoolboy.

It is characteristic of the savage to feast when he has plenty and starve when he has nothing, with no thought of providing for the future. Civilized man has risen past that kind of improvidence, but when it comes to husbanding his human and inanimate resources for his own benefit man stands today about where his ancestors stood a million years ago.

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 signed by the writer, whose mail address in full must accompany the contribution.)

The Two-thirds Vote Question

Portland, Jan. 22.—To the Editor of The Journal—In view of the discussion in the very recent past regarding the validity of the constitutional amendment prohibiting the liquor traffic, submitted to the states by congress and which has been ratified by more than the requisite number of states, I am sure the decision of the United States supreme court in the case of the Missouri Pacific Railway company vs. the State of Kansas, handed down January 7, 1919, will be interesting and instructive.

The claim has been made by those opposed to the constitutional amendment referred to that it was invalid because it did not receive a two-thirds vote of all the members-elect of both houses of congress. The case depended upon the validity of the Webb-Kenyon law, which was passed by congress over the veto of President Taft. The vote by which it was so passed was two-thirds of a majority, but not two-thirds of all the members-elect of both houses. Chief Justice White delivered the opinion of the court and in the course of his remarks decides that two-thirds of both houses means two-thirds of a quorum present and doing business, and not two-thirds of all the members-elect. He says:

"The identity between the provision of article 5 of the constitution, giving the power by a two-thirds vote to submit amendments and the requirements we are considering as to the two-thirds vote necessary to override a veto, makes the practice as to the one applicable to the other. At the first session of the first congress in 1789 a consideration of the provision authorizing the submission of amendments necessarily arose in the submission by congress of the first 10 amendments to the constitution embodying a bill of rights. They were all adopted and submitted by each house organized as a legislative body pursuant to the constitution, by less than the vote which would have been necessary had the constitutional provision been given the significance now attributed to it."

Indeed, in the case of the submission of the first 10 amendments it was done by a two-thirds vote of a quorum and not by a two-thirds vote of all the members-elect of both houses of congress.

Chief Justice White further on says: "The construction which was thus given to the constitution in dealing with a matter of such vast importance, and which was necessarily sanctioned by the states, and all the people, has governed as to every amendment to the constitution submitted from that day to this."

The case clearly holds that two-thirds of both houses means two-thirds of a quorum and not two-thirds of all the members-elect. This being true concerning the provision regarding the adoption of a bill over the veto of the president, it necessarily follows that the same language used in the submission of constitutional amendments must be given the same construction. If the contention of those opposed to the prohibition amendment is correct, then no amendment to the constitution has been legally adopted, as every one of them, as is shown by Justice White's opinion, has been submitted by a two-thirds vote of a quorum, and not two-thirds of all the members-elect.

I think that this new agitation can safely be put down as a bit of propaganda on the part of those opposed to national prohibition, rather than as an honest attempt to criticise the action of congress. EDWIN RAWDEN,
Supt. Oregon Anti-Saloon League.

On Influenza Prevention

Portland, Jan. 22.—To the Editor of The Journal—Will you kindly give space in your great and always fair paper for a few thoughts, which no one is compelled to take with inordinate or undue seriousness. I simply wish to challenge attention. So-called Spanish influenza is one of the big things uppermost in the public mind at present. Influenza is prevalent and is the cause of suffering, but the prefix "Spanish" is the cause of the epidemic. It is a new name for an old, old disease. Influenza, Spanish or otherwise, is in the beginning simply a severe cold. This campaign against the influenza is a crusade of fright; and is not altogether an unmixed benefit.

Fear is a mental condition of much greater consequence than the medical profession will admit. Fear is more powerful as well as more rapid in its work of destruction than any drug known to medicine. I have had in my practice at least two deaths from shock caused by a sudden fright. They were both instantaneous and there was not any possible chance for doubt.

This crusade fills the lay mind with mortal fear, thereby making a cure doubly difficult. The phantom of fear, when it becomes fixed, becomes a real entity and has a most powerful malign influence. Personally, I have no more fear of Spanish influenza germs than I have of catching the measles from the man in the moon.

When doctors disagree, what are the sick to do? Hark! I will give you a hint: Heat is the natural antagonist of cold. At the first appearance of the first symptoms, make a judicious application of heat; reverse the machinery of life which has gone wrong as a result of the systemic shock caused by the more or less severe chill. Continue the perspiring process until all pain is relieved and soreness all gone.

In conclusion, time is most important. You must not hesitate. If stasis and stagnation is allowed to take place and congestion has become a fixed and real condition, a speedy restoration cannot be expected, if indeed a cure is at all possible.

The secret of cure is counteraction in the initiative. Put no confidence in serums; they are at best just a guess, just a speculation, only prospective. Truth is simple, but unpopular.
WILLIAM FRANKLIN PRUDEN.

Judicial Presumptuousness

Portland, Jan. 20.—To the Editor of The Journal—The Journal January 4 stated that the American Bar association severely criticised the military administration of justice. The instances of maladministration fully justify the statement that the workings of courts-martial were at times "unworthy of the name of justice and law." The same must be said of some court findings with regard to alleged violations of the prohibition laws and other laws. At times fines imposed are exorbitant and punishments unreasonably severe. There are laws that have been drawn loosely, leaving too much to the discretion, or indiscretion, of the judge. The bone dry law is un-American. The object of government must be to protect the law-abiding citizen in the enjoyment of life, liberty and property. To interfere with the self-determination of well meaning citizens by any state authorities, but especially by the judicial, breeds bolshevism. The fathers of this republic recognized this fact and took the supreme court out of politics. C. COLE.

With the President

Harrisburg, Jan. 20.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have believed all along that the sentiment of the general public was with the president on his peace mission, despite the fact that speeches, editorials and cablegrams have been used against him. The following excerpt from a letter which I received from a traveling salesman of Portland, and who was not a supporter of Woodrow Wilson at the last presidential election, proves to my satisfaction that I am right. His letter in part reads thus:

"You can be proud of the day you boosted for Woodrow Wilson, back in 1912. He will go down in history as one of the greatest of Americans. It is a shame that such men as Penrose, Lodge and Knox should create the impression in Europe that there is dissension in the ranks of the American people. I have questioned railroad men, soldiers, in fact, people in all walks and ranks. It is simply astonishing how everyone is so staunchly for him. His 14 points is the rock on which peace has got to rest, or all of Europe will plunge into Bolshevism worse than Russia's. It was lucky for the American people that he went to Europe, but for the small nations clamoring for self-determination, who would undoubtedly be disregarded unless they had a powerful champion." T. J. J.

Liebknecht and the War Lords

St. Johns, Jan. 22.—To the Editor of The Journal—Until the armistice was signed Liebknecht was the herb of Germany. He was and always had been bitterly opposed to the autocratic rule of Germany and was counted on as the man who could cause a revolution. Why did opinion change so suddenly about this man? Hindenburg, according to our press, controls the army that is fighting the reds, as they are called in Germany, and in The Journal last night we read that General Ludendorff, the German chief of staff and military director, is organizing a campaign against the Russian Bolsheviki. When did these two autocrats decide to espouse the cause of the workingman? The American people are not satisfied with the European situation, and this is one of them. The soldiers that killed Liebknecht and his followers were called loyal troops. Who were they loyal to? Surely not to the people that caused the revolution and helped to overthrow the autocracy in Europe? Also, please tell me by whose orders are Hindenburg and Ludendorff commanding armies, and what for? I. M. HOLCOMB.

Socialist and Christian

Walla Walla, Jan. 24.—To the Editor of The Journal—Patrick O'Halloran says, "There is perfect harmony between Socialism and all religions, including Christianity." If such is a fact, why do Cardinal Gibbons and all of the Roman Catholic press oppose Socialism? While I am not a Socialist, I know a few of them—probably 50—and not one is a Christian; in fact, they talk against the church early and late. A. JOHNSON.

The Fund for Mrs. Roosevelt

Bandon, Jan. 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—I read in Tuesday's Journal that a bill had been introduced by Senator Smoot of Utah to give Mrs. Edith Roosevelt $5000 a year and free use of the mails. Now while we are giving, let us give the mothers of all soldiers killed or crippled for life in France $5000 a year and free use of the mails as long as they live. It wouldn't begin to pay them, and I think they are just as good as Mrs. Roosevelt; perhaps a little more deserving of charity.
CONSTANT READER.

THE FIRE OF DRIFTWOOD

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

We sat within the farm-house old,
Whose windows, looking o'er the bay,
Gave to the sea-breeze, damp and cold,
An easy entrance, night and day.

We sat and talked until the night,
Descending, filled the little room;
Our faces faded from the sight,
Our voices only broke the gloom.

The very tones in which we spake
Had something strange, I could but mark;
The leaves of memory seemed to make
A mournful rustling in the dark.

Oft died the words upon our lips,
As suddenly, from out the fire
Built of the wreck of stranded ships,
The flames would leap and then expire.

And, as their splendor flashed and failed,
We thought of wrecks upon the main,
Of ships dismasted, that were hailed
And sent no answer back again.

The windows, rattling in their frames,
The ocean, roaring up the beach,
The gusty blast, the bickering flames,
All mingled vaguely in our speech;

Until they made themselves a part
Of fancies floating through the brain,
The long-lost ventures of the heart,
That send no answers back again.

O flames that glowed! O hearts that yearned!
They were indeed too much akin,
The drift-wood fire without that burned,
The thoughts that burned and glowed within.

JOURNAL MAN AT HOME

By Fred Lockley

[That it is not only good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity, but that the time has come when it is absolutely necessary for them so to do, and to work in that way, besides, is the proposition which Mr. Lockley sets up in his article for the day. He sustains his contention with a citation from life, on a working scale, and doesn't go a thousand miles from Portland for his case in point, either.]

On a recent Sunday night I spoke at the opera house at Camas—and thereby hangs a tale. Camas has done some unusual and noteworthy things during the past two years. To begin with, Camas, with its suburbs, Oak Point and Forest Home, does not have a population to exceed 3000, and yet on the service flag of this little community there are 240 stars. This, of course, is partially explained when it is understood that the Crown-Willamette paper mill, employing about 800 men, is the dominant industry of the community, and that many of the stars on Camas' service flag represent workers in the mill.

Camas is setting the pace in more ways than along the line of war work and patriotic endeavor. The Rev. M. G. Everett, who presided at the meeting where I spoke, told me some most interesting things about Camas. Mr. Everett hails from Tennessee, is 33 years old, is full of enthusiasm and energy and is helping to make the world a better place to live in.

"How does it happen," I asked, "that you are holding services in the opera house?"

"Like all small communities, we have too many churches," he said. "The Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Christians have churches here and each tries to support a minister. A priest comes from Vancouver to conduct services in the Catholic church, and occasional services are held in the German Lutheran church. We are so split up into small and ineffective groups that no one church is strong enough to put on an aggressive program to challenge the attention of men who are doing things in the industrial world.

"When I came here a year ago last April as pastor of the Presbyterian church, I realized that we were not getting anywhere along the lines of real service to the community. I realized that in place of having two sermons each from five pulpits here each Sunday to mere handfuls of people who represented probably less than 10 per cent of our population, it would be better to have all the people hear some vital message delivered by one man. The day for the preaching of creed, doctrine and dogma has gone by. Such preaching leads only to dry rot, decay and spiritual death. The ideal arrangement for a community of the size of Camas is to have a large central building, well equipped, with a strong preacher selected by a committee who represent the various religious and humanitarian elements of the community. He should have two helpers—a young man to specialize in service to men along spiritual, mental and physical lines, a young fellow who can act as umpire at a ball game or judge at a field meet, a good mixer—and a woman to visit the women in their homes and help them with all their problems. The money paid to the five preachers in this town and toward the support of the five churches could put a community program of this kind across. Our church is ready for such a program. Why should not the young people work harmoniously in such a community service? They work together without friction or religious animosity in high school. Why not in religious community work?

"When I first proposed a union service a good many shook their heads and said it would never work; that, first of all, the people wouldn't come, and secondly, we couldn't raise money to finance the plan. Last April we leased the opera house for each Sunday night for a year. The trustees of our church assumed all financial responsibility, but our collections and contributions have taken care of all expenses and 98 per cent of the money we have spent has come from people who do not contribute to any regular church. At the first service we held in the opera house we carefully checked all who came in and found that more than 300 men attended who never went to church. They felt less constraint in coming to the opera house than in going to church. We are reaching a class that never goes to church and we are getting our financial support from those who have never contributed to religious organizations. Oddly enough, we have never made a single plea for money. The money flows in. As an example, we took up a collection one Sunday night and I found $228 in the plates.

"The church has not been on the job to meet the real need of the people, and it is time we got on the job if we hope to survive. We have been long on piety but short on service. It is time we linked up the piety of the church with the humanitarian interests of the community, emphasizing religion, education and patriotism.

"Who are our preachers? Men like yourself; anyone who has a message; army officers, physicians, business men; men like Harry Stone and Dr. W. J. Kerr; professors from Reed college or the Washington State university, and ministers who are real men with a real purpose to lift and help.

"Let me give you one example of the type of sermons preached here. Last April health conditions were bad in Camas. We were having epidemics while neighboring communities were immune from them. Rev. Mark Noble, pastor of the Baptist church, who, in spite of his 84 years, is one of the youngest and most useful men in Camas, with myself and others, took up the matter with the military authorities, for we are in the military health zone of Vancouver. The federal authorities sent a nurse here, who spent three weeks investigating conditions. Dr. Garrett, state inspector of dairy products, with Dr. Chalmers, county health officer, and an army officer from Vancouver, came to Camas and took the matter up with our Civic club and with the Commercial club. These three officials spent a day or so visiting dairy barns and back yards, looking up sewerage and sanitary conditions. They took dozens of photographs and had slides made from them. Our text for the next Sunday evening at the opera house was 'The Gospel of Good Health and Efficiency.' These three men were the speakers. As the talks were made the slides were thrown on the screen. When the people in the audience saw the pictures of their own dirty back yards they were surprised and in some cases very indignant. When they saw the filthy conditions of some of the dairy barns from which they were buying their milk they were amazed and angry. You never saw such an epidemic of cleaning up in your life as took place during the next few days. A committee was appointed to make a complete survey of the town, and a good many unsanitary shacks owned by Pittock & Leadbetter, who own a large part of the town, were condemned and torn down. Modern toilets replaced the disease breeding type we had suffered to exist. Dairy barns were cleaned up. Epidemic conditions ceased to exist.

"The sectarian church that fails to get into step with the needs of mankind will die. It has no right to ask the public to contribute toward its support. We must practise Christian methods as well as preach them."

Ragtag and Bobtail

Stories From Everywhere

Who Wouldn't Be Happy!

"UH—WELL, sah, Ah's back t'um wanderin' all ovuh de face o' creation," said Brother Shook, (quoted in the Kansas City Star), who had been absent for some time. "When mah yallah wife run off wid dat gamblin' man Ah quit home, and Ah's been on de gad evuh since."

"Did yo' kotch up wid 'em?" asked Brother Bobsby.

"Did I kotch up wid 'em? Man, dey kept kotchin' up wid me, de best I could do. When dat scoun'el stole mah wife Ah left so's Ah wouldn't be yuh when he brung huh back. And, bless goodness, everywhuhs Ah went dah dey was, twell it got to be like a bad dream. But de white folks finally slapped de gamblin' man in jail and mah wife's fust husband come along and she tuck up wid him. And Ah comes smilin' home to peace and happiness."

Vacillation

This weather is a cruel thing,
As heartless as a Nero,
Today it smiles like gentle spring,
Tomorrow drops to zero.
—Boston Transcript.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

The way our big politicians is peerin' 'round fer a presidential candidate kinder looks like they'd fell down on gittin' Pershing to lead the elephant back to the White House. When about a million more boys gits back from France and our home trainin' camps mebby they'll tell the old timers of both parties where's a good place to git off at.

The News in Paragraphs

World Happenings Briefed for Benefit Of Journal Readers

GENERAL

Representative Hawley is confined to his home in Washington on account of illness.

Work on 22 buildings at Fort Whipple, Ariz., has been ordered suspended by General March.

William G. Sharp, ambassador to France, sailed from New York to that country Friday.

Several hundred recruits of the Polish army sailed from New York Friday on the steamer Leviathan.

Most of the work of the food administration as such is expected to be completed within the next month.

The Dominion of Canada has decided that all enemy interned prisoners shall be deported with the least possible delay.

The steamer Empress of Asia, after an 8000-mile trip from Liverpool, landed 1371 Canadian soldiers at Victoria Friday.

The greater portion of her $400,000 estate was left by Miss Mary Burns, Los Angeles aviatrix, to be used in fighting tuberculosis.

Johns Hopkins university is bequeathed $200,000 in the will of Eugene G. Mergenthaler, son of the inventor of the linotype machine.

A government brief was filed in the supreme court at Washington Friday upholding the action of the lower court in the case of Eugene V. Debs.

The Texas legislature has voted to amend the constitution of Texas so as to put women voters under the same restrictions as applied to men.

The British "Who's Who" of the 1919 issue lists the commander of the American forces in France as "General Sir John Joseph Pershing, G. C. B."

Repeal of sections of the shipping act so as to permit the building of ships in American yards for foreign account is proposed in a bill just introduced in the senate.

Three American mineowners of Chihuahua were captured by Villa a few days ago and released after he had given them a lecture on better pay and shorter hours for employes.

NORTHWEST NOTES

Sumpter Valley railroad employes declare the strike is not yet ended.

Pacific college will resume work Monday, the influenza ban being lifted on that day.

The citizens of Selah, in Clackamas county, are petitioning to have their town incorporated.

The Fischer flouring mills at Silverton received an order from the government Friday for 2500 barrels of flour.

One vessel from the Pacific fleet is to be assigned to Alaska waters to patrol the northern coast and assist wrecked vessels.

The Northwest Parliament of Christian Ministers closed at Yakima Saturday. The Dalles was chosen as the place of meeting next year.

Increased telephone rates in Washington, asked by Postmaster General Burleson, were again suspended Saturday by the public service commission.

Three of the most prominent women of McMinnville—Mrs. E. J. Pratt, Mrs. S. L. Cummins and Miss Grace Newell—died from influenza this week.

The Washington legislature has passed a bill requiring one year's course in American history and government as a condition of graduation from high school.

John Flynn of Baker has received notification that his brother, Quincy Flynn, was killed in action in October. He is the fourth of Baker county soldiers, who went away on the same troop train, to die.

FOREIGN

The Omsk government, headed by Admiral Kolchak, is rapidly increasing its authority both east and west of Omsk.

So strained are the relations between the Czecho-Slovaks and the Poles that a state of war may be declared at any moment.

J. J. Hoff, Paris representative of the Standard Oil company, has been appointed a Knight of the Legion of Honor.

The allied shipping and food committees have decided to furnish 270,000 tons of foodstuffs to the starving people of Germany.

The body of Rosa Luxemburg, the Spartacan leader who was killed by a mob, was found Friday in the Landwehr canal.

The influenza epidemic, which caused more than 8000 deaths among the natives of the Samoan islands, has about subsided.

The British air service at the close of the war was the largest in the world. She had 21,000 planes, 1300 seaplanes and 103 airships.

The Australian government has sanctioned the formation of a company to survey an aerial route between Australia and the Far East.

When Stamps Cost Less; Buy More W. S. S.

[Stories of achievement in the accumulation of War Savings Stamps sent to The Journal and acceptable for publication will be awarded a Thrift Stamp.]

Here's a little up.

It isn't very often we let good news out so far in advance, but here goes just this once.

The U. S. A. is going to get back to the old two-cent for one-ounce letter postage schedule on July 1. On and after that date it will again cost but 1 cent to send a postal card.

Here's the W. S. S. feature of it: Prepare to invest your postage stamp savings in War Savings Stamps. In the couse of a year the average family's postage bill amounts to several dollars. The saving when we get back to the old rates will be considerable. Invest this savings with Uncle Sam.

Thrift Stamps and 1919 War Savings Stamps now on sale at usual agencies.