Oregon Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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Thou wilt find rest from vain fancies if thou doest every act in life as though it were thy last.—Marcus Aurelius Antoninus.

ON TRIAL

THE people of the United States own lands that contain more than 600,000,000 barrels of oil, 450,000,000,000 tons of coal, 2,600,000 acres of phosphate lands and more than 50,000,000 undeveloped water horsepower.

That "legislation is now pending in congress to trade or give all of it away" is the statement of Gifford Pinchot. Bills passed by the house are mainly sound; the senate bills are bad.

There is a serious danger that the senate bills will be jammed through in the dying hours of the present session. One senate bill, while masquerading as a leasing bill, would surrender with the title all control of waste, output, price and labor conditions. It would foster speculation in coal, oil, gas and phosphate and give no assurance of prompt development. Even the leasing provisions afford no protection to the public against extortion or monopoly.

Worse still, the bill gives title to fraudulent oil claimants, many of whom have already had their claims denied by the courts. Finally, there is a joker in the bill which would ovethrow the present lease law for coal lands in Alaska, and would turn those lands over forever to private hands.

A leasing bill was passed by the house May 25 last. The house also passed a bill covering water power, power on navigable streams, on public lands and national forests and international waterways. A clause added by the house brought out opposition from the president to the latter bill, but the measure was passed over his protest.

These bills are all in conference. In the hurry of the last moments of the session, measures may go through that will open the way for further plunder of the people's natural resources.

A Democratic congress is on trial on a great issue of safeguarding the people's interests.

"No penniless soldiers are found in Paris," says General Pershing in a statement to the American people. He adds: "There are individual cases of delayed payments due to a change in the pay system which took place during hostilities. The new pay system enables a soldier to get pay from the paymaster when money is due him." Pershing is accounted good authority.

SCORE ONE FOR AMERICA

THE Springfield Weekly Republican comments at some length on the New Mexico contempt case which has lately been decided in favor of the defendant by the state supreme court.

The origin of the case was interesting. A certain lawyer exerted himself diligently and crookedly on behalf of the vice combine in a New Mexican town. His decent professional brethren tried to have him disbarred for his performances. But the vice combine was powerful. Its wires stretched into unforeseen quarters.

The judge of the local district court became active in the crooked lawyer's defense. He made affidavit before the state bar examiners, who had jurisdiction of the affair, that the lawyer was a model of all the virtues, or something to that effect. The affidavit was enough. The crooked lawyer was set free with all his imperfections on his head.

At this stage of the plot entered the editor of the Santa Fe New Mexican, a newspaper whose devotion to the public welfare deserves praise. He published articles to show that the judge's "political, business and personal affiliations might have prompted him" to file his affidavit on behalf of the crooked lawyer.

Somewhat earlier in the progress of the melodrama the lawyer and his pals had procured the indictment of the New Mexican newspaper for criminal libel, and the trial of the indictment was pending before the judge, although nothing had been done in it for months. The case was dead. But the judge now contended that the newspaper's attack upon him for his affidavit "impaired his ability to administer justice" in the trial of the indictment for criminal libel. So he sentenced the editor to jail for contempt of court.

The editor naturally appealed to the supreme court. His lawyers took high ground, standing for the constitutional and American right to a free press and free speech. They argued, too, that if the editor could be jailed for attacking a questionable lawyer who had allied himself with a questionable judge, any vice combine thereafter could run to cover in the courts and save itself safe from pursuit.

The state supreme court sustained the editor on every point. It decided that a judge may not use contempt proceedings to protect himself from personal criticism nor may vice shield itself under the judicial ermine. It is a stunning victory for American principles.

The legislative committee of the house at Salem has reported a bill favorably which will please the people of Oregon. It is the Richardson bill to start off the investigation of the school land frauds with an ample appropriation to pay its expenses. Every penny invested in that cause promises to bring back dollars for the good of the school children.

HOUSE BILL 77 ET AL

ON THE fourth of November, 1913, the workmen's compensation law was adopted by the people in a vote of 67,814 to 28,608. It was an overwhelming mandate of nearly three to one.

The measure carried every county in the state. The vote in Baker was 1060 to 685. In Benton it was 1249 to 485, in Clatsop 1640 to 292, in Columbia 1358 to 316. The vote in Hood River county was six to one, in Josephine four to one, in Klamath three to one, in Lane three to one, in Multnomah three to one, with all other counties voting overwhelmingly in approval.

That vote was the people's rejection of the efforts of ambulance chasers and casualty companies to beat the law. The preceding legislature had passed it, and the casualty companies and damage suit lawyers had invoked the referendum upon it.

The verdict of the people was an emphatic approval of the compensation act and an equally emphatic repudiation of the old system of casualty insurance, damage suits, congested courts, increased taxes and bedeviled people.

House bill 77 at Salem virtually proposes to scuttle the compensation act by amendments which would cut the heart out of its best provisions. It would deprive the employe of the progress he has made against the fellow servant and contributory negligence provision. It would give the employe the right to elect whether or not to accept the adjustments of the accident commission or hire a lawyer and go to court in a damage suit, which in turn would force the employer to resort again to casualty insurance, court trials and all the follies of the old order.

The people in 1913 spoke, and spoke with emphasis on the exact issues presented in house bill 77. Under the highly satisfactory conditions brought about by the law in clearing court calendars of congestion, they would speak in far more emphatic terms now.

It would be time wasted to pass the pending bill. It would be referended and be beaten to death at the polls.

The bill at Salem for counties to buy in property on which taxes are delinquent would eliminate the speculators who sometimes profit heavily from such investments. Since the county is always compelled to bid in the undesirable property why not also let it buy the better holdings?

THE CONFERENCE

THE Northwest league of nations conference to be held in Portland February 16 and 17, should be a notable meeting. Delegates are expected from Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Mr. Taft will be here with a number of eminent speakers.

The conference should diffuse understanding of the league's aims among the masses and greatly enhance its fundamental popularity. Its weakness in the United States up to the present has been the failure on the part of its advocates to reach the masses with their propaganda.

The leaders realize this and are endeavoring to remedy it by holding nine great conferences from which popular propaganda may spread far and wide. People in general have taken the idea of the league for something desirable as a matter of course because they were told that it was desirable, but they have not really thought much about it. The purpose of the coming conference is to make them think.

Not until the masses have become active partisans of the league will it take deep root in our national polity, and this partisanship can only be procured by live debate and open discussion.

It is perhaps not too much to hope that by the time the Portland conference assembles a definite framework for the league of nations will have been given to the world from the peace table at Versailles. Thus far the league has been hardly more than an abstract idea, attractive in itself and promising immense advantages to the world, but lacking substance.

Those who promote it stand in much the same situation as Madison and Hamilton would if they had been obliged to argue for the adoption of the United States constitution without being able to say what the constitution was. Fortunately for them and us they had the document in their hands as they spoke and wrote and could cite it sentence by sentence.

When the promoters of the league of nations are able to tell us exactly what the league means by reference to a definite framework their task will become far less arduous than it is now. That is no doubt one of the reasons why President Wilson contends that the framing of the league should be the first work of the peace conference.

There will never be another German kaiser. Or German autocracy. In extending American trade to the ends of the earth, might it not be desirable for some American salesmen, American consular agents, American tradesmen and other Americans engaged in trade extension to be able to speak the German language, at least in the many regions where the German tongue is extensively used? It is one thing for school boards to put the German language out of the schools. It is quite another thing to legislate it out of Oregon.

THE FLU

"CUT out of your newspapers all mention of flu and your death rate will drop 50 or 75 per cent," is the advice given by a correspondent in a recent Journal. The history of the epidemic in Portland doesn't square with his contention.

Take the second flu wave in Portland: There had been little mention of flu in the papers for a considerable period, and on January 14 the new cases were 422 and the deaths 17. January 15 there were 514 new cases and 22 deaths.

There was then in its beginnings the campaign headed by Dr. Sommer with new measures adopted and full account in the newspapers of what was being done. A gradual subsidence of the epidemic at once set in. January 31 there were 22 new cases and two deaths. February 1, the new cases up to noon were 24, the deaths one.

There was exactly the same experience in the first flu wave in Portland. Health authorities, through publicity in the second wave, put their measures into effect, made a lax quarantine, a real quarantine, educated the people on how to observe precautions and cut the death rate around 1000 per cent in a little more than two weeks.

The Eskimos of Alaska read no newspapers. But they are dying by thousands. Flu has wiped out whole villages.

Prices in some lines at least are beginning to fall. Every cut in the cost of things increases the buying power of War Stamps. Every Stamp you buy is a loan made by you to the government to help pay the war bill. The government protects you against loss and pays you compound interest. Every Stamp bought from your savings safeguards you against a rainy day. Nowhere in the world is there a safer or better investment. Hold the War Stamps you have and buy more.

MOUNT HOOD

THE project of building a "scenic road" around Mount Hood irresistibly attracts the lover of landscape beauty. Its economic features may possibly be somewhat less alluring, though if it would traverse a rich agricultural region, as Mr. Holman says it would, it might be profitable to the pocket as well as the soul.

The more accessible Mount Hood is made the more travel it will attract. The world is so crowded with beautiful scenery easy to reach that tourists are disposed to shun places difficult of approach. Particularly do they like comfortable hotels, which are not too expensive.

In the good old days of European travel Switzerland drew tourists almost as much by its cheap and excellent hotels as by its scenery. Those good old days are quite likely to be with us again before a great while. Everything indicates a rush of travel to Europe as soon as passports and transportation are obtainable.

The battlefields will be visited, the ruined cities mourned over. Paris will be doubly delightful for the long privation it has endured. To compete with such attractions Oregon must put her best foot forward. A scenic road around Mount Hood would help materially.

Whether this is the best time to undertake such a project is, of course, open to debate. The cost might be considerably less a few years from now when wages and materials are lower. But on the other hand, the construction of extensive public works is one of the crying needs of the day.

Oregon, as well as the rest of the country, is threatened with unemployment. The army of idlers is not yet disastrously large in Oregon, but, according to reports, it acquires constant accretions. Nobody can say what its numbers may be six months from now unless timely measures are taken to draw off the idlers into productive work. There is no work more productive than roadbuilding.

Mr. Holman assured us that this projected road would give access to a large area of tillable land. It would, therefore, increase our population, add to our food production, and enhance Portland's trading territory, while at the same time it would open to tourists a region of wonderful interest and beauty.

There is reason to believe that the tourist business will be one of Oregon's principal sources of income hereafter. Perhaps the sooner we arrange to develop it the better.

Advertising of the Delinquent Taxpayer Forbidden

From Printer's Ink

Realizing that the publication in newspapers of delinquent tax lists is a needless waste of public money as well as an unnecessary and often humiliating burden imposed on the unfortunate taxpayer, the Oregon Journal caused a bill to be placed upon the ballot at the recent election in that state, repealing the provision of law requiring the publication of the delinquent tax lists and substituting therefor a notice of delinquency by mail.

As long ago as 1905, this newspaper began an agitation for the repeal of the delinquent tax publication law. Present at the legislative sessions of 1915 and 1917 were representatives of the newspaper urging the passage of such a bill. But in each instance, failure was the result. The conclusion was forced upon the publisher that this law, now become economically unsound and unbusinesslike, could be changed only by vote of the people, and a bill was initiated and placed upon the ballot.

Now, the cost of publishing annually the delinquent tax lists in Multnomah county, in which is located the city of Portland, is about $12,000, while the cost throughout the entire state is approximately $30,000 per year. It is estimated that the total cost of notifying tax delinquents by letter, as provided in the measure recently adopted by the people of the state, will not exceed $2000 a year.

As an evidence that the bill had the state-wide approval of the people, it passed by a majority in excess of one fourth of the total votes cast.

Striking at a kindred evil, the Oregon Journal initiated a measure regulating the publication of all legal notices such as summons, sheriff's sales, insurance companies' reports, etc. This bill was also adopted in spite of the determined fight waged against it by practically the entire press of the state.

While many publishers feel that the discontinuance of this form of advertising, which generally brought the top or a still higher rate, is a distinct loss of income to which they are entitled, it should not take them long to appreciate the fact that what is poor business for the people of the state is poor business for the publishers.

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.)

Relating to Reconstruction

Portland, Jan. 30.—To the Editor of The Journal—Here is a passage from the writings of Herbert Spencer that is pertinent in these days of reconstruction:

"Had we to deal with the parties who originally robbed the human race of its heritage, we might make short work of the matter.

"Why not make short work of the matter anyhow? For this robbery is not like the robbery of a horse or a sum of money, that ceases with the act. It is a fresh robbery that goes on every day and every hour. It is not from the produce of the past that rent is drawn; it is from the produce of the present. It is a toll levied upon labor constantly and continuously. Every blow of the hammer, every stroke of the pick, every thrust of the shuttle, every throb of the steam engine, pays its tribute. It levies upon the earnings of men who, deep underground, risk their lives, and of those who over white surges hang to the reeling masts; it claims the just reward of the capitalist and the fruits of the inventor's patient effort; it takes little children from school and compels them to work before their bones are hard or their muscles are firm; it robs the shivering of warmth; the hungry of food; the sick of medicine; the anxious of peace. It debases and imbrutes and embitters; it crowds families from eight to 10 into a single squalid room; it fills the gin palace and groggery with those who have no comfort in their homes; it makes lads who might be useful men candidates for prisons and penitentiaries; it fills brothels with girls who might have known the pure joy of motherhood; it sends greed and all evil passions prowling through society as a hard winter drives the wolves to the abodes of men; it darkens faith in the human soul, and across the reflection of a just and merciful creator draws the veil of a hard and blind and cruel fate!

"It is not merely robbery in the past, it is robbery in the present—a robbery that deprives of their birthright the infants that are now coming into the world. Why should we hesitate about making short work of such a system? Because I was robbed yesterday and the day before, and the day before that, is it any reason that I should suffer myself to be robbed today and tomorrow—any reason that I should conclude that the robber had acquired a vested right to rob me?

"If the land belongs to the people why continue to permit landowners to take the rent, or compensate them in any manner for the loss of rent? Consider what rent is. It does not arise spontaneously from land; it is due to nothing that the landowners have done. It represents a value created by the whole community. Let the landholders have, if you please, all that the possession of the land would give them in the absence of the rest of the community. But rent, the creation of the whole community, necessarily belongs to the whole community."

J. R. HERMANN.

Would Abolish State Senate

Carlisle, Wash., Jan. 28.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have just read your editorial beginning with this sentence: "How would it do for the house and senate committees on roads at Salem to hold joint meetings and act in concert in framing road legislation?"

While indorsing the editorial, I want to ask, how would it do for the citizens of Oregon (of whom I am one) to abolish that worse than useless institution known as the state senate? To call "worse than useless" is to put it mildly. It is hard to understand, after the wonderful lead taken by Oregon in direct legislation and other political reforms, why there is not a determined move to stop the utter nonsense, not to say anything of the huge expense, of that absolutely useless appendage to our not over-useful legislature. I wish every Oregonian who reads this would get a small blank book at once and enter in it every item of delay, expense, loss of needed legislation and the hundred and one other things that will be plainly in evidence before this legislature adjourns, as a debit charge against the senate, and in all fairness, if he hears of any one advantage arising from having two houses instead of ohly one, give the senate full credit. Then let us hear—not full accounts, for we all know most of the debits—but let us hear any and every credit earned by that body. It won't take much space.

S. B. MORSS.

Those Who Didn't Get to Go

Klamath Falls, Jan. 28.—To the Editor of The Journal—In a letter in The Journal of January 11 "One Who Didn't Get to Go" seems to think it a hardship that the soldiers who were sent overseas should be given preference in employment over those in uniform who were as anxious to go and do their parts at the points of danger and credit, but were not permitted to go. His letter is so sincere and conservative that it seems worthy of notice.

Those accepted for enlistment or draft and sent to the camps passed a rigid physical examination and, excepting by accident, are presumably still in excellent physical condition. More than that, they have had most unusual advantages of training of body and mind which the better fits them for life in general and for immediate hustling for jobs. Thousands of those overseas, if at or near the front, and though not seriously wounded, underwent experiences which will leave long lasting, perhaps life lasting conditions of body or mind, perhaps both, from which those who didn't get to go will be grateful they are free. There are thousands of others who because of some slight "physical defect," or because they were a few years, or perhaps many years too old, were not permitted to go even to the training camps. But they also were just as anxious to go; and thousands of us have lived on "short rations" and worked and denied ourselves in hundreds of ways the world will never know, and have given liberally of our scant means for the support, education and superior comforts and medical care of those at the training camps as well as those overseas.

Certain inequalities are an inevitable result of war. In the course of time those at the head of adjustment of affairs, and others as well, will learn that help belongs not to any one class nor because of any one circumstance, but because of needs and merits. In the meantime let us all be patient, and if we can't be patient then be as patient as we can.

EARNEST WHILE.

J. Walker and I. B. Getem

Portland, Jan. 31.—To the Editor of The Journal—Why the public notice to look out for J. Walker? The gentleman doesn't walk over women and children, the people don't scatter when they see him coming, and the army of traffic officers don't expect him to kill people and run down policemen. Why not watch I. B. Getem, who will testify he ran over Mr. Walker because he did not stop or because he did stop. His own testimony concedes his guilt and that Mr. Walker had no chance. People with umbrellas are plainly to be seen and are an easy mark for a killing. If permitted to carry sidearms for self defense they would have an even chance when I. B. Getem is at large with his delirium and a high fever.

E. F. FUNK.

Wants No Militarism

Walla Walla, Wash., Jan. 30.—To the Editor of The Journal—While Mr. Wilson is trying to make the world safe for democracy, the reactionists, the imperialists and the militarists have started in again to foster the Bolshevik spirit in the United States by trying to saddle the country with the paraphernalia of despotism—universal military training. Do they think they can make a Prussian serf, in time of peace, of a free American? Do they really want to start a revolution in order to hold their soft position in time of peace? As Senator Townsend said in a late senate speech, "These officers never had so prominent a position before in their lives and they would like to keep their men in line as long as possible. Some of the soldiers are almost in rebellion because of the treatment received and are now receiving." (Congressional Record, January 22).

I should think the example of Germany, after 40 years of preparation "to keep the peace of Europe," beaten to her knees, would teach all nations the futility of military preparation as a method of keeping the peace. It is a crime almost as great as war itself. You truly say, "This country has not yet been so inoculated with the virus (good word, for it surely is foul matter) of militarism that it is ready to submit to the dictatorship of the general staff—a military autocracy. I have talked with "soldiers who want no more army life."

"This is the last chance of the militarists, and they know it. That's why sporadic crops of universal military training bills spring up in congress, only to die for lack of nurture, in committee. Such proposals have not the ghost of a reason, now war is over. There is no future for the militarists. For the first time in the world's history war has made the workingmen of the world think.

A. JOHNSON.

Calls for Farmers' Roads

Salem, Jan. 31.—To the Editor of The Journal—Last night at the state house we listened to eloquent speeches on the road question. I paid particular attention to Mr. Thompson of Pendleton, who is a member of the state highway commission, who said they would speed up and complete the Columbia and Pacific highways and asked the members of the legislature to brace up and vote a $10,000,000 bond issue, so they could complete the road program.

We have no objection to the Columbia, the Pacific, or any other highway, nor the bond issue, but the road program of two years ago was made before America entered the war, and at present, programs and treaties are set aside to meet conditions that are now confronting us. The facts are these: The most important business is to produce foodstuffs for the human race; so, to the farmers of Eastern Oregon, who produce wheat by the millions of bushels, we say, "speed up," and to the small dairy farmers of Western Oregon, we say, "speed up" and take good care of your sucking calves and milk your cows—"mush on"—hand your milk to the market seven days in the week in mud, rain, or sunshine, as there are thousands of children in the United States and millions of our allies crying for milk and we will get our reward and go down in history as benefactors of the human race. But let us insist that the market roads are entitled to receive careful consideration.

E. WENSTROM.

Seeking a Mess of Pottage

From the Medford Mail-Tribune.

The warmer the welcome that President Wilson receives from the peoples and governments of Europe the bitterer, more savage and venomous the criticisms hurled at him by political opponents at home. One has to go back to Civil war days for a similar recrudescense of partisanship. Instead of supporting the leadership which has won world wide acclaim for successful efforts to win the war, and standing unitedly back of the president in his endeavor to end the old regime of the rule of autocratic might and install that of democratic right, utmost endeavor is being made to discredit the president before our allies and lend support to the reactionary influence, which, in Europe as in America, seek to perpetuate the old regime of privilege and the rule of force.

The United States senate seems to have sadly degenerated. It spends most of its time damning the president. No matter what he suggests or proposes, what he does or leaves undone, it is proper theme to set the tongues wagging of this bunch of political scaldalmongers.

According to European papers, no foreign visitor ever received such a popular welcome in France, England and Italy as that accorded President Wilson. The London News calls it "a peoples' welcome, not only expressing gratitude for the president's spacious statesmanship, lofty vision and unfailing wisdom, but also sending greetings from the free people of Europe to the free people of America on the morrow of their joint victory." It is this, and more than this, for the real source of the enthusiasm is the knowledge that President Wilson, alone among the statesmen of the world, represents the definite purpose to make an enduring peace upon a basis that will prevent another war.

Militarism is not popular in the war worn countries of Europe and the people are resolved to put an end to conditions that permit its revival, to end once and for all the burden of large armaments and exploitation of weaker nations. It is because President Wilson has openly championed this cause that he has become the hope of the people of Europe, who rely upon him to compel a democratic peace and upon the United States to support him in his efforts.

But the political Lilliputians, blinded by the fog of partisanship, are unable to see events in their proper perspective and real significance, decry everything American, repudiate American leadership of world affairs and would betray the cause of democracy to the reactionaries for the sake of securing a mess of political pottage in the coming presidential campaign—a thing that looms much larger in their myopic vision than the peace of the world.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

One leather coat doesn't make an "ace."

• • •

"Multimillionaire plies needle," reads a headline. Wonder what he uses.

• • •

We take it that there was no yellow at any rate in America's colored troopers.

• • •

We suggest a monument to the lassies who put the doughnuts into the doughboys.

• • •

While cheering returned soldiers and sailors, bear in mind that a job will cheer them most.

• • •

Hustle may do the thing in 18 hours of toil in sweat and dust—efficiency, thinks, pushes a button and it is accomplished.—Sheldon.

• • •

If you build castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.—Thoreau.

• • •

Edith Hyde, 22, has been declared by leading artists to be the most beautiful woman in New York. A case, it would seem, wherein beauty is but Hyde deep.

• • •

The former German kaiser, the wires say, is going to grow a full beard. But he'll realize, before they get through with him at the peace table that he's had a mighty close shave.

• • •

Considering his wide and successful experience in pounding the ivories, may we not reasonably expect that Mr. Paderewski will have considerable success in knocking some sense into the Bolsheviki in Russia?

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

A fine, large, brand new American flag now floats from the dome of the Washington county courthouse, taking the place of a wornout and faded one that has been retired.

• • •

"Farmers are taking advantage of the fine weather and have begun farming operations already," writes the Heppner Gazette-Times' Lexington correspondent under date of January 30.

• • •

A notable increase in dealings in town lots throughout the state is becoming apparent from a perusal of exchanges. For many weeks there has been uncommon activity in ranch and farm transfers.

• • •

Henry Chezem of Lane county, who is a propagandist of sorghum raising, is going to try it again next year, in spite of what drouth did to his enterprise last year, and expects to make it a big winner.

• • •

Charles W. Vaughn, attempting to reach Eugene from Bend by way of McKenzie pass, was forced by deep snow to back out and make the trip by train. He thinks the pass is sealed for some time to come.

• • •

From all over the varmint infested counties the current reports of coyote and other pelts turned in for bounty always conclude with—"and when sold to the furriers a further substantial sum was realized."

• • •

"The Portland city council," observes the Eugene Register, "has passed an ordinance forbidding the display of red or black flags, and any piratically inclined vessels in the harbor on the lower Willamette are hereby warned to keep the Jolly Roger concealed."

JOURNAL MAN AT HOME

By Fred Lockley

[Letters from an Oregon soldier boy, now serving with the army of occupation in Germany, are introduced in evidence by Mr. Lockley today. Besides the actual interesting information they convey, they are of interest and value as showing, quite unconsciously, the American soldier boy's attitude toward the business of being a warrior.]

When I knew Myrton Moore in Pendleton he was more interested in marbles and tops than in potting Germans, but today he is "over there," doing his bit to help bring freedom to Germany as well as the rest of the world. Myrton is not yet 20 years old. He is the son of William Moore, collector of customs for this district.

• • •

Here are two interesting letters that Myrton has written to his mother. The first is dated December 7:

"We are still hiking through Germany. It is a wonderful trip down the Moselle river, almost as beautiful and picturesque as some parts of the states. The hills are almost perpendicular and the people have terraced them and planted grapes. They are carrying manure on their backs up the steep slopes to fertilize the grapevines. The people over here farm a rocky hillside and pasture a plain. It seems queer to be friends with people whom you would have shot on sight a month ago. We were billeted last night in Enkirch. In the house we were billeted in was a German artilleryman who had fought against us in Picardy and Montdidier, and was wounded there. All the Germans that were soldiers seem pleased that the war is over."

• • •

The other letter, dated December 18, was written from Ebernhahn, Germany:

"I received your letter of November 12 and was pleased to hear that you were all well and happy over the armistice. You spoke of your desire to have been with us and to see us celebrate. I think you would have been disappointed, as there was very little cheering. No one could believe it was really over. We had heard of the German envoy coming across the lines, but thought nothing would come of it. We had been relieved at the front and were in reserve, and were marching back when a lieutenant came riding by on a horse. He said the armistice had been signed and that the fighting was to cease at 11 a. m. The way the guns were going then it seemed like one side or the other would get sore and start it over again, but at 11 a. m. everything was quiet. Everybody thought there was some mistake, and that the artillery would open up again; but when the top sergeant told us we could have fires all night if we wanted to? it seemed more a dream than a reality. About the only celebration was the doughboys shooting up flares and rockets. The sky looked like the front line during the German counter attack.

"Since November 8 (we were then near Sedan) we have hiked to the Moselle river through Lorraine and Luxemburg and down the Moselle to Coblenz on the Rhine river, and from there to Ebernhahn, near Wirges. I will enclose a list of the towns we stopped in so you can follow our course. We stopped a day and a night in Coblenz and saw most of the town. Everything is high in price and one needs a card for most everything in the line of 'eats'—milk, meat, bread, butter and numerous articles. Three of us had prune pie with a pink glucose frosting; it was only eight marks. We had lunch in a neat little restaurant. Our menu was potatoes, roast beef, string beans, carrots, bread, jam and coffee. It cost nine marks for the three of us—not bad, considering. We spent the evening in a swell beer garden. There was a nine-piece orchestra and they sure could play. I can't see how saloons in this country make enough to pay the janitor. It takes the people all evening to drink one glass of beer, and it costs only 30 pfennigs—about 5 cents.

"Every man you see has been in the army. The waiter in the cafe was in the artillery. The bartender in the restaurant was in the infantry. Everyone of them from 18 to 60 was in the army fighting against us, and now we are buying their junk. But such is war. I think they treat us well more through fear than love.

"We were near Sedan on November 8. From there we went to Verdun. We stayed two days in what was left of the old barracks. We crossed the lines at Etain, going through Lorraine and Luxemburg and stopping six days in Castingen. We crossed the Moselle on December 1, staying our first night on German soil in Wawern. The towns from there on, in order, are: Cassel, Treltinherm, Gesantansicht, Enkirch, Breidel, Leifsich, Mauhousen, Lay, Coblenz, and Ebernhahn."

ONE OF THE PLANS FOR PALESTINE

By Ben Hecht.

Special Correspondence to The Journal and the Chicago Daily News.

London—If the plans and ambitions of the recently proclaimed nation of Judea are fulfilled, Louis Brandeis, now justice of the United States supreme court, will be the first of the new rulers of Israel. The dream of the renationalization of Palestine, which has lived for 2000 years in the hearts of the Jews, is fast entering the realm of reality. Judea is sending its delegates to the peace conference. Its existence as a nation has been recognized by the allies, its declaration of independence has been signed and its diplomats and politicians are already busy molding the future of its institutions.

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Ittimar Ben Avi is the first of its peace delegates to reach London. An impassioned idealist who already visions Judea enrolled among the great powers of the world is Ben Avi. But his idealism and his oratorical agitations on behalf of Judea have not impaired his worth as a diplomat.

"Israel cannot leap to its feet, full grown and capable," he explained. "It has been scattered and dormant too long. As delegate to the peace conference, I am to outline the demands of the new Judea. The first and most important of these is the political desire of the new Hebrew nation. We desire a British trusteeship for a period of 25 years. We do not want to establish a parliament or congress in Judea for at least 25 years. The British have emancipated us from the Turk. Great Britain is more capable of governing or overseeing Palestine as a colony than any other one country.

"If the English will agree to this, our plan then includes the appointment by England of a Zionist as governor general of Judea. It is more or less known among Zionists that Justice Brandeis is the most logical man now living for the position of governor general. Under him there should be two subgovernors—one a Christian and the other a Moslem. Both should be appointed by England. We also intend to have attorney generals for the various provinces and mayors for the various communities in Palestine. These are to be elected by the people.

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"After 25 years Judea may be in position to govern herself. As a totally independent nation and a part of an entente including Armenia and Arabia, Judea would be a powerful asset to the western world not only as a producer of culture and contributor to the world's markets, but as a military barrier against any power seeking to control the Suez canal."

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Ben Avi's desire for a British overlordship is inspired by the fact that were Palestine to proclaim a complete independence today and seek by popular vote to elect its own ruler, the Moslem and Christian peoples living there would outnumber and outvote the Hebrew population. The result would be a nation in which the Jews were in the minority. By England's recognition of Judea as a Jewish nation and giving its Moslems and Christians representation through subgovernor generals, the Zionists are confident that their dreams will be most practically fulfilled.

Olden Oregon

Early Northwest Boatmen Covered Every Navigable River.

While parts of the Columbia and its chief tributary, the Snake, were opened to navigation by 1860, no steamboat had yet appeared on the stretch of navigable water between Colville and the Arrow lakes. Captain Lew White launched the "Forty-nine" in November, 1865, at Colville. In the following month the Forty-nine ascended, the Columbia 150 miles, nearly to the head of the lower Arrow lake. Meeting floating ice, the vessel returned. Early in 1866 a steamer was built at the mouth of the Boise river for navigation of the upper Snake. At the same time the Mary Moody was constructed by Z. F. Moody on Pend Oreille lake.

Ragtag and Bobtail

Stories From Everywhere

Railroading Under Difficulties

THE first train from Powers this week came down yesterday morning. Wednesday evening being the first time it was considered prudent to run the train up there, says the Coquille Sentinel of a recent date. It will be remembered when that line was built five or six years ago there was a sliding hill where everything sunk and it was a long time before a stable track could be secured. Indeed, during one period of continuous rain since then the track was chained to trees on the hillside to keep it from creeping away.

John Doe—Buck Private

Who was it, picked from civil life
And plunged in deadly, frenzied strife
Against a devil's dreadful might?
Just plain "John Doe—Buck Private."

Who jumped the counter for the trench,
And left fair shores for all the stench
And mud, and death, and bloody drench?
Your simple, plain "Buck Private."

Who, when his nerves were on the hop,
With courage scaled the bloody top?
Who was it made the Hun swine stop?
"J. Doe (no stripes) Buck Private."

Who, underneath his training tan
Is, every single inch, a man?
And, best of all, American?
"John Doe, just plain Buck Private."

Who saw his job and did it well?
Who smiles so blandly—yet plays like hell?
Who rang again the Freedom bell?
"Twas only "Doe—Buck Private."

Who was it lunged and struck and tore
His bayonet deep into Hun gore?
Who was it helped to win the war?
"John Doe (no brains) Buck Private."

Who, heeding not the laurel pile
That enlisting other men beguile,
Stands modestly aside the while?
"John Doe (God's kind) Buck Private."

—Allen H. Thomson,
Sgt. Hp. Detch., 81st Div., in Stars and Stripes.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

The way some feller gits away with the Belgian babies' milk bottles in Portland every oncet in a while is developin' into a infant industry.

The News in Paragraphs

World Happenings Briefed for Benefit Of Journal Readers

GENERAL

Mexico and Cuba have resumed diplomatic relations.

Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of the president, is ill with influenza at Brussels.

Passports for negroes desiring to attend a pan-African congress at Paris have been denied by the state department.

Sales of enemy-owned property in the Philippine islands have been completed, the sales realizing nearly $4,000,000.

Exportations of butter, prohibited during the war, will be permitted under an order issued Saturday by the war trade board.

Mrs. Elizabeth P. Mitchell, who recently died in San Francisco, bequeathed $50,000 to the different charitable institutions of that city.

Rear Admiral Chadwick, who was chief of staff of Admiral Sampson during the American-Spanish war, is dead at his home in New York.

A masked bandit entered the office of Frank Cator, an insurance broker in San Francisco, and compelled Cator to hand over $180 in currency.

Passports to Europe for Mildred Morris of Denver and Clara Wold of Portland, militant suffragettes, have been cancelled by the state department.

A report by General March shows that approximately 10,000 men are wholly unaccounted for nearly three months after the ending of hostilities.

For failure to trade stolen silver for ammunition, Jose Sigala, a general in Villa's command, was executed last week a few miles south of Presidio, Texas.

NORTHWEST NOTES

Klamath county in 1918 spent $49,102.70 for good roads.

Eggs in Seattle last week dropped 32 cents per dozen and butter 20 cents per pound.

The big shingle mill at Kelso has resumed operations with three shifts of 7½ hours each.

January was the wettest month ever known in Astoria. The total precipitation was 19.36 inches.

The total county indebtedness of Klamath county is now $132,249.76. The total cash on hand is $176,756.76.

Approximately 40,000 out of 54,000 acres of the Lower Klamath lake marsh lands have been drained and cultivated.

The fruit manufacturers payroll at Salem, including the manufacture of fruit juices, now amounts to $487,000 annually.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Dietz of Aurora have received word that both of their sons, Edwin and Jonas, were lost in the world war.

Millers and grain men are looking forward to another call by the government within the next few days for bids on export flour.

A. R. Colby, a former Portland business man, is in a critical condition in a Seattle hospital, as the result of the amputation of his leg.

The annual report of the Winlock Creamery company shows that in 1918 the creamery manufactured over 100 tons of butter, with receipts $13,500 in excess of the previous year.

Principal Ray T. Smith of the Woodland school at Ballard was attacked by 20 boys Saturday and badly injured. The boys had been terrorizing the schools for a week or more.

FOREIGN

Australia is considering an appropriation of $150,000,000 to place soldiers and settlers on farms.

Ten billion francs have been advanced to Belgium by the United States, Great Britain and France.

Bolshevik forces in Northern Russia are said to be using gas shells, supposedly supplied by Germans.

Many German officers are planning to come to the United States to evade payment of war taxes at home.

War rather than give up the German merchant fleet to the allies is the cry of several German newspapers.

The American Red Cross has established a sled service between Archangel and the outlying American posts.

Dr. Suertz, Bolshevik representative at Copenhagen, has been notified that his further presence was not desired in Denmark.

According to statements in the Russian press all parties are alarmed at reports that the allies will retire from Siberia in the spring.

The Swiss authorities have issued stringent regulations regarding the entrance into Switzerland of Socialist delegates to the conference at Berne.

Keep Your War Savings Stamps. Buy Some More

(Stories of achievement in the accumulations of War Savings Stamps sent to The Journal and acceptable for publication will be awarded a Thrift Stamp.)

Do not, except in the event of extreme necessity, "cash in" on your War Savings Stamps. The more "baby bonds" that are turned in the more Victory bonds Uncle Sam will have to sell.

Jay Cook used to say "the easiest way to get money is to save it." And he was no "jay."

Buy War Savings Stamps and help bring the rest of the boys back from France.

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