Oregon Daily Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON.....Publisher

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Let liars fear, let cowards shrink,
Let traitors turn away:
Whatever we have dared to think
That dare we also say.
—James Russell Lowell.

A PASSING INDUSTRY

THE passing of an industry has a mournful aspect

The busy shipyards of yesterday at Columbia City, near St. Helens are silent. The plant is idle. The men are gone. They dispersed to the four quarters, some of them going to California, whence they came, others to British Columbia, where they have heard a shipbuilding program of several years is to be pushed.

There are two incompleted ships on the ways. They are Ferris ships, and are yet to be finished under government contracts. Meanwhile a few employes are making an invoice of the property.

At the yard of McCormick brothers there is not the same activity as in war days. The force is reduced. Ferris hulls on the ways are to be completed, and after that there will be a temporary shut down to make invoices.

The McCormick yard, of course, is a permanent institution. It built ships for years before Germany broke the world's peace. It built the "City of Portland," a new type motor ship, which has become widely known by reason of its numerous record voyages.

The McCormicks are now operating 15 ships, several of which ply regularly to Portland. They recently sold 28,000,000 feet of ties to the railroad administration for delivery at Boston, Philadelphia and other Atlantic ports. The ties will be carried in their own vessels. They operate two large sawmills at St. Helens, and are large figures in the lumber and shipping industry of the coast. Their shipbuilding business will go forward as soon as conditions are more settled.

Many industrial figures are waiting to see how business will shape up, what prices will be, what demands will be, what wages will be. Lumber prices have dropped around $10 a thousand. The demand is not good. The shock of the armistice has not yet passed.

Almost every Eastern railroad must have ties, but the congressional filibuster in which the railroad appropriation bill failed, leaves them without funds applicable to betterments. If the roads had money and ships were available, there would be almost unlimited business in ties. Until the situation clears there will be uncertainty, with much capital and many plants in a state of waiting.

The Medical Sentinel for March opens with a not very good-natured description of the market on Yamhill street. The gist of the article is that the market is a filthy place. Vegetables coming in from the farms are apt to carry dirt on their roots. Dust drifts in from the street. No doubt this is all true and would be important if it were not for the habit of washing vegetables before cooking them, which is common among Portland housewives.

MAY AND BEEBE

THE appointment of Colonel John L. May as adjutant general of the state is a happy choice. Colonel May is a soldier and a gallant one fresh from active and strenuous service overseas. He has led Oregon men into battle, has fought with them, and for them.

When the boys return and the task of reorganizing the national guard is put under final way there will be a veteran of the world war in charge of the veterans of that conflict who will undoubtedly go to make up the bulk of the rank and file of the organization. It ought to be a good arrangement, productive of good results.

General Beebe, who leaves the command, and who left the ease of a dignified retirement to do his bit as leader of the home defense forces during the war, quit the service with honor and respect. A soldier of soldiers, a citizen of the highest type, a gentleman of polish and refinement, he is entitled to, he has earned the profound thanks of his state.

Boston feels particularly distinguished to have the privilege of listening to a debate between Senator Lodge and President Lowell of Harvard. The question for debate is on the League of Nations. The senator takes the negative, President Lowell the affirmative. Each contestant is, in his way, a celebrated man. Both hold eminent positions in the world and both have written learned books. Whatever else the debate may lack it will not lack the flavor of high society.

RUPERT'S LATEST MISTAKE

"RED" RUPERT, who lifted some $19,000 worth of Liberty bonds from a local bank, for which he was sentenced to the penitentiary, has more than one reason for causing the prison bloodhounds to lose track and trace of him. Should he be captured he would face a possible sentence of ten years in the penitentiary for his attempt to escape, which sentence would not commence to run, however, until after his present sentence had expired.

The last legislature did an unfortunate thing so far as Mr. Rupert's ease of mind is concerned, by enacting a law which makes it a felony for any convict to escape or attempt to escape from the penitentiary. Heretofore about the only punishment that fell to a convict who broke away from his confinement was the loss of his standing before the parole board. Since most of those who attempted to escape were convicts who had exhausted their power of persuasion upon that tribunal of conditional liberty, the disfavor of the body did not fease them much.

The last legislature, at the instance of the penitentiary authorities, took cognizance of the situation by putting the possibility of extended imprisonment in front of the would be escape. It may be that "Red" and his companion did not know that the new law had been passed, and that it was enacted as an emergency measure, being now in full force and effect. Had he known of the situation he might have hesitated before he struck out for the hills of Southern Oregon.

Thus far the world has not taken Corea's declaration of independence very seriously. The "hermit nation" has heretofore shown so many of the hermit's traits that few feel much confidence in its ability to assert and defend an independent station in the world. If Corea should acquire independence and make of it nothing more than a chance to sink back into the barbarism from which Japan has roused her, the loss might outbalance the gain.

Enviable is the lot of the family which can take one of those homesites provided by Forester George Cecil on the shores of Spirit Lake and stay there all summer. Perhaps some of our benevolent organizations will see to it that one or two homesites are reserved for the children of the poor and raise funds to provide for their transportation and care. The automobile ride from Portland to the flank of Mount St. Helens and the shore of Spirit Lake would brighten a child's life for a whole year.

THEY MERIT HELP

IT WOULD be no more than fair for all people to aid the drive for Jewish welfare funds. It would not only be fair, it would be justice. The Jewish people have contributed faithfully and patriotically to every war drive. In many cases they were generous in the extreme. They shirked no duty, evaded no responsibility.

The war threw a tremendous burden on them in the thousands upon thousands of persons of their own race in Europe who were victims of the conflict. The stories of persecutions and privations that have come out of some parts of Europe have been heartbreaking. To bear alone the burdens of relief for these thousands of war victims and in addition carry the load of doing their bit in all war drives lays unwonted and undeserved hardship upon the Jewish people of America.

They merit assistance from other groups in our population.

The report that the farmers are short of work hands is not the worst news in the world. Jobs for idle hands are a pressing need of the time. Men will go from the city to plow, milk and plant, and their departure will deplete the ranks of the unemployed. With work for everybody and good wages revolutionary agitators would lose their best card.

THEIR ISOLATION

OVER in Nehalem, there is an extraordinary road situation.

A valley of more than 3000 population is walled in by mountains. The county seat and natural trading point is St. Helens To reach St. Helens by direct route, were there a passable road, requires a journey of only 26 miles. But the only route usable most of the year is via Forest Grove in Washington county or by Clatskanie, routes ranging from 70 to 80 miles.

Here is how this isolation operates: A farmer resident of Nehalem stated at the Chamber of Commerce meeting at St. Helens Wednesday evening that he had in the autumn of 1917, 333 sacks of potatoes, worth if they could have been delivered in the St. Helens or other market, $1.15 per sack. He sold them in part at 25 cents per sack, and gave the rest away for stock feed. It seems an extraordinary condition, but the statement is true.

The inaccessibility costs Columbia county heavy sums in jury mileage, witness mileage and other fees whenever Nehalem people have public business at the county seat.

The county is trying to remedy the situation by building a road directly through the mountains, but it is a costly undertaking, particularly in view of the fact that the people have already bonded themselves heavily in a road program.

The state highway commission and the federal government, the latter through a post road plan, should find a way to relieve the situation.

THEIR HOME COMING

OREGON soldiers, reaching New York for the past few days, have been greeted with a real honest to goodness rainstorm, so the news dispatches tell. Judging from reports that have come from overseas it seems to be a general thing to have quite a little rain in France and Belgium so that the gusts that washed the faces of the homecoming heroes were probably nothing new to them.

But there is rain, and rain. There is rain in France, and rain in Belgium, quite a little in England, an occasional sprinkle in New York, and even now and them some falls in sunny California.

Then there is Oregon rain. It is the rain that droppeth like the gentle dew from heaven upon the place beneath. It is not boisterous. It does not cool its caress with the icy touch of sleet or snow. It is not brother to the hailstone, or cousin to the typhoon or the tornado. It leaves a gladdened world behind it, fresher and sweeter for its coming.

The weather man of New York may have attempted to make the Oregon boys feel at home. But they will never know the joy of the rain until they come home again to their own green fields, the wild flowers, the roses and the springtime beauty of the hills and valleys they have been dreaming of.

FRENCH AND SPANISH

THE substitution of French and Spanish for German in the public schools will please everybody, particularly the pupils, because they are much easier languages to learn. There is no objection possible to the change except that, perhaps, too much time is allowed for them.

It ought not to take a bright pupil four years to learn to read, speak and write French if he already knows English. Two years should be ample for it. French grammar is easy except the subjunctive and the irregular verbs. The spelling is fairly uniform, much more so than our own, and the literature is clear cut and charming.

With competent teaching young people should speedily acquire a vocabulary, and whatever is necessary of the grammar. A girl who is supposed to be learning Spanis.. in one of the public schools was asked the other day if she could speak the language. "Oh yes," was her reply. The questioner persisted, "Could you carry on a conversation with a Spaniard?" "No, not with a Spaniard, because his Spanish doesn't sound like ours." Will our schools ever really master the art of teaching foreign languages?

A SEEMLY ARRANGEMENT

FOR long years "red tape" has been the bane of those who do, or try to do business, with state and federal government. Little things that would be disposed of in a minute by the ordinary business man require days and weeks for their conclusion, delay becomes the usual order and not the exception with its consequent loss of patience, of time and of energy.

When business men can have a voice in shaping administrative laws, unbiased by politics or other untoward circumstances, it usually results in better and more efficient public business methods. The state highway commission, which has business men at its head, induced the last legislature to cut away some of the red tape that bound its hands by the creation of a "revolving fund" out of which to pay what might be called emergency claims of small amount.

Heretofore if the highway department discharged an employe working on road construction, or any other work, or such an employe voluntarily quit his employment, he was required to wait for his pay, even though it amounted to but a few days' compensation, until the claim had been regularly vouchered, approved, verified before a notary, and a warrant issued by the secretary of state. The same procedure was necessary in the payment of small claims against the department, though there was no thought or question as to the regularity or righteousness of the transaction.

The recent legislature at the request of the state highway commission authorized the secretary of state to set aside $30,000 as a "revolving fund" to be placed at the disposal of the state highway engineer "to enable him to pay the wages due employes who may quit on short notice or be discharged from the commission's service, and to promptly meet other payroll or emergency claims or to secure trade discounts by prompt payment of claims."

Aside from the split infinitive, which touches the grammar but not the intendment of the act, it would seem to be a good provision. It permits the engineer to pay small bills promptly, most often at a saving of money or energy to the employe, the business man and the commission. It permits the highway engineer to do, in the conduct of state affairs, what he would do as a prudent business man in the conduct of his own private affairs. It cuts the red tape of the state government and brings business efficiency into the administration of state matters.

NATIONS' LEAGUE A STATE ISSUE

From Springfield Republican

The League of Nations is everywhere a local issue, as well as a national issue. If anyone doubts this, let him go among people and listen to the talk on the street, in the smoking car, in hotel elevators, or wherever else men congregate or meet in passing. How much of a political issue it may be, remains to be seen. That must be determined by those who have thus far taken their stand in opposition to Mr. Wilson, but among whom there is already evidence of a somewhat notable change of sentiment. The significant development of the week has been that men who seven days ago appeared to be opposed to a league, or anything like a league, so long as Mr. Wilson was in any way identified with it, are now disposed to "perfect it," to quote the resolution of the Massachusetts club. In ordinary usage a thing which is ready to be "perfected" already has considerable excellence.

* * *

It is no secret that wise and influential Massachusetts Republicans were very apprehensive during the week over the results of last night's meeting in Boston addressed by Senator Borah and Senator Thomas and presided over by former Senator Beveridge. The view was definitely and forcefully expressed by sagacious Republicans that if the attacks at this meeting upon the draft of the league as brought home by Mr. Wilson were violently intemperate and unrestrained, the consequence would be to turn Massachusetts over to the Democrats. But since that view and that estimate of the situation were made known there has been a very evident effort to apply the brakes and painfully to make it clear that the opposition is not to a League of Nations, but to exactly the League of Nations supported by Mr. Wilson, although that form is supported by Mr. Taft.

* * *

Neither the average Republican nor the average Democrat desires to see the league made a party issue. To them it transcends the importance of any individual or any party. Men who have traveled widely through the country within the last few days report that in circles which ordinarily are bitterly critical of Mr. Wilson upon such matters as his labor record there has lately been, on the contrary, more questioning as to the position of Senator Lodge, more questioning as to whether our senior senator has caught the broader vision.

Unlike a considerable number of Republicans in the senate, there are very many Republicans throughout the country who, while they have no love for Mr. Wilson, refuse to let their feeling on this issue of the league be colored by their feeling toward him. It is because this situation has been sensed within the last few days by certain national leaders of the Republican party and because certain former leaders have risen splendidly to the occasion and served notice within the party councils that they will organize in favor of the league if necessary; it is because of these developments that there has come so notable a change within a comparatively short time. It is apparent that there is a certain element in Boston, whose motives it might not be gracious to analyze, which is arrayed against the league with particular heat.

* * *

It is immensely to the credit of the Boston Herald and its editor, Robert Lincoln O'Brien, that up to this time the Herald has gone so far in advocacy of the idea of a League of Nations and in urging the party to which it adheres to take a broad view of the matter. This is wise counsel if there is any accuracy in the view of the situation to be had from this portion of the state. One of the best known of our Connecticut river manufacturers, a stalwart Republican, very recently volunteered as his estimate of the situation the prediction that if Massachusetts Republicans set themselves against the league, what happened to Senator Weeks last fall would be "only a breeze" compared with what would be in store for the party in the future. It is this estimate which leads to the relief of such men when they see signs that the party as a whole is to follow wiser counsels.

* * *

Congressman Alvin T. Fuller of Madden has expressed the view of an increasing number of his fellow Republicans in a letter to President Wilson in which he wrote: "Personally I can not see what these people are thinking of who are opposing the peace agreement which is being negotiated in Paris. If it does not go through what have the nations of the world for their sacrifices? Are the nations going right ahead spending billions for armament?

"The moral sense of the people of the world is for peace, and while, of course, peace cannot be absolutely guaranteed, I am sure, practically speaking, everybody's prayers and best wishes are with you in your attempt to nail down the future peace of the world."

Some Real Truth About These Heroic Battle Cries

From Collier's

The only secret of good writing is always to have something to say. Brigadier General Catlin, in his book "With the Help of God and a Few Marines," tells in vivid fashion just what it was that happened at Belleau Wood in the first week of last June that helped to change the whole color of the world's most critical summer. A sure instinct taught the general to tell his tale in just the way that hurries the reader on from page to page like a mountain brook.

It would not be fair to our allies to persuade ourselves that such an action as that of Belleau Wood, where less than 2000 marines were engaged, was unique in gallantry or significance. The British, French, Belgians and Italians have fought hundreds such to our dozen. Yet, when modesty has had its say, fact remains: It was an attack of superb heroism at the crucial moment.

General Catlin does not attempt to poetize it. He tells with engaging candor that his last word to the marines before they crossed the wheat fields under a withering fire was "Give 'em hell, boys!" He adds: "Some one has reported that they advanced on those woods crying 'Remember the Lusitania!' If they did so I failed to hear it. Somehow that doesn't sound like the sort of thing the marine says under the conditions." We are glad that he tells us what they did say. When the lines wavered under the German fire a sergeant cried out: "Come on, you ——— ———, do you want to live forever?"

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.)

Others Have Rights

Eugene, March 14.—To the Editor of The Journal—In today's Journal J. M. Russell made some statements upholding the use of tobacco that provoked a few thoughts which I think ought to be set before those who had the advantage of reading his. He smokes, and I have no desire to prevent him from "the pursuit of happiness," provided he does not mar the happiness of anybody else. He speaks of some people who are made sick by the smell of tobacco smoke. If he never smoked where such people were annoyed thereby; if he never squirted tobacco juice where somebody else had to clean it up; if he never helped to fill a cuspidor which some housewife or some janitor was required to empty; if he never infringed upon any other person's pursuit of happiness; if he has not a family, some member of which has sometimes been deprived of some comfort which the price of his tobacco would have paid for—then he is a paragon among users of the weed. He is one in 10,000.

It must be admitted that men can be very comfortable without tobacco, but there are literally millions in the world today who could be comfortable with more food than they are able to get. The money paid for tobacco in America would feed them all.

We are very chivalrous here in Oregon. Women may sit in the statehouse as legislators and may fill clerkships there. But if any of them are in that class who, by Mr. Russell's admission, are made sick by the smoke, they may grin and bear it, or they may throw up the service, for, notwithstanding a rule forbidding smoking there, the legislative halls are a stifling smudge throughout the sessions.

There was a protest against sending tobacco to our soldiers in France without an effort to prevent those who went there free from the habit, and some of whom were so young that they could not obtain tobacco at home without violating the law, from getting it. Either the Y. M. C. A. or the Red Cross, or both of them, announced that they devoted no funds to the supplying of tobacco. They may have become more complaisant later. At any rate, a judge at Marshfield has dismissed a 14-year-old boy charged with smoking cigarettes on the street, on the ground that the action of those two organizations in France has virtually abrogated the Oregon anti-cigarette statute.

W. H. WHEELER.

Washing Windows

Portland, March 17.—To the Editor of The Journal—Seeing that people are still groping around in a blind kind of way in regard to building and safety devices for window cleaners I wish to say that it does not matter what kind of straps or safeties are used they will never give satisfation, nor save the time and expense of window washing, even though there probably is some way of making it safe for the workers. I would insist on having every window in the city, whether in public buildings or private homes to open like a door on cupboard door. The screens to swing out and to be on hinges so they can be lifted out and washed. There is already a lovely curtain rod is use in some of our homes that swings around and away from the windows, making it easy to get at the windows to wash them without taking down the curtains. The rods are in sections like a folding screen is made.

WORKING WOMAN.

Never Been Discussed

Amity, March 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—Will you explain the opinion of The Journal on the following questions in regard to the League of Nations?

First—Will the league have a flag?

Second—In case the league has a flag, will the league have power to compel all nations in the league to use the flag?

Third—Give any other information you may think will intgrest the readers of The Journal in regard to the league flag.

A READER.

Dispute Settled

Canyonville, March 18.—To the Editor of The Journal—To settle a heated dispute, please name the author of "Venus and Adonis"; also "Lucrece."

Was Sir Bulwer Lytton author of "The Lady of Lyons," ever known as "Owen Meredith"? TOM CRAWFORD.

[Shakespeare was author. "Owen Meredith" was the pen name of Bulwer Lytton's son.]

A Wins

Portland, March 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—Is there a law in Oregon requiring women to have health certificates before marriage? A says no; B says yes.

SUBSCRIBER.

Would Be Lenient

Portland, March 19.—To the Editor of The Journal—I feel sorry for Eugene V. Debs and other Socialist leaders who were convicted on the charge of violating the espionage law. They believe they are advocating principles that will elevate the producing masses above the bondage of industrial slavery. No one can question their motives. War and Socialism cannot ride in the same band wagon. The Socialist made a great mistake preaching anti-war doctrine when we were at war with a foreign foe. This government could not under any circumstances permit the preaching of a doctrine that would divide the people when we were in the midst of a mighty struggle for liberty. This is the reason the penalty is so severe. The Socialist believes the espionage law is unjust. He is mistaken. it is absolutely correct. When men will not be loyal to this country and government there should be a law to force them to be quiet. Mr. Debs is an aged man and it does seem hard that he should spend the rest of his natural life behind the prison doors for uttering a few words he should not have said. I think the president should exercise his pardoning power in some of these cases. We are all liable to mistakes and it is better to overlook and forgive one another for our shortcomings, rather than extend severe punishment. E. A. LINSCOTT.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

One thing that does not worry us. Where the next heavyweight championship prizefight will be fought.

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There is some sense in the suggestion that a few jobs be conscripted for some of the boys who were conscripted into service last year.

* * *

British roads will probably be nationalized, according to the news. And in the meantime we want some Oregon roads macadamized.

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News that the Polish government faces collapse may be taken as an indication that Paderewski may have struck some "blue notes."

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The almanac says that today is the first day of spring, though we're not so interested in what the book says as in how the weather behaves.

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Why all the fuss about proving that the kaiser and his ilk were responsible for starting the war? So far as we are able to judge no real American has ever disputed it.

* * *

Bellboys in a New York hotel went on a strike because the management moved their bench, and required them to stand in readiness for a call. Their places were taken quickly, so that it looks now as though the strikers had been sent to the "bench" for good.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

A 7500-pound Yuba caterpillar tractor will soon be in use on the streets of the city of Eugene, improving the macadam.

* * *

A poison club has been organized at Lone Pine schoolhouse, in the Klamath Basin. A determined effort will be made to exterminate the squirrel pest which has been such a handicap to the farmers.

* * *

Heppner now has a new band. All the boys have not yet received instruments, but when these arrive and the work of breaking in raw material is actually begun, then will an otherwise tranquil community enter upon an era of actual distress.

* * *

L. E. Warner of Yoncalla recently shipped a car of registered Jerseys to W. C. Withsett of Grants Pass, which brought a good price to the Yoncalla man. This is believed to be the first shipment of purebred Jerseys to be made from Douglas county.

* * *

There is more than a possibility that Central Oregon may see in the near future the development of raising sunflowers on a large scale as an ensilage crop for cattle, if the experiments which have been inaugurated by the First National bank of this city prove successful, says the Bend Press.

JOURNAL MAN AT HOME

By Fred Lockley

[Life aboard the Leviathan, formerly the Vaterland, is described in a letter from a relative aboard the great ship, from which Mr. Lockley today quotes. Also there is a description of how two German submarines got their deserts.]

In a recent article I spoke of the size and carrying capacity of the Leviathan. My nephew, R. J. Shepherd, now in France gives an interesting account of his trip overseas on the Leviathan. He says:

We received orders to fall in with full packs. Our packs weighed from 75 to 80 pounds. About one third of each of our companies were equipped with rifles, as ours was an engineer battalion. The rifles, of course, went to the larger men, of which I was one. We had four miles to go to the depot. We made it with but one stop. Next morning the train came to a stop about daylight, and we piled off. It was as we surmised, Hoboken. Several hours were spent waiting in line along with thousands of other men. At noon we were still waiting in line to go aboard the ship, while thousands of men marched past us, went through a doorway and disappeared. It seemed inconceivable that they could all be going aboard the same ship.

* * *

During this wait the Red Cross girls came through and served us with coffee; and such coffee it was! We have had none like it since). Finally our turn came and we followed the others through this doorway which had such an unlimited capacity for swallowing up regiment after regiment. Out through this doorway we went and down a short passage and onto a gangplank. We glanced ahead to see where we were going but saw nothing but a wall of steel plate painted in camouflage colors with a small doorway through which our line was streaming. We craned our necks to see how high this steel wall was and saw that it continued for some 70 feet over our heads. Then we knew. We were sailing on the Leviathan (the old Vaterland), the largest vessel in the world. In a gangway we went, back and around, down another, and over to the other side of the ship. Then finally, when we were completely lost, we wound up in compartment H-5, the ninth deck down from A, but only one deck down from the top we came in on. Here a master mind had designed a series of bunks to permit of the greatest possible number of men in a given amount of space.

* * *

Our life aboard ship is a story in itself. I will only say that we were chased about a mile twice a day, up and down gangways and a long passageway to our meals and back; that we all had ravenous appetites and the time between our two meals seemed an eternity; that in spite of "abandon ship" drill every day, we considered our life preservers, which we were obliged to wear at all times, as a joke. Fritzie, on the other hand, thought differently about it and laid in wait off the coast of France for the great ex-German liner, which they had sworn to get.

We were down in our compartment and thought they were having target practice when they began firing. The subs had taken a desperate chance. They had placed themselves in our path, and as we approached, dived, figuring to come up all around us, and get in their shots before we had time to sink them. But they figured on our normal speed, and we were making up time, so the result was they came up from 500 to 600 yards in the rear. The first periscope had scarcely begun to slice the water when the aft guns opened up and got it. The next one came up just in time to see a destroyer, one of our convoy, come tearing down on her. She ducked but was too late, and the destroyer put her out of business with a depth bomb. The others came up and dived as quickly, followed by a trail of shots, the results of which were not known.

* * *

We landed in the beautiful harbor of Brest and marched four miles to an old barracks built by Napoleon. We were quartered just outside the barracks in pyramidal tents. We stayed there about 10 days, then came on by rail to St. Julian, a little village about eight miles from Dijon, which is about 100 miles south of Verdun. Here we were put on forestry work. I haven't time to tell you all about it now, but will simply say that we went to work in one of the finest hardwood forests in France. The way the French maintain their hardwood forests is to leave a certain percentage of the trees standing for future growth, and take out the rest. We knew the pride the French took in their forests and felt a little ticklish about wading into them with our slashing American methods, especially as there were no French inspectors available at that time to oversee the work. There was just one company of us, 250 men. The company had come over expecting to build roads, and the officers knew nothing about forestry work. About the only instruction we had was to leave 30 trees to the acre for the future. What kind no one seemed to know. We started to work at noon, clearing out the brush and smaller trees, leaving the saw timber standing. Most of the men didn't seem to have much idea just what interval the trees should be apart in order to leave 30 to the acre.

* * *

I won my first recognition with the C. O. when the work started by presenting my ideas in regard to the manner of selecting trees to be left for future growth. There were no French inspectors available at that time to look after this work, so I was put in charge of it. With the assistance of Louis, an old French forest guard, I learned the French names of all the trees in the forest, as well as the American names, learned the various uses the French put the different kinds of lumber to, and the trees that they preferred to have left and the percentage of each kind. As a sidelight here on the French mind, I asked the old forester if they wished to have any wild cherry trees left, and he said, "Yes, a few for the birds." In a few days I was the acknowledged authority in the company on forestry. My work was to act in the same capacity as a French inspector and to see that the work was done as nearly as possible according to French standards. I continued on this job about six or eight weeks, and then the French forest inspectors arrived and completed the job.

Shortly before leaving England I made a tour of the naval bases and principal ports of England. I talked to thousands of bluejackets and naval officers, as well as to British naval officers and men. One day I took an American sailor, a member of the crew of a submarine, to lunch at the Cheshire Cheese in London. Before enlisting he was a professional golf player. "I am afraid that we have got quite a few of the British subs," he said to me. "It is very difficult to tell an enemy sub from one of our own, or from a British sub. Recently one of our officers went aboard a British sub to get some pointers on the work. The following day we were cruising offshore and saw a periscope. It submerged. We passed directly over it, going at about 15 knot speed. As we passed we dropped a depth bomb. We got it, all right. Our officer never returned, and next day we heard that a British submarine had been sunk."

* * *

A day or two later, while I was traveling on a train through Devonshire en route to Cornwall, I fell into talk with a British sailor. He was a big husky chap, 6 feet tall and weighed 193 pounds, most of it bone and muscle. He had been in the navy for many years and was a splendid type of a British seadog. "I have been on the Marlborough ever since she was launched, and was there shortly before the war," he said. "One of the narrowest squeaks I ever had in my life was aboard the Marlborough. We got a torpedo in our side, which made a hole over 80 feet long. The force of the explosion lifted us clear out of the water. When we went down a wall of water came clear over us. I thought it was all day with us. We righted, however, and though we had a slight list, we stayed in action for two hours and were able to make port. Our gross tonnage is around 31,000 tons. We carried about 3000 tons of coal in our bunkers. That is where the torpedo got us. As you know, the more resistance a torpedo finds the greater its destructive force. When this torpedo exploded in the coal bunkers it blew a big hole in the side of our ship and blew out over 1000 tons of coal into the sea. We limped into port a pretty sorry looking ship."

THAT REFERENDUM ON THE LEAGUE

From the Chicago News

Senator Borah and a few of his colleagues are touring the country in opposition to the proposed League of Nations and demanding "a plebiscite" or referendum on the question, in the event that a treaty, including provisions for a league, is submitted to the senate for ratification.

These gentlemen are well aware that there is no national law for any sort of plebiscite, and that, under our constitution, it would be practically impossible to enact one and apply it nationally to the league issue. They are merely seeking to befog the situation. They remind one of the insincere demand of pro-Germans and pacifists of a certain type for a referendum on the war question, or, later, on the selective service act, or on the sending of American armies and naval squadrons for service overseas. There is always something suspicious about such sudden conversions to the referendum idea and the refusal to face difficulties and objections.

It is safe to say there will be no formal plebiscite on the League of Nations. The senate will have to act under existing law on its own mature judgment. It will have to determine for itself what public sentiment favors in the premises, what sort of amendments may fairly be insisted on and what proposals are irrational and devoid of spontaneous and sincere public support.

Meanwhile an informal plebiscite is being held in the country, and the senators would better follow the returns. The public is being heard from. We are having a referendum of the familiar American sort. The irreconcilable anti-league senators should stop talking long enough to entertain the ideas of the people. Let them propose carefully worked out amendments, if they really wish to help and take part in a great constructive task. Impracticable demands for referendums are not helpful.

Olden Oregon

United Presbyterian Church Had Its Genesis in Linn County.

The movement to amalgamate churches, or church union, was first begun in Oregon. In 1851 there were four branches of the Presbyterian church in the territory. They were the First Presbyterians, the Cumberland Presbyterians, Associate Presbyterians and Associate Reformed Presbyterians. The last two were seceders from the old church of Scotland. At a meeting of these two branches near Brownsville in 1852, it was decided to combine under the name United Presbyterian. The first congregation under the new organization was the United Presbyterian church of Albany, still in existence, established in 1853. It also has the distinction of being the first organization in North America under the name United Presbyterian. Following the example of the Oregon churches the churches of the east of the Associate Presbyterians and Associate Reformed Presbyterians also consolidated under the title The United Presbyterian Church of North America, which in 1859 took in the United Presbyterian church of Oregon.

DO YOU FAVOR A LEAGUE OF NATIONS to prevent future wars, such as President Wilson and Former President Taft are working for?

(Yes or No)

Enclose this coupon in an envelope addressed to "League of Nations Editor, Care The Journal, Portland, Oregon," or bring it to The Journal business office and drop it in the ballot box. Only persons of voting age should send in a ballot.

(Sign your name here)

Address

Ragtag and Bobtail

Stories From Everywhere.

An Arabian Nights Tale

AFTER a 10-year-old boy in a New York tenement district had dazzled his playmates for days by showing them rolls of $10 bills and pocketsful of jewelry, says Capper's Weekly, the police got him. The lad told them that while playing in the street he fell through a coal hole into a cellar. The place seemed to be deserted. In exploring the rooms upstairs he found the floors strewn with $5 and $10 bills that had been wadded up and thrown into every corner, while jewelry littered the dressing tables. Investigation verified the boy's story. The house had been occupied by a Mrs. James Sandham, an aged recluse, who had recently died, and the boy was the first person to enter the place after she had been removed to a hospital. The money, believed to be rents from her tenants, the old woman is supposed to have thrown on the floor as she received it.

Consider Old Sol

King Solomon had cause to kick
About his house untidy,
Neglected, sad—
When off did gad
His wives on bargain Friday.
—Cartoons Magazine.

Uncle Jeff Snow Says:

Some people'd ruther spend four years palaverin' around to git a jinx office not worth what they could earn raisin' pertaters on shares than do anything else in the world. Old Man Mills, who uster run the free pass end of the Southern Pacific fer the newspaper editors in Californy, told me he knowed a lot of cases where a feller'd spend three days' time and pay hotel bills to git a pass worth a $4 ticket. He couldn't understand it, but I told him a feller that got a office or a pass felt like he moved among the people that turned the world around—which, after a manner of speakin' he done, oncet upon a time.

The News in Paragraphs

World Happenings Briefed for Benefit of Journal Readers

GENERAL

The government has set April 13 as the date for the election of delegates to the Hungarian national assembly.

On account of the high price of milk housewives of Berkeley, Cal., are planning a city-wide boycott on milk distributors.

Employes of the beef packing plant of Armour & Co. at Rio Janeiro have gone on strike and operations are at a standstill.

The strength of the American army on March 15 was 2,268,537, a decrease of 1,402,351 since the signing of the armistice.

Bishop James W. Bashford, for many years a prominent figure in the Methodist Episcopal church, died at Los Angeles Tuesday.

Ten thousand textile workers at Pawtucket, R. I., have been granted a 15 per cent increase in wages, dating back to last July 1.

Nearly 1200 garment workers at Cleveland who went on strike Tuesday returned to work Thursday on a 30 per cent wage increase.

The former residence of Princess Clementine at Brussels is being fitted up to receive President and Mrs. Wilson on their visit to that city.

Fourteen German planes, captured by American fliers in France, have arrived at Baltimore and will be used in the Victory loan advertising campaign.

Another death from a long siege of sleeping sickness is that of John W. Klein of Omaha, connected with the health department of the Union Pacific railroad.

The "soldiers' council" at Christiania, Norway, has issued a proclamation calling for the disarmament of the bourgeoisie should they defend themselves from the red guards.

NORTHWEST NOTES

Ten submarine chasers will patrol Alaska waters during the 1919 fish canning season.

The Richey & Gilbert company will build a two story warehouse at Yakima to cost $60,000.

W. H. Walton has resigned the editorship of the Baker Herald to take charge of Better Fruit at Hood River.

A soaking rain throughout the Inland Empire during the past week was of great benefit to wheat growers.

M. L. Williams, aged 60 years, died at St. Anthony's hospital in Pendleton from the results of a broken leg.

Final arrangements have been made for the construction of an ice plant and storage building at Vancouver to cost $25,000.

Clinton A. Lathrop, who shot and killed his wife February 8 at Spokane, has been found guilty of murder in the first degree.

The government employment office at Yakima has placed 1428 laborers since January 1, and still there is a shortage of farm hands.

Mrs. A. S. Walker has been discharged as teacher in the Carbonado, Wash., schools for attempting to organize a teachers' union.

One corporation within the income revenue limits of Washington and Alaska paid income taxes of $1,400,000 at Tacoma last week.

The total crop of cranberries in Clatsop county the past season was over 2000 barrels. The average yield was 30 barrels per acre.

Assessed valuations in Deschutes county range from 11 to 48 per cent of true value, and it is recommended they be raised 50 per cent.

In Spokane there is an apparent equality of labor supply and demand, while in Seattle the total unemployed, including strikers, is 50,000.

Howard Cooper writes to his parents at Hood River that he has just sailed for Europe as warrant officer aboard the steamship Powhatan.

Captain L. J. Weckser of the United States army has arrived at Salem from Siberia to attend the funeral of his wife, who died January 4.

Fully 8,250,000 salmon eggs have been put through the process of incubation at the government hatchery on Lake Quinault during the past year.

Charles E. Thomas, ex-president of the First National bank of Bremerton, Wash., is under arrest charged with misappropriation of the bank's funds.

Henry M. Johnson, said to be a resident of Portland, is under arrest at Eugene, charged with drawing a check for $2500 on a bank in which he had no funds.

Burglars blew up the safe of the Broomfield Lumber company at Broomfield, Wash., Tuesday, causing a fire which destroyed the offices and all records of the company.

The quarterly report of Librarian Cornelia Marvin shows that during the past biennial period the state library has mailed out 30,000 more books than in any other period in its history.

Portland Boy Sells Papers, Buys Stamps

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

John T. Curtis, 9 years old, 8620 Sixty-fourth street southeast, Portland, has the right idea. John writes us as follows:

"On Sunday morning I get up at 7 o'clock and sell papers. After paying my bill I buy Thrift Stamps with what money I have left. I have three War Savings Stamps and 14 Thrift Stamps."

Good for you, John. Keep it up.

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