

RED CROSS LIES REFUTED BY CHAIRMAN HENRY W. MYERS

H. W. Myers, chairman Willamette chapter Red Cross, gives some facts and figures, also states that the chapter will pay \$100 reward to nail Red Cross lies; this amount will be paid to the person proving that the Red Cross is composed of grafters or that any of the local noble men and women working in the interest of the Red Cross are salaried workers, or receiving any remuneration whatsoever.

"You've heard about the logger, who is supposed to have written regarding his purchase of a pair of socks made for the soldiers."

"You've heard about the workers and those interested in Red Cross getting rich from Red Cross receipts."

"You've heard about solicitors for membership getting a commission."

These are all lies and proven so, yet there are traitors and fools who carry on these Red Cross lies. The Red Cross will take means to apprehend all such transmitters of these falsehoods and give them the opportunity of receiving the reward offered or take the consequences.

Two very important things have marked the first Red Cross Christmas of the United States. They are the great 10,000,000 new membership campaign just closing and the Christmas reminder from the people at home. Thousands of our soldier and sailor boys have been enrolled as members and it is not asking much for you to join. Your dollar will assist to meet the urgent demands for the last three months Red Cross shipments to Europe have ranged from 10,000 to 15,000 tons of supplies each month. This has been

accomplished by the wonderful national spirit of the men and women of America, when it is known that the Red Cross supplies over 4000 hospitals in France with surgical dressings, how vitally important are our shipments. Henry T. Davidson, the Red Cross chief, says for every dollar received by the Red Cross it spends more than a dollar to help our soldiers and relieve our allies at the front. This is made possible from the accrued interest on the enormous fund on deposit. As the overhead expense is so low, due to the volunteer help given this wonderful organization, and all salaries paid comes from membership dues and enough remains to carry on relief work. The funds provided for Red Cross work in Halifax came from membership dues. The contribution of \$250,000 for work in China came from the same fund; \$21,000,000 has been spent in France and another \$21,000,000 has been appropriated. In every part of stricken Europe today Red Cross voluntary workers are in service; think of an organization capable of cleaning and feeding 10,000 soldiers per day, as well as sterilizing their clothing; this is the personal touch that raises the morale of the men and causes them to realize that amidst the whirl of battle, the spirit of patriotism and sympathy flows through the Red Cross.

The Red Cross has organized nearly fifty ambulance companies and 14,000 Red Cross nurses have been enrolled for duty; over 3000 are in active service.

Millions of women have been mobilized for work in surgical dressings,

hospital garments and clothing. Knitted garments and comfort kits. It has been estimated that the value of their work will amount to over \$40,000,000; of this amount it is most gratifying to know that Willamette chapter in Salem and vicinity has supplied 41,787 surgical dressings and 24,390 hospital supplies. The total receipts received by the chapter since the organization up to November 30 amounts to \$2,159.63, and the pay for clerical help has been the munificent sum of \$170.14. The chapter has no rent to pay, due to the kindness of the United States National bank and the postoffice department.

A matter of grave importance confronts the board of directors and that is with the present available amount of funds on hand for military relief and the increased output, the same will be exhausted by March 1, as it requires \$3000 per month to operate.

You don't have to be a general, nor go to a foreign land but it is up to you to do your part and play the game all the time and stand by the Red Cross.

Say, do you know that the Red Cross is operating an artificial limb factory in France and building another in Italy? I could go around the circle of these great United States and quote you instance after instance of Red Cross work, but I want to emphasize the fact that the Red Cross plays her part and does it well. If you have any suggestions to make, constructively and honestly, the Red Cross welcomes them, but this idle talk and injurious propaganda is harmful and must be stopped.

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NO INCREASE IN BIRTH RATE

Record in Salem May Run Slightly Short of Number for Year 1916

Apparently there is practically no difference between the number of births in Salem in 1916 and 1917. The total number during 1916, as shown on the records of City Health Officer O. B. Miles was 240, or 123 females and 117 males. Up to the close of November the number of births for 1917 totaled 216. Births in Salem average between nineteen and twenty a month. Adding twenty to 216 makes 236, or four less than that number of births in 1916. Deaths in Salem numbered 153 for 1917 up to the close of November. The December records have not yet been completed.

The birth and death record for Salem for all months of 1917 except December is as follows:

January—Births 23: Female 11, male 12. Deaths 21: Female 11, male 10.

February—Births 20: Females 9, males 11. Deaths 11: Females 7, males 4.

March—Births 14: Females 6, male 8. Deaths 15: Females 8, males 7.

April—Births 21: Females 6, males 15. Deaths 14: Females 8, males 6.

May—Births 23: Females 10, males 13. Deaths 18: Females 5, males 13.

June—Births 20: Females 6, males 14. Deaths 8: Females 3, males 5.

July—Births 31: Females 11, males 15. Deaths 15: Females 5, males 10.

August—Births 16: Females 10, males 6. Deaths 13: Females 8, males 5.

September—Births 13: Females 7, males 10. Deaths 11: Females 7, males 4.

October—Births 16: Females 6, males 10. Deaths 16: Females 6, males 10.

November—Births 12: Females 7, males 5. Deaths 11: Females 3, males 8.

Middle Grove School Puts on Big Christmas Program

The Christmas celebration at the Middle Grove Sunday school will long be remembered by those who took part in it, as well as the visitors, not only because it was a gathering something out of the ordinary, but for the important reason that it presented better things for the year to come.

T. F. Walker of the Middle Grove farm, as superintendent of the Sunday school, saw to it that every one had a joyful Christmas day, and under his direction, the following program of exercises was successfully carried out:

Song; responsive reading; prayer; song, "Hearty Welcome"; A Christmas Welcome, Myrtle Crane; "If God Loses the Babe," Joseph Bartruff, Jr.; A Welcome, Hugh McCain; song, "Christmas Joybells," by primary class; "A Kindly Dead," Virginia Bartruff; "The Prince of Peace," Omer Bartruff; song, "Peace on Earth"; "A Large Contract," Owen Crane; "The Beautiful Story," Nips Bartruff; "My Speech," Chester McCain; "The First Christmas," Freda Bartruff; song, "Hang Up the Hoop"; "The Coming of Jesus," Margaret Bartruff; "The Angels Sing," Pauline McCain; recitation, Ella Fandrich; song, "Gift of Love"; "Inasmuch," Magdalena Bartruff; "Peace on Earth," Virginia Van Cleave; "Just Suppose," Leo McCallister; special song, "Bethlehem"; "The Beautiful Story of Bethlehem," Verna Bartruff; "Poor Old Santa Claus," Signa Beckman; class song; drill brilliant by eight girls; "A Christmas Surprise," by Little Bartruff; remarks by pastor; collection; No. 23, closing song, "All Praise to the King."

The drought in a portion of Texas has caused losses this year aggregating \$400,000,000.

PLUMMER GIVES SPEECHES IN INLAND EMPIRE

Conservation Worker Soon to Leave for Washington and Idaho

SPEAKS OF CANDIDACY

Opportunity for Service Is Seen in Position of State Treasurer

Just before taking the train Saturday to Independence, for the purpose of making a food conservation address, O. M. Plummer, federal food conservationist under W. B. Ayer, of Portland, stated that upon his return from Corvallis, where he promised to address a mass meeting of farmers on the food conservation question, after leaving Independence, he would go into Washington and Idaho to make addresses in all the leading cities of the inland empire.

When asked what he thought about the failure of the Marion county court to appropriate the \$1700, as requested, to aid the government in maintaining its county agricultural in this county, Mr. Plummer said: "I was not much surprised at the decision, for I was present when the court had the matter up for consideration. Both myself and Mr. Brown, the county agent, were invited to make addresses, which we did, but when one or two farmers held the floor and made a lot of misrepresentations, it seemed as though the truth did not have any effect when the time came for the court to make its decision."

"Had it been a fact that a large majority of the farmers who pay taxes, mind you, had either signed the petitions against the appointment of a county agent, or had spoken in open court against him, it might have produced a different feeling on my part, but I heard much of what was said in court, and there were just as many in favor of the appointment, if not more, than there were who spoke against it. I had all the petitions in my own hands, with the permission of Judge Bushy, and counted the names myself, pro and con, and the total number of signatures is not nearly one-half of the farmers in the county. Furthermore, many farmers who protested against the county agent are living on rented farms, and pay no taxes at all. Other farmers who want and need the assistance of a county agent, and who petitioned the court for one, are thus made to suffer through the mistaken zeal of non-taxpayers, some of whom, I am told on the very best of authority, used enough gasoline in their motor cars circulating petitions against the county agent to have paid many, many times over the share of the entire community for its support of the agent. It is only 4 cents in every \$1000 of taxable property that is required of any one, and that would cost about 40 cents a year,

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on the average, for each farmer who pays taxes.

"There is another thing to consider in this county agent business. I know personally that the county agent has been of immense service in the past to the Salem Fruit Union, and many owners of orchards, on which taxes are paid, live in Marion county to appropriate \$400, when time and time again Federal Agent Plummer has stated publicly at different meetings as well as stated the fact in the papers, that all Marion county was asked to appropriate was \$1700, no more and no less."

"My books show that during the month of November I called and personally met over 600 farmers. Some of them one at a time, but for the most part in community meetings, grange hall meetings and school houses in every part of the county."

"It is impossible to get around the county without using an automobile, and as I am away in the county most of the time, a stenographer in the office is another absolute necessity, as the correspondence with farmers and others is very large and must be taken care of."

"When the government desires my resignation, I will hand it in, but until that time comes, I will be on the job as usual."

Automobiles in State Show Total of 48,632

Year-end records in the office of Secretary of State Olcott show that for the year 1917, 48,632 automobiles were registered in Oregon. The total for 1916 was 32,917, an increase of 14,715. The amount taken in fees was \$198,000. Motorcycles registered numbered 4300.

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BROWN SPEAKS ON COURT'S ACT

County Agent Will Be on Job in Marion Under Federal Direction

When it became definitely known that the Marion county court had refused to include in the 1918 budget the \$1700 appropriation for the share it was asked to allow for the maintenance of a county agricultural agent, by the federal government, which pays \$1000 a year. County Agent Brown said that the failure of the county court to make its appropriation would not cause him to quit his job.

"You see," he continued, "I am already in the federal service, and until the government fires me, I expect to remain right here in Marion county, attending to its business."

"I am sorry, though, that so many mis-statements were made, during the session of the court when the proposed budget was being considered, and am convinced that many of the farmers who opposed the re-appointment of a so-called county agent for Marion county were misled in the matter. Mr. Plummer has been with me in attendance at a great many meetings of farmers in different parts of the county, and we went to most of them by special invitation, because these particular men had difficult problems to solve, which we so explained to them that they now know what to do for their own relief. At each of these meetings those present signed petitions for the employment of a county

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