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AGAINST GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

Government operation of the railroads during war time is a vastly different proposition from government ownership.

It is one thing for a people to make sacrifices of its liberties, of life itself, when its autonomy is threatened by an armed aggressor, and a wholly different proposition to endure servitude for an unlimited period.

Efficiency becomes subservient to political expediency; the army of taxers is enormously increased; and the taxpayer, who has no voice in the direction of the enterprise, is forced to make up the losses.

It is sufficient to observe at this time that in no country in the world where the railroads are owned and operated by the state are the freight rates per ton per mile as low as on the privately owned transcontinental lines in the United States.

Germany owned practically the whole of the steam railways in that country before the war, and the freight rates were nearly twice as high as those in the United States, despite the fact that railway employees in Europe are paid but little more than half what they receive in this country.

We surely do not want public ownership.
And we do not want public operation, excepting as a war measure.

We have had practically public operation for some time; and the new order for complete control is in effect largely to obviate the difficulties that would otherwise be met on account of the laws against pooling, etc.; perhaps, also, to make smaller the danger of interference of troop and military supply movements on account of strikes.

The Red Cross needs workers, at the Salem postoffice building, to get dressings ready to send to the hospitals in Europe. THEY NEED THEM NOW; not after a few days or weeks or months. They need them while it is yet time to prepare the supplies so that they may be behind the battle fronts in sufficient quantities when the wounded United States soldiers begin to drift back from the firing lines. To get them there for OUR OWN SALEM AND OREGON BOYS. Some of the loyal Salem women have worn their fingers bare, and worked almost night and day; AND NOW THEY NEED MORE HELP. Will they get it? Of course they will. Salem women will not allow this appeal to go unheeded. They will be there in sufficient numbers to take up all the room provided for the work.

"Damn the Germans on the western front; go ahead," Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay slightly changed. —Exchange.

It is believed that Nevada will elect a Republican successor to the late Senator Newlands. Here is hoping.

With everybody eating less, we shall hear no more about "nobody loves a fat man." There will be no such "pussan."

And there is Russia, the Judas of nations.—Los Angeles Times. Isn't it a bit early to classify that country? Almost anything may happen yet.

The great indoor sport is figuring your income tax, a return of which has to be made between January 1 and March 1. Payments to be made before June 15.

A circus clown has been foully murdered in Kansas City, Mo., and just when the supply of clowns is none too large. They are almost an extinct species.

Four members of congress have enlisted in the American Army: Augustus P. Gardner of Massachusetts, Victor Helms of Ohio, Florent La Guardia of New York, and Royal C. Johnson of South Dakota. And it may be but a coincidence, but every mother's son of them is a Republican.

There should be a strict investigation of the sanitary conditions at the army cantonments and of the reports of sickness and death. It

is due the mothers of America in view of the mighty sacrifices. The government has taken every precaution. Has somebody been derelict? Let us know about it.

RUTHLESSNESS OF GERMAN SPY SYSTEM.

A person described as a neutral secret service agent, and whose work has made him a well known figure in nearly every capital of Europe, is authority for some startling disclosures of what goes on behind the scenes of the German Espionage bureau, according to a London news bureau. Most astounding of these disclosures are those which tell of the brutal pitilessness with which the German emperor treats the spies for whom the Fatherland has no further use.

However valuable be the service a German spy has rendered to his or her country, they are never allowed to be pensioned off, nor spend the declining years of their lives in peace. When the secret service has had all it can get out of them death is their inevitable portion. And the reason why the Kaiser murders his spies—morally, if not in actual fact, is not far to seek.

The very nature of their calling puts them in possession of information the disclosure of which would be disastrous to the Fatherland. During the time they are actually in the service there is comparative little danger of their doing harm.

Periodical tests of the most complete and searching character are made to plumb the depth of a spy's loyalty. The men cannot trust their own wives; the women their own mothers and sisters. Letters are op-

ened and examined, maids and men-servants are installed to spy upon the spies—and they in turn are spied upon—and this great espionage network is so vast, so interminable, that no one on earth seems to know exactly where it ends. It is practically impossible for a spy to communicate or preserve anything valuable in writing.

In the early days of Great Britain's stupendous efforts to turn out munitions in tremendous quantities, the German secret service, on the Kaiser's own suggestion, is said to have sent orders that as many as possible of the German women spies left in England should wed themselves to British workmen in order that they might get better facilities for spying—particularly in obtaining information relative to the secrets incidental to the manufacture of munitions.

It is said that a list of forty names of German women then in England was sent over, and the order was that within a given period they were to be married to British men. Nearly half of them, it is said, failed to comply with the order. They knew what it meant. Before them lay the choice of two terrible alternatives—murder or suicide.

It was during this period that brief paragraphs appeared almost daily in the London newspapers telling of the finding of the body of a well-dressed woman in the Thames, or dead in her lodgings from an overdose of poison. To the average newspaper reader it was just simply another of life's happenings. To the few having a knowledge of the Kaiser's heinous plot, these little paragraphs told in the plainest possible language the story of another life sacrificed to the ruthlessness of the German spy system.

Tales might be told of men who have been imprisoned, starved, tortured, and even blinded because they had transgressed the laws of the German espionage bureau, the tentacles of which stretch from Berlin to Baghdad, to every nook and corner of the continent of Europe, and, it is safe to assume, to all parts of the United States.

If the spy dreads the Kaiser, the Kaiser dreads the spy. That is why the war lord resorts to the wholesale criminal methods with which he is said to deal with those who fail or refuse to act according to orders.

The person responsible for the disclosures claims to have seen with his own eyes the imperial signature attached to documents authorizing the shooting, poisoning, drowning, or stabbing, not only of men but of young girls of from 17 to 20 and women between 50 and 65 who have failed in their duty as spies.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

It is still spring.

Wanted, more Red Cross workers.

They are wanted at the Salem postoffice building.

They are needed to prepare bandages, so that they may be ready to ship to Europe.

And the bandages must be there in sufficient quantities when our own boys begin to drift back from the firing lines, wounded.

The U-boat toll of British merchant ships last week was twenty-one. A fearful toll. But not enough to win the war for ruthlessness and murderous autocracy.

The Bolsheviks of Russia gags at the German proposals to hold Poland, Lithuania and Courland, and retain garrisons on the Baltic ports. The simple Socialists of Russia have imagined that they might stir up the Socialists of Germany. But they are not instead by the representatives of autocracy and junkerdom. And their beautiful dream is dissipated in thin air. The Russians must fight and not fraternize. A lamb cannot fraternize with a wolf, without danger to the lamb.

December, 1917, was the mildest on the records of the Portland weather bureau; the nearest approach being December of 1875, when the mean temperature was 47.7. It was 48.8 for the 1917 December, and the normal is 41.3. December, 1917, also had the heaviest rainfall since 1882. The former was 18.96 inches, and the latter over 22 inches.

Germany makes a raft of singles, doubles, and three-baggers, but somehow most of her men are left out there on the bases.—Honolulu Star Bulletin.

It must be consoling to Rumania to know that she has the Teutons in front of her and the Bolsheviks behind her.—St. Louis Star.

A SUCCESSFUL REMEDY.
All things succeed which really deserve to.—which fill a real need, which prove their worth. The fact that the famous old root and herb remedy, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, has for three generations been relieving women of this country from the worst form of female ill and has won such a strong place in our American homes proves its merit beyond the question of a doubt. It will pay any woman who is in need of such a medicine to try it.

IN A SOCIAL WAY

By Florence Elizabeth Nichols

"Maplethorp," the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Emery in the "Walden Hills," was the scene of a delightful step-dance party Friday evening. The rooms were tastefully decorated with Oregon grape, mistletoe and Christmas bells. The drawing room and dining room were thrown open for dancing while the east parlor was arranged with tables for cards.

This is the first of a series of stepping parties to be given by the "Willard Woman's Club." Dainty refreshments were served by the hostess, assisted by club members. Among those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Lou Haberley, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Haberley, Mr. and Mrs. G. Davenport, Mr. and Mrs. J. Upson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bowers, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Riches, Mr. and Mrs. Will Egan, Mr. and Mrs. Wilks, Mr. and Mrs. Wilks, Sr., from Tillamook, Mr. and Mrs. Harris Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pooler, Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Bowen, Mr. and Mrs. Arch. Geer, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Olbaugh, Mrs. John Thompson, Mrs. Matilda Hunt Lillelund, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bye, Mr. and Mrs. John Small, Mr. and Mrs. Comstock, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cause, the Misses Gladys and Eveline Emery, Marie Haberley, Mildred Haberley, Helen Currie, Ruth Finley, Gladys Davenport, Lois and Winnie Riches, Miss Loreen Pooler and Miss Morley, and Messrs. Harry Bowers, George Cause, Loid Haberley, Karl Haberley, Harry Riches, Frank Riches, Oral Egan, Cecil Sargent from U. S. A. marines, John Currie, Jr., Laurence Pooler, John Marder, Mr. Currie and Albert Marder.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Polson of Kenneth Falls, Wash., were recently guests of Mrs. C. E. Whitney and family and other Salem relatives. Mrs. Polson and Mrs. Whitney are sisters.

The installation of new officers for the Woman's Relief Corps will be held Saturday afternoon in Moose hall.

Miss Irene Howard of 1030 Oak street has been entertaining as guest, W. A. Boatman of the United States naval training camp at Seattle. Miss Howard is the daughter of Mrs. Blanche Howard and is in Salem from Butte, Mont., for a visit with her mother.

A merry surprise party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dencer of Liberty recently. The evening was passed informally. Those participating in the gaieties were: Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. A. Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Smith Dougherty, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Dencer, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Free, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Dencer, Mr. and Mrs. Lemon and son, Mr. and Mrs. Hammel, Mr. and Mrs. Aris, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Dencer, Miss A. Smith, Miss Gladys Jory, W. Jory and Elmo Jory.

Mrs. Dora B. Schilke, who has been a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Carlton since Monday, left yesterday for Corvallis where she will give an address before those attending the Farmers' week sessions. Mrs. Schilke is state president of the Parent-teacher association, and Monday addressed the county school superintendents of Oregon who are in session at the States House to grade the papers submitted following the state teachers' examinations. Mrs. Schilke is past grand worthy matron of the Eastern Star for Oregon and assisted in the installation of officers of the local organization New Year's night.

Miss Flora M. Case, city librarian, is in Corvallis, where she went to attend a food conservation convention.

Miss Mildred Bartholomew has returned to Portland following a visit with Salem friends. She is a gymnasium teacher in the Sellwood community house.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Shisler have returned to their home in Harrisburg following a holiday visit with their many Salem friends and relatives. Mr. Shisler is principal of the high school in Harrisburg.

Clatsop County Work to Continue During Winter

Herbert Nunn, state highway engineer, has returned from Clatsop county where he visited two of the paving projects on the Columbia River highway in that county that recently have been taken out of the hands of the Warren Construction company because of failure of the company to live up to its agreement with the state highway commission. Nunn says that the work will be continued through the winter months with practically the same crews and equipment that have been used, but that the state will have direction of the work.

Engineer Nunn believes that by continuing the work through the winter the labor shortage that is sure to come in the summer will not be a handicap on the completion of the Clatsop county projects.

Silverton Young Man Is Dead at Fort Sam Houston

Information has reached Salem of the death of Irvin G. Brooks, a Silverton young man, which took place at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Death was due to meningitis. His parents live in Portland. He was graduated from the University of Oregon in 1913 and has spent much of the time since then in eastern Oregon. He was sergeant major of an aero squadron at the time of his death, having been transferred to Fort Sam Houston from Camp Lewis.

We Are Hurrying

THE MERCHANDISE OUT OF OUR BIG

STORAGE BASEMENT

Where we kept our immense reserve stock is now empty. But we still have a very large stock, and will keep on selling at Closing Out Prices. The entire stock is being sacrificed even in the face of the tremendous world-wide advanced prices.

To our Closing Out Sale we add the Special Feature
A JANUARY WHITE SALE
We only mention one special

60c Brassiers
now 49c

35c Brassiers
now 29c

\$1 double Waists
for Misses, 69c

Stockton

Student's Gift Gives Happiness to Soldier

Students of the Salem high school sent Christmas remembrances to soldiers at different cantonments throughout the nation and replies are beginning to be received. Miss Mervie Whitney has received a letter from Roy Evans, a soldier at Camp Lewis who says he was lucky enough to draw the Christmas package sent by Miss Whitney. He writes:

"Through the kindness of the Red Cross I was the lucky one to draw the Christmas package with your cheer and best wishes. I assure you that every article was greatly appreciated. We boys admire the spirit of the Salem, Oregon, high school. Wishing you also a merry Christmas and happy, successful new year, I am your soldier-boy friend in the service of our beloved country." A post script reminds Miss Whitney that any other favors through the mail will be promptly answered.

Don't think because you have taken many remedies in vain that your case is incurable. Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured many seemingly hopeless cases of scrofula, catarrh, rheumatism, kidney complaint, dyspepsia and general debility. Take Hood's.

Marion Residents Hosts to Holiday Visitors

The latest Oregon bank to be organized is the Monitor State bank, at Monitor, this county, which has been granted a charter by S. G. Sargent, state superintendent of banks, and which began operation yesterday. It is capitalized at \$15,000 and has a surplus of \$1500. A. W. Gillis is president and C. W. Conyne cashier.

Marion county now has twenty banking institutions, seventeen state banks and three national banks. The latest national bank is the First National bank of Silverton, recently organized from the Silverton People's bank.

EAT BIG MEALS! NO SOUR, ACID STOMACH, INDIGESTION OR GAS

"Pape's Diapiesin" is quickest, surest stomach relief known.—Try it!

Time it! Pape's Diapiesin will sweeten a sour, gassy or out-of-order stomach within five minutes.

If your meals don't fit comfortably, or what you eat lies like a lump of lead in the stomach, or if you have heartburn, that is usually a sign of acidity of the stomach. Get from your pharmacist a fifty-cent case of Pape's Diapiesin and take a dose just as soon as you can. There will be no sour risings, no belching of food mixed with acid, no stomach gas or heartburn, fullness or heavy feeling in the stomach, nausea, debilitating headaches or dizziness. This will all go, and besides, there will be no sour food left over in the stomach to poison your breath with nauseous odors.

Pape's Diapiesin helps to neutralize the excessive acid in the stomach which is causing the food fermentation and preventing proper digestion.

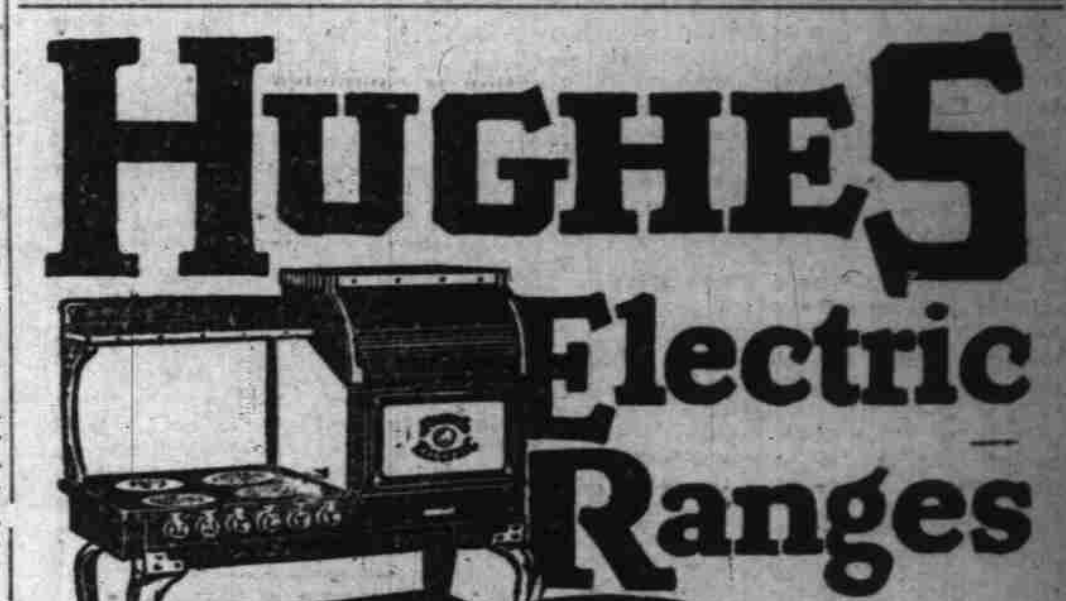
Relief in five minutes is waiting for you at any drug store. These large fifty-cent cases contain enough "Pape's Diapiesin" to usually keep the entire family free from stomach acidity and its symptoms of indigestion, dyspepsia, sourness, gases, heartburn, and headache, for many months. It belongs in your home.

Twenty Thousand Oregon Men Are Serving Colors

Governor Withcombe has compiled figures showing that Oregon has 20,000 men in the war service of the nation at the present time. Of this number 2055 are with the Third Oregon infantry, now known as the 162nd United States Infantry, and most of them are in France. With the coast artillery corps are

1700, with the field artillery 400, with the cavalry 400, with hospital units 600, with officers' reserve corps 250, with medical reserve 200, in the navy and marines 5652, in selective service 717, with the infantry 700 and 7320 has enlisted in various branches.

A thirty-three degree Mason who recently died at Worcester, Mass., left \$40,000 to the Masonic home of that state.



HUGHES Electric Ranges

Making a Nation of Better Cooks
No more cooking by guesswork. Electric cooking is replacing guesswork with an almost scientific exactness. It makes cooking successes the rule, failures rare. It gives food a richer, better flavor, a deliciousness before unknown. The Hughes Electric Range is setting this new standard of cooking excellence—making a nation of better cooks.

The absolutely even heat of a Hughes Electric Range gives a uniformity of results hitherto impossible. Constant watching is unnecessary; the results are assured in advance.

The Hughes Electric oven, with its heavily insulated, heat retaining walls, saves greatly in meat shrinkage and gives the meat a finer, better flavor. Cakes and bread rise evenly and brown uniformly, because of the wonderfully even heat throughout the oven. There are no air currents to carry off the rich juices, nor gaseous fumes to contaminate the food.

With such a range as this, every woman can become a better cook. When to her care in preparation is added perfection in cooking, is it any wonder that Hughes Electric Ranges are being bought by thousands, that every range installed in a neighborhood becomes the center of a growing group of users?

Let us tell you more about the cleanliness and convenience of the Hughes Electric Range, and show you how much better results you can obtain with it than with any other cooking method.

ELECTRIC LIGHT CO.

LADD & BUSH, Bankers

A Government income tax officer will be at the Court House from January 2 until January 30, 1918, and will, to all those who wish it, explain the new income tax law, and will furnish the necessary income tax blanks.

All persons having an income of \$1000.00 or over will be required to make a report.