

# THE OREGON STATESMAN

Issued Daily Except Monday by  
THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY  
215 S. Commercial St., Salem, Oregon

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DAILY STATESMAN, served by carrier in Salem and suburbs, 15 cents a week, 50 cents a month.

DAILY STATESMAN, by mail, \$6 a year; \$3 for six months; 50 cents a month. For three months or more, paid in advance, at rate of \$5 a year.

SUNDAY STATESMAN, \$1 a year; 50 cents for six months; 25 cents for three months.

WEEKLY STATESMAN, issued in two six-page sections, Tuesdays and Fridays, \$1 a year (if not paid in advance, \$1.25); 50 cents for six months; 25 cents for three months.

TELEPHONES: Business Office, 23. Circulation Department, 583. Job Department, 583.

Entered at the Postoffice in Salem, Oregon, as second class matter.



## THANKSGIVING FOR ALL THE WORLD'S PEOPLE.

The spirit of the Pilgrims has gone to the uttermost parts of the earth.

The freedom for which they came to the bleak New England coast as become the ideal everywhere.

Since the star hung over the manger at Bethlehem, was there ever a time in the history of the world when there was so much reason for all mankind to join in a pean of thankfulness?

For more than four long years the civilized world has been under the black cloud of war. At last the healing rays of the sun of peace are breaking through, and, please God, soon will have dissipated it entirely. Those who have lived in its deepest shadow will not forget the agony of those years, nor soon throw off the burden of suffering and woe which they have imposed. Those who have laid their loved ones upon the altar will never cease to mourn their loss. But even those who have suffered most will join in thankfulness to God that the new day is dawning, a day bright with hope of a peace that shall be lasting, and that coming generations may be spared the griefs and burdens which they have had to bear.

For this was not a war of mere commercial supremacy between struggling nations. It was not a war for conquest by the victors. It was not a struggle brought about by racial antipathies. It was not a war precipitated in a moment of passion by a short-tempered ruler. No; it was a war in which two great ideals of civilization met in a death grapple—two ideals between which there is and must be always an irreconcilable conflict. One must survive and the other must perish.

On the one side the forces were led by one who had said, when speaking to his own people:

"There is only one master in this country; I am he, and I will not tolerate another. There is only one law—my law—the law which I lay down. The soldier must not have a will of his own. They must all have only one will, and that will mine. As I look upon myself as an instrument of the Lord, I am indifferent to the point of view of the present day. I pursue my own way."

By teaching his people from their youth up a gross materialistic philosophy which exalted the doctrine of might; by leading them to place their trust in a god of their own making; by holding out to them the hope of conquest, pillage and finally world dominion, this man was able to weld them into the mightiest military machine the world had ever seen. And when the time seemed ripe for the success of his plan, he struck through the heart of a nation he had agreed to protect, in an effort to crush quickly the nearest of those other nations whom he had determined to conquer.

On the other side were those great nations which had been built upon belief in the right of man to govern himself and in the right of nations to be free from the domination of other nations.

So the issue was squarely joined. It was the old struggle between right and might; between autocracy and self-government; between injustice, cruelty, inhumanity, beastliness and justice, decency and all that follows a civilization built on Christian ideals. With such an issue there could be no drawn battle.

Men tire of war, but they fight unto death for deathless principles. And as we near the end and turn with lighter hearts to healing the wounds of a suffering world, it is indeed well that we should stop for a time and in all soberness and sincerity give thanks to the just God that we have been used to establish more securely the everlasting principles laid down by Him for men to live by. This is not merely a victory of some nations over others. It is a triumph of righteousness; and if we accept it as such, we put ourselves in the way of being wonderfully used for world service in the future.

Of all peoples, none have greater cause for thankfulness than the people of the United States, not because as a nation we have borne such a small part of the world-wide suffering during the past four years, but because through the fiery ordeals of war our national conscience has been quickened once more. Whatever the future may have in store for us, we shall not soon again view with sanctimonious indifference the abhorrent spectacle of a great nation ruthlessly crushing a weaker nation beneath its iron heel. We are no longer "too proud to fight," when it is right to fight. We have renounced once and for all the shibboleth of "peace at any price," for we have learned that peace may be bought too dearly.

It is true that we entered the war with the steps of a sluggard, and narrowly escaped becoming a contempt among the nations. But once in, our laggard steps became the strides of a giant. We have borne ourselves manfully, as becomes a people of our pretensions. We have shown by our deeds a willingness to repay to France the debt we have owed for almost a century and a half; and the mighty force which we hurled into the war certainly hastened the end of the mad carnival of murder and destruction.

For all this may we be truly thankful. And what more fitting than that the United States should lead the nations today in formal recognition of the Divine Being who doeth all things well and to whom thanks are justly due? From the time the Pilgrims landed until the present day, the Americans as a people have been accustomed to recognize in a public way the existence of this Supreme Power. They have turned to God in public prayer in time of trouble, and in the same open way they have praised His name with grateful hearts and songs of thanksgiving for the many blessings received.

It was away back in 1777 that the first Continental Congress by law proclaimed a national Thanksgiving; and it is interesting to note that the proclamation expressed gratitude that God had been pleased "to smile on us in the prosecution of a just and necessary war." Two years afterwards, Congress voted to set aside the last Thursday in November each year for a day of national thanksgiving; and since that time the President of the United States and the Governors of the various States each year have issued formal proclamations calling upon the people to observe Thanksgiving Day in fitting fashion.

We are not a perfect people by any means.

Both individually and collectively we are guilty of many sins both against God and man; but this nation-old habit of recognizing the God to whom we can turn when in distress and in whom we acknowledge the source of our many blessings, has made us a far better people than we would have been otherwise. Whatever one's religious views may be, an open-minded student of our national history must admit that this belief in God has been the rock upon which rests all of our national greatness that is worth while; that from this belief have grown the wisdom and the strength to build and maintain

a government of civil and religious liberty such as the world never before has seen.

In all good conscience, therefore, let us today give thanks to God for his goodness to us. Let our grief for those who have laid down their lives be tempered by the thought that they died that the world might be free. Let us think of our absent ones as our free gift of service in a holy cause. And having given thanks and re-dedicated ourselves to worthy service, let us come to the feast with merry hearts, for "a merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance," and we shall need both to play a worthy part during the year to come.

## PENITENTIARY TROUBLES.

The local evening paper offers the assertion that, until the state penitentiary is again placed under the management of the board of control "the prison always will be in trouble so long as there is a chief executive who uses it to provide jobs for his political friends."

History of the penitentiary speaks differently. In the first instance, Charley Murphy, as warden of the prison, was a heritage passed on by the board of control to the governor. That board named Murphy as warden before the legislature changed the law giving control of the policies of the penitentiary into the hands of the chief executive.

The "convict strike" at the prison occurred when the board of control had charge of that institution and named the warden, John Minto was discharged under the board of control following the most turbulent and violent scenes ever witnessed inside of the prison. Harry Minto was shot and killed after a convict had escaped from under the management of the board of control. The few years that the board had charge of the prison were some of the blackest times in the history of that institution.

This may be of no particular discredit to the board of control, or to the members who made it up. It merely goes to show that trouble at the penitentiary has not been a monopoly of Governor Withycombe, of the board of control, or of any particular administration.

The penitentiary is the sore spot of every administration and to attempt to place the responsibility for trouble upon the present executive indicates a distorted vision.

It is a safe bet that under new management much of the trouble which was passed onto the governor from the board of control will be remedied. Charley Murphy is a good fellow. No one disputes that. He has a large heart in him. But anyone who has watched the situation is inclined to feel that a poor selection was made by the board of control when it named him to handle the toughest job on the state payroll. And when anyone is inclined to blame Governor Withycombe for trouble at the prison he should bear in mind that the most troublous days the prison ever saw were when the board of control had complete and exclusive control of that institution.

Wishing you a thankful day.

Thanksgiving is the home day; and the home is the bulwark of the nation.

The Salem district ought in 1919 to be thankful for at least a doubled berry acreage.

The man or woman who has nothing this year for which to be thankful is about hopeless.

A league of nations will be needed to keep the little Balkan states from continual war. That has grown to be their normal condition.

There would be general interest, when a convenient time comes, in exhibition flights and maneuvers of large squadrons of airplanes, and no form of military display could so readily be exhibited to great numbers of people over a wide area.

Mr. Asquith is in favor of a rapid unscrambling. True to British liberal traditions, he loses no time in calling for the earliest possible restoration of freedom. Great Britain has had a longer experience than the United States of the necessary restrictions on personal liberty which a great war imposes, and is possibly the more impatient for a return to normal conditions. But any long and unnecessary delays in our country will develop impatience that will amount to insistence.

Although the British casualty figures are not yet complete, it may be supposed that the ratio of wounded to killed is not very different from that shown by the German figures. Germany reports 1,580,000 killed and in round numbers 4,000,000 wounded. The British killed came to a total of 658,665 and the same ratio would indicate about 1,670,000 wounded, or a total of 2,328,665, as against 5,580,000 for Germany. The French figures have not been given, but in view of the fact that the French had to hold most of the front till the new British armies were ready, their losses are presumably considerably greater, despite the fact that this year the British of all the belligerents have done the heaviest and most sustained fighting. It is not unlikely, indeed, that the aggregate losses of the allies on the western front will prove greater than the total German casualties. The Russian casualties have been put at 13-

## THE HOLIDAY HABIT.

Congress has been asked to have Thanksgiving officially moved forward so that it would hereafter fall on November 11, or Peace Day. It will do no harm to have two holidays in November, as in most states it is a rather gloomy and disagreeable month. If a man can get in thanksgiving mood in November let him have the chance. Besides, Thanksgiving is peculiarly an American holiday, born of conditions native to the soil and a part of the country's history. Peace Day will be in international affair—a world holiday—and as such hold a different meaning that would be confusing to an American harvest festival. There are a good many holidays in the world, but fewer in America than in most lands, and we can easily afford to take on another without doubling it up with Thanksgiving.

## THE PRESIDENT'S "INABILITY."

Following is the view of the conservative New York Evening Post on the question of the "inability" clause that is arousing much discussion:

There is no suggestion that the vice president temporarily discharge some of the duties of the presidency. For that there would be neither constitutional warrant nor precedent. If ever a president suffered from "inability" it was Grant after being shot in 1881, when he lay helpless and dying for weeks. Yet there was then no thought of calling upon Vice President Arthur to act as chief executive. Congress has never defined the



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constitutional "inability to discharge the powers and duties" of the presidency. What Judge Story pointed out long ago remains the fact today, namely: "No provision has as yet been made for the case of the inability of the president to perform the duties of his office, nor has any mode of proof been prescribed to ascertain the fact of inability or what shall be deemed an inability." It is highly probable, therefore, that the president's absence will be regarded legally and officially as not essentially different from the absence of President Roosevelt and President Taft on their trips to Panama.

**BITS FOR BREAKFAST**  
"Come and get it."  
"Now good digestion waits on appetite and health on both."  
Hoover is in Europe, anyway. So do your worst.  
There is to be a Pacific squadron again.  
And, what do you think? They are saying it will include half the United States navy.  
The language of the peace conference will probably be in English. The first time in history. The language of diplomacy has heretofore

in modern times been in French. The universal language will be English. It is the universal commercial language now. Every foreign bill of lading sent to the greatest commercial ports of the world is in English; or has accompanying it an English translation. All round the earth, leading hotels have to employ clerks speaking English. Every high school student in Japan studies English. The same was true of Germany before the war. It will soon be true of all countries outside of the English-speaking nations. The English language is the richest in the world, for it is made up of all others—ancient and modern, and it is growing at the rate of 4000 to 5000 new words a year.

This year we truly celebrate

# Thanksgiving

**BECAUSE**  
A nation's word must no longer be a scrap of paper.

**BECAUSE**  
Might could not overcome right.

**BECAUSE**  
"Government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

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**FUTURE DATES.**  
Nov. 28, Thursday—Thanksgiving day.  
December 1, Sunday—Elihu Memorial program at Grand Opera house.  
December, date not set—Fifth annual Marion County Corn Show.  
December 2, Tuesday—Memorial in honor of Justice E. A. Moore at supreme court building.  
December 9-15—Pacific International Livestock show, Portland.  
December 25, Wednesday—Christmas.  
December 26 to 28—Christmas holidays in Salem schools.