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BALBOA IN PANAMA—1513.
At last I reach the summit!
Has the glare
Reft me of sight, or are my
senses dazed?
Can you dim vast be water?
... Saints be praised!
An ocean! In an ocean, bask-
ing there!
Flash forth the swords, and let
the bugle blare!
Call to my soldiers—troops
half fever-crazed—
For rever white man on this
wonder gazed;
Now, comrades, doff each
casque, and kneel in
prayer:
For, by my faith, our day's work
in this zone
Makes us immortal. Fame
shall trumpet me
In golden notes wherever
fame is blown:
So, from the peak, in plumed
humility,
The priceless jewel of this
sapphire sea
Proudly I lay before Espana's
throne.
—By Lloyd Milfill in the April
Scribner.

THE SUREST WAY TO REDUCE TAXES.

SOME people shudder over proposed road work because of fear of higher taxes. For such people here are a few facts worth considering. The amount paid by the people of this county each year to railroads in freight charges vastly exceeds all our state, county, city and school taxes combined.

The state and county levy in Umatilla county this year is eight mills and the assessment is \$49,000,000. The state and county levy will produce a revenue of \$392,000 in round figures.

The wheat crop of Umatilla county is usually estimated at 5,000,000 bushels and the freight to Portland is eight and a fourth cents. Such a charge nets a total of \$412,500 per annum. In other words the transportation tax on wheat alone is greater than the state and county tax imposed in Umatilla county.

It is true throughout the nation that the transportation tax exceeds all other taxes whatsoever. The census bureau statistics show that for the year 1902 the total revenue receipts of the federal government, the states, territories, counties, cities and all other minor civil divisions totalled \$1,791,895,522, whereas the freight charges made by all the railroads at that time totalled \$1,922,703,890. So it may be seen the railroad charges exceeded all United States taxes combined to the extent of \$130,808,374 in one year.

Now then, if we wish to reduce taxes how can we work more effectively than by reducing freight costs? It is the heaviest tax of all. If by connecting up the various portions of this county with the open river we can reduce the grain rate by half and other freight charges in proportion is it not sound business to do so? This is a subject for our "hard headed businessmen" to ponder over.

YOU CAN'T TELL BY THE NAME.

YOU can't tell anything by a name and this fact is well shown by the action of the Union League—once a patriotic organization—in bestowing a medal on Elihu Root who made a speech in which he set forth that the duty of the republican party is to restore confidence in business and fight to the last ditch against increased governmental regulation of business and

prevent the power of the federal bureaucracy from becoming stronger.

It is an appeal to the party that has been the historic champion of a strong central government to forsake its time honored doctrine. Root does not want a strong government at Washington because he fears such a government will control big business too firmly and rule the country in behalf of the people. He prefers an enfeebled central administration so that big business may be the master not the mastered. The Union League which in the days of the civil war upheld the north and the cause of a strong federal government acquiesces in the views of the New York senator and gives him the same sort of a gold medal it once bestowed upon Lincoln.

The democratic party which in the past has always been known as the champion of state rights is under the present administration the advocate of a more powerful central government. The plain purpose of President Wilson is to have the government of the nation administered from Washington not from New York city. This is an era in which people should do some thinking. Those who follow the old names without question may wake up to find they have been travelling in the opposite direction from what they intended.

AMERICA'S STRONG POSITION.

THE activity in the New York stock market is not likely based on any theory of early peace because there is little in the situation at present to justify any belief in a speedy end of the war. A more reasonable view to take is that the stock market is strengthened by the splendid condition of American finance and the knowledge that our business conditions are sound. The following extract from the Henry Clews review for March 20 is of interest:

The most striking, also the most assuring, fact in the outlook is the remarkably strong financial position of the United States. Our fiscal affairs are thoroughly mobilized upon a war basis. Nearly all the emergency currency issued in the form of Aldrich-Vreeland notes or clearing house certificates has been retired. Our banking system is exceptionally strong; and the Federal Reserve system, with minor exceptions, is working very satisfactorily. Our gold supply is simply enormous, reaching about \$1,800,000,000, which is vastly more than necessary for our requirements. There is consequently no need of our importing gold, although foreign exchange rates favor such an influx. Our merchandise exports are upon an enormous scale, and promise to so continue for months to come. As imports are declining, the trade balance in our favor is steadily rising. To some extent, the void in imports is being filled by a return to securities; but much of the balance remains on this side in the form of foreign credits which are steadily growing in importance and volume. New York for the time being is the chief open market in the world, and all, or nearly all, of the belligerents have established large credits in this market to be used chiefly for the purchase of munitions of war. Until the war ends, a contingency unhappily not yet in sight, this situation will probably be maintained. The war is still the dominating influence in our financial affairs, and the United States is the only country thus far receiving any offsetting advantage whatever from the staggering waste of life and property now devastating Europe. Spring has arrived and the struggle will now be waged with renewed bitterness and vigor; no end being in sight at this writing, except such as must develop from exhaustion or breakdown.

At this time of the year the wool buyers always become dubious as to whether they can pay anything at all for wool.

Some people in Italia seem awful anxious to make a de fight; or else they are great bluffers.

Is it possible the liner Denver was plugged by a submarine?

The slogan for good roads boosters should be "United we stand; divided we fall."

That one steamer may have trouble holding the Umatilla county family; speak early for a ticket.

The bad roads tax is far worse than the good roads tax if you stop to think about it.

The west end towns are all anxious for a place in the sun and they wont let you forget it.

La Grande had a forkless dinner; after that they can expect to get knifed.

Get in the band wagon; it is big enough for all.

CURRENT THINKING.

OUR MARKET ABROAD.
It is cheering to note that our business abroad has grown so great that the balance of trade is again in our favor. We have a market that commands the attention of customers. Many of them find now that they must deal with us or go without. Holding the balance of trade is a wonderful advantage and spells prosperity with a big "P."

The trade balance is best shown by the figures of the last three months. Our customers have bought from us \$411,483,000 more than we have bought from them. The figures are of tremendous importance, and is sustained for a period of 12 months to reach the enormous total of \$1,845,932,000.

What new opportunities are offered our merchants, farmers and manufacturers. How many new customers are now enjoying the bargains available in our markets. Conditions may have forced Europeans to make their purchases here, but fair trade and honest measure will hold many of them long after the war is over.

While the belligerents are busy at their work of desolation and murder, our men of enterprise and progress have the world to feed, clothe and shelter. They can place Yankee goods Yankee inventions, Yankee food products, Yankee machinery on the counters wherever business is done. Here Uncle Sam's finest opportunity to show how much his wares are needed in the homes of Europe. Even Great Britain's "paper blockade" cannot spoil it, for there is a vast amount of trade other than that with Germany.—Boston Post.

NOTES FREEZE; BAND STRIKES

(Belfast, Maine, dispatch to the New York Herald.)
The Christmas spirit of Belfast, about which much has been sung, said and whistled, died in agony of chills here late this afternoon. A northwest gale blew through from the Peary summer home just after noontime and after it had kissed the town about twice cayenne pepper turned lukewarm on the grocers' shelves. Belfast can take a joke, but today's breeze might be mentioned as sufficient.

About three weeks ago the town council, which was at the time sitting in a steam heated room and had no thought of winter hardships, decided that it would be well to have all of the usual Christmas township revelry and in addition to have the Belfast band, which hasn't gummied a selection in years, play in the steeple of the Unitarian church. Money was appropriated to send the band skyward on Christmas day.

This morning it was cold, at noon it was frightful, and at 2:30 this afternoon icicles were frosted and cigar butts exploded to the consternation of science.

The Belfast band, which will play on the slightest provocation, stumbled up the stairs of the Unitarian steeple at 3 o'clock and at 3:45 were still trying to blow a tune for music through the ice in their brass ear-wreckers. Finally Alf Chender, who is the best French horn player in his family, bar none, blew out a pound and a half of ice, which knocked out two of Dansey Hoppman's teeth and effectually cut off all hope of piccolo variations, even though a thaw set in.

THE LIFE INGREDIENTS.

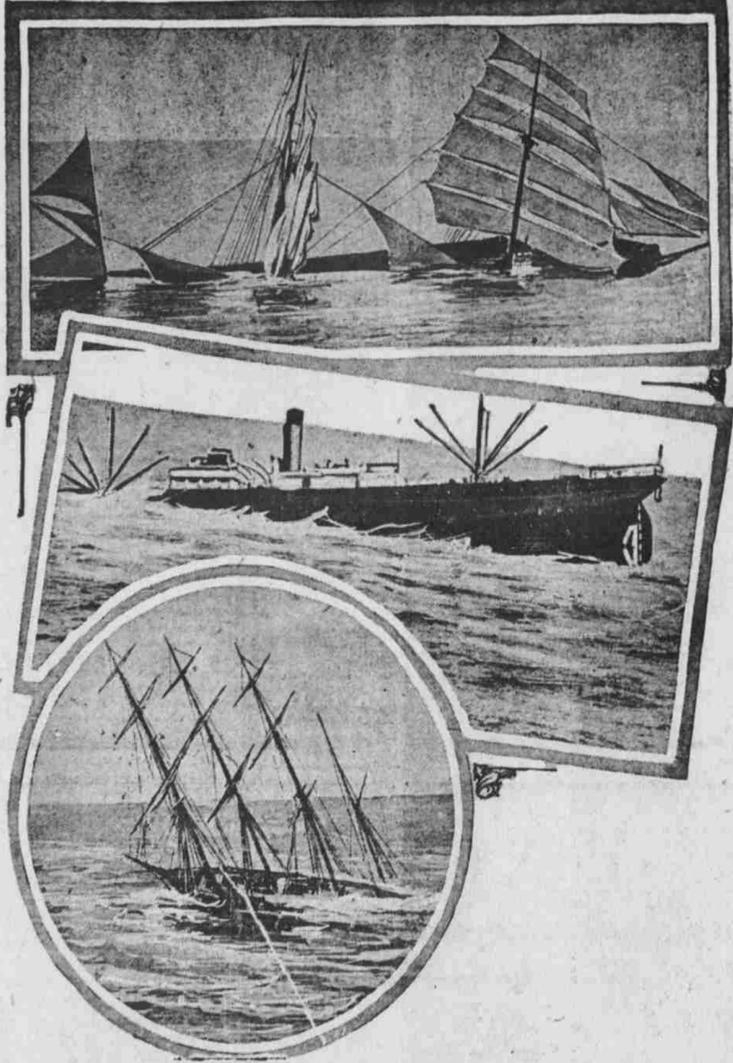
Folger McKinsey, in his Baltimore Sun column, suggests the following as good life-ingredients:

"Put some pepper and salt on life. A little mustard to suit the taste; it wouldn't be good if all were strife. Worry and scurry and waste and haste. Got to flavor it now and then With days of bubble and light and glee; And that's the way we are better men Than ever we thought we were going to be."

JAPAN'S EXPLANATION IS NOT SATISFACTORY

WASHINGTON, March 25.—It is understood that Japanese Ambassador China has assured the state department that Japan's position in the negotiations with China in no way violates the "open door" policy. The explanations are said not to have been satisfactory in view of the apprehensions expressed here.

HOW W. P. FRYE AND TWO OTHER PRINZ EITEL VICTIMS WERE SUNK



These are actual photographs of the sinking of three victims of the Prinz Eitel. They were obtained from one of the prisoners on the German warship, now held at Newport News. They are:
The British ship Mary Ada Scott, sunk off Chill Feb. 18 (shown in middle picture).
The American ship William P. Frye, sunk off Chill Feb. 27 (in lower photo).
The Prinz Eitel Sank them in all eleven ships, and from them she obtained coal enough to continue on her career till her machinery gave way and she had to put into Newport News. The value of the cargoes and ships was very high. In addition some \$2,000,000 in gold was taken from her victims.

Getting the Auto Ready

Soon be spring again—soon time for those long pleasant spins over the roads.

Time to have the auto looked over.

Time to see whether anything is needed. Time to decide whether you want a new car.

And an excellent season to read the advertising in The East Oregonian to see what the auto men have to say.

No use of spending good money without the surety of getting a full money's worth and that means buying with knowledge.

The Foundation of Business

is built with a bank account. Save your money—let your banker know you, and when the time comes he will be ready to help you.
Don't expect a banker to help you unless time and conscientious dealings have proven you worthy of banking confidence.

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