

East Oregonian
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
Published Daily and Semi-Weekly at Pendleton, Oregon, by the EAST OREGONIAN PUBLISHING CO.
Official County Paper.
Member United Press Association.
Entered at the postoffice at Pendleton, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.
Telephone 1

ON SALE IN OTHER CITIES:
Imperial Hotel News Stand, Portland, Oregon.
Downman News Co., Portland, Oregon.
ON FILE AT:
Chicago Bureau, 300 Security Building, Washington, D. C., Bureau 307, Fourteenth Street, N. W.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (IN ADVANCE)

Daily, one year, by mail	\$5.00
Daily, six months, by mail	2.50
Daily, three months, by mail	1.25
Daily, one month, by mail	.50
Daily, one year, by carrier	5.50
Daily, six months, by carrier	2.75
Daily, three months, by carrier	1.35
Daily, one month, by carrier	.45
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Semi-Weekly, six months, by mail	.75
Semi-Weekly, four months, by mail	.50

THE TOXIN.

Let's hunt the sunshine and the smile,
And not the care and grief;
The faith that lights the gloomy smile,
And not the unbelief.
Let's put the shallow pretense by,
And live the life that counts;
Let's change the canyon for the sky
And wear the wing that mounts.
Let's chase the brightness and the cheer,
And not the loss and pain
Let's keep the blessed sunshine near,
And not the cloud and rain.
Let's sing the insincerity
And—hitched to cloud or star—
Be not what we pretend to be,
But only what we are.
Let's change the hatred for the love,
And keep our hearts serene
With beauty of the skies above
And all below so green
In this sweet vernal light that shows
How good it is to live
In tune with every heart that knows
The wisdom to forgive,
—The Beantown Bard.

THE ASTORIA RATE DECISION

THE decision of the interstate commerce commission giving parity rates to Astoria is one of the biggest events of the sort in recent years. The people who have worked so hard to secure this step are to be congratulated. Though nominally in the name of Astoria the move was initiated by the Portland Journal and J. N. Teal on the theory that in this instance the interests of Astoria are identical with the interests of the whole Columbia basin.

In granting Astoria the same rate enjoyed by Seattle and Tacoma the commission based its decision on consideration of service cost. Since the expense of haul from the interior to Astoria is no greater than the expense of haul to Seattle a higher rate is unjust and so Astoria is given the same rate as the sound cities.

Invoking this same principle it will be logical for Portland to set up a claim for an even lower rate than Astoria gets because Portland is 100 miles closer than Astoria to this territory. The logic in the Portland claim will be sound and that their contention must be granted in time seems inevitable if rates are to be established on a basis of justice. A peculiar feature of the commission's ruling in the Astoria case is the intimation that Portland will not necessarily be entitled to a lower rate than Astoria and Seattle. If the principle of the cost of service is applicable to one town why not to another?

If Portland cannot secure relief through the commission it is possible the Columbia river may be brought into use. In the past Astoria has been urging the use of the river and active preparations were underway to establish a municipal boat line. Having secured a common point rate Astoria may now give up such a line of action, while Portlanders may see the necessity of using the river to get under the Astoria rate.

It is going to be very interesting to watch the results of the commerce commission's decision. The decision affects only interstate business.

THE POOR PAY MOST

THE French have a very equitable way of raising their war revenue. It was recently defended in the chamber of deputies by M. Ribot who asserted that the poorer classes in France are unaware of the war, in a financial sense.

Only an income of \$1000 a year and upward feels the weight, if the recipient is unmarried; and \$1500 if he is married.

Moreover, each child up to the fifth is entitled to \$250, and beyond the fifth to \$300, without taxation.

A father of five children may have an income of \$2400 without paying one cent to the state.

The burden lies entirely upon those whose income is above the wage rate, and is only slight on the lower graduations of even assessable incomes, the minimum being .04 per cent and the maximum (on over \$5000) 2 per cent.

In reply to the Socialist Saucelle, M. Ribot stated that this burden would not finally be borne by the poorer elements, because from the nature of the law no commodities are taxed, for which the poor might have to pay a relatively higher price; but upon incomes and actual possessions.

In trying to save poor people from the financial burden of the war the French are right. Yet after all the real burden of war is carried by the poor. The bulk of the fighting is done by poor men; the men of big incomes generally being too old for service. When a poor man is killed in the war the sacrifice by his family is greater than would be that family's sacrifice were he rich. His earning power dies with him. Were he rich it would live after him and continue to sustain his loved ones. So the poor man pays the heavier toll.

Try as a country may to equalize the burden of war, the chief burden will forever rest upon the men and women of slender means.

CURRENT THINKING

YOUTH VERSUS AGE.
(St. Louis Post-Dispatch.)
The November number of the Militarische Zeitschrift publishes tabulated statistics of relative military efficiency of the soldiers at the front ranging from 20 to 35 years of age, and of those ranging from 35 years to 45.

In a general way the report shows normal health in the younger class; while the men of the older divisions seem to bring with them "some physical trouble."

Less than 1 per cent of the young-

sters call for medical aid; while over 14 per cent of the older men need hospital attention from time to time.

The marching ability of the younger men ranges from 30 to 40 miles per day; that of the older class from 15 to 20 miles.

The younger class bear freezing temperatures with 42 pounds covering whereas the older men need from 18 to 18 pounds of clothing to keep warm.

The former can maintain a double quick charge step for half an hour without respite; the latter give out after 15 minutes' forced march.

Men over 40 must not be put into the trenches, as they become at once rheumatic. Typhoid fever is more prevalent among the youths, but typhus attacks the older men with predilection.

The old contingent is preferable in holding positions; they are less reckless and do not so easily lose their heads; but the young men must be picked for taking positions.

The elder make excellent artillery men, especially for the heavy caliber guns, but for field batteries they are not efficient.

With regard to bearing hardships, the two classes stand in the ratio of 80 to 50, the difference being in favor of youth.

The ratio of wounded under even conditions exhibits more youths; and that of prisoners more age.

Youthful general officers and old line officers have both proved a failure; on the staffs no man under 40 can serve efficiently.

It has been found that the older contingent are wedded to their pipes; and efficiency has been found to be in the inverse ratio to the habit. This refers to the line only. In fact habit plays an important part in the army; youth adapts itself more perfectly and more readily to given circumstances.

The army postoffice department has been doubled in capacity since the landwehr have been called to the front as they are busy correspondents whereas the young soldiers rarely write.

DU PONT CO. PLANS POWDER FACTORY AT MEACHAM, IS REPORT

RUMOR NOT VERIFIED—PERSONAL NOTES FROM THE MEACHAM COUNTRY.
(East Oregonian Special.)
MEACHAM, Ore., Feb. 21.—It has been reported that the Du Pont Powder Co. is contemplating building a powder factory somewhere close to this place in the near future.

John Burnett went to La Grande last Monday to put in his application as passenger brakeman.

J. D. Casey went to Pendleton Wednesday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Martin went to Pendleton on Thursday to attend to shopping.

Chas Hudson went to Pendleton Friday on business but returned the same day.

John Barker went to Pendleton on Friday to attend to business and expected to be absent several days.

Jack Kline from La Grande was here for several days on business. He is water superintendent of La Grande.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fair went to Pendleton on Saturday to do some shopping.

The amusement club of Meacham, are organizing a Gun Club. Have 14 members to start with. They expect to be in shooting trim by the time the bird season opens.

George Erbes, who is a mill hand at Casey mill, has returned to this place after 11 months' absence.

Dan Major sends word from Seattle that he is on his way back to Meacham; his home. He has been gone for several months.

Mrs. J. L. Gibson of Pendleton stopped off Friday evening and visited with Mrs. E. M. Calvert until Saturday a. m.

Mrs. E. M. Calvert went to La Grande Saturday morning to attend a musical recital and to take her music lesson, returning on No. 15 the same day. Mr. Calvert went on No. 18 to attend the picture shows.

Miss Alice Brown went to La Grande on Saturday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Wilkinson went to La Grande over Saturday and Sunday.

RUSSIANS TAKE MUSH

PETROGRAD, Feb. 21.—Continuing the victorious sweep through Armenia, the army of the grand duke has captured the Armenian city of Mush, 85 miles southeast of Erzerum, according to an official statement from the war office.

Other Russian forces it was announced, have occupied the village of Aklem.

The Russians the official dispatches indicate, are now driving westward through Armenia, on a front of more than 120 miles extending from a point north of Erzerum to south of Mush. Trebizond's capture is believed to be a matter of only a few weeks if not of days. The whole of Armenia is expected to be within the hands of the czar's forces before spring.

THIS MAY ENTERTAIN

THE MILKMAN'S VIEW.
Everyone who goes to Niagara," says a novelist who has recently come to America, "hears some absurd ridiculous and inept remark there. You stand and gaze at the falls, profoundly moved, and then, of a sudden, something is said, and the effect of the grandeur goes forever.

"The day I first saw Niagara a man pouted his arm as I looked up at those white waters. I turned to him. He had the smile of a confirmed joker.

"It seems a shame," he said, "to see all this going to waste."

"What are you?" I said. "An electrical engineer?"

"No," he answered, "a milkman."

EAR MUFFS NEEDED.

"Where are my ear-muffs, honey?" "For heaven's sake, what do you want of ear-muffs now. It isn't cold tonight, and besides we're only going around the corner to the movies."

"That's just why I want them. I don't care to hear people sitting near me to tell the plot of the play before it develops on the screen."

More Trifles.
Mrs. Haskleigh (sentimentally)—It's the little things that annoy us most.
Boarder—Yes, the small portions, for example.

The English city of Birmingham uses nearly 90,000 pennies-in-the-slot gas meters.

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ALBANIAN STRUGGLE ON.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The final struggle for the mastery of Albania has begun, according to dispatches received in London.

The Austrians and Bulgarians have succeeded in forming a junction and their combined armies now are in contact with Essad Pasha's army of Albanians, Montenegrins and Serbians which is defending Durazzo.

ANARCHIST ATTEMPTED TO POISON ARCHBISHOP AND GOVERNOR



ARCHBISHOP MUNDELEIN.
CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—The authorities here believe that an anarchist attempted to poison Archbishop Mundelein, Gov. Dunne, former Major Carter Harrison and other notables by putting arsenic into soup served at a banquet in the archbishop's honor. Several of the guests were made violently ill while a score or more required the services of a physician after the banquet.

A cook at the University Club, where the banquet was served, is missing and a search of his room disclosed a complete chemical laboratory and a quantity of anarchistic literature.

Archbishop Mundelein, the youngest Archbishop of the United States, was installed in his diocese last week. He was formerly of Brooklyn.

RICH WIDOW TO WED EX-GOVERNOR WALSH, SAYS RUMOR AGAIN.



BOSTON, Feb. 18.—The rumor concerning the prospective marriage of ex-Governor David I. Walsh, and Mrs. Mabel Hunt Slater, has been revived by the publication of the following in ex-Mayor John J. Fitzgerald's paper, The Republic:

"We wish Governor Walsh a pleasant vacation. He worked very hard while Governor and earned a rest.

"The fact that he is going to the Orient, and in all probability, will visit members of the Slater family, has led to many reports of his marriage with Mrs. Slater, which both deny."

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