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FRIDAY..... JAN. 21, 1916

Entered at the postoffice at Weston, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

While the entente allies haven't made a hit in Greece, they are credited with a stolen base.

Still, England cannot win the war by constantly directing attention to the German casualty list.

Henry found peace sentiment a bit more difficult to manufacture in Europe than "tin Lizies" in America.

"Cultivation of good habits is also an excellent way of getting rid of bad ones," writes a newspaper mentor, between cigarette puffs.

While the administration doesn't lack for critics, they cannot deny that the United States is still at peace, without dishonor, in a warring world.

If the republicans do nominate Roosevelt, and this strange thing may happen, it will be up to the democrats to discipline him for bolting the republican ticket.

We trust that loyal Oregonians who have been observing "Letter Writing Week" have not neglected to remind their eastern cousins of our mild and salubrious winter climate.

Club wheat has advanced to \$1.04 bid and \$1.09 asked in Portland and is quoted at around 96 cents in country markets. It is better than two dollars a bushel in Liverpool, however, which shows that the ship-owner continues to be much more of an opportunist than a philanthropist.

An article reprinted elsewhere from the Oregonian strengthens the general impression that taxes are a lot higher than they ought to be and have increased out of all proportion to Oregon's growth in other respects. It's hard to tell what can be done about it, however. Even though a few offices could be consolidated to advantage in Umatilla county, for instance, the saving accomplished thereby would be a mere hogstail. When better schools, roads and bridges are demanded they must be paid for. Moreover, the tax-

payer always has the consolation of knowing that the larger share of his contribution is spent in his own community. Municipal and school district taxes are always higher than county taxes and county taxes than state taxes. There is also the consolation of knowing that the American taxpayer is fortunate indeed compared to his fellows in Europe, who have always been heavily taxed and will now have a costly war to pay for. Englishmen of means are already required to give up a startling percentage of their annual income, and the unfortunate German taxpayer is even denied the privilege of kicking against the government.

Frederick Palmer, who is perhaps the most noted war correspondent living and who has had exceptional opportunities for observing the great conflict in Europe, predicts the defeat of the central powers unless the entente allies grow discouraged. Germany, he says, did not anticipate the entrance of England into the war and knows that she is beaten unless she can bluff her more powerful foes into favorable terms. In Mr. Palmer's view, "While Germany is giving the impression to the world that she is winning, her statesmen and her staff have known from the 4th of August, 1914, that she could not win." He closes an interesting article in Collier's with the words: "Germany is in the position of a man who strikes for want of air, for want of room. He lunges this way and that with the craving for breath for his lungs and space for his limbs. He pushes the wall back a little, but it is still there, dashing his own blood back in his face. He breaks through one door, but there is another beyond. The mental strain of such a battle is as severe as the physical. Next summer, if Russia comes back strong, and Turkey and Bulgaria are tamed, the walls will begin to fall in on the Germans."

Merely with a view to promoting an intelligent electorate, we would suggest to Registrar Barnes that he enroll only those who follow their names with a "Dem." To be sure, this would also disfranchise Mr. Barnes. But consider our remarks as to an intelligent electorate.

We would hopefully suggest to T. R. that just about now his country could spare him again for another big game hunt in Darket Africa.

Speaking of "the mean temperature for January," we are reminded that it has been quite a bit meaner than usual.

Comments on Mexico may be limited to the observation that it may yet be necessary to commence on Mexico.

We will take occasion to remark that there are no bats in the attic of that presidential House in Europe.

Trusting vainly to the entente, the poor Montenegrin hasn't even the grin left to console him.

DO YOU WANT ECONOMY?

(Oregonian.)

Benton county has undoubtedly not suffered a greater proportionate increase in taxation than other counties in Oregon. The situation there is herein cited because it is typical and for the further reason that the condition has lately been given prominence by discussion at a taxpayers' meeting adequately reported by the Benton County Courier.

In 1903 the taxes levied in Benton county aggregated the modest sum of \$45,547. In 1914 the levy produced \$291,584. Thus in eleven years the taxes contributed to support county government increased seven-fold.

As to gains in population during the full period, there are no accurate statistics. But in 1900 the population of Benton county was 4706 and in 1910 it was 5100.

Do the taxpayers of the several counties of Oregon know why the legislature does not reduce the number of county offices? It is not because the members are not anxious to secure the best interests of their constituents. It is because, whenever a measure of that character is proposed, the only persons the legislature hears from are the officers whose jobs are threatened and the intimate friends of Salem. The ones whose toes are about to be stepped on protest, while the great body of taxpayers who would be benefited remain as silent as the Sphinx.

Taxpayers' organizations formed in every county and co-operating together can, if representative, get anything they want from the legislature. And they are more likely to get a measure adjusted to the requirements of each county than if a few of them attempt to devise an initiative measure declared that to be the only way that "the taxpayers could expect no hope from the legislature which had proven false to the people who elected it was 10,663, according to the United States census. In 1910 the amount raised in taxes was \$193,796. Compare the two gains. The increase in population in ten years was 53 per cent. The increase in taxes in eight years of that period was approximately 350 per cent. As an illustration of the effect on the individual, one farmer reported that fifteen years ago the taxes on his farm had been \$25. This year he pays \$269.

It is indeed an amazing record. What is to be done about it? The taxpayers of Benton county have formed an organization which will endeavor to reduce taxes. Its plan of action has not yet been definitely adopted, but there is talk of co-operating with other counties in the formulation and pressing of an initiative measure to consolidate county offices. One speaker, if plans are made now to elect members who are pledged to reduce taxes and if those members receive when at Salem the backing of the taxpayers' organizations, the reduction will be accomplished insofar as the limited authority of the legislature over county expenditures will permit.

Carl of Thanks.

We wish to thank the neighbors and friends who so kindly assisted us during our recent bereavement.

Mrs. EDWARD ANDERSON.

EXCITING FIRE IN ZERO WEATHER

Dupuis Building, Occupied by the Weston Bakery, Goes up in Flames.

The Dupuis building at the northwest corner of Main and Water streets occupied by E. K. Zehm with the Weston bakery, was burned to the ground Sunday morning with all its contents, causing a loss of about \$1000, partly covered by insurance.

The fire was discovered at about 6:30 o'clock and the alarm was turned in by News O'Hara. The prolonged clamor of the bell told the townspeople that a real fire was on, and they tumbled out of their warm beds into an atmosphere well below zero. Some enterprising boys beat their elders to the hose house and did yeoman work in helping to drag the apparatus to the scene of action. Considerable delay was caused by frozen hose and hydrants, but one good stream and then another were soon playing upon the blaze from the Brandt and O'Hara hydrants, and a sigh of relief went up from the large crowd that by this time had assembled.

Seeing that the Dupuis building was doomed, as its wooden walls and partitioned burned like tinder, the nozzle-men directed their efforts to saving the Weston Leader building a short distance west on Main street, and a string of three buildings owned by Mrs. Margaret Wheeler, to the north on Water street. The first of these stood not more than twenty feet away, yet the firemen saved it intact and were equally successful with the Leader building. They were aided by the heavy blankets of snow on the roofs and by the fact that little or no wind was blowing. As that, it was an effective bit of fire fighting.

The fire is supposed to have started from an over-heated stove and was first noticed by Frank Hildebrand, who saw that the heating stove in the bakery store and the stove pipe were red hot and the ceiling above ablaze. He kicked in the door and gave the alarm. H. Eaton, who had shoe shop in the building and was also the baker's assistant, had built three fires and had then gone into the detached bakery at the rear to prepare a batch of cookies. Busted with his duties, he did not notice the fire until the interior of the main building was ablaze. He then ran to the assistance of Mrs. Zehm, who with two of her children occupied sleeping rooms in the west part of the Dupuis building. They got out in their night clothes in the nick of time and were taken to the home of Rev. George Chapman.

The nearest building north is occupied by Mrs. R. Morrison and daughters. They ran out scantly clad, and Mrs. Wheeler and her daughter, Mrs. News O'Hara, who were in the next adjacent building. All found refuge in neighboring houses, while everything movable was carried out of their respective homes by willing hands, only to be carried back again when the danger was over.

Mr. Zehm estimates his loss between \$2500 and \$3000. It included his entire bakery, confectionery, tobacco, grocery and restaurant stock and fixtures. These were insured for \$600. He carried \$200 on the bakery proper, which was saved, although some of his outfit was destroyed. The Zehm family lost practically all their clothes, and have since been thankfully repaying donations.

The Dupuis building was owned by Mrs. J. B. Dupuis and was insured for \$500. It stood upon one of the oldest business corners in town, which was occupied in pioneer times by a merchant store, conducted by the late Lewis and Charles McMorris.

Harry Eaton lost all his clothes except those on his back and all his shoe shop tools. He had no insurance and is playing in ill deserved hard luck. He did much toward saving the bakery proper. Had this become involved in the flames, it would inevitably have set fire to the Leader building.

Mr. Zehm, accompanied by his oldest son, was in Spokane on a business trip at the time of the fire and returned the next day. He is conducting the operation of his bake oven and his bread is being handled by the O'Hara Store, the Barnett Economy Store and Kirkpatrick's Confectionery. He will not re-open a bakery store, but has leased the Baker building and is preparing to embark in another line of business.

Notice of Stockholders' Meeting.

The annual meeting of stockholders of The Farmers Bank of Weston will be held at its office in the City of Weston, County of Umatilla, State of Oregon, on Friday, the 28th day of January, 1916, at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon, for the election of directors for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Weston, Or., December 31, 1915.

E. M. SMITH, Cashier.

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BREVITY OF ENGLISH.

Its Advantage in This Respect Over French and German.

In an international report, printed in parallel columns in French, German and English, the three versions being exact translations of each other, the English report invariably finished first, sometimes it won by a whole page. As a rule, the French report was the most diffuse.

This brevity of English is partly explained by the fact that English is made up of an extraordinary extent of words of one syllable. Its nouns having few inflections except the possessive "s," have become mere roots, a very large proportion of them monosyllabic. In Germany a monosyllabic root practically always gets an extra syllable tacked on by way of case ending. In the second place English has little of the elaborate and explicit machinery of structure that French has, so it saves space in prepositions and such paraphernalia. Instead, English has what the grammarians call implicit suggestion—that is, sticking words together in groups without either prepositions or case endings to connect them.

An example of the former kind of brevity is a word like "verthunake," two syllables, compared with the German "entbehen," three syllables, and the French "troubler," four syllables. An example of the brevity of English would be a phrase like, "I have been to the house and have now come back;" every word a single syllable. In a telegram this would be just as intelligible in the form "Been house now back." You cannot carry that sort of thing far in any other European language.—Manchester Guardian.

THE STATE OF FRANKLIN.

It Had a Short Life in What is Now Eastern Tennessee.

In 1784 North Carolina, growing impatient of the burden that her western settlements had imposed upon her treasury and irritated by the complaints of the people of those sections, passed an act conveying to the federal government all the lands that now constitute the state of Tennessee.

The people of the country that is now eastern Tennessee, feeling themselves left without a government, made haste to organize themselves into an independent commonwealth, which they called, as a tribute to the illustrious philosopher, the state of Franklin. These people applied for admission into the Union; but the federal government being slow and unwilling to act and North Carolina having repeated the act of cession of her western province to the Union, the state of Franklin came into very troubled waters for some years.

Some efforts were made to persuade the Kentuckians to join themselves to the state of Franklin, a provision having been made for such co-operation in the constitution of the experiment, but they came to nothing. The new state gradually fell to pieces and in 1797 the brilliant and able governor, John Sevier, was put on trial for high treason. He was released by a daring rescue and subsequently pardoned and received in name to the leadership, which he never lost in the affections of his people. In 1797 the last legislature of the state of Franklin held its session at Greenville.—Philadelphia Press.

Napoleon's Confidence.

Just before his marriage Napoleon received the appointment of commander in chief of the army of Italy. He was then twenty-six. "You are rather young," said one of the directors, "to assume responsibility so weighty and to take command over veteran generals."

"In one year," Napoleon replied, "I shall be old or dead."

"We can place you in command of men only," said Carnot, "for the troops are in need of everything, and we can furnish you with no money to provide supplies."

"Give me only men enough," Napoleon answered, "and I ask for nothing more; I will be answerable for the result."—Table Talk and Opinions of Napoleon Buonaparte.

Pure Bred Arab Horses.

In Cairo there is a society for preserving the pure bred Arab horse. It is said that recent changes in the lives and habits of the Bedouins have resulted in the deterioration of these horses. A practical horseman of wide experience says that as a rule the Arab horse is now no better treated than a our own horses, whatever they may have been true of the old days when such poems as "The Arab to His Steed" were written.

A Troublemaker.

"Why did you tell my wife that before I met her I promised to love you forever?"

"Well, didn't you?"

"Sure I did, but that's no kind of conversation to go in a man's wife with."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Fulfilled.

Mrs. Gnage—Before we were married you used to say you could listen to my sweet voice all night. Mr. Gnage—Well, at that time I had no idea I'd ever have to do it.—Judge.

Not a Best Winner.

Tramp—Once I was well known as a wrestler, mum. Lady—And do you wrestle now? Tramp—Only old por-ter, mum.—New Orleans Times-Picayune.

Comparison more than reality makes men happy and can make them wretched.—Foltham.

SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County.

Lella G. Gregory, Plaintiff, vs. Denby Gregory, Defendant.

To Denby Gregory, Defendant above named:

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled cause within at least ten days of the date of the first publication of this summons, to-wit, on or before Friday the 11th day of February, 1916; and you will take notice that if you fail to appear and answer or plead within said time the plaintiff, for want thereof, will apply to the above entitled court for the relief prayed for and demanded in the prayer of her said complaint, namely, for a decree of the court forever dissolving the bonds of matrimony now and heretofore existing between plaintiff and defendant, and for an absolute divorce from the defendant.

This summons is published pursuant to an order of the Honorable Gilbert W. Phelps, judge of the above entitled court, duly made and filed herein on the 26th day of December, 1915. The first publication of this summons will be made in the Weston Leader published at Weston, Oregon, on Friday, the 31st day of December, 1915, and the last publication will be made on Friday, the 11th day of February, 1916, making a publication of six consecutive weeks.

Dated at Pendleton, Oregon, on this the 29th day of December, 1915.

WILL M. PETERSON,
Attorney for Plaintiff,
Postoffice address: Smith-Crawford Bldg., Pendleton, Oregon.

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