

Less Legislation Demanded

From the Blue Mountain Eagle.

The next plague will be the meeting of the legislature. This is a most uncomplimentary manner in which to refer to the meeting of that august body of grave and reverend senior but it is reference couched in popular verbiage. Whether it is deserving of such reference is and may be a matter of difference in opinion. Like the initiative law the legislature is an imperfect function of government. In the main it serves the purpose; in detail it don't. Much of the legislation is for constituency. It represents the demands of a locality and that the ends might be secured the means are justified. The broader principle of the greater good for the greatest number is often lost sight of and localities are favored. Of course in order to do this it too often becomes necessary to effect it with compromise and vicious measures are made the law in order to save the meritorious. One serious and well made criticism directed at the initiative and referendum is the fact that it is worked too hard. Too much legislation is proposed and submitted to the people and the same is a situation that exists in the legislature. Often one thousand bills are introduced in one session, and it is a physical impossibility for a member, however industrious and well disposed to familiarize himself with all of the important matters connected with the deluge of ill prepared legislation. What the people should demand from all of the legislative function is less laws but more carefully drawn and more seriously considered. Locality should be lost sight of and members should represent Oregon and not some special county or particular district.

ARIZONA ACTS PROCLAIMED

Dry Law and Anti-Alien Labor Measure Effective January 1.

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 14.—Governor George W. P. Hunt late today proclaimed the measures carried at the November election, including the prohibition and the anti-alien labor measures, effective January 1, 1915.

The attack upon the dry law in the form of four separate applications for injunctions will be filed in the Federal Court, probably tomorrow at Tucson.

The measure providing that 80 per cent of the employes in all businesses with five or more employes be Americans, has been protested to the State Department already by the British and Italian Ambassadors upon the theory that it violates treaty rights of aliens.

WORK FOR IDLE PLANNED

California Commission Would Use Labor to Reclaim Vast Area.

San Francisco, Dec. 14.—With the double end in view of providing for the unemployed and of developing the resources of the state, the California Conservation Commission decided here today to undertake an immediate reconnaissance of 3,000,000 acres of land along the Colorado River in San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial counties, now held by the Federal Government.

The reconnaissance is to be completed before the Legislature adjourns and a report to the Legislature is to be made. Roughly speaking, the land extends southward about 80 miles from a point north of Needles in a strip about

47 miles wide along the Colorado River.

Under the Carey act the state may take up 1,000,000 acres. The plan is to construct an irrigation system for the reclamation of the land, with the labor of the unemployed. Those who refuse work for wages on the reclamation project are to be treated as vagabonds and sent to the rockpile.

After the development work has been done the land would be opened to settlers on time payments.

ADVERTISING PAYS PARSON.

In Two Years He Married Ninety-two Couples at Paris, Ill.

Terre Haute, Ind.—The Rev. H. B. Peters, pastor of the First Christian church of Paris, Ill., desires the patronage of couples who go over the state line from Terre Haute to the Illinois Greta Green. He is not diffident. Therefore he has written to a Terre Haute newspaper to have it say:

"Paris has a sure enough marrying parson—the Rev. H. B. Peters of that city has qualified. In less than two years he has married ninety-two couples, of whom twenty-two couples were from Indiana. The First Christian church of Paris is a large organization of over 1,200 members. The church is located one block from the public square and within a half block of the interurban station. The parson has an office in the church and is ready to meet the young people at all hours. If people are determined to leave Indiana to get married they can do no better than strike for Paris and look up the marrying parson."

HIGH COST OF EDUCATION.

Doubles in Twelve Years in Minneapolis Schools.

Minneapolis.—It cost \$39.81 per pupil for elementary education in Minneapolis public schools in 1914, as compared with \$18.39 in 1902, and the high school cost per pupil in the same period has mounted from \$38.42 to \$72.69. These comparisons have been made by Miss Katherine Brazee, secretary to School Superintendent F. E. Spaulding.

The cost of heat, light and upkeep of buildings is not included in these figures. In 1902 there were 61 buildings in use, 906 teachers and 39,682 pupils, as compared with 74 buildings, 1,423 teachers and 40,167 pupils enrolled in 1914. The wider range of courses and the care given defective children are given as causes for the increased cost.

PRACTICES LAW AT 85.

Minnesota Man Attends to All Details of His Legal Business.

Rochester, Minn.—Charles C. Wilson, dean of the Olmsted county bar, celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday recently.

Mr. Wilson daily gives personal attention to a lucrative law practice, attending to all of the details himself. His legal talent was recognized by the state in 1892, when he was appointed official reporter of the decisions of the supreme court. He resigned in 1896, when the legislature reduced the salary from \$3,500 to \$2,000 a year.

Mr. Wilson has never been an office-seeker, but has devoted his time to the practice of his profession.

COW EATS "FRUIT" ON HAT.

Knocks Woman Down and Injures Her to Get Ornaments.

Peckham, Colo.—The fondness of the family cow for fruit came near causing Mrs. Paris Cogburn serious injury and resulted in the destruction of a fine new hat and its ornamental trimmings.

The cow saw the fruit on the hat just as the woman left the house and started for it. She knocked Mrs. Cogburn down and stepped on her hip while she munched the hat.

Help arrived, and the woman was taken into the house, where medical assistance was summoned. She had a deep gash in her hip.

English Walnut Record.

Galt, Cal.—On the farm of Alfred C. North at Valley Oaks a young English walnut orchard holds a record which many of the old settlers claim to be the most remarkable in the state. Last March North put out forty acres of young walnut trees. By actual measurement recently it was found that a number of the trees stand twelve feet high, showing a growth of ten feet in seven months. A large acreage in this vicinity is being planted to this variety of walnut.

HEROIC ZOUAVE SAVED A BRIDGE

Gave His Life to Foil German Ruse in Belgium.

HIS BODY NOT IDENTIFIED.

Found Amid Many Other Dead After French Victory—Correspondents Tell Many Unusual Stories of Incidents on Firing Lines—Raid on London by Air is German Plan.

Paris.—A note appended to a recent official statement from the war office tells of one of the many side tragedies and heroic deeds of the war.

In Belgium a few days ago, the note says, a German column marched on Dri Grachter bridge, forcing before it a group of French zouaves who had been



© 1914, by American Press Association.

A BELGIAN FIRING ON GERMANS FROM BEHIND A TREE.

taken prisoners. The French trenches ceased firing after the Germans had forced the zouaves to cry out "Cease firing!"

When the zouaves were very near the bridge, however, one of them yelled out in a commanding voice, "Open fire, nom de Dieu!"

Invulnerably the French trenches opened a volley at the command. The result was that every zouave was killed, and all the Germans were finished off with mitrailleuse. The French then took the bridge.

The name of the French hero who gave the command to fire remains unknown. There was nothing from which he could be identified in the heap of bodies on the bridge.

Many other touching stories are told by correspondents.

In a diary found on a dead German officer at Dixmude appears this description of the horrors of war:

"Man is becoming a beast. There is no respite from the roar of the guns. We continue to shoot, starve and die. One of our pontoons across the Yser has been destroyed, and that means a more horrible inferno than ever.

"On every side are the dead and dying. Our colonel and major—indeed, three-fourths of our battalion—we have left on the bloody field. Moreover, the confusion of the units is unbelievable.

"A regiment, battalion or company no longer exists. All is now debris. We just wander about and have nothing to do but make targets for the enemy. The whole thing is impossible, but the only order we hear from our base is, 'Go on!'"

Russia's soldiers take a sporting delight in battle. They carry this quality so far that they sometimes embarrass their officers.

Cossacks chafe for action. When they can't have action they search for imitations and sport. During a recent lull songs were sung, races run and imaginary Turks' heads pierced by wild-



BIG VALUES FOR MERRY XMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

WE CAN LOOK EVERYBODY, WHO HAS DEALT WITH US, STRAIGHT IN THE FACE. WE HAVE TREATED THEM HONESTLY. WE HAVE GIVEN QUALITY GOODS FOR AS LOW A PRICE AS QUALITY MERCHANDISE CAN BE SOLD FOR.

WE SHALL BID FOR YOUR TRADE NEXT YEAR WITH THE SAME METHODS WE HAVE ALWAYS USED.

WE THANK OUR OLD CUSTOMERS FOR THE BUSINESS THEY HAVE GIVEN US. WE INVITE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT GIVEN US THEIR TRADE TO TRY OUR STORE.

OUR BIG SALE

Is still going on giving you unexcelled opportunities for purchasing your winter supplies at reduced prices.

Wishing You A Merry Christmas,

SELIG'S.

ly charging horsemen. The Austrians fired and killed the pony of a Cossack jockey who was three yards from the winning post. The jockey rose and by a terrific exertion of will dragged his pony past the winning post. He was declared the winner.

Bank Clerk Kills Three Bears.

Weaverville, Cal.—Three bears were killed within five miles of here in one day by Van B. Young, bank clerk, who was out hunting alone with two dogs. He came upon a mother and her cubs. The mother was dispatched quickly, but the cubs put up a strenuous fight before they were finally killed. This is more single handed bear killing than any other local hunter has heard of.

MOTOR ARTILLERY TO SPEED UP WAR

Tractors Carrying Big Guns Not Daunted by Bad Roads.

London.—That motor artillery may be used by the belligerents before the present war is over is the conclusion of an automobile expert expressed in an article published here. He bases this idea on the success of motor transport over broken country. Approving the phrase "This is a motor war," he says:

"One of the most interesting phases, in face of future developments of automobilism for military purposes, is those vehicles which have been designed and which are being used for breaking across country where roads do not exist or where surfaces are exceedingly bad. In this connection some extraordinarily ingenious pioneer work has been done in this country, notably the Diplock-Pedrail. If the inventor had received more support

undoubtedly this system of self propelled vehicle could have been brought to a stage at which its practicability would have been recognized throughout the world today.

"As it is, since 1878 he has been perfecting his machinery every year and got it to an extraordinary stage before the war broke out. Some of the heavy machines that the Germans are using reveal, moreover, that they have not been slow to study his ingenious scheme whereby a self propelled road vehicle can also be made to break across country, over plowed fields or any other surface that it may be necessary to negotiate.

"In Belgium the Germans have been using heavy motor tractors with wired wheels in front, designed to insure steering way when going through slime, in that whichever way they tend to slide they must presently dig themselves in deeper laterally. The rear driving wheels are really a variant of another British idea evolved in some of the motor sledges that were taken with Captain Scott on his antarctic expedition."

COAST OF ENGLAND RAIDED BY GERMANS

Four Cities Bombarded and Much Damage Done.

ENGLAND TERRORIZED BY RAID

London, Dec. 16.—Four towns on the English coast were bombarded by a German cruiser fleet today. Scarborough, Whitby and Seaton Carew, North sea ports, were each in turn visited by vessels of the German fleet. Buildings were shelled, and many killed and wounded. The Germans

(Concluded on page 4)

ARE YOU DOING YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

What will make a better Christmas present than a pair of shoes or slippers? We have men's dress shoes, regular \$5 line for \$4.50. Woman's patent leather and gun metal shoes. For the next two weeks we will make special prices on men's slippers and women's felt slippers and moccasins. All goods and prices right.

MRS. E. FORSHEY.

Quarterly Collection of Taxes

Reform in collection of taxes was an issue in the late campaign and general sentiment favored quarterly collection of taxes.

This plan has much to commend it, and if it coupled with a proper arrangement in regard to penalties is considered ideal.

Taxes becoming due every three months if not paid when due should bear the same rate of interest the county and state pay.

That would be six percent, and there is not a good reason why the citizen should pay a higher rate than the county collects.

On this plan any taxpayer who did not see fit to pay taxes when the first quarter was due would pay six percent on that quarter.

The same with each quarter's taxes not paid when due, and then a final penalty should be added when the taxes become delinquent.

The final penalty should be sufficient to cover cost of advertising the property and cost of collection added to that.

The people are opposed, it seems to rebates and excessive rates of interest or excessive and unnecessary penalties.

Lower Taxes and Cheaper Lands

It is acknowledged by all who are anxious for the development of the state that the problem is to get more people upon the land. To accomplish this more industries, lower taxes and cheaper lands are the great essentials.

Few persons realize how slowly the lands of Oregon are settling up, until they look the facts squarely in the face, and remember that 67 per cent of the area of Oregon is government owned and controlled land.

The census of 1910 shows that while the cities and towns increased in population in ten years 213,160, the rural territory increased in ten years only 46,069, or about 3,607 per year added to the farming population.

During the ten years from 1900 to 1910 Portland increased in population 116,788, while all other cities and towns increased only 96,372, and it must be remembered a great deal of the gain of cities and towns was from the country.

The reports sent out by the State Labor Commissioner that Oregon has 800,000 population are misleading and not based upon real development of the lands which are largely government owned and not open to settlement.