

Polk County Observer

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WAR AND CRIMINALITY.

The present great war appears to be producing some rather curious and contradictory results, notably with respect to its influence on criminality in the leading belligerent nations. It is claimed, for instance, that one effect of the war has been to reform many habitual criminals, by arousing their latent patriotism and inspiring them with a desire to be of actual service in lines of honest effort. Instead of centering their thoughts on plans of lawlessness and illegal depredation, such persons frequently are fired with laudable ambition to aid in the common effort to defend or protect national interests and honor. When convicts are released from serving sentences we are told it is a common thing for them to join the army of their governments, and as a rule they are said to make good soldiers.

On the other hand, however, it is claimed there is springing up in the leading belligerent nations a new class of criminals. Boys too young for war duty, but quite old enough for mischief, are the offenders. Lacking, in most cases, the restraining impulse of fathers now serving in the trenches, they are running riot and committing all manner of depredations. A boy crime wave has resulted which is causing serious concern in England. How it is regarded in other belligerent countries is less evident because we receive less news from them. Presumably all are equally concerned.

This is one of the most distressing developments of the war. From all that can be learned, the so-called boy criminals are merely healthy boys whose energies, unguided, are taking a wrong direction. They need guidance to prevent their becoming habitual criminals and a scourge of society. While war distracts the public mind; while parents fight and die in battle, and national and individual attention is centered on the most pressing problems of existence, it is likely there will be little kindly attention for these boys, drifting into paths of danger.

THINGS THAT HELP PROSPERITY

It is estimated that January disbursements of corporation dividends in this country will amount to something like \$350,000,000, while a still larger sum has been added to sinking funds, surplus and undivided profits accounts. This is a very fine showing and is fresh evidence of the unbounded prosperity which prevails in this land. There is one feature of the situation, moreover, that deserves especial attention. Nearly all of the rich dividends now being paid by American corporations will remain in this country, instead of a large portion of such profits going abroad, as was the case before the European war. Americans, in other words, have bought back most of the American securities previously held abroad, and the major part of the dividends accruing on these securities will therefore remain in this land.

The importance of this change cannot be overestimated. It means that instead of dividing American profits with foreigners, these profits henceforth are to stay in this country to strengthen the banks, stimulate trade and industry and figure in new investments in home institutions and improvements. This is so not only with respect to the large January dividend disbursements already referred to, but to all similar distributions of profits in the months to come. The American people, in other words, now hold the advantageous position of actually owning most of the securities representing American business and financial organizations, and also public obligations made to secure loans. And the millions of dollars of interest and dividends which hitherto have gone to enrich foreigners will henceforth be saved to prolong and promote prosperity in this land.

Even this, moreover, does not tell the entire story of changes favorable to this nation. In addition to keeping our interest and dividend payments at home, the American people are now in position to receive many millions annually, in the shape of interest due on American loans abroad. This is a complete reversal of the situation which prevailed before the great war started, and is a thing that must add wonderfully to the financial prestige and advantage of this nation for many years to come. Nothing less than wanton care-

lessness and lack of foresight will rob America of this great advantage, which will go far to help this country withstand the strain of readjustment at the conclusion of the war, and also will help to insure a continuation of American prosperity for at least a number of years.

SANTA CLAUS DID WELL.

Old Santa Claus evidently did a land office business in his recent distribution of Christmas gifts, and apparently he verified the predictions that he would break all previous records. It is impossible, of course, to accurately compute the number of presents that he handled, or the value of the same, but the record of the postoffice department affords an illuminating light on this subject. It is estimated that the parcel post carried close to 160,000,000 Christmas packages, while holiday letters and cards also ran into the scores of millions. The postal department officials figure that the postage alone on this holiday business amounted to not less than \$18,000,000.

A very moderate estimate of the average value of the Christmas parcels sent by mail would be \$1, while it is highly probable the average actual value was much higher. However, even at \$1 each the presents sent by mail represented a total value of \$160,000,000, and this takes no account of the other millions of parcels sent by express, and the still larger number of gifts made directly. Certainly the aggregate value of this Christmas giving could not be less than half a billion dollars, representing an average of \$5 for each man, woman and child in this country. It was "some Christmas," in fact, the biggest and best this nation ever has seen. Yet if national prosperity continues for another year it is safe to say the record of next Christmas will exceed even that of the Christmas just passed.

GROWING USE OF MOTOR CARS.

This is to be another big year in the automobile business, according to reports and the present prospects. There will be at least 3,000,000 passenger autos in use in this country before the end of the summer season, according to manufacturers' estimates, while in other quarters it is figured that at least one-fourth as many motor trucks will be used for business purposes and for the army. When we speak of an automobile, however, we invariably think of a passenger carrying machine and it is of passenger carrying machines that we think in looking forward to the coming year as the greatest in the history of the automobile.

In this connection it is of interest to note that one statistician who has been looking into the matter of automobile production for the year and likewise delving into railroad reports, has reached the conclusion that more people will travel in automobiles than on railroads during the coming year. Assuming that each passenger carrying machine will make an average of 6,000 miles, he sees that the 3,000,000 cars of the country will travel 18,000,000,000 miles, while with an average of three passengers to the car, the total of automobile passenger miles will be 54,000,000,000. This is just juggling with figures, an interesting form of guess work, but at least it serves to renew in our minds an impression of the automobile's ever increasing importance.

A New York policeman just has received a \$30,000 legacy for helping a woman across the street several years ago. This ought to increase police courtesy all over the country for at least a few weeks.

Peace plans do not seem to be making much progress, but the very fact that all the belligerents are talking about peace is a rather encouraging sign.

The short skirts so much in evidence today are also a reminder of the time when some people were inclined to jeer at the so-called "rainy-daisies."

Another thing expected of the year 1917 is that it will bring a remedy for the high cost of living.

About time for another war crisis to bob up and give the people of this country a big scare.

BOY MAKES LONG TRIP.

Earl Smith Goes to Uncle in Marion Ohio.

Earl Smith, adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Smith, left last Thursday for Marion, Ohio, where he will make his home hereafter with his uncle, H. Breuner. For the past six years the lad, who is now 13 years of age, has been living with the Smiths, they having found him in Tillamook county when he was almost starved, without clothing and when he had not worn a shoe for three years. After the Smiths moved to Dallas a year and a half ago, his uncle in Ohio learned of his whereabouts and, after considerable correspondence induced him to return east last week to make his home here.

OTHERS' OPINIONS

A Good Piece of Work.

The most important action of the Commercial club since its organization is the offer to guarantee that from three to four thousand acres will be planted to flax in the vicinity of Salem if anyone will build and operate a mill here. It is claimed that interested parties have examined into the matter and have expressed a willingness to build the mills if they can be guaranteed the quantity of flax necessary to keep them busy. This kind of work means much to Salem and the farmers of this vicinity and if the club through its action assists in getting a flax product mill established here it will have done a magnificent piece of work. The governor in his message Tuesday called attention to the fact that while the first year's flax experiment did not make a good showing, owing to it being an experiment and besides an unfortunate season, that the crop of 1916 was a profitable one, and the results indicate that crops to follow will make a still better showing as the farmers get experience in growing the crop. —Salem Journal.

Mrs. Cow Having Her Inning.

With the Lone Fir Dairy, the Western Condensed Milk company, Newberg Creamery and the C. N. Chapman milk and cream depot that is being fitted up in the Edwards building all doing business here, it looks like Mrs. Cow was in a fair way to have her inning in this section from this date forward. Evidently the assertion publicly made here a couple of years ago by Mr. Paulhamus, of Puyallup, that there were not as many cows in this vicinity as there should be to go along with the fruit and berry business, has borne fruit. Several years ago K. C. Eldridge, the Independence creamery man who does more business than any other creamery man in the Willamette valley, came to Newberg soon after his arrival in Oregon from Utah, and established a creamery here. After running a few years he gave it up and went to Independence to locate, giving as the reason for the change the statement that he was unable to get enough cream here to make the plant pay. It has taken a long time to get the dairy interest worked up but now it is well under way the expansion seems rapid. Besides the monthly milk and cream checks that come in, the cow business means a greatly increased soil production as a result of the manure that goes back onto the land, which is a factor that is always reckoned by the up-to-date farmer. —Newberg Graphic.

Portland Banks Getting Foxey.

According to a report from Portland the individual whose bank balance does not average more than \$100 at the end of each month will be required to pay the bank 25¢ per month for the privilege of allowing the bank to use such money. Where is the boast that the chief end of the banks are to encourage the small savings? —Falls City News.

Advertised Letters.

At the close of business on Tuesday, January 9, 1917, the following letters were uncalled for in the post-office at Dallas, Oregon:

The Advocate.
Mrs. F. E. Adams
Mr. David F. Allen
Mr. G. S. Billings
Mr. Carle Bruks
Mr. Jos. Comely
Mr. C. W. Cook
Mr. and Mrs. Will Cue
Miss Daisy Doloff—2
Mr. Griswold
Mrs. Ernest Lenox
Mrs. F. E. Lyons
Mr. Claud McGrew.
Moore & Co.,
Mrs. Eva Norton
Miss Dorree Otem
Agatha Quiring
W. J. Sittin
Mrs. A. Smalley
Mr. F. C. Thomas
Mr. W. C. Van Horn
Mr. E. J. Young
Mr. J. O. Wilson
Mrs. Welch
Wheelodon Sisters.

RIFLE CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS

Decides to Shoot 75 Feet; H. A. Webster Chosen President.

H. A. Webster was elected president of the La Creole Rifle club at the annual organization meeting Friday night.

The club has decided to shoot 75 feet instead of 60 during the ensuing year. They have a set of new targets for the longer distance. A few scores were shot after the election at the new targets with average results. The next shoot will be held tonight. The members shoot from a prone position.

The rest of the officers are: John Orr, vice-president; R. U. Steelquist, secretary; August Riser, treasurer; and A. W. Bennett, range officer. President Webster has not appointed his committee, yet.

POLK STATION

Mrs. Mobley, who was in the Dallas hospital is at home now and improving rapidly.

O. Fast has been confined to his home with the grip.

Mr. Penner recently purchased a part of the Quiring estate and is now building a house thereon.

The Tilgner family has moved from the Dolph farm, and Mr. Miller and family have moved there.

C. A. Dunn and wife spent two weeks in Portland during the holidays.

Isaac Reddekopp spent a few weeks in Portland and Washington working but is satisfied to return to Polk.

C. C. Lowe is preparing to set out some prune trees on his place here.

Dr. M. Hayter has purchased 18 acres of the Quiring estate and will set a part of it to prunes.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Teats spent the entire week at Corvallis during the Farmers' and Homemakers' week.

Mr. and Mrs. Huffman went to Salem one day last week to see Mrs. Huffman's nephew, who has been ill for several months.

While the other school districts of the county have been making improvements, Polk district has not been asleep. In November a parent-teacher association was organized, and it was decided to build a playshed. A social was held immediately and a good sum of money was netted as a beginning. The men of the district hauled the lumber, and on last Friday the whole district turned out, the men to build, and the ladies with well-filled baskets. At noon fifty persons sat down to a dinner which was enjoyed by all. On Saturday all met again and enjoyed another day. The shed was almost completed in the two days and all felt better for having been brought together in such a way. Next Saturday evening the parent-teacher association will meet to dedicate the new playshed.

INDEPENDENCE.

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the home of F. R. Arrell a week ago last Saturday evening while he and his family were attending the picture show. The home was located in North Independence. There was some insurance on the property but not enough to cover the loss.

Emerson Shaffer has been hauling gravel the past week.

Members of the Womans' Relief corps very pleasantly surprised Mrs. Esther Morgan at her home last Monday evening. Music and games furnished amusement for the evening. Mrs. Morgan is soon to move to Oregon City.

L. G. Reeves has purchased the Wm. Lawton property on Fifth and G streets.

Adam Green, who has been in the hop business for several years, is having his hop yard torn out. It is thought that many more hop men in this vicinity will do likewise.

A number of Postmaster Wood's friends gave him a surprise party Saturday night in honor of his thirty-fourth birthday.

Will Cooper is helping his brother, Kirk Cooper, remodel his new house this week.

Ed. Simpson, Salem life insurance agent, visited Sunday with his sister, Mrs. William Herren.

Mrs. A. M. Canady of Portland is visiting here.

Independence merchants are busy with the usual first of the year invoicing.

Paul Bickley, who has been clerking for the firm of Conkey & Walker for several years, has resigned and accepted a position as traveling salesman for a Portland grocery store.

J. S. Bohannon has leased his sash and door factory to a Portland firm, which will commence operation about February 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Fishbocker of Tillamook are visiting friends and relatives here this week.

Mrs. Theodore Cooper left Tuesday for eastern Oregon, where she will visit until spring with her sons.

Harley Buckner of Salem visited Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gray Friday and Saturday.

Mrs. L. Bogan expects to leave in a few days for California, where she will remain indefinitely with her sister.

A son was born to Dr. and Mrs. Grider on Thursday, January 11.

Work was commenced last week on the organization of a commercial club in Independence. A committee consisting of M. Merwin, O. A. Macy, W. S. Stewart, C. W. Irvine, W. E. Craven and Dean Walker met last Saturday night and adopted a constitution which it is proposed to submit to citizens for ratification. Commercial clubs in Independence have heretofore had a difficult road to travel because the power to take action was given the club as a whole and not to an executive committee as is proposed under the new constitution.

The regular installation exercises of Gen. Gibson Woman's Relief corps was held Saturday in the G. A. R. hall and the following officers were installed: Beattie Groves, president; Maggie Groves, senior vice president; Jessie Stratton, junior vice president; Eliza A. Ewing, secretary; Loma M. Ewing, treasurer; Mary Bingham,

chaplain; Dema Bingham, chaplain; Dema Stillwell, conductor; Rebecca Dick, guard; Emily Basene, assistant guard.

The Eugene Bible university glee club will give a concert here tomorrow evening.

Mrs. W. E. Craven was called to Monrovia, California, the fore part of last week by the serious illness of her uncle, D. B. Taylor. Her son, Dean, accompanied her.

A chorus of thirty voices was organized in Independence Thursday night by Prof. Finley of Portland. J. G. McIntosh was elected president, Mrs. E. E. Paddock, vice-president, Mrs. G. W. Conkey, secretary, and O. A. Macy, treasurer.

The ladies of the Baptist church are going to serve a business men's supper in the basement of the church tomorrow evening.

Edward Whitcraft and wife of Great Falls, Montana, are in the city the guests of H. Dadman and wife, Mrs. Dadman being a sister to Mr. Whitcraft. The latter is here looking over the country with a view of locating, as the long severe cold winters has impaired his health. He is much impressed with the Oregon climate.

Mary DeArmond McLane, a sister of R. C. and C. J. DeArmond of this city, died on January 7 at Grants Pass, Oregon, from heart failure, at the age of 50. She was a native of Marysville, Tenn., and came to Oregon in 1878. She was the wife of Charles E. McLane, chief of Police of Grants Pass. Besides the relatives here there are four other brothers and a son surviving her.

High School May Issue Annual.

The first annual ever gotten out at Dallas high school will be under the management of the present senior class. A student body meeting was called Wednesday morning by vice-president McCann and the seniors were granted permission to publish the year-book. It will come out under Periscope management and probably under that name. The class plans a small booklet, not an elaborate treatise.

Russian Ballet Attracts Dallasites.

Mr. and Mrs. Kugle and Miss Jennie Muscott spent Saturday and Sunday in Portland. They saw the "Russian Ballet" and report a very enjoyable time. Miss Alfreda Garner substituted for Miss Muscott at the library during her absence.

SOME GOOD ADVICE

Strengthened by Dallas Experiences.

Kidney disease is too dangerous to neglect. At the first sign of backache, headache, dizziness or urinary disorders, you should give the weakened kidneys prompt attention. Eat little meat, take things easier and use a reliable kidney tonic. There's no other kidney medicine so well recommended as Doan's Kidney Pills. Dallas people rely on them. Here's one of the many statements from Dallas people.

Mrs. A. M. Stewart, 804 Hayter street, Dallas, says: "I used to be bothered a great deal by backache and kidney disorders. Doan's Kidney Pills have practically overcome those troubles. Whenever I am bothered by my kidneys, a few doses of Doan's Kidney Pills gives quick relief. I am glad I have a medicine I can rely upon."

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