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MONDAY, JULY 29, 1918.

OREGON WEATHER

Fair; gentle westerly winds.

SUN SPOTS

As astronomical authority remarks that the sun's face is badly spotted just now. He is probably right about it—anybody can find out for himself by taking a good look at the sun through a telescope, with a piece of smoked glass to protect the eye. There is nothing unusual about the general situation. Old Sol is subject to periodic eruptions on his physiognomy. The present outbreak, however, is interesting because it is said to cover a larger area than usual, and because it may have a definite relation to the weather in a season when weather is mightily important.

There was just such a spottedness on Sol's face, it appears, in the meteorologically famous year of 1816. That was the summerless year, when the crops nearly all froze, and ice kept forming in July and August through the Temperate zone. The years preceding the following were nearly as bad. Authorities have explained the strange lapse from weather regularity as due directly to those solar spots, centers of vast disturbance in the sun's luminous atmosphere, diminishing its radiating power and thus limiting the quantity of heat sent to our earth and the other planets. A pronounced disturbance of that sort is likely to persist for about three years.

Are we in for such another experience? There is no definite cause for alarm thus far, but various weather reports lately have been somewhat disquieting. The temperature throughout most of the United States in the last few weeks has been considerably lower than usual. Prolonged cold rains, injuring crops, are reported from Germany. Brazil is said to have had its coffee plants frozen and other vital crops badly injured.

These may be weather accidents, transient phases of the season with no particular meaning. And then again, they may not. Certainly we hope that now, of all times, we are not entering on a three years' frigid spell.

DON'T WEAR PLATINUM

The problem, to wear or not to wear platinum jewelry, is one that troubles most of us very little. Nevertheless it is startling to learn, in the face of the great need for platinum in the manufacture of explosives, airplanes, electrical machinery, etc., that over half of the supply of platinum has come to be

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used in jewelry. It is combined with gold or used alone in cigarette cases, mesh bags, wedding rings and jewelry of every kind.

The scarcity of platinum is serious. Formerly, it is said, we obtained 95 per cent of our platinum from Russia. Germany now has practically the whole Russian output in her hands. The price has advanced from \$30 to \$105 an ounce. Last March steps were taken to commandeer commercial supplies of platinum. But that does not seem to be enough. It may yet become necessary to turn over to the government all the platinum now in private possession.

Many people are pledging themselves neither to purchase or accept as gifts any articles containing this metal. It is a very small thing to do. People can worry along very well without platinum jewelry, and those who continue to wear it ought to feel like the man mentioned in a recent issue of The Outlook. He spoke of a gold and platinum watch chain that was a prized gift. "I hate to go on wearing this chain. It makes me feel like a slacker."

The humble peanut, too, is doing its bit for democracy—which is precisely what you would expect of a peanut, when you consider what a democratic vegetable it is. There are going to be 19,500,000 bushels more than usual, making a total crop of about 80,000,000 bushels.

A Swiss lawyer, defending a client who confessed to stealing some goods, pleaded for leniency on the ground that the thief "had lived for a long time in Germany." That would explain a good deal, of course.

REVIEW OF FOURTH YEAR

(Continued from Page One.)

by withdrawing from the Rhaetian mountains to the Asiago plateau and, assisted by the French reinforcements brought to that battle-front, stood at bay.

Russian Collapse

Events in the meanwhile had been moving swiftly in Russia. On November 1, while the offensive against Italy was under way, Alexander F. Kerensky, then the Russian premier, announced that Russia was worn out by the war and that the allies must shoulder the burden thenceforward.

Seven days later Kerensky was deposed by the Bolsheviks. The fall and flight of Kerensky was the signal for Germany and Austria to enter into peace negotiations with Rus-

sia. On November 30 the Bolsheviks announced that Russia was out of the war and proposed that all the allies join in negotiations for an armistice.

Russian and German representatives met at Brest Litovsk on December 22, and terms of peace were exchanged. No progress was made with the negotiations, and the conference was broken upon January 11. In the meantime, a new republic had sprung from the side of Russia. It was Ukraine, a territory extending along the Rumanian and Galician frontier from the Black sea northward to Chelm, in ancient Poland. With this republic, the central empires made peace late in January.

The failure of the Bolshevik authorities to reach any agreement with the Germans resulted in the renewal of hostilities on February 18, and the German armies moved forward once more.

Brest Litovsk Treaty

This brought about a renewal of the peace negotiations, and at Brest Litovsk the Bolsheviks were given to understand that Germany would recognize the kingdom of Poland, the republic of Ukraine, the independence of Finland, and the separate governmental status of Lithuania, Esthonia and Livonia. Turkey, as an ally of the central powers, was given a great area to the east of the Black sea, including the regions of Batum, Kars and Erivan.

With the announcement of the final signing of the treaty between the Bolsheviks and Germany, the allies gave up hope that Russia would remain in the conflict, and at once they began to strengthen their lines against the coming of the great German offensive by which Berlin and Vienna hoped to force the entente nations to make peace.

Rumania Capitulates

With the greater part of her territory occupied by the Germans, Austrians and Bulgarians, with her government driven from Bucharest to Jassy and with the Russian Bolsheviks openly hostile toward her, Rumania found herself in a critical situation. Rumanian troops during February and March advanced into Bessarabia, a part of the new republic of Ukraine, but they were hemmed in by the enemy forces and obliged to withdraw. At last, on May 6, Rumania signed a treaty of peace with the central powers.

By this treaty Rumania lost the province of Dobruja, on the south side of the Danube, which she had received after the Balkan war, and agreed to a rectification of her western frontier. Economic concessions also were made under pressure from the Teutonic alliance.

Peace Tentatives

The period between December 1, 1917, and March 1, 1918 may be called the period of peace tentatives. It is true that before the end of the summer Pope Benedict made an appeal to the warring nations to enter into peace negotiations, the basis for negotiations being the restoration of

Belgium and Serbia and the return to Germany of her lost colonies. This appeal, made on August 13, was answered by President Wilson on August 29, when the president announced that the German government as constituted could not be believed and that the United States was ready to enter into negotiations when the German people showed they desired peace and when they spoke through any authority which would be representative of them.

The German answer to the pope's appeal reached the Vatican on September 21. It expressed hope that further warfare could be averted through the good offices of the pope, but declined to enter into any engagement to meet what the allies had declared to be their minimum war aims.

German Peace Offer

German efforts to secure a peace which would leave to Germany all the fruits of her victory gained through Russia's collapse, and with Belgium and large portions of France to be used as pawns at the council table, began with the address of Count Czernin, then Austrian foreign minister, at Brest Litovsk, on December 26. The keynote of the address was general peace without annexations and indemnities.

On January 8, President Wilson, addressing congress, said that the United States must know for whom the German rulers were speaking. The address was a compliment to an address made on January 5 by David Lloyd George, the British premier.

To these addresses reply was made by Imperial Chancellor von Hertling of Germany, and Count Czernin. The latter was pacific and conciliatory in tone, while the former, alluding to "the good German sword," showed he was speaking for the militarists of the Germanic powers.

(To be continued.)

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