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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1918.

OREGON WEATHER
Rain in west; easterly winds in east.

WHO WILL CONTROL?
Apparently one of the biggest questions confronting America is that of a merchant marine, and to formulate a policy as to its operation.

Our government has invested, according to the press reports, upwards of \$4,000,000,000 in ships, mainly for the transportation of troops and supplies to France.

But the construction of most of this great fleet represents an outlay of money out of all proportion to their actual value in peace times—a price greater than most private parties can afford to pay for them.

The merchant marine question is one that will no doubt be hotly contested in the next congress, some favoring government operation while others bitterly oppose it, and the outcome will be watched by the American public with keen interest.

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QUALITY FIRST

The flag has grown and the old bird has grown, until no nation has the temerity to reach out and pluck its feathers—but here is where fools rush in and Angels stay out.

Most of the fools came from Germany, Russia, Austria and a sprinkling from the sands of other nations. Their number was augmented by a few natural-born Americans. Many fine people came from those countries, who are now among our best and most loyal citizens, but the fools followed, having been told that this was "the land of the free and the home of the brave"—especially the home of the free, which only concerned them—and they were told the truth.

As a result of this open-heartedness and do-as-you-like policy, the United States has been honey-combed with German spies, the seed of anarchy has been sown, Bolshevism is now knocking at our door, and disloyalty has crept into our national congress at Washington.

Eugene B. Debs is another man who is accused of making seditious utterances, and one might name dozens of others who have proven themselves unfit to reside in America.

Bob Lafolette, at one time loved by many, displayed his broad yellow streak when put to the loyalty test at the beginning of the war.

America is the home of the free—let us keep it that way—but it cannot be done by allowing such men to have a hand in running the government, or tolerating their open teachings. Such men would, in time, rally to their cause a horde that would trample the Stars and Stripes and hoist the red flag.

There is something wrong with Milwaukee—with Wisconsin—something very rotten in that section of Uncle Sam's domain, and Berger should never be allowed to take a seat in congress.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, the man who was vilified by the Oregon Journal because he had the temerity to speak out and state his convictions on matters national, is said to be booked for the chairmanship of the committee on foreign relations of the senate when the republicans regain control of that body after March 4.

"One of our great works of the near future," says Director Smith of the United States bureau of labor at Portland, "will be to place the returned soldiers. However, sawmills and camps which have been running

from 50 to 75 per cent capacity can now run at full capacity because of plenty of labor."

ROSCOE C. PLUMLEY GOES OVER THE TOP

In France, Oct. 3, 1918.

Dear Folks: This is some place to write so I am going to make one letter go the rounds. I don't know when I can get it censored and mailed but will do my best. It is pretty noisy and sometimes we are real busy dodging pieces of shrapnel, but this division is ahead of the ones on either flank so we are getting a little and much needed rest between Boche snells and aircraft.

I was a pretty sick man the first day, but now it doesn't bother me, nor do I see so much, for we are not on the firing line so much. We have plenty to do taking care of the wounded as they are brought in by the stretcher-bearers.

I don't think Sherman knew much about war, and trench warfare is a picnic compared with this drive stuff. This morning I washed and shaved, the first time I have even washed my face in nine days.

We expect relief now and are surely ready for it. The Germans have not had time to use much gas and I have only been in it once.

Yesterday we saw a good air fight and the American plane set fire to the German. They were high but fell near us, the two Germans falling out while still very high and fell faster than the burning plane.

I only wish I could write a letter as I want it, but as you know I can't. I don't know much about the war in general as we don't get any papers up here, but I feel sure that this Yank drive will start the finish.

We left the fighting front the night of October 3, after dark and are now just behind our own big guns where we feel safe and getting more to eat and rest some. We sleep on mother earth, but have a blanket each and get along O. K.

I could go on with this stuff for a week, but it won't help you to write of our hard luck. I thought I had a tough time up there but I saw so much worse and the wounded were lying around in the rain and cold with almost no covering.

I can carry all my personal belongings in my pocket for I have ditched everything but my razor and watch. I don't see how it runs but it does and keeps good time even though it is rusted until I can't open it.

Now for the best news I, or any of us have ever heard or expect to hear. An American plane flew over us and dropped some N. Y. Herald with the news that the central powers were asking for peace under President Wilson's terms.

Another place a private got three of them with his bayonet before they got him. I guess some others got him for he was shot and they were all lying in a bunch.

Now for some more good news. In the last three days I have had about thirty letters, mostly from you folks and the boys and also one from Geo. Dickenson. I close now and work a while. Will write where I can.

Here I am still in the mud and still on ground taken from the Germans, but out of reach of their shells and can just hear the guns. We expect to get out of here in the morning in auto trucks and get back to where there are, whole buildings and a healthy kitchen and rest for a month.

We reached our division objective before we quit, but the cost seemed pretty great to me, and I put a tag on more than one fellow I knew that read "Killed in Action."

We expect to get out of here in the morning in auto trucks and get back to where there are, whole buildings and a healthy kitchen and rest for a month.

Both the Germans and French were very comfortable in dugouts fitted up with stoves, lights, etc., and neither side care to fight much.

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For information regarding freight and passenger rates call at the office of the company, Lundberg building, or telephone 131.

CARD OF THANKS
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MRS. FLORENCE MEIKLE,
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