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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1918.

OREGON WEATHER

Unsettled, probably rain in west portion; partly cloudy in east portion. Moderate south-early winds.

THE WAITING GAME

Congress is supposed to be in session, but judging from the dispatches from Washington little is being accomplished by that body at present. Possibly they have not yet settled down to real business, their equilibrium having been disturbed by the unprecedented feat of the president leaving the United States for several weeks.

The congressmen seem to be waiting for something; in fact the whole world seems to be waiting. Possibly no one can definitely describe that "something," but it might be the great peace conference, and it probably is. Or it might be on the part of the people, a desire to wait and see what congress is going to do—especially with the railroads and other public utilities. Yet that "waiting" is apparent—broadcast over the country as well as at Washington.

The United States will have a delegation, composed of Colonel House, Henry White, General Bliss and Secretary Lansing, with Woodrow Wilson thrown in for good measure and who will probably act as plenipotentiary extraordinary. The people do not know—not even congress knows—what the plans of this delegation are, as the president has given no hint to our representatives at Washington, or to the people at large, what his aims are aside from stating that it was his purpose to see that Prussian militarism is crushed.

Just what Wilson's "freedom of the seas" mean is not generally understood, and some fear that the president and Lloyd George are likely to "lock horns" over that point. Spencer Churchill has made England's stand plain in regard to the navy proposition, but the people do not know what the president is going to demand for the United States. In the meantime the eyes of the world will be turned toward Paris, with an occasional side-glance at Washington.

Things are not always as they should be, viz: At the present time those recently elected to the Oregon legislature seem to be working overtime in an endeavor to see who shall be speaker, or president, instead of putting in overtime in an endeavor to see how much good they can do for this old state.

During the past four years the Turks have massacred 3,000,000 innocent people. During the same per-

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lod the kaiser has been the cause of probably ten million deaths and has polluted the womanhood of Europe. What shall we do with the Turks and the kaiser?

One nice thing about the allies and Americans in occupying Berlin, should they decide to do so, is the fact that in case the kaiser returned they would have a reception committee for him.

Irrigation has made Utah, Idaho and other states prosperous agriculturally and industrially, and irrigation will do the same for the Rogue river valley.

Poor, indeed, is the man who cannot spare one dollar as membership dues for the Red Cross before Christmas.

THE SOLDIER'S RETURN

With the return of the soldiers from overseas this community must consider how best to induce her boys to remain here and become a part of her business and social life.

The boys will be different individuals when they return from the war. They have become men in every sense of the world, and we must deal with them on that basis. They have seen the world; seen the progress being made; been a part of a great machine, well oiled and running smoothly; and they will not be content to go a step backward when discharged, on the other hand they will want to become a part and parcel of live progressive communities. They will not be content to remain idle or drift.

Other localities will have many inducements to offer the boys and we must so present the opportunities of Josephine county that the boys will give consideration to them and decide to cast their lot with us.

These soldiers, thoroughly trained in discipline and loyalty to the government, will make the finest kind of citizens, and Grants Pass will do well to induce as many of them to take up their life work here as possible.

To present our opportunities properly we must demonstrate them for the benefit of the boys. We must start the development of our lands, our mines, our timber, our water power and our other natural resources, and encourage the soldiers to join us and take up the work and carry it forward to completion.

To do this will impose a duty, as duty it is, on every citizen and every organization, but it is a duty that each of us should cheerfully perform as it means a long stride toward a more progressive community and a higher standard of citizenship.

A COURIER READER.

Universal percolators at Cramer Bros.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

By Alice Ament

The past week was the last one in the second quarter, and was, of course, "test week." Students all wore a pre-occupied look, and anyone coming suddenly into the study room would have been startled at the anxious drawn expression on their faces. The cards were given out Friday, and some were relieved, while others were plunged in gloom.

The first part of the week was broken up on account of the influenza scare, but after the students learned that school was to continue, they settled down to work, and the influenza, as a subject of conversation, has been rather neglected.

There are a number absent from high school, but only about one-fourth of the absentees are due to the influenza. Many are staying out because of the scare created, and are afraid of contracting the disease. It is a regrettable fact that there are also some who are taking advantage of the lapse in attendance to remain out for neither the scare nor the "flu." As the school work is continuing, all the work missed must be made up by the students who are absent.

The entertainment which was to have been given last Friday at the high school building was postponed on account of the influenza. It will be given at some future date, to be announced later.

A short time ago the manual training department of the local high school was called upon to make 40 bed-side tables for the Red Cross. These tables are now almost finished, and will be ready to ship in about four days. The boys in both classes of manual training have been working on the tables, and a great deal of credit is due them, as they have put aside all work for themselves during this time. Mr. Wardrip, manual training instructor, is well pleased with the work the boys have done, the tables being good evidence of their ability.

THE LOYAL LEGION OF LOGGERS WILL STAND

By the decision of more than 500 delegates, representing approximately 100,000 men engaged in the lumbering industry, and by the concurrence of several hundred operators, says Ben Hur Lapman in the Oregonian, the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen was perpetuated yesterday at a peace-time policy of concord between employe and employer, as it has been throughout the war period.

"All those in favor of continuing this organization, please rise," requested Colonel Stearns. The house rose to its feet. When the negative vote was called for but six delegates voted for discontinuance."

Keep Up the Christmas Spirit

WITH A MESSAGE OF CHEERFULNESS

—If ever we should send out friendly cards of Christmas greeting, it is this year.

—There is hardly anyone for whom the war has not caused some hardship. Everyone needs a word of encouragement—the boys away from home—the folks back home—our neighbors, relatives and business acquaintances.

—We have now on display a fine selection of ENGRAVED CHRISTMAS GREETING CARDS

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SOLDIER LETTERS

Dear Dad:

I have thought of writing to my business partner many times but don't get to write many personal letters as I am booming around so much. I am having a great time out of it at that. From the papers it looks as though the big show would be over any day now, but don't think I will see the states and home for some little time yet. Uncle Sam certainly has a big job over here, but he is doing it.

Talk about shows. We surely had a good entertainment at the Y. M. C. A. the last two nights. Monday night we saw an American "all star," with Marguerite Mayo. Last night it was "home talent"—boxing and quartettes (colored). One meets and sees all kinds of fellows in the army. About 20 three-round bouts mixed in with song and coon dances. But one was worth especial mention, a "battle royal"—seven big husky coons in the ring armed with boxing gloves. The last to remain standing was to receive a prize of 25 francs. Well the storm started with about 2,000 spectators. I managed to get standing room near the ring-side, but you can imagine watching something very interesting with several short fellows standing behind with a good hand-hold on your shoulder trying to see. The whole could be described by a Jewish person under a lamp post and the moon shining to get shadow effects.

Well, a couple of the coons would be battling in one corner when another coon would slip up behind and "clot" one of the "birds" on the ear. Then you should see their eyes roll. Pretty soon a couple took the count and a couple were ruled out for kicking or punching the opponent when down. Anyway it got down to the last two, and someone handed up 25 more francs for the winner. When they got on the home stretch the crowd went wild. They looked like two big black wind-mills pushed together.

They took us on a hike the other day and I got to see some of the country life of France. I saw some fine looking white pigs going to market, also saw a large herd of big heavy milk cows. They looked like holsteins.

The roads are all well kept—paved with a path on each side. Tall vine covered trees grow in a carpet of grass which make the whole very stately looking. The farm houses are low stone, nice looking houses. The fields are small and each one is divided by a deep ditch or long rows of earth with vines growing on them. They are pretty fields—some very green grazing meadows, while others are truck gardens.

Horses are used for everything. They are all about the same kind and size—weigh about 1,500, short and blocky, nearly all stallions. France is pretty. In fact it is all one beautiful picture, but of course I am seeing it in a nice time of the year—autumn when the leaves are yellow and golden.

I am writing this on my knees in one of those great Pullmans that France ships her soldiers in—cattle cars. But, listen, I didn't say we were moving. That lets you know I am being moved again, I am not going to the front yet awhile. I am back with my old casual company. Some officers too. We are in the S. O. S. bunch for awhile I guess.

I saw some of the natives fishing in a little slow stream that you could throw a rock across. They were seining. I saw some of the fish a fellow was taking to market. The fellows say they were mackerel, pickered and blue fish. He had a basket full of sardines and some kind of shell fish. Hoping to hear from you folks at home, I am,

Your son, WILBUR, PVT. WILBUR C. BEARSS, 116th Engineers, American Ex. Forces, France.

BRITAIN WILL DEMAND BILLIONS OF GERMANY

London, Dec. 7.—Great Britain will demand of Germany 28,000,000,000 sterling (\$38,880,000,000) for Great Britain and her dominions as reparation for the war, according to the Daily Mail. The newspaper says it understands that David Lloyd George, the premier, will make this announcement in a speech at Leeds today.

This, the Daily Mail adds, is what the war cost Great Britain and her dominions, and British taxpayers (\$1,944,000,000) per annum by the German payment.

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