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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1918

OREGON WEATHER

Unsettled, probably rain or snow; moderate south to west winds.

THE TWO ARMIES

Figures just made public by Major General Maurice, the British military writer, throw light on a much-discussed matter—the relative strength of the German and allied armies during Foch's victorious campaign.

When the big German offensive started last March, the strength of all the armies engaged stood as follows: If the Belgian army be rated as one, the French army as 12%, the British army 10% and the American army a mere 3%, making a total of 25.

On July 18, when Foch launched his offensive, the Belgian army remained about the same; the French army had been reduced to 11 1/2 and the British to 9 1/2; the American army had risen to 3. That made the allied total still 25.

Foch took the initiative, however, secure in the knowledge that the rapid growth of the American army would soon turn the scale. From July 18 on, the German army declined fast because it had to fight continuously, almost everywhere, with no reserves to make good its losses.

It is interesting to learn that at the close of hostilities, though we had only begun to throw our weight into the struggle, the effective American army was 60 per cent as large as the French and 75 per cent as large as the British.

GROPING BLINDLY

Chairman Hurley of the shipping board, says the Manufacturer, believes an American merchant marine can be built up in spite of the LaFollette seaman act.

He says let us build the ships, man them according to the terms of

18 YOU WILL LIKE NUMBER EIGHTEEN COFFEE SPECIAL ROAST Kinney & Truax Grocery

the seaman's act and enter the field for world commerce.

Shipmasters and ship owners and men who have put their capital into the shipping business and gave it up, say it cannot be done.

Japan chuckles gleefully and sends its commissions to notify us that we must expect to meet them as competitors on the high seas.

England has coppered the situation and starts her merchant marine for the trade of the world while we are calmly advised to again try to meet competition under the same restrictions that wiped the American flag off the seas before the war started.

Chairman Hurley says we will try it under the LaFollette act and if we fail, it will be time enough to go to congress for relief.

Instead of a merchant marine built and equipped upon scientific and economic principles we are to again go in blindly and learn in the dear school of suffering and experience.

Grants Pass is on the threshold of the future. Will it go forward or backward? Placing the excellent river bottom soil under irrigation means a decided step forward; failure to do so means that Grants Pass will remain stationary while other sections forge ahead.

We intended to write an editorial about the "flu," but really, what's the use? No one would believe it—which makes us reflect:

Lives there a man Besides me and you, Who does not know How to stamp out The "Flu"?

President Wilson says: "No true American could think of visiting Germany unless forced to do so by strictly official obligations."

From the way Hearst and his gang are being shown up, those who persist in boosting the Hearst publications haven't much to be proud of in that line.

Ashland is happy; her houses are full and her people prosperous. Hornbrook is jubilant; her people are full and her bartenders busy.

WERE ALL BUSY

A visitor to a small country town lost his dog, an animal which he prized very much.

Rushing to the office of the local newspaper, he handed in an advertisement offering five dollars reward for the return of the dog.

Half an hour later he thought he would add to his advertisement the words: "No questions asked." So he hurried off to the office again.

When he got there the place was empty save for a small boy, who looked very sulky.

"Where's the staff?" asked the tourist, glancing round the deserted room.

"Out looking for your dog," was the aggrieved retort.

Unreasonable.

Several boys were holding a conference on the street corner. One boy kept correcting another's mistakes in English until the offender suddenly squared himself before his critic and demanded, "Gee whiz! what is vacation for if a feller has to talk proper all the time?"

SOLDIER LETTERS

361st Infantry Suffers Heavy Losses

Ed. Cassidy of this city, has received the following letter from his son, who belonged to headquarters company of the 361 regiment in France. The 361st is said to have gone into battle with 2,800 men, and all but 800 were either killed or wounded by the enemy.

My Dear Father:

Received a couple of your nice long letters and will say that they sure arrived at opportune times. We had just finished a nine day siege at the front, and succeed in pushing "Fritz" back about 10 miles and had gone back for a rest when your first letter was received.

There is no Y. M. C. A. in this town and as I have no stationery, I bummed this from a nice French family, and am writing it from their home. I just finished a real breakfast, two eggs, fresh fried rabbit and chocolate, and it sure was fine.

Am getting to be a tough old nut, and nothing phases me any more, bullets, shrapnel, high explosives, snipers, or machine gun fire cast no terrors to me anymore, as I have faced it all successfully so far.

Now the reason I didn't write was because I couldn't, as I have already said. We were 17 days at the front, and was two weeks hiking and camping out before we went in, and a man can't write when he don't know where he is going to eat or sleep.

I carried litter until my shoulders were raw and my back nearly broke, and during the whole campaign, I sure carried my share of the wounded. There is an A. E. F. order, prohibiting members of the band organization from carrying litters, but this must have been an extreme emergency case, as we never drilled or even prepared ourselves for such strenuous work.

Sure wish this was over, and all us boys could go back home and enjoy life once more, but that will never come till "Fritz" is knocked "coo coo" so let us hope that the day will soon be here when our dreams will mature, and the world is at everlasting peace.

SERGEANT LAFFE CASSIDY, 361st Inf. Band, American Ex. Forces, France.

The Tomato in History.

Edward Albes of the Pan-American union, in discussing the matter of the tomato, said a number of years ago that the word "tomato" seems to be of Aztec origin, and given as "tomati" by some authorities and as "ixtomate" by others.

THE COLD WATER CLUB

Cold water has many beneficial properties. Cities spend fortunes in piping the sparkling exhilarant to their doors. To the weary plodder in the desert it is more precious than gold. It has quieting effects upon burning buildings, while its soothing qualities upon the inside of a whiskey-burned stomach are vouched for.

But like many other wholesome substances, used in the wrong manner, cold water has a chilling, demoralizing effect. Petty cavillers sometimes congregate and automatically—and often unaware of their procedure—form "cold water clubs." Membership dues are nil. Most small cities have such clubs—our own city may not be immune.

No one is immune from an attack from the C. W. C. and any two qualified members of the club can, in about four minutes, offset the endeavor of a regiment of optimists. If you are an office-holder, merchant, judge, lawyer, preacher, doctor or barber, you may be "rapped."

All of which reminds us that "a brotherhood among men and nations" is yet somewhat remote—it seems that we are too human. An editor does not know much about the mercantile, hotel, drug, and many other kinds of businesses, but the average editor does know that a little more harmony and cooperation—instead of so much cold water—on the part of some people would help give their city a better daily paper.

A Cold Water Club is not propitious to the welfare of any city. If you can't boost, at least don't knock. Knocking does not entirely kill the other fellow's business, and accomplishes nothing further than to keep you in a disgruntled state of mind.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS

Notice is hereby given that the County Superintendent of Josephine County will hold the regular examination of applicants for State Certificates at the courthouse as follows:

Commencing Wednesday, December 18, 1918, at 9 o'clock a. m., and continuing until Saturday, December 21, 1918, at 4 o'clock p. m.

Wednesday Forenoon U. S. History, Writing (Penmanship), Music, Drawing.

Wednesday Afternoon Physiology, Reading, Manual Training, Composition, Domestic Science, Methods in Reading, Course of Study for Drawing, Methods in Arithmetic.

Thursday Forenoon Arithmetic, History of Education, Psychology, Methods in Geography, Mechanical Drawing, Domestic Art, Course of Study for Domestic Art.

Thursday Afternoon Grammar, Geography, Stenography, American Literature, Physics, Typewriting, Methods in Language, Thesis for Primary Certificate.

Friday Forenoon Theory and Practice, Orthography (Spelling), Physical Geography, English Literature, Chemistry.

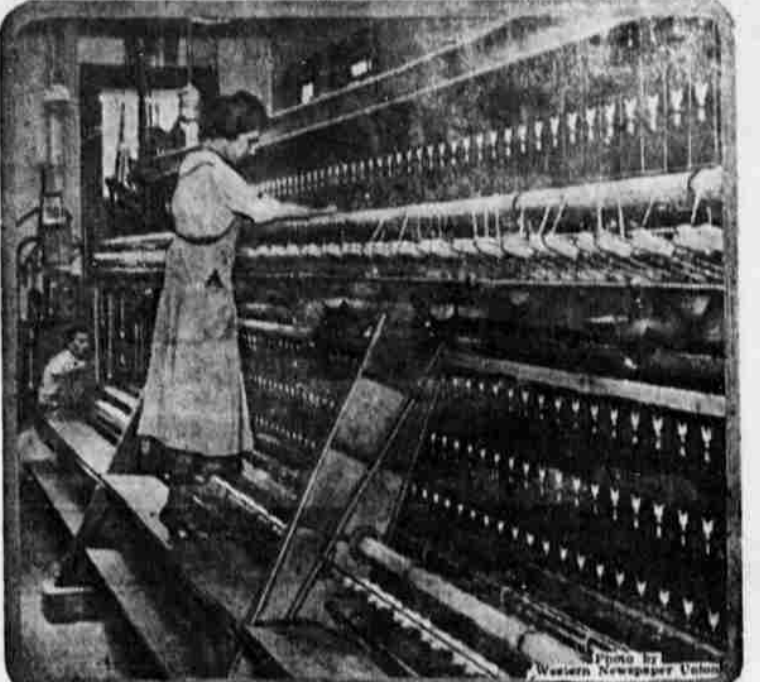
Friday Afternoon School Law, Geology, Algebra, Civil Government.

Saturday Forenoon Geometry, Botany.

Saturday Afternoon General History, Bookkeeping. Very truly yours, ALICE M. BACON, County Superintendent.

Thirty thousand letters a week are written by the Red Cross to the families of soldiers, answering questions.

MAKING INSIGNIA FOR U. S. NAVY



A machine which turns out over 150 U. S. naval insignia at one time. It takes two hours to complete them. This business is an important one, as the navy personnel is now well over 500,000 men.

Books for Gifts

A well chosen book is a direct means of making others happy. The "best sellers" in the new fiction are "The Winds of Chance," "A Daughter of the Land," "Dero Mable," "The Valley of the Giants."

In popular copyrights at 75c the copy are "Cappy Ricks," "Son of Tarzan," "Just David," "The First Hundred Thousand," and many others for sale at

Demaray's Drug and Stationery Store

Utility Gifts for Christmas.

Grants Pass Hardware Co.

Grants Pass & Crescent City Stage Co.

Big, Easy Riding Pierce Arrow Cars

Office—Old Observer Bldg. Corner Seventh and G streets—Phone 26 Telephone—228-J and 163

BARGAIN 1917 Ford \$390 C. L. HOBART CO.