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MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1918

OREGON WEATHER
Fair east portion; probably rain west portion; moderately eastern winds.

WHAT GERMANY CAN PAY

All these reports from various countries of the war indemnities that are going to be imposed upon Germany lead to some interesting mathematical computations.

There is talk of Belgium asking for something like \$8,000,000,000 from Germany. Italy is said intend demanding \$20,000,000,000 from Austria-Hungary.

Leaving out of the question the right of the allies any such sums from the beaten foe—a matter which is hardly for Americans to judge—we find certain practical difficulties in the way.

Taking Austria-Hungary first: If Italy demands \$20,000,000,000 from that country, she will be asking 80 per cent of the total estimated wealth of Austria-Hungary before the war.

Germany is still more of a problem. The German empire, including the rich province of Alsace-Lorraine, was estimated to be worth \$80,000,000,000. The German war debt amounts to about half that much.

Now if Great Britain is going to demand \$40,000,000,000 and France \$40,000,000,000 and Belgium \$6,000,000,000 and the United States and various other countries a few additional billions, we have an aggregate of compensatory damages nearly twice as large as Germany's total wealth.

We know what happens when a creditor in private life tries to collect from a debtor twice as much as the debtor is worth. How are the allies to get 150 or 200 per cent out

Glace Fruits

PINEAPPLE, CHERRY, ORANGE
CRYSTALLIZED GINGER
PRESERVED GINGER

KINNEY & TRUAX GROCERY

QUALITY FIRST

of Germany? How are they even going to get interest on any such an amount?

Of course, they cannot do it. Germany could not stand it. There would be national bankruptcy and business prostration and utter national discouragement, diminishing the nation's productive power to the point of disaster.

It is self evident that no such indemnities will be imposed, not because they should not be, but because they cannot be. Germany's war creditors will have to take what they have a reasonable expectation of getting. That will be a big enough sum so far as Germany is concerned.

VOTERS WOULD SAY AMEN

The Pocatello says of the coming legislature: "Let's have a sane session." An Idaho man once said the general assembly was composed of 20 level headed men and 100 d—fools."

The average legislature passes 600 to 800 new laws to keep the citizens in the straight and narrow path. When a taxpayer has nothing else to do he can breathe and bust some fool regulation.

The Tribune says: "We have all the regulations required. We are regulated to death."

Let us hope the next legislative assembly will be actuated by constructive policies in every respect instead of 600 laws of no significance."

Repeal should be the watchword instead of enact.

MINE TAXATION PROBLEM

The last Utah legislature, says the Oregon Manufacturer, enacted a 3 per cent occupation tax affecting mines only, and they now refuse to pay nearly a million dollars state tax for 1918 under the one-sided law.

Several western states that have been very prosperous owing to big war metal productions of the mines are planning legislative action looking to further taxation of mines.

Within a few years normal prices under world peace will leave the mines in no condition to pay the big war taxes and legislators may kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

The mining industry in most western states is the greatest source of prosperity, besides paying the bulk of state taxes and federal war taxes for some years to come.

One thing is certain, unless a

state constitution provides for taxing special classes of property, an occupation tax on mines alone will stand. It is dangerous class legislation.

U. S. CASUALTY LIST

Table listing casualties: Killed in action, Died of wounds, Died of disease, etc.

Total 2570
Killed in action—Lieutenant Albert A. Lamb, Donald.
Wounded severely—Lieut. Thos. H. Boyd, Portland; Arthur F. Campbell, Baker; Harold E. Curtiss, Roseburg; Lloyd Wood, Eugene.

Metric Denominations.
The metric denominations and values for measures of capacity are as follows: Kiloliter or stere, 1,000 liters, equals one cubic meter; hectoliter, 100 liters, equals one-tenth of a cubic meter; dekaliter, ten liters, equals ten cubic decimeters; liter, equals one cubic decimeter; deciliter, one-tenth of a liter, equals one-tenth of a cubic decimeter; centiliter, one one-hundredth of a liter, equals ten cubic centimeters; milliliter, one one-thousandth of a liter, equals one cubic centimeter.

Down to Earth.
Mrs. Peavish says that before they were married Mr. Peavish liked to hear her sing "Home, Sweet Home," and now he likes to hear her rattle dishes on the table.—Galveston News.



SOLDIER LETTERS

December 4, 1918.

Dear Mother:
Just a line to say hello and that everything is O.K. only it is good and cold. We had snow the other morning. There is ice every morning.

Yes, I mailed Johnston's letters when we arrived in New York, that trip, forgot what time it was.

They have changed the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern into hospital ships. The Northern Pacific came in the other day with 1,500 wounded soldiers and 400 sailors.

The president went out today. I saw them going. There were the battleship Penn., five destroyers and the George Washington. Every ship fired twenty-one guns for salute to him. There were airplanes all over.

I am going over to the O'Donnell's tonight. One of the ships that came in to the dock where we were, lost a man overboard when they were coming in. Rose, the sister who was so sick, knew him and they were to be married this trip. Monday night when I was over there she was waiting for him to come. I told them about the man being lost. Rose said "it had better not be my man."

Not long and an officer from the ship came over and told her it was her friend. The officer said the man lost was one of the best men aboard. Poor girl. You know her brother died about a month ago.

This is not a very jolly letter is it? Less than sixty days and G. P. bound.

With love,
RALPH V. SWINDEN.

U.S.S. Jason,
New York, N. Y.

New York City, Nov. 28, 1918.
Dear Mother and all:—

Received the cake and two letters from you when we arrived yesterday. I thank you. The cake just fit in the right spot.

I am going to have this afternoon to see some friends. You know the Mrs. told me they should look for me every time we come back to this port.

You want some of my doings since I was transferred to this ship? Well, there is not much for we do the same thing over and over again. The only difference now that the war is over we don't have to stand gun watch. The gun crews were released this last trip. I guess I can tell what and how we do it now.

Here is what happened the last trip: We left here one morning and arrived in Norfolk, Va., after doing our share of rolling in a rough sea. It happens to be Sunday. Since leaving Frisco in February have always been at sea or had to work. We went alongside the coal docks Monday morning and started loading. They load us with coal cars which carry from 60 to 70 tons of coal. When they dump it down our chute into the hold, one comes near needing a gas mask, if he is near, on account of the dust. It takes us about eight hours to load 10,000 to 13,000 tons.

Tuesday morning we got under way for this place. We arrived here yesterday, after bucking a wind-storm all day and night. The big buckets unloaded in here. One carries five tons and the other eight. It takes about five days to unload.

I am in the small boat awaiting to make a trip. This is not a bad job, on it gets pretty cold. Then we have to cross all the tugs and ferries' paths so when there is a fog it keeps us on the go keeping out of their way.

Last night the Y. M. C. A. gave us a dance and as today is a holiday we got up when we wanted to. Some of the fellows are not up yet and it is 11 o'clock.

Received letters from Maxine, Merle and Lois yesterday, also an invitation to Thanksgiving dinner at 6 p. m. at the Donell's. I am going if I don't freeze before then.

Well, have to close as it is time to make a trip. With lots of love,
RALPH V. SWINDEN.

U. S. S. Jason, New York.

Austrian Child-Slaves.
The report of a parliamentary committee appointed to investigate conditions surrounding child labor in Austria discovered a most deplorable condition, according to the Arbeiter Zeitung of Vienna. More than one-third of all schoolchildren are engaged in some kind of work. In some districts all the children of school age are working. Out of every 100 schoolchildren between six and eight years, 18 are at work; between nine and ten, 35; between eleven and twelve, 50, and between thirteen and fourteen, 62. Two-fifths of these children have been working from the time they were five or six years old.

Utility Gifts for Christmas. Grants Pass Hardware Co.

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