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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1919

OREGON WEATHER

Tonight, rain in west portion, fair in east portion. Thursday, rain west portion, rain or snow east portion; increasing southwest winds.

MADE PEOPLE THINK

Everything points to private control of the railways under a national supervision which shall do away with the nagging state commissions. No one expects that there will be a return to that system of competition which will result in business for one road and failure for another.

If there is a mossback institution in our country it is the postal service. The morale of the officials and employes is on a plane far below that to be found in the private enterprises which did so much by their unflagging energy to win the war.

In the speedy deterioration of service on the railways we can see at work the same process which took the life out of our postal service. Given time, the decadence would result in an even more melancholy state than that which curses the postal department of the government.

And yet McAdoo wants us to try federal control five years more. It is an admission that control up to the present has been a failure. It is a plea for time in which to "make good." What would become of some of our industries if federal control should continue to impose on them the icy hand of decay and death?

That the railways, with their hundreds of thousands of employes, would develop into the biggest political factor in the country under government ownership, is hardly open to question. If congress should attempt to prevent this development it would be compelled practically to disfranchise the entire railway personnel. Even then the element of political influence on a gigantic scale would remain.

In one sense government control has been a good thing for the country. It has made the people think highly of private ownership, or, to speak more correctly, of ownership by the investing public.—Goodwin's Weekly.

A PROHIBITION PRESIDENT?

Leaders of the anti-saloon league, flushed with the success of their campaign for federal prohibition, are talking already of new conquests. They propose to launch soon a campaign for the presidency, aiming to place in the executive chair some candidate who will stand "four-square for prohibition."

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And such an aim, ambitious as it appears, seems meant only as a step to greater triumphs. They hope to win the world for prohibition. Indeed, some of the more enthusiastic representatives of the movement suggest so close a date as 1930 for such a consummation.

With all due respect for the good intentions of these reformers, one may venture to give them a word of caution. They had better be temperate.

There does not seem to be any good reason for injecting prohibition conspicuously into national politics at this time. The victory is won, and the issue is settled. The country is to go dry next January. Then and thereafter, it may safely be assumed, any American who happens to occupy the White House will be a "Prohibition President," enforcing the liquor laws fairly and vigorously.

The country does not want a third party, interfering with the functioning of the governmental system that has been developed on a two-party basis, and the big parties now existing have plenty to occupy them along their usual lines of division.

It is just as well, too, to go a little slow about converting the rest of the world. The gospel of prohibition can be carried to Europe more effectively after the United States has given it a thorough try-out.

All this, it need hardly be added, is said in the utmost friendliness to the prohibition movement. It is natural enough for the prohibition workers to sigh for more worlds to conquer; but they are in danger of arousing resentment and hurting their own cause if they throw the machine into high and attempt to convert the world in a day.

SOLDIER LETTERS

Florian J. Sauer With U. S. Marines

Florian J. Sauer, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Sauer of this city, was born at Melrose, Minn., March 27, 1897. He came to Grants Pass with his parents in 1902 and after finishing the grammar school attended high school two years. It was while visiting in Minnesota that he enlisted in the United States marines at St. Paul, in 1916.

After the insurrection was quelled, Mr. Sauer was returned to Washington, D. C., along with a number of other marines, later being selected among a few other marines to go to Paris. He was then placed in an executive office, where he served for about nine months, but a naval captain under whom he served took a fancy to him and took him back to London, where he is at the present time.

Mr. Sauer had two other brothers in the service, both of whom were volunteers, but the younger brother, Leo, has been mustered out. Following are a few excerpts from Mr. Sauer's letters to his parents:



Florian J. Sauer

St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 6, 1916. "In joining the marines I am getting a job where I will have to stick. I think that will do me good, as I am too independent."

Santo Domingo, Hati, April 15, 1917

"We left La Vega and hiked down here to the capital. We broke all records and made it in three days. We had 16 pack horses to carry the chow. There were 80 privates and three officers. I am on the Memphis guard with 15 other privates and a sergeant. The Memphis is a battleship that was washed ashore here last October. There is a salvage crew working on it. They are taking off the 12 and 14 inch guns. They claim about 190 people were killed on it. There is a large rock striking up through the engine room which makes it impossible to move the boat. It is about 10 yards from the shore.

"Indications are that we will declare war on Germany. I would like to see the U. S. better prepared before she declares war on anybody.

"I have seen a little of the world and I have found the best place is Grants Pass, and I want to receive all the news from there I can.

"We had a shot for record the other day and I re-qualified as sharpshooter. I just missed 'expert' by two points. I made 251, which is 12 points better than I made the last time. The next time I shoot I will make 'expert.' That is the best qualification there is. There were only three men who had better scores than mine."

(Later Mr. Sauer made "expert" with the rifle and received his medal.)

with the rifle and received his medal.)

"I expect we will have to go to France if the war lasts much longer. Twenty six hundred marines that have served in Santo Domingo, Hati, and Cuba, will go to France immediately. You see the marines are always first. I would like to go to France myself and I hope it will not be long until we get orders to leave."

Quantico, Va., Nov. 23, 1917.

"I have just been transferred to the aviation headquarters detachment. A gunner picked 60 men out of four companies and I was one of the lucky men. We all have to have excellent records to get in this detachment. We will leave for France within the next few days."

Paris, France.

"I have a hunch that the end of this month will find me in London. I really would hate to leave Paris. The longer I stay here the better I like it. Several wealthy American residents here have told me that they have tried to leave and forget Paris, but that they couldn't stay away any great length of time without returning. The French and the Americans are getting to understand each other and are not so shy as at first. The girls are casting their nets for American husbands."

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Taxes for the year 1918 are now due and payable at the sheriff's office.

The following is the Oregon Tax Law relating to the collection of taxes:

The first half of all taxes legally levied and charged shall be paid on or before the fifth day of April following, and the second half on or before the fifth day of October following.

Interest shall be charged and collected on any tax or half of a tax, not so paid, at the rate of 1 per cent per month or a fraction of a month until paid.

All taxes remaining unpaid on the fifth day of October next following shall become delinquent and on the

fifth day of November next following a penalty of five per cent shall be charged and collected thereon in addition to the interest provided herein.

GEO. W. LEWIS, Sheriff and Tax Collector for Josephine County, Oregon.

Dr. Spark

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