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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1919.

OREGON WEATHER
Fair in east, probably rain in west portion; moderate southerly winds.

MILITARY JUSTICE

The senate military affairs committee has heard with amazement the statements of Brigadier General Ansell, acting judge advocate general, concerning the punishments meted out to American soldiers by courts martial. The public is no less amazed.

General Ansell tells of one soldier who was sentenced to dishonorable discharge and ten years' imprisonment at hard labor for merely having in his possession a pass to which he had no right. He tells of a recruit, on kitchen duty less than a month after his enlistment, sentenced to 40 years' imprisonment because he got into an altercation with a second lieutenant—almost as inexperienced as himself—and told the lieutenant to "go to hell!" when the latter asked him for a packet of cigars. He tells of another soldier condemned for 40 years' imprisonment for refusing to fall in for drill when ordered, though it appears that he was unable to do so, because he was ill from exposure. Another soldier who left camp without permission to see his dying father, and returned voluntarily the day after he died, was sentenced to death for desertion.

These may be extreme cases, though General Ansell says that they are not at all unusual. Sentences of death have seldom been carried out, because the president interferred. But the vast majority of cases are not subject to any sort of review. Generally the courts martial have a final jurisdiction; and those courts are made up for the most part of officers having little or no knowledge of law. Moreover, in most cases the men do not seem to have been adequately defended.

Most of the offenses have been committed in this country, by soldiers of very little army experience, fresh from the freedom of civilian life and ignorant of military tradition. There seems to be no question that large numbers of them have been condemned to punishment severe out of all proportion to their offenses. Almost every citizen will agree with General Ansell, when he says:

"The courts martial are not justified in piling on these shocking penalties. I do not believe in sentencing to death a new soldier who went to sleep guarding a pile of canvas down in Texas, 3,000 miles away from the battle line, simply because we are at war."

General Ansell protests not only against the severity of long terms of imprisonment, but against the too liberal application of "dishonorable discharge," which disgraces a man for life. He asks congress for legislation to modify the penalties or remand the cases for retrial when they seem to warrant it.

The evil, apparently, is not one of sudden growth, for which any particular set of men are responsible.

Famous

FOR THEIR FINE FLAVOR OUR

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QUALITY FIRST

It is a part of the "system." Civilians would like to know why the American military system should ever have grown harsher in its treatment of soldiers than that of France, England or Italy. And as the facts become known, the whole nation joins in a demand that this system be modified to accord with American ideas of justice.

BATTLE-TORN RUSSIA

The Courier editor was asked today what he thought of the next "drive" to raise money in the United States, and especially about the war and general conditions in Russia, but for the life of us we can throw little light on the subject. However, this is how the Russian situation looks to us:

We have had liberty drives, thrift drives, victory drives and relief drives until our head is in a swim. We have read of Bolsheviks, Reds, and Ukrainians who at Przemysl and Niepniepka did battle to please a Nihilist's whim. Red were the battles at Krasnovodsk, Kaslinski and Semipalatinsk, while smoke rolled high from Petropaulovsk to Akmolinsk. Royal troops from Nijin Novagorod and Ekaterinburg paused for breakfast at Tobolsk, then battled fiercely on to Bakhtinsk and Turukhansk. As battles waxed warmer, brave Yanks, (though numbers small) were by Wilson sent against this human wall. Hurrah for the Yanks! They smashed ice cakes and Bolsheviks as they pushed their way south from Archangel to Pustosensk. Sergiopols and Tomskites assembled at Omsk, decided to stand and not retreat to Nitimsk. Further up north, from Turishshki to Nordenskold, people lived safe because of the cold; while over at Verkholsansk, Kalymnk and Ghiffhar, people did not know Russia was at war.

The people who say that suffrage was beaten in the senate by only one vote are wrong. It was beaten by every vote which was cast against it. But those few futile obstructionists against a great and coming reform may be classed with the little wife whose husband let her beat him because it amused her and didn't hurt him.

No one should ever be discouraged—there are always the movies to fall back on. "Gentleman Jim" Corbett has now signed up with the film hounds. But if they want a genuine screamer, let them sign up Kaiser Bill.

The next war in the "air" will be at Washington and the object attacked will be the peace league.

AT THE MOVIES

Miss Clayton Beautiful
Ethel Clayton will appear in her first Paramount picture, "The Girl Who Came Back," at the Joy theatre tonight and Saturday. Miss Clayton is beautiful, a blond with red gold hair and blue eyes. The production in which she makes her Paramount debut is an adaption of "Leah Kleschna," the story of a girl thief. The emotional part afforded Miss Clayton is said to fit her talents admirably.

That Ethel Clayton is a decided acquisition to the Paramount forces is admitted by all who know her sterling worth and her artistry in motion pictures.

FERRYDALE

Mrs. Will Anderson and two little sons are visiting on Deer creek. Mrs. M. A. Griffin returned to her home at Grants Pass after visiting her sons in this vicinity. Jim Rusk was at Grants Pass on Wednesday attending to business. Miss Cora Lettken closed school in the Griffin district Wednesday until Monday on account of her grandfather's death. Mrs. Minnie Hussey came out from Grants Pass Monday. Clarence Ford is spending a few days at Grants Pass. Miss Queen Every is visiting with friends at Grants Pass this week. E. C. Neely was at the Pass Tuesday after a load of super-phosphate. A. I. Hussey delivered some more hogs and beef cattle at Grants Pass Friday to be shipped to the Portland market. Percy Green was a visitor at E. C. Neely's Sunday.

AMERICAN TROOPS HAVE ARRIVED AT BERLIN

London, Feb. 21.—American troops have arrived in Berlin and are living in various hotels, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Copenhagen, quoting the Extrabladet's Berlin correspondent. The troops are from the 113th New York regiment, and their duty will be the protection of expected transports of food.

Washington, Feb. 21.—War department officials were unable to identify the American troops reported to have arrived in Berlin. There is no "113th New York regiment" in the army. It was suggested that the unit might be the 113th Infantry.

Eat Your Way
TO HEALTH
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THE HOMEY HEALTHFUL BRAN IN A DELICIOUS APPETIZING FORM

FRUITDALE

Mable and Walter Potts, of New Hope, were over-night guests of the Williams family Saturday.

The regular monthly meeting of the grange was held last Saturday and the officers for the coming year were initiated. Miss Ruth Corbett was with us and outlined the work she and the county agent intend carrying out this year.

Glenn Hamilton spent Wednesday evening at the Edgerton home in Grants Pass, practicing with the high school orchestra.

J. L. Stanbrough is over from Williams creek this week pruning his grapes with the assistance of F. G. Roper.

L. C. Williams and family motored over from Kerby Saturday and spent the night and Sunday with his brother, William Williams, and family.

The Misses Calhoun, Bocoek and Cramer, of Grants Pass, were in Fruitdale Saturday afternoon and called on J. H. Harris and Mrs. G. A. Hamilton.

Preston Byington, son of F. F. Byington is at Camp Williams, near Dijon in France, where 25,000 American boys are stationed. He is orderly for 35 Red Cross nurses, mostly eastern and southern girls, and two officers. They have 600 patients in the hospital. Camp Williams is a large supply station and boasts the largest bakery in the world having a capacity of 2,000,000 loaves a day.

Margaret Rathbone spent the week end with Helen Fifield in Grants Pass.

Following Directions. Nell—"The doctor told her her life was too sedentary; that she required more excitement." Belle—"What did she do?" Nell—"Became engaged to three fellows at once."

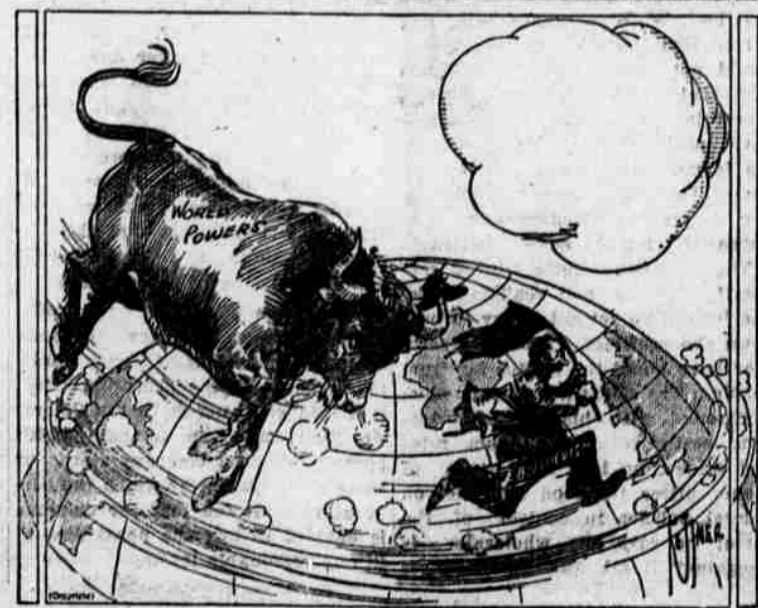
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