

GRANTS PASS DAILY COURIER

Published Daily Except Sunday

A. E. VOORHIES, Pub. and Propr.

Entered at postoffice, Grants Pass, Ore., as second class mail matter.

ADVERTISING RATES

Display space, per inch...15c
Local-personal column, per line...10c
Readers, per line...5c

DAILY COURIER

By mail or carrier, per year...\$6.00
By mail or carrier, per month...\$.50

WEEKLY COURIER

By mail, per year...\$2.00

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TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1919.

OREGON WEATHER
Rain; fresh southerly winds.

GREATER ACTIVITY ANTICIPATED

Relative to the situation of western metal mines a prominent producer says: "It would seem as though the turn has come. There has been some little business doing, chiefly for March delivery, and sales February 27th for instance amounted to probably 5,000,000 pounds. Small, it is true, but encouraging."

"Manufacturers must realize that at prevailing prices they are getting copper below the cost of production."

The price of lead also seems to have touched bottom and started up.

No one believes that an era of industrial depression which would be indicated by wholesale closing down of factories is about to set in. Much of the present buying apathy is due to lack of confidence in the present price level—to a desire on the part of merchants and distributors to postpone purchases until values become cheaper, but so far as western metals are concerned the bottom seems to have been reached.

Meantime the manufacturing curtailment that is now proceeding is the best assurance that the markets will not become glutted with goods. The readjustment to a peace basis seems to be working out slowly and surely and satisfactorily and to be reaching the point where greater activity might soon be reasonably expected.

OFFICIALLY SUBSIDIZED

In North Dakota the non-partisan league proposed in each county an official state-owned newspaper.

As an example of crooked thinking consider this extract from a communication to the Spokane Spokesman-Review:

"North Dakota is going to own and operate the press. Each county will vote its own managers and have full control of the county paper. That means the people can do their own thinking without depending on the political kept press."

What else would that be but "political kept press," run by politicians, its news selfishly colored by politicians wanting to continue themselves in office and power?

Probably the advocates of that dark practice of the middle ages think it would be progressive. In truth and history it would be the most reactionary step taken by the American people since the foundation of this government. It would be a reversion to political practices adopted after the invention of movable types and the printing press, when the English government "owned and operated the press."

NO TIME FOR PESSIMISM

Despite the demand for organized labor for higher wages and the reluctance of commodities to drop; despite the threat of bolshevism, this is no time for pessimism. The needs of the hour are vision and courage, faith in the United States and faith in ourselves. The league of nations looks fine in theory and

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might prove a blessing to mankind in practice—and we hope such a league is formed and averts future wars—but whether or not such a league is formed, American genius will triumph and master the problems of the present as it has those of the past, the threat of bolshevism and future conflicts notwithstanding.

Mob disturbances will not daunt us, nor will extraordinary burdens abroad, although American brains will be taxed during the great readjustment period. The dangers of putting our house in order are but temporary—the days of peace, prosperity and progress are on the near horizon.

Americanism should stand for optimism.

MANY BRITISH ARE CHOOSING ARMY LIFE

London, Mar. 11.—Thousands of the British army who recently became so war weary that they openly threatened mutiny unless they were soon discharged, have turned about face and are volunteering for the new army, according to the military authorities, who assert that they are satisfied that there will be little difficulty in securing the 900,000 men who will do Great Britain's share in safeguarding the peace the allies have won.

The causes said to have sent the men flocking back to the colors are the unexpectedly large war bonus offered to men who "take on" and the acute industrial situation. The first factor has been of prime importance in the case of boys from 18 to 21 who have been two or more years already in the army and who have no trade to fall back upon in civilian life. In the new army they will be fed, clothed and sheltered and draw a minimum of about \$5 a week as pocket money. They have quickly awakened to the realization that there is no such prospect awaiting them on a return to "civies."

The industrial upheaval plays the main part in the decision of the older men. In the first rush for demobilization no man was permitted to go who had not a definite offer of employment. The government did all in its power to make certain that such offers were bona-fide but in spite of every precaution thousands of men got their release on bogus papers. These men soon found themselves in an unenviable position. They could not get work and they faced some very uncomfortable inquiries if they applied for the out-of-work pay provided for those who are idle through no fault of their own. The recruiting sergeant was an easy road out of their troubles, and that astute individual, who draws a bonus for each recruit, was not blind to his opportunities.

H. L. GILKEY TELLS OF EXPERIENCE

(Continued from Page One.)

he returns home. He had been in the hospital and become separated from his organization. He is now located at St. Nazaire on the coast.

While in Paris I visited many places of interest and improved my ten days to the best possible advantage. Herbert and I visited Versailles among the other places of interest. Wish I might have the time and space to tell you of the many interesting things seen. Interesting from an historical as well as from architectural point. Among the places visited were the Notre Dame, Eiffel tower, Napoleon's tomb, L'Arc

de Triomphe, Le Louvre, Place de la Republique, and Place de Concord, etc., etc. Also visited the church that was hit by the German "Big Bertha." This church, the St. Germain, is a cathedral, nearly as imposing as the Notre Dame, was struck near the roof and a hole some 20 feet in diameter was caved in on the worshipping congregation. Fifty or more were killed outright and some 200 badly injured. Most of the casualties were from the falling masonry. We were fortunate enough to be able to go to the roof of the place and saw all that was to be seen. It was here that the Swiss minister was killed.

Had a very interesting experience while in Paris that shows how small the world is after all. One night my roommate suggested that we try a small eating place in the rear of a wine room that had been suggested to us as a very good place to get a meal. We found a room filled with tobacco smoke where were seated a number of French soldiers and others drinking wine and conversing in a language little understood. (Our two or three months of French has not made us proficient in the language.) A woman with a babe in arms was serving the patrons. I hardly knew what kind of a den I was getting into but decided to see it through. As I was taking a seat my roommate spoke my name when some one from another table echoed "Gilkey," you don't happen to be the Gilkey from Montesano, Wash., who was in the bank? I found it to be a man by the name of Taylor, formerly county treasurer, whom I had known more than 20 years ago.

On New Years day a party of "Y" men decided to visit Chateau Thierry, the first real battle where the American boys turned the Hun from facing Paris to facing the German border and then kept them going till the armistice was signed. On our way out there a Frenchman who was thoroughly familiar with the country advised my friends and I to go on to Rheims and see that great city that was under bombardment for four years. Permits were not being granted to visit this place but we took a chance and the two of us went on and met with no obstacle. We were certainly repaid for our effort for we saw the effects of the war in all its horror and destruction. This city was in the hands of the Hun for 11 days, then they were driven out, but from their vantage points continued to bomb the place till peace came. Not a house in the whole city but is in ruins. The great cathedral still shows the beauty of its architecture and grandeur, but is beyond repair. It stands as a monument of Hun "Cussedness."

We visited the battlefields and trenches both of the French and the Hun and saw the home of the "cootie and the rats." How men lived in the mud and filth for weeks at a time is beyond understanding. There seems to be barbed wire enough in the entanglements to fence the state of Oregon, and then have enough to patch up all the broken "Fords" of the country. I wanted to pick up some of the hand grenades for souvenirs but was forbidden to do so on account of the danger of handling them.

As far as the eye could see the landscape was marred with trench and shell pits. We saw no less than 15 or 20 small villages as we road up the valley that had been destroyed by the Germans. The little crosses everywhere told the story of the real sacrifice made for France and the freedom of the world.

Sometimes I am inclined to express my views of the effect of the war on "his country and more especially on our own boys, but on second thought I think there has been too much of half baked judgment passed already so will withhold my opinion till I have been here longer and had more opportunity to make impartial observations.

My business at the present is acting as cashier for the 37th division of the Y. M. C. A. Our area covers 52 towns and some 30,000 soldiers. My office hours are from the first call in the morning till the last straggler leaves at night, usually from 8:30 until about 10 at night. Then I have my reports to make up and count the French money. Often I have more than an apple box full of local currency, in denominations of 50 centimes to one and two francs each. The stuff is printed on the poorest kind of paper and is always in a filthy and mutilated condition. It is a work that has to be done so am content. In addition to these duties I have a class of young men to whom I speak on commercial law and business accounting. In the class are some lawyers, bankers, bookkeepers and engineers, so you see I have to "watch my step."

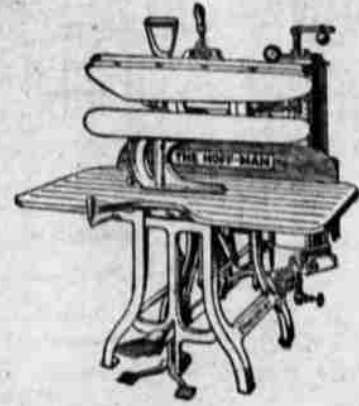
If there is anything in this communication that you think worth giving the public will try again at some future date.

H. L. GILKEY,
12 Rue 'Aguesseau,
Paris, France,
Care of Y. M. C. A.

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