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THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1919.

OREGON WEATHER
Fair west portion, probably showers and cooler east portion with gentle westerly winds.

PACKERS' PRICES
The experience of the war department in selling the surplus army foodstuffs throws an interesting little sidelight on the cost of living, with special reference to the meat packers.

The department tried to dispose of 143,000,000 pounds of canned and cured meats by the usual process of sealed bids. It was obliged to reject all the bids because they were ruinously low. The highest prices offered for bacon and other staples was about 50 per cent of what the government had paid for them.

Nearly all of the 36 bids received were submitted by the packers themselves. They completely dominated the bidding in the number of offers and in the quantity of goods they themselves had sold the government.

It is indeed an illuminating commentary on the packing industry, its war profits and its present relation to the cost of living when, seeking to buy up those army supplies in order to keep them from being sold in competition with their present output, the best the packers feel able to offer is half as much as they received for those same goods a few

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months ago. Is that what the stuff is really worth? And is the public now paying the packers twice as much as their product is worth?

However the packers may explain these bids, the government is verily doing right in deciding to sell the food in the open market. plenty of cities and public institutions are glad to get it at what the government paid for it; they can make big savings at that price. And if such disposal results in lowering prices, as it should, there will be little sympathy lost on the packers.

THE BUILDERS
'A thousand years scarce serve to form a state. And hour may lay it in the dust. And when shall man its shattered glories renovate, Summon its virtues back, and vanquish time and fate?'
So wrote Byron, of Rome. It is true enough of the 'Eternal City.' When wrecked by the Goths and Vandals—the Germans of the dark ages—it took another thousand years to rebuild Rome and its environs.

But there is to be no such slow, evolutionary process in the reconstruction of the district of Nancy, in the French department of Meurthe-et-Moselle. It is to be rebuilt by a big American firm, on contract. The terms of that contract call for the expenditure of a sum which is to be not less than \$250,000,000, and may rise to \$500,000,000. It is one of the biggest construction jobs in human history. It calls for the replacement of

churches, cathedrals, town halls and other public buildings, factories, dwellings, roads and bridges. Where towns and villages have been razed or obliterated they will be restored as they were, or better.

This is modern business magic. It is natural that the old world should come to America to get it done. That particular region was historic long before America was discovered. It is but the first of many ancient abodes of civilization the Americans, whose genius is essentially constructive, will be called on to rebuild and modernize.

WIFE-TRAINING
The little war brides in England show no inclination to settle down to the routine of home-making. To induce them to do so, the ministry of labor proposes to establish schools where these young wives may learn pleasant and practical methods of housekeeping, how to care for their babies, and how to apportion the husband's income so that it may provide for the family and obviate the necessity for the wife's working outside of her home.

It is estimated that about 400,000 English girls married during the war. Of these by far the greater number were munition workers. They were fed and housed in canteens and hotels provided especially for the purpose and learned nothing of domestic art. They were too busy helping to provide the ammunition for their husbands in the field. About 300,000 of these wives have no children, and it is of vital importance to England that they set

about the business of home-making and bringing up families. As an added encouragement to the girls to take up the study of home-keeping there will be a maintenance fee of about \$6 a week for each girl until she has been thoroughly trained in domestic science.

LILLIAN GISH HAS FINE COMEDY ROLE AT JOY

Comedy again appears as a happy attendant to the playing of Miss Lillian Gish in her newest role, that of a country girl in 'A Romance of Happy Valley' David W. Griffith's second Artercraft production, which will be shown at the Joy tonight for the last time.

She appears as the only child of an idle, likeable farmer in the Ohio Valley country, a man who neglects his little fields but attends most industriously to his sleep. He wishes his daughter to dress as her mother did. To be confined to rural styles of a generation past, and at the same time array oneself to attract the interest of young John Logan Jr. is a supreme task for her girlish ingenuity.

Her trials are not entirely confined to fascinating the eyes of John Logan Jr. for her father is addicted to headaches, and oft-times needs her attention in the night. So she arranges a signal system of quaint and effective simplicity. Miss Gish makes the character one of delightful whimsicalities, a unique and fascinating personality. The comedy is fuller than any Miss Gish has attempted in the past, and it becomes her with the same artistic charm as the sterner roles.

COMMON WITCHHAZEL FINE FOR SORE EYES

It is surprising how quickly eye inflammation is helped by common witchhazel, camphor, hydrastis, etc., as mixed in Lavoptik eye wash. One elderly lady, who had been troubled with chronic eye inflammation for many years, was greatly helped in two days. We guarantee a small bottle of Lavoptik to help ANY CASE weak, strained or inflamed eyes. Aluminum eye cup FREE, National Drug Store.

SEATTLE NO PLACE FOR I. W. W.

Seattle, July 10.—Any building opened to the Industrial Workers of the World or kindred organizations for meetings or for headquarters purposes may be declared a common nuisance and its abatement for one year authorized by court order, a resolution introduced in the city council reads. The council was called in special session to receive the resolution.

7 PERSONS KILLED RESULT OF HEAVY RAIN IN IOWA

Dubuque, Ia., July 9.—Seven persons were killed here yesterday and a number of others seriously injured as a result of two inches of rain falling in Dubuque county. Five were drowned when a pavilion at Union park was undermined by the heavy rain and fell.

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