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MORE FREAK LAWS.

The hunting season closes during the middle of the present month but the open season on freak laws starts on the date of the Oregon state legislature convenes.

Here is the first of the series. A member of the senate (we suppress the name out of kindness to the gentleman), would prohibit the use of pump guns. He in effect, proposes by legislative enactment to confiscate every gun of this character in the state and require the unfortunate owners to purchase weapons of a different make as a condition to remaining among the ranks of sportsmen.

To discuss such a proposition through the columns of a newspaper would be an insult to the intelligence of its subscribers but we presume that there will be at least a few high and mighty legislators who will run the doubtful risk of insulting the intelligence of the members of that honorable body.

While upon the subject of freak laws and freak legislators we suggest that it might be a good idea to regulate the number of oysters in each stew. A minimum of six oysters should be required from every hotel or restaurant proprietor. It might also be a good plan to regulate the mode of dress of both men and women and to prohibit the expenditure of more than ten cents per week in any moving picture establishment.

Yes, let us plaster the statute books with the handwork of fools and give the courts and lawyers some thing to do. The crying need of the state is more freak legislation. Its expense is luxury but the people be damned. It gives some of our miniature statesmen experience in law-making and keeps their minds occupied. We need more laws for the people to violate and for the judges to interpret.

Be it said, however, to the credit of the Linn county delegation that they are men who may be depended upon to frown upon this particular class of legislation. They are both capable and willing to puncture these legislative balloons and will doubtless be heard from during the session which convenes during the present month.

JOHN BULL WARNED

There will be general approval in this country of the action of the government in demanding of Great Britain an immediate improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet. Interference with the legitimate foreign trade of the United States has reached a point where patience ceases to be a virtue. The United States government has not been unmindful of the injustices, but in handling a delicate situation it has acted with commendable caution and restraint.

The latest communication to Great Britain upon the subject, is, to judge from the Washington dispatches, couched in more peremptory tones than former protests, which brought little or no results. Its preparation has been a matter of great care, occupying the attention for over a month of Secretary of State Bryan and his assistants, and finally, during the past two weeks, having the personal attention of President Wilson himself, who revised its phraseology with minute care. While declaring at the outset that the representations are made in a friendly spirit, definite information as to Great Britain's attitude is asked in order that the United States may take such measures as will protect American citizens in their rights.

The British government can hardly be so blind and foolish as to ignore or treat lightly this grave communication. Great Britain can ill-afford at this time to lose the friendship of the United States, which a

continuance of her unjustifiable course in the detention and seizure of cargoes of legitimate merchandise consigned to neutral ports would forfeit.

AMERICAN MULES USED IN THE EUROPEAN WAR

Kansas City, Jan. 7.—Twelve hundred or more of America's sturdy mules are joining the armies of Great Britain weekly according to stock yard experts today. Already for total "enlistments" of mules in this country exceed 7000, and there is a probability that the record exports of more than 150,000 of these animals during the Boer war will be broken if the European war is prolonged.

Inspections of mules are being held by British buyers at Kansas City, St. Louis and Nashville, Tennessee. The animals are costing the British government nearly \$250,000 weekly. Her purchases to date represent an expenditure of more than \$1,250,000. Great Britain has been able to raise billions of dollars in special war loans, but dealers in mules declare that her enormous expenditure for their animals prove that she considers them indispensable in war.

While Great Britain is the only European belligerent now buying mules for her armies, negotiations are being carried on with agents of the French and Italian governments by Missouri mule dealers, and it is probable that these countries will place contracts for mules in the near future. A lack of appreciation of the great value of mules for war purposes, dealers of Missouri say, is the reason of the failure of the French government.

which is buying thousands of cavalry and artillery horses weekly in the United States to take mules.

Many mules which earned retirement on pastures long ago are being "enlisted" by the British army buyers. This is due to the fact that the British contracts call for mules between six and ten years old. As many mules 14 to 20 years old have teeth as good as those of their 10-year-old to the battlefields of Europe.

The British army buyers require that the mules offered them stand 15.1 to 15.3 hands high and measure 66 inches around the girth and seven inches around the shin bone. Tape measures are used in passing on all mules submitted for the inspection of the British agents. Two inspectors of the English government have measured and accepted as many as 225 mules in a single day's work of less than eight hours.

Great Britain would have undoubtedly have purchased many more mules than she has already taken for her armies but for the fact that her war department is experiencing great difficulty in obtaining transport room for the animals. The British government is now holding nearly 15,000 horses and mules at Lithrop, Mo., Port Chalmere, La., and other points pending the completion of shipping arrangements across the Atlantic. The feed bill for these animals held at Lithrop alone is more than \$5,000 daily. In times of peace the shipment of mules and horses on the seas is an insignificant business, and few steamers are equipped to handle this traffic. As a result, it is necessary to rebuild steamers to equip them to carry mules across the Atlantic.

NORTH ALBANYITES WILL HOLD KANGAROO COURT

In place of the regular debate of the North Albany literary society at the North Albany schoolhouse tomorrow night, kangaroo court will be in session and E. E. Clem will come before the district attorney appointed for the occasion to answer to a charge of larceny in a chicken house.

The complaint on which he will be arrested, previous to the trial reads as follows:

"E. E. Clem is accused by this indictment of larceny in a chicken house, committed as follows: The said E. E. Clem on the first day of January, 1915, in the county of Benton, state of North Albany, did then and there wrongfully, unlawfully and feloniously take, steal, and carry away from a chicken house, three chickens and seven dozen eggs of a value of \$100.00, contrary to the statutes in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the state of North Albany."

TRAPPED A RESERVE SHIP.

How a British Officer Caused the Montserrat's Capture.

Ottawa, Ontario.—A young naval officer belonging to the British cruiser Essex is said to have brought about the capture of sixty-eight German reservists who are now in Halifax. When the Montserrat, a Spanish steamer, was about to leave New York, the British officer, who was there, was advised that it would be worth his while to get on board the vessel. He obtained passage, and going aboard found the German reservists there.

When the Montserrat was beyond the three mile limit the British cruiser Glory was sighted, and the Essex officer went to the bow of the Montserrat and began to signal with his arms. When the Germans realized what he was doing they seized him, but it was too late, for the lookout on the Glory had observed him. The Montserrat was held up, a British crew was put on board, and the Glory conveyed her into Halifax harbor.

The German reservists are now in Halifax Jail. Some French reservists also were on board. They have been sent on their way.

DOG GETS THE SHOW HABIT.

Runaway Animal Found Trying to Enter a Dog Show Cage.

Seattle, Wash.—A cocker spaniel owned by Mrs. C. F. Johnson of Everett has acquired the dog show habit. After the exhibition of the Seattle Kennel club had closed Mrs. Johnson took her pet home from its box in the show.

Next day she discovered that the dog was missing and immediately notified the police. Later she casually visited the exhibition and, much to her amazement, found her dog trying to get into one of the empty cages.

WANTED—\$250 for 2 yr. on vacant property worth \$900. Will pay 10 per cent interest. Phones Bell 383R Home black 105. 14-7*

REWARD GIVEN for the return of a black, white and tan female Scotch Collie, with rope around neck. J. J. Whitney, 729 W. 4th, Albany. Bell phone 109-Y. d31-17

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LAWYERS. I. G. LEWELLING Attorney at law—Notary public Albany, Oregon.

DAN JOHNSTON, Attorney at Law Room 205 First National Bank Bldg.

WEATHERFORD & WEATHERFORD, Lawyers, Albany, Ore.

C. C. BRYANT Attorney at Law 201-2 New First National Bank building, Albany, Oregon.

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MONEY TO LOAN on good improved farm land. Call on J. V. Pipe, 203 West 2nd St. J2f

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FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—A few choice S. C. White Leghorn cockerels and laying hens. Also eggs for hatching from selected stock. O. G. Garrett, Home phone 1120. 620 Vine St. d28 j28*

AT HALF PRICE—2 Good lots, fruit, etc., 7 room house in good condition, eastern part of city, for only \$1500, if taken soon. Owner going to E. O. Nutting. @

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