

## THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

ELIMINATION OF NEWSPAPERS.

One of the most interesting of American domestic phenomena in the last year or two has been the rapid decrease in the number of daily newspapers in the larger cities. Sometimes by dropping out entirely, but usually through the process of consolidation with some other journal, one paper after another has been eliminated from various local fields. Chicago, the second city of the country, now has but two morning newspapers printed in English. One of the two represents the amalgamation of no less than seven once flourishing papers. Many other large cities can show similar instances of concentration and elimination.

The tendency has not been so notable in the far west, because there has not been in the west the journalistic overcrowding that competition has brought about in other parts of the country. But papers are dropping out occasionally, nevertheless. A short time ago Tacoma papers went through a process of amalgamation, and now it is announced that a Los Angeles morning paper has suspended publication because it considered itself "not a necessity in war times."

Necessity or not, the principle of the survival of the fittest is being rigorously applied to newspapers under war conditions. The high cost of paper is, of course, the principal factor. It used to be possible and sometimes worth while to continue the publication of an unprofitable paper, but at the present cost of paper and other materials deficits can hardly be kept at a bearable size. If a paper is superfluous in its field it must drop out.—Spokesman-Review.

### WHAT'S THE ANSWER.

One of the first questions facing a woman who is running a home is "Is Food Conservation Worth While?" Before giving the answer let it be asked, "Is the saving of human lives worth while?"

If it is, then food conservation is worth while; for the program of the United States Food Administration for saving food in American kitchens is the only way to save the lives of millions of people in Europe who might otherwise die of starvation.

Isn't this reason enough to put aside everything else we are doing

at present, if it be necessary, rather than say, "No I can't follow the program of the Food Administration, I am too busy."

Just a half million more people have died in the European countries from starvation and famine in this war than have been killed on the field of battle.

Is food saving worth while?

### SPEED? WHY, CERTAINLY.

The splendidly encouraging news of our military accomplishments continues. Only the other day the War Department told of the departure of more than a million men for the European area of war. Now the same source of information announces that a grand total of 2,170,400 is with the colors, here and abroad; that more than 2700 Browning guns were delivered during May; that more than 1,300,000 rifles had been produced and delivered up to June 7; that we are making 80 combat airplanes a week and that over 2000 Liberty motors have been delivered and are being turned out at the rate of 115 a week.

Looking at these fine accomplishments, it seems a dream that only six months ago a senator of the United States publicly stated in the upper chamber of congress that Secretary Baker's assertion that before the end of the year he believed that there would be 1,000,000 men in France was "exaggeration of the wildest sort"; that the promise was "absolutely preposterous" and that the whole thing was a "gigantic bluff" on the part of Mr. Baker. Where is that gentleman now? Only 11 days more than half the year have gone, and more than 1,000,000 men are already overseas. If that be "bluff," let's have a lot of it says the Boston Post.

If anybody wants to continue to be pessimistic over such a great showing and to persist in moaning "wasted year," whatever that may mean, that is his prerogative in this land of the free. But it is a sign either of limited intelligence or of partisan bile. Even the few newspapers afflicted with Wilson-phobia are beginning to drop it. In the face of all these magnificent achievements and at a moment when everything is at white heat of efficiency and rapidity, how cheap and transparent are the yells of petty artisans: "Speed up the war!"—E. O.

### CONSOLIDATING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS.

Legislature after legislature has "passed the buck" in Oregon on the subject of abolishing useless and superfluous boards and commissions. About half of the Oregon Blue Book is taken up listing these creations of the legislature making soft honorary jobs.

There are half a dozen labor commissions, four or five medical and sanitary boards, and as many on education.

Nearly ten years ago a bill was introduced to place all higher educational institutions under one small board of three business men and take

them out of politics.

The Speaker of the House, as usual, was elected to protect the "institutions," and took the floor to kill the bill.

He did it by creating a new one, the board of higher "Curriculae" which was to cut out all duplications, but resulted in a new duplication—the School of Commerce at U. of O.

The last legislature appointed special committees on consolidating functions, but never introduced its carefully prepared bills till the end of the session.

It again "passed the buck" by creating a new commission of seven to have two years and \$2500 to prepare a reform bill. The commission is spending the money and has some earnest men among its members.

J. M. Mathews of the Illinois commission on efficiency and economy is preparing a report, based on his experience with a similar reform in that state.

One state board of three men, (Governor, Treasurer and Secretary of State, with a Secretary who is state purchasing agent,) manages efficiently nine state institutions and administers the business affairs of the tenth.

A board of three business men could manage the rest of the institutions of Oregon and reduce the annual overhead about half a million dollars and now is the time to do it.

With the nation's war taxes piling up, and all citizens making sacrifices, every superfluous official, board, commission and sinecure should be cut off.

Nearly all of the new Consolidation commission are business men, who know the desires of the people on this subject and the man they have employed to make the report has had experience.

It is believed the \$2500 will not have been expended in vain and if the legislature again refuses to act this needed reform should be initiated and enacted by the people.—The Manufacturer.

Just as a sample of the "don't care" spirit of some people who drive automobiles is the incident that occurred on the street Monday evening, when a certain party came driving down the street and over a section of the fire hose that happened just at the time to be in the way as the fire boys were having drill. Just such things as this makes one wish he had the authority to use a sawed off shot gun, loaded with heavy shot and could fire both barrels at once into the inflated tires of said machine and thus give Mr. Speeder a dose of his own medicine. Good fire hose is ruined in this manner and parties guilty of such work should be taken in by the City Marshal and hauled before Judge Williams. We guarantee that if this is done they will get what is coming to them.

Heppner will have a couple of good fire companies, of this there is not the least doubt. The men and boys are taking hold of the drill enthusiastically as was demonstrated on Monday evening. When we think of it, much destruction of property would have been prevented in the recent fire by having a bunch of fellows to handle the fire apparatus, even had they been no better drilled than were the boys who came together in this first fire drill. The appointment of Mike Curran as Fire Chief has been confirmed by the council and he hopes soon to have under his control a couple of volunteer companies that will be able to handle any fire situation that comes along.

### WHY ALL THIS FUSS?

The attention of this paper has been called to the report going the rounds that certain citizens of our town received relief at the hands of the committee disbursing the first relief funds that were not entitled to aid. A first we were inclined to pay no attention to the talk as it seemed to come from those who, as a rule, never contribute a cent to any sort of relief work, but are always ready to have their say as to where the funds should go. As this talk, however, has involved one of our young business men; as it is being so persistently spread that it is working injury and injustice to an innocent party, this paper is voluntarily taking it upon itself to speak out in his behalf and set the people right, feeling that the good judgment and sense of fair play on the part of the Heppner public will not permit them to persistently give wings to a false statement.

We have reference to the statement that Oscar Borg was tendered the sum of two hundred dollars by the relief committee.

The facts are that Mr. Borg was not considered by the relief committee as being entitled to any aid whatever. We have this direct from the committee members themselves. While on the other hand, we know Mr. Borg well enough to state: he would not for one moment consider accepting any aid of this sort. He suffered a heavy loss on account of the fire, but has no complaint to make and it is simple justice to him to cease spreading a statement that is working to his injury.

The committee, also, is entitled to some defense as we feel that they used their very best judgment in the disposition of the funds, and only those really entitled to receive temporary aid were given of the money

donated. Men like Barratt, Shutt and Currin should be entrusted to handle such work in the right manner, so why all this fuss on the part of those who, if they had such work to do might be able to understand just what a delicate matter it is to carry out the task.

### Oregon Football Stars Win Commissions.

From the Oregonian of Wednesday we take the following with reference to a couple of Oregon football stars. As one of these boys, Johnnie Becket is a Morrow county product the item is of interest to our readers:

Johnnie Becket and Elmer Hall, former well-known University of Oregon football heroes who enlisted in the Marine corps in 1916, have been commissioned Second Lieutenants at the marine officers' training camp at Quantico, Va., according to information reaching Portland yesterday.

Becket attained fame as a member of the University of Oregon 1916 football squad, which, under the watchful eye of Coach Hugo Bezdek, defeated the University of Pennsylvania at Pasadena, Cal., during the Tournament of Roses, New Year's day, 1917.

Becket is regarded as one of the greatest tackles in the country. Last season he captained the famous Mare Island marines eleven, which defeated all collegiate and independent teams on the Pacific Coast and walked away with the Pacific Coast gridiron championship. Becket is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Becket, 35 East Eighteenth street.

Elmer Hall, who was sent from Mare Island with Becket to the Quantico training camp, is another graduate of the Eugene institution, where he was considered an apt student and a nery football player. Hall enlisted with Becket and was a member of the Mare Island marines football team last season. Hall hails from Baker, Or.

### Will Soon be Open for Business.

Mrs. L. G. Herren, milliner, who recently suffered the entire loss of her millinery and household effects by the Heppner fire, is preparing to open up again for business. She has rented one of the small buildings of H. C. Ashbaugh on upper Main street and this is being put in shape to receive her business. Mrs. Herren was a heavy loser on account of the fire, and her total loss will likely exceed \$4500, with only \$600 insurance. Mrs. Herren informs us also that the wholesale houses with whom she has been dealing for a number of years in Portland, have assured her that they shall gladly back her up and she hopes to regain her business in a short time. This paper was in error in stating Mrs. Herren's loss at \$2,500 as we overlooked the destruction of her household equipment which was in the same building with the millinery stock.

### NOTICE:

Any person who drives over any fire hose with auto, wagon, or any kind of vehicle when such hose is being used at fires or by the fire companies at practice, or any other time, will be prosecuted.

By order of the City Council,  
W. W. SMEAD, Mayor.

W. F. Barnett, extensive farmer and merchant of Lexington, was in Heppner on business Wednesday. Threshing is moving along rapidly at his farm and the grain is yielding well and is of fine quality.

## Attention Wheat Raisers

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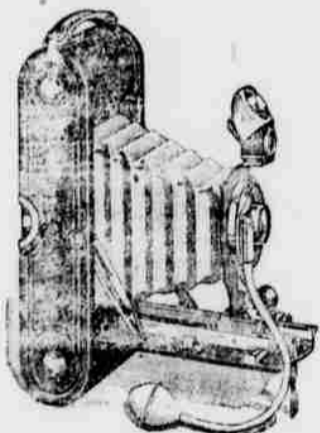
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