

STATE MASTER MAKES REPORT ON PAST YEAR

State Master C. E. Spence, of the Oregon State Grange, has recently returned from the 52nd annual session of the National Grange held at Syracuse, New York, last month. Following is his report concerning the year's work in Oregon:

Worthy Master, Members of the National Grange:

Oregon has about held its own in membership and Grange activities during the past year. This is not a bad record when we take into consideration the war work that has been done, the scarcity of farm help and the strenuous life, long hours of labor, and the short yield because of drouth of the past two seasons.

The financial benefits received from the State Grange business agent has much to do with retaining our membership. As a rule the Granges that have patronized the state agent have gained in members.

We believe we have made a good safe beginning along business lines and look forward to the time when all State Granges can unite in one central business agency. We are observing with keen interest the plans and progress of eastern state Granges along co-operative lines. The Granges in Oregon consider the co-operative work, especially the marketing of farm produce the most important problem before the American people today. The reports of the federal Trades Commission show conclusively that there are "monopolies, controls, trusts, combinations and restraints of trade," not alone in the things the farmer produces, but in nearly all the necessities that he must buy.

The report shows that these monopolies and restraints have been in existence and have been growing stronger and more predatory for years, in spite of all attempts at regulation by congress, state legislatures and the courts.

The report submits conclusive proof that some monopolies have taken advantage of war conditions to profiteer off the government and off the people, and that "restraint of conscience and financial greed from exploiting the love of country" have not kept their people in the hour of stress.

Oregon was first or second "over the top" in practically all war drives. This fact speaks for the loyalty and patriotism of our state.

Oregon hoped to be first with the fourth Liberty Loan, and the rural districts were on time to be first under the wire, but the city of Portland lagged. Investigation revealed the fact that the working people had oversubscribed their quota and that the main slackers were among the wealthy. An examination of the tax roll of Portland made the startling revelation that three per cent of the taxpayers own sixty-three per cent of the taxable property in that city. Stating the case in other words, one-sixty-third of one per cent of the population own over sixty per cent of the wealth.

This explains to some extent what has become of the sixty-five cents of each dollar that is absorbed between the producer and the consumer.

This brings us back to the subject of co-operation and more especially the marketing of farm produce and the purchase of farm necessities.

The Grange in Oregon is vitally interested in the problems of distribution. We regard the marketing problem as the predominant issue before the American people today.

The report of the Federal Trades Commission shows conclusively the manner in which producer and consumer in this country have paid tribute to the greed of those who have the markets of the country in their hands.

If the American farmer is to prosper, if this country is to endure, these conditions must be remedied. The power of control, monopoly and restraint must be taken from the hands of selfish interests. The farmer must receive a just compensation for the service he performs and the consumer must not be overcharged for the service of distribution. The consumer's ability to provide the necessities of life for himself and family should not be unduly curtailed and the demand for farmer's produce be thus reduced. The Grange in Oregon must solve this marketing problem or some other organization will. The rise or decline of the Grange in Oregon depends more upon its successful solution of the marketing problem than upon all other questions combined.

Political preferment or the appoint-

WANT WOMEN AT PEACE TABLE



American women who have played such an important part in America's war winning, started a movement that one of their sex should be a member of America's peace delegation to Versailles. One of the women mentioned often is Mrs. W. L. Laidlow of Washington, who has been conspicuous in national affairs for some time.

LOCAL LEAGUE MEMBERS HOLD ANNUAL ELECTION

Gresham Local, the Eastern Multnomah branch of the Oregon Dairy-men's League met in Gresham on Saturday last and elected officers for the coming year. Theodore Brugger was chosen president, E. Schwedler vice president and James Burns secretary. So satisfactory has been the business of the league in its handling of the business for its members that every member present at the meeting signed up a continuing contract for disposal of his product through the league's officers in charge of the business in Portland.

The league has been in existence but a year and the members of the locals were obligated but for that length of time to the present. In renewing their contracts they say the league is a success and that they have confidence in it for the future.

Secretary Pomeroy was present at the local meeting and made an address that gave the members great satisfaction. He urged all members to be present at the annual meeting of the league which was held today at the Central library, Portland. It is reported that a large attendance was there, including a delegation comprising a majority of the members from this section.

POMONA GRANGE MAY HAVE POSTPONEMENT

Wednesday, December 18, is the regular meeting day for the quarterly session of Multnomah County Pomona grange. There is some talk of a postponement on account of the influenza epidemic, but so far nothing definite has been announced concerning the matter.

J. J. Johnson, master of Pomona, is in consultation with the other officers of the grange and the health authorities concerning the subject and will make due announcement of any decision.

The meeting is to be held at Russellville as the guests of Russellville grange. The principal event of the session will be the biennial election of officers. Other matters of importance will be taken up.

RED CROSS MANAGERS NAMED FOR COUNTY

Membership by every man, woman and child in Oregon is the objective set by those having in charge the Christmas membership campaign for the American Red Cross. Next Sunday will be Red Cross Sunday in Oregon and next Monday will witness the beginning of the roll call drive.

George F. Honey has received a message from Dr. Fixott, county manager, informing him of the appointment of himself, A. C. Ruby and Dr. A. Thompson as district managers for eastern Multnomah. The work will be carried on by districts but the workers in the districts have not yet been announced. It is hoped that eastern Multnomah can report one hundred percent when the campaign ends on December 28.

ment of Grange leaders on important committees will not suffice. The power of the food speculator and the profiteer must be broken. The big question with us is—"Will the Grange Do It?"

Fraternally submitted,
C. E. SPENCE.

PLEASANT HOME SOLDIER HEARS SHRIEK OF SHELLS AND LOUD CANNONS' ROAR

The Outlook has received a copy of the Decatur, (Ill.) Herald, from Miss Loretta Bridge at Canby, Oregon. It contains a letter from Corporal J. H. Bridge, who has been in France since last April. He will be remembered by his friends and former school-mates of both Orient and Lusted schools as Harry Bridge. He enlisted at St. Louis about two years ago. His company was recruited for road building, he being an accountant in one of the departments. Following is the letter:

Advance Section,
American E. F. France,
October 22, 1918.

Dear Mother and Father:—Received your letter of September 15, today, and it sure looked good to me. Also the jokes you enclosed, they are very acceptable as we post them on the board so that everybody gets the benefit of them.

Will you please send me Roy's address as I want to write to him again and I have lost his address. What is he doing now? Sorry to hear that you were suffering with colds, I hope that you are both feeling good again.

You said in your letter that you hoped the end of the war would come before this time next year, so do I, and from the looks of things at the present time it probably will. What do you think?

In Brick Factory Building.

You asked me quite a few questions in your letter, but I will try and answer them to the best of my ability. The detachment that I am living with is in a brick building which was intended for a factory of some sort, but was not used. It has cement floors and sheet iron roof, we installed stoves and electric lights so we have a fine place, and plenty of bunks, straw ticks and plenty of blankets, also plenty of well-cooked food so you can see that we have things very nice. But some of the other detachments are living in vacant houses and some in dugouts. You asked me what kind of a shack it was that I was standing near when I had my picture taken, it was one of the barracks at St. Nazaire and very comfortable inside, even though it did not look it on the outside.

No, I have not had any more outings with the English girl as I am a long ways from there, but I enjoyed the little visits I had with her and the rest of the bunch at Pornichet. The French cooking is very good, they certainly know how to make soups and cheese, they make so many varieties of cheese and I know that you would like them. The French do business about the same way we do excepting that they don't do it on as large a scale and they know that the Soldier American as a rule has plenty of money and don't care how he spends it. They farm on a small scale and all of the farmers live in small villages. You will find villages every two or three miles, and they raise about the same crops as in the states.

Ties Used 15 Years.

The railroads here are the same gauge as ours, but the equipment is much smaller, another thing is, they put a small metal tag on every tie they put down showing what year it is laid, I have seen some that have been down for 15 years and any number that have been down eight or ten years. They also use lug screws instead of spikes, using six to each tie, three on each end, one on the outside and two on the inside, alternating on each tie.

Last night some German planes paid us a visit but thanks to the anti-aircraft guns they didn't get very close or stay very long. It is a great sight to watch the searchlights sweeping the sky, sometimes eight or ten in a bunch and they criss cross so that they light up the entire sky.

As soon as they hear a plane and it doesn't give the proper signals the guns open up and when the lights pick it up they sure do pop. When the shells explode they twinkle like a star for a second.

Watch Towns Being Shelled.

Did I tell you about my trip up towards the front line? I don't remember if I did or not so I will tell it here. Three of us started off about 10 o'clock one Sunday morning and walked for several hours, over hills and valleys, until we got up on a high hill from which we could see a large city now occupied by the Germans. From there we went on parallel to the lines until we came to another high hill which was used as an observation post and we could see the enemy trenches, also watched them shelling a town about a mile away, could see the smoke from the explosion, then hear the swish of the shell, and then hear the explosion. On our way back the enemy started to shell the road ahead of us so we sat down and waited for awhile until it stopped as that was the only road we could get a mile one about 75 yards in front of us and as soon as we heard the whizz of the shell you should have seen us drop, but it was only a lonesome so we kept on traveling.

The following Sunday four of us went to the town which we had watched them shell the previous Sunday, it was entirely deserted and pretty well shot up. Was in several buildings which were in bad condition. Whenever we get a chance we take these little trips but we generally know the conditions of the place before we start out and don't take any chances. If we run into danger there are plenty of trenches and dugouts around this part of the country, in which you can get.

Keeping His Souvenirs.

I have picked up a few small souvenirs but I don't like to take a chance on sending them through the mail as they might go astray so unless I get quite a few I will keep them until I return, or of course if I should get where I can't keep them I will send them and take the chance, but as long as I am in the office I can find a place to put them.

What do you think of the war situation by this time? It is beginning to look a great deal better, don't you think? As I told Veronica in one of my letters, I don't intend to go to work for at least a month after I return but am going to bum around and get acquainted again, and I sure will put in part of that time with you.

When it took a farmer two days with his team to drive to Portland and back, butter sold at 15 cents a pound.



YANK INVENTORS MASTER WIRELESS



As predicted when America entered the war—Yank inventions have come fast—necessity being the mother of such. It now develops that wireless telephony— from airplane to artillery—has been used on the American front for the last six months. Now Roy A. Weagant of New York has invented a method of control for wireless telegraph which makes static and other interference with messages impossible.

GRESHAM GRADE SCHOOL TO COST MORE THIS YEAR

At the annual budget meeting, held at the Gresham schoolhouse last Saturday, the estimated amount asked for to meet current expenses for the year was voted unanimously. The amount asked for was \$7,664.36. This sum must be raised from a valuation assessed last year at \$1,254,200.

The district clerk makes a report of the needs of the district as expressed in the budget to the county assessor who fixes the levy.

Last year the rate was 3.7 per cent on an estimated budget which yielded \$4640.54. The receipts of this district tax were less last year than the estimates and that deficiency has to be made up with more than \$3,000 added. The levy this year will run something over 5 per cent.

SERVICES RESUMED IN FAIRVIEW CHURCH

Sunday school and church services were held at Smith Memorial Presbyterian church last Sabbath, December 8th, with a very encouraging attendance, especially at the preaching service considering the weather.

Miss Frances Bliss sang a solo which was much appreciated by all. Rev. I. B. Self preached a plain, practical sermon on the duty of "Being Sympathetic," from the text "Rejoice with those that do rejoice, and weep with those that weep." He announced as his topic for next Sunday morning, "God's connection with the sale of Joseph, His connection with the war and all evil." You have a special invitation to attend.

SYLVIA HALL PASSES, VICTIM OF INFLUENZA

Miss Sylvia Hall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hall, a few years ago resident of Gresham and well known here, died on Friday night at the home of her mother in Oregon City. She was taken down with influenza but three days before. She would have been 14 years old on her next birthday. Her funeral was held on Sunday.

Stop reading here and turn to the want ad column.

MANY THINK ENEMY GAVE UP TOO EASY

One hears some queer things now as he walks up and down the street or steps into the stores and barber shops. The principal topic of conversation is the dawn of peace.

"Well, it looks like the world will soon be safe for democracy," is one of common expressions to be heard, and the usual answer is "I reckon that's the program" or something else equally enlightening.

But how many folks care anything about democracy or know what it really means? Judging from the talk very few are jolly because the world is now safe for democracy. What they are more interested in is their own well-being and personal comfort.

The reporter hears more knocking and complaining and grumbling since that thing was signed than was heard all through the war. We don't have enough wars to know how to recover from them. We've been doing so blamed many big things that most of us have become bewildered. We couldn't comprehend the great blessing of peace.

We've been going along contributing and investing and boasting and sacrificing and substituting and knitting and hurrahing and trying to outdo one another till we've just become saturated in war. Peace just suddenly threw a wet blanket all over us.

Everybody seems to feel that they've been stung. The Huns gave up too easy to suit most people. We didn't get to soak them hard enough. It's going to take as long to get the war spirit out of us as it took to get it in. We had begun to think it was patriotic to pay 22 cents a pound for liver. We thought we were helping to win the war. Now, with the Huns licked and liver just where it was, we feel duped—we feel we could have won with liver at ten cents a pound just as well.

Peace has muddled and dazed us. The parade is over and we don't know how to act. A young woman told a friend on the street that she had sent a twelve-dollar cigarette case to a boy at Camp Lewis just the evening before the armistice was signed. Imagine her frame of mind. Peace should have been declared gradually or been sent over on installations.

Old man Highbrow drove up to a store on Main street yesterday, parked his wife in a dental shop and told a merchant prince that he had to give up a \$50,000 airplane contract, and had picked out a Victrola when peace overtook him.

A vegetable peddler had seven sacks of carrots in the haymow. Now they are a dead loss.

Gresham's charity leader had been making cigarette cases and doing real well till peace hit her. Now she's living with a wealthy nephew who is a car tapper at the S. P. shops. No one knows what will become of her when McAdoo let's go of the railroads.

Our prominent politician had a walkover for school director till a boom started for Private Ben Skillet, who'll soon be home from France.

The belle of the town was to marry Private Yankton when he got back from France, and now he's not even going over.

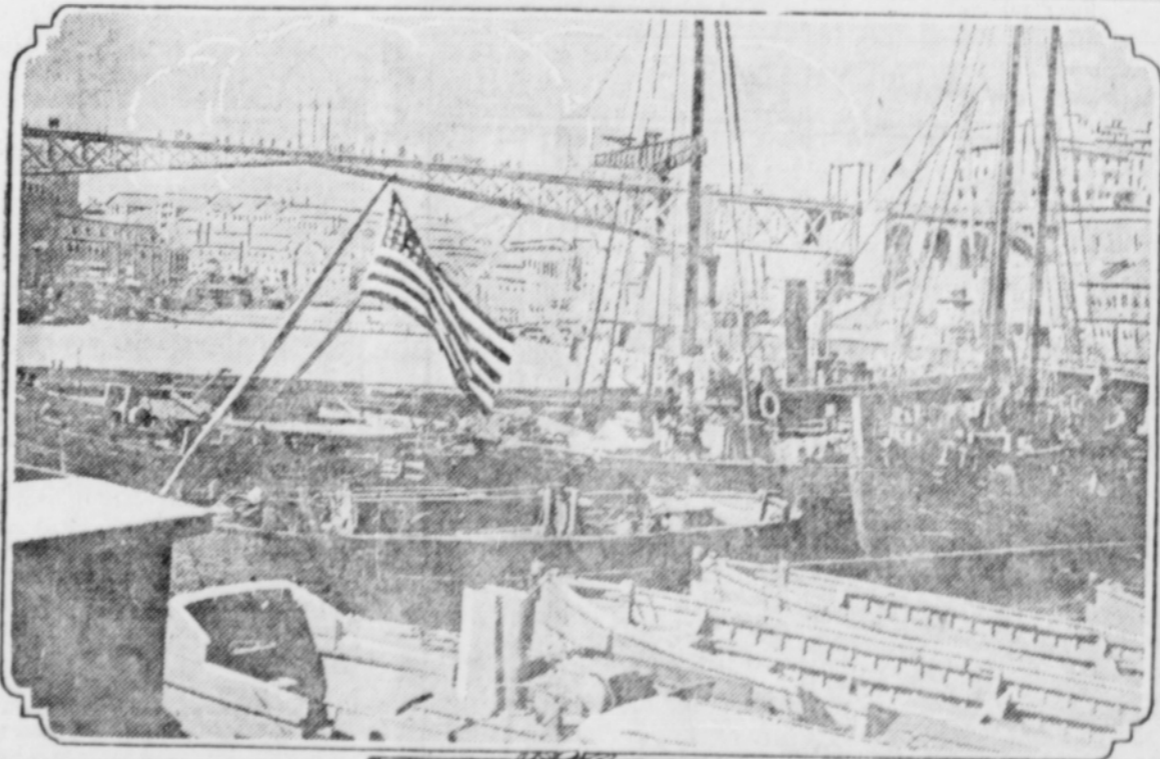
Miss Mattie Speck's aunt had her son-in-law heavily insured before he enlisted and he never got out of the Benson Tech. She thought some of building a few cottages for rent if he'd been killed.

Lots of people find themselves loaded down with bonds and nothing to smoke or chew. They're disgusted.

Well, you see all these folks are sore. It's the same thing all over the country. Folks had got settled on a war basis and peace has knocked them dippy. There's no opening in the country where a night watchman can make more money than a lawyer. Profiteers will never be satisfied. Even the salaried man won't feel right with a few dollars the profiteers can't get.

Weather Forecast.

Forecast for the period December 9 to December 14, 1918, inclusive. Pacific Coast States: Frequent rains during the week over the north portion and generally fair after Monday south portion; nearly normal temperature.



Here is where France greets democracy's great leader. It is the harbor at Brest, France, President Wilson's port of debarkation. This is the American naval base in France. A great welcome from the French people was assured several days ago when America's delegation's landing port was announced. A French delegation from Paris was appointed to officially greet President Wilson and party. Note the American flag already flying from boats at the dock in this new official French photograph.