

State Press Flashlights.

According to one military authority six babies are born in Germany to every soldier killed in war. And you have to admit it is pretty hard to beat a "system" of that kind.—Observer.

What now? Woodrow wants to raise the tariff on wool and tax the small wage earners' income. No wonder Mrs. Galt wants him to hurry up that marriage. She's going to have but precious little time in the White house the way things look now.—Observer.

The anti-suffragist who would have "the women at home darned socks instead of at public meetings" ought to know that women stopped darned socks long ago. A woman's time is worth more than a pair of worn out three-for-a-quarter socks. Darn such argument.—Telephone Register.

Some far fetched evidence is heard at times in a court of record, and even in a justice court. A witness in a case tried at McMinnville last week testified in all candor that the highway near Grand Ronde was so muddy that horses sank in it up to their backs when drawing a loaded wagon.—Sheridan Sun.

Portland is full of cold storage eggs, bought last summer and now put onto the market at a profit of about 200 per cent. If a law compelled these eggs to be labeled for just what they are, the squeezers couldn't exact this tribute. Any family should have a right to know what it was buying.—Corvallis Courier.

"Uncle Ike" Stephenson shows up "Battling Bob" La Follette in a new light, as a man who found no taint in Stephenson's money so long as it was used for LaFollette's preference, but when his political angel used it for personal political purposes, it became the filthiest of filthy lucre. Is there such a thing as spotless reformer?—Oregonian.

Ethel Wickes-Noble-Pump-Jurdy-Hughes, thirty two years old and five times married, is now under arrest in Iowa for bigamy. This is some record for a Hawkeye maiden. But a Minnesota girl does better in a different way. She is only nineteen years old and has been the mother of nine children. Her husband is twenty-two years old. No race suicide there.—Sheridan Sun.

An incident in the trenches that happened in the war zone recently indicates the sentiment of the fellows who are doing the fighting. From the German trench arose a board on which was painted, "The English are fools." After a little while this was lowered and another appeared, "The French are fools." This disappeared and the third one showed itself, "We are all fools, let's go home."—Sheridan Sun.

The Bulletin, as the official spokesman for the Grange, can no more affiliate with labor unions than can the Grange itself. This circular letter to the Grange, coming upon the heels of the attempt of labor to cram an eight-hour law down the throats of Oregon farmers, is, to say the least, ill-timed. We don't forget so easy, and we are learned to beware of pretended friends with an ax to grind.—Oregon Grange Bulletin.

Local merchants advise us that the travelling salesmen, making this territory inform them that the blue overalls are doomed because Germany is the great producer of the particular blue dye with which the cloth is dyed. Yet any other color will answer the purpose quite as well—brown, grey or tan. Here is a field for American chemists. We, as a nation, have led the world in a good many lines, why not dye stuffs?—News Reporter.

The Portland Journal devotes two or three articles the past week to criticism of the State Highway Commission for apportioning a small amount of the State Road Fund to several counties not located on the Scenic Highway or the Pacific Highway. In substance the Journal maintains that it is a waste of money to help build roads that will directly benefit the thousands of farmers who are putting up the money. If the State Highway Commission succeeded in pleasing the Journal it would certainly displease 90 per cent of the people of the state. Therefore the Commission should feel well satisfied with the apportionment they made this year.—News-Times.

Capital is hereby notified that Oregon has called off the dogs and that it is safe to come down out of the tree and get busy. The people have had enough fun chasing the Octopus to last them for years. They enjoyed it, had a good time, and, like all others who have a good time, they have had to go down into their pockets and pay the fiddler. Of course, capital must understand that there is to be no monkeying with the bandwagon, no shell games with the public, and that Oregon will not crawl on its stomach and eat out of its hand, but it will see that capital gets a square deal and wants it to know that for square-deal capital, Oregon offers the best opportunities in the world.—Corvallis Gazette Times.

Let no loud-mouth demagogue, no self-proclaiming leader of the common people take to himself the glory of whatever prosperity in certain lines of war activity now prevails. Nor let him claim the credit of the bumper crops. Whatever of prosperity this country enjoys to-day in spite of those intruders and not because of them. It grows out of the terrible conflict, crimsoning the battlefields of all the rest of the world. It comes from God's bounty in yielding to us our golden harvest. It comes not because of, but in spite of, the destructive legislation that has driven our flag from the seas, that has put one-sixth of our railroads in bankruptcy,

that has terrorized capital so that it no longer seeks investment, that has outlawed our captains of industry and discredited our elder statesmen. Let us forget.—Willamina Times.

We presume there is not a business or professional man in this town who is not an ardent advocate of home trading. So are we. And in this connection we want to suggest that it might be in keeping with such doctrines for certain of our worthy business men to remember that this paper has an up-to-date job printing plant and is prepared to do all kinds of printing. To say the least, it is rather disconcerting for us to buy their goods at home and then run across a piece of printing for some local business that has been printed out of town. The citizen who makes a practice of buying his goods from outside sources is injuring the business interests of this town. And the business man who has his stationery printed in other cities is taking a slap at the newspaper that speaks up in his behalf. Consistency? Yes of a kind.—Tone Journal.

A statement issued by one of the large railroad systems of this country gives a tabulated list of casualties occurring on its lines during the past month. The list is large and a perusal shows that in practically every instance the death or injury was the result of unlawful trespassing. The exceptions are those due to grade crossings. Notwithstanding the fact that railroad managements have been endeavoring to suppress the practice of trespassing on their rights-of-way, they have apparently made little progress. Either the methods have been directed in the wrong direction or the laws pertaining to this class of offense are sadly in need of strengthening. If the railroads were able to banish the trespasser deaths and injuries on the railroad would be lessened fully nine-tenths. Also the tramp problem would be disposed of. The railroad right-of-way is the natural avenue of travel of the tramp, and once deprived of it, he would cease to wander. Walking is too much like work and he abhors this kind of exercise about as strenuously as he does soap and water. Were he compelled to follow the public highway, he would probably soon tire of the life and in many instances would seek some form of work distasteful though it might be.—Itemizer.

The publication of a midnight addition of the Journal for the convenience of the patrons on rural routes is a stroke of enterprise that merits appreciation by those whom it serves. For it brings to them some of the latest and most important news in addition to the regular evening service. But while the Journal issues what it pleases to term a morning edition, it is not exact to call it morning paper. It is a morning edition of an evening paper. The distinction is that one, and probably two pages of the evening paper are made over for the purpose of presenting late dispatches. The bulk of the news is issued and printed about noon the day before, while the news of the real morning paper does not come over the wires until late at night and in the early morning hours, and is gathered in a comprehensive manner not possible with an evening paper. There is only one morning paper in Portland and that is the Oregonian. There have been many notable improvements in the Oregonian in the last month or so that will make it more valuable than ever to subscribers. Chief are the installation of a leased wire direct from the Chicago Tribune, thereby enabling the paper to give readers 66 columns of news daily instead of 60, as heretofore, and the broadening of the local service. There has also been quite a noticeable bit of snappiness and "pep" injected into the method of covering local stories. In fact some of those big stories are being handled in a manner to back some of the strutting eastern papers clear off into Limbo.—Banks Herald.

Another Chance Gone.

The prohibition law which becomes effective January 1 does not impose a very severe penalty upon the person who receives a shipment of intoxicants in excess of two quarts of ardent liquors or twenty-four quarts of malt liquors within a period of four weeks. The punishment is a fine of not more than \$50 or imprisonment in the County Jail for not longer than thirty days.

In other days the mildness of the penalty might have encouraged attempts to ship liquors into the state in larger quantities than the legal limit, labeled as something else. The carrier could not be held responsible if not aware of the true nature of the package's contents.

But a recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States renders the danger more acute. It is held that the person who ships liquor from one state to another without labeling it as liquor may be prosecuted in either state. Thus a liquor dealer in wet California who ships wine into dry Oregon under a false label under the Webb-Kenyon Law.

It is not likely that liquor dealers will care to run the risk of that law's penalty, so all that is left for the man who cannot be content with the Oregon limit is to go elsewhere or to stock up in advance.

But more significant is the probable effect of the decision on the business of bootlegging. The bootlegger must have a source of supply. If he must induce a dealer to ship him liquor in the guise of a trunk of wearing apparel, as the corpse of a degrading relative or as the household piano, he will be hard put in plying his trade.

"To Be A Man."

There is no parole now given to a prisoner under the present administration until he has a job ready for him on the outside.

You may realize that the greatest difficulty for the discharged prisoner, the greatest cause for temptation and fall, is the absence of a paying position when he leaves the penitentiary. When he leaves the prison walls with only a few dollars and a suit of clothes, with his friends gone, with no place to go to work, with every hand turned against him, not even a corner in which he may hide, it is a pretty tough life to face. As it is now in Oregon, when he goes from the prison he goes out to a job, and has a chance to be a man. He is kept constantly in touch with the parole officer, and helped in every way by the state to be a man.—From address by Frank Davey before Oregon State Press Association.

Another St. Helena?

It is said that from Constantinople the Kaiser will dictate terms of peace to the Allies. While there is little doubt that the world would welcome a suggestion of peace, it is hardly likely that the Kaiser's would be received with unanimous applause. It does not appear that the Kaiser has accomplished more that a very few of the things he set out to do. He has not yet enjoyed last year's Christmas dinner in Paris; is still hungering for the meal he promised himself in Petrograd this spring; is no nearer London than he was in September, 1914, and is not yet in Constantinople, from which it is averred he will offer terms to his enemies.

It is doubtful if the Kaiser is today in as good a position to dictate terms of peace as he was three months ago. Not only is he making no headway in the west, but he has lost some of the burrows into which his warring moles dug themselves in territory they had gained. In the east, his cohorts are retreating before the onslaughts of the marvelous Russians who, like storm-driven waves, seem to retire but to gain new force for irresistible advance. In Serbia he has won a number of victories that have invariably marked the beginning of a new campaign; but these, like other of his successes, will probably prove Cadmean victories.

The Germans have fought splendidly, and their wonderful achievements have fully justified the years spent in preparing for this unparalleled war. They have done more—much more—than was expected of them. But the impossible may not be accomplished by the merely human, and in undertaking the task of subjugating the world, they began with an inadequate force. The Kaiser's chances for ultimate success lie all behind him. When he failed to reach Paris, he started for St. Helena.—The Spectator.

Hyphenated Abuse.

The attention of the Journal, designer of the presidential policies and guardian of the administration's honor, is called to the following:

We have never had so miserable, weak-kneed and contemptible an administration as the present.

That is the opinion of C. J. Haxamer, national president of the German-American Societies of this country, and was publicly expressed at a meeting in Milwaukee, Wis., on Tuesday night. The Spectator thinks it is calls for a rebuke, and shall read with interest whatever comment the Journal may think fit to make on it.

In the meantime, The Spectator takes the liberty of saying that the man who employs such language toward the President of the United States, whether he be merely a foul-mouthed, scurrilous, street corner blatherskite or president of the hyphenated organizations in the United States, is an undesirable, blackguardly, and seditious citizen.

The Hexamer abuse of the President of the United States is not political. It is the expression of an un-American, foreignized hatred of an Executive who has refused to permit the administration to be used as part of the Kaiser's military machine and who has demanded the prosecution and punishment of the Kaiser's agents who, by destroying our industries and killing our citizens, have sought to carry the European war to America.

According to Hexamer and others of his kind, the President is "weak-kneed" because he insisted that citizens of the United States should not be sacrificed to the practical practices of a barbaric submarine warfare. He is "miserable" because he demanded free and safe travel on the Seven Seas for his people. He is "contemptible" because he has put in motion the machinery of the law for the detection of those who would make another Belgium of this country.

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