

What the Editors Say.

Why the Evening Journal should lie to the public we cannot imagine, unless it be that its publisher believes he can get more circulation by lying appeals to prejudice than by telling the dull uninteresting truth.—Oregon Voter.

Last summer Senator Lane toured Oregon delivering campaign speeches in which he urged support for the President. Now, when the president needs support more than any president has needed it since the Civil War Lane turns against him.—Oregon Register.

A Missouri editor refuses to publish obituary notices of people who failed to subscribe for his paper. He says: "People who do not take their home paper are dead, anyway, and their passing has no news value." We don't look at it in that light. Someone might be glad to read that they were dead.—Seaside Signal.

Towns and cities all over the United States are considering every possible means for combating the high cost of living. One of the essential ways is by utilizing every foot of ground and every vacant lot for gardening purposes. By cultivating all the waste places, each family can do much toward raising the vegetables for their own use and thereby reduce the demand for these articles of food.—Heppner Gazette-Times.

Demonstrations of loyalty are being held all over the country and Oregon has not been the least among them. The Third Oregon Infantry regiment has been recruited to war strength. Patriotic meetings have been held and speakers have aroused the feeling of sincere loyalty in men and women. The flying of flags, the marching of patriotic societies, and the playing of national airs by bands have contributed to the surging wave of patriotic ardor.—News Reporter.

With the return of the gardening season, the magazines are again full of hints and suggestions just how to garden to the best advantage. A whole lot of that stuff, however, is high-brow and to do it effectively is to get a spade, hoe, rake and an assortment of seed and go to it. A suggestion from your neighbor who has had practical experience for years, will benefit you much more than any of the magazine articles.—News-Times.

Every man who has failed to enlist is not a "slacker". There are many whose patriotic duty lies in their remaining at their posts of labor. Skilled workmen in every industrial pursuit are just as essential to the successful carrying on of a war as are soldiers. The army must be fed, clothed, munitioned and transported and there is the still larger army of civilian—women, children and the aged—who must be provided for and protected. It is only the fellow who has no excuse whatever for not enlisting who should be branded as a "slacker".—Itemizer.

Without entering into the merits of the road bond law, there can be no question of the urgent necessity for the adoption of some plan or system that will give to the State of Oregon the roads necessary to the development of her agricultural prosperity. Oregon has regions rich as the riches of earth, lying idle for the reason that the cost of transportation of product from farm to market is forbiddingly great. People should give this great and profound thought before refusing to vote on the first big chance they have had to begin a comprehensive system of state-wide road construction.—La Grande Observer.

It is significant that following President Wilson's plain declaration placing responsibility for Prussian outrages upon the imperial government and not upon the German people the emperor promises drastic reforms at the end of the war. He even states that there will be no more elections by the classes, and that secret election of deputies by the people must be adopted. Just how much the president's attitude and the handwriting on the wall in Russia has to do with this changed attitude can only be surmised, but that there is a radical change in attitude the world well knows.—Independent.

We like the spirit of State Treasurer Tom Kay shown in informing the government of a need of check speculation in future on the wool market. Mr. Kay says that contracts are now being made on future wool fleeces before they are shorn, a practice unheard of before. Mr. Kay rightly believes that a government that can require its men to offer their lives to serve the country should require speculators in the commercial world not to raise the price of commodities where it will reduce the poor of the country to the level occupied by the peasantry of Europe. He says this action is unwarranted by market conditions.—Telephone Register.

Already the government is out with urgent advice to everybody to get to work and produce something more than they have ever before. The food supply is one of the serious problems of preparedness for the national crisis which the United States is now facing. It is urgent that every foot of cultivated ground be planted to something that will help to relieve the high cost of food stuffs and supply the army and navy. If everyone who can, will get in and plant and raise a good garden, grow a few more bushels of potatoes than will do for their own use, can and dry more than enough vegetables for their own family, the food supply proposition will be solved. We know that the European nations have had to do, and should profit by their experiences. If we do not, we may be compelled to pay very dear for it.

The broccoli growers are busy har-

vesting their crop, and although the yield has been materially lessened by the unfavorable weather conditions still ands of dollars to farmers and gardeners in the Umpqua Valley. In the neighborhood of Greens, a mere side track about five miles south of the city, growers are loading about a car a day, and expect to ship from that point alone thirty car loads of the product. Each car contains approximately 350 crates, and the price ranges around a dollar to a dollar and thirty-five net to the growers. At that rate, allowing an average of \$1.20 the crate, Greens farmers will realize something like twelve thousand dollars just for their crops. Other sections are just as fortunate, and in some localities much larger acreage is being harvested with consequent larger returns. It is by specializing along lines of proven worth that farmers can secure these excellent results. A big crop of any staple will bring the eastern buyers right to the ranchman's door, assuring ready markets at profitable prices.—Umpqua Valley News.

Senator Harry Lane is credited with the statement that he voted against the war resolution because he was firmly convinced that had the resolution been referred to the people of Oregon it would have been voted down ten to one. Lane says he is absolutely certain his constituents do not want war. Quite true indeed. He is a most sanguine person who wants war. He is a most inhuman person who does not want war. None of us want war. But President Wilson and Congress have not wished war upon us. War was not of their wanting. The apology of Lane's is like the two by four patch that was used to cover a six by eight hole. The people of Oregon were not going to vote on the resolution with the same knowledge of international relations that the leaders of the nation would. The people of Oregon would have voted "yes" or "no" on what they would have wanted, and undoubtedly they would have voted "no" and "no" overwhelmingly. In an issue such as the present one there must be quick and decisive action. The people vote intelligently when they are educated to it but education takes time. There was no time for education in this matter. A referendum would have been the height of folly. Leaders of public thought became responsible in a time like the present and it is they who then are the real constituents of Lane. Had he canvassed them he would have found the real war sentiment. It is true the people may not want war, but once war is declared the people are welded together as a unit.—Sheridan Sun.

The Problem of the Slacker.

In America we have a very large number of young men who will not voluntarily enlist. There are thousands of these young fellows in all the large cities and many of the larger towns who either are chronic loafers or are living off the industry of their relatives. America should solve the problem of a slacker. Congress has the power to order every one of them into the federal service, and the sooner they are rounded up and put to work the better it will be for them and for the country.

What splendid men now wear the uniform. They are serious-minded, well-behaved and dignified young men who represent the very cream of the country's youth. Soon we may see these fine men march to areas of danger to defend our homes and our people. But what kind will be left behind? The loafers, gilded youths and joy-riding sons of the rich and hangers-on at street corners and idling places. The same responsibility that rests on one able-bodied young man to come to his country's help rests on every other. Conscription has no terrors for the right kind of young men. Of course there are a great number of young men that are not fitted for active military service. These should not be allowed to rely supinely upon their unfitness. There is work for everybody, and the government has a perfect moral and legal right to require all its men to do the work they are capable of doing. There is a great field of agriculture. The question of food may be a serious one. Why not, when necessary, conscript men for work in the fields? This is no time for drawing fine lines of distinction between men. Every person owes a fundamental debt to his country, and if he is not inclined to volunteer to discharge it, he should be forced to do so.—Telephone Register.

Road Graders.

Among the farmers of Oregon are thousands of road graders. These road graders are fighting the road bonding bill. There is a real reason behind their fight.

The reason is that genuine road improvement knocks out their graft. The graft depends on poor roads. A road that needs grading, rock, graveling and putting each and every season is a perpetual source of employment of men and teams. From \$5 to \$8 a day is paid to each one of these graders for lazy work in hauling and grading.

All farmers who work on roads are not graders but some of them are. Those farmers who do honest work on roads earn their money. But not all of them are honest. The dishonest farmer rejoices at the opportunity to get a lot of road money every year—enough to more than pay his taxes; often enough to yield the greater part of his cash income. The honest farmer wants honest roads. He wants permanent improvements, especially drainage, so the very roads will not have to be fixed every year. This is why so many farmers are supporting the road bonding bill—because they feel the state will get some good roads, roads that are so well drained and crowned that the terrific expense of annual lazy patching will be saved. Meanwhile the grafting farmers are poisoning their neighbor's minds against the road bonding bill or any other measure that means permanent improvement of highways. The prin-

cipal brand of poison they spread is to attack S. Benson, Amos Benson and John Yeon, charging them with being grafters. By thus inflaming popular prejudice against a group of rich men they are influencing many to oppose good roads legislation.

Think this over, honest farmers, who want good roads. Who is busiest in your own home neighborhood for or against the road bonding bill? Think twice before you allow yourself to be poisoned by the venom which springs from a graft that is threatened.—Oregon Voter.

Doom of the Hohenzollerns Sounded in Reichstag.

"We regard a republic as a coming inevitable development in Germany." The speaker was not an American or Englishman, a Frenchman or a Russian. The place was not the capitol at Washington, the parliament house at London, the legislative halls at Paris or the Taurida palace at Petrograd. The speaker was Herr Ledebour, a German socialist, and the place was the reichstag at Berlin.

These are the words of doom for the Hohenzollerns as truly as "Mene, mene, tekel, uparsin" for Belshazzar of Babylon. "Reason, treason!" was the cry that resounded through the parliament of Germany as the socialist representative of the people uttered his fatal word. Treason it surely was in the ears of Emperor William and other believers in the divine right of kings. The scene repeated the historic occasion when Patrick Henry heard the cry of treason hurled at him, and retorted: "If that be treason, make the most of it!"

The German foes of despotism have been emboldened by the Russian revolution. Their speaking openly about a republic brings the possibility of a German revolution into the vision of millions of the plain people. It should not be expected soon. It is less likely to break out first among the peoples of Austria-Hungary. Yet it may be nearer than we can guess. There are many men in Germany and Austria-Hungary who cherish the tradition of the revolutionary risings of 1848, when the people frightened their rulers into promises of progress and reform. The war and the terrible suffering and loss it has brought to the Germans and the Austro-Hungarians must inevitably quicken the resentment of the people against Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns.

The deliverance of Germany from absolutism depends upon either or both of two forces. One is the people themselves of the German empire, the other the nations waging war against the German and Austro-Hungarian governments. The German people could have peace in a week if they would depose the Hohenzollern dynasty, put the militarists and bureaucrats out of power and set up a constitutional government responsive to the people's representatives. Or they can receive peace months or years hence through the extirpation of autocracy by the superior force of America, England, France, Italy and Russia. The world is so sick of war, that this war cannot cease till the German form of government and its absolutist immoralities, which have been the chief cause of this war, have been destroyed. Militarism and autocracy have been the bane of Germany. America was against the German government not merely to safeguard American life and rights, but to help bring about the deliverance of the German people.—Spokesman Review.

Grim, Unromantic War.

The handicap that we bear is that our war will not have on the surface the romantic glamor that sent a thrill through the youth of Europe. The foe was at their gates, insolent, flaunting, for a time invincible, and therefore leaving no question in the minds of the high spirited men as to where their duty lay. Our foe will not show us his face. He lurks in the water beneath a metal rod and spies for us through a device of little mirrors. For the present at least, war will be more like routing out the mermin than fighting real men.

To the youth of Europe the appeal to action was inevitable and irresistible. Women did not try to keep men home. The maidens, the babies, of those nations were—were still—impaired. Once the battle was joined, what there was of chivalry in German life appeared face to face with the men of the allies. The German soldiers charged machine guns. Their foes could feel that these brave fellows were worthy of their steel, how ever contemptible might be the officers who spurred them on. England has buried heroic Germans with military honors.

In our immediate task we shall have little of war's romance; but, instead, the concentrated essence of all that is bad on the Prussian system—for the U-boat symbolizes all its wickedness—and nothing of what is good in Germany.

Yet in the long and tedious self-sacrifice before us, unilluminated by pagentry, ruggedly practical, there is really the possible test of our national character.

For Constipation.

Mr. L. H. Farnham, a prominent druggist of Spirit Lake, Iowa, says: "Chamberlain's Tablets are certainly the best thing on the market for constipation." Give these tablets a trial. You are certain to find them agreeable and pleasant in effect. Price 25c. For sale by Lamar's Drug Store.

Double Proof.

A tramp knocked at a farmer's door and called for something to eat. "Are you a Christian?" asked the good-hearted man. "Look at the holes worn in the knees of my pants. What do they prove?" The farmer's wife promptly brought out the food and the tramp turned to go. "Well well!" asked the farmer. "What made those holes in the back of your pants?" "Backsliding," replied the tramp, as he hurried on.

EVERYBODY WANTS IMPROVED ROADS

Plan That Will Insure State Better Highways to Be Voted Upon in June.

Everybody wants good roads. The need for improved highways is admitted. Every citizen is anxious and willing to pay his share towards the cost of building good roads. All the individual ever has insisted upon and is asking today is that the public receive one dollar of value for every dollar expended in road construction. Frequently in the past the public has not received full value from these expenditures. But this has been due invariably to the lack of a systematic plan of road building and an intelligent supervision of the work by public officials charged with disbursing the fund.

The last Legislature, however, provided the necessary legislation for introducing in Oregon a systematic and intelligent campaign for the state-wide construction of permanent hard surface highways. A complete road code was adopted and a Highway Commission created for its administration. Another measure provided for issuance of bonds aggregating \$1,800,000 with which to match an equal amount provided by the Government, under the Shackleford Act, for the construction of post roads and forest roads.

Most important of the Legislative measures was that authorizing the issue of bonds to the amount of \$6,000,000 for the construction of main trunk lines throughout the state. At the same time, another bill was passed doubling the annual license on all automobiles and motor vehicles. The revenue from this source, together with the money derived from the existing one-fourth mill road tax will meet all interest charges of the proposed bond issue and retire the bonds without adding a dollar to the direct taxes of the individual.

Of these various measures, only one—the \$6,000,000 Bond Bill—will be submitted to the voters for their approval at the special election, June 4th. This measure asks nothing of anybody except that which he must pay under laws which go into effect regardless of whether the bond issue be adopted. All manner of safeguards have been provided outside the bonding act. The Highway Commission has been reorganized, methods of road construction have been reformed, competition in contracts has been made compulsory and an anti-conspiracy bill has been passed. Amortization tables show that the income now irrevocably provided will retire the \$6,000,000 bond issue, meet the requirements of the Federal Act, provide maintenance of roads and leave a surplus even if there be no increase in assessed value or number of automobiles.

Approval of the bond measure by the voters is all that is needed to carry out the good roads campaign effectively. Indorsement of the bonds at the June election would mean that actual road construction could begin this year. In passing on this measure, voters are not asked to vote blindly. The pending bond bill describes the roads that are to be constructed and defines the general character of their construction. All roads will be built under the supervision of the State Highway Commission which was created for that specific purpose.

The members of the Commission are men of the strictest integrity. They are among the state's most representative citizens who have achieved enviable success in the business world. As appointees of Governor Withycombe, they may be depended upon to conduct the business of state road building with the same fidelity they have shown in their personal affairs. The personnel of the Commission is a guarantee that all road funds coming into its hands will be disbursed wisely and economically.

EVERY PRODUCER WILL BE AIDED.

Good roads concern and should interest every citizen. They reduce the cost per ton to the producer in marketing his products. This is an important factor in determining the ultimate cost to the consumer. Good roads mean a substantial saving in the operating cost of 35,000 motor vehicles in this state and will effect a further saving of at least 10 per cent in the depreciation of all vehicles. These two items amount into almost incredible sums annually. All money raised for good roads will be expended in this state, contributing to the welfare of all. Good roads increase the value of all land contiguous to the highways that are improved. This stimulates road construction in other communities. Could more material reasons be urged for supporting the good roads bond bill at the special election June 4th?

STRONG ARGUMENT FOR GOOD ROAD BONDS

One of the most forceful appeals for good roads was that offered for the Grange measures, which provided for a bond issue and was printed in the 1912 official state pamphlet. From that argument the following is quoted: "Business Men and Farmer, Producer and Consumer: Vote for the Grange Measures, for you one and all are interested in the development of the state, that can never be accomplished without the construction of good, permanent roads, built economically and scientifically. Spence, Shaw, Leedy, Mason, Committee Oregon State Grange."

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