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TO THE BITTER END.

An oriental seer prophesied that the great war would end in May. Lord Kitchener, when he heard it, is said to have exclaimed: "End in May? That's when it will really begin!"

From all the participants come bits of information which, taken together, indicate that all are making preparations for the utmost possible showing of numbers and strength with the opening of the spring campaign.

Russia is said to have a new army of 800,000 men ready to be thrown into the fighting.

France is said to be bringing forward forces of reserves so vast as to be amazing.

A captain of a trans-Atlantic liner says he saw in the Solent and the harbor of Southampton 125 transports waiting their turn to take on British regiments for the Franco-Belgian fields.

German reports all agree that the kaiser will have a greater force for the spring campaign than ever before, in spite of the losses sustained.

There is, of course, possibility of other nations coming into the conflict. Rumania is expected to join the allies and aid considerably in the destruction of Austria. Italy is still hesitating just outside the battle line.

Meanwhile, the war is dragging along in a dull, dogged, monotonous way that makes poor reading but holds open a prospect of sensational developments at any moment.

Nobody is beaten yet, though Turkey and Austria are not very far from it. But the beating of these will not decide the issues of the conflict.

Nothing looks like peace. Everything looks like war to the bitter end; and this means until either Germany or the allies are decisively defeated or exhausted.

No satisfactory peace could be arranged out of a deadlock such as now exists. One side or the other must triumph and triumph decidedly before there can be permanent peace.

If Germany can thrash the rest of Europe, Germany can make the new map and arrange the future. If the allies can thrash Germany to a standstill, the allies can make the new map and arrange the future.

In a fight to the death one side must die; and this seems to be that kind of a fight.

MR. MILLS' VIEWS ARE RIGHT.

President A. L. Mills, of the First National Bank, of Portland, holds very sensible views on economic questions. He said in effect in an address to the Realty Association of that city yesterday that Pacific coast cities are too large, and the country about them too sparsely settled. He said:

"More than anything else, Oregon needs more population and more capital, more people to cultivate the soil and more capital for manufacturing enterprises."

"The whole Pacific coast is over-urbanized, too many people in the cities and too few in the country. This is true not only of Oregon but also of Washington and California. The cities are too large for the country."

"Now, up to date, what have we done to increase Oregon's real population? Descriptive pamphlets have been scattered broadcast by commercial organizations, good advertising and good work so far as it goes. Correspondence often has resulted from the advertising, and that also is good work so far as it goes. Then, we have had junketing and good fellowship excursions to neighboring towns, and all hands have swapped compliments, good in a way, but only indirectly instrumental in adding to our rural population. Indeed, all of these steps have value, but all are more or less preliminary to the main essential, to-wit: getting the newcomer established on reasonably priced land and seeing that he is properly equipped to become a prosperous and producing settler. We have not gone far enough; our work has stopped when we landed the emigrant in the state; we must do more—work to keep him here after his arrival. Failure to do this is, I think, wherein we have been lacking."

"One satisfied settler is a better advertisement than 10,000 highly colored descriptive pamphlets. Vice versa, a newcomer who has been induced to visit Oregon, by glowing accounts of unusual profits, and then finds that the returns are not as represented; is apt to become disgruntled and to return fast spreading poison wherever he goes. This works our state great harm."

Mr. Mills speaks very plainly and to the point. He might go further and state that the country in general, not the Pacific coast alone, is suffering from the same cause. There are too many people in the towns and cities to be supported by the producers in the country, because, after all, the products of soil form the basis of our entire business structure. Prices of produce are in the main very high, and the people of the cities, now that construction work has been suspended because overdone, are unable to buy these products and many of them are suffering. The proper ratio between the producers and consumers has been lost sight of in the great boom in urban growth which was prevailed for some fifteen years past, and the bursting of that boom is largely responsible for present unsat-

isfactory business conditions. The hope of the future lies in men of Mr. Mills' influence getting the proper vision and lending their aid toward the righting of the conditions from which we suffer.

Dun's Commercial Review sums up business conditions for the past week, in the country at large, as follows: "The most noteworthy improvement continues to be in foreign trade. In spite of lack of adequate shipping, leading to high rates of freight, and regardless of congestion of harbor facilities at many of the great foreign ports resulting in long delays in discharging vessels, exports of American products, including cereals and cotton, and many manufactured articles, steadily increase. During the month of December exports from New York were not only the largest of any other month during the year, but were also much in excess of the preceding December. For the latest week the outgo was \$8,000,000 greater than in the corresponding week last year, and over \$13,000,000 in excess of the imports. Financial conditions reveal increasing strength week by week. French bankers, it is announced, are disregarding the moratorium, which is a distinct gain. The records of the New York Stock Exchange reveal an increasing breadth and strength in the market for securities. Railroad managers, encouraged by the recent rate decision, are displaying more confidence, and several of the important lines are contracting with some degree of freedom for rails and other supplies. Railroad gross earnings for two weeks of January declined 7.7 per cent., but this is a marked improvement over the three preceding months. Reports from the iron and steel trade are of increasing activity, although the total output is still below capacity, and in the structural division far from normal. The textiles are moving with greater freedom and confidence and showing a tendency toward higher prices. More encouraging reports also come from the shoe industry. Building operations are held back by unfavorable weather, but better conditions prevail in coal and there is an increasing output of copper."

The Oregon university at Eugene has a whale problem on its hands almost as perplexing as Jonah's was, if we may accept the Biblical account literally. Some time ago a whale was stranded on the coast and some fool enthusiasts conceived the idea of bringing it over to the university as a present for the campus. Funds were collected by subscription to pay the expense of bringing it over, and it has arrived. Unfortunately no preparations had been made for embalming the huge carcass, or otherwise making it fit for polite society, so when it came, its odor came along. Now the university refuses to accept it, the railroad doesn't want it, with the result that about two tons of real dead whale is making itself more and more apparent every hour. The Roseburg News suggests that the problem be passed up to the fish and game commission, but, as that organization has troubles of its own that loom up bigger than any whale that ever navigated the Pacific, its members will be likely to sidestep the responsibility. In the meantime the whale in question has almost undisputed possession of the railroad yards, the odor that greets overland train passengers being more pronounced and pungent than the fragrance of the roses in the far-famed depot park at the university city.

Nebraska has an entirely different way of doing things than we have here in Oregon when it comes to law-making. For example, the first two weeks of the present session of the lower house at Lincoln cost \$640.50 for expenses, including clerk hire and other expenses, for a membership of 100, against only 60 in the Oregon house. Three committees elect one of their own member clerk, to serve without extra compensation, and the only thing furnished the members free is a small allowance for stamps and their necessary stationery. Here the house, a smaller body, spends many times \$640.50 in two weeks, and they say it used to be that way in Nebraska until the people rose up and demanded the exercise of common business sense in the management of the legislative sessions. Some day Oregon will do the same.

The Capital Journal prints an interesting and instructive interview with Mr. E. J. Hanset today. He is a gentleman who understands flax growing and has devoted much time and attention to it, having practically demonstrated that the Willamette valley is adapted in both soil and climate to its production. This interview is timely since there is renewed interest on the subject, because of the governor's suggestion that machinery for utilizing the fibre be installed at the penitentiary, and the appointment of a joint legislative committee, to co-operate with other organizations in a thorough investigation of the feasibility of such a step.

There is a "Whisky Hill" school district in Marion county. One name that certainly should be changed, even if the state had remained wet.

State Employees May Wait For Cash In Certain Cases

When the officers and employees of the different state departments, institutions, boards and commissions, which have not been provided with continuing maintenance appropriations, call for their regular monthly warrants on February 1st, it is expected there will be some waiting and gnashing of teeth for their warrants will not be paid by State Treasurer Kay for the simple reason that there are no funds on hand with which to pay them. This is the true condition of affairs, notwithstanding the fact that there are hundreds of thousands of dollars in the treasury, but they are not applicable to this purpose. This condition of affairs is due to the fact that all appropriations for departments, institutions, boards, commissions, etc., cease on December 31, 1914, and no money will be available for the payment of salaries and expenses of any office or department until the present legislature makes appropriation for same. Unless the general appropriation bill carries an emergency clause no pay will be drawn until 30 days after the close of the session.

Fortunate is the man who really deserves his own good opinion of himself.

The Auto

The auto is a lovely car in which to rip and race; but if the owner's truly smart, he'll make it know its place. "You'll do all right for leisure hours," he says, in earnest tones, "but I won't let you, by the powers, use all my stock of bones! If you should interfere with trade, or keep me from my biz, I'll put you where the junk is laid, so help me now, G. Whiz! I know so many who for fun burn up the country roads, and for that purpose borrow money, and mortgage their shoddy. They go chugging everywhere, and keep the highway hot, and little do they seem to care if school shall keep or not. And then the sheriff, haughty gent, comes up and makes some spic, and springs a legal document with large and crimson seals. The thought of those who waste their days in cars should cause us gloom; a thousand thousand dippy joys are chugging to their doom. The auto is a servant fine whose name will never slump; but when it's master, friend of mine, 'twill lead you to the dump."



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Governor Withycombe Will Attend Horse Fair

(Capital Journal Special Service.)
Jan. 30.—Governor Withycombe has formally accepted the invitation of the college animal husbandry department to attend the horse fair and head the opening parade. He will also award the prizes to the winners of the boys' dairy judging contest on the same occasion. He has also announced that due to the press of work at the capital, he will be unable to accept another invitation to participate in the exercises of farmers' week.

Corporation Insurance Commissioner Watson delivered an address on the Oregon blue-sky law before the students of the school of commerce at the agricultural college yesterday afternoon. While admitting that the various state departments are not all perfect and that doubtless improvements can and should be made in some or all of them, he emphasized the fact that high taxes are not due primarily or indeed at all to higher expenses of state government. The policy of condemning wholesale without careful investigation all of the branches of state government he likened to that of the unwise jeweler who replied to requests for advice as to repairing a watch by throwing it unexamined into the junk heap and saying, "What you need is a new watch." He strongly commended Governor Withycombe's policy of having all the departments investigated by competent disinterested business men, and further ventured the suggestion that the newly appointed commission will come back at the end of the ten days with a great deal of additional information as to the work of the departments and also a request for an extension of time. The audience, made up largely of practical farmers and business men attending the short course, followed him closely and warmly applauded his remarks.

Farmers and fruit men are invited



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REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

A. J. and E. Berg to J. F. Short, 17.5 acres in J. B. Gervais claim 71 T 5 R 3 W.
Minnie N. Epley et vir to Adous V. Cochrane, N 1/2 lot 8 block 81, Salem.
Ernest J. Martin to A. J. Eoff, 71 acres in W. J. Herron claim 48 T 7 R 2 W.
P. H. Reeves et ux to T. A. Roberts, lot 3 block 2, Biversdale Add to Salem.
Joseph Trost et ux to Anna Keber, 16.49 acres in Sam'l Welch claim 33 and 34 T 5 R 1 W.
Anna Keber to Joseph Trost et ux, 16.49 acres in Sam'l Welch claim 33 and 34 T 5 R 1 W.
to attend the pruning demonstrations by W. S. Brown at the Salem Land company's orchards near Woodburn tomorrow at one o'clock.

Julius E. Schomms et ux to M. L. Gotteburg et ux W 1/2 lots 5 and 6 block 8 Palms 2nd Add to Mt. Angel.
C. D. Hartman et ux to Adda Jones, .26 acre in S 17 T 6 R 1 E.
Edna Pearl Sloper et vir to F. M. Lufford 1 part of Jno. Baker claim 42 T 7 R 3 W, 2 part of J. L. Parrish claim 61 T 7 R 3 W.
Sarah Pendleton to Geo. W. Beam, lots 25 and 26, Pendleton acres.
Abby C. Phillips to A. C. Libby et ux, lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 block 7, institute survey, Jefferson.
A. C. Libby to Charlotte Phillips, 105.02 acres Sam'l Whitney claim 58 T 9 R 3 W.
H. Savage et ux to C. W. Smith et ux 10 acres in M. L. Savage claim 79 T 7 R 3 W.
Go to the gas meter, tho' sluggish; consider its ways.

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NORTH BANK ROAD TICKET OFFICE, 5th and Stark Sts., Portland.

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