

# Editorial Page of "The Capital Journal"

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## A SAMPLE OF AMERICAN UNTHRIFT

The Agricultural department calls attention to the waste of flax straw in the United States. The growing of flax in this country is principally for the seed from which linseed oil is made. The straw is let go to waste, or a large part of it is, according to the department.

The amount of straw derived from this source is placed at 1,600,000 tons, and of this only about 200,000 tons are used. The balance, 1,400,000 tons are burned or allowed to go to waste. Attention is called to the fact that this straw if saved and used would furnish the United States with its full supply of wrapping paper as well as writing material of that kind.

While this vast amount of raw material is allowed to go to waste we import thousands of tons of flax waste, and rags for the purpose of making paper.

The flax seed crop is estimated at 20,000,000 bushels and its value at \$33,000,000. The flax straw, the department estimates, would be worth in the neighborhood of \$8,000,000 more if it was all utilized. At the same time it is pointed out that there would not be a large profit in handling this flax waste, but it would furnish employment to considerable labor, and would keep several million dollars now sent abroad for rags and flax waste, at home.

The most important feature of the matter is that it would be a fine lesson in thrift, which the American is shyer of than any other nation or people. Once we begin to stop this kind of drains on our national wealth, and at the same time learn to rely on ourselves we will have made a long stride toward commercial freedom.

The present war has demonstrated to what a great extent this country is dependent on others for the things she should produce herself. We are dependent absolutely on Germany for dyestuffs, yet we could make them here as well and as cheaply as it is done in Germany. We are dependent on Germany, or have been heretofore, even for the dolls and toys with which we amuse and please our children. All sorts of chemicals which we could easily make here we send to Germany or other countries for, and so it goes through a long and really surprising list.

And while we are sending abroad for things we could and should make at home, we are shouting for a tariff to prevent foreigners competing with us. We burn our flax waste and pay duties on the same material imported from other countries. We want a tariff to keep the foreign wool grower from competing with the American grower and import rags free to be made into shoddy for use by Americans instead of wool, which we keep out—if we can.

The flax waste is not of such vast importance, but the lesson it teaches is. The present industrial school movement was due to State Superintendent of Schools Alderman seeing some Yamhill school children sending to town for popcorn, when they could grow all they wanted with little effort. He impressed that fact on the youngsters and also on the school system of the state. If the flax waste can be turned to so good an account as the pop corn, and the lesson of thrift and self reliance it suggests, be conned and profited by, the department bulletin calling attention to it will have served a good purpose.

General Leonard Wood, of the regular army and now in command of Eastern Army headquarters, yesterday told the senate military committee that Secretary Garrison's continental army plan was a makeshift and entirely ineffective. He insisted that the country should have a regular army of 210,000 men. He also stated that at the end of the present war every European nation will have a trained army it could send over here and whip us to a standstill before we realized it. General Wood's idea is that an exhausted nation is the most strongly equipped for war.

This quarrel over preparedness is liable to let some of us Americans learn some real American history, before it is settled. We many of us think the American is invincible, yet the truth is we have been pretty badly whipped several times, though our histories are not vociferous in telling about it.

Madame Bernhardt says: "All the diabolical plots in the world can't keep me from making another farewell tour of America." She says she has received all kinds of threatening letters signed with ter-r-rible Teuton names, but if she is fated to die in America then she will die there that is all. She says she will hit this country in October. Sara may have lost a leg and some of her exuberant and perennial youth but she has not lost her art of getting plenty of free advertising.

San Francisco hold-ups have a new stunt, as Charles Murray, a hotel man, learned yesterday. He saw a pretty girl and young fellow holding hands at a street corner, and apparently about to begin a kissing match. As he walked up close to them, the man drew a club and struck him over the head. Only arrival of third persons prevented him being robbed. "Spooning bandits" is the name already applied to them.

When President Wilson starts on his stumping tour in advocacy of preparedness, he will be trailed by a formidable array of peace advocates. Among these will be Bryan, Rabbi Wise, Dr. David Starr Jordan, Oswald Villard, Meyer London and Morris Hillquitt. Mrs. Wilson will accompany the president, and it is easily foretold which party will draw the larger audiences.

Astoria is to have a municipally owned steamer line plying the Columbia between that seaport and the upper Columbia. This is done in an effort to force the railroads to give Astoria what she considers her rights as to rail rates. Those who object to cities owning anything except their sewers will see in this move a step toward inevitable destruction.

That is a hard hearted district attorney in Seattle who boldly declares that a rich violator of the prohibition law will get the same treatment from him and his office as is handed out to the common bootlegger. What is the use of having money and belonging to a first class, gilt edged club if you can't have privileges that are denied the common herd?

Floods swept Arizona yesterday, and at Phoenix the famous Salt River up which so many politicians travel, was twenty feet above zero and still rising. One of the peculiar incidents of this unprecedented flood was that the inmates of the state asylum for the insane did fine work in rescuing many marooned families.

Lincoln street hill had a rival last night in the slough, many abandoning the sleds to flirt with the skates. The sledding was not first class and the skating was probably not much better. However it made a change and that is what suits the American, old or young—or neither.

From present indications Byron would not be able to sing about "the Isles of Greece" in the near future were he still here to do his singing. It is probable the "ile" will be fried out of her before the allies and Teutons get through, and only a Greece spot will be left.

The Oregonian suggests that the appointment of Secretary Lea was made for the same reason that the appointment of W. Al Jones was, and deprecating the entering of politics into the state fair business lets the subject drop at that.

The Californian in the flooded orange districts about Los Angeles would no doubt be satisfied with his lot—if he could get it out from under the water.



## THE WHEAT

The weather man is busy inventing new designs in storms and tempests dizzy, so Mr. Man repines. The frost is in his galways, the slush is in his shoes, and he is having, always, more snow than he can use. And as he does his praying for less of slush and sleet, the Optimist comes, saying, "It's splendid for the wheat!" There comes a beastly drizzle, that soaks you to the bones, and life seems all a fizzle, a thing of grief and groans. And when you're sadly straying adown the sloppy street, the Optimist comes, saying, "It's splendid for the wheat!" When weather is so rotten, so frightful everywhere, that everything's forgotten except your load of care, when chunks of hail are flaying your form from head to feet, the Optimist comes, saying, "It's splendid for the wheat!" What odds if people suffer the tortures of the blamed, and blizzards, wilder, tougher, come whooping down, untamed? What odds if you are freezing, among the snow and sleet, and coughing, strangling, sneezing? It's splendid for the wheat.

Portland, Or., Jan. 19.—With petitions in circulation to put the name of President Wilson on the ballot at the presidential preferential primaries May 19, republicans today led an effort to send uninvited delegations from Oregon to the national party convention.

The 1915 legislature passes a presidential primary law, but repealed a previous law requiring delegates to take an oath of office. Without the oath, declared republicans, instructions are not binding.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer thinks it would be a joke on everybody concerned if England some day should send Baron Astor over here as ambassador. But wouldn't that be carrying a joke too far?

## STATE NEWS

Coos Bay Harbor.—The new life saving station built on Charleston beach is now ready for occupancy and will be used by the members of the Coast Guard station as soon as permission to locate at the bar and within a few minutes run in case of accident. It is believed that hereafter the station will be of great efficiency being handicapped for quarters, which is more than a mile from the bar.

Gazette Times.—Heppner hogs topped the market at the North Portland yards last Friday and established a new high record mark of \$6.70 for the present movement. This is a rise of 10 cents over the market of the preceding day. The shipment was made by Jeff Jones of this city and consisted of one car load of hogs.

Secretary Fred Fleet, of the Klamath commercial club, is just in receipt of a letter from Senator Harry Lane at Washington, D. C., inquiring concerning the output, price, quality, etc., of yellow pine lumber in that county, with a view to inducing if possible the use of Oregon yellow pine for flooring and other inside finishing for government buildings to be erected in this and other Pacific coast cities.

With the opening of more than half the former saloons in Baker as temperance resorts, Baker has gained the name of the "sandwich city" among hoboes. They assert that there are more sandwiches for sale in Baker than in any city its size in Oregon or Idaho.

S. S. Josephson, secretary of the Roseburg Commercial club the Review says, is receiving many letters from the east inquiring about the progress of the Roseburg & Eastern railroad and the sawmill. In the event the road is built next spring, as proposed, it is predicted that several hundred newcomers will locate in Douglas county.

Coasting scene at Hood river, as described by the Glacier: "Hundreds of men, women and children enjoyed the coasting Sunday afternoon. Ninth street was lined, the coasters ranging in age from the tiny baby not more than 16 months old to gray haired grandmothers, who are approaching the three score and ten year mark."

It is stated by the Canyon City Eagle that the snow fall all over Grant county is unusually heavy this winter and it is piling up in the mountains so that a wet summer is well assured.

Ashland's public library in 1915 made the largest growth since it was established in 1892. The circulation increased 29 per cent over that of 1914. The total circulation during the year was 32,329.

Grazing lands in Eastern Oregon the Baker Democrat says, are in greater demand than ever, indicating the increase of stock raising.

"These are the days" truthfully remarks the Poulton East Oregonian, "when a coal pile melts away like a snowbank before a chinook."

H. H. De Armond has resigned as manager of the Bend Commercial club on the account of the pressure of other business. He has served since 1914.

## WILLAMETTE NOTES

A gift of \$500 from Henry Clews of New York city was received by Dr. Doney recently; this money is to be used as an endowment and the interest accruing therefrom will be spent in purchasing books to be placed in the Dr. J. H. Coleman fund.

Dr. Coleman was president of Willamette university during the years 1905-1908, and while head of the institution set such an influential example to students and faculty that he will long be remembered by those who know him. Dr. Doney consequently set about to erect some part of a memorial in honor of one of Willamette's great men; learning that Mr. Clews was a personal friend of Dr. Coleman he communicated with him in regard to establishing a Coleman alveole in the Willamette university library and Mr. Clews' reply was a check for \$500 and a note stating that he was sorry that he could not have given more, but the war had made inroads on his fortune and he stated that he could not give more at the present time. Mr. Henry Clews is a national character in that his financial reports of American commercial conditions are published in a great many of the leading newspapers of the United States.

That Dr. Doney is in demand as a speaker is shown by the fact that since September 1, to December 30, Dr. Doney has delivered 50 lectures at various cities throughout Oregon, Idaho and Washington, or an average almost of one every other day. He will speak tonight before the parent teachers association at Highland school on a subject of educational interest.

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**Austria to Control Montenegro and Serbia**  
By Henry Wood.  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)  
Rome, Jan. 19.—Austria is planning to unite Montenegro and part of old Serbia in a new kingdom under an Austrian protectorate, it was reported here today. Germany is said to have sanctioned this plan, and Emperor Franz Joseph is now considering selection of a ruler who will conciliate the Serbs and Montenegrins, and remove forever the Balkan danger on Austria's right flank.  
Serbian refugees denied that Serbia is about to follow the course of Montenegro in making peace, thus aiding

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