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EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES

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A TRUST THAT THREATENS GOVERNMENT

If there is anything that should cause the government at once to arrange to own and operate its own armor plant, it is the threat of the manufacturers that they would at once advance the price of armor plate \$200 a ton if congress passed the bill providing for government ownership of such a plant. This is a deliberate threat that it would hold up the government regardless of the danger of the act to the country, and would either compel it to pay an exorbitant price for the armor necessary while the government plant was being perfected or leave the ships now under construction unfinished.

If this great trust would thus treat the people of the United States to accomplish its purpose, that of getting unholy prices for its goods, what has it been doing to it all these years during which it has had a monopoly?

This country may be weak as to its standing armies but there is a means by which the plant could be taken over by the government at its sweet will, and the price it would be compelled to pay would be fixed by others than those now owning it.

The threat should remove the last bit of hesitation on the part of congress about the country having its own plant. The trust has shown that it would throw the country down for a money consideration, and emphasizes the necessity of the government not remaining at the mercy of that kind of Americans, who put selfish interests above the safety of the country.

The threat should be remembered against them by every true American forever, and they should be deprived of citizenship in a country on which they have fattened and to which they are a disgrace.

General Miles, now retired, but recently commanding the forces of the United States, is against preparedness, other than that he suggests the increasing of the standing army to 140,000 or 150,000 men. He says that if this country could not raise men in short order to drive out an army of a million invaders he would want to leave it. Admiral Blue is of much the same opinion, pointing out that with plenty of submarines no fleet would venture near our coast. He also points out the difference between operating submarines from a harbor against war vessels and using them at points remote from their base. It was the "enemy's" innings in the preparedness examination yesterday.

Prosperity has certainly hit the east a hard jolt. The convention of the National Tailors of America opening in St. Louis Monday showed the men's styles that are to be the mode the coming year. Among these are "green frock coats with wide red stripes and extreme models in evening dress, including a wine colored coat with a lavender vest to go with it." Patterns in large checks are prominent among the displays and green is the predominant color. All needed to make perfect ladies of the fashionable dudelets will be pink pantalettes, knee length and laced with cerise.

One of the things keeping Oregon's nose on the financial grindstone is the scarcity of ships to carry the cargoes on the Atlantic coast to their destination. This has caused the transcontinental railroads to issue orders not to accept freight for shipment abroad. The wharves are congested now and conditions are steadily growing worse despite all precautions of railroads and shippers. Oregon hops have felt the effect of this more than almost any other product.

The sub-committee of the democratic national committee which met in St. Louis yesterday had a consensus of opinion amongst themselves all deciding that Wilson would be the democratic nominee without opposition. Wonder if they have forgotten, or just overlooked Bryan. A democratic campaign without the Nebraskan would be like Hamlet without the ghost or a mulligan stew without onions. He is the "also ran" part of the show.

It is claimed the allies are buying an average of 2,000 horses a day in the United States, and that the average price is \$135 for cavalry and \$165 for artillery horses. This indicates that about three hundred thousand dollars are spent daily in this country for horses for the European war. The same source says this country has about seven million surplus horses. These at the present prices would have a total value of one billion dollars.

Admiral Blue says the American navy is now ready to meet any enemy it might be called on to encounter on the Pacific. This listens good but would make the coast feel safer if it was known whether the admiral counted on getting ships from the Atlantic for the purpose if they were needed on the Pacific. He should remember that there are two things that might interfere with this scheme. One is the canal and the other dynamite.

Uncle Sam is evidently billed for a hard time with his little family of American republics. Salvador objects to his making a treaty with Nicaragua by which he gets the sole privilege of building a canal through that republic. Little Salvador and Honduras need have no fear of their uncle building that canal soon. One at a time is enough for the old man, at least until it gets so it will "stay put."

For the past six weeks the temperature here has been from eight to ten degrees higher than in Portland. Considering that we are only 50 miles further south this is a pretty good showing. The difference is due to the Columbia canyon which lets the zephyrs from eastern Oregon strike that inland seaport.

It is stated again that the Lusitania matter is about settled. This has happened so often that the public will not grow enthusiastic over it until the announcement is made that it is a closed incident. It has been arranged almost as often as Villa has been assassinated.

Laborers in powder plants these days are entitled to higher wages than anyone. Conditions are such that the laborer might not be able to reach down to where his wages were located unless they were pretty high.

If the high water has killed all the gophers in the river bottoms it has largely counter-balanced all damage done by it. It certainly did go for the gophers and made them go for the high lands.



SPRING COMING

The winter wints and slings its snow, the wind is keen and frost is king. Cheer up, cheer up, for soon will blow the soft and balmy airs of spring. Your whiskers now are frozen stiff, it is a bleak and bitter day; your ears are cold, but what's the diff? Before you know it, 'twill be May. The tempest batters at the door, the night wind wails a dismal tune, but in three shakes, or maybe four, you'll wade around knee deep in June. And thus it is with every grief; it hurts our corns, but soon it's sped; the darkest, coldest night is brief, and sunshine glitters just ahead. My feet are frozen hard tonight, and yet I am a cheerful scout; I know that spring will come, all right, and April winds will thaw them out. It's true the wintertime is filled with things that bring my spirit care; but in the spring the birds will build their nests among my beard and hair. Let winter roar and do its worst, the gentle spring will soon be here, when winter griefs like bubbles burst, and in the azure disappear.

Ten Convicts Paroled by Governor Withycombe

Acting upon the recommendation of the parole board, Governor Withycombe has granted paroles to the following men who have been serving penitentiary sentences:

- George Haley, received from Douglas county, November 19, 1914, for larceny in a store.
- James Wilson, received from Umatilla county, October 7, 1914, for larceny in a house.
- Orlando Smith, received from Coos county, January 16, 1915, criminal assault.
- Jacob Kreiger, received from Douglas county, October 19, 1914, for larceny in a store.
- George Fay, received from Umatilla county, February 8, 1915, for assault with intent to rob.
- Bert Welsh, received from Crook county, December 11, 1915, for burglary.
- Charles Frink, received from Multnomah county, January 6, 1914, for forgery.
- Earl E. Cox, received from Malheur county, January 23, 1915, for larceny of two fowls.
- F. L. Green, received from Multnomah county, February 8, 1915, for larceny by embezzlement.
- Guy R. Nelson, received from Multnomah county, January 30, 1915, for larceny.

In practically every one of these cases recommendation for parole at the expiration of the minimum sentence, assuming the prisoner's conduct to be good, was made by the judge, district attorney and sheriff connected with each case.

HOMESTEADER IS SAVED

Portland, Ore., Feb. 10.—A rescue party on snowshoes reached James Templeton, a homesteader, just in time to save him from starving to death on his Cascade mountain ranch Monday morning. The party floundered through 12 feet of snow from Sunday morning until 11 o'clock Monday.

Templeton was found lying in bed, too weak to move or build a fire. One end of his cabin had caved in. Sugar and condensed milk were the only supplies remaining. He was carried back over the mountain trail by his four rescuers.

The party reached Portland this morning.

GENERAL MILES SAYS SUBMARINES NEEDED

Veteran Soldier Thinks Invaders Could Not Land Upon Our Shores

Washington, Feb. 10.—Landing of 500,000 invaders on American shores would be impossible if submarines were active, declared General Nelson Miles before the house military committee yesterday.

At the same time, Admiral Blue declared the navy could reach the Pacific coast before an enemy could land thereon.

These two statements stood out in the midst of a constant stream of pessimistic testimony regarding preparedness of the nation, presented for several weeks to the committee. Blue said that the Panama canal would aid the fleet to reach the Pacific in haste if required. He urged the need of purchasing anti-aircraft guns, and recorded himself as opposed to a one-year enlistment plan.

"If half a million men landed on either coast," said Miles, "and we were unable to raise enough men to drive them out, I would want to move to another country." He declared that America's coast fortifications equal to any in the world, not excepting those at the Darienelles. In this connection, he said that the experience of the European war has shown that battleships are ineffective in reducing such forts.

For conscription, he said it would not work in the United States.

"Overseas expeditions such as we are told will proceed against us, are expensive and as a rule, disastrous," he continued. "They spring from the minds of men, writing about preparedness who know less about war than anything else."

Representatives of the National Grange and the Farmers Union protested to the committee against "militarism." T. J. Tabor informed the members that farmers of 32 states, in convention at Oakland, had declared for government manufacture of munitions.

"Would your farmers do away with cyclone cellars?" asked Representative Kahn of California.

"I have a stone cellar now, but I'd be a fool to build another," retorted Organizer Dornblazer of Texas, representing the union. He favored more coast defenses and submarines, however.

Favorably Reported.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Upon motion of Senator Phelan of California, the senate naval committee today favorably reported the bill appropriating \$500,000 for added equipment at Mare Island navy yard. He also brought up his bill proposing a \$10,000,000 appropriation for a naval academy on the Pacific coast.

After asking for further data, committee members intimated that this is an opportunity for a favorable report on the bill if the coast shows sufficient interest in the plan.

Monmouth News

(Capital Journal Special Service.)
Monmouth, Ore., Feb. 9.—The creeks and rivers in this vicinity are filled to overflowing. The county roads in many places are covered with water which obstructs much of the traffic. The Willamette river at Independence is rising at the rate of a foot an hour at the time of writing.

The Luckinmatt Rural Telephone Company held its annual meeting here today and election of officers. The old officers were re-elected to serve for the ensuing year. Secretary J. M. Thurston's financial report showed the company to be entirely out of debt. An assessment of five dollars a share was levied to cover expenses and for improvements. This company is a mutual company which serves about seventy farmers south of Monmouth.

A meeting for those interested in organizing a Co-operative Creamery will be held on Tuesday (tomorrow) at 10 a. m. at the Old Fellows' hall. A plan for organization will be adopted and the benefits of co-operation explained. All dairymen should attend this meeting for the plans which have been brought up are believed to be good ones.

Dr. Macpherson of the O. A. C. will give an interesting talk on Co-operation at the next meeting of the Monmouth Grange. As this is a live topic a general invitation is extended to the public and to the farmers in particular. The time of the talk is 2:30 p. m., February 12.

The Parent-Teachers club will hold its regular monthly meeting at 8:00 p. m. tomorrow. Miss Cowgill of the Oregon Agricultural College will speak on Boys' and Girls' club work. All parents and students should be interested in this work and it takes Miss Cowgill to wake the people up.

Frederick Warde—actor and lecturer, appears tonight at the Oregon Normal school. Mr. Warde needs no introduction to Shakespearean students and lovers of his apyls, and as this is a treat for Monmouth people, a large audience is expected.

Miss McIntosh, seventh and eighth grade cellie teacher, gave a very interesting lecture at the local teachers' meeting at Falls City last Saturday, February 5.

The "Willamette Camp Fire Girls" held their semi-monthly meeting last Friday, February 4, at the home of Mrs. Bittman, the camp fire girls' guardian. This organization of girls is a very interesting one as the girls

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Seattle, Wash., Feb. 9.—Six homes were wrecked when an avalanche of mud broke loose and swept down upon Alki avenue at 10:45 a. m. today. A dozen women and children escaped by crawling out of the wreckage of their homes. Mrs. E. M. Davis was cut about the hands and arms while climbing out of her demolished home.

A mile and a half of bluff, 150 feet high is threatening to slide.

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