

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAY, SALEM, OREGON, BY
Capital Journal Ptg. Co., Inc.

L. S. BARNES, President
CHAS. H. FISHER, Vice-President
DORA C. ANDRESEN, Sec. and Treas.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Daily by carrier, per year \$5.00 Per month .45c
Daily by mail, per year 9.00 Per month .35c

FULL LEASED WIRE TELEGRAPH REPORT

EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES

New York: Ward-Lewis-Williams Special Agency, Tribune Building
Chicago: Harry R. Fisher Co., 30 N. Dearborn St.

The Capital Journal carrier boys are instructed to put the papers on the porch. If the carrier does not do this, misses you, or neglects getting the paper to you on time, kindly phone the circulation manager, as this is the only way we can determine whether or not the carriers are following instructions. Phone Main 81.

THE LAW, AND ARMED MERCHANTMEN

The all absorbing question now before the department of state is as to the status of armed merchantmen. Germany has served notice on this government that after February 29 it will attack armed merchant vessels without warning.

It is known that England, France, Russia and Italy will not consent to disarming their vessels, already having filed objections to the United States changing its policy in this regard.

This very question as to whether a neutral could put his goods on an armed merchantman was decided in this country in the case of the Nereide, a British ship mounting ten guns, which had been chartered by a Spaniard, and which was captured by an American privateer.

The opinion was handed down by Chief Justice Marshall, who declared: "The belligerent had a perfect right to arm in his own defense and this right did not interfere with that of the neutral to transport his goods in a belligerent vessel."

The decisions of the United States supreme court becomes the law of the land, and this is evidently the law as it now exists. The constitution requires the president to take care "that the laws be faithfully executed."

The dispatches concerning the case say this brings up two questions of vital importance to the people, and thus enumerates them:

1. Can the executive branch of the government put in force a foreign policy which is in violation of the decisions of the supreme court?

2. Will not the policy of the government lead to a reduction of ocean tonnage connecting with American ports and cause a greater congestion of freight and a rise in freight rates all of which will bear on shippers?"

The answer to the first problem apparently would be in the negative. As to the other problem, it has nothing to do with the matter.

This is not a question of expediency but of right. It is not a question whether it will hurt American trade but whether it is our duty as between the United States and countries friendly to her, who are unfortunately at war with each other. It is not a question as to what the allies or anyone else may do to us or our trade, but what we shall do to act fairly and honestly with all of them. If we do right and suffer in our business for it, we will survive; but if we do what we know to be wrong in order to protect our foreign trade we will deserve the scorn and contempt of the warring nations, and of the world.

It is principles not business we are called on to decide, and our decision must be fair and honest whether it hurts or helps business. With all due deference to the great chief justice, Marshall, it strikes us, that to the lay mind at least, his decision seems paradoxical. Followed to its ultimate conclusion it would raise questions even more grave than those now confronting the country.

If an enemy vessel cannot attack an armed merchantman without warning, would it not make it possible by carrying goods on a battleship to prevent an enemy attacking her without first warning her to stop and show her papers?

Of one thing we can rest assured and that is that whichever way the matter is settled it will cause the one whose position is decided against to be angry at us. If we sustain Germany's contention the allies will be exceedingly wrathful, and if we stand by the allies' position, Germany and her allies will be equally sore. So all we can do is to decide as nearly right as we can and take our medicine whether we like it or not.

It is quite probable only such ships as carried supplies to England and France would reach our ports if we decide against the allies contentions, and these would have to comply with our decision and be unarmed. It would probably cut off most of our foreign trade, but that is a misfortune that should not bias our judgment or affect our decision.

It is far from unusual but always embarrassing to have our acts rise up and make us "wish we had not done

it." The Rainy Day Club of New York is having an experience of this kind. The club was organized in the days when skirts were long, for the purpose of releasing women from the bondage of muddy petticoats about their feet and as it were remove their hobbles. It succeeded in its efforts only too well, and now realizes it overshot the mark. Now it is working to have longer skirts worn. Mrs. A. M. Palmer is president of the club and she is charmingly horrified and prattles delightfully against the "cutty sarks" so to speak. "Why, they couldn't be shorter without"—she bashfully murmurs, "Well they couldn't be any shorter." The Rainy Day Club also objects to gowns with what the brazen faced news reporter describes as "extreme exposures fore and aft."

The Oregon Journal having donated two columns of its space to the city officials of Portland, in which they may tell the doings of the bunch in their own sweet way, it is probable the news will be no more nearly correct than before, and unless a newspaper man is employed to "dish it up," it will in all likelihood be prolix verbose and uninteresting. When the city officials are allowed to be their own cities, truth will perhaps find a more convenient place to lie in than the bottom of a well.

Some folks are everlastingly butting in to things that do not concern them and causing other people annoyance. The latest is ex-Senator Edgar Brackett, who writes a letter to the state comptroller of New York and wants to know how much the Governor Whitman party visiting the Panama Exposition last year spent for liquor. The expense account of the governor was "lumped" and not itemized, hence the insinuating inquiry.

That anarchist attempt to poison 300 guests at the banquet given Archbishop Mundelsin in Chicago recently, if it was an anarchist plot, is the most foolish thing yet attempted by that class of people. There is absolutely nothing that could have been gained by killing those people or for that matter any others, and it was as senseless and useless as air raids and dropping bombs on non-combatants in the war zones.

Census bureau experts estimate the population of the United States at the beginning of the year at 101,208,315 and that by July it will be 102,017,302, an increase of 808,987, in six months or 4390 a day. It is guess work entirely and as anyone can guess, ours is the bureau is badly mistaken. With immigration cut to the bone, the figures are too high, as they are apparently based on normal immigration.

Here is the story of the downfall of what was in the start a fairly good man with an honest and honorable calling. Senator Ashurst of Arizona was first a newspaper reporter; then he became a section hand, stage-driver, state legislator and reaching the lowest rung of the ladder, is now a United States senator.

The dispatches Sunday asserted that Bulgaria had made overtures for a separate peace. There has been no confirmation of the story, and it is probable it originated in the fertile brain of some war correspondent who was short on news.

The reason why Teddy has gone down Cuba way can be easily understood by those who are familiar with that famous love ditty: "Our old cow she crossed the road, Because she crossed the road Sir."

A California judge has issued an injunction against the lions and tigers in Barnes' circus roaring and howling. The judge's job was easy, but how about that of the sheriff who has to see it enforced.



WORKERS

It's good to work, with might and main, until the workday ends; it's good to work, in sun or rain—but do not work your friends. The toiler's worthy of his hire, wherever he may be, though he be punishing a lyre or chopping down a tree; though he be furrowing the loam, that harvests may abound, 'tis labor brings the bacon home, and makes the wheels go round. Renown for toiling with a vim the true distinction lends; so work until the light grows dim—but do not work your friends. The willing worker seldom sees the lean wolf at his door; he has his wienerwurst and cheese and other grub in store. Men's admiration he commends, no matter where he wends; he does his work with both his hands, but does not work his friends. There is no sadder, punker sight in any neighborhood, than is the husky, lazy wight who's cut out work for good. We all have seen his maudlin tear, have heard his whining tones; a guilder there, a kroner here, from all of us he bones. To gain a dime this shameless shirk to lowest depths descends; for when a man quits useful work, he starts to work his friends.

BIRDS CAME THROUGH IN GOOD SHAPE
J. K. Mount made a tour of the game preserves in this vicinity last Friday and says he was surprised to note the fact that he did not find a dead bird of any description. Mr. Mount was very diligent in feeding the birds during the stormy weather.—Silverton Appeal.

Always on Time

When you talk by telephone you avoid the delays and inconveniences of travel. Our improved "Long Distance" service will take your voice almost instantly to any of the 1800 cities and towns reached by our lines in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Idaho.

THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY



OPEN FORUM

To the Capital Journal: Those in favor of preparedness will date back to revolutionary days to tell of the necessity of conquest. In reply I will say that we were colonial days. The days of the wild tribesman, and the tommy-hawk, when self defense was a necessity, and not the present day of alliances and preparedness, when if a country becomes powerful all the other war dogs chain together and keep a joining, and a joining until they overpower the greatest mastiff, and then each take a position for freedom, and commercialism. Freedom from unjust taxation, it is not a war flag, and should not be made one.

Since it represents freedom from unjust taxation its people should not be taxed for unnecessary preparedness. Our greatest statesman, William Jennings Bryan, has been quoted as saying, more money than the farmers can produce. If all the money the world uses for preparedness was enumerated it would run out the enumeration table, and then some. Our people should be deep thinkers, not feather brained, like the parrot. They should get beneath the surface and count the cost, not all this money for just commercialism and we have the true splendor and significance of civilization. Would not it be silly for one farmer to get a brass cannon to protect himself from his neighbor. Isn't it silly for one country to get one, to fight the other. Why, then, in the name of peace, are we preparing for war, boasting that we will have the largest navy in the world. Have we forgotten that by saying it, we are defying England? She boasts that Britannia rules the wave, and won't take it from us, unless Germany traps her under. If true to our colors we should not boast navalism, or militarism. Then why preparedness? We should keep our flag civilly aloft, and not throw it down in defiance to see who dare step on it, like the fighting Irishman who dragged his coat along, and said, "Who will tread on the tail of me coat?" Germany stands out before the world today as the greatest example of preparedness. From a military standpoint she is the pride of the world. From a warring standpoint she deserved the admiration of the world, and because she is so great, she is the target of other great nations, who think, or pretend to think, they are fighting for peace by destroying militarism. I say the way to keep the peace is to quit fighting. The United States wants to put on her boxing gloves. What for? Just to keep peace. I say she is out looking for trouble. Because Belgium was prepared, and because she wasn't supposed to fight, she fought to keep the peace. She spilled German blood fighting to keep peace, and got herself fought off the map. That's not peace.

Edison's mind is great for protection. Edison's great for construction. My mind is great for developing the insignificance of preparedness. Perhaps Edison could electrify the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific outside the range of the greatest incoming machine guns. The great fleet would halt. He could electrify the waters behind them and take them prisoners. But unless his electricity reached to the bottom of the ocean of the heavens above, submarines would go under and air ships go over. Our minds are no greater than the minds from which they sprang. In those days of modern inventions, inventors for preparedness would find a way to signal more. A response would encircle the globe. Hawkers would fly east and hawkers would fly west, dropping combustibles. The world would be destroyed in a flash. I have proven that



preparedness is the cause of war, without it there would be no war. That the European conflict has, or will, play the game to its finish, that there's nothing to it but destruction, that it's profits are all loss, that we should prepare for prosperity, that William Jennings Bryan should have been the president of the United States.
ELLA M. FINNEY,
Waco, Oregon, February 8, 1916.

WHEN SKIN AILS POSLAM SERVES

Ready to Quickly Relieve, Soothe and Heal.
Poslam with its amazing healing power, is ready, now, to serve you by driving away your Eczema or any skin trouble.
Use it and be through with itching, distress, Blisters, Pimples or any eruption, diseased surface condition. See how beautifully it cleans inflamed skin after one overnight application. It cannot harm; always gratefully soothing, cooling, soothing.
Poslam Soap, medicated with Poslam, discourages those tendencies of the skin to roughness, dry parching, infection and eruptions troubles.
For samples, send 4 stamps to Emergency Laboratories, 32 West 25th St., New York City. Sold by all Druggists.

Safeguard Your Health by Taking the Proper Care of Your Teeth. --- Modern Appliances. Sanitary Office

DR. W. A. COX



PAINLESS DENTIST
303 State Street
SALEM, ORE.

Your health depends very much on proper mastication of food. Without good teeth you cannot perform this duty.

With all of my latest equipment and sanitary office I can put your teeth into shape with less pain and inconvenience to you.

Lady Nurses always present.

DR. W. A. COX

303 State Street

Phone 926

LADD & BUSH, Bankers

Established 1868

CAPITAL \$500,000.00

Transact a General Banking Business
Safety Deposit Boxes
SAVINGS DEPARTMENT