

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 3.00 Per month 35c

FULL LEASED WIRE TELEGRAPH REPORT

EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES  
New York, W. D. Ward, Tribune Building.  
Chicago, W. H. Stockwell, People's Gas Building.

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### "THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

The revolution in Russia, news of which reached America yesterday, it seems had been brewing for some weeks. Starting in some of the smaller places in the shape of food riots it spread to the larger cities in a short time. Street riots became numerous in Petrograd and steadily increased in number and severity. Workingmen struck until finally the public order broke down completely. A big strike Thursday of last week was followed Friday by great parades, the mob singing and yelling and at the same time making all kinds of threats. The Duma announced a meeting at which the prime minister would appear and this for a short time quieted the populace. This meeting however resulted in a hot row between the duma and the minister. Friday afternoon Rodziaski, leader of the duma, sent a special courier to the czar in peremptory words for the dismissal of the government, and declining all responsibility if the czar supported Golzyn, the Russian premier. Saturday, Golzyn answered this demand in person by dissolving the duma. That is he ordered it to dissolve, but that is what it did not do. Instead, it proclaimed a provisional government, declared the ministers and cabinet no longer existed and assumed the reins of government. The czar fled to his castle and not feeling safe there took refuge with the army. While the latter evidently protected him it is, so far as the garrison in Petrograd is concerned at least, to a man with the duma. This is a brief outline of the most dramatic event of the war.

Behind the movement it is claimed is the distrust and dislike by both the duma and the army of the pro-German element in Russia's bureaucracy. The pro-Germanism among the Russian officialdom was so rampant that the people came to believe it responsible for hindering Russia's successful prosecution of the war. It was natural that they should so believe since the czar is practically of German blood. The duma has shown its power on several occasions, and now that it has taken full charge of the government, it is extremely doubtful if the monarchical form of government will survive. It may be possible for a short while the czar's son Alexis, who is not yet 13 years old, may be made the figurehead of the government until some republican form can be adopted. That the latter will be done seems a certainty. There are several parties in Russia: the nationalists and the Octoberists favoring the present form of government. Against these are arrayed the constitutional democrats, who from the first have demanded complete equality for all citizens, liberty of conscience, free speech and a free press. Their creed was "constitutional government with ministerial responsibility and religious self government." The "regenerators" and social democrats sided with the democrats on all main issues. These latter compose the element now in charge of Russia's affairs.

As a revolution it is without parallel in history. It is a revolution not against the ruling power so much as against conditions that threatened the very life of the country. It was a revolution to save the country from the bureaucracy its ruler had surrounded himself with. A revolution for placing the country in position to defend itself. More than all it was accomplished practically without bloodshed. The deposed ruler was simply set aside and not otherwise molested, and the business of the country was told to pursue its avocations as usual. It was simply the strong men of a great nation taking charge of affairs for the salvation of the country.

It is more remarkable in that the form of government of a nation of 180,000,000 of people was changed in a day from the most despotic of monarchies to what is virtually a republic, and which will in all likelihood remain such.

The emperor is a weakling, so much so that he is easily swayed, and was always a puppet in the hands of some power behind the throne. He was a prey to superstitious influences, a man of indecision and negation. The latest real ruler of Russia was the monk Rasputin, the czar's personal religious arbiter. He swayed the czar to suit his own purposes, and Rasputin was the exponent of absolutism. He was a peasant by birth but a believer in absolute autocracy. On top of this he was bitterly pro-

German and anti-ally. It was this openly expressed feeling, coupled with his influence over the czar that caused him to be assassinated a few months ago. With his death the sentiment in favor of a free government took fresh life and culminated in the overthrow of the czar as told in the Capital Journal yesterday.

The leaders of the duma, the new government are men of high ideals, intensely democratic, and whatever else they may do, can be depended on to carry on the fight against Germany to the end. It is not that they dislike Germany but that years of oppression and the knout have aroused in them a horror for all forms of despotism. If the new government can sustain itself, there will be in the next twenty years a rejuvenated Russia, and she will take her place among the progressive nations of the world.

Of the czar his biographers say: "The reigning Russian family is descended in the female line from Michael Romanoff, elected czar in 1613, and in the male line from Duke Karl Friedrich of Holstein Gotterp. The members of the family for over two centuries, however, have married so generally into the German royal houses that the present Romanoff family are practically, by blood, Germans; as much so as their kinsman, the head of the German Empire."

The dreams of Russian freedom which have sent her brightest minds to Siberia, have at last come true, and the exiles have not made their sacrifices in vain. Vale despotism! Hail Russia.

### STRIKE SEEMS INEVITABLE

Unless unforeseen circumstances arise, and there seems little hope of this, the great railroad strike which has been hanging over the country for the last six months will have materialized by tomorrow night. Yesterday the railroad managers and the heads of the railroad brotherhoods held a final conference in an effort to reach some satisfactory agreement. The meeting proved vain, and it was announced by the representatives of the men that the strike would go into effect as announced previously in case a settlement was not reached. At the last minute the men offered to compromise by accepting an eight hour day and pro rata pay for over time, but the eight hour day they insisted on. The companies were willing to pay increased wages but would not yield the shorter day, which was the real basis of the men's demands.

So much for the immediate parties to the dispute. The next party to be heard from will be the one most deeply interested, the people. It is monstrous to suppose that 100,000,000 people are going to sit with folded hands while their business is ruined, and they left helpless and perhaps hungry, in order that a few hundred railroad managers and a few hundred thousand railroad employees settle a dispute between themselves.

It will be the government's next move, and that it will move quickly is the belief of those who have kept watch on the dispute. It may be the government will take over the roads temporarily, and it may mean eventually, government ownership; but there is one thing that can be depended on, and that is that the roads will be operated in some way, and the parties to the dispute will neither of them have the same number of friends when the matter is settled. It looks very much as though the railroads wanted the fight to materialize now, and it is within the realms of possibility that this desire has had something to do with the inexcusable delay on the part of the United States supreme court to pass upon the Adamson eight hour law.

### ESTABLISH THE FREE FERRY

The county of Marion and city of Salem ought to gether provide free passage of the river here. Now that the bridge is closed a free ferry is the only remedy in sight, and this should be quickly installed. Already there has been too much delay and too little interest on part of officials in meeting an emergency that is inconveniencing thousands of people and materially injuring the business of many others. The free ferry could be operated for a year for less money than it would cost to plank the railroad bridge. There is no necessity to argue the right or the advisability of the county or city, or both together, maintaining a free ferry at Salem. This city pays two-thirds of the taxes of Marion county, and naturally all the taxes of the city of Salem, and its interests are entitled to due consideration at the hands of the public authorities. More than this 1500 vehicles were crossing the bridge daily at the time it was closed to traffic, indicating that it was a link in the most important highway in the state.

The business interests of Salem feel that the officials whose business it is to attend to public affairs have put them in a hole in this matter and are apparently in no haste to get them out again. They demand action and will probably force it in one way or another in a very short time.

The free ferry should be put in operation at once—the people are going to have it and it is useless to hold out against it.

The Capital Journal was on the street last night with the news of the overthrow of the Russian government before any of the Portland papers, and as these were printed about 1 o'clock their news was not the latest received. It may be stated too, that they did not have the story of the failure of the railroad managers and brotherhoods to agree, and the announcement the strike would certainly take place as scheduled. The Journal gets the

telegraph news up to 3:30 every afternoon and hence contains news the editions of the Portland papers sent here do not have. Moral, "Try Salem first," and remember the Capital Journal is always the first.

Early vegetables such as are imported by Oregon will be late, scarce and dear. This is due to the unprecedented cold wave which in Florida, Texas and Southern California sent the mercury last winter down to 24 above. Potatoes were frozen in the ground and melons, lettuce and nearly all early vegetation was killed, a large portion of the fields having to be replanted, with the consequent result of being late in reaching the markets. In some things the Oregon product will be ready for market almost as soon as those from the countries south of us.

Our governor reasons along some rather queer lines. Recently in answer to a query as to the effect of the abolition of capital punishment on crime, he stated that "crime has not increased since the abolition of capital punishment. Murder has not increased." Then he adds: "I am inclined to believe the fear of capital punishment has a wholesome effect upon persons planning murder." The governor must base his belief on something other than his own observations as he says exactly the contrary as to the facts of what he states as his belief.

The business men have at last taken matters in their own hands as to establishing a free ferry and it will soon materialize. The only mistake they made was in not doing this when the bridge was first condemned.



### THOREAU

The books that Henry Thoreau wrote are little read, these later days; men care not how a hermit poet distorted in the woodland ways. The struggle after stock and bond is so intense we little heed the nature lover by his pond, with hair and whiskers gone to seed. Yet never should his fame grow stale, while big assessments stick like wax; he is the man who went to jail before he'd pay a county tax. I think of Thoreau in his cell, that hero sheriffs could not swerve, and feel the heart within me swell with admiration for his nerve. They tax us more each passing year, and waste the coin on useless trash, and we are all such slaves of fear, we meekly pay our hard-earned cash. In public prints we make a wail, for sympathy we make a bid; but no one dares to go to jail, as Henry David Thoreau did. We may forget that great man's books, forget his toil with ax and rake, we may forget the sylvan nooks in which he roamed by Walden lake; but never let us be so lax as to forget this splendid tale; before he'd pay a robber tax, the hero-martyr went to jail.

### Navy Department Awards Large Contract

Washington, March 16.—The largest single contract ever awarded by the navy department—amounting to over \$100,000,000—was completed yesterday when Secretary of the Navy Daniels announced awards for construction of four battle cruisers and six scout cruisers.

by the William Cramp company of Philadelphia, two by the Union Iron Works of San Francisco and two by the Seattle Construction company.

The fifth of the authorized battle cruisers will be built at the Philadelphia navy yard. Work on this vessel has already commenced.

A statement by the department describes the new ships as the largest and most expensive ever built in this country or in the world.

All the ships are to be finished "at the earliest possible moment in which it is physically possible to complete them under existing conditions."

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## MY HUSBAND AND I

Jane Phelps

### CLIFFORD IS TAKEN HOME

CHAPTER CLXXX  
I was so shocked at Clifford's appearance, so affected by his helplessness that I had to turn away to hide my tears. I think nothing would so have appealed to me as did the weakness of my strong husband.

As soon as I could control myself I set about getting him home, in his own room where Mandy and I could wait upon him. I should also keep the nurse; but there was much we could do to assist.

At first Doctor Hutebins was opposed to any change in his plans. Like most physicians, he favored a hospital, and I had some difficulty in persuading him to allow Clifford to be taken home. Finally however I succeeded, and he was put into an ambulance and soon we had him comfortably resting in his own bed. He had not seemed to more closely I watched him, the more I sensed my presence in the least. In fact the doctor had said it might be some time before he roused himself sufficiently to pay much attention to any one.

No Desire to Get Well  
But the day after we brought him home he knew me, I was delighted, and thought now he will get well quickly. But after answering my question, "Do you know me Clifford?" in a whisper,

he lapsed again into the same lethargic state. He scarcely ever spoke, but his eyes followed me as I moved about the room. For a few days he seemed to gain, yet so slightly that the doctor would not say it was a gain.

"Mrs. Hammond we must arouse your husband in some way or he will die. He is not trying to get well I have done all I can but for some reason he doesn't seem to want to live. This is plain speaking, but you know best if there is anything you can do to awaken a desire to recover in him."

Clifford didn't want to get well, he wanted to die. So the doctor had said. But why? Could it be possible that the breaking up of our home had anything to do with his illness, and his indifference? I did not seem to me possible at first that this could be so, but the more I watched him, the more uncertain I became.

### POLICEMEN LETTER CARRIERS DRIVERS

and other workers who must have enduring strength, take



## SCOTT'S EMULSION

to build up and keep up their health. Surely it will do as much for you, but insist on SCOTT'S.  
Scott & Downe, Bloomfield, N. J. 14-45

### Medal for Peace Essay Offered High Schools

University of Oregon, Eugene, March 16.—High school students of the state of Oregon have an opportunity to compete in the gold medal essay contest to be held this spring under the direction of the American School Peace League of which William H. Toft is president. At the invitation of Mrs. Fannie Peira Andrews of Boston, secretary of the Peace League, the extension division of the University, through the Oregon High School Debating League, will handle the details of the contest. These competitions are a feature of the work of the American School Peace League and are given each year in the state where the National Education Association happens to hold its sessions. Under the rules of the contest all high school pupils are eligible to compete.

The subject selected for this year is, "The Influence of the United States in a Plan for Permanent Peace." The Oregon High School Debating League will name the committee of judges and will select from each school, the three most meritorious. The authors of these three will deliver their essays at Portland during the meeting of the N. E. A., July 7-14. In picking the winner at each school, authorities will take into consideration the oratorical ability of the writer, as well as the content of the paper. The essays must be finished by May 25.

Ben H. Williams, secretary of the social-welfare department of the University extension division, who will handle the details of the peace essay contest, also has charge of the work of the Intercollegiate Intelligence Bureau in gathering for the war department data concerning students and alumni of the University who may be useful to the government in case of war.

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