

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
Ward & Lewis, New York, Tribune Building
Chicago, W. H. Stockwell, People's Gas Building.

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FARM LABOR AND "PEAK LOADS"

Farm labor is becoming scarce and dear not on account of the employment itself, but of conditions surrounding it. It ceases to attract the industrious man who wants steady work, because there are two "peak load" seasons, when labor is in demand and the laborer is worked harder and longer hours than at any other occupation. One of these seasons is the spring when planting is to be done, and the other the late summer and fall when the harvesting is on. Wages at these times are fairly good and there is plenty of work. When the harvest is over, there is a slack period in which there is not work for all and the wage goes down. This is peculiarly so of those sections where one crop is relied on as the main one. The great wheat sections demand nomadic labor, for they especially are subject to "peak loads." Here in Oregon with our diversified farming, the trouble is not so great, for the work lasts longer. Commencing in the spring the berries give abundant employment followed by hay and grain harvests and then hops, prunes, and the orchards. Still, with these advantages, there is a long season even on the Oregon farms, when labor must perforce be idle, and work for small wages. These things naturally drive labor away from the farm, and into the cities, and once it finds employment there it will not go back to the farm unless almost compelled to do so, or an extra wage persuades. This is really one of the most serious phases of farm life, and it is one for which there seems no remedy. Diversified farming will help some, but at the best there are times when there is nothing to justify the farmer in employing labor. He will be a true philanthropist who finds a practical solution of the problem.

Our French visitors have surely been shown every consideration, by their hosts. At Chicago a big fire was staged only a few blocks from the hall where a reception was held on their account and they were given a demonstration of the efficiency of the Chicago fire department, one of the best in the world. Then, Monday night, just while they were taking dinner in their Pullman, a broken rail gave them the experience of a real train wreck with a train travelling forty miles an hour. They were also shown the perfection of the steel passenger car which stood for all the shaking up unharmed and brought them through without a scratch. It is likely this was the most startling of their experiences, but it is one they will not forget. Maybe it was just a bit of shrewd advertising by the car builders to show the French what could be done with the steel cars, and so build up a demand in France for them when the war is over.

A warning comes from the agricultural college of Michigan against planting too many potatoes. The officials of the college are afraid there will be over production, and yet potatoes are the best substitute for bread, and they can be shipped to the armies of the allies just the same as wheat. The evaporated spud is an ideal product for this purpose, containing plenty of sustenance in small bulk, and it certainly is a food that would be appreciated and enjoyed by the men in the trenches as well as the civilian population. There is little likelihood of there being too large a crop, but should there be an excess it can be used profitably by turning it into pork, and there is no danger of there being an over supply of that.

With average conditions the United States this year should grow the greatest potato crop in its history. While some of the agricultural sharps are expressing fears of over production, they are being frightened needlessly. The potatoes will all be used, and will all be needed. If the war should end this year they will be needed all the more for it will be up to us to help relieve the conditions in Germany and among the other Central allies.

Germany considered it sufficient cause for her to go to war because a crazy Serbian killed an Austrian prince; but believes the United States should not go to war over the deliberate murder of her citizens by German orders.

"LEND A HAND"

There is a little newspaper printed at the Oregon State Prison, called very appropriately "Lend a Hand." It is the work of the prisoners in all its departments, and its work is excellent in all of them. Mechanically it shows some first-class printers have found their way into the prison, and its editorial and news columns indicate some editors, real ones, are also doing penance for missteps. It is printed monthly and those in charge are trying to enlarge it a little and to make it cover the field more fully. To the prisoners it is a real boon, detailing the little happenings within the wall and also giving them some information as to what is going on in the world from which they are shut in. No one makes a cent from the publication, the whole effort being to make it self-supporting, and as it depends entirely on subscriptions for its support this is a rather difficult undertaking just now. The price of print paper makes the task doubly hard for the past year or two. If you have a kindly feeling for the unfortunate and a broad view of humanity, coupled with a sympathy for weakness that yielded to temptation, you can express your sympathy by sending a dollar to "Lend a Hand", box 1, Route 6. The little magazine will be sent you for one year, and you will find in it enough to more than give you value received for your money. Besides you will be doing a real kindly act that will give you pleasure just because it is such. Try it.

The east with its monster munition plants loads the cannon and the soldiers' guns. This is good and patriotic work; but it is the part of the west with its big farms to load the soldiers.

Since folks over on the bunch grass side of the Cascades are seeing airships and things, it is a great satisfaction to realize Booze is out of business and folks anyway cannot see double.



Rippling Rhymes

THE MAN OF GRIEF

The kaiser's face looks sad and worn; his eyes forever seem to mourn; his features have a bloodless hue, his hair is white, his whiskers too. He's aged a score of years, they say, since that important, fateful day, when forth he sent his steel clad host, his war machine, his pride and boast. Think of the things that he has done! Who would not age ten years in one? I would not have the kaiser's sleep for all the treasure in the deep; for to that sleep what dreams must come--what shades of victims, dead and dumb! The women lost in sinking ships are there, with white accusing lips; the babies and the graybeards old, rise from the billows blue and cold, come to his couch in voiceless bands and at him point their dead, white hands. He's wet the world with blood and tears; and when have passed a thousand years, men still will shudder at his fame, and damn the German butcher's name. He's aged a score of years, they say; he's haggard, nervous, racked and gray. Not for his kingdom would I know the kaiser's load of guilt and woe!



A RIVER MYSTERY

Chinook, Wash., May 8.—Complete mystery today surrounds the finding of the body of an aged man, his hands tied together, in the Columbia river near Fort Columbia by fishermen. Evidently the body had been in the water for some time and was washed up by the tide. County authorities, suspecting foul play, are attempting to identify the body.

What Does Catarrh Mean?

It means inflammation of a mucous membrane somewhere in the head, throat, bronchial tubes, stomach, biliary ducts or bowels. It always means stagnant blood—the blood that is full of impurities. Left alone, it extends until it is followed by indigestion, colds, congestion or fever. It weakens the system generally and spreads its operations until systemic catarrh or an acute illness is the result.

Peruna

Is the nation's reliable remedy for this condition. It restores appetite, aids digestion, checks and removes inflammation, and thus enables the membranes, through which our food is absorbed, to do their work properly. Forty-four years of success, with thousands of testimonials, have established it as the home remedy—Ever-Ready-to-Take. Its record of success holds a promise for you.

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FRIDAY, MAY 11th
At Ball Park, Foot of State Street

AL BARNES

BIG 4-RING WILD ANIMAL CIRCUS

THE SHOW THAT'S DIFFERENT

506 PEOPLE ACRES OF TENTS
2 BIG SPECIAL TRAINS 150 ANIMAL TRAINERS

World's Challenge Group of 30-LIONS-30 IN ONE ACT

1000 EDUCATED ANIMALS ALL ACTORS INCLUDING Lions, Tigers, Bears, Leopards, Jaguars, Elephants, Camels, Zebras, Sea Lions, Zubus, Monkeys, Etc.

SAMSON AVIATION LION Causes Thrills of Amazement

Only Real Wild Animal Circus on Earth
Glistening, New, Mile-Long Street Parade at 10:30
Exhibitions Daily, Rain or Shine, 2 and 6 P.M. Doors Open, 1 and 7

49,000 Prisoners Are Taken Since Last Drive Began Is British Claim

London, May 9.—Since April 1, British forces have captured more than twenty thousand Germans and taken 257 guns, 227 trench mortars and 470 machine guns, Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law announced in the house of commons today.

The chancellor said the British casualties in Field Marshal Haig's recent offensive had been from fifty to seventy-five per cent less than those incurred by British troops along the Somme earlier in the war.

A recent announcement by the French war office asserted the French drive since April 16 had resulted in the capture of 29,000 Germans.

The total since April 1 in the Franco-British offensive therefore has now reached forty nine thousand men.

The only other operations in the war which have resulted in such huge captures of men were those in which Von Hindenburg was engaged in the Mazurian swamps early in the war.

Consolation for 3,000 Disappointed Ones

San Francisco, May 9.—Consolation for the disappointed ones of the 5000 applicants for enrollment in the officers' reserve corps training camp, to begin at the Presidio, was contained in an order from the war department to

day directing that their applications be held for consideration in selecting men for future training camps.

The first sixty-six men to enter the school were given quarters at the Presidio today. These have already been commissioned in the reserve corps. Today all over the western army department there was a surging of men who were appointed to the camp, getting ready to report this week.

Contained in the list of men selected for the camp are many of prominence, including Dean David P. Barrows of the University of California and Henry C. Breckinridge, former assistant secretary of war.

TAKE YOUR MEDICINES

REGULARLY—Hood's Sarsaparilla Before Meals—Pepton Pills After.

This combination is having wonderful success everywhere. It is sweeping poor health and fear of mental and physical breakdown out of many homes.

It is restoring lost appetite, giving the glow of health to the cheeks, making faces bright and complexions clear. For it combines the strength of iron-forged people, the strength of iron-forged metals—in a course of medicine that is peculiarly effective.

My Husband and I

By Jane Phelps

A LETTER FROM MRS. RANDALL

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Mother Randall wrote frequently, but always of the baby. She as well as Tom's sister had sent him many dainty articles, but in her last letter Mrs. Randall had quite surprised me.

"I want you to keep the money baby. To use for him. I know that with food so high, milk so expensive, you will need all Tom can earn to keep going, and to keep out of debt. Don't feel that you are depriving me, Hazel gives me all I need. I shall be happier to know you have it. Be sure the baby has the very best milk procurable," she added.

Tom frowned as he read the letter which had so delighted me. Hadn't mother said she didn't need the money, and we surely did. I could not see why Tom would insist upon being so silly about money matters. We would be much happier if he were different.

There is an old saying that "continual dropping will wear away a stone," and I could see that Tom was not quite so fearful of spending as he had been, that gradually he was becoming more in sympathy with my ideas of what we ought to have and do. So I hoped he would offer no objections to doing as his mother had proposed. Yet I tried not to show my pleasure too plainly when he said:

"I suppose we'll have to do as she says for a time at least. She will be hurt if we don't."

Business Claims Tom.

I should have been very lonely had it not been for my baby. Tom was frequently out until late. "Business" he

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It is better to shop at this store than to be sorry afterwards if you didn't.

Most all sizes of Goleum Rugs are in stock now, also a fine line of the new rug at 50c the square yard.

Our Rug Department is attracting buyers from far and near this spring. Immense stocks and very modern prices on all rugs.

Our line of Go-Carts and Carriages for the little ones is very complete; over half a hundred different styles in stock.

Merchants generally have never experienced conditions quite so perplexing as obtain at present. Merchandise in many lines is scarce and hard to get. Transportation slow and uncertain. Prices unsettled and fluctuating. Facing these facts, it is a real pleasure that we announce to the people of Salem, anticipating adverse conditions and rising prices, we have bought great quantities of staple, reasonable stocks of Furniture, Rugs, Linoleum, Shades, Ranges and general lines of merchandise, and now we offer them at much lower prices than we could think of doing if bought at this time.

"So, if it's to be kepting you are going, or there is refinancing to be done, we will serve you greatly to your advantage, not only ample, pleasing, up-to-date stocks but at very large and substantial saving."

The greatest variety of the very latest actions in the woods, in Bed and Furniture, in Salem, to be found at our store. American walnut, Caspian walnut, finish walnut, any, birdseye, ivory white, oak, dull oak. Don't fail to look through our stock before you purchase anything in this line.