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### GERMANY'S SUPREME EFFORT

Latest advices from both the Italian and western fronts are to the effect that the Teuton forces are preparing for a supreme effort on both. Great masses of troops are being assembled at each point, and the fighting which is already of formidable character it is expected will soon assume proportions as large or larger than any of the battles of the past year. News from both fronts will be awaited with considerable anxiety by Americans, as on the results depend largely the part America will have to assume in the war. If both fronts are held, and the Germans are unable to break through, it will mean that much less work for the American troops. It will demonstrate that from that time on Germany can only fight a defensive war, and that all hopes of gaining more ground must be abandoned. Admittedly the Teutons armies are now at the summit of their strength, and from this on must become steadily weaker. While this may also be true of France, Italy is not yet at the summit of her man power and England through her colonies can still add to her strength. At the same time America with her millions will by Spring be in the fighting with an abundance of reserves, and while the outcome may be delayed, there can be but one. The kaiser and his leaders know this, hence the desperate attempts to force peace now.

So far as Russia is concerned she may come back in a way, or she may not. The only hopeful thing about the situation as far as she is concerned being that no matter what is done she will be an uncertainty, and therefore a danger to Germany. As far as the allies are concerned the only way to treat her is as though she was out of it entirely. We must make all our plans as though Russia did not exist.

Once the kaiser has learned definitely that he cannot break through the allies lines, the peace moves will become more frequent and more urgent. For this reason the results of the next few weeks will have more than their usual interest.

Latest dispatches from Guatemala are to the effect that the loss of life due to the earthquake there of a few days ago was greatly exaggerated, but that the property destruction was even greater than at first announced. There is said to be much suffering and already a ship load of provisions is nearly at the nearest harbor, sent there by the Red Cross as soon as news of the disaster and its probable extent were known. The Red Cross does not ask who it is helping but assists distress and relieves want and suffering wherever it exists. That is what makes the deliberate firing on Red Cross ambulances by Germans out of the catalogue of crimes and places it where it belongs in the class of fiendish wickedness.

Oregon has filled her Red Cross quota notwithstanding the fact that it was nearly double that of any other state. Not only has she done this but the returns are still coming in and indications are she will have more than a quarter of a million members of the Red Cross to her credit when the final count is made. According to population this is about 300 out of each 1,000. It may be added that no other state has even approached this percentage.

Oregon banks show an increase of \$37,110,126.52 over the resources of 1916 with a grand total of deposits November 20, 1917, \$198,958,775.40 as against \$164,596,980.74 on November 17, 1916. The grand total of resources November 20, 1917, was \$241,475,469.03. This would give about \$290 to each person in the state.

Let us restrain our exuberance of spirit over the fact that we are having a touch of Spring, at least until we find out whether we are having too much of it. Already buds are swelling that should not, and if the present weather keeps up for any length of time it is going to cause trouble. It's good enough what there is of it, and there is enough of it, such as it is.

### LADD & BUSH, Bankers

A Government income tax officer will be at the Court House from January 2 until January 30, 1918, and will, to all those who wish it, explain the new income tax law, and will furnish the necessary income tax blanks. All persons having an income of \$1,000 or over will be required to make a report.

### SOME USELESS WORRYING

It was an Irishman, of course, who said: "God help the rich; the poor can work." Evidently this is the view the editor of the Oregon Voter takes of matters, for his principal worries are over the misfortunes of the down-trodden rich and the helpless corporations. The Warren Construction company comes in for considerable worry on his part and yet anyone who has made even a cursory examination into the business methods of that humble little company will not doubt its ability to take care of itself. The Voter was also much worried lest the state lose the services of President Kerr of the Oregon Agricultural college, and yet recent events indicate the state will never be able to get rid of him as both he and the board that appoints him and raises his salary on demand, are beyond the reach of the recall. Since the exposure of that little scheme of the O. A. C. president, the Voter, of which the supreme court said: "it is devoted to the advancement of every material interest that tends to promote the general welfare of the state," has joined "the silent majority" and is as dumb about the O. A. C. graft as the Oregonian, the Oregon Journal and the balance of the Portland press.

In the lower house of congress the democrats have but two pluralities, and cannot boast a majority. There are 211 democrats, 209 republicans, six independents and nine vacancies. So, on strict party lines the independents are in the commanding position having the balance of power and being able to cast the deciding vote in case of a division along political lines. With the vacancies filled they might lose this club, but so long as they hold it they can make both old parties accept their terms.

Villa, the flea on the Mexican dog, continues to make the life of that animal an uncomfortable one, and the worst of it is that some of the fleas get off the dog and bite white folks. However it is quite a different thing hunting a gang of bandits and hunting an especial bandit out of a dozen or more gangs of them.

Prosecutor Heney has been engaged to investigate the activities of Armour & Co. and other great packing firms. The public can rest assured that if Heney finds them not guilty of the charges made against them of "profiteering," that they will be whiter than snow.

Little Morrow county leads the list in the Red Cross drive with a per centage of 175, and Umatilla is next with her per centage, 147. Only four counties of eastern Oregon fell below 100 per cent and only five of the western counties exceeded it.

The difference in dates is noticed in the fact that we can now say "Salem's new steel bridge will be completed this year," while two days ago it was not to be completed until next year.

Our morning contemporary was one of the first to fall for the troubles caused by habit, and its new year's edition is credited to the year now gone into the discard. It was a 1917 number.

Coos Bay industries started the year with the evident determination to make it a busy one for practically all the big mills and shipbuilding plants worked full time New Year's day.

Among other new year resolutions for the farmers, since there is nothing to swear off any more, it might be well to swear on, and make the pledge be that a small tract will be planted to flax.

## Rippling Rhymes

by Walt Mason

### BUMPTION

A good old word that's gone to seed! Yet "gumption" is the stuff you need, if you would gain renown; if you have gumption you will win, though all the planets may be in a plot to hold you down. So many live from mouth to hand, and spend their lifetime pounding sand, out yonder in the rain! They've had advantages galore, and golden chances at their door have knocked, and knocked in vain. With good intentions in their hearts, they failed in all the busy marts where worth while things are done; they found this world a killing frost, they had no gumption and they lost, while chaps with gumption won. The man with gumption hews his way from lowly station, day by day, to something high and fine; as Lincoln rose from low estate, until upon the White House gate one day he nailed his sign. The man without it hits the pike with everything that mortals like, to cheer him on his road; but all his ventures turn out ill; at last last the poorhouse on the hill becomes his punk abode. 'Tis gumption spurs the laggard step! It stands for sense and grip and pep, and all things hard to beat; 'twas Eli coined the word, I think, and Eli was the honored gink who landed with both feet.



WALT MASON

## Margaret Carrett's Husband

By JANE WHELPS

### A PLEASANT EVENING.

CHAPTER XXIX.  
I chided Donald for his selfishness in not wanting his little brother to share his pleasures.  
"I see the biggest" was all he would say in return.  
When Nellie came back I left them and dressed for dinner. We always went early when we intended to play cards; and so I dressed for the evening. I took special pains, as Elsie had advised, not even scolding the aid of a little rouge on my pale cheeks.  
Bob came in just as dinner was ready. I had begun to fear he was not coming and the relief was so great it made me weak.  
"You look very nice," he said as we sat down to dinner, "I shall hustle into my studs after we finish."  
I tried to appear natural, to ignore the fact—even in my own thoughts—that he was only with me on suffrage and to talk of impersonal matters. I repeated what Donald had said about his being the "biggest" and his willingness that George should remain as he was.  
"The little rascal's jealous, that's all," Bob replied a tender smile lighting up his face.  
"But I have tried to be very careful not to make him feel that way," I replied. "I know a first child is apt to be a little jealous when the second baby arrives."  
"More than a little some of them. I remember hearing mother tell of a neighbor whose children were very nearly an age. When they were left alone one day, the older child tried to choke the baby; and when reproved said 'he wanted to be the baby.' I imagine we don't realize how they feel when they see another supplanting them."  
"My, you don't think Donald would hurt the baby do you?"  
"No, I didn't mean to intimate that he would. Donald is a really little chap and older than the child mother told about."  
"He is a darling!" I said with such emphasis that Bob laughed aloud.  
"Naturally you would think so," he responded, then that subject exhausted we finished our dinner almost in silence.  
When we reached the Baldwin's we found Mr. and Mrs. Bolton, a charming couple whom we had met only once before, Mrs. Farnsworth and a Mr. Lansing, a bachelor friend of Mr. Baldwin.  
"I thought I would have two tables tonight just for a change," Mrs. Baldwin told us.  
"When the Elks went over the top it was all off with that Red Cross deficiency. They literally 'horned in.'"  
The Red Cross on learning of the earthquake in Guatemala, and the consequent suffering immediately appropriated \$10,000 for relief work and will send more as soon as the requirements are known. It may be said of this organization as a certain distinguished person said of himself. The world is my country, to do good my religion."

## The Daily Novelette

### THE FRENCH STITCH

Sheerluck Bones, the great detective, rarely rode in the subway during rush hours, preferring to walk and save time, but on this particular afternoon finding walking rather painful because of a dislocated knee and a sprained ankle sustained in the notorious Snooter diamond case, he boarded a train on the U-19 route.  
Scarcely had he seated himself beside a fair young thing knitting a sweater, when she spoke to him.  
"You'll pardon my boldness, won't you?" she said, "but aren't you Sheerluck Bones, the great detective?"  
"I am sometimes called so," he replied.  
"I knew you from your pictures," she cried. "Oh, how thrilling for a little nobody like me to meet you face to face! To see the noble forehead that hides the colossal brain that can unravel any mystery, the brain from which neither science nor man has any secrets."  
The great detective adjusted his tie modestly.  
"I've just learned the correct french stitch!" she continued excitedly. "Look, I'll explain it to you. See, you take two up and two down and snitch hold back, and then you double pass through this little loop and raise six three, and then you drop one and a half and intersect, and by-pass four and turn under, and—"  
But a sudden thump interrupted her. The great detective had slid off the seat unconscious, and his noble forehead all wrinkled in his vain efforts to follow her, had thudded unmusically against the floor of the car.

## CLEANS THE BLOOD-TONES THE NERVES

The gratifying results attending the faithful use of the new medicinal combination, Hood's Sarsaparilla before eating and Peptiron after eating, are seen in purer blood, stronger nerves, improved condition of the whole system.  
They are results that make this course of treatment the most economical for sufferers from impure, impoverished blood, weak, unsteady nerves—no other accomplishes so much for each cent expended.  
Hood's Sarsaparilla and Peptiron aid each other, and to take both is to derive a four-fold benefit.  
If a laxative is needed in connection with them, the gentle and thorough Hood's Pills should be used.

ed back all feeling and said:  
"I'll let you know just as soon as I possibly can. Perhaps I had better telephone before you leave the house in the morning; then it won't interfere with your plans in any way if he cannot come."  
"That's a good idea!" and Bob turned a plainly puzzled face toward me; it was not my usual manner of meeting such a condition.  
(Tomorrow—A Clever Woman)

# Buy Now at the Big Closing Out Sale

Our very large storage basement is COMPARATIVELY EMPTY AT PRESENT. The first of December we had some 5000 unopened packages in reserve; now all the reserve has been placed on sale somewhere in our six big salesrooms. BUT WE STILL HAVE AN IMMENSE STOCK OF MERCHANDISE AND IT IS ALL BEING SOLD AT CLOSING OUT PRICES.

All Muslin Underwear	An immense Stock of Curtains, Nets and Scrim--	
20 PER CENT LESS	Important Reductions for the	
One assortment of slightly soiled Muslin Underwear at .	CLOSING OUT SALE	
ONE-HALF,	12c Scrim . . . . . 10c	75c Scrim . . . . . 62c
	18c Scrim . . . . . 13c	40c Scrim . . . . . 28c
	20c Scrim . . . . . 15c	45c Scrim . . . . . 32c
	25c Scrim . . . . . 20c	50c Scrim . . . . . 39c
	35c Scrim . . . . . 25c	60c Scrim . . . . . 49c

### Stupendous Cut in Embroidery Prices

\$6.00 Embroider's	\$3.00
\$3.00 Embroider's	\$1.50
\$2.25 Embroider's	\$1.25
\$2.00 Embroider's	\$1.00
\$3.50 Embroider's	\$1.75
\$1.00 Embroideries	50c
55c Embroideries	.42c
50c Embroideries	.39c
45c and 40c Embds.	29c
24c Embroideries	.14c
10c Embroideries	.7c
5c Embroideries	.3c

# Stockton

Corner Court and Com'l Street, Salem