## Editorial Page of The Capital Journal

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## FIFTEEN BILLIONS SAVED.

If a penny saved is a penny earned, so is a million dollars. The American people, then, have just made fifteen billions. That is the amount voted back into the treasury by congress out of the $\$ 30,700,000,000$ appropriat-
ed last year for war expenses. It made possible by the expenses. It represents a saving than was expected.

If this sum as a whole means little, it is worth re ducing to understandable terms. There are roughly 100 , 000,000 people in the country who have to help pay for
the war directly or indirectly. This $\$ 15,000,000,000$ means the war directly or indirectly. This $\$ 15,000,000,000$ means
$\$ 150$ apiece for every man, woman and child in America. $\$ 150$ apiece for every man, woman and child in America-
Counting five to a family, it means that the average AmCounting five to a family, it means that the average Am-
erican family saved, right off, $\$ 750$ by the signing of the erican family saved, right
armistice last November.
This does not represent the entire savings by any means. If the war had continued as most of us expect-
ed, until the end of this year, there would have been many ed, until the end of this year, there would have been many
billions more to pay, over and above the appropriations bimat are still to be made for winding things up. There is
that the further saving involved in lower prices from now on
than would have prevailed during the prolongation period. One thousand dollars per family would hardly cover the total saving.

There has not been much thought of such material considerations. The rejoicing has bene mostly inspired by the knowledge that the bloodshed was ended and the boys in France were destined to come home soon, safe and sound. Still it gives every one a comfortable feeling to
ealize that every family in the land made more than $\$ 1000$ without knowing it on November 11, 1918.
It was the courageous fighting of our boys that saved
that money. Let us not forget it as they come home.
RETURNING STOLEN GOODS.
An inconspicuous four-line news item from Paris tates that a special train from Germany reeently arrived in Brussels with $740,000,000$ franes in specie. This gold
had been stolen from Belgium by the Germans during had been.

There is great satisfaction to every right-minded man in this return of actual goods carried off by the invaders. When the machinery and farm tools and railroad rolling stock stolen by the Hun armies are restored to
Belogium and Northern France, and as much as possible Belgium and Northern France, and as much as possible
of the art treasures and household furnishings are brourht back, there will be still further satisfaction.

The Germans must not be allowed to escape the wo
restoration and they will not be although there is so of restoration, and they will not be, although there is so
much that never can be restored. By returning piece by piece the loot they carried off, they may perhaps learn the shame and humiliation that will turn their minds and hearts to new ideals of decency and honesty and self-respect.

Representatives Weeks and Hughes, of Marion couny, are seeking to learn the views of their constituents gasoline tax. This is the proper thing to do and if such a course was always pursued by members of the legislaure there would be fewer mistakes made.

After all this talk about "Versailles", the peace conerence isn't being held there at all. But then "Versailles" -if you don't.
It's odd how many people who are ardently opposed to
and cohol are against prohibition, and how many who are peace league.
"Climbing Cheese and Butter Prices Halted By Milk War," says a New York newspaper headline. When
butter and cheese get strong enough to climb, it is time

## RIPPLING RHYMES

By Wait Mason

HAPPY AS A KING.
"I am as happy as a king," I used to blithely say, when I was led to dance and sing, I felt so dad-blamed gay. But when 1look around and see the kings as they are now" thus express my heartfeit glee: "Tm as happy as a cow! and there the briny tears they pump, in never ending streams. And those who stil hold down their thrones
are sorrow stricken wights; they fill the daylight hours with groans, and walk the floor at nights. They have no whish to laugh or play, these most foriorn of men; and
when I'm feeling good I say, "'m happy as a hen!" If had forty kinds of gout, and knew dyspepsia s sting, If mifted
rear up a bit and shout, "Tm happy a a king'" exclaim, between my yells, "Im happy as a king!" And if the headsman chose my neck on whis haspy as a king! The world is bright and good and big, it's all that I could wish; I am as happy as a pig, as happy as a fish.

## EFFICIENT AND ECONOMICAL GRAM

The new state labor commissioner, Gram, was course elected on

This is one of the offices that if the consolidation commission was sincere in its efforts to cut out the use less jobs wouldnt last five minutes. state or any citizen of it might be performed by a clerk of the Industrial Accident Commission.

But the labor commissioner holds on---probably because the office provides a number of soft political jobs for the faithful boys---and there is a scarcity of jobs in which the duties consist mainly of signing the pa
roll, to go around at best. It is a self-sustaining roll, to go around at best. It is a self-sustaining
fice, one in which the fees extorted from the industri fice, one in which the fees extorted from the indal fun and may all be spent to pay the salaries and expenses aiministration. It works in orner wraft of our graft-riden state, the fish and game warden job. The last bi-ennium under Labor Cond Com issioner Hoff turned some $\$ 9000$ over to the state treas ary la che the nere to spend it all, and probably possesing certain conscientious scruples that do not ente into the make-up of his successor.

Mr. Gram now comes forward and asks the way and means committee of the legislature to appropriate some $\$ 17,000$ in addition to the fees of his onfice in orde trappings becoming a full-fledged official of the grea state of Oregon. Among other things Mr. Gram asks for an apartment ita pay-..probably a throne room with liv employes on state pay--probaty a to to wal commissioner eried lackeys to labor of this sovereign state

Modest and economical Mr. Gram will not get abo shed of course, but he will have hard sledding gettin past the ways and means committee whith his request ar not in good humor; they are trying to make every dolla haunts them in their dreams. They are inclined to think Labor Commissioner Gram ought to be tickled to death to be allowed to live and go collecting those little fee from the over-prosperous industries of the state $\$ 17,000$ of treasury swag that is so badly needed by other departments, which have no fee graft to sustain them, and are compelled to account for what they spend.


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LITTLE TALKS ON THRIFT


Joint Roads Committee Agrees On Half Cent Ta
On Gailon Distillate.

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## Open Forum

## Santa Teresa And Princess



