

Published Every Evening Except Sunday, Salem, Oregon.

Address All Communications To

The Daily Capital Journal

SALEM 136 S. Commercial St. OREGON
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

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES

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THE DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

Is the only newspaper in Salem whose circulation is guaranteed by the Audit Bureau of Circulations

EARLY SESSIONS FOR CONGRESS.

Nearly everybody recognizes the absurdity of a system which postpones the assembling of congress until thirteen months after election, and which therefore makes it necessary to call an "extra session" at a time like this, when there is a legislative emergency. There has long been a demand for a change that would enable the nation to get quicker action on an election and setting a new congress to work before the impetus that chose it has died out.

There is a measure now proposed to accomplish this reform. It would provide for the first meeting of a new congress on March 5, following its election, instead of waiting until the first Monday in December. Congress itself has power to make the change, and it is expected that it will be taken up soon in the special session that has just opened.

It might be well to go still further. Why should any congressman who is defeated early in November continue in office longer than the end of the year? And why should not the congressmen-elect assume their duties immediately after the Christmas holidays? The date of the presidential inauguration might be changed likewise, making everything start the first of the year. State governments have found this a good system--why would it not be equally good for the national government?

BROCKDORFF-RANTZAU.

One of the most curious things about the German handling of the peace treaty is the presence of Count Von Brockdorff-Rantzau at the head of the delegation at Versailles.

This gentleman, if he may be so designated, is a Prussian of the Prussians, a nobleman of the old imperial regime. There is no indication that his opinions have changed. Certainly the arrogant conduct characteristic of Prussian "vons" in general has not changed. His first speech at Versailles was impudent and insulting, and his subsequent behavior, official and personal, has been so intolerable that there is talk of the Allies demanding his recall.

Apparently Germany might just about as well have sent Ludendorff or Hindenburg or Tirpitz to Versailles, or even the head of the house of Hohenzollern himself.

And Brockdorff-Rantzau is there as the representative of a Socialistic government, which bases its appeal for leniency on the ground that Germany is now democratic and has repudiated the spirit and works of Kaiserism.

It is no use--the world will never understand those Germans.

RIPPLING RHYMES

By Walt Mason

DRY TIME DRINKS.

What will we drink when comes July? We hear the thirsty people cry, the friends of old John Barleycorn, who'll sadly miss their frequent horn. In time they'll hit the babbling stream whose waters in the sunlight gleam; at some far day that drink will please, but they would reach it by degrees; a sudden change from booze, gad-zooks, to snifters from the babbling brooks, would give their works too hard a jolt, and cause interior revolt. But there are drinks for every toff, with which that gent may taper off. Tobasco sauce is rich and hot, and hair restorers hit the spot, remove from weary hearts the care, and sometimes grow pink whiskers there. And there are divers colored inks which some regard as tempting drinks. Good writing fluid, blue or black, sends pleasant thrills along the back, and makes a man so full of vim he'd tear a bobcat limb from limb. When I quit booze I often yearned for something strong that jarred and burned, and then I'd sip some turpentine, and found its action very fine. I sampled all the drinks in view, from linseed oil to liquid glue, and finally was reconciled to lapping up the waters wild. And now I would not trade my well for all the booze this side of Hannibal, Mo.

EXPOSING FOLLY.

While all this discussion has been going on regarding the principle of free speech, and the proper limits for it, an interesting contribution on the subject has been made by President Wilson in a speech at Paris.

"I have always been among those," he said "who believe that the greatest freedom of speech is the greatest safety, because if a man is a fool the best to do is to encourage him to advertise that fact by speaking. It cannot be so easily discovered if you allow him to remain silent and look wise; but the moment you let him speak, the secret is out, and the world knows that he is a fool."

"So it is with the exposure of folly. And in this free air of free speech men get into that sort of communication with one another which constitutes the basis of all worthy achievement."

This is worth remembering, at a time when the ranting of false leaders tempts the public to acts of stern repression. It is well not to carry this censorship too far, lest men be taken for martyred Solomons when they are only fools. It is probably true that the best way to dispose of a lot of radical orators and writers is to let them show this folly. The public is no fool. It will find them out.

General Pershing assumes responsibility for the order to continue firing right up to the minute the armistice took effect. He says it was absolutely necessary in order to enforce acceptance of the terms and that Foch issued similar orders to his armies. The editors' and politicians' council in this country was not consulted about it, however, and that is where he made his mistake. That great Y. M. C. A. general, Governor Allen of Kansas, veteran of a hundred hard-fought political campaigns, is one of the loudest-mouthed fellows, who asserts our boys should have stopped fighting at the earliest possible moment. As a matter of fact Allen seems to think that the fighting was all unnecessary and futile, except that it gave him an opportunity to tour Europe at the expense of the Y. M. C. A. fund. Pershing, of course, deserves some censure for not consulting the Y. M. C. A. vendors of cigarettes and chewing gum on an important matter like the proper way to bring the world's greatest war to a fitting close.

The Roosevelt highway is one of the largest development propositions ever submitted to the people of Oregon for adoption or rejection. It means a permanent road along the coast from Oregon's northern boundary to the California line and in its course it will traverse all our coast counties, opening many valuable districts to settlement and development. The effect of its construction will be to increase the amount of taxable property in the state by millions within the next few years, since lack of roads and transportation facilities are now seriously checking the advancement of the coast region. This highway proposition should be given serious consideration because of its important bearing upon the future growth of Oregon and also on account of the proposal of the government to match, dollar for dollar, the money appropriated by the state. It is the best of all the reconstruction measures submitted to the people at the election next month.

Sargeant York, the Church of God elder from Tennessee, who with his squad of seven men killed 30 Germans, captured 122, including a major, along with 36 machine guns, was inclined to be a conscientious objector at the beginning of the war. After thinking over the issues involved, however, he girded on his armor and went over the top with his rifle in one hand and an automatic in the other. Now York says he feels "a heap stronger spiritually"--which is more than those conscientious objectors who are in jail can look one in the eye and say without flinching.

It's a remarkable thing that the more money the people of Oregon give to Red Cross and war work activities and loan to the government the more they have left. This is shown by steady growth of bank deposits all over the state. The bread cast upon the waters seems to be returning, even though we have not had to wait many days for the performance of the biblical miracle.

The Oregonian simply felt called upon to speak highly of General Wood and thought it would be better to do so early before the real, slated candidate was put up. This Wood talk is a plan to divert attention from certain plans now forming, is the view of the Woodburn Independent. Evidently here is one editor who has "inside information" which we frankly confess we do not possess.

The union machinists of the Portland district have declared in favor of a six hour day and higher pay. But why work six hours, when the genuine Bolshevik principle is not to work at all and have the government print enough paper money to keep the wages coming right along all the time?

THE PROMOTER'S WIFE

BY JANE PHELPS

A DISTRESSING INCIDENT
I was in a perfect fever of unrest, impatience, and something very like fear all the rest of that day, and the next, a sick headache and weight bed about 4 o'clock. I had told us at breakfast that he would not dine at home. I wondered, I dressed as carefully as I ever had

in my life. I knew Blanche Orton's fondness for dress, her exquisite taste, her love of fashion, her love of beauty, her love of life. I would look so well as possible. I allowed myself just time to reach there by 7 o'clock, as I judged that would be her dinner hour. I did not take the car, but walked to the corner and hailed a passing taxi. I would take no one, not even the chauffeur into my confidence.
As I rang the bell I trembled so I could scarcely start. When the man opened the door the sound of laughter and voices nearly caused me to turn and flee. But I had come for a purpose--to help Neil. Had it been for any other reason under the sun I could not have gone through with it. But the thought of Neil gave me courage.
"Go right up stairs please and try off your things," the maid said. She of course had not recognized me and thought me one of the invited guests.
I walked slowly up the stairs. I laid aside my cloak, then walked even more slowly down again. Blanche Orton came into the hall just as I reached it, and I immediately spoke to her.
"You will forgive me for intruding won't you Mrs. Orton?" I asked in my most gracious tones. "But I know Neil often comes to you for help in his business. I do so want to help him also, so as I knew you were to have a dinner to-night--a business dinner, I could not have intruded upon a social affair, I determined to come and ask you to give me a lesson in helping my husband. You see I was foolish. I did not care for some of the men he wished to entertain, so he did not compel me to receive them. I am sorry now. Will you help me retrieve my error?" It was not at all what I had intended to say; not at all what I wanted to say. But the words seemed to come of their own volition.
Mrs. Orton had first looked surprised, then a look of something near chagrin crossed her face, then, to my surprise, one of pity. I was totally unprepared for her answer.
"Indeed I will help you all I can! you are very brave to acknowledge your mistake. Don't let anyone know I did not invite you. I will say I telephoned you to join us."
As I followed her into the room where her guests were assembled, I thought of the old saying that "there is some good in the worst of us." She had risen to the occasion, and to my help wonderfully. She could make any explanation she saw fit of my presence. My greatest cause of embarrassment was gone--that it would be known that I had joined them without an invitation, and that Neil might think I was spying upon him.
"Ladies and gentlemen let me introduce Mrs. Forbes. Aren't you surprised

Neil? I thought it was time your wife joined us and looked after you. You might get too fond of me you know." Her voice sounded a bit strained; her speech labored, and rather unlike her usual easy non-chalance. But no one seemed to notice, and also Neil looked absolutely dumfounded he answered in a factious manner, when she said, "You tell her who the people are Neil. She already knows Mr. Frederick I think." I had not noticed him until she spoke. In fact the room and everyone in it all save Neil was a blur. But as she mentioned Frederick's name a wave of gladness rushed over me. If he were there I should not be so afraid, or so alone.
"I knew you would come," he said very low as he immediately crossed to me. "You intended to when you telephoned me."
"And you came because you knew I?"
"I stopped short for two reasons. One that I was taking a good deal for granted, and letting him see it. The other because Neil had joined us and was presenting Mr. Tearle, then Mr. Connor, Scott was not there, but Thompson came in later. These with two women, overdressed ordinary women who seemed ill at ease until after the wine was served, when they were very talkative and very gay. I never had met women of their type before and it was as hard, even harder to talk to them than to Tearle and Connor. But I had come to help Neil, so while refusing to take any wine, I chatted with each of them in turn until the conversation turned upon some missing proposition. Then I listened."
(Tomorrow--Neil Suggests That Barbara Leave Early.)

Open Forum.

AN OPEN LETTER

To Bishop William F. McDowell, president of the board of temperance, prohibition, and public morals of the Methodist Episcopal church.
Dear Bishop:--No man or woman can be a true Christian or patriot and vote the Republican, or Democratic, or any license party ticket--Political Action, General Conference 1916.

The time has come when the line should be definitely and sharply drawn between the supporters and partners of this traffic, and those who stand for its abolition. A man cannot, as a Christian citizen, sign a petition for a liquor license, rent property to be used for the purposes of the traffic, vote for it or



"JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE"
The war gardeners are in the movies too. Join their ranks and write to the National War Garden Commission, Washington, for a garden book.

Spring Sunshine and STURGIS GO-CARTS



Go hand in hand to administer health and happiness to the baby in your home. These pleasant days should find the baby out in the open. Why not call and see the splendid line of carriages we are showing in all the new colors of enamel and all the modern conveniences. Then get the baby out in the sun and air.



We have just received a very complete line of porch swings, hammocks, porch chairs, cots, porch shades and grass rugs. With these you can make a pleasant summer porch and live out of doors. Take advantage of all this good weather by being out of doors.



Have You Heard The Brunswick?

The APEX Cleaner

It's soft, low tones are the sweetest that can be produced on any make of phonograph. Or you can adjust the reproducer so as to play the same record in the full tone of a singers voice. The tone range is unlimited. You can easily learn to adjust the Brunswick to produce the tone you like. Free demonstration in your home.

Is the most powerful little suction cleaner made. It gets all the dust from under the carpet as well as that which is in the carpet. The suction is stronger than on other machines of equal size and every mechanical point is made with the idea of saving repair expense. They are thoroughly guaranteed and sold on easy terms.

C. S. Hamilton, Home Furnisher