

A Page of Editorials for the Home and Farm Magazine Section

TO ADVERTISERS

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TO READERS

Readers are requested to send letters and articles for publication to The Editor, Home and Farm Magazine Section, Oregonian Building, Portland, Oregon.

Discussions on questions and problems that bear directly on the agricultural, livestock and poultry interests of the Northwest and on the uplift and comfort of the farm home always are welcomed. No letters treating of religion, politics or the European war are solicited. We proclaim neutrality on these matters.

Comparatively brief contributions are preferred to long ones. Send us also photographs of your livestock and farm scenes that you think would be of general interest. We wish to make this magazine of value to you. Help us to do it.

GIVING THE CHILD A CHANCE

THE importance of the child is gradually being recognized by organized society. The wonder of it all is that the child has been neglected for so long. The resources of the powerful United States Government have always been at the command of those seeking to stamp out an insect plague, or those desiring to improve the breeds of cows, hogs or chickens, but how much time has been given by Governmental authorities to improving the breed of children? And which is the more important to the coming generation, that better grades of domestic animals shall be raised or that a more virile manhood shall come into its own?

The work of breeding children is to a certain extent conducted by state or private organizations. It is a work that cannot be commended too highly.

Juvenile courts are aiding now in dealing with the wayward child. "Child labor" laws have been passed. Schools have been formed with the object of teaching girls how to care for babies—schools in "mothercraft." Widows' pension bills have been passed by 23 states. Conventions of physicians now find an important subject for discussion in the welfare of the child. Leaders in educational work are considering the training of the child.

Year by year, the demand has become stronger for a square deal for the child in his right to be well born, in his right to have good health, a strong body and proper training. With a fair chance for the child, the results are certain to prove of inestimable value to the country.

CAN WE HOLD OUR OWN?

AMERICA'S opportunity lies before her today as it never has lain before. The terrible war that is devastating Europe has opened a wide door of opportunity to us, with a world of conquest lying behind it. These conquests are the peaceful conquests of industry. Can we grasp the situation and do the work before us?

There are three things necessary: A large population, skilled in the industrial arts, an abundant capital to pay them and also to stimulate business in foreign countries, and a plentiful supply of power.

In the earliest ages of our indus-

tries water power was about all there was. Then came coal, and in spite of the discovery of oil and the inventions that apply electricity to industries, coal may still be said to constitute the most important source of all our motive power.

The production of coal in 1913 in the United States was 509,000,000 long tons, nearly twice that of Great Britain, our closest competitor. At the present rate of growth we shall soon be turning out as much coal as all the rest of the world together.

We are not only able to compete with Great Britain and all the rest of the world in the quantity and price of coal for home use, but also for export. When the last century closed the total exports of coal from the United States were 7,000,000 tons. In 1913 this was increased to 21,000,000 tons.

The figures answer emphatically in the affirmative the question of our ability to compete for the business of the world in one respect at least, that of the great motive power.

Is there any question about our ability in other respects? To coal we add fuel oil, and to these two electric power from our wonderful streams. As to capital, we are well supplied, and our production of solid money annually is very great. Then for our population, it numbers today in our continental territory 100,000,000 of the most intelligent, quickest-witted, best-fed and therefore most energetic people on the earth.

WISDOM AND WAR.

NINE HUNDRED years ago a dispute between Modena and Bologna over a well bucket began a war which devastated Europe. A Chinese Emperor once went to war over the breaking of a teapot. Sweden and Poland flew at each other's throats in 1654 because the King of Sweden discovered that his name in an official dispatch was followed by only two et ceteras, while the King of Poland's had three. The spilling of a glass of water over the Marquis de Torey led to war between France and England, and a small boy, by throwing a pebble at the Duc de Guise, led to the massacre of Vassy and the 30 years' war.

LAZY FARMERS, DON'T READ THIS.

(Editorial in Polk County Itemizer.)

THE United States Department of Agriculture, the state boards and the experts all over the country are urging the farmers of America to cultivate every available acre during the coming year. The war in Europe assures the sale of almost everything that can be raised. Every article that is exported to feed the soldiers and the citizens and the stock of Europe means that just that much less for home consumption, therefore, even with big crops of everything, the price will be high.

If it is not a good crop year the farmer will at least raise enough for home use and will not have to pay the high prices that will prevail. Utilize every available acre for grain, grasses and vegetables. It should not be necessary, under proper conditions, to import potatoes into any agricultural county.

Put the hens and the turkeys to work and give them a square deal. Raise hogs, cattle and horses in as large numbers as the accommoda-

tions of your farm will justify and any losses that any farmer, planter or rancher may have sustained last year will be more than made good.

The war in Europe may last for months or years, and while it continues there will be an active demand for everything we produce. Should the war end this week the nations engaged will need all our surplus products for a year at least. Take our advice, for once, and do not permit good, tillable land to lie idle in 1915.

IF THERE MUST BE ALLIANCES

IF THERE must be European alliances—though tragic events have proved them to be dangerous—we may hope—though hardly expect in view of the bitterness that will follow war—a new alignment when peace once more reigns over battle-ravaged Europe.

Why is it not possible to have an alliance between France, Germany, England, Italy and the lesser powers with its sole aim the beneficent development of Europe and the peaceful curbing of the less advanced nations of Europe and Asia?

Not an alliance for the offensive, not for conquest, not to deprive Russia or Asia of a "place in the sun," not to limit their right to development, prosperity and enlightenment—but to keep them in check until they have risen in culture and democracy to the level of Western Europe—and to help them rise, if it is not asking too much.

It should be a league for development, not for repression; for civilization and peace, not for barbarism and war.

The bitterness between England and Germany affects us in America like bitterness between two of our good friends and neighbors, both of whom we love and respect, and for both of whom there is room and honor and glory. It is not good for England, for Germany or for the world.

Such a league, formed honestly for peace and working for peace, not hypocritically for peace and working for war, would help each of its members, would help Russia, would help the Balkans, would help the world.

It would spread enlightenment, intelligence, civilization and the aspiration for human liberty. It would dispel the cloud of fear that kept the nations armed and on the brink of war, and that cast the shadow of coming tragedy over the fields and factories and into the homes.

But will international hatred, born afresh by the war, remain to make this impossible?

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING.

WE HEAR a great deal these days about the high cost of living, and it certainly does cost us a good deal more at the present time than it did only a few years ago. But before we groan too much about what it costs us to live these days, we would better stop and consider what we are getting for our money.

You know we have a few things at the present time which seem to be necessities, that our fathers and grandfathers could not afford, even as luxuries, as only a few years ago they could not be had at any price.

For instance, there is the telephone. That adds quite a bit to the high cost of living, but how would you like to try to get along without

the telephone? You consider you are getting your money's worth when you pay for the telephone, now don't you?

Then almost any sort of a water system, even if it is no more than a pump on the porch, costs more in hard cash than it did to carry water from a spring or brook, but it is a whole lot more convenient, and you are willing to pay the price.

It costs quite a bit more to build a comfortable modern home than it would to put up a log house, but we go on building our up-to-date homes just the same. And it costs more to furnish our modern homes than it did a two-room log house, but we go on furnishing them, adding quite a bit to the high cost of living.

We dress better than we did once, and we live better and have more privileges, and it all costs. We travel more, entertain more, hear more lectures, see more plays, read more books and spend more money on many things that make life worth living than we did even a few years ago, and it all adds to the high cost of living.

Then there is the automobile. No one will deny that an automobile is an expensive luxury, yet everyone buys one that can afford to, and a good many buy them that ought not to, and yet we go on complaining about the high cost of living. Still it looks as if we were getting our money's worth, and if we must complain, why not complain about the cost of high living? That would seem more consistent, but really why complain at all?

Why not live as well as we can within our income, enjoy all the conveniences and privileges of this golden age, and so far as we can afford, pay the price of high living cheerfully, instead of grumbling about the high cost of living?

The farmer who makes only his living is said to be losing money, because he is not making a percentage on his investment or getting good wages for his time. Nevertheless, a man may toil away in the city day in and day out and at the end of the year find he is not anything ahead of the game, yet he is never spoken of as failing to make his living. Isn't there a little inconsistency here?

The only sentiment in Briton's famous sea song, "Rule Britannia," which appeals to the German fancy is that part of the refrain which runs:

"And he mar-ri-ade a mer-mi-ade In the bottom of the deep, blue sea."

We read that a great many of the 22-carat European opera singers are detained in this country on account of the war. Yet this does not seem to affect the high cost of music.

Noting that the Russians are throwing "Jack Johnson" shells into Ossowetz, we may infer that there is a stiffer punch in black powder.

In the matter of advertising, it seems to us that the English and Germans are getting the best of it out of this war.

There will be some demand for harbor improvements when the allies are through with the Dardanelles.

A learned authority says this will be the last war. Unquestionably—for many thousands!