

THE OBSERVER

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WHAT OF THE NAVY'S FUTURE

Rear Admiral Fluke, until recently chief aide to Secretary Daniels and now the chief thorn in that gentleman's side, told his fellow officers in an address at Annapolis that the navy is in a bad way. No doubt he is correct; unpreparedness is a hobby with us. Never in its history has the United States been ready to fight when the gong rang. Nevertheless, largely through good fortune, we remain an unbeaten nation. The tendency is to trust luck to the limit.

The navy needs both material and organization, according to Fluke. It is below the European standard in battle cruisers, aircraft, submarines, mine layers and sweepers. And even if it possessed these tools in abundance, the navy has no general staff. In a pinch commanders and bureaus

would work at cross purposes. This constitutes a serious indictment, and one that must be removed before the navy's plea for more material receives a sympathetic hearing. The nation is in no frame of mind to authorize expenditures upon an inherently faulty program. Yet this lack of a general staff organization is not the fault of our naval officials, but of congress, and congressional dalliance merely reflects the lackadaisical attitude of the public toward military and naval affairs.

Before the navy can get what it wants it must present a taut organization and a well defined policy of construction. European experience indicates that submarines are the craft of the future. Every day increases submarine virility and decreases battleship virility. Laying down battleships hereafter will not insure sea power: the best prepared navy of the future will possess submarine flotilla superior in size, number and cruising radius. The defensive power of submarines is fully demonstrated in the Dardanelles. Since our navy is intended for defense we have more incentive to compete with the militant powers in submarines than we had in dreadnoughts. If bulk and weight still count upon the sea they will have to move at higher speed than ever before. Whereas our present policy is to build slow going battleships.

These questions will confront the this session of congress. Meantime if the decks have to be cleared the navy will do the best it can with what it has, while congress operating in its familiar role of shutting the barn door after the horse is stolen will authorize a general staff organi-

zation and appropriations galore in a single week. If statesmanship be foresighted how little of that precious commodity we possess between emergencies.

FARMERS' OBJECT.

(Continued From Page One)

instances less, and not the producers, but the speculators and trusts are getting the benefit, therefore be it Resolved, That we congratulate and most heartily commend the few newspapers which have had the courage to expose and condemn the methods of the meat trust in arbitrarily fixing prices which are confiscatory and little short of highway robbery, and we appeal to our representatives in congress and the members of our state legislatures to enact laws which will bring us permanent relief and carry penalties which will include prison sentences for offenders instead of nominal fines which they can steal from both producer and consumer in less time than it takes the court to pass on their cases.

Whereas, the most vital issue in the farm world today is to secure the adoption of improved methods of marketing farm products to the end that the present enormous waste and cost in handling and distributing food products shall be greatly reduced to the benefit of both producer and consumer, and

Whereas, a national organization, the National Marketing committee, has been completed with which are affiliated many farmers, consumers, and commercial organizations in several states to conduct a nation wide campaign to secure these ends, and believing that the adoption of the improved marketing methods proposed by the National Marketing committee will certainly benefit the agricultural classes and advance the general welfare, therefore be it

Resolved, By the Farmers' Union in annual session assembled at Weiser, Idaho, that we give our hearty support to the National Marketing committee and affiliate with it as a body, and that in as much as every community will benefit by improved marketing methods and believing these benefits will be most speedily obtained by establishing organized centers of activity affiliated with said committee, that we urge our locals throughout the states to make themselves centers of earnest effort to accomplish these ends. That we urge the people of our cities to form local associations and affiliate with us to the end that the work in our states may be fully and harmoniously developed, and the co-operation between producer and consumer for this great work made as perfect as possible.

Resolved, That we favor the most liberal system of education, but we believe a more liberal policy should be adopted toward the boys and girls who are to fill the ordinary walks of life and that our courses of study should be so arranged that firm foundations may be laid for their future. Higher institutions of learning are necessary, but all roads need not lead to our universities, and the boy and girl who can not reach this much desired goal should be schooled in those things which are practical and will enable them to become intelligent and useful men and women rather than proficient in dead languages and ancient history.

Resolved, That we heartily indorse the work of our agricultural colleges in their resident instructions, their experiment stations and extension service, also their efforts in marketing and distribution and equitable system of rural credits.

Resolved, That we favor the enactment of such laws by the members of our legislatures as will equalize the burdens of state government, do away with useless red tape, force the rich mining companies, which are taking millions each month from the bosom of mother earth, and other large corporations to pay their just share of taxes, give us irrigation commissions composed of irrigators with power to settle water disputes and adjudicate water rights, reduce the number of office holders and enable us to punish defaulters and grafters whether the amount be great or small and regardless of the prominence and personal and political influence of the offenders.

Resolved, That we favor the strict enforcement, to the letter and in detail, of every point of the prohibition laws passed in Oregon and Idaho at the last election, and that we lend every support possible to our governors and other officials.

Resolved, That we favor a national rural credits system, supported and backed by the federal government, which will enable the farmers to obtain money on the same liberal terms now granted the banks, and we call upon our senators and representatives in congress to support only such a rural credits bill as will enable us to secure long time loans on our land at not to exceed one per cent profit over the present federal reserve banking rate.

Resolved, That the publication by the United States government of crop reports is a detriment to the farmers, and we most earnestly recommend its discontinuance.

Believing that the lack of system has been the cause of failure in practically all farm organizations in the

(Continued on Page Eight)

Men Like Practical Useful Gifts

Lots of many, many, new serviceable, useful gifts at West's that will be sure to please Dad, Son, Brother, Friend or Hubby—

Large stocks, the newest styles, and better quality at lowest prices—are just three of the many reasons why you can do better at West's. Another reason is—the many good Xmas gifts at West's are of well known brands, that have a national reputation for quality—It insures you of getting what's right for him—Any man instantly recognizes these national known brands as the best in quality and latest in style.

"Benjamin" suits, "Hirsch" wickwire" suits
 "Society Brand" suits, "Fidelity" suits \$15.00
 \$17.50, \$20, \$22.50, \$25, \$30.
 "Gordon" hats \$3.00—"Stetson" hats \$4.00
 "Interwoven" hose 25c, box of 6 pairs \$1.50
 "Manhattan" shirts \$1.50; "Standard" shirts \$1.25
 "Tilt" shoes \$3.50 to \$6.00; "Nettleton" shoes \$5.50 and \$7.00
 Men's "Red Fern" dress gloves \$1.00 to \$2.50
 Men's knit gloves, pair 25c, 50c
 Genuine Indian "Arctcraft" Chief Joseph Indian blankets, each \$5.00 to \$7.50
 Genuine Pendleton bath robes \$18.00

Other new bath robes for men \$3.50, \$5.00, \$6.00, \$8.00
 Men's "Keiser" Xmas ties 25c, 50c, \$1.00, \$1.50
 Good leather hand bags, leather lined well made \$5.00, \$7.50, \$8.50, \$10.00, \$15.00
 Men's house slippers in felts or the leather kind 75c to \$2.50
 Leather collar bags 75c to \$2.00
 Fancy garters for Xmas 25c, 50c
 Fancy suspenders in Xmas box 50c
 Xmas combination sets 75c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50
 Fancy armband in Xmas boxes 25c to 50c
 Men's pure linen initial hemstitched handkerchiefs 25c

N. K. West & Co.
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La Grande National Bank

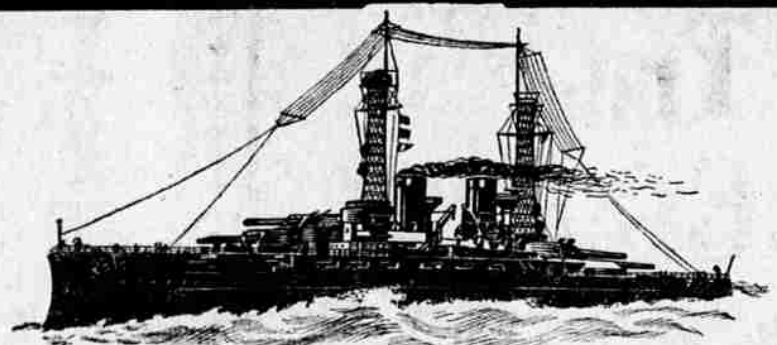
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Preparedness

The Vital Factor---

not alone in affairs of the Nation, but with the health of every citizen.

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Active brains and vigorous bodies are the result of right living—food plays a big part.

Grape Nuts

FOOD.

made of whole wheat and malted barley, supplies all the bone and brain-building, nerve and muscle-making elements of grains, including the vital salts, phosphate of potash, etc., often lacking in the diet of many, but imperative for bounding good health.

Grape-Nuts is easily digested—comes ready for table directly the germ-proof, moisture- and dust-proof packet is opened. With good milk or cream Grape-Nuts supplies complete nourishment.

A ration of Grape-Nuts each day is a safe play for health, and

"There's a Reason"

—sold by Grocers everywhere.