

THE OBSERVER

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BELITTLING WILSON.

What a grave mistake Republicans are going to make if through the newspapers or on the stump they attempt a campaign to belittle President Wilson.

Many of us want to beat Wilson because we do not agree with certain

principles of government that he believes in, but an attempt to go forth with heavy gun oratory, and screaming editorials against the present chief executive will result just as sure as apple blossoms will bloom in the Grande Ronde valley next May.

There are reasons for this belief. First, the day has passed for that kind of campaigning—the Jim Hains speech will not do in this year of 1916, and fierce criticism coupled with epigrams that carry double meaning have long ago been supplanted with earnest, dignified argument by modern men. Second, President Wilson has within the past fourteen months seen his error on two great questions—one on preparedness and one on a tariff commission. Yet he has been frank and open enough to come out squarely and say he was wrong on those questions.

That kind of a man appeals to many people. He has not been a President that justifies malicious attacks, now by any means, and the orator who indulges in them is going to get the

worst of the deal. There are many things President Wilson believes and advocates where-in people honestly differ with him, and for that reason he is going to be energetically opposed in the coming campaign with the hope of defeating him. But mix on the rough stuff.

"SOLDIER PRESIDENTS."

Lord Northcliffe, the British journalist, resembles some Americans in his estimates of American history. His latest statement concerns the number of "soldier-presidents" the United States has had; he says, indeed, that we had nothing but soldier-president for a quarter of a century after the civil war, and he uses the names of Grant, Garfield, Hayes and Harrison to prove his point, mentioning Hancock and McLellan as unsuccessful presidential candidates.

Of the "soldier-presidents" whom Lord Northcliffe names only one is rightfully given that appellation. Grant was professionally a soldier before he became president, and he remains an illustration to this country of how signally military genius fails in the government of a democracy. Grant was bred to the trade of soldiering from early years, following it for many years before the outbreak of war. He is fully entitled to the name of soldier. He was a soldier and he was elected because he was a soldier.

But Garfield was a college teacher and a lay preacher. He was not trained to arms. He never bore arms until the outbreak of the civil war. Only his natural ability and higher training secured him a command. He was distinctly not a soldier in a professional sense, and even in the midst of his military service he was elected to congress.

Rutherford Hayes was a lawyer until the call to arms came in 1861. Militarism was never his profession. Like hundreds of thousands of others, he dropped his implements of daily labor and went to the field, and there gained promotion. But to call him a "soldier-president" is very misleading, unless the hosts of farmer boys who responded to Abraham Lincoln's call are given the title of "soldier-farmers."

Who ever thought of Benjamin Harrison as a "soldier-president?" He was a lawyer both before and after the war; a lawyer in every mental gift he possessed. He likewise was only a volunteer, untrained to arms, having no predilection to the profession of arms. No one who knew him ever thought of referring to him as "the soldier-president;" the title would have seemed exceedingly incongruous.

Lord Northcliffe might have included the name of Mr. Roosevelt—and while the sage of Sagamore has talked more about soldiering than even General Grant did he has really seen less fighting than any of the so-called "soldier-presidents" did. He, more than all the "soldier-presidents" has a personal affection for the profession of arms; he likes to talk fight; he likes to play with regiments and naval squadrons.

No; Lord Northcliffe quite fails to make his point. Generals who were generals by circumstance and lawyers by choice and profession, were chosen to be presidents of the United States, first, because of their personal ability, which they neither gained, nor enhanced in war, and second, because their civil war service proved their loyalty to their country and helped get votes for them. That was as far as the military idea went in their selection. Naturally, returned soldiers voted heavily, for those candidates who had survived the test of battle and had displayed their loyalty in the face of temptation to copperhead at home. But that the mere fact of soldiery has weighed heavily with our people in selecting their representatives is a mistaken view, amply proved by the defeats of famous generals like Gen. Hancock, Gen. Fremont and Gen. McLellan. Or, if a later example is desired, the indifference and opposition which met the suggestion that Admiral Dewey become a presidential candidate.

Who undertakes to prove that the United States is in any way a militarist nation has a hard row to hoe. Even Abraham Lincoln bore arms for a week or two in the Black Hawk war, but whoever spoke of him as a "soldier-president?" And as for George Washington, who has been eloquently declared as "first in war"—he was a planter first and last, with military and political service sandwiched in as the circumstance of his country indicated.

The little girl who sent a dime to the secretary of navy for a children's battleship fund has received her ten cents back with a nice letter. In addition, she received a valuable amount of national publicity.

BARBARA FRITCHIE AT SHERRY'S



MARY MILES MINTER IN BARBARA FRITCHIE

Little Mary Miles Minter, the youngest star in the world, who played the stellar role in the stage production of "The Littlest Rebel" for three sensational seasons, will be seen on the screen here at the Sherry theatre tomorrow only in "Barbara Fritchie," the big five-part feature picture just produced by Popular Plays and Players for release on the

regular Metro program. This brilliant young star will have the support of an exceptional cast, headed by Mrs. Thomas W. Whiffen, who makes her debut on the screen after more than fifty years of wonderful success on the speaking stage. Guy Coombs, the popular leading man, is another member of the notable cast.

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They will give twice the wear of ordinary kind. These celebrated "Romper" shoes have a special made shoe that will wear as long as two soles on the ordinary shoe—the price may be just a shade higher than the other sort, but in the end the shoe is far cheaper—sizes 5 to 8 priced \$1.75; sizes 8 1-2 to 12 priced \$2.00.

The Excellent "Whites" Safe Tread Shoes for Children

We carry a complete stock of these excellent shoes in all leathers and styles for children. The materials are all high grade and the workmanship superior to many other makes. Sizes 2 1-2 to 8 priced \$1.00 up; sizes 8 1-2 to 11 priced \$1.75 up.

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In sensible nature lasts, Uty and Dunn and Pontiac makes, patents, dull leathers, etc, newest styles—very durable. Sizes 11 1-2 to 2 priced \$2.25 to \$2.75; sizes 2 to 7 priced \$2.75 to \$3.50.

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We feature the well known "P at Cogan" Shoes for boys—a shoe for all kinds of boys, stout soles, good calf uppers, manish shapes—Priced \$2.50 to \$3.50—sizes 13 to 5 1-2.

N. K. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

A Chicago youth, arrested in a drag net for crooks because his garments were too flashy, is discovered to be the long sought heir for \$400,000 which offers the first justification on record for sport clothing.

Several New York scientists will live in a cage in the South African wilds to study the habits of the ape. Why not stay at home and do it comfortably in a cabaret.

They Preferred Death.

British composer—"Three more of my men enlisted this morning, ing."

Editor—"Ah! A wave of patriotism, I suppose?"

Foreman, composer—"Well! Sir! that is the way to put it, but they say they would rather be shot than set any more of your copy."—Passing Show.

ering if they would keep house or live with him.

Obliging

"I hope you are habitually truthful, Norah."
 "I am on my own account, mum. I only tell lies to the callers for the family."—Tit-Bits.

Difficult

A sign in an American barroom reads:
 "Gentlemen shooting at the bar-keeper please try to avoid hitting the mirrors which are the largest in the state and a credit to the town." Tit-Bits.

An Innocent Bystander

Prison visitor—"What terrible crime has this man committed?"
 Jailer—"He has done nothing. He merely happened to be passing when Tough Jim killed a man, and he is being held as a witness."
 "Where is Tough Jim?"
 "He is out on bail."—New York Weekly.

G. L. Larrison went to Baker today on business for the La Grande grocery company.

How It Works

"How masculine Sadie has become in the last few years."
 "Yes, you know she has turned feminist."

A Chance

"Do you think your father will consent to our marriage?"
 "He might. Father is so eccentric."—Buffalo Express.

No Novelty

"Congratulate me Freddy. Last night your sister promised to marry me."
 "Oh, she promised mother she'd marry you long ago."—Life.

The Soft Answer

"How much are your four dollar shoes?" asked the smart one.
 "Two dollars a foot," replied the salesman, wearily.—Judge.