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PUBLICITY FOR SLACKERS

Over in Umatilla county they think they have evolved one plan for dealing with the slacker in the forthcoming loan drive. All the newspaper publishers of the county held a meeting at Pendleton and resolved that they would publish the names of all the "yellow card people." This yellow card is the one that the committee is to use as an index of the names of those who can do something for the loan drive, but will not.

The plan is all right if there is absolute assurance that the committee is on the safe side in making the reports. Manifestly no deeper injustice could be done a person than that of having him on the yellow list through some error or misjudgment of what he may be capable of doing in the way of financial aid. There are people in this county—not many of them—who cannot much more than supply themselves with flour and its substitutes, but who are working almost every daylight hour to help in the war. And all such people are just such ones as would buy bonds to the limit if they could.

But it will be straight ostracism for those who try to evade their just share of the work and publicity in the keenest weapon that can be employed to hold the line of patriotism in bond buying.

The chap who thinks he will be able to get by through some pretense that the war is unjust or that it isn't handled just right, or that it should have been submitted to a referendum or some other pretext to evade his part of the burden might as well begin folding his tent. And after he gets it folded he will still be little less than a despicable wanderer without home or friends.

WHAT OF THE DRAFT?

If the time comes—which it may be fervently hoped all will be spared to see—if the time comes when any considerable number of Americans fall in battle in France, there will not be much further use for the selective draft. The work of selection will be more in the way of exclusion of the excess of applications for enlistments than for the purpose of getting men to fill the ranks in the fighting machine.

That same feeling which inspired the enlistments at Elgin a couple of weeks ago, would not be confined to any locality, but would spread like wild fire throughout the entire country.

In just that one important particular the German calculation has been wholly at variance with the fundamental instincts of humanity. The more fierce the German attempt at terrorism the more certain and intense will be the retaliatory

spirit. In the ordinary course of affairs the natural instinct is to avoid danger, but the just sense and inspiration of what is right is unafraid. To the moral sense there is no terror.

After the Tuscania incident a German paper is quoted to the effect that the torpedoing would have a dampening effect on the American people. Eight boys of Elgin steam-rolled that idea in the dust.

The whole German system from the submarine menace to the attempted chicanery in Mexico and Japan and the espionage throughout the United States have all tended to weaken instead of strengthen the German idea of terrorism. The more America becomes aroused the more spontaneous will be the response and the more other young fellows will be found in the waiting line, not only ready but anxious to do their part in crushing the military monster.

ANOTHER AFTER THE WAR NEED.

Months ago the government appointed a commission, headed by Colonel House, to collect information with a view to the inevitable peace conference. That is only one item. Sensible people and governments everywhere are looking forward to the peace that must some time come and are making various preparations for it.

One particular preparation our Government should undertake early. Whenever war ends, taxes are going to assume a new importance everywhere, even in the United States. If peace came tomorrow we should have a national debt of at least ten billions when the bills were paid probably more. Interest alone would amount to half the total Federal revenue before the war. There must be provision looking to the ultimate redemption or reduction of the debt.

Congress, with six months' effort, made a great muddle of its so-called war-taxes. The acts overlap, are confused, ambiguous, and in certain respects are based on thoroughly bad principles. Every capable critic recognizes their manifold defects.

No tax bill ever framed by Congress met the requirements of the case in a scientific way. Any tax bill framed by Congress is sure to be a broth more or less spoiled by four hundred amateur cooks, all with a main view to politics.

There ought to be a committee of experts to study the whole subject afresh and lay down the principle for a scheme of taxation that will produce what revenue the Government needs, with the least burden to the public and the least inequality. It should stay on the job until an act has been drawn in clear, intelligible language.—Saturday Evening Post.

The supply of substitutes for flour is to be augmented by the shipment into the northwest from the middle west, of fourteen carloads of corn meal a week. It remains to be seen how heavy a graft the speculators will be allowed to take off. In Chicago corn is only about half the price of wheat, but in the northwest corn meal is sold for nearly twice what flour brings. Someone surely has a snap.—Capital Journal.

We are waiting to hear Germany say that she invaded Russia to protect the Bolsheviks from Japan.—St. Louis Star.

The Germans continue to indicate that in their opinion a footless peace would be a bootless peace.—Omaha World-Herald.

FRIENDLY CHAT

About Men, Events and Things in General that Affect the Welfare of Oregon and Oregonians.

By Bruce Dennis.

After all, sometimes it takes a sharp spur to make men work. Not very long ago, Mayor Hurley, of Astoria, who is in Washington trying to induce congress to locate a few of the war stations, to be placed on the Pacific coast, in Oregon, wrote of the Oregon delegation in congress just as he felt claiming that laziness had taken them over and that Oregon was practically without representation.

His article may have been a little strong but nevertheless the Oregon delegation has been dusting around quite a little since that article came out.

It was Mayor Hurley's contention that this state will continue to sit back and see Washington and California get everything that the federal government wishes to place on the Pacific coast unless our boys in congress awaken themselves and begin doing something. He hit one very vital point and that is the continuous "letter writing" engaged by the delegation. At one time in Washington it was very proper to address a letter to a department when a congressman or senator wanted something for his state or district, but that date has long since passed and the congressman who gets things nowadays goes to the department and fights it out with the official in charge.

That is the very thing that made Charley Curtis a big congressman and finally made him senator from a middle western state. He never trusted to letter writing for he was a live one, and his visits to the different departments not only got results at the time but cultivated a friendship with officials, which brought him many things later.

No one blames Chamberlain for not vigorously prosecuting Oregon's rights in federal matters for Senator Chamberlain is of national size and his time is taken up with the big affairs of the nation, outlining its policies and studying international questions. But Oregon's lack of consideration by Washington, D.C., is certainly a reflection on our Congressmen. Senator McNary, while jumping into the newspapers very often, like the patter of rain on the roof, plainly is ineffective, and it is doubtful if half the senate chamber really knows his is in Washington.

When a state such as Oregon can and does produce the things needed for war and yet not a plant is permitted to be located within her borders to work up the material there is a weakness in the delegation somewhere. For instance, our tremendous spruce production seemed to demand a cutting up plant to be installed by the federal government. What was done? After much parleying the plant was located in the state of Washington and Oregon spruce logs are towed up the Columbia River to the mill on the Washington side.

Bear in mind that this state has no cantonment, no barracks of consequence, no aviation grounds, in fact one of those things which this war has forced the nation to provide.

The reader may say: "Well, this is no time to kick." And we want it distinctly understood that we are not kicking at the President nor the cabinet nor the administration in a general way, but we do claim if Oregon's delegation was more alert and was willing to go after things in the same manner that the delegation from Washington state does, or the California delegation does results would be different.

Also keep in mind that Oregon has more than done her part in every war undertaking the nation has asked of us. Compare Oregon's record in war work with that of the southern states, then compare the federal undertakings placed in the south with the nothingness placed in Oregon, and if you are loyal to

your state, you will agree with us that it is time some member of the Oregon delegation tore his shirt.

We see much about what the delegation is going to do; that so-and-so will call on some high official to see if something can't be done, but the whole matters drops at that.

That has been Mr. McNary's unfortunate record. He has been profuse with his press notices telling what he was going to do, yet everything in the way of taking care of Oregon, even on the price fixing, has caused a delegation of citizens to leave their homes and their business and journey to the capital to get it done. The congressional delegation did not do it, Mr. McNary did not do it. He merely sputtered and palavered on what he was going to do.

The time is near at hand when the people are undoubtedly going to say to the boys who are in congress from Oregon: "Why don't you do something; give us less talk about what you are going to do and let us see results."

If a private individual would send men to do two jobs of ten minutes each in the same room and jobs that could be done by either man sent, you would say that individual was a child of the idle rich and wished to spend money just for the sake of spending it.

Yet the state of Oregon sends out M. H. Allen, state deputy from old Mr. Hoff's office to inspect motors, shafts and pulleys, and in a few days out comes Mr. Johnson from the Accident Commission to check up the pay rolls. Two state employes covering the same territory, doing what one man could do. The salary of either of the boys is not abnormal, for state employes don't get rich off their jobs, but the salary is that much and besides there is the expense account, all of which added to salaries figures up to a tidy sum each month.

And during this particular time, Mr. Dalzell is seeking the labor commissioner's office and Mr. Hoff is making his campaign for state treasurer.

Say, when you think it all over it would be amusing were it not for the financial end, which has to be borne by the public in some manner and form.

At any rate this is a fine example of Tom Scroggin's committee to wrestle with, for Tom has a committee to solve the problem of state economy.

Not long ago, the practical joke came back in Enterprise and the practical joker set the town in a whirl for a few days "talking it over." The Moose lodge in that city was in session when the usual burlesque was pulled in order to liven things up. It all went well and the chap who was designated to furnish the fun for the occasion pretended to be intoxicated with a "red ink" jag. He pretended to have reached the sullen state and soon left the lodge room amidst the laughter of all. But presently he returned with a "smoke pole" of considerable length, and issued a challenge to everyone who had taken part in the burlesque. He took a few shots at the ceiling as a starter. Good, healthy Moose members did some very amusing acrobatic stunts, according to reports. One brave fellow jumped high in the air and fell sprawling on the floor, but upon seeing the piano rolled behind it. Another Moose assumed a kneeling posture with his hands lifted upward as if in supplication; several members dashed through the windows carry glass and cash with them. It was left to an Innaha buckaroo to spring upon the man with a gun and disarm him. After the herd of Moose had been rounded up and assurance given that not even an antler had been erected it was learned definitely that the young man was perfectly sober, that he was shooting blank cartridges, but that he was undoubtedly getting even with the bunch

that forced him through a burlesque initiation.

The man who asserts that he will eat nothing but white bread and will not abide by government regulations is the man who is causing good people to reach the frame of mind to demand the bread card from the government and ask that the sheriff of each county attend to the enforcement of the regulations.



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