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WHAT WAS THE CAUSE?
 We hear much about German "kultur," and an occasional note of protest of the German people who are called on to make appalling sacrifices of life, while the higher-ups, the Kaiser's sons and the like are in comparative safety and comfort—and many other matters pertaining to the general hideousness of the whole German military program.

There is just one thing about this war that has never been explained. What was the cause of the German declaration of war in the first place? Has there ever at any time been a concrete, direct and intelligible statement as to what was the German grievance?

It was not the murder of the prince. That affair took place in June, 1914. The German plans for mobilization of war and industrial resources was begun in January of that year.

Was it fear of an impending invasion of Germany by the military powers of France, Belgium or England?

That is hardly a possibility, as all these nations were wholly unprepared when the invasion came.

What are the purposes of the other nations engaged against Germany?

Belgium resented the passing of the German forces through her territory, not only within her rights as a nation, but also because she was supposedly protected by a treaty which recognized Belgium as neutral territory. France necessarily is in the war to protect her own country and people from a foreign foe. England came into the fray as a protest against unjust spoliation of Belgium and because she was secretly bound as one of the parties to the compact which was to give Belgium immunity

from being crushed by a stronger foe. The United States came into the war because of the murder of her people on the high seas, primarily, but more pronouncedly and openly for the purpose of ridding the world of military tyranny.

You don't get any statement of any kind from German sources as to what they are fighting for. After the war had made some progress the plea was put up that the scrap is in defense of the "Fatherland." That seems a little far-fetched, when there is not a hostile foe on Germany territory or in German waters, and never had been or proposed to be.

In the absence of any clear statement or reasonable inference to the contrary the German object is world domination through what they think is an indomitable and forty-year's matured military machine. It looks like the German militarists were crazy to fight because they believe themselves superhuman and could get away with it.

OREGON'S HONOR FLAG.

With deep and fervent pride the people of Oregon bow their heads in modest appreciation of the Honor flag presented by the nation to our state for being first to over-subscribe our Liberty Loan allotment. It is good to be an Oregonian, provided one has taken part and helped in the great work.

This brings to mind the many things of a patriotic nature which Oregon has led in. It brings to mind the true blue patriotism which this state is imbued with, and it should bring the attention of Washington, D. C., to a state that has given everything asked of her and received little recognition in return.

Oregon people do not hold this lack of recognition to quibble over, but they cannot help notice that the great expenditures were all being made on the Pacific coast in sister states until righteously indignant citizens journeyed to Washington and camped in the different departments. Since then we have had some ships to build, some aprons to cut, but even now the ledger is far from being balanced.

EXASPERATING.

Why will congressmen and senators haggle over giving the President power in different lines of work during the war?

The President is naturally our sole leader in time of war. He may choose his advisors but in the last analysis he speaks and acts for all of us.

This being true, it looks like the sheerest kind of petty politics to raise a rumpus over "too much" power being granted the chief executive.

We say grant the President absolute power at this time—give him every encouragement and assistance that it is possible to render. Let nothing be thrown in his path that even resembles an obstacle.

That, in our judgment, is the only way to fight a war. If, in due course, after sufficient trial has been given, we are not then properly led, it is sufficient time to talk about a change. But at the present moment use every effort

to help the administration. In other words, be an American.

TO BE USED WITH CAUTION.

(The Oregonian.)
 The Illinois (Collinsville) fashion is to hang offensive pro-Germans through mob-action.

The Oregon (La Grande) method is to inflict upon slackers the coercive and deadly stamp of public denunciation. Doubtless it will be called moral crucifixion. We think it is. But it has a different motive, a different method and an entirely different result from the lawless and thoughtless act of the frenzied mob which chokes its victim to death.

The one is deliberate, open, orderly, informed; the other, violent, meretricious, unjust, unfair and subversive of all order and decency.

The one punishes by the moral power of public opinion. The other takes vengeance by the brutal weapon of the assassin.

Sixty citizens subscribed their names to the proclamation against the slackers at La Grande. The darkness and stealth of midnight covered the names and the faces of the Collinsville lynchers.

If the sixty at La Grande are wrong, their victims have the remedy of law. If the perpetrators of the Collinsville act are wrong—and they are, whether or not Praeger was a pro-German or a spy, or both—the law will take a hand; but it is too late to restore life and safety to Praeger.

The La Grande way is never, and it cannot be unreservedly commended. But it will be salutary in cases where slackhood is notorious, offensive and defiant.

This government had "more" than 100,000 men ready to put in the front line trenches on the western front last week. By August Uncle Sam will make it 1,000,000. Then you will see Germany asking for peace, says an Eastern exchange.

That much-advertized west front drive of the Germans has been stopped, and the program of Hindenburg was foiled, observes a Minnesota paper. He must have been busy explaining to his war correspondent guests, whom he had invited to witness his triumphal entry into Paris, why he didn't succeed, and why he lost 400,000 men.

CONTRACT AWARDED FOR BIG ELEVATOR

WALLOWA COUNTY HAS DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE—SUNDAY SCHOOL TO HAVE CHILDREN'S DAY—OPERETTA IS SUCCESS.

JOSEPH, April 15.—(Special).—A light snow accompanied by a cold snap arrived the last of the week, making it seem quite wintry again after our period of fine weather.

E. A. Shanafelt and family have moved out to the D. K. Mitchell ranch, where Mr. Shanafelt is manager of the dairy.

Mrs. L. A. Cook left Friday of last week for Spokane, where she will visit relatives for a few weeks. Jack Hamilton and wife left Saturday for outside points, where Mr. Hamilton will engage in the shoe-making trade.

E. M. Calvert, formerly of the dispatcher's office in La Grande, has been appointed station agent for Joseph, W. P. Trumbull, former agent, having resigned. Mr. Trumbull has gone to his farm on O. K. Gulch, where he will help the government by raising grain.

Hugh Wilson has installed several milking machines in his dairy just north of Joseph. Mr. Wilson's dairy barn is one of the best equipped in the state, and is receiving many improvements from time to time.

John Egenberger went to La Grande last Friday, where he accepted his old position as a printer in the mechanical department of the Observer. Mr. Egenberger is manager of the Wallowa Lake Amusement Company's park at the head of the lake.

Last Friday afternoon, the best matinee crowd ever assembled in Joseph enjoyed the clever photoplay "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm." The play was well liked by all who saw it. The people in the H. S. Operetta wish to thank Mr. Hornby for holding his show in the afternoon and for the use of his chairs, both being a great accommodation to the school.

Men. Chas. Hornor of Butte Creek is seriously ill. Dr. Albert Mount is in attendance.

John Baxter is having his ranch surveyed.

The Joseph Home Guard, under the direction of Capt. McClain and Roy McCully train each Thursday night at Roup's Hall. About 50 men are now enrolled and last Thursday night nearly one hundred



THE BOY
 Now is the best time to clothe the boy. Clothing for fall will be 25 per cent higher than now, and you will find many wool substitutes used.
New Trench Hats for Boys, \$1.50
 You need good, heavy Wool Clothing for the boy—if he's going to school; cotton mixed clothes don't wear long, and you pay more for them than their actual worth. Come in and let us show you some real values in boys' clothing.

Returns Guaranteed
 There was once a farmer who said to himself, "My neighbor paid too much for his cultivator. I can buy one for \$5.00 less"—and he did.
 Two years later he had to buy a new cultivator, for the cheap one didn't last; the neighbor was still using his old one.
 You can do the same thing in clothes. You can buy \$5.00 or \$10.00 cheaper than ours anywhere—the materials and tailoring are even cheaper than the price.—But, if you want clothes that last, that will be serving you when the cheaper ones are worn out, pay a few dollars more and get clothes that will wear twice as long.
WHEN YOU PUT YOUR MONEY INTO THESE CLOTHES YOUR RETURNS ARE GUARANTEED.

West & Co.
 THE HOME OF HART SCHAFFNER & MARX CLOTHES

NEW MERTON CLOTH HATS
 A cloth hat that is a real hat—no camouflage about them. They keep their shape and will last as long as the season.
 These are in green, grey, army, and green and white checked.
 Price \$4.00 and \$5.00
 Also a cheaper line of cloth hats, in greys and light colors.
 Price \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50

were at the drill, most of whom will be enrolled soon. Application will be made to the state for guns and uniforms. Next Thursday night the manual of arms will be learned.

T. H. Morelock returned the other day from a business trip to Portland.

Despite the bad day a goodly number were at Sunday school last Sunday, in fact more were there than were the Sunday before, which was a fine day.

Gerald Sampson was hurt quite badly when he cut his foot with an axe recently.

The M. E. Sunday School plans to hold quite elaborate "Children's Day Exercises" some time in June. Mrs. J. Rennie suffered severe cuts and bruises about the head recently when she slipped through a hole in an Enterprise sidewalk recently. Her glasses broke when she fell cutting her in the face.

According to a letter received by the Joseph Committee the dates for the Joseph Chautauqua for 1918 will be June 24-29. The Ellison White people inform us that this year's chautauqua will be even better than the one last year. Here are a few numbers which will appear here this year: "Kaffir Boys' Choir from Darkest Africa; new costume lecture by Julius Caesar Nayphe; Dr. Y. Minakuchi, Japanese statesman; Ladies' Symphony Orchestra; several war lectures.

Fishing is still good, preceding the rise in the river, which is expected to occur in a week or two, when the snow starts to melt in the mountains.

S. L. Burnaugh, who owns a large share of the Joseph Drug Company's Store has decided to de-

clare himself a candidate for Joint Representative from the 24th district on the Democratic ticket. Mr. Burnaugh has many friends throughout the district, which includes Union and Wallowa county, he being a heavy taxpayer in both counties. Mr. Burnaugh was born and raised in Union County and has lived for a good many years in Enterprise. It is expected that he will receive good support.

On Wednesday of this week, R. J. Green, referee in bankruptcy, held a meeting of the creditors of N. Halsey, in Enterprise to declare the first dividend.

The contract for the Joseph Elevator was let to the General Engineering Company of Seattle.

Ellis Marr has purchased the Joseph Dray Line from Lenard Mammack.

Miss Grace Caviness has accepted a position as assistant operator in the Joseph Telephone Exchange.

Jack Horan's smiling face was seen in our city last week. Jack is on an electioneering tour for Gov. Withycombe.

Irvine Johnson and James Marlin were up from Enterprise for a few hours last week.

Miss Nell Naylor, a methodist missionary to India, who is home for a short vacation, spoke to a goodly number of people at the Little Stone Church last Sunday morning on her work in India. Miss Naylor is a sister of Mrs. Lyon of Upper Prairie Creek.

E. R. Wright of Baker City, was
 (Continued on Page Six.)

He Can Rest Fine Now.
 "I suffered greatly from kidney and bladder trouble," writes F. B.

Chase & Sanborn's Seal Brand Coffee

We have been allowed a special advertising allowance by Chase & Sanborn on their high grade Seal Brand Coffee, and we are going to give the customer the benefit of this allowance, by selling Seal Brand for 40 cents per pound, instead of 45 cents, which has always been the regular price. Our guarantee goes with each pound and we want you to return the empty cans and get your money back if you are not pleased. We have sold this famous brand of Coffee for over 10 years and know it is the best.

PHONE MAIN 43

J. G. Snodgrass

Fairbank, 55 Grand River Ave., W. Detroit, Mich., "Had to get up six or seven times during the night. Foley Kidney Pills have worked wonders and I can recommend them as the best medicine I have ever taken." This sterling family remedy relieves rheumatic pains, backache, stiff joints, sore muscles, and other ills attributed to kidney trouble. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

NOTICE

I WILL DISCONTINUE MY TAXI BUSINESS AT THE SOMMER HOTEL AFTER APRIL 16, BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN DRAFTED INTO THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

CLIFFORD GEORGE

Adv.4-16-18tpd.

Mr. Grain Farmer:

Are you prepared to handle your grain in bulk? Do not wait until Spring and Summer when you are buried with work and worried with labor shortage, but build your granaries now.

You can buy the lumber and roofing paper for a first-class 1900 bushel portable granary for \$44.58 and it will last for years. Sacks for the same amount of grain will cost you \$125.00 and this would be a dead loss against this year's crop.

A granary of this size can be moved anywhere and can be filled directly from the thresher, doing away with high priced labor handling and sewing sacks.

The boys in the trenches need the sacks for sand bags for the protection of their very lives and perhaps your boy is among them.

Spend your money in your own valley by buying lumber manufactured at home. When you buy sacks part of the money goes to India.

BUILD YOUR GRANARIES NOW

Be prepared by building them before the farming season opens up. Be sure to get good lumber, well seasoned, as low grade lumber will give you trouble in a few seasons. Don't use green lumber.

Save money—keep what you spend at home—prevent loss and damage from exposure to weather—leave the sacks for our boys in the trenches; help win the war by building granaries now.

Portable granaries of this type are universally used in other sections. One trip with a good team will haul the material for one granary. For particulars as well as prices on Union County lumber for all farm purposes, see

The George Palmer Lumber Co.
 LA GRANDE, OREGON

OIL BURNERS

Your wood is gone, the summer is here, that oil burner that you have longed for is ready to install in your Range—FREE TRAIL and guarantee cover your dollars.

Furniture Exchange

Fir and Jefferson E. J. DONOHUE Black 1241
 Best Prices Paid for Used Furniture

Your Evening of Life

Did you ever stop to think how you will spend the evening of your life?

What is a more deplorable sight than an aged person struggling for a mere existence; battling against great odds, fighting the cold icy blasts of winter, and the scorching rays of the summer sun; with a worn out, broken-down constitution.

STOP AND THINK IT OVER

Think how you and your loved ones will spend the evening of your life. There is one sure way to avoid being one of the vast army of unkempt, in your declining years, and you can do this too: Start a bank account today, and add to it little by little, and you will not be on the mercy of the public in your declining years.

Why not commence today?

Member Federal Reserve System

La Grande National Bank
 LA GRANDE, OREGON