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The Greatest Mother in the World Join the Red Cross All You Need is a Heart and a Dollar

Our Boys Building Roads—Think Again.

We have all joined in the honest exultation that the flower of manhood went to the service; that the boys and men worth while were with the colors—all of which is absolutely true.

They left their drug stores, their department stores, their law offices, their farms, their newspapers, their sawmills, etc. It is no fault of theirs the war did not continue for five years, giving all a chance to fight—they were there for that purpose, which is sufficient.

Now they are our heroes, as they should be. Now, they are first in our thoughts because they are the fighting force that saved the nation and the world. When the boats land and the bands play they will be worshiped as they step onto the soil of U. S. A.

And yet, there are some home bodies who are planning now a big road building program for the soldier boys as soon as they get back. These home bodies talk about putting so many thousand soldiers to work in one place and so many in another—a good deal like Texas farms out her convicts for highway construction.

It's all silly and weak. American soldiers are not going to be put to building roads at home for some time to come, if ever. They are not road builders at home—they can and do build them in war time for war purposes, but these boys, the best we have, are not going out on our highways and work with pick and shovel—not now.

We suppose the La Grande hospital unit, when it arrives home, will be immediately told there is a paved road to build from La Grande to Hot Lake and they are wanted for that purpose. They will be told that the fellows who stayed at home when the call came for men will drive out in their machines and give them while they work to build permanent highways for the public.

That would be a fine picture to paint for the mothers and fathers of the fighting men of this land. Let us turn the thing around for this is the way it should shake out: Every soldier, the moment he returns and is ready for employment, should be given

his old job back to him, no matter who it displaces. Then when the roads and highways are to be built, let the engineering end and the bosses on the job be soldiers who have served in that capacity in the army, for they will know what they are doing. Let the fellows who hid behind different and various objects to keep from going to the war be ordered to the highways and their places in ordinary life be filled by soldiers who served with the colors.

But don't think seriously about the American soldier being ordered out to do highway construction for some time to come, at least.

The Large Minority in the Legislature.

Seymour Jones of Marion county has been chosen speaker of the next house of representatives. That is, he has been so considered by a majority of the members of the house and therefore he will be speaker. He defeated Denton Burdick of Eastern Oregon, and the whole legislative bunch from east of the mountains is left in the minority for the next session. Sometimes this is fatal to legislation for a strong minority will clash with the majority until there is nothing to the session but clash. This year it is not believed such a condition will follow, even though the minority is very large and healthy. It is thought that Speaker Jones will show his appreciation of the entire state to a point where he will at least give suitable recognition to the boys from east of the mountains, even though they did not support him for speaker.

The Evening Observer mentions this now to impress upon any one who may have influence with any member of the next session to urge harmony and single purpose of the body. There is much to do and the Willamette valley boys, although in a big working majority, will find that Eastern Oregon is of some consequence and is of great help if they will but take off the big odds in favor of the valley and let the bunch grass fellows play on an even break.

It Was at Frightful Cost.

There is at least a small bit of consolation that the end of the casualty lists is practically in sight. The Observer's news report the other day said that the total of casualties would be reported within a week or such a matter.

A returned soldier at Pendleton is quoted as saying that the people little realize the extent of the losses

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that were sustained by the American armies when they began the drive on the Hun. This may well be believed.

As the veil is lifted in Europe we can see how tremendous were the achievements of the allied armies in the immortal 119 days from July 15, the date of the last German drive, to November 11, when Germany admitted defeat. If valor in battle be the supreme test of manhood, then the losses as the victories tell that the race has grown.

An English authority estimates our casualties in the Argonne-Meuse battle, by far the greatest ever fought by American armies under American command, at 160,000, eight times those of the Germans at Gravelotte, and the figures now coming in indicate that he is approximately correct. This gives us a loss of about 20 per cent. At Gettysburg, the losses of the two armies were 48,000, or 30 per cent., but when the battle there was over, north and south alike were exhausted. At the Meuse the Americans were ready to fight the next hour

but there was nobody to fight.

When our marines were thrown across the path of the Germans after they had come down from the Aisne and the Vesle and were driving a spear-head toward Paris, less than forty miles away, they had more than 4000 casualties out of 8000 engaged, but they never yielded an inch. At the second Marne the 38th regiment, regulars, held off five times its number, despite enormous losses. In this battle, one of the most dramatic and important in the world's history, we had, according to Pershing's report, 300,000 men, about as many as the allied armies at Leipzig, or at least 60 per cent. more than all the armies at Waterloo.

Quarantine Honestly Enforced Should Help.

Some time ago there was a plan set on foot to quarantine all cases of the prevailing epidemic. It was easy to say "We will quarantine," but

it is much harder to enforce such a remark. To hunt out the cases which have not been reported is a big job, and to arrange all quarantine orders, procure the flags and cards and personally visit each home, as the health officer or deputy must do, is an undertaking that seems small, yet it is large.

But whatever the size of the job, whatever the expense of the work, let La Grande try it out. It will act as a break on the public mind, at least, and may accomplish good results.

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