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"My Country 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty."

Let the Canteen Ladies Feel Happy.

Yesterday the writer rode on an O-W train for quite a distance with a bunch of soldiers and sailors. When the train stopped in La Grande the boys were served by the Red Cross Canteen ladies and happy men they were as they took their seats in the coaches to resume their journey.

Here are some of the remarks they made:

"That outcaneens the canteens—that's the best one yet."

"Those ladies looked just like they were feeding us guys before they wanted to. They did not act like they were on duty, but they seemed to be pleased all the time."

"I'll bet we don't get another such a layout on the whole trip."

"Say, Dick, I must remember this town, for if ever I come back west I'm going to take a stop over here."

And so the conversations ran. The Canteen was the one subject and the way the ladies took care of the boys made a dent in every heart.

It gave a new slant to the Red Cross for a citizen of La Grande to sit among a bunch of the boys and they, wholly unaware of his presence, hearing the nice things said of La Grande women and the great service which the canteen is rendering to those who wear the uniform.

Peace on Earth; Good Will to Men.

When some soldier coined the expression, "Out of the trenches by Christmas," few of us thought it was possible. Then came the climax, the breaking up of Germany, the deterioration of the kaiser and the general slump which finally fell in a heap and prevented the capture of the Teuton army, which would have been by far the greatest military event that the world had ever seen.

But why revise the gloomy newspaper? Why plunge into the vale of blood and tears at this moment? For the church bells are ready to ring in a merry, merry Christmas throughout the universe. Tomorrow morning the chiming will be sweeter than they ever have been before; tomorrow a world at peace will arise with the snow birds to witness the dawn of a perfect Christmas—a Christmas that will follow the death struggle, a revised Christian people who believe more firmly than ever that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God; who believe that goodness and truth are the way through the road to peace and that the price of climbing the hill of right thinking and virtue is small compared with the glory of the achievement.

Tomorrow will be a Christmas day crowned with justice and liberty—a day that marks the dawn of a new era. It will be a day that will weld the great world peace nations into one kin, one brotherhood.

Then let us not let the night prevail on the morrow—that Jesus Christ, whose

birth we commemorate, remains the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and that God in His mercy is the same good God that has saved us all repeatedly and will be with us if we but do our part in a feeble but earnest way.

Number of Aliens in America Is Surprising.

It is announced by the bureau of naturalization of the United States department of labor, that there are 17,500,000 alien-born people in this country, nearly 12,000,000 of whom still retain their foreign allegiance; and that of this number New York City has 500,000 people, of about 100 different nationalities, who can neither read, write nor speak the English language.

Before the war but little attention was paid to the fact that, notwithstanding our often-repeated boast that America was the "melting pot" of the world, in reality this so-called melting process had but little effect upon the millions of foreigners who flocked to our shores. The majority of them not only continued to speak their native languages, but also proceeded to set up, throughout the country, little Germanys, Italys, Austrias, Chinas, and other countries of their own, and continued to live, think, act and feel allegiance to their foreign sovereigns. During the war period, however, as a result of the vicious and disastrous war propaganda of the millions of foreigners here, the American government and people awakened to the fact that something more than mere talk and braggadocio is necessary in order to make America a place to which the peoples of the world may—subject of course to reasonable restrictions—come as a refuge from oppression, and be molded into a type of manhood and womanhood worthy of the emulation of all mankind; and, now that the war is ended, the American people cannot turn too quickly nor too vigorously and persistently to the task of making our vision of what America should be in this respect come true.

Fortunately—because of the impossibility of making soldiers of the many thousands of alien-language speaking Americans drawn into our army by the draft without first teaching them the English language—extensive movements have recently been initiated for the Americanization of drafted men, and excellent results accomplished; however, the progress thus far made can be regarded as but the first step in an undertaking which should be comprehensive enough to cover the complete Americanization, not only of all of our male citizens of draft age but also every man, woman and child, whether naturalized or not, who lives permanently in this country and accepts the benefits of our social, business, educational and governmental institutions.

In this connection we quote the following extracts from a statement recently issued by our national bureau of naturalization, with reference to Americanization work heretofore instituted.

"Thus far the service has been barely scratched, for less than two per cent of the aliens in this country have applied for citizenship instruction. The Americanization of the other ninety-eight per cent is the almost herculean task the bureau of naturalization faces. The aid of every resident must be enlisted . . . in the work if it is to be effective.

"Employers of aliens can aid in the work by having their workmen, particularly those who are deficient in their knowledge of English or of

American institutions, enter the evening citizenship classes at once. Those who have foreign-born friends or acquaintances who are not thoroughly naturalized can see to it that they throw off the foreign influence by urging them, in a friendly manner, to enroll in one of the classes."

Let Us Keep Our End Up.

The news from Portland containing a summary of the membership drive prospects for the state is rather depressing as far as the state of Oregon goes, but that should be no hindrance to putting forth the last final efforts and keep the La Grande chapter at the top. The report from Portland hints that if the required membership subscription in the state is not reached, another campaign for funds will be necessary. That is another reason why this district must not fall down. If Union and Walla Walla counties furnish a clean record this part of Oregon will not be included in the call for subscriptions in cash and this will not only keep the local standing up to a hundred per cent, but will also help redeem the balance of the state.

It is scarcely possible to believe that there will be failure, as everyone knows that this is the wrong time to desert the boys who have stood on the firing line, or at least have been ready to answer every call without a question. They must be taken care of through the Red Cross as far as the help of that organization may be required.

It will not be long until the demands will be no longer required, but until that time comes it behooves all to stick on the home firing line, just as the boys have done for us in the great conflict over there.

Federal Taxes Now Occupy Attention of All.

The majority report of the senate finance committee which was completed December 9th is of particular interest to taxpayers. The report indicates that approximately \$6,000,000,000 will be raised for the year 1919 by the war revenue bill, which bill also stipulates that the maximum federal tax for 1920 will be \$4,000,000,000. In explanation of the provision regarding the \$4,000,000,000 tax limit for 1920, Mr. Simmons, chairman of the senate finance committee, makes the following statement:

"The committee was of the opinion that provision should be made in the present bill for the termination after 1919, of the war profits tax and for the reduction of the excess profits tax. The country has a right to know how soon and in what degree the burden of war taxes can prudently be reduced. During this period of reconstruction, however, business (particularly new business) is entitled to go forward without the burden of an

88 per cent tax upon profits. In times of peace the exigency of an 80 per cent profit tax would be a positive evil for the perpetuation of continuance of which no sufficient reason has or could be given.

"For the year 1920, therefore, the committee recommends that the war profit tax on bracket be abolished; and that the rates of the excess profits tax be substantially lowered; and that the rate of normal tax be reduced by one-third; i. e., in the case of corporations from 12 per cent to 8 per cent and in cases of individuals from 15 and 6 per cent to 8 and 4 per cent. It is estimated that these changes would reduce the revenue for 1920 as compared with 1919 by approximately \$1,400,000,000 and that there would be a net reduction from other miscellaneous sources of about \$500,000,000 attributable chiefly to shrinkage in the yield of beverage taxes. With respect to taxes other than income and profits taxes the committee recommends no change in rates for the fiscal year 1920."

A postoffice department functionary has been before congress asking for an appropriation of eight million dollars for motor trucks to be used in establishing parcel post routes which will reduce the cost of living by enabling the consumer to buy farm products "direct from the producer." We heard an unlimited amount of that kind of talk when the parcel post was established, says the National Republican. But the purpose of the parcel post most talked about has absolutely failed. The service has not been used to any extent for the distribution of foodstuffs direct from the producer to consumer, despite the expenditure of vast sums of money and the adoption of all sorts of devices to bring about this arrangement. Why continue this discredited bunk output? Theoretically the scheme will work; practically it doesn't work at all; wherein it is like a lot of other plans devised in the active imaginations of economic theorists and governmental functionaries.

FORUM

IS COMMENDED.

Editor of Observer: Grant me a little space in which to express my admiration of Father Driscoll's fearless stand in defense of open churches, flun, or no flun. Certainly it would be a good thing for La Grande to have more ministers possessed of Father Driscoll's spirit.

If ever there was a time when Christians ought to go to church to humble themselves before the Lord, it is now. Now is the time to close all places of pleasure, and Sabbath-breaking amusements, and turn to the Lord in sincere repentance and supplication because He is ever merciful and ready to pardon and He will rebuke the scourge which is now abroad in the land.

But to think that we can, by closing the churches and schools and escape the judgments of God is only self-deception. David of old has said truly, "Though we go to the uttermost parts of the earth He is there, or if we make our bed

MAY PEACE

Bring You a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
N. K. West & Co.
THE QUALITY STORE

In hell he can find us."

"I am not a member of Father Driscoll's organization, but am glad that God has made me broad enough to admire and respect any man who can boldly declare himself a firm believer in Jesus Christ, as he did the other night in rebuking the scoffer.

Respectfully,
L. GARRICK.

LITTLE SCRAPS OF FUN

A Beautiful Thought for Today.
Sometimes one who starts out in life with the idea that he is the architect of his own fortunes finds out a good deal later that he merely has been the undertaker of them.

The wife takes a certain kind of pride, delights to an extent in her martyrdom, when she has a husband who is "hard to get along with," for she is always assured of the sympathy of other women whose husbands are the same way—which means about all other women and all other husbands.

When cast down, cast up your good fortunes.

None so blind as they whom prejudice has made sightless.

"Do you fully realize that your little pet cult or belief is merely amusing or irritating to everybody else except you and your crowd? If you must have freak beliefs, keep them a secret and don't bore sensible people with them.

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and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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GREETINGS

To Our Many Friends

and

Patrons

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and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Try Musterole. See How Quickly It Relieves

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