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

To the Top of the World in an Aeroplane.

With the war over, interest in exploration revives. Naturally, the good old North pole comes in for renewed attention. And now the problem of chasing that elusive phantom is immensely simplified. No more dog sleds. No more weary tramping 50 months over rough ice ridges. No more drifting on floes. We might even say no more gum drops and pemmican. Men will fly there in airplanes. It is just as easy as not.

The Aero club of America, made up largely not of imaginative explorer folk, but of hard-headed gas engine experts and aerial engineers, declares after prolonged study that the thing is practicable. Plans are laid for the first dash next summer. A ship will sail to Etah, which might be called the Polar airport. It will carry all necessary supplies, including a few small scouting planes and the large sea plane on which the hopes of the expedition will mainly depend.

Etah is only 600 miles from the top of the world. That is a long distance by land and sea, as Peary, Cook, et al., can testify. The scouting planes will reconnoiter, and when weather conditions are pronounced right the sea plane will soar off northward, with a reasonable expectation of arriving at the goal in a few hours.

Midsummer weather in that region is surprisingly mild. There are said to be six weeks when the temperature averages about 60 degrees above zero. There should be no engine trouble due to cold in that temperature. It will be comfortable and even pleasant for the mapping and other scientific work intended. The sea plane has the advantage of being able to come to rest anywhere, on the snow or on the water, except in a gale; and the North Polar regions seem comparatively free from such fierce storms as prevail around the South pole.

The "Big Nail," of course, has been discovered, and is known to be merely an imaginary point in an uncharted sea. The expedition is meant primarily for the collection of scientific data. But the ordinary citizen cares little about soundings and maps. The venture appeals to the popular mind as a great sporting feat. And one big reason why everybody will await the new undertaking with keen interest is the fact that, if it proves feasible, it will be demonstrated that anybody, at least, anybody who has the nerve to go up in an airplane, and the money to pay his fare, can duplicate the feat. Flying to the Pole may yet become a popular summer sport.

Teaching Germany Her Language Lesson. Less than a year ago an Associated Press dispatch from Berlin reported that the German Language association of Berlin had adopted a resolution that all peace negotiations should be conducted in German.

Fluctuation of Liberty Bond Prices. No other of Liberty bonds need be described by the fact that these securities have been dumped on the market lately in huge quantities and at comparatively low prices.

Will The Influenza Come Back. When one pauses a moment to consider the appalling number of deaths that have already taken place in every part of the world, due to the ravages of Spanish influenza, the thought that this dread disease may continue to cause misery and death among us for two or three years to come is overwhelming. Yet this is not the far-fetched nightmare of the pessimist; it is strictly within the realms of possibility, according to an article in the Literary Digest for January 11, which deals with the prospect of such a continued sweep of the epidemic.

American Boy Scouts Plan Roosevelt Memorial. Nearly half a million members of the Boy Scouts of America have started a movement for a permanent memorial to Theodore Roosevelt which has found instant support and enthusiastic advocacy.

La Grande Labor Should Have Been Represented. The State Federation of Labor has been holding a meeting in Portland that is of considerable consequence.

THE FORUM. The Place Where Everyone Has His Say. REPLIES TO MR. GARRICK. Imbler, Ore., Jan. 6, 1919. To the Editor of the Observer: I would like to answer an article in the Observer of January 6th by L. G. Garrick. He seems to be grieved because the commissioners have closed the churches as well as other places of meeting and congregating.

Shoe Bargains. One lot of Ladies' Black Kid Button Shoes in the best of styles. All sizes. Regular \$5.00 and \$6.00 shoes. Special price \$4.45.

L. J. French Shoe Co. One lot of Ladies' Colored Kid Shoes. Just a few sizes and styles. Values up to \$10.00 Special price, per pair \$4.85.

Ladies' Spats, in light and dark gray shades. Price, per pair \$1.85.

and bond market at present is "weak," but Liberty Bonds are the strongest thing in it.

Naturally, then, as the general market rises, these bonds will rise. A return to normal prosperity is considered certain to send them above par.

This, then, is a time for buying the bonds rather than selling them. Anybody who wanted to buy them surely as a speculation could almost certainly make money on them.

The opportunity is likewise good for the man who buys as a permanent investment. At current prices, the latest issues will bring about four and one-half per cent. Even at par, these bonds would still be a bargain, paying a higher rate of interest than the banks pay, with absolute certainty of interest and principal, and with freedom from the income tax.

Wilhelm's Crimes Coming Home to Roost

During recent riots in Berlin the Kaiser's palace suffered severely from bombardment, and still more from looting. Soldiers and sailors, returned from the war, undertook to help themselves to the royal possessions. They stole the silver and plundered the wardrobes of the former emperor and empress. They carried off great quantities of furs, silks, curtains, furniture and miscellaneous objects of art. Much of the loot was subsequently recovered, but the losses are estimated at nearly \$2,000,000.

Thus we have another striking example of retribution.

Those Hun rascals simply practiced, when they got back to Berlin, what the Berlin government had taught them to do in every foreign land where they set their invading feet.

Apparently, though, the lesson was not learned with entire thoroughness. They do not seem to have slashed the oil paints and smashed the statues on chandeliers and wrecked and defiled the place generally as they did the beautiful chateaux of France. They contented themselves with crude burglary instead of the super-panache taught by their proper former masters.

Still, they did pretty well for Huns a bit rusty from relaxation. And if such conduct will only teach the German nation and the present German government the simple old truth that chickens will come home to roost, more power to them!

American Boy Scouts Plan Roosevelt Memorial. Nearly half a million members of the Boy Scouts of America have started a movement for a permanent memorial to Theodore Roosevelt which has found instant support and enthusiastic advocacy.

The plan is to plant trees in public parks, along public roads, in home plots and in every place where they will be constant reminders to citizens of the great Americans who have passed. Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the American Forestry association, commends the suggestion and urges co-operation of all Americans.

Peculiarly fitting would be such testimonial in the fact that due to Roosevelt is the system of forestry established by the government and which today has developed into an important branch of governmental internal development. In addition is the incalculable of the idea, which should be kept alive in America, of the need of reforestation.

That the plan should be initiated by the Boy Scouts is peculiarly fitting in that Colonel Roosevelt stood for high ideals that can be understood by beyond the world over and because he loved the outdoor life and the sports which should be the environment and form the training for all youth.

Teaching Germany Her Language Lesson. Less than a year ago an Associated Press dispatch from Berlin reported that the German Language association of Berlin had adopted a resolution that all peace negotiations should be conducted in German.

These is no reason to doubt the truth of the report, as it is entirely in keeping with the policy of arrogance which until lately has marked every German deed and utterance. It is especially interesting right now as a point of sharp contrast. If Germany could get any kind of peace terms such as she desires, she would adopt them gratefully whether framed in Chastain or Chinese.

However, whether in victory or defeat, one thing stands out prominently: Germany has never yet considered herself in her true relation to the other nations of the world. Her history was to be won by armistice. Her defeat covers her only as it preserves the destruction of Germany or handicaps the German future.

It is to be hoped that the peace negotiations will be conducted in German in Germany's first language lesson. She has learned that by other nations of the world will not be forced to speak the language of a nation which has

voiced sentiments justly abhorred. Now Germany herself must learn to speak the language of Humanity, which is not of necessity English or French or Italian or any other one tongue, but is the speech of any nation which votes the will of its people to act only in accordance with the good of all things kind.

Will The Influenza Come Back

When one pauses a moment to consider the appalling number of deaths that have already taken place in every part of the world, due to the ravages of Spanish influenza, the thought that this dread disease may continue to cause misery and death among us for two or three years to come is overwhelming. Yet this is not the far-fetched nightmare of the pessimist; it is strictly within the realms of possibility, according to an article in the Literary Digest for January 11, which deals with the prospect of such a continued sweep of the epidemic.

The last great influenza epidemic—that of 1890—continued, in parts of the United States at least, through 1893. That this is the usual history of the disease, and that we must prepare for something of the sort in the present instance, is the belief of Dr. W. A. Evans and Dr. M. O. Heckard, of the Chicago health department; and they fortify their opinion with statistics and diagrams representing health conditions in Chicago during the years in question. The writers remind us at the outset that although the present epidemic began in Europe several months ago, cablegrams informing us of the continued or recurring prevalence of the disease in England, France and Germany are received from day to day. This prompts their inquiry into the history of past epidemics of the disease with a view to determining what we may expect in the next few years. They write in The American Journal of Public Health (Boston, November):

"Hirsch's 'Handbook of Historical and Geographical Pathology' records almost one hundred epidemics occurring in the eight hundred years prior to 1889. It is clearly set forth that practically each of these epidemics lasted longer than one year, or else recurred several times during the course of two or more years. Consideration of this fact led us to study the record of the pandemic of 1889-92 as it exhibited itself in Chicago. The material for the study was found in the yearly reports of the Chicago health department for the years 1888 to 1894 inclusive.

In 1889 Dr. S. Wickersham, health commissioner, said in his annual report: 'Influenza, beginning in our city early in January, reached its height the last week in January, at which time my belief is that over 100,000 of our citizens were sufferers from that cause alone. It continued to prevail during February, March and April in a modified degree. Its duration was about four months. In the week having the highest mortality there were 694 deaths.'

In 1891 the disease recurred, for we find J. D. Ware, then health commissioner, saying in his annual report: 'During March and April there were 3,400 deaths in each month largely due to pneumonia and influenza, which seemed to be epidemic.'

No mention is made of influenza in the annual reports of 1892-93, but Dr. A. R. Reynolds, health commissioner at that time, tells us that the disease prevailed as late as 1893. 'The influenza bacillus was not discovered until the epidemic was well under way, and as a means of general diagnosis bacteriologic examination were not employed. Diagnosis was by clinical symptoms. In view of the well known influence of publicity on diagnosis, our opinion is that the best basis for judgment as to the effect of in-

fluenza in 1889 to 1893 is the curve for death from all causes. . . . 'First. Pandemics of influenza usually continue for several years. 'Secondly. The epidemic in Chicago in 1890 continue to recur, or else otherwise increase the mortality rate of Chicago up to and through 1893. 'Thirdly. The principal increases in deaths were due to pneumonia, bronchitis and influenza. 'Fourthly. The number of deaths was highest among persons from 20 to 40. The greater increase above the expected was in the death of persons over 60. . . . Children of school age seem to enjoy some relative immunity. 'Fifthly. This study indicates a probability either that influenza will recur several times during the next few years, or that there will be an increase in pneumonia, or both. 'Sixthly. This study plainly indicates a need for continued work to control the acute respiratory diseases during 1918, 1919, and for several years thereafter.'

La Grande Labor Should Have Been Represented

The State Federation of Labor has been holding a meeting in Portland that is of considerable consequence. La Grande, the "permanent pay roll town" of Oregon, should have been well represented at the federation meeting.

Important subjects were deliberated upon by the labor delegates; subjects of a state-wide nature and so important, in fact, that few legislatures could have made a better showing at handling them in so short a time. The meeting demonstrated what

should be firmly impressed in every mind, namely that in the future the laboring people, through their federations and unions, are decidedly a part of our state. It is right that such should be the case. The labor of a state is just as essential as capital, and there should be no confusion as to what is meant by the word, labor. Because a man works with a hammer or a lathe, or because he handles a machine driven tool or a hand screw, make him no more a laborer than the man who works in an office running a comptometer or a typewriter.

If the confusion over the word labor would disappear we would all have a better understanding of matters. Labor is the production agency of a country. It is necessary that it be combined with capital in every instance to get results, making it positively essential that the two work together.

The can, however, be no unity of action between the two unless labor takes its place in state affairs alongside of capital. Legislation favoring one to the injury of the other is bound to fail, but legislation dealing fairly with both brings about that harmony and unanimity which does the big things in the world.

This is why The Observer comments most firmly the federation meeting at Portland, believing it was manned by those who have the best interests of Oregon at heart. Some of the recommendations made to the legislature show that the federation has a very wide and comprehensive grasp of affairs generally.

La Grande should have been well represented at that meeting and it is hoped before another session of the federation is called proper steps will be taken to have this city included in the representation.

Nearly all of the lines of work here are organized. This is an indication that the effort is in an earnest to be of benefit in conducting affairs as well

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Silverthorn's FAMILY DRUG STORE LA GRANDE, OREGON. The industrial readjustment from a war to a peace basis is a bigger job than preparing for war. Let our legislators, state and nation encourage industry and hold down taxes and regulations. The soda fountain business is now open. All kinds of hot drinks, tamales, eschelades, chili con carne, hot malted milks and hot chocolate and coffee are served at all hours from 8 a. m. to 10:30 p. m. at Silverthorn's 1-4-31.

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