

LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER

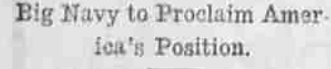
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Big Navy to Proclaim America's Position.

An interesting British view of the American plan for a larger navy is that of the London Morning Post, which says:

"The proposal of the United States government as announced by Secretary Daniels to build a more powerful navy should be entirely welcome to this country.

"When Secretary Daniels talks of a supreme American navy being necessary if the peace conference fails to agree on the limitation of armaments, he is quite right. We would go further and say that if America will stand the expense, she would be well advised to keep a strong navy in any case. For the United States navy, like the British navy, never has been used, and we are assured, never will be used, for purposes of aggression.

"This country would be glad to see America relieving Great Britain of part of the heavy cost of insuring the safety of sea communications for the benefit of the world; and whether that relief is afforded by the general limitation of armaments or the increased naval power of the western republic is comparatively immaterial. With our experience of the careful and vigorous help of the United States during the war, we feel that its increased strength would provide the most powerful guarantee of peace."

This frank and friendly utterance puts British sea power in quite a new light from that in which most Americans have been wont to regard it in the past. It appears that Britain has really been maintaining her naval supremacy not from pride, and not merely for self-protection even, but as a sort of "white man's burden" in behalf of civilization. This, Americans now generally admit, has at least been the result of her naval supremacy in recent decades, whether so intended or not. And now there is an unusual appeal to American self-respect and American ideals in this encouragement of a plan which would abolish the supremacy of the British fleet by making ours its equal or superior on condition that we share its responsibilities.

It is urgently to be hoped that the peace conference will end in a universal agreement to limit armaments

which will make unnecessary the less spending of vast sums on competitive navies. In that case we might well bring our navy to equality with Britain's, in order to enter the international league with equal terms. If such a consummation fails it might still be possible, by friendly agreement with Britain, to have two equal navies cooperating in peace, they have in war for the safety of the world.

The Penny Is Now a Factor to Be Considered.

The American people consumed last year 297,614,000 pennies. That is the number minted and thrown into circulation, to add to the quantity already circulating. The total, if there were any way of finding it out, would certainly be an imposing figure, inasmuch as no less than 1,999,000,000 pennies had been minted in the previous ten years, and most of them are probably still in use.

The fact that last year's production is three times the previous ten-year average shows what an important place the one-cent piece occupies in our present coinage. If the humble copper was scorned in pre-war years, and in the early years of the war, it is scorned no longer. Mounting prices have only increased the demand for it. The principal cause of the greatly accelerated demand of late may have been the payment of the many small war taxes running into odd cents; but a still stronger influence has been the growing spirit of thrift, revealed in the fixing of odd prices for commodities and in the claiming of small change by many who used to scorn anything less than a nickel. Even on the Pacific slope the penny has won recognition at last.

FORUM

MORE ON INFLUENZA

G. Klumpenbush, one of the Observer's family of readers, contributes the following article on influenza and the wearing of masks taken from the Christian Science Monitor:

Lack of agreement on methods of meeting the so-called influenza epidemic and lack of knowledge of the nature itself continued to be prominently noticeable right up to the very conclusion of the four-day convention of public health officials of the United States and Canada which was held in Chicago. The influenza has been the great overshadowing problem of this gathering of the American Public Health Association.

Arriving at a decision by a vote was generally avoided by the health officials, but a round-table conference they did hold an informal but hot on the question of closing the schools. This question as put was this:

"In the big cities, providing there is good medical supervision, would you close the schools in an influenza epidemic?" On the showing of hands only a few went up for closure, while a great many went up against the proposition. The health officers present were plainly against closing in such cases. Then the chairman put the question of closing the schools in big cities where the medical inspection was not considered good. He declared the vote "seemed to be about even."

Finally the question of closing the rural schools was voted on. Here again the chairman announced it was "an about also." The chairman of this round table meeting, Dr. H. W. Hill of Minneapolis, president of the Minneapolis State Public Health department, expressed his own view of the situation in the following language:

"The consensus of opinion I have met with here and elsewhere is that the advisability of closing the schools for influenza does not exist."

The question box brought out many comments and remarks on methods of handling the influenza. The gathering discussed the question of the use of alcoholic liquors on the ground that it related to treatment instead of prevention, and so was beyond the scope of the association. The chair, however, observed, prior

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to the raising of this point, that the general impression was that alcohol was bad at any time in influenza treatment.

Relative to the use of the face mask, a doctor from the Cook county (Chicago) hospital declared that it seemed to him that the medical faculty had lost all control of its reason. "If this influenza organism is so small," he added, "as some claim it is, that you cannot see it with a microscope, I cannot see why it cannot go through any mask. It would be like expecting the bars in the jail windows to keep out the flies."

The physician went on to say that every one in the county hospital was masked at the beginning, not because they particularly regarded masking as good, but to "avoid the possible charge of gross ignorance." "They were all masked so heavily they looked like mummies," he said, adding that fifteen nurses and attendants had the influenza and then they discarded their masks and had none of it. "I think this matter of the face mask has been very much overdone," said the doctor.

In the morning session a vigorous protest against the use of the face masks was made by Dr. James W. Inghes, health commissioner of Detroit, Michigan. He said they were "pure fakes" as a means of halting influenza and declared that the closing of motion picture theaters, churches, etc., had not proved to be of benefit.

REMARKABLE PULLING POWER OF MAXWELL DEMONSTRATED

An interesting story of the pulling power of the Maxwell truck comes from Portland this week. A party near that city who uses one of those trucks stamped the driver of another truck twice the capacity of his to pull the same load as he would with his Maxwell. The owner of the Maxwell makes regular trips into Portland, eighteen miles, hauling a trailer and carrying two cords of maple wood, encountering some very difficult grades on his way. The total weight hauled, including that of the truck, is 14,500 pounds, and one hour and five minutes was required to make the trip.

The owner of a three and a half ton truck had refused to pull the load which the Maxwell tackled. Witnesses were invited to see the merits of the Maxwell on the hills. The truck climbed about half way up the first hill with one cylinder running and was stopped at this point to insert a new spark plug. The motor was equal to the task of starting the load and taking it up the hill from that point.

John E. Anderson, of this city, is the Maxwell dealer for this district.

Tester for Fountain Pens. Fountain pens are tested by an instrument called a micrometer. If one piece of the mechanism is out even a six-hundredth part of an inch it is rejected as faulty.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I wish to announce to the public that I have purchased the Oregon hotel, 10 Depot street and will conduct it in connection with the Darland Apts., and it will be known as the Darland hotel. The rooms will be newly renovated and made as attractive and pleasant as possible. Two apartments for light housekeeping will be furnished. Special rates on rooms by the week or month will be made for a short time. Those interested call and see them. 1-13-19 H. C. LAWYER.

The Observer furnishes and prints Battery Wrappers.

BACK LIKE A BOARD? IT'S YOUR KIDNEYS

There's no use suffering from the awful agony of lame back. Don't wait till it "comes off." It only comes back. Find the cause and stop it. Diseased conditions of kidneys are usually indicated by stiff lame backs and other wrenching pains, which are nature's signals for help! Here's the remedy. When you feel the first twinges of pain or experience any of these symptoms, get busy at once. Go to your druggist and get a box of the pure, original GOLD MEDAL, Hamlet Oil Capsules, imported fresh every month from the laboratories in Hamlet, Holland. Pleasant and easy to take, they instantly attack the poisonous germs clogging your system and bring quick relief. For over two hundred years they have been helping the sick. Why not try them? Sold everywhere by reliable druggists in sealed packages. Three sizes. Money back if they do not help you. Ask for "GOLD MEDAL" and be sure the name "GOLD MEDAL" is on the box.

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