

EDITORIAL PAGE

SOLDIERS HAVE CLEARED THE ATMOSPHERE.

We have been much like everyone else regarding the European muddle and could not arrive at an opinion as to what is best for this country to do. The continual talk about a world peace and the many theories that cling to such talk were somewhat catchy and caused a lurking feeling that there might be something to the movement, and that this nation might be the savior of the Old World.

But the soldiers have come home. They have arrived with opinions of men—real men, who have been in the thick of the fight, who have lived with the French and the Belgians, and as nearly as we can get their judgment from the short time we have had to talk to them, this is what they believe:

First, it was the only thing to do when we entered this war, for the Huns had to be licked.

Second, it was right and proper to stay on the ground in such numbers as were needed until the peace treaty is signed.

Third, it is the proper thing immediately after the treaty of peace is signed to get every American home as quickly as possible and leave Europe to settle her own questions in the future.

We have not found a single man who did service over there that believes this nation should keep its fingers in European politics. We have not found a single man who will waste much sympathy on the French, English or Belgians, now that the war is won. Their claim is that the people of the Old World bolster up their beliefs, even at this early date, that America only did a small bit and they would have won the war without us. It is further claimed that war is a part of the lives of those Europeans and they will always have it.

To sum it up as it seems to stick in the hearts and minds of the American soldier: Let America take care of herself. Let her have an army and navy and coast defenses sufficient to protect her people and industries, and let Europe work out her own affairs.

"Will the French be trading with the Germans for a generation to come?" was a question asked one very intelligent returned soldier.

The answer was: "Will they? They will inside of a year after the peace treaty is signed. America does not realize the existing conditions in Europe, and I would ask everyone not to be borne away by whimsical sentiment. Those people, all of them revel in wars. They have been raised on it. If America should establish absolute fairness throughout Europe it would not be six months until it would be kicked out and a row started. It's a waste of effort for this country to attempt to be the keeper of Europe. Let's get out of there. The job has been done, now let us all buckle down to make a real America and jab a few of these win-the-war boys who were getting ten dollars a day over here and striking for more while some of us were working for Uncle Sam on the other side. I'm off of Europe forever, but I have got a few scores to settle with some of these chaps at home who claim to be great patriots, and look at their pay check to see how far their patriotism shall rise."

Another soldier, who is a big man in every way, said in reply to similar questions regarding Europe: "I can best answer your question by telling you of a doughboy who had heard this debt to Lafayette stuff until he was sick of it. He wrote with chalk on a box car in France, 'We've paid our debt to Lafayette—who the hell do we owe now?'"

These utterances mean a great deal at this time. Chiefly they mean, that this nation is engaging in a lot of fancies pure and simple, and the way to reconstruct America is to get on the job and don't waste too much time about the people across the water, now that the war has been ended.

NO FEAR OF THE BOLSHEVIKS.

After one has visited with the returned soldiers, all fear of a Bolshevik uprising in this country is dispelled, for the boys are right as a bright May morning. The only trouble which we may experience from the crazed agitators is to keep the returned soldiers from killing them off as fast as they come to them.

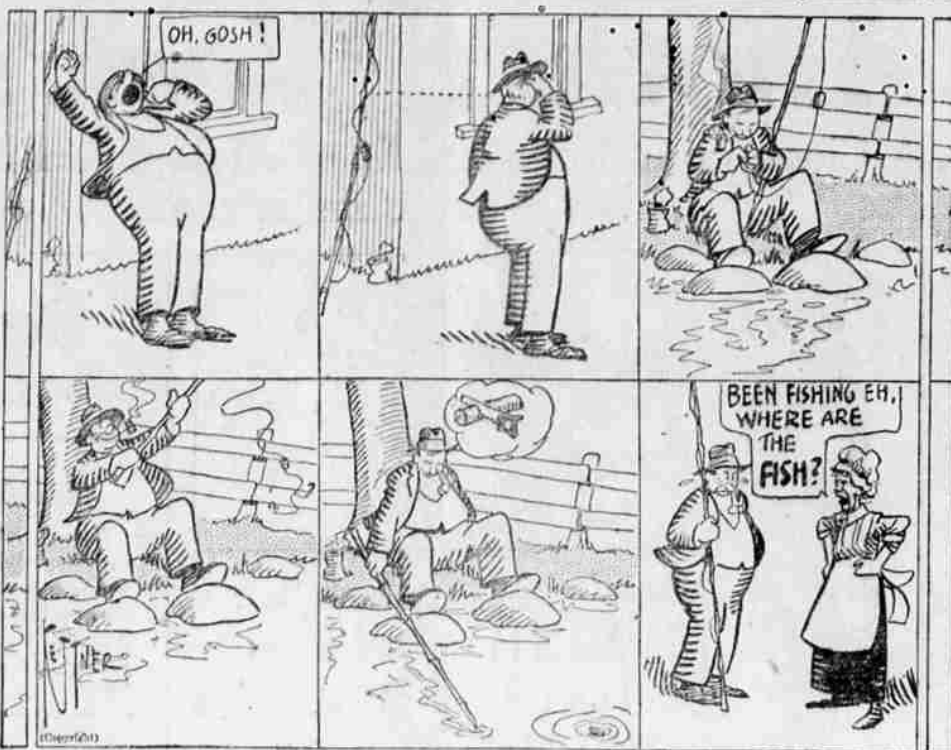
These soldiers have been in the habit of killing men who acted like skunks and they still have the habit.

One of them said, "What does the government play with such people for? Where is the good of letting guys like them stay here or any place else on earth? You will find these returned soldiers are not for any Reds, neither are they for the class of fellows who were striking and raising Cain over here when that Dutchman had us all in a tight place. If the men of this nation who are running things are afraid of their shadows, they will find that a single leader with backbone can muster plenty of help to put a stop to this whole line of foolishness that has been going on over here. There's nothing to it. The country has been intimidated by a lot of self-constituted 'bad men'. But they are not so bad when their hand is called and the fellows who have been wallowing in the mud of France are back home in large numbers now and they are ready to call their hands."

The future for the agitator is a dark one, and if the government continues to be lenient with the Reds, the I. W. W. and other drastic organizations, it may awaken some morning to find that the boys have been called together—not for an uprising, not for a revolution, but for the purpose of restoring this nation to a good common sense basis.

Two pillars support this great American country, and they will not be found lacking. One is the great army now being demobilized and the other is some organized labor, consisting of the men who have honestly and sincerely went about their work and done everything within their power to get results at home while the soldiers did the fighting in France.

The End of a Perfect Day



Concerning Broken Points and Germany.

The Germans insist that the peace treaty, as worked out at Paris, fails to follow President Wilson's "fourteen points," and so breaks faith with Germany, because those points formed the basis of the understanding by which Germany agreed to lay down her arms.

It is not necessary, nor wise, to ignore the accusation, or answer it with a word of contempt. The issue raised is one of fact, and should be handled by arguments based on fact.

The New York World, after a careful analysis of the treaty with relation to the fourteen points, declares that the German protest "is without substantial basis except in one specific instance." The points have all been adhered to throughout the treaty, so far as they apply to Germany, says the World, except the last one. This is the point which provides for a general association or league of nations, "for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small nations alike."

The league of nations has been formed, as intended, but the peace conference has failed to make the specific connection between the league and Germany. Though Germany is obliged to recognize the league, she is not given membership in it, nor is there any provision for admitting her.

Whether this omission is intrinsically serious is a debatable question. It may be argued that there is no occasion for a specific arrangement for admitting Germany to the league, because she can come in according to the general method provided, by making application and receiving an approving vote of two-thirds of the members. But Germany clearly expected something more than this.

The fact that Germany wants or expects a thing is, in itself, of little importance. But the Allies cannot afford to do anything that can be interpreted as dishonorable. Neither can they afford to be short-sighted. It is likely, as the World suggests, that the Allies would be safer with Germany in the league than with Germany outside of it.

Germany should not be admitted, of course, until she has satisfied her obligations to the world. But Germany may at least have a right to know that she is not to be permanently barred from the league and on what conditions she can make herself eligible to membership.

No Checking Prosperity By This.

The Bureau of War Risk Insurance mailed 1,139,623 checks during the month of March. It does things like that right along, and stands in a class pretty nearly by itself for the size of its check-making organization.

Ninety-six graphotype machines are kept busy writing plates for the checks, which are then printed on an addressograph machine. The checks have to be signed, too, with the help of labor-saving devices. Twenty checks have to be signed, too, with the help of labor-saving devices. Twenty checks are now signed with actual pen signatures by a single operator.

Very few people aspire to the task of making out checks in whole lots like this, but it certainly would be fun to have to install a labor-saving device in order to escape writing a check.

Jazz and Booze in Modern Times.

The relation of alcohol to music may now have been fully appreciated. There may be a subtle connection between booze and jazz. At any rate, that is the sober opinion of Jerome Kern, the popular American composer.

Mr. Kern attributes the present craze for jazz shows and jazz music in general to abnormal hilarity superinduced by alcohol. "Take the average out-of-town visitor," he says. "He has had a cocktail or two, and perhaps wine with his dinner. He is 'feeling good,' and the most feeble attempts at humor and the most discordant jazz cause him to applaud for all he is worth. Do you suppose theater-goers who are absolutely sober will applaud jazz bands after July 1? Of course I may be mistaken, but I predict that the jazz craze will vanish with the booze."

Thus prohibition, he argues, will improve the music and the musical shows. He says he has demonstrated the truth of his philosophy in a show now running on Broadway. He cut out all the jazz, scored the songs for chamber music, omitted the drums and tried to make his production quieter and more artistic all the way through. The critics told him he would fail without the usual noise, but the piece is drawing capacity audiences right along. And Mr. Kern says those audiences are sober.

The theory seems to imply that all the jazz music in dry communities is mere foolish imitation of New York. And that is quite possible.

Anyway, if prohibition will really eliminate jazz, several millions of people who have no settled convictions on the liquor problem, but whose ears and nerves are sensitive, will now rejoice at the approach of July 1.

WHY "POISONED ARROWS" MADE HINDENBURG CRY.

No less a personage than old von Hindenburg himself paid tribute to the high efficacy of Allied propaganda that did so much to wreck Tenth Avenue and bring about the collapse of autocracy. In September, 1918, only a few weeks before the armistice was signed, the Prussian general became so panic-stricken over the "poisoned arrows" or words of truth the Allies were sending over by every conceivable method to inform the German people and soldiers of their hopeless plight that he cried aloud his protest. And well he might, declares William G. Shepherd, in "Poisoned Arrows" in the June New Red Cross Magazine, for every so-called "evil" which he prophesied to Germany in his message of alarm came to pass before many days had gone by.

Concerning general aspects of across the lines propaganda, of which Mr. Shepherd made an exhaustive study, the writer says: "It is a significant fact that the German 'evil' propaganda consisted mostly of gross lies or threats; those were intended to discourage or discourage the enemy. Never did their propagandists attempt to give arguments in favor of the German cause. In all the wonderful War Museum in Paris I today fail to find any of the German pamphlets which even attempt to convince a Frenchman or an Englishman that the German cause was right. On the other hand a volume of thousands of pamphlets in the Museum, published by the Allies, discloses a world of argument. The 'poisoned arrows' of von Hindenburg could strike nowhere in Allied ranks."

or England while the poison arrows of the Allies, armed with truth, pierced the German armor at every point. It was as if the Germans shot with shells that did not explode, while every shell of the Allies counted. How could Germany win in the war of killing the enemy spirit with odds against her like that?

Wm. B. Treadwell, who for fifteen years served as appraiser and examiner of precious stones at the New York custom house, died the other day. It is estimated that during his tenure of office he appraised over \$750,000,000 worth of gems of various kinds. No report is offered as to the most precious, but we will offer mother's breakfast gems in competition with any of them.

Germany never thought, way back in 1917, when she began dictating those peace terms, that she would have to carry them out herself.

From Section VIII of the peace treaty—"Germany is to restore within six months the skull of the Sultan of Oklahoma to his Britannic Majesty's government." Another evidence of Germany's skullduggery?

Even if you did not buy a Victory Bond it is still possible to serve the country. Clean up the yard, pay your bills promptly and buy U. S. S.

According to Berlin those fourteen poets are disappointments.

AROUND THE EDGES

Senator Martin King, also mayor of Kamela, was down this week loaded with a heavy lot of news from his backlot. He said: "I had to fire Joe Fontaine from the job of marshal; he's too slow. We sent Joe down to La Grande on a Victory Loan mission and when he went to his room at the hotel at night and was figuring up the amount of bond subscriptions for the day something began to buzz in his valley. He started to run with it down to the police station when it was found that he had been an old alarm clock attached to a bag of saw dust which gave the jobbed; some of the boys had put contrivance the appearance of a bomb, timed to go off and kill Joe just after he had gone to bed. I would not think so much about it. If our bond missionary had taken the counterfactual bomb to the authorities and sent for a federal detective, that would have put the joke back on the jokers. When I found out that he had let a bunch of La Grande 'tricks' join him like that, I had to relieve him. I have appointed a woman as marshal in his place."

Senator King's face turned almost black with disgust at the query, did Kamela to over the top? "Did Kamela?" his voice broke in stammered rage at the impudent inquiry. "Of course she did. One boy only nineteen years old submitted for \$500 and there were others that came forward in the same proportions. Don't you ever worry about Kamela?"

This is from "The Oregonian" stating Jerry Foley, with three gold service stripes on his arm, was "hitchhiking" with friends in Portland yesterday. Jerry is of the Foley hotel and has been over-seeing with the Rainbow division as part of the hospital corps, the La Grande hospital unit being one of the first such organizations in

Battleship Oregon Revered

The late W. T. Wright, of Union, was appointed as the representative for this part of the state when a silver service set was presented to the officers of the Battleship Oregon as a mark of appreciation by the citizens of Oregon. The presentation was made when the staunch old sea fighter was put in commission and was attended with appropriate ceremonies.

The Oregon was built at the Union Iron Works at San Francisco in 1896. She carried a crew of over 700 officers and men and her displacement was slightly over 10,000 tons. She was the ne-plus ultra of battleship construction of that period and it was but a very few short years when the opportunity arose which enabled the Oregon to demonstrate that the hopes centered upon her were not misplaced.

On St. Patrick's Day in 1898 Captain Charles E. Clark was put in command of the Oregon and a few days later the vessel put out from San Francisco to go to the Atlantic side by way of Cape Horn. This was several weeks after the blowing up of the Battleship Maine in the Havana harbor, and while war had not yet been declared on Spain when Capt. Clark left San Francisco his orders to leave Pacific waters were construed as a possibility that the battleship would likely be needed. Shortly afterward a shot athwart the brow of a small vessel below Key West was the signal of war between the United States and Spain. All this time there was tense anxiety as to the country's best naval craft, and this feeling was not relieved until news was received that the Oregon had arrived off the coast of Florida in May after a trip of 14,000 miles which consumed a few days over two months.

And this was considerable speed at that time and no one dreamed of the possibility of a day coming when the details of such a maneuver could be finished hourly through the air.

While patriotism was under a full head the belief was general that something would happen to the Oregon from the Spanish navy. Stories of the old Armada were revived

America to be sent across. So Jerry and his buddies got into Germany and he knows the Rhine now as well as he does Hot Lake and as for parley vours, he admits that he can spill enough of it to navigate among the poles. To show where he has been, Jerry produces a printed list of names and dates that resembles the new time card that Jim Corbett has been working on.

The Elk which were sent into the preserve in Wallawa county several years, have multiplied until there is now quite a respectable Elk family and the stockgrowers are asking that they be removed to other quarters. A plan was set on foot recently to get the Elk transferred to the range of mountains back of Wallawa city where the feed is fine and the quarters are very suitable for an Elk family that is growing. The La Grande lodge B. P. O. E. will probably take a hand in this matter as anything pertaining to the like of Elk is usually looked after by the lodge to which the government not only consents but gives its full endorsement.

Jerry Maxwell, who once ran a butcher shop in Wallawa, is authority on chickens. He can make the feathered fowl lay more eggs than can the agricultural college, after a lecture by Dryden. And Jerry does it in a way that is not expensive. He keeps his chickens roosting high and insists upon them taking lots of exercise. Just how this will work elsewhere than Wallawa county no one can say, but Jerry asserts that Wallawa chickens need the exercise and must have it.

Tom Loftus, the man who helped to put Starkey on the map, has been in town a few days and is awaiting the arrival of some mining engineers who are to take a look at the old Carson district. It is Tom's regular summer job to chaperon these parties and he says it does him good. He likes to get back to the old stamping ground, it is no trick to locate Thomas in the summer season. You will find him somewhere along the river above Starkey, and that country would seem lonelier without him.

It is a mistake to suppose that the German helmets awarded as souvenirs in the big bond purchases are anything like the ones used by the "Heinies" on the battlefield. These helmets are stylish and have a sort of velvet finish. They were intended for dress parade purposes to be worn by the Kaiser's troops on their triumphant entry into Paris. The prize helmets are quite dresy and at \$5000 and \$10,000 they are to be.

A lake for the popular Red fish is to be made at the head of the canyon in Wallawa. According to a plan that is now on foot and has the endorsement of the U. S. Forest Service, the lake is to be a permanent one. Land is being donated for the purpose. The Red fish is much like the salmon in

and it was feared that with the seasoned dogs of war as against the inexperience of the Americans the issue might be one of disaster.

An historical incident happened that relieved the depression to some extent. It was reported that Capt. Clark had called from Rio Janeiro to the navy department to this effect: "Please do not hamper me with orders; I am not afraid of the whole Spanish navy."

This assuring message was sent out over the country and was received in good faith. After the war was over Capt. Clark pronounced it a piece of fiction, pure and simple, with the declaration that he had sent no such message.

The big naval engagement came off at Santiago, Cuba, on Sunday, July 3, 1898, and Capt. Clark and the Oregon were "in it." Another report, possibly mythical like the one before, but much more probable was that the Battleship Oregon sent a shot into every vessel of Admiral Cervera's fleet which was totally annihilated. But one thing was done that could not be disputed. The Oregon, with greater speed and better control had no difficulty in running to the shore and to its destruction the Colon, the last of the ships of the Spanish fleet.

In the month of May preceding Admiral Dewey had also been doing things in Manila Bay. After the defeat of the "armada" at Santiago Admiral Dewey sent word to Washington to have the Oregon sent to the Philippines with the somewhat indefinite explanation at the end of the message "for political reasons." The Oregon then went on another long cruise—from New York to Manila. On her arrival the man who told Gridley to fire when he was ready sent back to Washington the following terse report:

"Oregon arrived today in fit condition for any duty."

There were among the incidents which swelled the hearts of Oregonians and of the whole nation with pride some thirty years ago, and this state will be dead to all sense of honor if the opportunity is lost to hold the old battleship in lasting reverence.

habits. Wherever it is born there is where it will return after a certain period and Wallawa fishermen are looking forward to a permanent stock of this high class fish.

There is a market for everything in this country now even to dandelion roots. Thomas Sigmund has a hundred pounds of dried root ready to ship out of Wallawa county and is in the market for more. He also has a half dozen cub bear, a few rattlesnakes, a couple of cougar and a lot of other rare articles which this country produces.

Twelve black skunks are to be delivered soon to Bob Flannery who lives on Bear creek in Wallawa county. Bob has made up his mind to breed skunks for their fur and will start his band with twelve of the fine imported scoundrels, each of which retains his powers to perfume forty acres of good land. The industry which Bob is starting is new to the west but it is followed quite extensively in the state of Maine.

The Union Republican points out this truthful paragraph:

Here's to the boy who comes from overseas and goes "back to the farm" with no special reception accorded him, no public demonstration in his favor, but with a knowledge of a duty well done. Long life to him. He didn't get in the lime-light, but he did his duty just the same.

FORUM

LET "DECENCY" BE EXPLICIT

Editor Observer: In last Sunday's issue of The Observer an article from Cass signed by "Decency," might easily be read as an indictment of men who handle automobiles in Union county. If the article is intended that way, why would it not be well for "Decency" to be more explicit? Why not state who the guilty party is and let the matter have the investigation that it should have? We have courts and officers to handle such men as was described in that article, and it is eminently unjust and unfair that "Decency" should make in generalities, letting the public form its own conclusion as to who the party was.

I am connected with the automobile industry in this valley and if it was meant for men in the automobile business, I certainly believe we, as a fair class of men, have a perfect right to know who the party in question might have been.

My observation of men handling automobiles here has been that they are very careful of every act, and under no consideration do I believe they would do what "Decency" has charged some one with doing. Anyway, it is but fair that the matter be brought to closer investigation and let the blame fall where it belongs.

ONE WHO DEALS IN AUTOS.