

EDITORIAL PAGE

Japan Expected The Pound Of Flesh

Now that light is being thrown upon some of the acts of the peace conference there is a clearer understanding of what the conference was up against: some of the secrets of war are coming out, and the most amazing ones, the Shantung situation.

It shows, as President Wilson relates to the United States congress, that Japan at the most critical time of the war expected to stay "put." If she had not received the possession she would have cast her lot on the side of Germany who stood willing to give anything except the Fatherland. The Allies were hard put, and conceded to Japan's wishes. This deal had to be consummated at the peace conference and when it was published to the world it was such a shocking bit of news that there is little wonder the American public revolted at the idea of turning China over to Japan to be pilfered at will.

But when one stops to think of the gloomy days of war, when the balance of power seemed to be on the side of Germany, it is little wonder that the Allies conceded to Japan what she asked rather than see her military strength go with the Kaiser.

Of course this bit of bartering on the part of Japan at a time when the safety of the world was at stake shows the caliber of that nation. It shows she is in the market for deals that benefit Japan and will sacrifice all principles of humanity, liberty and freedom in order to add to Japanese possessions.

Yet there are senators and representatives who would give Japan a footing in America. Just how they can view their attitude in favoring fraternizing with the country that barter and sells at a time when the blood of the world is flowing, is more than we can understand.

The Observer believes Japanese should not be given the right to hold landed possessions in America, and we are fast coming to the belief that no other nationality save Americans should enjoy that right.

WHAT GRANDE RONDE VALLEY MAY EXPECT

There is a drought in the Grande Ronde this season. Crops are cut fully fifty per cent. It is the first time in the valley's history since white men settled here.

But there is no use to turn turtle and be a piker because crops have been cut short. These things are to be expected as a country grows older under cultivation. So long as land is new it is like a person—possesses the qualities of resistance and will stand drought better. Insects will not thrive in a new country as well as in an old section that has been farmed for years.

This valley is no longer new. It is reaching the steady and permanent condition of a farming section and we must expect many things in the way of drawbacks which naturally come with an older section.

The chintz bug will come some time. The little white bug that eats the alfalfa was here a couple of years ago, and so will nature from time to time visit upon us a drought or a pest of some description.

Ranchers who have watched conditions closely in this valley for the past few years assert that wheat is slipping a little and in time Eastern Oregon will not be the great wheat section that it is today.

The solution is live stock. The Grande Ronde valley is a great live stock section, but it has not started in that industry as yet, comparatively speaking. If hay could be produced in large quantities this would be the greatest home of live stock in the west.

And the hay can be produced. One thing is needed—water.

And the water can be had. And it will make this valley even greater than it is today.

LET THE COURTS ALSO BEGIN TO CONSERVE.

On every hand there is a shortage of man-power. Every business is running with less help than it needs. Every contractor and builder is hard hit for man power. This being true, it is the trend of the times to economize in every way. Take on nothing more than is necessary and do with as little help as possible, thus aiding all industries in the demand for more man power.

And right along this line, it is but good sense and honest conviction to ask the courts to curtail as much as possible the demand for men for jury duty and other court work. To do that it is necessary to use the lower courts for trivial cases. The laws provide suitable courts where small matters should be settled and not take up the time of the regular jury and court officials. Cases that involve little and the cases that smack of little petty offenses should not require the full machinery of circuit court.

They should be tried in the lower courts, and if possible be settled out of court.

This suggestion is offered by the Observer, not in the way of criticism, but in the spirit of co-operation which is so badly needed on every hand, and we believe that every attorney and every court official will be glad to respond to the call of the times and revise the legal procedure along these lines.

Let us hope the delegation to the intake on Beaver Creek today will see a way out of the difficulty.

For the most effective "tummyache" you ever had try Cove cherries, ice cream, than more Cove cherries, than more ice cream. The ache will come in time.

How can coal dealers mention coal this time of the year? And yet it is the sensible thing to do.

Regarding Automobiles of the Future.

What is to be the future line of development of the motor car? It is a big, practical question, of interest to every designer and manufacturer, and to every present or prospective user of an automobile.

William B. Stout, who has won distinction as an aircraft engineer, gives some illuminating suggestions based on a study of lessons learned during the war. The motor car of the future, he says, should have these general characteristics:

It should be a closed car, carrying five passengers, and weighing only about 900 pounds, with a small engine of six or more cylinders, giving 30 to 40 miles on a gallon of gasoline, riding more easily than the present heavy-weight cars, and costing no more than any present car of equal passenger capacity and performance.

There are not at all impossible ideas, he maintains. The engine may be lightened by being cooled by air as well as by reducing the size of the cylinders. Fifteen horsepower will be enough for this purpose, and the weight need not be more than eight pounds per horsepower, or 136 pounds for the complete engine with starting equipment. The top need not weigh more than 200 pounds. Weight may be eliminated in many parts of the car by a more general substitution of wood for steel. Airplane construction, he holds, has proved the superiority of wood for many purposes, because of its combined strength and elasticity.

Such a car, he says, will not only be fairly cheap in first cost and wonderfully economical to run but it can be taken care of by the owner with little effort and little skill. The riding will be almost wholly automatic, and there will be no grease cups or unlubricated joints. The outer design will be such that it can be kept clean by a minimum of washing.

It all sounds too good to be true. A million automobile users will sigh, "Bring us such a car." Maybe the experts will really produce it, before long.

Preparing For Comfortable Living.

PREPARING FOR COMFORTABLE living is the woman's part of a daily paper. The woman's page of a daily paper deals at length with the best way to prepare a house to make housekeeping easy in the summer time. The directions covered everything from attic to cellar, including stuffing the cracks around the bookcase door with rags or papers to keep out the dust. Carefully followed, they meant days and possibly weeks of arduous labor.

When all is said and done, the only way to make things easy is to take them easy. A long, laborious process of preparation merely means that some one is working all the time, and the period of leisure for which the great preparation is made will nevertheless come.

A little dust on a bookcase does no great harm, but what will respect the weary body and the aching nerves which overcloud to prevent that book from accumulating a little dust?

Long ago some sad-faced kill-joy propounded the theory that man should be prepared to die, and immediately a host of people ceased to regard their daily duties from the normal standpoint of life and measured their acts by the gravenest standards of King dom Gome. Then a newer prophet arose and declared that it is not dying, but living that concerns us, and the question is, "Are we prepared to live?"

Both were wrong. The real question is, are we living? Are we getting the air and sunshine and the joy of life which are our portion or are we endlessly preparing to die?

Let a little dust accumulate on the bookcase! The staff of the doctor will fall from him, when the cool days of fall come. Bang the desk lid, and get out into the open! People who spend much time getting ready to live go usually die early and miss all the fun.

Pay As You Go, Is a Good Policy.

Late reports indicate that the new war industries of the United States in only \$12,000,000,000. This is the amount left out of the total expenditure after deducting the billions which our allies have borrowed and will pay back, and the other billions which have been paid, and are now being paid by taxation. There are said to be about \$20,000,000,000 of taxes to pay, and \$10,000,000,000 of taxes.

Thus the nation finds itself, at the close of the war, in an exceptionally strong financial position. This net debt is nowhere near so large and burdensome as most people have expected.

It has been kept down chiefly by the fact that the American people

were willing during the war, to pay a larger proportion of the war bill than any other nation. They have had on top of that, the big liberty loan subscription and other war demands. The policy proves to have been well worth while. From now on, our people will reap the benefit of their self-denial. Most of the other powers are just beginning to pay for their war, and we have ours nearly half paid for already.

It is a new assumption of the old adage, "Pay as you go." Because we have paid all we fought, we are now ready to tackle the big problems of reconstruction and fresh economic development with finances almost unimpaired, and with vigor and confidence increased by their war achievements.

Some Hope Left In Butter Milk.

Prof. E. B. Allen, of the New Jersey state normal school, is said to have discovered that under the new federal prohibition law buttermilk comes under the ban as an alcoholic drink.

Anything containing more than one-half per cent alcohol is prohibited in the ban. Prof. Allen says his experiments show that buttermilk alcohol has less than one per cent. When perfectly fresh, its alcoholic content is scarcely noticeable, even to a chemist, but it rapidly increases through fermentation.

This is dreadful. One by one, temperance drinks are proved impure. What hope is there for the sober seeker if the Demon Rum is found lurking even in the barn and reverend church?

As for the impious hosts who are seeking consolation in new, strange beverages, it may be good news. The celebrated "Fairbank's cocktail" may prove to have been prophetic. They will rally round the buttermilk and with hope in their hearts. And if their thirst is not fully quenched, and if they fail to attain the desired state of spirituous exultation, they will at least get some good, wholesome food into their systems.

The Turks Punish the Guilty Ones.

While the Germans hide and delay and protest, the Turks are speedily going ahead with the trial, conviction and sentencing of the leaders responsible for Turkish conduct during the war.

Enver Pasha and two other government heads have been sentenced to death by the court-martial. Many lesser officials have been given long prison terms at hard labor.

The Turk is a wily person. Undoubtedly the present Turkish government understands fully that attending to the punishment of the guilty is one of the steps most likely to win favorable consideration from the Allied powers. Also the Turkish had a lot of rebels having been led astray. Whether they appreciate the moral quality involved might be questioned, but they do know that they are in a bad way and that their leaders are responsible. For that reason, if no other, they punish the leaders.

Whatever the motive which has led Turkey to take matters into her own hands, the result is a good thing. A thousand complications are avoided the way is cleared for the new regime, and future persons applying to leadership in the land of the Crescent will think carefully before determining in which direction to lead their people.

A little of the same recent punishment as the part of the Germans would go far toward re-establishing that people in the eyes of the world.

"Blimps" Are Popular For Comfort.

One noticeable feature of the recent ocean flights of the big dirigible was that no member of the crew suffered from air-sickness, which, this is an important feature of air way travel, and an advantage to the traveler. According to one member of the party who had the trip, the big air boat rode as steadily and comfortably as the best type of automobile.

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La Grande Is Losing a Good Man.

Ellis Kirtley is selling out his stock of goods, and leaving his home for La Grande, Ind. He will locate in Chehalis, Washington. This is not because he does not like La Grande, nor is it because he has not built a good business here, for in the eight years that he has had his store in this city he has built up a fine trade. His reasons for locating elsewhere are personal.

This city very much regrets his departure, for the Kirtley family is one of our best, and Mr. Kirtley is a public spirited citizen who is always at the front in community work. His efforts in a public way will be greatly missed, as will his counsel and judgment in the city's affairs.

The Observer wishes to congratulate Chehalis people on their good fortune, and sincerely hope the Kirtley family may enjoy the city of their choice as well as La Grande people have enjoyed having them as residents for several years.

The Story of Royal Cigaret Cases.

A recent advertisement in the German papers offers a reward for the return of 12 silver, 14 gold and one gold-plated cigarette cases stolen from the Crown Prince's palace during the November revolution.

This is an eloquent testimonial to Friedrich's loyal love of his own country. Long before November there had been a request made in all Germany to turn over to the government all gold and silver trinkets and jewelry to help the German financial situation. In commenting on the evident failure of his loyal highness to comply with the request, one paper remarks, "Here is another evidence of how little the 'nobles of the nation' care about values that should have been sacred to every German heart."

And yet they want to save the Hohenzollerns!

One La Grande lady asserts in strong terms that a tonnel entered her kitchen through the city water system, and she says she believes that it was shed by the swimmer in the river where the city water is secured. How strange it is that anyone should form such conclusions.

Bidding was sluggish at Charlie Playle's sale, showing what a bad effect weather conditions have upon the toy market.

It is sometimes rather hard to distinguish between a senate debate and a Semmel movie.

Vacation time, did you say?

PRESS COMMENT

The Salvation Army never aims at a society.—Columbia Record.

These are times when you can hot keep a good place down.—Boston Herald.

Sequent York wound up by showing himself to be a conspicuous object in the haze.—Boston Globe.

The Sick Man of Europe will continue to be sick, but not in Europe.—Birmingham News-Letter.

You said that the daylight-saving plan is favored least by the men that use daylight most.—Boston Herald.

The question of the day is how to solve the problem of the unemployed job.—New York Evening Post.

Holland's wall is accounted by the fact that she didn't know a square foot had so many sharp edges.—Washington Herald.

John Harmon's dejection depends whether she will be invited to the Hutchinsons or the Washbuds.—Little Rock Arkansas Gazette.

Holland practiced forty years for his game. It is only fair that he should die in the next forty to pay for the practice.—Indiana Times.

Guys have wasted a lot of time in worrying that they could have shown a better advantage in professional grammar.—Little Rock Arkansas Gazette.

Lots of people decline Germans are just the same old party, but they have to acknowledge that a German bank is worth today in a Christian's wallet to be sure, and forged.—Philadelphia North American.

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Home from Walla Walla—Miss Fern Geddes arrived in the city last evening from Walla Walla, where she has been for the past few months. Miss Geddes will resume her position with the telephone company.

Miss Corbie Baker of Pendleton, is in the city visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. Hat Bohnenkamp. She will return to her home Tuesday.

Judge T. and Mrs. Phy expect to leave this evening for Portland to be gone a few days visiting with friends and relatives.

AROUND THE WORLD

Two out of every thousand soldiers in the American army must have their shoes made to order.

American soldiers are wearing as trophies the German emperor's iron crosses taken from German prisoners.

The United States will buy jewelry and precious metals of any kind in lots of \$100 or more, and will pay at the rate of \$20.67 an ounce for gold and \$1 an ounce for silver.

A considerable influx of Mexican labor for use on farms in the Southwest has been approved by President Wilson, who has waived certain provisions of the immigration laws.

WOMEN WORKERS

All the food consumed in France is raised by women workers.

Waitresses in Oregon receive a minimum wage of \$13.61 per week.

Women trade unionists in Great Britain now number over 300,000.

Over 400,000 women are now employed in making munitions for the British army.

Female garment workers in Ottumwa, Ia., have been granted a 10 per cent increase in wages.

The number of women in government positions in England exceeded by far the number of females employed by any other country in the world.

Women workers on the buses, trams and underground railroads in London have been granted an increase of \$6.25 per week.

Miss Elizabeth Christman of Chicago has taken up her duties in Washington as chief of a staff of women examiners for the national war labor board.

The proportion which women formed of the total number of workers in English munition factories rose from 14 per cent in January, 1916, to 23 per cent in January, 1918.

SAYS THE CYNIC

It is sometimes easier to catch on when it is to let go.

Better be a tramp in the woods than a lobo in the washbowl.

Some men don't even try to reach the top; they prefer company.

Selfishness is the root of many undesirable specimens of prosperity.

What poor, defenseless creatures women would be if they couldn't cry.

If a man could get credit for his good intentions money would be no object.

Fortunate is the man who doesn't find fault because he doesn't know where to look for it.

When a woman marries a man for his pocketbook she need not hope to find his heart in it.

If a girl thinks as much of a yonke man as she does of herself she is afflicted with a disease called love.

Many a woman who passes as a Christian lies awake nights trying to connect a scheme to get her neighbor's best girl away from her.

ABOUT PERSONS

Linda Richards, seventy-seven, Boston, is a volunteer war nurse.

Private H. J. Brechwald of Atlanta has 31 constants in the German army.

William McDonald, mayor of Bradbury, Wash. N.J., is a munitions factory worker.

Marie Hignitt, noted New York socialite, is reported a victim of tuberculosis.

Jesse Grant, son of former President Grant, is sixty and a brigadier in New York.

Joe printing, The Observer, main 37.

Observer ads are wisely read.