

THE POLK COUNTY POST.

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CLYDE T. ECKER, Editor.

If there must be from necessity a continued restriction on the use of sugar, it will be up to every patriotic family to keep a bee.

About five years late, we have been assured that Oregon will soon have a state lime plant. In five years, we will probably have one.

The Benton County Courier rather surprisingly says there is no "war activities" in Oregon. All the Valley will wonder what it is in Portland if it isn't "war activity."

An Eastern writer has observed that according to the artists, who draw for the magazines, a woman has contributed her share to the country in the present crisis if she puts on a pair of overalls.

This "marching up the hill and down again" of the food administration regarding the sale of wheat flour is quite freely condemned by the press of the state. Somebody became too enthusiastic and slipped a belt.

Oregon's Jonathan Bourne is out with the statement that "the tariff is the leading issue." Ever since Tige was a pup, the tariff has been more or less an issue, but unfortunately for the country a political issue rather than a non-partisan one.

The German people have been told by the military clique that has them by the throat that it may be necessary to go barefooted in order that kultur be established the world over, the kaiser crowned king of the universe and the Hun claim of partnership with God be impressed upon all mankind with an imprint of blood. Germans, who came to America should be mighty thankful that they got away.

Congress will be obliged during the present session to pass a new revenue bill for the purpose of paying the enormous expenses of the war which is now figured in billions. Luxuries, incomes and war profits will bear the burden of taxation, as they should, but the question is can it be framed so the people will not have to pay it after all. If a tax is placed against the products of a concern, those products are raised in price to the people and the manufacturer escapes taxation. It has been demonstrated that as far as revenue is concerned that the people are contributing most of it. Possibly, the only equitable method of taxation would be a direct one levied against the property and income of all.

The Non-Partisan League, which has been somewhat under a cloud for several months, being charged with treason, disloyalty and other crimes, has been grinning at its accusers for the past few weeks. The Minnesota supreme court has ruled that the organization is not disloyal and in Nebraska where the council of defense put the "yellow" brand on several League heads, the same heads proceeded to bring libel suits against the officers of the defense council, causing the latter to back up and take it back. Then the League ticket swept North Dakota like a whirlwind in the primaries and cast such a large vote in the Minnesota primaries as to become the balance of power. The old parties in every state where the League is organized and in fighting trim, have something to worry about and keep them in hot water. Perhaps if the old parties had gone in for a little more "reform" themselves, they would not be plagued by a third gang.

STAR BEAMS

(Kansas City Star.)

Nobody can accuse the early cantaloupes of having used too much sugar this season.

We find that the trouble with some of the city men who went to the harvest fields was that they used profane language and expected it to shock the wheat.

Things continue to break right for the small boy. A Maryland professor says the proper way to eat a meal is to eat your dessert first. Nowadays a boy merely eats his way thru a lot of bread and meat and potatoes to his dessert. By putting the dessert out in front, he would attain his objective directly, and thousands of pounds of meat and wheat would be saved for the Allies every month.

No more "dago."

LUMINOUS PAINT IN WARFARE.

Many ingenious uses have been found of late for luminous paint. Watches with dials which glow in the darkness are becoming common, and only the other day an order was given for 100,000 marching compasses with luminous needles to be carried by soldiers at the front, says Boys' Life. Immense quantities of luminous cloth are used by the soldiers who go over the top. It is cut into small rectangles about ten inches long and fastened to the collar of the uniforms. The soldiers can thus recognize their own men in an indistinguishable fight in the dark. The luminous paint is also smeared on the ends of sharpened sticks which when stuck into the ground make a fairly clear beacon. Luminous tape is also used by the mile for a variety of purposes. In this way the stretcher-bearers mark the paths they are to follow. It has been found that on a dark night the luminous paint is visible for only 60 feet. A soldier can dip his hand in the paint and signal by describing letters in the air or by wig-wagging, knowing that the enemy cannot see him a hundred feet away.

Not long ago a jury in San Francisco found a man guilty of murder and recommended the death penalty. This in itself was somewhat remarkable because the death penalty appears to have gone out of fashion in most states, but a still more remarkable thing about the trial was that seven women were members of the jury, says Indianapolis News. They had a majority and could have brought a disagreement, but they readily voted for the death penalty. There has been considerable comment on this verdict, as it gave the lie to the assertion that women would not make good jurors because of their natural sympathy, sentimentalism and emotional qualities. There is ample evidence to prove that women are no more sentimental than men, especially in the trial of a case in court. It is argued also that women are no more emotional.

The crop outlook indicates a harvest of from 900,000,000 to 900,000,000 bushels of wheat. There is promise also of large harvests of this cereal in the countries of our allies. The economic situation is therefore vastly better than last year. It will be necessary, however, to make very large shipments of wheat to Europe, as National Food Administrator Herbert C. Hoover explained recently before the United States Grain corporation in New York. This is chiefly because of the greater durability of wheat over other grains. Corn, of which there will be a bountiful supply in this country, is perishable and Europeans are ignorant of the art of making corn bread.

It is announced that tailors intend to stop making "cuffs" on trousers. The practice possibly arose from the fact that so many fashionable young men insisted upon rolling up their trousers when it was raining in London. Trousers cuffs are merely for ornamentation, and we men might as well stop trying to be sarcastic about ornamentation by the lovelier sex.

The government warns against the slaughter of heifers and cows, if we are to avoid a meat famine for a hundred years to come. Save the cows, boys. Kill the bulls. Conditions throughout the world indicate that the bulls are about to overrun the earth. Every country has a surplus. Reduce it.

M. Stephane Lauzanne denies the story that French aviators were permitted to attend the funeral of Guynemer within the German lines; and his authority is the French government. No such thing ever happened or is likely to happen in this most bitter of all wars.

What is now called the anti-loafing law is nothing more than the old vagrancy law with a wider application. Formerly only poor men were prosecuted in this fashion. Now the rich vagrants will have to account for themselves.

There won't be any more "German silver." Its trade name has been changed to "nickel silver." So, if you've been refusing to use any such articles on account of patriotism, you can get 'em out again.

The Germans fight as if they are in earnest. So with the French and English. The United States will have to fight that way, too, or the war will be lost. And the great majority are not fighting that way yet.

The American lists cited for bravery abroad are increasing. We have cause to be proud of our boys abroad, and in turn, they should be made proud of the way we are backing them up at home.

Judging by reports from the battle front, an engineer is a man who wields a shovel or a machine gun with equal facility.

It looks as though the dove of peace had gone to meet the passenger pigeon.

AGREEMENT WITH NORWAY.

Mutual advantages are secured by the United States and Norway in the new trade agreement. The details have not been made public, but the principle is clear. By giving assurance that no imports from the United States or its allies, or any goods forwarded with the aid of American bunker coal, shall go either directly or indirectly to Germany, Norway will obtain all the supplies she needs for her own use, so far as the necessities of the war will permit. This is the kind of arrangement the allies have always been willing to make with the European neutrals. But these have apparently preferred the profits of trade with Germany to the welfare of the bulk of their own people. Fortunes have been made by the few, while the masses felt more and more the pinch of scarcity. Nor has this willingness to help Germany in the least protected the neutrals from German frightfulness. Norway in particular has suffered from submarine attacks; the toll of ships and lives could hardly have been higher if she had been at war, says Philadelphia Ledger. There will doubtless be an effort at Berlin to bully Norway into repudiating her new obligations. But Norway would have everything to lose and nothing to gain by yielding.

Nothing is harder to get through the head of the practical man than that only history can teach practical politics. His notion of practical politics is to provide for present needs and deal with emergencies as they arrive. This is an animal instinct of adaptation to circumstances which may do for animal needs; but it surrenders evolution to accident and force as among brute species, writes Henry Jones Ford in Atlantic Monthly. If ever political development is brought under the guidance of reflection and choice, it is by studious attention to the lessons of history. It was by effort of this character—of which the federalist is the literary monument—that this country was lifted out of anarchy in 1787.

English army doctors, finding city boys keener of ear than country boys, adopt the theory that the quietude of rural districts explains the difference. Urban noises, they argue, keep the aural nerves in a state constantly responsive. Looking across seas, these savants may discover that the keenest human ears ever known, those of Indians and the frontiersmen, have been developed in the silences of American forests and prairies. It seems probable that hearing, like many another faculty, depends for its active strength upon the exercise due to necessity. It is need, rather than noise, which keeps a listener's nerves on the alert.

We must have "territorial quantities" is the new phrase of the German Junker, cheered by costly victories to resume his demand for annexations in France and Belgium. Vorwaerts links this with the rejection of the Prussian ballot-reform commission: The "military sacrifices of the heroes in the west who went through almost impassable fields of mud and crater holes," for Junker war aims are to be rewarded by cheating them of political reforms without which Germany cannot be a free country!

The kaiser, seeing the desolation in France, gave thanks that it was not his country which was so ruined. And seeing the slaughter wrought in the ranks of his army by the latest Hindenburg drive for the fatherland, he can still give thanks that it is not his family which will be put in mourning. In fact, no matter where he looks, he has always something to be thankful for.

A peculiar type of American citizenship is that which patronizingly hints that the United States Constitution has largely outlived its usefulness, and then bravely asserts that the government founded on that Constitution is a model for the democracies of the world.

"The lack of tact," says a Boston preacher, "results in much irritation." Possibly it does, but what is called a lack of tact is in most cases but a form of brutal candor. That is much more easily endured than the irritations growing out of a lack of sense.

It is evident that the new Russian flag which bears the legend, "Rosiskiy Sotsialyiticheskaya Federativnaya Sovetskaya Respublika," will have to be manufactured in a job printing establishment.

A cable says the kaiser is believed to be weakening mentally and that he is the victim of hallucinations. There's nothing new about his being the v. of h. That trouble began in the summer of 1914.

The interior of the thinking apparatus of a fellow who has a son in the American army and the kaiser's picture in his room ought to be interesting material for a neutral psychologist.

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DEFILING THE FLAG

(Youth's Companion.)

As the war goes on and the casualty lists bring home our losses, we read of mobs forcing pro-Germans to kiss the flag. The crowd laughs and cheers, and the mob disperses with a smug feeling that it has done something finely patriotic.

In reality it has done the meanest thing a mob can do. The poor fool that it has man-handled is not cured of his disloyalty, but rather is confirmed in it by having suffered violence at the hands of American citizens; but that is the least of the evil that has been done. To those of us who are loyal that flag represents all that we hold dearest and most sacred in life. It is the visible emblem of our right to worship God as we please; our right to free speech and a free press; our right to put whom we choose into office, and to hold, ourselves, any office that we have the ability to attain. It stands for our right to make our own laws and to repeal them when they no longer please us. It is an omnipresent and indestructible memorial to the faith and courage and self-sacrifice of our fathers who died for it, and our sons who are dying for it now. It is as dear as a sister, as beautiful as a mother.

And into the presence of that symbol of purity and noble sentiment you lead a traitor and force him to press his foul lips to its immaculate folds! The flag cannot resist, but how every fibre of it must shrink and revolt! It cannot repel the assault or protest against the insult, but forever after it must float a little less proudly, must carry it self with a little less lofty consciousness.

To be allowed to kiss the flag is not a penance, but a privilege—the privilege of patriots, patriots only. It is not for traitors.

THE RECENT FLOUR FIASCO

(Jefferson Review.)

Of all the darn foolishness this monkey work with flour is the worst. A short time ago valley dealers were ordered to ship all their wheat flour to Portland, and there was a shortage and it was needed for army use. All complied promptly with the order. Now they are told there is no shortage and to have it shipped back. This will cost the consumer 70 cents per barrel, just to allow some pinhead to show he had a little authority. There has been no shortage of wheat flour and it does not seem probable that there will be with harvest at hand and big wheat reserves in Argentine and Australia. Why not stop the sale of substitutes for a while?

THE ANSWER OF THE FOREIGN BORN

(By Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior.)

We came to America to help in the making of this new land—for our own good and for the good of our children.

The gate was open; we gave nothing to enter. The paths that other feet had beaten we followed. The lands others had found and fought for were given us if we would make them into homes.

In the old land, the motherland, we worked for a living; here we worked that we might really live. Hope filled our hearts. In the old land, the motherland, our boys could be no more than we had been.

Their way was barred by the man above, the man born to land and position and preference. Always there was the man above, to whom he must doff his hat in token of deference and subjection. Strive as he might, sacrifice as (Continued on Page 3.)

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