

MR. TENSEN STATES HIS VIEWS ON WAR

The Ontario Argus, Feb. 27, 1917.

As you see it your duty to publish and criticize my remark on referendum on war or no war, I feel justified to ask for an opportunity in your paper, to declare myself more in detail, promising not to touch upon foreign conditions, which may raise the question, pro-German or pro-Britain.

If our representatives could be depended upon to act in accordance with the wishes of those who elected them, I would not feel alarmed. However the voters know better. We had such convincing examples again in the last session of the Oregon House. There is no doubt, that the Oregonians were much in favor of the delinquent tax bill. Yet it was defeated. The people have been deliberately robbed for years in paying for advertising delinquent taxes. If this is not a shining example of class-legislation, then I must be blind. So many acts, in the course of time have been passed, favoring business, big business. We are pretty well used to the abuses. We don't call that democracy, and if it was not for the referendum, initiative and recall, we would not have any check to such aggression, and class-rule. Answer the question, who bears the burden during and after the war? And who profits by it? The people have nothing to gain in modern wars. If in the present war, a great principle was at stake, affecting our country, we would know how to use the referendum in support of that principle. But what is this European murder for? Modern wars spring from the desire (greed) for profits. Commercial rivalry was bound to force this war between Germany and England. And if we are not greedy for profits there is no cause for war for us. Let us supply our own people first, then if there is a surplus, let those who want it, come and get it. I rather sacrifice international right, for the time being, than sacrifice the young Americans and be called upon to pay huge bills (To whom?) Besides that, think of the ill effects upon public morals. And don't we need the best young men to make the American nation better. Degenerates don't go to the front. They stay home and father the next generation. After the war the world will reason, and the American people will be thought of as an example of common sense, amid desperate nations.

In case of invasion, the referendum would be impractical. But conditions at present are entirely different. We have ample time to reason and think before we need to act. I like to call your attention to the fact that foreign relations are conducted by the president and his cabinet officers. If foreign affairs are ill taken care of, say in an aggressive way, congress may, some day be forced in a position where a declaration of war is the only way out. Don't we need a check there? The fundamental difference between us in the war question can be traced to the justice or injustice of the profit system, since war has become to be a business.

I claim, abolish the profit system and you abolish the cause for war. The balance of power has failed to prevent war, so will an International Peace League. I hope I explained myself in a way that leaves no doubt as to my convictions.

Thanking you for the space,
P. TENSEN.

ANSWERING MR. TENSEN.
But few words are needed to answer the foregoing statement from Mr. Tensen, for it is most evident that he has overlooked entirely the position previously assumed by the Argus in the question at issue. He has cited an instance where, in his opinion, the desires of the majority of the people of the state were not adhered to by the last legislature.

To discuss that here would be worse than foolish, the measure referred to has amended sufficient merit to warrant the action of the legislature, for the protection of innocent property from the grip of the fifteen-per-cent-penalty men who invade every community. However to pick out one measure, and say that is wrong proves nothing for the legislature passed more than 100 measures, and if it made but one mistake in the forty days its record for efficiency is substantial evidence that the present system of representative government is a success.

However to get back to the matter in question, Mr. Tensen himself shows how preposterous is the proposition of a referendum on the question of war or peace, when he says, "In case of invasion the referendum would be impractical." That is it, it would be impractical.

How is the United States to know when such a condition is to arise?

The manner of declaring war and giving the rights of this nation can not be left to the caprice of fortune. It is too late to lock the door on the horse in a stable. We can not change its legislation to suit varying conditions, when its very existence might be put in jeopardy before action could be taken.

This nation has in its wisdom established among other policies that known as the Monroe doctrine. Had Mr. Tensen's theory been in operation when the Venezuela controversy arose between the United States and Germany, what does any reasonable man suppose would have happened? Why our state of unpreparedness then, and with no British battle fleet holding the Kaiser's ships in check, the war would have been on while Billy Bryan was preparing his first speech.

Lack of time forbids going further into the merits of this question for Mr. Tensen's letter was not received until Wednesday evening, but the patience with which President Wilson handled the various problems confronting him, his repeated declarations to congress are self evident manifestations that the United States has great rights at stake the surrender of which would be unworthy of any people worthy of the name of men.

Anyway it is not now a question of war, for no sane man wants war when it can be avoided, but it is a question of right and justice and adherence to the recognized rules of warfare as touching neutral nations. To surrender these rights with only words of protest is inconceivable to any man who by even a cursory study of history knows at what cost they were achieved.

In his further statements concerning the causes of war Mr. Tensen gives the oft repeated cry of "class-es," "greed" and avarice. No doubt these are the causes of most wars, but not all wars. Was the Revolutionary war fought for greed? Was the Civil war one of "classes"? Was the war with Spain fought for aggrandisement? The facts of history do not sustain such a base suspicion. For further answer to Mr. Tensen's interesting letter we would direct attention to the editorial reprinted from the Sunday Oregonian under the caption, "Divided Loyalty." The sentiments of the Oregonian writer, we believe, fully cover the case.

DIVIDED LOYALTY.

It is high time that someone preached the fact that loyalty is not fully served by waving the American flag and shouting one's readiness to fight under remote circumstances. Loyalty, in one part, consists of confidence in one's government; faith in the honor of one's fellow-countrymen, and belief in the integrity of their established institutions. In the other part it consists of willingness to sacrifice, to do and die if need be, in behalf of one's country, its institutions and its people, and to defend at all hazards its honor against all assaults.

The Nation is afflicted today with two types of self-asserting loyalists. One gives lip service to the Government, its people and its institutions and proclaims its belief in the honor and good sense of the country's people. Yet this type shrinks from sacrifice. The other boastfully asserts a willingness to fight, but impugns Government, discerns intrigue and treason among the people and charges corruption of their institutions.

True Americanism has patience with neither. If compelled to choose between them, it would accept those partakers of fatted ease who sneer at thought of sacrifice—it would elevate the referendums in preference to the traducers. The coward, forced to fight for an acknowledged truth, is more dependable than one who volunteers to battle for that which he believes to be false.

No man is entitled to the name loyalist unless he accepts the whole principle of loyalty. A promissory note to shoulder arms, which one may never be called upon to pay, is not the Nation's crying need at this hour. Rather, it is a universal expression of faith that the decisions of those in whose hands the welfare of this Nation have been voluntarily placed by the people will reflect their judgment, their spirit and their honor. Only if given that much can America face the future, whatever that future may be, "with malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right."—Gregorian.

THE NEW VALLANDIGHAM.

When a man is about to engage in a fight for a cause which he is firmly convinced is just, he naturally regards as an enemy any man who whispers doubt of its justice, fear of the pain he will suffer or fear of the outcome. So is it with a nation. When a has borne patiently with gross and repeated injury, when its patience is

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Of Manufacturer's Specimens and Initial Showing of New Spring

Coats, Suits, Dresses

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

MARCH 2 AND 3

We have arranged for the benefit of the women of Ontario, Vale, Nyssa, Fruitland, New Plymouth and all the surrounding territory, to show the most approved garments shown by some of the best garment manufacturers in the East and Middle West.

THE MANUFACTURERS EXHIBIT TWO DAYS ONLY. OUR OWN STOCK WILL ALSO BE ON DISPLAY AT THAT TIME.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 2 and 3.

In our initial showing of Women's Ready-to-wear goods we have secured an assortment of captivatingly handsome beauties which will reflect artistic touches of the designer's skill combined with honest materials and perfect workmanship.

The smartness of the garments will astonish you—so will the prices, for considering the values they are—well come and see for yourself.

COATS

Nifty is the word that describes these sport coats for Spring. They are most desirable and make a hit everywhere. **THE**

STYLE FEATURES ARE OUR BELTED MODELS, LARGE COLLARS, BUTTON TRIMMINGS, SMART POCKETS. Women and Misses will be delighted with every one. They are priced from **\$9 to \$25**

SUITS

Come see the new suits. The coming of Spring is reflected—the colors of the suit offerings, Gold, Mustard, Apple Green, Blues, Rose etc., are the popular shades and offer variety for the jaunty individuality every woman seeks. We have these in many designs and values, including Gardbardines, Serge, Jersey, Chuddy Cloth, variously priced from **\$15 to \$35.00** And all Good Values.

DRESSES

Different in style—that tells the story of the spring dresses we are offering, the straight from the shoulder effects are charmingly brought out in plaited designs. We know the women will all like these for the colors and designs are right to express the ideas of springtime. Priced all the way from **\$8.50 to \$20.00**



THE COLORS ARE VARIED.

We have them in the high top—all black, black and white, white, grays, soapstone kids.

New Spring Footwear Featuring the Utz & Dunn SHOES

In these days of short skirts a woman is only as well dressed as her shoes—substantially stylish shoes are essential to the well dressed woman. We have them to fit every foot.



SELBY SHOES.

Included in our stock are handsome. Selby Shoes distinctive in style and quality.

WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THIS. The only way in which you can become acquainted with the merits of our ready-to-wear goods, and the fairness with which they are priced is to **SEE THEM.** In our entry into the ready-to-wear trade we aim to maintain the same relative standing as we have established in our other departments, by offering only the products of the best manufacturers, honestly priced within the reach of everyone, when the season opens.

Remember the date of this display in addition to our stock, March 2 and 3.

RADER BROS.

ONTARIO, OREGON

A visit to our store on Friday and Saturday March 2 and 3 will re-pay you.

rewarded only with threats of further injury, when it finally resolves to defend its mind. Such a man is W. J. Bryan. After President Wilson has exhausted every honorable means of keeping peace without sacrificing American rights, Mr. Bryan still preaches peace when

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