

The Ontario Argus

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The Pledge. I pledge my allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE NON-PARTISAN GAME.

Being non-partisan in public life comes pretty near to being a non-entity. In the days of political strife a man or a newspaper, if either pretends to have character, must have nerve and back bone enough to take a stand and not in a wishy-washy pandering to everyone try carry water on both shoulders.

As a matter of fact there can be no such thing as a non-partisan, if a man has any ideals or ideas about public affairs. Of course, if one is so puerile as to take such a position and is so fearful lest the taking of a position will hurt his business with the opposing faction, that is all very well. He can do so. It is his privilege, but if that is the case that person or that publication soon finds its level. Its influence is judged by its lack of personality and it is deemed what it really is, a mere buncombeing institution trying to find a position where, after election it can seek favors from either side should the political winds bear men of divergent opinions into office.

That is not a new role in newspapers. It is the old gag of an attempt on the part of men who have not manhood enough to stand up and say what they think to bunk the readers of their papers in believing they are trying to serve a high and noble purpose. Analyze their efforts and see for yourself if it is not true. Think of any man that you know who is always trying to agree with everyone. How much use have you got for his opinion on any subject? How much use have you for the opinions of a newspaper equally devoid of character?

MINORITIES NEEDED.

This is a political year in Oregon. But it is not a political year in the Nation. There are times when the judicious partisan, and every patriot is that kind of a partisan, recognizes that the business before the American people today is, "win the war," and to that end every good American will work.

The man who constructively criticises, even tho he is a member of the opposite political party to the administration, nevertheless by his criticism may be serving the public good far more effectively than the acts of some official.

During the past few months there have been flagrant examples of just such results, and no one more than the national administration should be more grateful to the newspapers who have exposed the rottenness which has existed.

Take the case of the wool shortage, stimulated by the reports of "shoddy" makers. Will not every father and mother who has a son in the army or navy be thankful that the grafters in high places were exposed? It proves that the function of critic is not without real use to the people.

Suppose we had in America the unimaginable condition of no political parties, no majority, no minority; what would have happened? Why nothing would have happened, except that there would have been more graft; more American boys killed thru lack of proper conditions in which to live. That is all.

Every student of government recognizes the historical fact that an active minority is indispensable to the well being of a democracy. Without such a minority a majority will degenerate into an autocracy. That is a law of human nature. The abuse of power grows from its too long continued use, if that use be unchecked.

Of course the "Oregon system" which the Malheur Enterprise extolls for two columns in a recent issue overlooks that fundamental psychological fact of humane nature, but then what is the use of letting facts interfere with any effort to ride two political horses.

DRIVE RECORDS.

A record of all contributions to patriotic purposes should be kept at central head-

quarters at each city and county in the State.

This record will have a practical value for future drives. Each committee in charge of a Red Cross, Liberty Loan or some other kind if a government drive can have access to the same record.

This will not only be a great convenience to each committee, but it would also avoid doing an injustice to contributors who have been over generous. Incidentally it would expose the professional hypocrites, each of whom pretends to have contributed to other drives. The number of these hypocrites is considerable.

Aside from the practical value there would be secondarily a historical value of a record of this kind. When our soldier boys come home the record would tell the story to them as to who were their real friends and who were simply noisy pretenders.

Such a record would be a Doomsday Book for many a stingy highbrow who aspires to political or social prominence.

The names of patriotic campaign workers also should be recorded.—Oregon Voter.

MORE DRIVES.

They are coming, they are coming, more drives and more drives.

There will be one or two big drives a month, and each drive will require big contributions.

Our pocketbooks will suffer, but we must make good. To complain reveals ignorance of the necessities.

Even in stricken Belgium the Red Cross is supported today more liberally by the employed civilian population than it is in America. The business and propertied people of France, bleeding France, are subscribing ten dollars to the Red Cross where we Americans put up dollars.

In Great Britain the private giving has been and continues to be on so colossal a scale that our donations seem insignificant in comparison.

Toronto, Canada, is little larger than Portland; yet the private subscriptions collected there for war relief aggregate \$8,000,000, or more than ten times what Portland to date has subscribed.

Get posted, friends on what suffering peoples give, and you will prate less about the frequency of drives.—Oregon Voter.

NO ARGUMENT NEEDED.

During the past week the Argus has made an effort to determine the attitude on the water question of as many of the residents as could possibly be reached, in short time. And as was anticipated hardly a dissenting voice was heard. Without a single exception every person interviewed declared a firm belief in the need for an "adequate supply of pure soft water."

It is true that one or two with due business caution reserved the right, before giving a categorical expression, to examine the details of the plans and specifications to determine if the engineer had properly cared for the needs of the city within the bounds of reason at this time.

It is to be noted that most of the men interviewed are heavy property owners. Noted, too, that they recognize, aside from the sanitary and health view point the actual business soundness of the position taken by the City Administration in its effort to secure a water supply. Truly there is little need for argument on the subject. Ontario cannot permit conditions to continue longer. The water system must be built.

INVESTIGATE FOR YOURSELF.

As a matter of good business and good citizenship, you will find the plans for the water system proposed for Ontario interesting and worthy of study. They are on file for your inspection at the City Hall. Ask the City Recorder to show them to you. He will be glad to do it and when some one asks you about the proposed plans you will have a clearer idea of what is proposed.

As verbal machine gunners, President Wilson and David Lloyd-George have the Kaiser and Count Hertling badly distanced. The manner in which they each perforated the Kaiser's attempt to justify the German peace terms left nothing to be desired. With so many holes punched thru the Kaiser's deceptions surely the German people will be able to "se thru him" pretty soon.

Lend your quarters to warm the quarters of American soldiers "over there."

This space is devoted to the expression of the opinions of the youths of Ontario and was edited by the pupils of the Seventh Grade

THE JUNIOR ARGUS

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NO. 1

An Editorial is supposed to be the editor's thoughts and what the paper is partial to.—Frank Van Petten.

SCRAPS OF WAR TALK.

Never before in the history of the United States has it been necessary for the American people to think and act as one. We have now joined in the war, not to show our strength, but because we wish to preserve Democracy. Our allies who have bravely been fighting for this just cause are not able to hold out long and we must prepare ourselves to take up the burden.

Germany is by no means yet beaten, for after her men have been destroyed they have women to place in the field.

It is necessary that we send food to our boys that are at the front fighting for us. So sign the food conservation pledge. Help your country.—Margaret Blackaby.

THE WAR.

If the Allies win, what part of Germany, Austria Bulgaria and Turkey will they take?

Possibly the question that gathers the most attention in army circles is the very question we ask ourselves over and over. It is very plain to Americans to see that the U. S. will not take anything of the mainland of these countries. The U. S. went into this war not for land or wealth, but because she was forced into it, for the sake of humanity. It was selfishness, greediness, foolishness and the thought of the upper hand that made Germany go to war. She broke the vessel of humanity half into when she invaded Belgium. Germany declares she will, if she gets peace, restore Belgium. Yet after she is rested a little she will declare it is nothing but a scrap of paper. So if you want Belgium, and those overrun countries to be restored, get in and help the United States win the war. When some Germans coming from their dear "Fatherland" came

to this country they pledged their allegiance to our country and our dear flag. But now, after war is declared by GERMANY, they take Germany's side saying, "It is but a scrap of paper." Why didn't they stay in Germany if they love their dear "Fatherland" so much?

Germany ought to be made to pay Belgium a large sum of money each year for orphans and cripples which were made such by the Germans and militarism. They also ought to be forced to build with their own hands what they tore down or destroyed. France owes (in reality) her country to Belgium. Paris, the capital, and probably the whole of France, would have fallen into German hands. Belgium held her neutrality (taking neither side) until invaded by Germany. England will probably follow the United States. France, likely, will take the Alsace-Lorraine district which was captured by Germany some years ago. Italy will likely take Austria's coast, which formerly belonged to Italy. Russia will make peace, "such a sweet peace" that she will not be included. Should the German's have liberty coming to them after they have done such cruelties? Do you want liberty or do you prefer the Kaiser's treatment? If you desire liberty, get in and "push." If you prefer the Kaiser's treatment, get out of the country and go back to your dear "Fatherland." Which do you prefer?—Ceil Thompson.

NOT THE FIRST TIME.

In the time of the Civil war, food cost considerably more than it does now. For instance, now sugar costs \$58 per barrel, rice \$38 per barrel and tea, \$101 per 25 pounds. Coffee was four times as much as it is now. Other prices were in proportion.

Conditions are not as bad as they have been or could be. Groceries that cost \$2644.14 in those days can be purchased for \$291.61 now.

PROHIBITION YES, OR NO.

That is the question before the minds of people today. This is the first time it has been before people of the United States. Six of the states have made a law against the buying and selling of liquor others haven't.

In the states that haven't this prohibition law, a person can behold told misery. On payday the men to the saloon, get drunk and tr companions, and, by the time they get home, they have most of the money spent, if not all of it.

The money spent for booze was buy plenty of food for the rest of the family. This is not the only hardship forced on the family of a drunkard. When the man comes home drunk he generally beats his wife and children. When the drunkard wakes up in the morning with a clear brain some of these are genuine sorry, while others are not.

If it is not important enough to the United States government should make a law against selling liquor to a man in uniform, it is important enough to the vast multitude at home to completely abolish the sale of liquor.—Wesley E. McComb.

A pro-German is the worst poison available for a patriotic nation because he sympathizes with the Germans and thru him the German government receives valuable information.

At the word of the Kaiser he destroys costly amounts of grain and ammunition, which is stored up to send to our allies.

Pro-Germans who are mixed with people who are not quite as patriotic as the majority, soon induce these people to join with them.

If this nation is enterprising enough it will either export these pro-Germans to the land where they belong or keep them in prison camps under careful guard.—Frank Van Petten.

Those Home Made SAUSAGE

We have just installed a completely equipped Sausage Kitchen. In it are all the new meat cutting and grinding machines so that we can make sausages of all kinds. If there is anything special that you want in the way of sausage come here and we will make it for you.

Farmers, We Will Prepare Meats for You

For a reasonable charge, cheaper than you could do it yourself, Mr. Rancher, we will smoke and cure your hams, bacon or other meats. Bring them to us, we are equipped to prepare them correctly.

You Save Money by Buying for Cash

Following the advice of the Food Administration, we have inaugurated our business on a CASH BASIS.

The Independent Market

FRANK UTZ, Manager.