

The Ontario Argus

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THE FOREIGN VIEWPOINT

There could hardly be anything more interesting to the average American than the views entertained by the peoples of other lands concerning American ideas and ideals.

What they think of us and our institutions just now is of more than ordinary importance in view of the prominence which our nation has assumed since the signing of the armistice, and the fact that President Wilson's now famous "Fourteen Points," have been generally accepted as the starting point from which negotiations shall proceed in the conversations preliminary to the actual signing of the peace treaty. The President's authorship of this program has heightened the nation's prestige and it has made him the commanding figure in the world today.

In this latter connection, the great publications, as indicated by the current reviews of European magazines and newspapers believe that all Europe is vying with the President's most ardent admirers here at home in according first place among the world's great men. The people of Europe are entirely at a loss in attempting to understand the objections that have been raised on this side of the water to the President's trip to Europe.

According to the European writers President Wilson is the summation of all civic virtues. The English journalists can not find among their prominently active men, one with whom to class him. According to them he is more conversant with the growth of British diplomatic history than is Balfour himself. They declare that he is more profound than Lloyd George and more eloquent than is Asquith. In fact they find that of all British statesmen, Lord Rosebery is the only one who possessed the combination of erudition and eloquence combined with state-craft shown by the President.

The French dailies dwell upon the democratic ideals they see in the President and his eloquent presentation of international questions. They see similarities in his actions and those of their own beloved Lafayette. They too note his erudition and scholarly attainments not only as an historian but as a student of languages.

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STILL AFTER THE LEAGUE.

The Italian newspapermen while giving due prominence to his mental attainments, which they agree are of many kinds, especially call attention to his work as an historian. They assert that when he sought a model to follow in his life work he chose the Italian historians as those the least given to prejudice and to narrow nationalist viewpoints. As an historian the Italian's rank President Wilson with their own Livy, and in that field no greater honor could be paid.

All the adulation of the allied nations, all their regal banquets and honors that have been showered upon him, have not, apparently, caused the President to deviate from the one great object of his visit to Europe; the formation of a "League of Nations." From all accounts that come back the European capitals he is going ahead with his program regardless of the opposition of Premier Clemenceau of France.

The French statesman wants to continue the old system of "balance of power" with an enlarged entente of democracies wielding the preponderating influence. He declares that the entente saved France, and that now is not the time to throw the safe defense away for the uncertain rod a league of nations. He sees danger in permitting the recent enemies of France as members of the league, and he voices doubts as to the degree to which Germany has reformed. The facts of the matter appear to be that the one obstacle to an early consummation of the peace treaty is the difference between France and America. The difficulty over, "Freedom of the Seas," with Great Britain has taken a secondary place in the news, American and British views have somehow, apparently, been harmonized.

In the mean time the American people are wondering what will actually happen the Peace Conference does get down to the real business for which it has been called, and we may know exactly how sincere they have been according to the President the intellectual and moral leadership

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT

The fact that could not but be marked, in all of the editorial statements, in all of the expressions of grief by political friends and foes, on the untimely death of Theodore Roosevelt, was the recurring of the word, "great".

That was the measure of Roosevelt. There could be no agnostic on the subject of Teddy. One had either to accept his positions on public questions or diametrically oppose them. Teddy never occupied a middle ground. There was never any doubt concerning what meant when he gave forth a pronouncement of policy.

Not in this generation will there be another Teddy, as there never has been one before him. His position is unique in American history.

While Roosevelt did great things as Governor of New York and later as President, his chief claim for the affectionate regard of all true Americans is upstanding Americanism, always, but more especially for his wholehearted and vigorous declaration of his stand since the great world war began.

For a long time his was like "the voice that cried in the wilderness". His message was unheeded, by those in

high places who had been lulled into a feeling of false security by the milkop pacifists and dastardly pro-Hun propagandists.

The time came, however, when he could no longer be ignored. He had too many followers all over the land. He had properly gauged the American people. He was a leader of public opinion, not a follower. He had the courage of his convictions, and he fought for what he believed right.

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GETTING STARTED RIGHT.

It is very evident from the facts brot out at the meeting of Nyssa and Ontario citizens at the Commercial club Tuesday evening, that there is a great deal of work to be done here at home before the Owyhee Project can be adequately presented for consideration by the Reclamation officials.

It is to be regretted that there was not a big delegation and the results justified the gathering, for it proved again that, "two heads are better than one," for discussion in which all phases of the question were considered served to dispell a number of illusions and bring the matter down to a practical working basis.

It is to be regretted that there was not a big delagation for Vale present at the meeting, for the Owyhee project is of supreme importance to all the north end of the county, and it is deserving of the united support of all the communities in the county. However assurance was given by Mr. G. H. Currey of Vale that the county seat town would give its aid in furthering the project, and that will be appreciated.

The work for the Owyhee project affords an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the ability of the people of the county to unite for the advancement of all, and to relegate sectional interests, for truly that which benefits any section of this valley does actually benefit all the valley.

The promotion of the Owyhee Project could serve no better purpose for the advancement of the county, aside from the material aspect, than in thus bringing the communities together. The start has been made. It remains for the committee named, the papers, the Commercial organizations and all affected to keep up the interest and enthusiasm needed to put the project over for the ultimate benefits of all concerned.

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DIRECT ACTION

The shooting of the R. W. Swagler, district attorney, at Vale, Tuesday, is an example of "direct action" such as the Bolsheviks in Russia are indulging in these days.

Haulon was not satisfied to have the law take its course. He wanted his way. He reasoned that unless the Grand Jury did what he said, someone would hear from him. That is what his acts indicate.

It may be true that his mind has become unbalanced as the result of all his troubles and his loss, but when a justice court jury acquits, and a Grand jury refuses to indict, Haulon must have had a slim case against the Basques, and certainly no occasion for wrecking his vengeance on the District Attorney.

But that is the kind of government which the Bolsheviks want. They want direct action. They are the mob, and one can imagine what would happen here in America if every one who felt himself aggrieved at an official promptly secured an automatic and proceeded to "get him."

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The Warm Springs Board should think twice before resorting to a legal technicality to evade paying the State of Oregon what is morally due it. It has been just such evasions that have brot irrigation districts into disrepute with investors, and the public.

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The Legislature is soon to start its work. The first thing it should do after ratifying the National Prohibition amendment, is to provide means of an election to abolish the six per cent limitation.

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Bootlegging seems to be on the up grade again. Time to clamp down on that stuff before some more shooting scraps give the county an undesirable reputation.

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Hindenburg wants English troops in Berlin, says head lines. They'll be needed there if any Germans are to be saved from the Bolshevik.

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Our idea of zero in manhood is the fellow who steals chickens from a woman.

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Harvesting an ice crop is something new for this section, but it will help some next summer.

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When you kick about the weather, just think how much better it is here than back in "your old home town."

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The petty thief has been busy around Ontario of late. Better lock your chicken coop.

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Bill Hohenzollern is not as prominent as he was a year ago.

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Are your New Year's resolutions on straight, yet?

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