

MALHEUR ENTERPRISE EDITORIAL SECTION

AS was expected the reply of Germany to President Wilson's note has been the sinking of a ship flying the flag of the U. S. carrying contraband, without warning or investigation. The ship remained afloat long enough for the crew to escape. It is time the administration took cognizance of the fact that Germany means business; that Germany is still a vandal Hun; that Germany is controlled by a Prussian war lord with the intention of exceeding Alexander by conquering all of the world.

GERMANY'S REPLY

We have no desire to war with Germany but we must either place ourselves in a position to prevent Germany from attacking our country or expect to have her attack us the day she settles with Europe. We can prepare a defense which can be made good against the world. It will be expensive in money but millions of lives will be saved. Submarines, submarine destroyers and aerial navigation with a million soldiers will save us. We are not in need of many dreadnaughts as we shall not attack. Guns, and ammunition are what we need or at least ability in the way of manufacturing plants to supply them. Time is a factor in this defense and two years will carry us far on the road toward safety.

It is not necessary to be a jingo to advise preparation. We have been shown its necessity. England's unpreparedness has deluged the world in the blood of innocents. He who objects to preparation is mildly designated as "mollycoddle."

THE Oregon Voter is pleased to give "a road to public ownership" tending to show the unreasonableness and disadvantages of such ownership. There are other reasons for this course and another road towards administration of public utilities by the people. We do not believe that, under our decentralized system of government, public ownership will ever prove economical. The mismanagement of our various departments indicate this to be true.

ANOTHER ROAD TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

Our grossly mismanaged postal affairs indicate where we would land with other complex enterprises: nevertheless there is great danger of that very thing coming about and this trail leads to, and accounts for, the possibility.

Private enterprise secured gifts and franchises from the people. Seizing the opportunity offered by an undeveloped and rich country and not satisfied with great legitimate profits, they fraudulently increased the original costs and created huge unearned overhead charges; they deliberately imposed upon the people; they forced patrons to pay exorbitant charges; they treated the public with scant courtesy; they ignored just complaints as to service and charges; they entered politics and debauched the law-making power of the people; they discriminated against individuals and communities; they combined to unduly force high prices. Thus they exasperated the public and in retaliation laws were enacted curtailing their power; investigating committees advised a vast network of regulation, complicated and expensive; the people have moved in anger and with indiscriminate hornet like stings are hurting just and unjust business alike. This is the road we are now traveling. Will it turn into a broad channel of prosperous business built upon honest management which will naturally disarm the public or will it continue along the tortuous trail of suspicion, distrust and bitter enmity on the one side and desperate attempts to continue the evils of watered securities, high interest rates for the producers and unfair discrimination in favor of wealth? Who knows?

THE Postal Department is run, as is any other business, as a whole. We may not single out any particular part and say this pays too much and this too little. The question is the greatest good to the greatest number. The people demand the parcel post, the income from this alone need not necessarily be self supporting. The present rate of first class postage falls not hardly on the people generally and pays a great revenue. Cutting it down helps the people not at all if the price is to be raised on other lines. The attack is directly against second class matter. It is well known that the rate will not be raised on the parcel post to offset the loss on first class reduction. Second class matter is carried to the people at an exceedingly low rate. To advance this rate means that the people must pay it. Advertising just at present, is at its zenith of use and efficiency, it will decline. The people have the bills to foot and if the rates are lowered to one cent, the big department stores will have made a further saving which will enable them to antagonize the small dealer in a greater degree.

ONE CENT POSTAGE.

The oratorical rant about our brave sons rallying to our defense has but one object and no sensible meaning. Its object is political advancement and its meaning meaningless. One million brave men unarmed and without experience would fill the earth with dead and the enemy with laughter. Our inventors will defend us? Yes if given time and are backed with ammunition and trained men. Where can we get either under five years? "Mollycoddles" is easy. There are other terms of designation more appropriate, fully as euphonious but more suitable on different paper.

SCHOOL patrons of Oregon are paying more than twice as much money each year for school books that are printed in the east as the same books would cost, if produced by our state printing office. This fact is conclusively shown by a comparison of the prices paid in Oregon with those paid in California, where the state printing office produces all the school books used in the state. Oregon business men and manufacturers are very much interested at this time in a campaign for made in Oregon goods, and the Enterprise believes that a campaign along the same line, which will save the school children one-half of the expense for books, and at the same time leave a half million dollars of money in the state each year, that is now being sent east, would not only be patriotic but business like.

FOR SCHOOL BOOKS THAT ARE MADE IN OREGON.

The printers at the state capital have taken this matter up, secured the data, and are asking the people of the state who are paying two prices for an eastern product to assist in having his work done in Oregon, thereby saving half the cost of school books and at the same time making more work for Oregon printers.

Everyone who has looked up the figures in this matter, and knows that there is an actual saving by having the work done in the state printing office, is both willing and anxious to quit sending east for books and have the work done at home. But to do this an organized effort will have to be put forth and a demand made for the change in our present system. The state printing office will need additional equipment, but the saving of half a million dollars annually, as shown by the report of the Text Book Committee published elsewhere in this issue, will furnish a splendid modern equipment for the state printing office and still show a big profit to the people over the prices now being paid for eastern made books.

Another item suggested by the printers, has appealed to the writer ever since the new school text books were adopted. It is the fact that the readers are filled with illustrations and reading lessons descriptive of places and conditions in Vermont, New Hampshire and other "down east" points, to the exclusion of the West. The problems in the arithmetics are based upon distances between Dover and Boston, Augusta and Concord, etc., which are of no practical benefit or interest to the western pupil. By infusing some Oregon and western literature in the readers and propounding problems of local interest, the practical education of the children would be promoted, and local pride increased, while saving money and patronizing home industry.

The whole proposition of printing the school text books in the state printing office appeals both to the patriotism and pocket books of the school patrons of the state and should be given thoughtful attention.

THIS is a country of free speech; this is a country where the humblest has the right to express himself in regard to the government and its administration; this is a country where free speech is abused; this is a country where the doctrine of lese majestie is not in force; but when a number of our people (fortunately a small number) take it upon themselves to publicly advise a course which every page of history shows to be suicidal, it is time to call a halt. Bryan, in his haste to accomplish his political ends, has done a vast amount of damage. He has caused Germany to believe that the country is divided; he has caused the unthinking to take a course which if successful would result in our complete destruction; he has brought his doctrine of piffle into prominence and that it is a doctrine of noise is not understood by other countries, England perhaps excepted.

Those who are advocating signatures to peace at any price documents are attempting infinite harm. Have they a right to insist upon a course of almost certain destruction to our interests? Whether or no, they will do it, and we therefore presume we must endure, but a slight touch of German imperialism would soon change their tune.

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THE Oregon Bankers are on the job," says an exchange. They sure are if the statements now running in the papers are true, and they are of course in accordance with the facts. Banks in the west can get higher interest than can eastern banks. They will help the farmer to loans, perhaps long time loans, but the interest rate will not be a rate which the farmer can pay. The company organized by Swift and Portland bankers where by men raising stock might obtain money at 8 per cent helped to some extent, but farmers cannot pay more than six per cent and live through it. That there may be some few exceptions to this is possible, but practically all Oregon and Washington farmers have made their big money through increase in values rather than from producing crops.

SURELY THEY ARE ON THE JOB.

The man who got a donation claim for nothing and sold it after 30 years for \$100 per acre, made good money; the man who secured a homestead and sold it during the boom made money; the man who got a timber claim for \$2.50 per acre and sold ten million feet of logs at \$2.00 per thousand made money. None of these men made it by producing crops at the same time paying ten per cent interest. Banks can loan all the money they can get at ten per cent, but railroads are not paying ten per cent, yet their security is the farmers ability to produce tonnage, in fact their loan is secured on the land of the producer, indirectly, for of what value will any rolling stock, or other personal property have if the country produces no tonnage?

The farmer is entitled to an equal show in the money market. He asks no special privilege. He asks for money at an equal rate and equal security on equal time. He has a special privilege now, however, he has to pay more interest on better security than any other class in the country. The time is at hand when the people who produce shall have an equal opportunity in the money market with those who are exploiting them.

To get this equal show they will have to get legislation without, and in spite of, the banking fraternity. The much vaunted Rural Credit bill proposed by the last congress is but a thinly veiled joke. No rural bank could be successful under its scheme. The only reason that special legislation is needed in this important matter, is that financial interests are very loth to let the farmer escape from their clutches, congress is their only hope.

The government went into the townsite business in Alaska, and has mulcted the public in a bolder and a more successful manner than the wildest town lot speculators in America. They averaged \$300 per lot for worthless tide lands and at a point which will never amount to anything, the navigation of the surrounding waters being dangerous. They have either attempted to destroy Seward or they have played a bunco game.

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THERE is much agitation in re foreign trade. This is well, but why congress should be expected to offer aid to this and at the same time neglect our home affairs is a mystery. Big business must have help but the farmer can get along as best he may. Big business must have legislation enabling it to place its money in foreign countries but irrigation which places people in homes and tends to reduce the cost of living may do as it best can. Manufacturing countries and manufacturing centers are not places of home owners. They are invariably districts of low wages and poverty. Even mighty and imperial Germany is anything but a country of homes. The people house with their stock and live on a tithe of what it takes to support an American family. Crushed under the mailed trod of Emperor in Germany; groveling in the dust made by an aristocracy in England; the laborer in those countries producing for foreign consumption is underfed, badly housed and underpaid.

FOREIGN TRADE.

In our own country we have poverty rampant in every manufacturing center, from Massachusetts to Colorado. Irrigation, rural credits, local improvement will build up homes, but the owners are and will be independent and perhaps this is what's the matter. Perhaps there is a conspiracy of wealth and determination to create an aristocracy as against a democracy. Perhaps that is why there are peace at any price propogandists, they are really working for an imperial government. Republics are uncongenial associates for imperialistic rulers.

The uncalled for attack on "hyphenated" Americans amounts but little. We are all foreigners except the Indian and there is no reason to believe that the descendants of any of the many nations are other than patriotic citizens of this country. They may and will have their desires as to the result in Europe, but will stand solidly in line for the country they have adopted.

Germany will let Austria and Italy fight it out. If Austria whips she is satisfied. If Italy wins it will be but a short campaign for her to whip Italy and annex Austria. Italy is not to be taken seriously.

It is time Americans took a hand in the game. The peace at any price propogandists are beginning to take themselves seriously and need to be sat upon thoroughly.

The mighty has returned and the celestial bird still retains his accustomed elevation above tidewater.

Hessians were—Hessians. So Oregonians are—Oregonians, even though a future historian might class them as from the United States.

That creamery argument reminds us that dry farming is also under the ban except at points under immediate control of the "City of Six (or more) Rivers." It do beat h-!



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