

# Mt. Scott Herald

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This paper has enlisted with the government in the cause of America for the period of the war.....

## FREEDOM FOR ALL SLAVS.

"All branches of the Slav race should be completely freed from German and Austrian rule." This emphatic reaffirmation by Secretary Lansing of the position taken by the United States government is of especial importance at this time, when the Slav problem has become one that involves the very existence of the Austro-Hungarian empire, says Philadelphia Ledger. It means that we are to stand squarely behind the national aspirations, not only of Poland, but of Bohemia and the Yugoslav provinces that seek incorporation with Serbia. The late Archduke Franz Ferdinand was a strong advocate of the right of the Bohemians to an equal voice with the Germans and Hungarians in the imperial government, and this fact aroused the suspicion at the time of his assassination that the event was not displeasing to Germany. Had he lived to succeed to the throne, he might have imposed his ideas upon the ruling classes of the empire. Charles has not been bold or intelligent enough to do that. And nothing is more certain than that the Bohemians will never submit now to any arrangement which keeps them under the dominion of the House of Hapsburg. Meanwhile the complete understanding which has been reached between the Yugoslavs and the Italians will make the demand for independence from that quarter equally irresistible.

Reports of industrial revolts in Germany and of bread riots in Austria continue to get past the censors into neutral countries. Is there any reason for doubting them? Some observers suspect that they are sent out with the idea of causing the allies to weaken their effort and become careless. This seems absurd. If the outbreaks had not occurred the truth would sooner or later become known, says Birmingham Press. Their seriousness may be exaggerated. We cannot tell what effect they are likely to have.

But we can recognize them as symptoms of a disease, and we know that the disease is eating out the vitality of the central empires. The disease is economic and moral bankruptcy. And, since it cannot be secured by German victory, we may be assured that in time it is bound to prove fatal.

A few days ago a contributor to the New York Sun spoke of "the double-headed eagle of Prussia," and the error was permitted to go uncorrected. Now it is misleading editors, who ought to "know what they are talking about," but sometimes don't. The heraldic avary contains no such bird. Austria has a double eagle, and so has Russia—or had, if it has not perished under the rule of the bolshevik. The Prussian eagle is a fierce and ugly-looking fowl, but it has one head and no more.

It does not take long or profound thought to determine that now when the most important war industries are briskly responding to the impetus given by experienced direction and co-ordination the question of curtailing the less essential industries should remain in abeyance until ascertained results offer evidence upon which to base action.

Platinum is decidedly more useful for war material than for jewelry. If it is "fashionable," the fashion is an unpatriotic one, and women otherwise patriotic should willingly comply with the request of the bureau of mines to see that more of the precious metal goes for war needs and less for personal adornment.

A food economist says "buy your winter eggs now." What is the use when the cold storage men will give us this spring's eggs next winter anyway?

The human nose may be growing longer, as the scientists say, or it may only appear so in these days of spy alarm.

The way those American soldiers conduct raids suggests many a midnight sortie in the past against their neighbors' watermelon patches.

## MISSES.

Whenever a man makes a slip he can lay the blame on a "mis"—yes, a "mis," not a "miss," for the miss is but seldom to blame, however a man may strive to shift the onus. An error may be due to misconception, mis-handling or almost any one of the great string of "misses" that the lexicographers put down in their entertaining volumes. How did it happen that this deadly "mis" was injected into the language, with the same sound and almost the same spelling that the truly adorable "miss" has? The dictionaries will say it comes from the Anglo-Saxon "missan," allied to the sort of miss that we make when we, with more strength than skill, swing at a sharp-breaking curve ball. But our guess is different. It was probably put there, in its detrimental effect on the force of language, by some woman-hating old monk, who saw the lay brothers and novitiates looking with no very unfriendly eye on the mullebrity that might infest the neighborhood of his cenobitical haunts, says Columbia (S. C.) State. Without knowing it would one day become famous in the French, the old father just condensed the whole philosophy of "Cherchez la femme" into the three letters that have gained so strong a hold on our language, and tried it out on the first lay brother who was found delinquent in hewing and carrying because of the gleam of a shapely instep or the glance of twinkling gray eye.

Men rave at befuddled and deceived Russia, and yet some of them are doing about as much to help defeat Germany as is the average bolshevik. They do not yet seem to understand that patriotism, to be worth anything right now, has to be translated into action. You have to do something for your country, and you ought to be willing and ready and anxious to do anything you can, says Savannah News. Furthermore, you ought not to sit back and wait until your country hunts you up personally to suggest a course of action, but you should get busy and hunt up things to do for your country. Don't profiteer. Don't strike. Buy Liberty bonds and thrift stamps. Give some books for the soldiers to read. If some of your property is needed for the public welfare let the public have it quickly. If the nation calls you to the colors to risk your life in its service, go gladly in the knowledge that you are enjoying a privilege in the performance of that duty.

Germany had a national debt of five billion marks when she began the war. Editor George Bernhard of the Berlin Vossische Zeitung says that at the end of the war Germany will be confronted with a debt of one hundred and fifty billion marks. The total of Germany's national wealth is four hundred billion marks, a large part of which is state and communal property, and Editor Bernhard calculates that after the war fourteen billion marks annually will have to be raised by taxation, which will necessitate the levying on large fortunes of a tax of 50 per cent. He declares that this will not be a safe tax from an economic standpoint. Germany should have thought of that before she forced the war.

A California lady is asking for a divorce and \$100 a month because her husband broke her nose. The California gentleman is a peculiar guy, if he doesn't know better than to tamper with his wife's physiognomy in any such way as that. He ought to pay the \$100 a month and furnish the powder, too.

It's a tough old world and it can stand a lot of mauling, but it's going through the worst ordeal in its history now and the man who dwells in a fool's paradise of complacency is going to learn to his sorrow how foolish he has been.

The railroads of the country were operated at a loss in January, but to throw the blame on government operation is to ignore essential factors obvious to fair-minded men. One of these was the abnormal weather.

The government is minting several million dollars' worth of pennies every day. In time you won't have to wait so long in front of the "How Many" windows for your change.

The trouble with a lady socialist's contention for the right of the last word is that she never gets through saying it.

An Eastern woman says that fat men make the best husbands. Somebody ought to get even by announcing that fat women make the best wives.

Poultry men are predicting an egg famine next winter when it is hardly time yet to spring the prediction about the ice famine next summer.

Eatless day would make a big hit with those women who are struggling with their own kitchens.

Every man, woman and child in America is concerned in this war—the trouble is so many do not realize it.

## VALUE OF PHYSICAL QUALITIES.

Some days ago we referred to instructions given at a movie calculated to inform one of the true way to stand, sit, walk, with suggestions for correcting stoop shoulders, hollow breasts and shrunken muscles. All these are very important matters from a physical standpoint, but are really more important from a mental or physical standpoint. People who stand and walk erect and who are alert in muscle and motion are calculated to do better thinking and acting than those who are not favored in this way. A person who is shabby and negligent in attitude, walk and conduct is very apt to be a lazy and shabby thinker. There is such close connection between the intellect and the body that either closely corresponds to the other, says Ohio State Journal. It may not be always the case that a man who holds himself well and moves gracefully and vigorously has a bright and active mind, but if you observe closely you will see that the mental habit catches its impulse from the physical. So it is well to have such instructions as are given at the movie; and it is hoped that many of the stoop-shouldered, hollow-chested, lazy muscled and ungainly postured people were there to get the hints that would do them good.

The government of the United States is taking charge of so many functions and public utilities that it will, perhaps, occasion no surprise that it is to venture upon the supervision of humor. This, according to a government bulletin, is to be accomplished with no ruthless and heavy hand, but only incidentally, as an accessory of the soldiers' pleasure in foreign fields. The government is calling for jokes, wheezes, funny stories, and any well-planned literary flights that may induce a laugh, to be used by the war department's commission on training camp activities, with the general purpose of keeping the boys in good humor.

Berlin correspondents are telling the public that the Americans are good fighters and not to be underrated, but that they are so impressed with the fulsome flattery of the French they are recklessly sacrificing themselves and that their dead are piled up. Very likely the wish is father to the statement, as the Americans have sense as well as valor, and their commanders would not allow them to sacrifice themselves so foolishly. But, of course, the German public could not be expected to take that into account.

The following paragraph from an article in "L'Illustration" (Paris) puts succinctly the feeling of the French for America's effort: "The United States offers to the world the example of a great democracy that knows what it wants, that states its position clearly and then carries it out in action. During these grave hours which we are now traversing each one of us may turn confident eyes toward the country of Washington. America keeps all her promises; indeed, she fulfills more than she promises."

Italian seaplanes flew over the Adriatic coast, dropping leaflets to inform the Slavs of Austria-Hungary how America is winning in the war. This campaign of education is a new feature of warfare, but one which is bound to have immense influence. The doctrine of force depends largely on the enforcement of ignorance for its power, but with enlightenment force is no more the dominant factor in the government of a nation.

The plan of Spain to inaugurate a passenger and mail aerial service between that country and the United States, looks as if Spain had gotten over her "manana" days when enterprise was an effort to the Latin temperament. As a matter of fact, that nation is showing a commendable degree of energy of late, which will stand her in good stead when the world of nations is reorganized after the war.

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt says that the United States Marines are the idols of France. At last the marines are coming into their own. Their wonderful record in France will never be forgotten, but remain one of the cherished traditions of American history.

The government last year coined 45,000,000 pennies. A record output in the year of the cent's least usefulness as a purchasing medium. Its great demand now is in combinations meeting increases in price.

An immense proportion of the German wounded are found to have been hit in the head. We've got some real American squirrel hunters over there now.

The castor bean crop is said to be in a first rate condition. The small boy will probably insist that there is nothing in prayer.

Doubtless the German officers are getting even now on those Russian soldiers who insisted on kissing them last fall.

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