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PORTLAND, MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1917.

WHAT LED TO THE DECISION.

When we look back at the relation of the United States to the war as it existed only a few months ago, there seems on the face of things to have been a radical change of policy on the part of President Wilson. Only in the light of recent events are we able to explain fully his acts at that time.

The note which the President sent to all the belligerents last December at about the same time that Germany made peace overtures seemed to be designed to bring about peace negotiations, and was resented for that reason by the allies and their friends. It drew from them a frank statement of their aims, while it drew from the central powers nothing but a statement of readiness to name terms of peace at a conference. On January 22 the President made a speech to the Senate in which he defined the ideals of the United States in terms which closely resembled the declared aims of the allies.

A statement of the terms which Germany was prepared to offer has since appeared in the Journal de Geneve, and the New Republic vouches for it as "substantially correct, though incomplete." It follows:

> Evacuation of France, except the mining district of Briey, in exchange for a channel port (Calais or Dunkirk) and an indemnity of 15,000,000,000 francs; restoration of Belgium except that Belgium is not to be allowed to have a national army, permanent German garrisons in Namur, Liege and Antwerp, control of Belgian railroads and ports and favorable treatment in an economic treaty.

Germany's refusal to reveal these terms in reply to the President's note is ascribed by the New Republic to "knowledge on Germany's part that a statement of them would consolidate belligerent and neutral opinion against her." That journal continues:

> Her hope was to secure a conference, detach imperial Russia, and then extort these conquests from the isolated western powers.

It is highly probable that the President knew, when he addressed the Senate, that these were Germany's terms. He had surely observed that submarine war had been carried on against allied ships and against those of other neutrals with increasing disregard of the assurances given to this country, and he may reasonably have inferred that the U-53's raid off Nantucket had been made to test the efficacy of the submarine at long range off the American coast in preparation for a resumption of unrestricted operations. He probably foresaw, if he did not actually know, that Germany would soon throw off all restraint, for various circumstances justified that opinion—the clamor of German extremists, the straits for food to which Germany was reduced, the fear in Germany that defeat would come in this year's campaign and the hope that food shortage in Britain, already becoming serious, would be so aggravated by greatly increased loss of ships as to reduce the empire to impotence for victory.

Knowing or foreseeing all these things, the President would naturally consider the consequences to this country and to the world at large if the war should end with German victory or in a draw which would leave Prussianism undefeated. The least he could do would be to defend American rights at sea by means of armed neutrality and thereby prevent the allies from being starved out or deprived of the means of winning. But he had to consider the effect on the United States of the German victory, or of incomplete German defeat, which was still possible. This would mean Germany supreme in Belgium, entrenched in Antwerp and a French port to threaten England, in possession of the best French iron district and dominant in the Balkans and Turkey. Many incidents of the last twenty years had proved Germany's aggressive designs n this country and its neighbors. nly by arming on the same scale as rmany was armed could this country then have remained safe, and this ree of armament would have been ssary until Germany had recovd from her present exhaustion sufntly to challenge the United es. Meanwhile German intrigue ld have continued in this country keep it unarmed and asleep under influence of the pacifist opiate. e United States would have lived constant danger of sudden attack a ruthless, conscienceless foe.

Even with this knowledge, amply reinforced by discovery of the plan for an alliance with Mexico and Japan, the President continued until after the Sixty-fourth Congress had adjourned to ask no more than the arming and protection of ships. He may have been held back by his well-known aversion for war, by the expectation that Germany would declare war, by reluctance to ally this republic with despotic Russia, or by doubt whether Congress would consent to go beyond the arming and protection of ships, or by all of these considerations.

succession of events combined to ve his doubts and hesitation. indignation at the Senate filibustering showed the people to be behind nd stiffened the spines of doubtongressmen. The sinking of e American ships in one day in a culiarly barbarous manner was a ar act of war. Russia in a week anged from a despotism into a reublic. Finally armed neutrality was d to be an ineffective half-measving no right to prevent plotthis country from aiding Ger- Ambassador Gerard came nd doubtless shed light on the hostility of Germany to this , on the empire's ulterior aims its present military power. cision was to make no halft to ally this Nation with the emocratic nations of the world in arms and to end the menace of Prussianism once for all.

Those Americans who calmly consider the vital issues at stake in the war and our interest in them, the disposition of Germany toward this country as revealed by a number of significant incidents, and the far-reaching consequences to our country of a victory for the leagued despots, cannot but rejoice that the President decided as he did. Under his leadership we have embarked on a war the extent and cost of which cannot be estimated, but the necessity of which cannot be denied, if this Nation, together with the rest of the world, is to be freed from a danger which would have overhung us like a black cloud. By staying out of the war we might have gained an insecure peace and a few more billion dollars paid for with blood, shed in reality for our own safety, and then perhaps shed in vain. By going in, we assure the safety of not only ourselves but of all other democracies, and with it a lasting peace, which can be founded only on freedom, justice, humanity and international right. We have chosen the harder but the better part.

OUT WITH THEM.

I pledge my allegiance to my flag and the republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

"If there is a teacher who cannot lead his pupils in the salute and pledge he should resign forthwith" says a Corvallis correspondent today.

The Oregonian would add that if there is such a teacher and he does not resign, he should be discharged forthwith. It would also add that if there is any school director who will not discharge such a teacher he should resign forthwith.

The time is past for temporizing with lukewarm loyalty and lack of patriotism.

It has been said in effect that to inculcate devotion to this republic may be offensive to some adopted citizens. Not to inculcate it in the schools is offensive to the native-born and to most of the alien-born who are enjoying the blessings of this free country. They are the many, the others the few.

There is no quality in freedom which binds Americans to permit a grain of foreign ties or sympathies to leaven the whole youthful conception of allegiance to flag and country.

PUT MONEY IN THE WAR CHEST.

The proposal of the Government to borrow a large sum of money to be lent to the allies is both good strategy in the war and good business. It is to our interest to preserve their economic resources, and our Government can borrow money at 3 to 3½ per cent, while they are paying 5 per cent or more. It is good policy to give them the benefit of the more abundant and cheaper money in this country and of the higher credit of our Government. The high cost of living is partly due to the superabundance of money and credit in this country. We can reduce the excess, steady prices and at the same time facilitate payment for the great volume of exports to Europe.

The allied nations would not be likely to accept a gift of money from this country, hence financial aid will take the form of a loan by the United States Government, which will sell its bonds and use the proceeds in purchase of their bonds bearing the same rate of interest. The Government will be amply secured, for even yet Great Britain and France, the leading members of the alliance, have not reached the ratio of debt to national wealth or national income which they reached in the Napoleonic war. They have actually grown stronger during the war, so far as foreign trade and national income are concerned. Comparing 1916 with 1915, British exports to this country were $52,000,000 more and French exports $25,000,000 more, and since the war began British national income has increased from $12,000,000,000 to $15,000,000,000 a year. Notwithstanding immense borrowing, British bond interest uses up only 7 per cent of national income as compared with 11 per cent in 1815, while France must pay only 11 per cent of her income in interest. Though the resources of the two countries in 1815 were only one-sixth of the present total, they have paid off all the obligations of that period.

It is a point of National pride for this Nation to make a liberal loan to the allies without one dollar of profit. We have been continually taunted on one side with keeping out of the war to make money out of it, and on the other side with insisting on the freedom of the seas that we might carry on this traffic. We should gladly contribute the entire sum of our profits on munitions to the common cause, if for no other purpose than to prove the injustice of this reproach.

PRODUCE MORE FOOD.

An imperative duty is imposed on the American people by the prospective short crop of wheat and other cereals, as indicated by the Government report. The short crop of 1916, in other countries as well as this, cleaned up the surplus remaining from the phenomenal crop of 1915 and caused us to scrape the bottom of the bin. There will be practically no surplus remaining from last year's crop when the next harvest begins. The present outlook is that that harvest will yield no more than our normal consumption unless the acreage shown is much increased, and for that the season is already far advanced.

In these circumstances we owe a duty to ourselves, to our country and to the nations with which we shall co-operate in the war. That is to produce as much food as possible and to waste none. Europe relies chiefly on the United States to make good its deficient food production with our surplus. So long as the entente powers are fighting Germany, they are fighting our battles, and it is almost as much a patriotic duty for us to see that their people are fed as it is to do the same for our own people. The shortage of wheat and other cereals should be made up by increased production of other food, which it is not yet too late to sow or plant. For the same reason we should be careful not to waste wheat, flour or bread, or other grain which is scarce, and should use substitutes. By so doing we can so reduce home consumption that we shall have a surplus for Europe, where it will do good service in sustaining the strength of the British, French, Italians and other nations which are fighting the Germans.

The same rule applies to potatoes, of which there is a shortage in all countries. Consumption should be reduced by substituting other vegetables, such as rice, and production should be increased by planting all available ground. This year's sugar supply will also be short in consequence of destruction of Cuban canefields in the insurrection. A larger acreage of sugar beets in Southern Oregon will help to make up this deficiency.

Every person who helps to produce food of various kinds helps the United States to win the war in several ways. He increases the supply for all who are engaged in the common cause. He helps to maintain the financial strength of the United States by maintaining the volume of our export trade. He helps to keep down the cost of living for himself and his neighbors, for the price of food rises and falls in proportion to its scarcity or abundance. He also benefits his own health, for there is no healthier occupation than outdoor work in the farm or garden.

CHURCHES ARE GROWING.

Statisticians give ample justification for the belief that periods of world unrest serve to give stimulus to religious undertakings, and this is illustrated by the progressive increase in church membership during the past two years. A student of denominational figures estimates that the growth of membership in various denominational bodies in the United States during 1916 was 747,000. The increase in 1915 was 543,000. The total enrolled church membership in the United States is now given as 40,016,789. This does not include, of course, a large number of children in the families of church members, who fairly might be counted in any estimate of the proportion of church members to the total population of the country. It is therefore concluded that about half the people of the United States are "affiliated" with some church. This is said to be the largest percentage the country has ever known.

Inasmuch as a recorded membership alone is not complete evidence of a religious awakening, it is interesting to note that there has been at the same time a large extension of spiritual and material activities. Church attendance has increased, which is, on the whole, a better sign of real interest than increased membership. Sunday schools particularly have gained ground, indicating that parents are taking more interest in the religious preparation of their children. Gifts to various enterprises correlated to the church have been larger than ever before in history. The movement for clergymen's pensions in some denominations is viewed as an indication of the awakening sense of social justice, which is extended also to other fields. Added financial burdens have been met cheerfully both in foreign and domestic activities.

There has been at the same time strong realization of the necessity for interdenominational co-operation. This is exhibited in the showing made as to the number of new churches established. The net gain in 1916 was only 117, while in 1915 there was a net loss. Coming at a time when membership was growing so rapidly, this can mean only one thing, and that is that inefficient churches are being weeded out. Duplication of effort, especially in rural communities, has long been a problem. This is now being met. Solution has been helped by attention called to it by numerous social surveys, which are coming in fashion. It is a hopeful sign, too, because it shows that we are still willing to be convinced. When the actual need of action is pointed out to us, we govern ourselves accordingly. Future progress on a large scale is possible when we are in this frame of mind.

TO FORESTALL AN EPIDEMIC.

Vigorous efforts will be put forth during the present year to find means for forestalling a repetition of last year's widespread epidemic of infant paralysis. In these measures the two states most seriously affected in 1916 —New York and Massachusetts—and also Vermont, which already has extended public aid, are taking a leading part. It is realized, however, that the subject is one of deep concern for every state, since the method by which the disease spreads is still a mystery to physicians and the fact that any given locality has been immune thus far is not a guarantee that it will continue to escape. The erratic manner in which the epidemic appears in communities at random, apparently skipping some only to invade others farther from the original centers of infection, has been most puzzling. It has seemed to defy all known laws of hygiene.

It is clearly, therefore, a public duty for all to give such help as they can in combating the disease. President Faunce, of Brown University, put the case in a nutshell in a recent address in which he pointed out the mutual responsibility of all citizens and the profound necessity for intelligent and thorough preparedness. "The case of infant paralysis in our neighbor's house," he said, "is your affair and my affair, for it may come down the street and enter your house and my house." For neighbor's house and street we may read neighboring city and state, with equal truth. The problem is not local; it knows no state boundaries and is not confined to either urban or rural situations. Recent estimates by the United States public health service show that only four states in the Union escaped the epidemic last year. This does not mean, however, that they necessarily will escape in 1917.

Importance of every possible preventive measure is emphasized by figures showing the deadly character of the disease. Official analysis of existing cases in New York City, made last October, showed that 26 per cent terminated fatally. Of the recovered cases, 65 per cent showed serious paralysis of one or both lower limbs, the patients being unable to walk, while 19 per cent were partially paralyzed, although able to walk. It is believed that the proportion will not vary materially from these figures in the returns from the country at large. The total number of cases in the United States in 1916 was not far from 25,000. It was the worst outbreak of infantile paralysis the world has ever known.

It is obvious that much danger lies in any effort to belittle the seriousness of the prospect. It is pointed out that no reasonable precaution should be neglected. In this connection the announcement of a Vermont university professor, that it is chiefly through diseased noses and throats that the virus enters the central nervous system, and that normal noses and throats seem to neutralize the poison, while it is accepted with some reserve by physicians, is regarded as suggesting obvious precautionary measures that can do no harm, even if they do not justify all the promise of enthusiasts. It is felt that careful attention to the nose and throat, especially of the child of tender years, is indicated and that parents ought to consider this phase of the subject, especially in the critical period of the next two years. Residents of communities that have been unaffected previously are under as strong an obligation in this regard as those of affected districts. No rule of immunity is known.

At least one important phase of German military efficiency is believed to have been due to study of American methods. As is well known, one of the most highly organized institutions in the United States is the traveling circus. The circus method of breaking camp, packing and loading their equipment and transporting it, and the speed with which the process is reversed and the tentage raised again, made a deep impression on German army officers prior to the present war, when American circuses were visiting their country, and officers were detailed to make an especial study of the system and to adapt it to the situation of soldiers in the field. This is vouched for by American officers who have been in Germany since the war began. Circus methods were found especially valuable in entraining artillery, and particularly in loading wagons on cars.

One result of the Russian revolution has been to remove the cause of much Jewish sympathy for Germany. Russian Jews favored Germany not because they loved Germany, but because they hated Russia for its persecution. Deposition of the persecutors and grant of full equality to Jews in Russia have turned many Jews, who are democratic in their sympathies above all, to the side of the allies.

If the Administration wanted to silence General Wood, it could have done better by giving him plenty of hard work at Washington than by sending him to Charleston. He has great ability, long experience and is a tireless worker. In time of war these qualities should not be sacrificed to pique.

When news of President Wilson's war speech reached the Metropolitan Opera-House in New York the orchestra played "The Star-Spangled Banner" and Mr. Gerard called for three cheers for the President, thus relieving the pent-up feelings generated by several years of residence in Berlin.

No better man could be chosen for the chairmanship of a National committee on food supply than Herbert C. Hoover. His capacity for organization has been proved and his experience in Belgium has taught him about all there is to know about the importance of food.

When knocked down, the pacifist who insulted Senator Lodge recognized the existence of a state of war, though he opposed the same course by the American people when they were assaulted in the persons of some of their people.

The rush of young men to marry, with the clear intention in many instances of evading military service imposed upon the unmarried, leads one to wonder what material the young women in the case are made of.

Dethronement of Emperor William before he is conquered is impossible. The feat was practicable in Russia with a weak ruler, but Germany is different. Revolutionists there will back up blindfolded to a wall.

The reply of the Russian Minister of Justice to the Socialist Democratic leader in the German Reichstag is chiefly remarkable for total absence of comfort for the house of Hohenzollern.

One of our first problems will be to eliminate the element of chance in the running down of submarines—a field in which there will be unlimited opportunity for the exercise of our vaunted inventive genius.

In all efforts to increase our food supply the thought must be kept uppermost that time is flying. The greater part of the important work must be done within the next few weeks.

Fundamental requirements of our proposed vast new intelligence department, or secret service, it would be well for volunteers to bear in mind, will be intelligence and secrecy.

The rise of Trooper Venable to be Captain Venable, all in the space of a few months, disposes of all assertions that this is not a land of opportunity, even in time of war.

Thanks solely to the help of the United States, Cuba is in a better position to give help to the cause of world freedom than it ever has been before.

A free-running translation of Terrebonne would be "good earth," and if the precious metals are found therein, the name is more than appropriate.

A New York court has held that a taxi driver's tips are part of his wages. When a waiter neglects a "tight" customer he is striking for a raise.

Men now engaged in tying up necessary industry by strikes must remember that the time of public patience is likely to be short.

Yes, Jupiter Pluvius, we know the rain this year has been short of the regular allowance, but we will forgive you the balance.

What is to be the popular song of this war? Can some composer match "Tipperary" or "A Hot Time in the Old Town"?

South America evidently proposes to have something to say about being made a German colony.

It required half a century for North Carolina Confederates to raise the flag, but she is up to stay.

The raider will not find a neutral port of refuge, unless it be Mexican.

If you cannot get into anything else, join the Nathan Hale Volunteers.

Nothing feazes Bryan. When he isn't am, he am am for war.

A way may yet be found to bring those sugar refiners to time.

American troops will need a battle line of their own in Europe.

The would-be recruit an inch or two short needs another rolling.

Without Cuba, we could win; with her, we will.

Give the people a chance at the war bonds.

How to Keep Well.

By Dr. W. A. Evans.

Questions pertinent to hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, if matters of general interest, will be answered in this column. Where space will not permit or the subject is not suitable letters will be personally answered, subject to proper limitations and where stamped addressed envelope is inclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnosis or prescribe for individual diseases. Requests for such services cannot be answered.

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HOW RAILROADS GUARD HEALTH.

A few of the railroads are now employing sanitarians to look after the health of their employes and also to see that no incident of the passenger's travel hazards his health unduly. I have been interested in reading a recent article on health conditions written by Dr. Campbell, sanitarian of the Illinois Central.

The water on railroad coaches is now good and safe. Traveling men will do well to drink as little water as possible from promiscuous supplies, but take in a camel load when they reach the train. The Federal Public Health Service has supervised passenger coach water supplies for a year or more.

Dr. Campbell says that 90 per cent of polluted wells are polluted at the top or within three or four feet of the top. To prevent this the wells used by employes of the road are covered with cement. The layer of cement is placed two or three feet below the surface of the ground and slants outward so that its outer edge is six or eight inches deeper in the ground than is the edge next the well. The cement extends three feet laterally beyond the well.

For those employes who are forced to drink pond and stream water the following device is used: Two barrels are set so that the bottom of one is about three feet above the top of the other. The upper is called the sedimentation tank. The lower, the sterilizing tank.

A one-inch pipe is inserted in the upper barrel about eight inches from the bottom and permits the water clarified by sedimentation to run through a stone filter and then into the sterilization tank. Hypochlorite of lime tablets are added to the water in this tank. The sterilization tank is provided with a drinking faucet. The sedimentation tank has a drain faucet at its bottom. This is to drain off mud and other sediment.

The track crews and bridge gangs working in malarial districts are given quinine during the mosquito season. The foremen give the men two five-grain quinine capsules on Wednesday night and again on Saturday night. Dr. Campbell says that this method has reduced malaria among the men 90 per cent.

When, two years ago, 21 miles of double track in the Yazoo delta washed out they rebuilt it with crews not one of whom developed malaria. "The Western Union men working alongside our men fell by the wayside and suffered severely."

In one bad terminal surrounded by swamps the method was given a good trial. Not one case of malaria developed in 18 months in the crews working under the foremen at this point. The expense of running an engine fell from $1.21 to 90 cents a day.

When a washout on the banks of the Mississippi River occurred they threw in a force of 2000 laborers. Typhoid fever broke out. They vaccinated all the force against typhoid and not another case developed.

The kitchens of the dining cars have received the attention of the sanitarian. The upper half of the door entering the kitchen is open and screened. A large canopy is placed over the range and an exhaust fan over the canopy removes the hot air and keeps the kitchen bearable.

These illustrations point out a few of the duties of a railroad sanitarian.

Food for a Baby.

J. A. D. writes: "What food can be given an 8 months' healthy baby once or twice a day as substitute for the mother's natural milk? The mother's milk is good and plentiful, but she feels the child should begin to get used to other things also before the warm weather sets in."

REPLY.

Start with orange juice. Give toasted bread, cracker or zwieback. Cereal. Before long add well-chopped spinach, turnips, parsnips, carrots, beets and potato. A little later give meat juice, soup and then finely chopped meat.

Sick Headache.

E. S. N. writes: "I am a woman 52 years old. Have had a peculiar headache since childhood. I will be feeling well as usual when all at once everything will become blurred and all objects seem to dance before my eyes. This blinding lasts about 25 minutes, after which my head will ache severely for two or three hours. I feel very weak for a day or two after having one of these headaches. Lately have had them very often.

"1. What is the cause of my trouble? 2. Can it be cured? 3. If so, how?

"I have a son 15 years old who has the same trouble. 4. Is it more easily cured while young?"

REPLY.

I think you have sick headache or migraine. The absence of nausea does not rule out migraine as sick headache. The trouble runs in families. It generally gets well spontaneously in persons about your age. Your son has some years of occasional discomfort before him. Have him eat sparingly, live in the open air, and keep his bowels regular.

No, Not "Giants."

S. M. G. writes: "A friend of mine recently broke her engagement to a very worthy young man, she having been made to believe that the children of tall people or a tall person are 'giants.' She is about 5 feet 6½ inches tall, he 6 feet 2 inches. She comes from a family of the average height, while his people are all rather tall, he being the tallest, and his height supposedly due to terrible pains during a siege of illness while a boy. Any light you may be able to throw on this height subject would be greatly appreciated, for I contend that she is making a mistake."

REPLY.

Inheritance is the chief factor in determining stature. If the man's family are tall and the woman's family also, tall children can be expected. If there is a low stature strain in the stock it is liable to manifest itself in one or two of the children. Of course, the lady made a mistake. Men 6 feet 2 and women 5 feet 6 are not "giants." Neither are they liable to breed giants.

Wood Blocks for Pavement.

ASHLAND, Or., April 6.—(To the Editor.)—We have read quite a number of times that the $6,000,000 road bond measure to be voted on June 4th is a bill gotten up by the paving interests. Is there anything in the bill that would bar the use of wooden blocks for paving instead of concrete?

It is well known that wooden blocks make the very best and lasting pavements, it being less expensive, more reliant, and Oregon has a world of the finest timber for that purpose in the world, and nearly all of it is already on the ground right where it will be needed. Why not give it a trial?

CHAS. B. HOWARD.

There is nothing in the act barring use of wood blocks.

Honors for McKinley, Too.

PORTLAND, Or., April 7.—(To the Editor.)—I noticed in the window of a downtown store three pictures, President Washington's, President Lincoln's, and President Wilson's. To be complete they should also have had President McKinley's. He carried the country through a crisis and was not called a second Lincoln, either, and in fact, seems to be entirely forgotten. While not a serious war, it might have been, and he should be honored as much as anyone. SUBSCRIBER.

NOT VOICE OF NATION'S WOMEN

Miss Rankin's Attitude on War Resolution Shames Newberg Suffragist.

NEWBERG, Or., April 7.—(To the Editor.)—When I heard Miss Rankin was made a Representative to the United States Congress I was pleased. I believe in woman's suffrage.

When I read in The Oregonian "Miss Rankin sobs when name is called and says she can't vote for war" I was filled with shame and indignation.

Of course, 49 men voted as she did, but that was only a little over 11 per cent of the men voting, and Miss Rankin's vote made 100 per cent of the woman vote. That is the way many will look at it and, as they do, will decide that Congress is no place for women.

I want to call attention to the fact that Miss Rankin does not represent the women of the Nation. I believe there are as many strong, right-thinking, noble women in the United States as men—women who realize what our Nation has done for them and their children, women who want to stand by our colors and uphold the President in every effort to maintain the dignity of our Nation and protect its people—women, who, if they were going to sob, would sob for the women and children of Belgium, for the women and children who have been murdered on the high seas, and the women and children who have fallen prey to bombs dropped upon them.

They are women, too, who count the cost. Some of us know what it was in the Spanish War to send out young sons under the flag, to lie awake most of many nights, to weep and pray, to have the news of a battle and read such a number were killed, to hold onto something while rapidly scanning the column beneath to see if names are given. They know, too, what it means to hear their sons are low with fever in the hospitals of the Philippines, and some have never again seen their dear ones.

But these women would not sob, were they in Congress, but would vote clearly and emphatically that a mad-dog nation should be put out of power to injure. Don't take Miss Rankin for a sample of America's womanhood.

MRS. M. C. WIRE.

MEASLES NOT HARMLESS MALADY

Stricter Quarantine Regulations Are Advocated by Physician.

BANKS, Or., April 7.—(To the Editor.)—I sometimes read Dr. Evans' column in The Oregonian, for instance that on diabetes and the recent one on measles. I have had in the present epidemic of measles at Banks about 75 cases. The infection is very virulent, and some of the cases very severe. Lobar pneumonia has developed in one of my cases, and both pneumonia and enteric fever in another, a child of 2 years, which is just now recovering after about a four weeks' illness. No deaths, but some very critical cases.

The path of infection is very traceable, and to urge the enforcement of regulations against it is the purpose of this letter.

The Banks school of four rooms was infected by one pupil. Every pupil in that room not immune—about one more than half—got the infection and suffered a severe attack. No pupil in the other three rooms got it at that time. In some neighborhoods it is general, others are free.

My experience, as well as the general authorities, differs from Dr. Evans in this. There is undoubted evidence that through direct contact, or being confined in the same room with infected persons, is the usual source of the infection, but that sometimes the contagion is carried in the clothes or otherwise by one not having the disease.

Again, the doctor is wrong in the time of incubation. Among my cases the usual period was 14 days, oftener longer than that than less, sometimes running 21 days.

Popular fallacies concerning this contagion and its comparative harmlessness should be corrected, and strictest quarantine observed against this severe and dangerous malady.

J. B. ZIEGLER, M. D.

COPPERHEADS' SAD FATE IN 1861

Veteran Recalls Draft of Eleven as Result of Efforts Against Recruiting.

FOREST GROVE, Or., April 7.—(To the Editor.)—There is so much in the papers about pacifists and copperheads that it carries me back in memory to Civil war times. In one township in Iowa there were so many copperheads who discouraged the young men from enlisting, that it became necessary to call a draft in order to make up the quota required from that township. While preparations were going forward for the draft these copperheads advised the young men who were free from family obligations to leave for Canada, and as eleven of these young men who were drafted could not be brought back, it became necessary to call a second draft, with the result that eleven of these same copperheads were drafted and had to go to war to take the place of the young men they had discouraged from enlisting.

It occurs to me that if the present-day copperheads continue to discourage enlistments, they may find their own names among the drafted.

I hear some say it is too bad to enlist boys only 18 years old. Before I was 16 I walked 25 miles, from Cascade to Dubuque, Iowa, to enlist in Co. L, First Iowa Cavalry. We had no railroad and this was our nearest regular recruiting office.

The year I was 16 I voted for Abraham Lincoln for President, all soldiers being given the privilege of voting, regardless of their age. I have been voting for Republican Presidents ever since. But now I consider it my duty to support President Wilson and our Government in the present crisis.

ARTHUR B. THOMAS.

Railway Earnings and Rates.

BROADBENT, Or., April 6.—(To the Editor.)—(1) What were the net earnings of all the railroads in the United States in the year 1916?

(2) What countries own and operate their own railroads?

(3) How do the rates compare with those of the United States?

(4) About what amount does the United States have to pay the railroads for carrying the mails a year?

(5) About what per cent less do the express companies charge since the parcel post went in effect?

H. A. JOHNSON.

(1) We cannot give 1916 figures at present. The operating revenues of all railroads in the United States for the fiscal year 1915 were $2,956,193,202; operating expenses, $2,088,682,956.

(2) In 47 countries railroads in varying proportions of the total mileage are owned by the state; in two others, Serbia and Bulgaria, all railroads are state-owned; in Australia all but about 2000 miles of a total of 22,006 miles are state-owned. Out of 687,122 miles of railroads in the world 224,299 are state-owned.

(3) According to the Railway Library (Slason Thompson, 1910), the average freight receipts of railroads per ton per mile are lower in the United States than the average receipts of any country in Europe. Figures or detailed comparisons are impracticable of publication in this column.

(4) In 1915 it was $58,148,751.

(5) A few months after the parcel post was established a new block system of rates of express companies was ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission, entailing a material reduction in charges. It is impracticable to determine the competitive effect of the parcel post on express rates in view of coincident Government regulation of express charges.

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian April 9, 1892.

The large plant of the Portland Distillery and the Cattle Feeding Company at Troutdale was destroyed by fire Thursday night. The Portland fire department, headed by Chief Morgan, gave assistance in men and equipment, which were rushed out by train.

The Oregonian prints this morning a lengthy extract of Robert Ingersoll's sermon at the burial of Walt Whitman. Ingersoll had differed with Whitman all his life on religious subjects.

The long-promised cablecar system to the city park and new baseball ground is at last a fact and the cars began running yesterday morning.

The principal further nominations thus far made by the Republican state convention are: Presidential elector, David M. Dunne, of Portland, vice, W D. Hare, of Hillsboro; Supreme Judge, Frank A. Moore, St. Helens; Attorney-General, Lionel R. Webster, of Jacksonville.

Paris—Lieutenant Anastay, who murdered the Baroness Dellard, was executed early yesterday.

The cakewalk craze hit the Exposition building last night and a vast multitude gathered for the evening festivities. J. C. Lynch was master of ceremonies.

Mrs. A. Leland, wife of Alonzo Leland, who published the Oregon Advertiser, the first daily paper ever published in Portland, has returned from Lewiston, where she has spent a number of years.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian of April 9, 1867.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher in a recent lecture at the Brooklyn Academy of Music advocated the extension of woman suffrage.

Lieut. James Halloran, of Oregon, has passed the board of examination at San Francisco and sailed for New York to join his regiment.

N. Thwing and Miss Clara Hill, of Portland, were married April 6.

P. J. Malone, one of the veteran reporters of the Pacific Coast and a shorthand reporter, who has no superior and few equals, was in the city yesterday.

George Edes and family, of Salem, have gone East for a few months' visit.

Vera Cruz is in a state of siege with 1600 men inside and five pieces of artillery. There is no blockade from the sea. Thirty thousand men are outside with four small field guns.

Additional honor roll members of the Harrison street school are Edward Wilcox, John Bird and Ella and Mary Taylor.

LOYALTY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Teacher Who Cannot Lead Pupils in Pledge and Salute Should Resign.

CORVALLIS, Or., April 7.—(To the Editor.)—The salute to the flag and pledge, "I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," should open every school day. If there is a teacher who cannot lead his pupils in the salute and pledge, he should resign forthwith.

The school has had no such opportunity to impress the lesson of patriotism during the present generation of school children. Our boys and girls should receive a baptism of loyalty—loyalty to the flag, loyalty to the noble ideals to which our beloved land has been consecrated by the blood of our fathers. We must follow the counsels of our President and our Governor in our consideration for the neutral affection for the fatherlands on the part of many of our fellow countrymen. Our tacit assumption of their loyalty to their adopted country is a tribute they deeply appreciate. We must be especially considerate of the children, who are too immature to understand.

Every citizen, most of all the teacher, should be stirred to his depths by the holy passion of patriotism. Anyone, young or old, who places any other duty before his duty to his country at this hour, is unworthy of his citizenship. There are innumerable ways of serving our country and every man, woman and child, physically and mentally capable, can render some service, smaller or greater, according to the need.

No conscription should be necessary either for military or civilian service. Hesitation and delay on the part of those of us who have especially benefited by good fortune and opportunity is particularly discreditable. Our immediate duty is to volunteer the service, and trust the Government to decide what form that shall take for each of us. E. D. RESSLER.

How Easter Date Is Determined.

PORTLAND, April 8.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me through The Oregonian how to know when Easter Sunday comes. SUBSCRIBER.

Easter is always the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or next after the 21st of March; if the full moon happens on Sunday, Easter is celebrated one week later. But it is not the actual moon in the heavens, nor even the mean moon of astronomers, that regulates the time of Easter. The date of the paschal moon is determined by complex calendar rules and may differ from the astronomical full moon several days.

Easter dates are calculated several years ahead in numerous reference works, including the World Almanac and unabridged dictionaries.

Children Take Parents' Citizenship.

ALBANY, Or., April 7.—(To the Editor.)—I was born in Denmark and came to this country when I was 10 years of age, 20 years ago. My mother married a naturalized American citizen. Does that make me a citizen? If not, how long before I can take out my final papers? MARTIN JESSEN.

The Federal provision is that minor children of any person who becomes a naturalized citizen of the United States are thereby made citizens. Your mother's marriage to a naturalized American citizen made her also a citizen. Whether you also are a citizen will depend on whether she was married while you were still a minor child. If you had attained your majority before she became a citizen, separate naturalization will be necessary for you.

Quibbling in Face of Danger.

PORTLAND, April 6.—(To the Editor.)—The junior Senator from Oregon is evidently trying to square himself with his constituency, for I received a circular letter from him on his attitude in the armed neutrality matter.

I have no sympathy with the spirit that antagonizes capital and labor. I do not see how anyone can remain indifferent while our commerce is swept from the seas. Surely the man in Pittsburg, Denver or Omaha must suffer just as much in the deal as the man in New York or Portland.

I do not see how any one can be so dead as to be indifferent to the fate of his fellow citizens. Surely it is not an American spirit that would surrender our God-given rights for which our fathers contended. A. HOWITBER.