

The Oregonian

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charge that there was absence of patriotism, or zeal, or continuity of effort. There was no lack of industry. The mistakes that were made, it will be seen, were minor ones. In view of better preliminary organization, a more consistent and more extreme probability that natural conditions will be better than in 1917, there is no reason why any amateur gardener should grow weary in well-doing.

Careful planning is perhaps the most important factor of success. The home garden army is not being too hastily mobilized this year. It has had ample notice of the duties that will be required of it. Its campaign should be well thought out in advance, and its execution should be as well planned as the military campaign of 1918 ought to be the slogan for the coming year.

STATEMENTS THREE AND FOUR.

A candidate for Governor in the Republican primary has found it expedient—perhaps even necessary—to give public assurance that in case he shall be duly nominated by Republicans and elected by the people he will not appoint a Democrat—not any Democrat, but a designated Democrat—to the United States Senate in case of vacancy.

This little incident throws an illuminating light upon a grave defect in the present method of electing the president direct primary law. It will be recalled that the crowning achievement of the primary law was the original and only Statement One, by which a candidate for the Legislature was required to declare to the voters that he would "always vote for a Republican" and that he would not appoint a Democrat—not any Democrat, but a designated Democrat—to the United States Senate in case of vacancy.

LA FOLLETTE.

The American Union has forty-eight sovereign states, and no slacker among them. Not one. Only one has ever been under suspicion. It is Wisconsin. The reason is La Follette. Wisconsin is the only state in the Union where a citizen of German ancestry, and many other persons of German birth, does not explain the phenomenon of near-slacker Wisconsin. It is the leadership of the self-worshipping La Follette.

Let us suppose—though it is a violent assumption—that La Follette had sympathized with America, and not with Germany in the war, and had performed his duty as an American citizen and an American Senator, and had stood always by and for America, there would be a different story told about Wisconsin. It has followed him for years, some of the time in honor, and now near the precipice of dishonor and disgrace.

Wisconsin is not slacker, only near-slacker. There is no great difference. Too many of its population are pro-German, and they give it the stamp of doubtful loyalty. It is quite as bad as outright disloyalty. It cannot wholly redeem itself by election of Lentrot or Davies. It may eventually disgrace itself by electing Berger for Senator.

WHAT IS THE TROUBLE?

Asked by the New York Times what is the trouble with shipbuilding, Dr. Charles A. Eaton, head of the National Service Council, said that the industry Fleet Corporation, given a number of reasons which may be summed up in one word: Unpreparedness.

DO WE KNOW OUR OWN SONGS?

It will not have escaped the observation of most Americans that we are sadly lacking in intimate acquaintance with our own patriotic songs. Every "community song" reveals the fact that the burden of carrying the words of even "American Song" is a heavy one. It falls upon the comparative few, and that many of these have been newly primed for the occasion. There are some millions to whom "O, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light," represents the beginning and the end of the National anthem, and other millions who cannot go beyond the next three or four lines. This gives point to the decision of the Indianapolis School Board, reported in the Indianapolis Star, to require that all children of the public schools must memorize at least the first verse of the National anthem. In addition to those mentioned, "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," and Mrs. Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic" are mentioned as songs that every American ought to know from beginning to end.

PROFITING BY MISTAKES.

Professor Bouquet, of Oregon Agricultural College, has performed a substantial service for amateur war gardeners by preparing a summary of the mistakes that have been made, and a full understanding of these errors they may be expected to profit in 1918. It has been shown by official figures that last season's emergency plantings constituted a worth-while contribution to the nation's food supply, and there is no reason for discouragement over the prospect for the future. Failures and partial failures last year should not deter them who made them from trying again. Home gardens are needed more than ever, in view of the steadily increasing demand for food, and the concentration of larger farming operations upon staples, such as cereals.

was a good one. It indicates that early religious and patriotic training is not wholly neglected in the primary schools and the homes of the Nation. It remains only to make it more widespread, to provide for "the boys" especially in times like these, the patriotic songs make a good basis for a new beginning. There ought to be more memorizing of inspiring words that we need to have with us every hour. It is when one is young—every very young—that this memory is most retentive. The lessons that we learn in the primary school remain with us—though sometimes subconsciously—all through our lives. It is a common experience to find that verses we acquired when "come over" to us more readily than those which we struggled laboriously to learn in later life.

There is a story from the front in France, which may or may not be wholly true, that in a period when the trench combat had called for "the boys" to join in singing their National hymn. There were calls from the German side for the second stanza, and no response from the American trenches, whereupon our enemies set up shouts of derision. As we have suggested, the tale may be apocryphal, but it is believable. Perhaps some German was inspired by desire to hear Americans sing the words, "Our foe's haughty host," but that need not have mattered. They might have countered neatly enough by singing the last stanza, and had cared to spare the feelings of their allies. The point is that there probably was not a soldier in the ranks who could have sung the song through to save his life. It ought not to be so, and it will not be always so, as the example of the Indianapolis School Board is allowed generally throughout the country.

"BOOTHBLACK" OR "SHOESHINER."

If the public is good-humored, as it ought to be, it will comply readily with the request of the representatives of the shoeshiners' profession that it discontinue its practice of calling them by the undignified term, "boothblack." It is a small sacrifice in the interests of peace and harmony in a great democracy.

HOPE FOR RUSSIAN FUTURE.

In these darkest days for Russia, when that country seems to be falling apart and helpless in the power of the central empires, words of hope as to her future have been spoken by A. J. Sack, director of the Russian Information Bureau, whom many Portland people heard a few months ago, in his speech at the American Legion of the nation, in a recent address at New York he gave reasons for the belief that Russia is still a nation with a common culture and common aspirations, and that the parts will yet come together in a federal democracy.

EVERY COUNTY HAS FARM BUREAU.

Iowa Women Work Through Them to Promote Food Conservation.

Iowa has the advantage of farm bureaus in each of its 99 counties, through which it hopes to increase production in the state. Sixty county agents will demonstrate new methods in home economics and food conservation. These agents will be trained by the Bureau of Home Economics and demonstrators in the latest methods of feeding and conserving.

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probably representative of the strong Ukrainian middle class." The delegates to Brest-Litovsk decided to act independently, "probably because Trotsky and his friends did not appeal to them," "they knew that the Bolshevik government rests on bayonets and represents a tyranny worse than the tyranny overthrown in March, 1917." Still "the Ukraine as an independent state is an impossible ideal for the Russian mind."

Stop Talking Peace.

By Porter Emerson Brown, of the Vigilantes.

It is time that the United States stopped playing Germany's game. Germany, sure of her ability to keep her own people solid for war, talks peace. We, stopping our own efforts to listen and to answer, cripple and confuse both ourselves and our allies.

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SOTHERN AND AMES IN WAR WORK.

Noted Actor and Theatrical Manager Aiding Y. M. C. A. in France.

Keeping the American boys in France entertained, even at the very front, is the work of the Y. M. C. A. Men's Christian Association overseas.

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