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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JULY 8, 1918.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT WAR.

Any doubt that Germany seeks peace by negotiation solely to prepare for another war, or that the Kaiser has bound Austria more securely to him with that end in view, will be dispelled by the terms of the new German-Austrian treaty of alliance, a copy of which has been obtained by the Deutsche Volkszeitung of Berlin. The two Emperors declare that they "form a close military alliance for twenty-five yars, during which both parties to the alliance pledge themselves to employ the entire strength of their peoples for military purposes." Then follows these words:

> The allied nations of Germany and Austria-Hungary shall devote all their care to have their armies enter into eventual future conflict fully prepared and at the maximum of their strength. Only thus a future war shall be of brief duration, for had the armies of both allies been in this condition in 1914 this war would have long ago ended.

That may be construed as a reproach from Kaiser William for the inefficiency of the Austrian army, or for the less drastic system of terrorism which the Austrians followed, as responsible for having falsified the Kaiser's prediction of the length of the war. After he had declared war he sent a message to Francis Joseph describing the "system of terror" he proposed to follow by which, he said, "it is certain that the war will be ended within two months." He does not propose to take any risk of Austrian inefficiency the next time, for he will have a tight grip on his ally.

The treaty goes on to say that "all male inhabitants capable of bearing arms" shall be trained, and that the regulations for both armies "shall be drawn up according to one common principle, the initiative of which shall be left principally to Germany," that is, the Kaiser shall be boss. Their troops "shall constitute one sole army, without any body of troops being considered strangers to any other." Armaments must be uniform, and the two empires may draw on each other's supplies. Troops of the two empires are to be brought into close contact "for the purpose of educating them in mutual esteem, love and appreciation," and officers are to be exchanged for the same purpose. It is also agreed:

> All preparations for future wars shall be made in common understanding between the general staffs. All preparatory economic measures connected with eventual war shall be undertaken beforehand in time of peace.

That treaty opens up a pleasant prospect before the world. A "peace by understanding" would no sooner be arranged than Germany and Austria would begin training "all male inhabitants capable of bearing arms" for a second "eventual war," which might come at any time within twenty-five years. Then it would be imperative for the United States and every other democratic country to do the same. The whole world would be filled with war preparation and with German intrigue, propaganda and conspiracy during the entire interval.

There is only one way to prevent the next war for which the Kaiser and his Generals are already planning. That is to continue this war until the power of the governing class in Germany is utterly destroyed and until the delusion of world power is utterly beaten out of the German people's heads. Then we may truly say, Never again.

THE VALUE OF "X."

Most men will recall their early difficulty in school in comprehending the apparently meaningless injunction to "let 'x' represent a certain quantity." To those who were willing to accept "x" on faith in the beginning, certain mysteries of higher mathematics ultimately were unfolded. But there always were a certain proportion of students who never progressed from the abstract to the concrete, and who emerged from school with minds filled with hodgepodge formulas of no account to them. Failure of the teacher to tie "x" securely to the affairs of everyday life has nipped the career of many a potential mathematician in the bud.

Only recently the French have given a practical demonstration of the value of the symbolic "x." They used it to good effect in locating the German supergun with which Paris was being bombarded. According to L'Illustration, the only known quantity upon which the French scientists based their calculations was that sound travels at the rate of 1100 feet a second. Observers stationed at three points, A, B and C, were provided with a delicate time-recording device, by which it was ascertained that the sound reached B 2 3-5 seconds after it had been heard by A, and that it reached C 3 4-5 seconds after A had heard it.

With B as a center, the calculators described a circle with a radius of 2860 feet, that figure having been obtained by using 2 3-5 as the multiplier of 1100. Then with C as a center they described a circle with a radius of 4180 feet. It was then plain that some point on each circle was precisely as far from X as was A. Therefore, a circle which passed through the point A and touched upon the circles drawn around B and C must have its center in X. Application of a simple geometrical principle sufficed to describe the final circle.

The French periodical explains several refinements of the process which the scientists employed as a means of verifying their work. It is true that there was a slight liability to error, amounting to a few hundred feet, but the French had aviators, of course, to whom the minor details could be entrusted. Perhaps the most significant fact of all is that there has been a long period of silence concerning the operation of the German long-distance gun.

Mathematics would not be so dry if we could always have so concrete a purpose in determining the value of our "x." The young student finds most difficulty in dealing with abstractions—in the period during which he must accept certain things on faith. When that "x" becomes the emplacement of a German supergun, employed in the bombardment of churches and hospitals in a civilian community, the humanizing of an otherwise dull study is accomplished in the highest possible degree. We imagine that there will be a revival of interest in geometry and the allied studies throughout the nations of the entente as a result of this latest demonstration of their practical application.

WHY PICK ON THEM?

Inasmuch as German has been eliminated from the public school course, and the names of all towns and villages in localities previously invaded by Teutonic nomenclature have been changed, the unthinking part of the public will doubtless feel that Wilhelm Rheindolf Hearst has done the graceful thing in attempting likewise to purge the comic sections.

It has been done only as well as could be expected, considering the source and the belated awakening of the Hearst patriotic conscience. The Katzenjammers have been made over into the Shenanigan kids, Mike and Aleck, but have not been spurlos versenkt. The dialect remains. An effort to alleviate this trace is made by representing that it comes from Holland by "Edam-on-der-Cheese." But one who has close at heart the welfare of small nations cannot help but feel that Ireland and Holland are having enough troubles without being called upon to sustain the kultur of the Katzenjammers.

We call upon the Portland newspaper patron of Wilhelm Rheindolf's service to say, right out, whether, as in the case of Belgium, this new ruthless invasion is strictly a matter of "notwendigkeit."

AMERICAN ECONOMIC STRENGTH.

With prospects of crops of wheat, other cereals and cotton second only to the banner crops of 1916, and with foreign commerce expanding as more ships become available, the United States bid fair to absorb without strain the unprecedented Liberty bond issue promised for October, and at the same time to finance the needs of public utilities.

While the central empires can barely produce enough food to keep their people alive and are squeezing every possible bushel of grain out of Russia and Roumania, the wheat crop of the United States is estimated at 950,000,000 and that of Canada at 300,000,000 bushels, the cotton crop will approach 16,000,000 bales, and the surplus wheat of Australia is being imported, while Great Britain has increased its domestic food production until it needs to import only one-fifth of its consumption as against four-fifths two years ago. Thus there should be ample both for domestic needs and for the allies, and there will be enough ships to carry it abroad.

The increased supply of tonnage is reflected in greater foreign trade, imports for May having reached the unprecedented total of $323,000,000 and exports, not including war material for the American Army, totaled $552,000,000, exceeding by $52,000,000 the total for April. Not only will the surplus profits on farm products and exports be at hand to finance the war, but the rediscount privileges with the Federal reserve system can be far more extensively used by the banks to expand credit. They are in a strong position thus to increase the currency, for their resources increased $2,105,000,000 in the last year, and they have the support of nearly two billion dollars in gold.

Great as are the demands on our resources, the energy of the nation rises to meet them, and American economic power has only begun to be exerted.

THE COPYRIGHT IN THE HEREAFTER.

Efforts of the publishers of the books written by Mark Twain in his lifetime to invoke the copyright law against publication of a work purporting to have been dictated to a planchette operator some time after his departure from this sphere brings visions of a long chain of legal technicalities in which the average layman will have more than the usual interest. But chiefly it calls attention to the value of an established name. Mark Twain labored faithfully for something like half a century to create and to justify the fame which is deservedly his. In the commercial sense, that name has become a valuable asset, if not to the departed writer, at least to his heirs and assigns, just as the reputation of a meritorious proprietary preparation persists in the minds of the public even after its original proprietors have gone the way of the flesh. There are certain contracts which a man may make during his life which are not vitiated by his death. It remains to be determined whether the exclusive right to the use of a name—a kind of literary trademark—is one of them.

If it were not for the habit people have of making a fetish of the name and relaxing their vigilance in the examination of the merits of the wares themselves, the litigation begun by Mark Twain's original publishers would be hardly worth while. It is a noteworthy fact that as a literary product, the "Jap Herron" of the planchette bears little or no resemblance to Mr. Clemens' other work. It is at best no more than a rather cheap imitation, such as might be essayed by any literary hack. There is in evidence an occasional superficial trick of the Mark Twain style, but not a trace of the profound philosophy which made him more than a mere entertainer and placed him among the truly great. The "internal evidence" of "Jap Herron" is not convincing. It is doubtful if the book would attract attention if it were printed as the work of a previously unknown author.

Despite efforts to convince us that the dead are able to take care of themselves, we have not lost our sense of responsibility for the protection of their memories. There is no limit to the extent to which these might suffer at the hands of irresponsible so-called mediums if these were under no restraint. Undoubtedly Mark Twain can have no interest in the revenues from his copyrighted works, but his relatives and his publishers have definite rights which he bequeathed to them. A man does not labor to build up a good name with any view of taking it with him when he dies; the most that he hopes for is that it will be a source of comfort to those he leaves behind.

It is an altogether altruistic sentiment which leads us to endeavor to carry out in the spirit as well as the letter the wishes of the departed. We think that if he were living Mark Twain would not want "Jap Herron" published over his name; and so believing, we realize our duty to appear in his behalf before the earthly courts, which do not recognize the procedure of pleading by planchette.

The effect of publication of the pretended works of dead authors upon the commercial value of the estates which they left behind is probably negligible. But for sentimental reasons, we are bound to cherish and protect their memories. It is a curious fact that mental deterioration seems always to set in after the border land is passed, if we believe the statements of the mediums. It would be an act of mercy, if not of justice, to suppress these outgivings. The sympathies of all the friends of Mark Twain will be with his publishers in their latest appeal to the courts.

A FEAT IN FOOD PRODUCTION.

While Americans rejoice at the great fleet of ships which they are building to bridge the Atlantic, the great work of the British people to economize ship tonnage by increasing their domestic food production should not be overlooked. A recent report of Sir Arthur Lee, director-general of food production, shows that 4,000,000 acres had been added to the cultivated area of the United Kingdom last April since 1916, that the number of allotments and gardens had increased 140 per cent, and that this year's crops would supply the country with four-fifths of the year's food consumption, as compared with one-fifth in 1916-17 and one-fourth in 1917-18. By reduction of imports this increase in home production and simultaneous economy in consumption are expected to release 1,500,000 tons of ships for use in carrying troops and war material.

This remarkable result has been achieved in the face of a decrease of 200,000 in the number of male laborers on the land, after crediting all labor of soldiers and prisoners of war. It has been accomplished by the industry and co-operation of the farmers, by the increased use of tractors and other machinery and by the employment of the Women's Land Army of 200,000.

Old, rich pasture land, parks, golf courses and football fields have been plowed up and sown. All kinds of food have been rationed, in order to make the domestic supply go as far as possible and to reduce imports. By this effort of industry and self-denial the British people have been enabled to lend many of the ships which have carried a million American soldiers to France.

RUSSIA AND DEMOCRACY'S FUTURE.

Misgivings as to the future of democracy have been awakened in some minds by the great drama which is being enacted in Russia. They seem to have arisen in the mind of Harold Williams, a British journalist, who has lived through the revolution and has returned to England to be impressed by the contrast between the chaos which Russia miscalls democracy and the ordered freedom of his own country. These impressions are given in The New Europe.

Such doubts are inspired by a misconception of what is democracy. It is not the exercise of certain rights and liberties; its very essence is the exercise of those rights and liberties with self-restraint, for when self-restraint is thrown off, democracy dies and tyranny returns. This virtue of self-restraint is gradually developed in a nation; it cannot be suddenly acquired with the adoption of a constitution by the men who put on paper their ideals of democracy. It is a gradual growth in the minds, habits and character of a people—the general mass of a people, not its wisest men only, its deepest thinkers, much less its theoretic idealists.

That is the history of democracy in Great Britain and the United States, which are the two most fully developed democracies, though they are still far from perfect. Both sprang from the same seed, planted in Anglo-Saxon times. English democracy had grown into a young plant in the time of King Alfred, but was crushed by the successive invasions of the Danes and Normans. The roots still lived, and they put forth new shoots when King John signed Magna Charta. Through seven centuries the plant has grown into the splendid vigorous tree we now see. It has given birth to the American Commonwealth, which now rivals it in grandeur, and to the self-governing dominions, until it composes what General Smuts has well named the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Russia could not acquire in a year the capacity to build such a structure as these. They are the product of national growth and self-development. As the British people extorted new liberties, one by one, from their rulers, they acquired the self-restraint needed to exercise and preserve those liberties. They have passed through periods of reaction and seeming decay, but during these periods they were gathering force to make new conquests, and what they won they held. The French people attempted the sudden transition from Bourbon despotism to complete democracy, but in a few years they relapsed to the tyranny of the terrorists, and they had to pass through the autocracy of Napoleon, the monarchy of the Bourbons and the despotism of the second empire before they were able to found an enduring republic. As the world atmosphere has become more friendly to the growth of democracy, it has grown more rapidly, so that Italy has joined the family of self-governing nations since 1859. Each new member of that family may be expected to make more rapid progress, for it will have the example, encouragement and teaching of the others, but it should not be forgotten that in Western Europe and America the soil had been well prepared, while in Eastern Europe and Asia the soil needs careful fertilizing and the plant needs nurture in its new home. This is the aid which the older democracies can render to the younger, in order to strengthen them and accelerate their growth.

Success in maintaining democratic rule demands that the minority accept without question the decision of the majority, but that this decision be ascertained on the principles of fair play which rule in sport. The people must be "good sports" and "good losers," or elections will become mockeries and will lead to revolution. That is the story of unsuccessful attempts at democracy.

Mr. Williams says of the first attempt at democracy in Russia:

> The members of the provisional government were convinced democrats. They believed whole-heartedly in liberty as the true basis of power, they abhorred coercion, they trusted the people, they believed persistently in the efficacy of moral suasion. Universal suffrage, freedom of the press and of language, of religion, all sorts of autonomies, democratic local government, proportional representation, the abolition of capital punishment, amnesties, the opening of prison doors—democracy, in a word, was made the all-sufficing rule of life, even in the army. It was intoxicating, and, at first, most exhilarating. It seemed for a time as though democracy had won a complete victory.
>
> Was it a victory or was it a disastrous defeat? The liberated and awakened masses—so to speak—got the bit in their teeth and pulled. The promise of great achievement broke down in demoralization, humiliation and disaster.

What else could be expected? The Russians suddenly threw off the external restraint of the Czar without substituting any internal restraint of their own. They did not know the A B C of democracy, for they assumed that it consisted in entire freedom from restraint. They could not acquire real freedom by proclamations issuing from the conviction of the few men who did know. They are like a baby learning to walk, which must have its falls and bumps before it can keep its balance. Their failure at the first attempt is no more cause for despair than is that of the baby.

If Russia in the throes had been free from foreign interference, designed to fasten on her anew the chains of not merely a despot, but of an alien and hostile despot, the allies might have left her to learn the hard lesson without intervention on their part and only with such friendly aid and advice as might be acceptable. But when Germany is plainly striving to crush Russian democracy in its infancy and in its struggle to get on its feet, they owe it to Russia, to themselves, in fact to the principle of freedom itself, that they should step in, drive out the enemy and insure that Russian democracy shall have a fair chance to grow and thrive. Refusal to intervene could not be construed as refusal to interfere with a nation's right to settle its own affairs; it would be refusal to prevent the murder of democracy and the disruption of a nation. It would be the act of the Levite who passed by on the other side.

The supply of second-hand books available for soldiers' libraries is now approaching exhaustion, and there are indications that the next "book drive" will take the form of a request for cash with which to make purchases in the open market—a situation, however, which is quite likely to be beneficial to the soldiers as a whole. The magnitude of the work already done is shown by the bulletin of the Library of Congress, which gives the number of books furnished as more than 3,000,000, which as to numbers is one-third the size of the Library of Congress itself and more than twice as large as the New York Public Library. We may be even more impressed with the figures upon learning that the books, if piled in a single column, would reach 625 times as high as the Washington Monument, and that placed end to end they would make a continuous line from London, through Paris, to the front-line trenches. Nevertheless, the supply is insufficient. Books, like shoes, suffer exceedingly by Army wear, and more will soon be needed if the good work is to be continued.

With hay now at $20 in the hay country, many a horse may as well figure on a straw diet this Winter. Straw, by the way, is best fed after run through a cutter, with a few oats thrown in, that the animal will not lose heart and think bad things of his owner.

India may get home rule before Ireland, but India has sent at least a million men to the war and has provided much money for the British war chest. Looking at it from a purely practical viewpoint, it pays to forget grievances and show loyalty in spite of them.

If General Crowder will classify chronic candidacy for office as an essential employment, Lafferty might escape, even if the draft age should be raised to cover him. But that would not interfere with a voluntary enlistment, if he really wants to fight.

John Purroy Mitchel was a stalwart young American, free from flabby pacifism when that vice was mistaken for virtue, and he was one of the originators of the Plattsburg idea, expansion of which has provided many officers for the National Army.

In asking return of the Nobel prize money from Congress, Roosevelt is not "an Injun giver." The many thousands can better be expended in war relief than in promoting industrial peace in these days when everybody works.

The Kaiser now has a fine opportunity to turn his army loose on the Russians with orders to emulate the deeds of their prototypes, the Huns. That is what he did in China when his Ambassador was murdered by the Boxers.

There are ties and ties, and the tie contractor in Lane County, against whom is alleged the offense of having three wives, may believe in the tie that binds as well as that which sells.

The $5000 collected in milk bottles for Belgian and French babies is a fine lesson in the power of accumulated trifles to do good, and nobody misses the pennies.

According to General Crowder, the barber is an essential. Old stuff! How can a man cut his own hair or even let his wife trim it? The barber forever!

Young women are going into the Forest Service as fire patrols, and it goes without saying the American young woman can take care of herself.

The man who takes the chance of hoarding food is foolish. Always there will be something just as good, though it may cost a little more.

Nobody has died in consequence of the sugar restriction to two small cubelets. The next best move will be to make it one.

Mitchel's death was due to carelessness, his safety belt being unfastened. The expert often neglects a trifle, the plodder never.

This dry spell is becoming worse than the Kansas article of two years in three.

Oregon cherries have obtained good prices this year, but look at the cherries!

When autos driven by women collide, man is prone to withhold a decision.

Removal of corns is a war necessity.

A Line o' Type or Two.

How to the Line, Let the Quips Fall Where They May.

(By B. L. T. Published by arrangement with Chicago Tribune.)

RUSSIAN NURSERY JINGLE.

Twinkle, twinkle, little Czar,
How we wonder how you are.
Dead and buried—shuffled off?
Or still a healthy Romanoff?

W. D. C.

The buckwheat-cakes story was one of many that were fastened on Matthew Arnold when he first visited this country. The late Mr. Browne of The Dial tracked them to their lairs, and found them all boojums. But W. M. P. tells us that one yarn is probably authentic. An Eastern hostess offered Matthew graham gems for breakfast. He looked at one curiously, and inquired, "Is this a buckwheat cake?"

Allied aviators bombed Mannheim the other day, and jarred a few more scales from the eyes of the German people, "with whom we have no quarrel."

GRID.

The circulation of this newspaper keeps growing, and even the increase does not represent the number of new readers, because old ones die and fresh ones take their places; and so, here and there on the subscription list and on the carriers' books, there may be persons who do not know that Thomas K. Lenz is an optician in Philadelphia.

On the other hand, the new general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at Pontiac, Ill., A. Lohr Case, is not a printer. So Avon's distinguished citizen was half right.

THE MOUNTAIN WAY.

Rose thistles, ferns and purple columbines,
And poppies white as yonder cloud touched snow,
Bestrew my pathway toward the soaring pines:
Below me lies the vale with lakes aglow;
Yon uplift pointed like the Matterhorn
Bears now an eagle resting on his way
Toward far Arapahoe's crags forlorn;
Where Boulder falls I glimpse the irised spray.

The pines are singing now. A turtle dove
Is calling faintly from a wild rose bower.
Clouds light as thistledown float far above
The point toward which I press—the Hermit's tower.
Steep is the way 'round mottled boulders riven;
The pines grow stunted as I near the crest.
Mount Audubon's white crown soars into heaven,
And lo, the snowy range fills all the west!

The wind has passed, the pines have gone to sleep,
The sun is sinking in a snowy sea.
Eastward across the plains the shadows creep—
The shades of night will soon encompass me.
Cometh a maiden, daughter of the sun,
With silver lamp to guide my steps aright.
Fain would I linger till her course is run,
And greet Aurora, crowned with amber light.

C. W. A.

Boulder, June 25.

The Adams Express Company has lost its identity in a merger; but the ancient wheeze about Eve being created for Adam's express company will, like kind words, never die.

HOW PERFECTLY QUAINT.

Sir: My friend is an instructor at the University of Washington, department of psychology, and he with others has been engaged in conducting mental tests of some 800 sailors now at the naval station on the campus. They are known as "nut-pickers."

J. S. D.

Speaking of Mr. Garfield—as some one occasionally does—we find, finds E. W. M., that he can fuel all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but, and so forth.

A Head-On Crash.

(From the Fresno Republican.)

One of the most remarkable accidents in this town it has ever been my duty to record. Mrs. Cramer, formerly of Fresno, and who is a book agent and picture vender, collided with J. E. Whitson, of Kingsburg, who is also a book agent and Bible vender, and the consequences were very damaging to the latter. The lady being a widow and the gentleman a widower, the effect was, of course, more glaring. For a time there was danger of an explosion. But the keen eye of the widow detected the danger, and she came to the rescue and cooled the sweating brow of the widower by a judicious use of her fan. The parties are now doing well as could be expected.

The body distills alcohol, and persons who eat large quantities of candy are more or less jagged all the time. Imagine the condition of Mr. Fickelson, of Peoria, who, reports the Star, "then transferred to the Carolina and was en route to New York heavily loaded with sugar."

SMALL TOWN STUFF.

In little towns
There are two kinds of people—
The ones who play fair and
The ones who don't.
The first variety
Appears when least expected
And asks to borrow the baby
For an afternoon,
When you are nearly dead
From loss of sleep, preserving,
And committees.
It also has more subtle members,
Who, when they know that you are
Low in your mind,
Ask you to help them decide
Something important,
Thus complimenting your intelligence
And rejuvenating your self-esteem.
Both of which you felt
Were almost nil.
The second species
Is the sort which,
When you have conceived great ideas
Regarding co-operative housekeeping,
And begin
With two crocks of beans,
One for yourself, one for her
(Thus saving gas),
Extolling the value of economic reciprocity
In war-time—
This second kind, I say,
Replies in sugared accents,
"I shall be glad to pay you for them."
In little towns there are two sorts
Of people—
The more-than-square ones, and
Those who are not,
Is it so in the city?

Freeportia.

Our revised notion of zero in occupations is explaining to a Hungarian Parliament that the Austrian retreat was really a famous victory.

LIST!

Sir: The brakeman who referred to an intimately injured acquaintance doubtless is a grad of the same Crossing Frog College as the Pere Marquette conductor who has a son in the Navy. Said the con.: "My boy wrote that there is the gol-darndest list to a ship when all the guns on the same side go off simultaneously."

SIB.

Only one more yodeler is needed to complete the Academy Quartet. E. O. Lahey, of Peoria, joined yesterday.

HOUSING PROBLEM IS DIFFERENT

Portland Confronted by Conditions Unlike Those in Other Shipyard Centers.

PORTLAND, July 7.—(To the Editor.) I note with much interest the interview with A. L. Mills for the reason that his views on the housing problem are somewhat divergent from those expressed to Meyer Bloomfield, April 2, by the Chamber of Commerce and Realty Board committee and stated by Mr. Corbett, president of the Chamber of Commerce, as follows: "The Chamber of Commerce, Realty Board and Mr. Wentworth are agreed that there is no need for Government help in the Portland housing problem. We are not in favor of Government help except for St. Helens and Vancouver, for if we take care of our own problems we will not be able to help outside." It seemed to be the general opinion at this meeting that as Portland had led in every good work we should handle this problem as well. But up to the present time no practicable plan for financing such a peculiar proposition as this has been submitted.

At the meeting of the joint housing committee of the Chamber of Commerce and the Realty Board Saturday, May 18, Mr. Guerin representing the Government housing board, asked for opinions as to what could be expected in way of help of various interests in Portland. To this inquiry the Builders' Exchange on May 20 submitted an answer, of which the following is a part:

> After carefully checking up on the building contractors who are still in the business, it would appear that very little can be expected of them for the reason that they do not finance the work undertaken to any extent and do no drafting of plans; they are at present engaged in repairs, alterations and side work on shipyards, they are working short-handed as it is almost impossible to secure competent workmen at equal wages paid by the yards.
>
> In our opinion it will be exceedingly difficult if not impossible to carry out any extended building campaign for the shipyards employes either by local capital or by building contractors furnishing the funds.
>
> In view of the widespread territory involved in Portland and the effect of the 6-cent fare in causing men to pool on an auto from distant points and the apparent desire of many to choose such distant points for residence, in our judgment, it will be difficult to work out a building programme here that will gather into close circles to justify any extended colony building.
>
> The only solution for Portland that will promise relief, barring Government aid, lies in our opinion in each shipbuilding company working out its own problem with its own men as is the case in some quarters. Or, failing in that, the organization of a Portland war housing corporation under the laws of the state, running for the period of the war, the stock in small denominations to be sold to all who will be benefited by helping house the men and their families, and to others on patriotic grounds with no guarantee of interest or dividends, the houses erected on orders from shipyards or individuals to be sold or rented at as low price as possible. Local capital might back up some such a proposition as this with the proper man behind the movement.

Such a plan as outlined above is open to the very serious objection indicated in your interview with Mr. Mills that the financing of such a corporation by individual subscriptions is a slow process and involves the problem of handling the salvage on liquidation.

There is no question in the writer's mind but that Mr. Mills has the correct view of this matter, for, unlike the other problems in which we all take pride in our city's record, this housing proposition has an investment feature that puts it in a class by itself which will render it next to impossible to interest collective capital.

It is safe to say that no plan that proposes to handle local funds for this purpose for profit will secure the assistance of the Government and also that such a plan without the assistance of the Government is impracticable except as indicated in my letter as quoted, where "each shipbuilding company works out its own problem with its own men."

The housing problems of Portland are not parallel with those of Tacoma and Bremerton nor with any other city where a colony plan is feasible, for the reason that our shipyards are located from one end of the city to the other, and the men will live in all quarters and the investments of a housing corporation would of necessity be scattered from "Dan to Beersheba," be exceedingly hard to handle and difficult to close out to any advantage at the end of the war.

Two lines of action, therefore, are open: One, private capital invested in buildings for rent and sale to ship workers; second, each yard or community of plants to work out its own problem for its own employes.

We are open to workable suggestions from anybody.

O. G. HUGHSON,
Manager Builders' Exchange.

SHOULD DEBTOR PAY WITH BONDS

Correspondent Points Out Serious Defect in Suggested Plan.

PORTLAND, July 7.—(To the Editor.)—On the editorial page of The Oregonian, July 2, was printed a letter from one of your readers at Mecca, Oregon, expounding a wonderful new plan for promoting the sale of liberty bonds and "stickers," i. e., buy them, whether you can afford to do so or not, and then turn them into your creditors in payment for various purchases. He goes on to say, "You can bet they are glad to accept Uncle Sam as a debtor in my place," or words to that effect, which is probably true under the conditions outlined by him.

There are doubtless many people who believe in buying bonds under the same conditions, but they overlook the fatal defect in the plan, i. e., that if everybody adopted it, the butcher, grocer, and others will be swamped with bonds and "stickers" (having probably bought all they could on their own account), and will have to dispose of them, irrespective of whether they get par value for them or not.

And when they are placed on sale at a discount it naturally lowers the the value of all the other bonds to some extent, with a consequent impairment of Uncle Sam's credit. This fact wes forcefully brought out in a recent article prepared by the National City Bank, of New York. Then, too, isn't it a little bit dishonest to buy bonds and dispose of them in the manner indicated, if you continue to wear the little button Uncle gives, saying "I oyn a liberty bond?"

A READER.

Wants to Take Training as Nurse.

SILVERTON, Or., July 6.—(To the Editor.)— Please inform me where I could get into one of the Portland hospitals to become a nurse. I would not care how long it took, just so I could become one. Information regarding terms and conditions would be appreciated.

JANE SMITH.

Both St. Vincent's and Good Samaritan Hospitals conduct nurses' training courses. Write to the superintendents for definite answers.

Launching of Concrete Ships.

PORTLAND, July 7.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly explain the reason a concrete ship is launched upside down.

L. C. M.

It is not as a rule. One shipyard in Norway has launched concrete lighters upside down because it found it advantageous to build them upside down.

Service Flag Proprieties.

CARROLS, Wash., July 5.—(To the Editor.)—(1) I am a married woman, with a brother in the service. Can I wear a service pin?

(2)May I also hang a service flag in my window? My husband is in class 4. Would I be entitled to one for my brother?

A READER.

Yes to both questions.

Where Reality Is Found.

Harold Goddard, in the Atlantic.

Listen to words and you will hear words; listen to voices and you will hear reality.

In Other Days.

Half a Century Ago.

From The Oregonian, July 8, 1868.

Paris.—On debate over army appropriations, Jules Favre declared a strong army to be a pledge of peace. The only war possible, he said, was one of defense of her territory.

Vienna.—The Austrian government has commenced disarmament by issuing leaves of absence to 30,000.

The commission which is to survey the boundary line between California and Oregon is now working near Butte, Cal.

The convention of the Grand Army of the Republic will meet in San Francisco, Cal., July 28.

New York.—The German shooting festival closed today with the presentation of prizes to the winners.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian, July 8, 1893.

Washington.—To meet the financial situation, Congress plans to pass a specie resumption act, redeeming the various forms of money now used and issuing, instead, U. S. Treasury notes, whose value shall always be fixed.

Berlin.—Chancellor Caprivi presented the army bill to the Reichstag. He said Germany must increase her peace footing if her voice was to continue to have weight in Europe. Another speaker said Germany could not be too strong, as she feared the mobs in Paris. Liebknecht said the government did not want to increase the army because of fear of France or Russia, but to fortify itself against the German people.

Paris.—Cavalry took possession of the Place de la Republique to prevent more disorder from mobs there. There were riots in the Latin Quarter. The radical deputies met in the editorial rooms of the Germinal and issued a manifesto protesting against the closing of the labor exchange and urging the people to keep calm.

Rich gold fields are being prospected in Southern Oregon.

The Paris Hair Store, D. Miloradovics proprietor, has been sold to Messieurs. I. Febvet and W. Hanebut, late of S. Stozinsky's. Ladies wishing their hair dressed in the latest style should give them a trial. Everything according to French methods only.

DAD'S WAR GARDEN.

That "early bird" has nothin' on my
dad, these morning's bright,
Unless he does some extra jobs by help
of candle light;
For with a hoe my dad gets out when
hours are young and small,
And starts a-slashin' weeds and things,
without no rest at all;
He whacks poor angle-worms in two,
and digs up half he sows,
Til ma says he's gone plum' crazy from
"war gardenin," she knows!

The other night dad had a dream about
that garden lot:
He thought the Huns had come with
teams and all his "truck" had
got,
And were going to peddle what he'd
raised, to feed the murderin'
Boche;
And then dad's temper surely blazed,
and he turned loose, b'gosh!
He yanked poor ma clean out of bed,
and gave one awful yell
That brought the nearest neighbors
in the front door, just pell mell!

They brought dad to, but ma was mad,
and said she'd stood enough!
That dad had acted mighty queer since
he started plantin' stuff;
And if he was going to rear around
and make such awful scenes,
Disgracin' all the family, she would
surely spill the beans!
It's tough on dad, 'cause he ain't time
to eat nor rest at all;
But I guess he'll get his reason back
when "truck" is ripe, this Fall!

GRACE E. HALL.

Product of Caucasus.

ASTORIA, Or., July 7.—(To the Editor.)—Please tell me about a little plant resembling coral which makes buttermilk when put into sweet milk for a certain length of time. I have been told it was imported and that a cow must be brought with it in order to keep sweet milk for it to live in.

MRS. M. J. C.

You may have kefir granules in mind. They are yellowish grains and are the dried form of a fungus-like growth found on bushes below the snow line in the Caucasus. When added to milk a fermentation is caused and a substance similar in taste to the buttermilk made in this country by introduction of lactic acid is produced. After the original fermentation the process can be prolonged indefinitely when fresh milk is available. Kefir, as the milk product is known, is considered superior to other so-called buttermilks in certain dietetic needs.

Mechanics in Shipyard.

PORTLAND, July 7.—(To the Editor.)—Kindly state if a man married in December, 1917, now in class 1, with unborn child and an invalid mother 70 years old depending solely on his daily labor for support (boiler maker in shipyards) will be called to serve in regular Army. I understand they are not taking mechanics.

CONSTANT READER.

Shipyard employes, and particularly mechanics, are usually entered on the Emergency Fleet list of draft eligibles and are exempt from military duty as long as on that list.

Delay in Call to Navy.

REEDSPORT, Or., July 5.—(To the Editor.)—I enlisted in the Naval Reserve under Ensign Upshaw on May 9. I was to be called to Bremerton in 10 days, but have not been called yet. I have my release from the local board. I am anxious to know if there is anything wrong.

ALF PECK.

There has been some delay in calling the men enrolled in the Naval Reserve, but that in your case seems longer than the average. You might write to the commandant, 13th Naval District, Bremerton, Wash., to inquire the cause.

Morality in the Draft.

HARRISBURG, Or., July 5.—(To the Editor.)—Would a man who had served a full enlistment term in the regular Army and been discharged "without honor" be taken in the draft?

A READER.

A discharge without honor is not in itself cause for exemption. It is conceivable that such a person might be morally unfit for service, but the examination would go beyond his discharge papers.

Largest Cheese on Record.

PORTLAND, July 6.—(To the Editor.)—What was the size of, and for what purpose was the largest cheese ever made, and where was the material which entered into its manufacture collected?

W. S. GEORGE.

The largest cheese of which there is any record weighed 11,000 pounds, and 105,000 pounds of milk were used in its manufacture. It was made in Lewis County, New York, and was exhibited at the San Francisco exposition in 1915.