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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1915.

THE GLORIOUS FOURTH.

On July 4, 1776, the founders of the United States of America declared their country independent of England. They laid down in that immortal document the eternal principles of liberty and pledged for the maintenance of the ideals which they had formulated, "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor." But the Independence which they asserted, though a bright and glorious vision, was at first only a vision. It was made real by eight years of war. At Bunker Hill, Saratoga and Yorktown the citizens of the young republic vindicated with their blood the principles which had been asserted by their representatives. Without the courage of the men who drew up the Declaration of Independence and signed it at the peril of their lives, aided by the courage of the men who died for it on the field of battle, the United States never would have been a free nation. The moral courage to assert the right theoretically must be upheld by the practical courage of the soldier in order that wrong may be dethroned and the human race rise to its loftier destinies.

"O Freedom," writes Bryant in a noble inspiration, "thou art not as poets dream a fair young girl with light and delicate limbs—a bearded man, armed to the teeth, art thou. Thy brow, glorious in beauty though it be, is scarred with tokens of old wars." The price of liberty is not eternal vigilance alone, but eternal readiness to defend it. Hardly had the Republic passed the years of its infancy when a second war was forced upon it. The quarrel was none of ours. The European nations were in a death grapple over the quenchless ambition for universal empire. France was the nation which sought dominion over the world and the rest of Europe had united to baffle her power. The same questions of the right to navigate the high seas, which threaten our peace now, drew us into the war of 1812. Had the United States not defended this right as best it could our country would have been reduced to a weak dependency upon the European belligerents and our National sovereignty would have been impaired, if not lost. The war of 1812 was redeemed by some brilliant actions on land and sea, but upon the whole it went against us because we plunged into its unprepared to fight.

The British sent against us veterans who had been trained in the long struggle with Napoleon. We faced them with raw militia. Our repeated invasions of Canada were repelled. Our National capital was captured and burned. We fought like a rude country youth against a trained gladiator, but in spite of our military deficiencies we won a moral victory. The sovereignty of the United States was vindicated and our latent resources provoked the respect of Great Britain even while she routed our raw levies. Not long after peace was concluded the United States still further asserted her independence of Europe and her right to full sovereignty in this hemisphere by proclaiming the Monroe Doctrine, which forbids foreign powers to build up colonial empires on this side of the Atlantic.

From that day to this the Monroe Doctrine has been respected by the European nations, partly because great regions in Africa and Asia lay open to them for exploitation, partly because we had shown in the War of 1812 that we were ready to fight for our principles and, if driven to the wall, would maintain them at all costs. Without the demonstration of our temper which we had thus given to Europe the Monroe Doctrine would have been but a form of words, a scrap of paper to be brushed aside, and we should have been obliged to look on helplessly while our sister republics to the southward were parceled out like the native African states among the greedy powers of Europe.

The liberty which was won in the war of the Revolution and vindicated in the War of 1812 had to pass through a yet more terrible ordeal in the Civil War. Up to that decisive struggle it was still questionable whether we were a Nation or not. To some we appeared to be but a weak confederacy of independent states, from which any member might withdraw at will. To decide this vital question four years of bloody war were necessary. A peaceable settlement was impossible because each side was convinced of the rectitude of its opinion and prepared to lay down life itself rather than yield. Such differences can no more be arbitrated than the everlasting struggle between light and darkness, Ormuzd and Ahriman. The opposing principles must face each other on the stricken field and one or the other must perish before the strife can cease.

The Civil War, with its blood and ruin, decided that we were a Nation with a full claim to the loyalty of every person living beneath the flag. When Grant received Lee's sword at Appomattox, sectionalism disappeared from our history. We cherish no local loyalties in opposition to the common Government, we tolerate no division of allegiance. We are citizens of the United States, that and nothing more, that and nothing less. The United States, with her splendid history and her glorious achievements, wants no divided loyalty from any citizen, foreign-born or native. The American with a hyphen must learn that he cannot serve two masters, "for either he will love the one and hate the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other." When he became an American, he renounced allegiance to his Kaiser, his Czar, his King, and he renounced it absolutely and forever. He no longer has place or part in European quarrels. The hatreds, the loves the interests of the European nations are no longer his. He has become a denizen of a new world and must accept a new loyalty, complete and absolute.

Naturalization is not a mere external ceremony to be performed lightly and lightly forgotten. It is a change of heart. It is the birth of a new patriotism. From the day when he takes the oath of allegiance the naturalized citizen is an American with an American's aspirations, loves and hopes. The enemies of the United States are his enemies. The friends of the United States are his friends. Bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, he must live and die with us and for us, and the Stars and Stripes must be for him as it is for the rest of us, the symbol of his dearest earthly affections. This is what the United States demands of her citizens of whatever birth or speech and he who gives less than this, whether native or foreign-born, is not a citizen, but a recreant and a traitor.

WHY SO THIN-SKINNED?

We have learned, alas, too late, that it does not do to trifle even in the lighter vein with the state affections of some Missourians. The other day we attempted in roundabout fashion to say that Nature had been so bountiful to Pike County that Missourians of that locality did not have to work very hard and could therefore, everyone, afford to take a day off to attend the wedding of Champ Clark's daughter.

But the part that was obviously humor has been taken by one or two to be serious, and the part that was obviously serious has been taken to be sarcasm.

As a safety first precaution against persons totally devoid of humor the article distinctly stated that the charge of laziness was not preferred against the citizens of Pike County. But, behold, Mr. Ogilsby Young discovers an inference of laziness in the article. Mr. Young's letter is published elsewhere, but one received from another writer is so charged with epithets and stern rebuke that it has been sent back for the alterations he will undoubtedly desire to make now that excessive Summer heat no longer affects a usually good disposition.

But we would caution the austere among our Missouri brethren against protesting too much. Remember the lady. Some may not know Pike County so favorably as we do and may think it has a dark secret which makes its sons thin-skinned to shafts of good-natured comment.

HIRE A LAWYER.

Quite an elaborate explanation of the mysteries of the "ground rent" definition in the U'Ren and Labor Council single tax measure is presented by Eugene E. Smith in a published statement. The bewildering definition reads thus:

> The words "ground rent" as used in this section mean the highest price that is or can be obtained in the open market for the use of any lot, tract, or parcel of land for a definite time, exclusive of improvements, plus the total tax on the ground rent and plus the tax on the lease.

It seems from Mr. Smith's explanation that there is a block of land in Portland which has been rented in the open market for less than it ought to bring and that the terms of the lease require the tenant to pay the taxes. It was to reach such cases that the "ground rent" definition was devised.

It might be a good idea to incorporate Mr. Smith's illustration in the amendment together with a few diagrams and illustrations to make plainer other portions of the amendment. The measure is already fortified with a preamble and incorporates an argument. Election laws presume that arguments appearing in the state pamphlet shall be paid for. Here is a distinct evasion; an attempt to get something for nothing. Why not add a few more things that are needed only because the amendment is rambling and incoherent.

The most striking defect in the amendment is the confusing double use made of the term "ground rent." Early in the amendment the term is given a fixed definition; but later the words "ground rent" are used as obviously indicating something entirely different from "ground rent" as previously defined. The term is applied to a rental that is something more than ordinary or commercial land rent and again is used seemingly—often doubtfully—to mean commercial land rent. Neither voters nor courts could intelligently interpret the measure as it is written.

The Labor Council have asked for criticisms from their fellow citizens. What is needed first is criticism by a capable lawyer who is versed in drafting laws and amendments.

TRYING TO "FIX" A NEWSPAPER.

An eccentric attempt has been made to convert the New York Times into an anti-suffragist organ as distinguished from an independent newspaper which opposes woman suffrage on principle as a matter of public policy. An anonymous correspondent in Chicago, whose sex even is a mystery, sent to the editor a $1000 Government bond, saying:

> I want you to use the amount to further the anti-suffrage cause. Use your best judgment in the matter, but I might suggest that you utilize a portion in payment for an article from time to time written by men and women of National or statewide prominence. I observe articles in this line are given a place of honor on the editorial page of the Times.

The Times refused to submit to this species of "subtle compulsion." It refused to accept suggestions as to what should appear on its editorial page or to allow any one else to pay for articles to be printed in its columns. It therefore holds the bond for ten days subject to the owner's right to prove title and recover it. After that time the bond will be given to the New York State Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage.

The writer of the anonymous letter in question is one of a rather numerous class, which seems incapable of understanding that a newspaper values its independence of outside, particularly mercenary, influence over its policies. Such persons assume that when a newspaper champions or opposes a certain measure, it does so from sordid motives and can be induced to reverse or modify its position by the same means.

Newspaper publishers do not claim moral superiority over their fellowmen in this respect. They do, however, claim to possess reasonable judgment, of which their success is the best evidence. They know that the largest part of the value of their property consists in the good will of the public, without which their newspaper would shrink to the limitations of a printing plant, office furniture, a list of canceled subscriptions and a few unrenewable advertising contracts. The good will of a newspaper consists in the public confidence that it will publish the news without color or discrimination and will comment on it from the standpoint of public interest, not of sordid, immediate gain. A publisher who was governed by any outside influence of the latter character would be worse than a knave; he would be a fool, for he would destroy his own property. The editor of the Times has proved that he is not a fool.

ATHLETES IN WAR.

An incident of the fighting in France shows that the trained athlete can bring his strength and skill into play in war to great advantage. A correspondent relates that during the British attack on the German line east of Festubert about the middle of May, Company Sergeant-Major Barter, of the Welsh Fusiliers, went out on the right of the attack with seven men. He cleared with bombs and occupied 500 yards of German trenches, cut eleven mines and captured 102 prisoners, including three officers.

A feat such as that could be performed only by men having not only strong muscles, but highly developed skill in hitting a mark with a hand-thrown missile. Had Barter and his seven men been Americans, we should have guessed that they were baseball pitchers, who had learned to fling the ball with great speed and accuracy across the plate, or fielders skilled in putting men out at the bases. As they were Welshmen, we guess that they acquired their skill in bowling at cricket or in pitching quoits. Many an afternoon's sport contributed to the capture of those 500 yards of German trenches and of those 102 German prisoners.

There is no faculty of brain or physique, no acquirement of mind or muscle, which does not find its use in war. A supreme test of all that is in a man is made by war, but it ruthlessly casts away or destroys that which it has brought to perfection for its purpose. An exploding shell fired from a gun miles distant, by a man directed by a mathematician who in turn is directed by an aviator, or a shower of bullets from a machine gun operated by a man who turns a crank, may have wiped out in a few seconds those eight expert bomb-throwers, whose skill is the product of years' training with the harmless implements of sport. War uses such men and yet destroys them. War is a waster; it undoes what little good it has done.

BLIND TO THEIR OWN INTEREST.

If a hostile fleet should force its way up the Columbia River, or if a hostile army should penetrate to the Willamette Valley and should levy contributions on the people, from whom would it make the heaviest exactions? Surely from the merchants, manufacturers, bankers and owners of large property.

Then surely these people have the deepest interest in maintenance of an efficient force for protection of the country from attack on land or sea. Yet these are the very people who throw obstacles in the way of maintaining such a force at due efficiency. If an enemy should come, the first cry would be, "Call out the National Guard" to back up our diminutive army in repelling the attack. That cry would come loudest from employers of labor and owners of property. Yet these very people object when employes desire to absent themselves for the purpose of acquiring the necessary skill in military operations.

It is not much that is asked of employers on behalf of the National Guard—only that they will not discriminate against men who desire leave of absence for the purpose of attending annual maneuvers. That is little compared with what the Guardsmen give up. They devote two or three evenings a week to drill and ten days a year to instruction in the field, where they apply in practice what they have learned in the armory. An impression seems to prevail that the National Guard is a mere social organization with military trimmings. Let those who have that impression visit the armory on drill nights or visit the maneuver camps, and they will form a very different opinion. As Adjutant-General White well said in his letter to the Chamber of Commerce:

> The principal benefit to a man performing this service is the rare privilege of going to the front in the event of war, to subsist on bacon and hard bread and face hardship and bullets.

Every employer who obstructs the work of the National Guard by arbitrarily refusing to allow his men to leave their work in order to attend the annual field practice is false to his patriotic duty and blind to his own selfish interest. He is careful to provide a watchman for protection against night-prowlers, but he obstructs the development of a body of trained watchmen who will guard state and Nation against marauding foreign armies.

General White has done well to call the attention of the Chamber of Commerce to this subject, and the Chamber would do well to use its influence in bringing its members to a better frame of mind.

TIME TO SELL CANAL BONDS.

The expected favorable trade balance of over $1,000,000,000 for the fiscal year is a fact. So also is the expected Treasury deficit, present estimates of the amount being $40,000,000. The immense excess of our exports over imports has combined with the cessation of tourists' expenditures in Europe, the reduction of immigrants' remittances to Europe and the stoppage of European investments in this country to disjoint the foreign exchange market. It is bringing to this country gold which we do not need but which Europe does need, and is piling up in our banks money which business cannot, or at least will not, employ.

There is no immediate prospect that the Government's revenue will increase to an equality with its expenditures, much less to a point where the deficit will be wiped out. Regardless of its causes and of who is responsible for them, a condition has arisen which does not comport with sound National finance. It is not to be expected that the Government will permit its cash balance to be much further reduced by monthly deficits. Hence steps must be taken to replenish it.

The Government has means ready to hand for doing this without further authority from Congress. Of the total expenditure on the Panama Canal $214,454,558 had been paid with cash from the Treasury to June 30, 1914. The Secretary of the Treasury has authority to issue bonds for this amount or for any part of it. There is no reason why he should not do so. The construction of the canal having been partly paid for with money on hand because the money could then be spared, the Treasury should be reimbursed now that the money is needed.

It was never contemplated that the canal should be built with current revenue. It was always expected that the money would be borrowed and that until canal revenue sufficed to pay interest the annual deficit would be paid from the Treasury. Then why not sell canal bonds, make good the Treasury deficit and restore the working balance? When commercial paper is being offered at 3 per cent, the Government could at least get as low a rate of interest. The money is awaiting investment and the Government needs it. Then why not use it? When the canal revenue begins to show a surplus over expenses and interest, a sinking fund can be created to redeem the bonds.

WAR BY STARVATION.

So much has been said about starvation in connection with the war that it is as well to get the record straight.

When Germany conquered Belgium she confiscated the food supply and left the population to starve. It was saved from starvation by Americans chiefly.

Ostensibly as reprisals for German acts of inhumanity, but with a veiled purpose to starve Germany, Great Britain attempts to stop all commerce between Germany and other countries.

Germany, by means of submarines and mines, attempts to destroy British commerce, consisting largely in the importation of food. She has treated grain as contraband and has sunk grain ships, whether they were destined for the military forces or the civil population of her enemy.

In the light of these facts is it not rank hypocrisy for either party to raise a cry about the other's attempts at starvation? Either would willingly reduce the other to starvation if thereby it could reduce the other to submission and could hasten peace on its own terms.

If the victor were to win by starvation, it would only do what the North did to the South fifty years ago and what Germany did to Paris forty-five years ago.

Starvation is a recognized weapon of war against a beleaguered city. By the same logic it is defended as a weapon against a beleaguered nation in arms. Britain tries to besiege Germany with her blockading fleet, and Germany tries to besiege Britain with her submarines. If neither succeeds, it is not for lack of trying.

The only concern of the United States in this war of starvation is to see that, in carrying it on, neither violates American rights or takes American life. From this standpoint alone we have protested against both blockades. Both are inhuman, but one is more so than the other in its wanton destruction of human life.

RESOURCES FOR THE EVIL DAYS.

Toward the end of June a retired California merchant named Merithew committed suicide in a Philadelphia hotel. He took his own life to avoid confinement in a lunatic asylum. It seems that he was losing his mind and proceedings were threatened to shut him up permanently. This he dreaded so passionately that he preferred to die rather than suffer it. What had unbalanced his mind we do not learn definitely from the reports, but we may draw our own conclusions from a passage in the letter he left for his son Lyle, "Never retire from business, Lyle; that is what ruined the man you call father." He wrote to the same purport in his last letter to his wife, "Oh, why could I not have kept to my business. No one knows how I hate to leave this world and my loved ones." Clearly Mr. Merithew's business was his only anchor. Cut loose from it, he drifted wildly on the sea of life and rapidly ran upon destruction. His business must have been to him all that religion, the love of outdoor sport, reading, art, are to others more sufficiently educated.

To many men retirement from business is the goal of their life's ambition. They look forward eagerly to the day when they can give up their daily routine in the store or office or upon the farm and pass the rest of their days in perfect freedom. They lay many a plan for that blessed period when money worries shall all have been overcome and unbroken liberty gained. They will at least be able to cultivate the hobby they have dreamed of year after year. They will read, travel, increase the number of their friends. But to some it seems a more alluring prospect simply to do nothing. A person who has spent years in relentless toil is disposed to think of rest as the most blessed of all joys. Like the old Scotch peasant woman who thought of heaven as a place where she might sit forever in her rocking chair, he pictures perfect inactivity as perfect bliss. No doubt Mr. Merithew once had visions of this kind. We gather from his tragic letters that freedom from the obligations of business had been his favorite thought year after year. He had panted for it "as the hart panteth for the water brook," but when he at last attained to the fruition of his dream it became as dust and ashes in his mouth.

So it does to many others. The retired farmer is not, as a rule, either a happy or a useful man. Time hangs heavy on his hands. If he goes to town to live, as he often does, he takes little part in civic movements. His attitude tends rather to be obstructive. He imports the ideals of the farm into the city, refuses to enlarge his mind to suit his new environment, and, out of harmony with life, gradually falls into discontent. Much the same fate too often befalls the retired merchant or minister. The truth of the matter is that our United States civilization has thus far made little provision for the man of confirmed leisure, and he almost necessarily feels out of place. As the years pass he becomes more and more of an alien in feeling. The breach between the vision of retirement and the reality does not always, happily, yawn as widely as it did for Mr. Merithew, but the circumstances of our National life almost always tend to form such a breach. Bustling activity is our ideal. We have but scant tolerance for the man who loiters in the sunshine, and we have a thousand ways of making him feel out of place.

There is a time for rest as well as for work. When this Nation has become more mature, and mellows its philosophy of life a little, the man who has retired from active effort will not be so alien to our sympathies. A place will form for him, and in order to close his years happily he will prepare himself to fill it. There is a great trouble with such men as Mr. Merithew is that they want to eat their cake and have it too. They want the excitements and stimulus of business with the freedom of retirement. They cannot have both. They must choose. But it does not follow that retired men must live in complete stagnation. That is what wrecks them. Empty-handed and empty-headed from the cessation of their business, they have no resources to fill the void with. Art, books, gardening, all these venerable relaxations are empty games to them. The taste for such pastimes was not acquired in youth, and old age repugns them.

We have remarked that our National life has little place or tolerance for the leisure of re-age. In consonance with this lack, our education makes but slight provision for such leisure. We school our boys and girls as if they were to die and be done with as soon as they can no longer work. Of the resources which make retirement happy we give them but a feather weight. It is only lately that music began to be tolerated in the public schools. Art is still an alien intruder there, and literature has been made a drudging taskmaster instead of a joyful friend. In our blind passion for toil we call these consolations of retirement "fads," and try now and then to banish them utterly from the schools. It is hard for us to believe that life has any other legitimate purpose than grinding drudgery.

When a person educated by this lamentable theory gives up his business and turns to depend upon his other resources he finds to his sorrow that he has none. With the business routine gone, life collapses like a punctured bladder. It has often been noticed that retired politicians soon die in the United States. Anybody who has lived in Oregon for ten years can prove the saying from his own memory. They die because life has lost its savor to them. It is much the same with retired farmers. None of their dreams come true. And the retired business man is sometimes driven by mere vacuity to follow Mr. Merithew's way. If this victim of a starved education had been taught in his boyhood to love music, art and literature and to practice some outdoor sport for his diversion, can we believe that he would have been driven to suicide by threatened insanity? It is the man of one resource who commits suicide when his life has lost its habitual prop.

THE NATION'S PREFERRED CLAIM.

Offers of lucrative employment in arms and munition factories and shipbuilding plants have tempted several Army and Navy officers to tender their resignations. Secretary Daniels is disposed to refuse officers permission to resign, and Secretary Garrison is seeking a legal opinion as to the right to resign. The present time, when there is a possibility that the Nation may need the services of every trained man to meet an emergency, is a good time to settle this question.

When a boy goes to West Point or Annapolis, there is a contract with the Government, express or implied, that in exchange for his services to the Nation throughout his active life he is to be educated at National expense and is to have honorable employment and a retirement pension. He acquires special skill at the expense of the Nation on the understanding that it is to be used in the service of the Nation.

Only too frequently, after the Nation has performed the most expensive part of its half of the contract and after an officer has acquired practical experience and reputation, which is particularly valuable in engineering, he is lured away by a tempting offer from private employers. Good-natured Secretaries are unwilling to stand in the way and are subjected to much social influence, so they usually yield. It is argued on behalf of the officers that the private work on which they are to be employed will be a great public improvement, that the influence of the high standards of honor they have acquired will be good in business, and that, if emergency calls, they will return to the public service.

But the present discussion of our National defense puts the matter in a new light. The great need of both Army and Navy is officers, for both are under-officered. We need Army and Navy reserves, but they cannot be organized without a reserve of officers. In case of war we should need to train an army of volunteers. Unless we were already provided with trained officers, we should not have the means of training them. It follows, then, that the Government should keep a tight hold on every officer in either service and should adopt every expedient to increase the supply of men qualified to train soldiers.

An officer who resigns to obtain big fees in private practice does not play fair with the Government. After he has been educated and commissioned, an Army engineer, for example, immediately begins to draw $4000 a year, and he draws that salary year in and year out until he retires on a pension. Had the same man engaged in private practice, several years might have elapsed before his earnings would reach that figure, and his later income would fluctuate with circumstances.

GETTING TANGIBLE RESULTS.

There is better prospect of practical results from the latest Pan-American Conference than from any of those which preceded it. Former conferences have been given up too much to flowery speeches and resolutions. Little has been done to put those resolutions in effect. The emergency growing out of the war has driven the last conference to get down to the business of providing that its conclusions be followed.

The conference voted to hold an annual financial conference at Washington. It voted for the appointment of an international high commission to meet in Buenos Ayres November 1, 1915, which should agree upon plans and press measures in each American country for uniform commercial laws and for arbitration of business disputes. A plan of arbitration has been adopted already by the chambers of commerce of the United States and of Buenos Ayres and may serve as a basis for a like agreement among all American republics. Permanent committees of United States bankers and business men are to act with committees from each other country to foster closer commercial relations. Prominent bankers and business men are to visit each Latin-American country, the Secretary of the Treasury to appoint a committee which will arrange the tour.

The most important step in advance is the preparation for adopting uniform commercial law. It is proposed to eliminate irritating and obstructive laws and regulations, and to bring about uniform laws respecting commercial paper, bills of lading, classification of merchandise, customs regulations, consular certificates and invoices, port charges, regulations for commercial travelers, protective legislation for trade marks and patents and copyrights, etc.

To procure uniformity of laws on all these subjects among more than a score of nations is alone a great undertaking, on which action by all the legislative bodies concerned cannot be obtained for several years. If it should be accomplished, the two American continents would be bound together in a commercial union surpassing even that of the United States, for there is diversity of state law on several of the subjects covered. The commission having this matter in charge is also to carry into effect all other resolutions of the conference and is to have the assistance of a new bureau in the Pan-American Union, which is to employ experts in each country. A permanent committee is also to work towards putting into effect the plans for direct steamship communication.

Having provided for continuity of work and permanence of organization, the conference is well on the way to accomplish something definite. Several years may be consumed in carrying out all the plans it has set out foot, but there is good reason to hope that the outcome will be a species of commercial union bound together the more closely by community of political interest as related to the Old World and by similarity of political institutions.

Unqualified approval of the President's course in regard to the war has been pledged by the United Irish Societies of Chicago. The societies also declare it "is imperative upon our people that they should avoid all local alliances with those whose mother countries deny to Americans the protection of international law, and whose fealty to our Republic is, in a sense, open to question." No person ever doubted the loyalty of Americans of Irish descent, but the renewal of the pledge is no less welcome.

The women of England seem determined to disprove the slander that their sex is unmilitary. Mrs. Pankhurst's demands for "a larger share in the war" have been conceded, perhaps for a reason she does not suspect. We imagine that Lloyd George would gladly send her to the front as a Major-General if he felt sure she would not return.

It will be difficult for old-fashioned theorists to persuade women that "twilight sleep" is not a blessing to their sex. The same arguments are used against it as were used against anesthetics long ago. In fact, the intellectual armory of reaction does not contain a great many weapons. The same old guns are fired in every field.

Spain's neutrality is not likely to be infringed upon. She has little commerce to be destroyed and her citizens are not likely to travel much in the war zone, while her geographic situation is far from the scene of hostilities. In the turmoil the Spaniards are a little more agreeably situated than we are.

Archbishop Hanna talks rather sensibly about the "peace at any price party." He says it would fade away were the National honor attacked. It certainly would. People who cry for peace when there is no danger of war feel very differently when fighting begins.

That $1,000,000,000 balance of trade may be embarrassing to the United States, but it would be more so if it were on the other side of the ledger.

"Germans get Krasnik," says a headline. Which leaves readers in doubt as to whether the Germans have acquired a position or a disease.

We don't want to seem unkind, but if a dozen or two more of those Mexican presidents would pass along matters would be greatly simplified.

In Pendleton the pastor asks his fold to come coatless. Just at this season it might be well to urge, also, the bringing of alarm clocks.

A Chicago physician advises use of alfalfa for illness. However, for our part we deny being that sort of an animal.

Owners of bees over in Washington are advised that they must pay assessments on their hives. Stung again!

But then the Italian army may have been forced to halt until a fresh supply of spaghetti could be sent up.

More than 120,000 Irishmen have been sent to the front. Strange the war isn't over by this time.

High Navy officers will not be permitted to retire. A verdict that will make aspiring juniors weep.

And this is the anniversary of our National birth. My, what a big child we have grown to be!

With the Third Regiment assembled at the beach we'll be ready for any emergency.

The international situation is due for a few handsprings the coming week.

This is the season when we enjoy last Winter's cooling rains—in retrospect.

Poor old Bryan must realize by this time that he's off on another tangent.

Lost—The Italian army of invasion. Last heard of en route to Berlin.

We certainly are beginning to think a lot on the subject of vacation.

Dispatches say the Russian navy has won a victory. It can't be.

The German reply will reach Washington July 9. Will it say nein?

This weather is provided for the haymakers.

However, we shall observe July fifth.

Cheer up. Cherries are ripe—at Salem.

But it surely was hot while it lasted.

And the spirit of '76 is still with us.

On to Bonneville!

Gleams Through the Mist

By Dean Collins.

July Fourth.

Muse, give the almanac a view!
It almost makes me sob
To see you, when there's work to do,
A-loafing on your job.
Make haste, make haste;
No time to waste,
For day by day is swiftly chased.
Bring out my cymbal, harp and drum,
My piccolo and tympanum.
July the Fourth must be my theme!
Turn loose the eagle; let him scream,
Let him on outspread pinion fly;
Crank up my car, my limousine;
Be sure that we have gasoline;
Crank up and throw her in the high,
And up Parnassus we will fly
On cylinders that snort and pop
To touch off fireworks at the top,
And celebrate, for all we're worth,
The day that gave our nation birth.

* * *

There were some men in our town and they were wonderous wise, and they stood out for "safe and sane," on all Fourth of Julys, but at this scheme the children hoot—the young idea likes to shoot, and Freedom's story freest learns from sizzling punk and powder burns.

My judgment argues for the men who stood for "safe and sane" but when it comes to sentiment my judgment cries in vain; my heart still clamors loud to light a cracker full of dynamite and feels that powder sparks should fly upon the Fourth of each July.

But only in the small town in these degenerate days may children in the good old way their jubilation raise. Reform, which in these days runs loose, out of the Fourth has squeezed the juice, and larger towns must celebrate in manner quiet and sedate.

As quiet as a Sabbath morn July the Fourth gets by——

This style of verse depresses me. Forgive
my muse and I,
If "safe and sane," poor pallid theme, unfinished, we throw down
And at the fount of poesy's stream the halting verse we drown.
The tattered theme aside she flings;
Aloud the gleeful motor sings—
"Drive on, James Muse, to higher things."

* * *

Breathes there a man with soul so dead
That he hath opened up his head,
And clamored loudly without cease
That unpreparedness makes for peace,
Who from our histories would purge
The rumble of the battle's surge,
And feed the youth—our nation's hope—
A line of weak white-feather dope?

Yes, such there be! Go mark them well!
Here, where our brave forefathers fell
In carnage far the greater for
Their unpreparedness for a war;
Here where they fought with all their might
For Freedom, though untrained to fight;
And stained our shores a grewsome red
With blood that need not have been shed;
Here still, one has to calm his fist
To save some prattling pacifist.

Oh would some power the giftie gie us,
To see ourselves as others see us,
A Nation whose success has stuck
Less on preparedness than on luck.
Oh, could we see with undimmed eye,
Upon this Fourth Day of July,
Upon our ease no more we'd gloat,
But with an earnest, humble note
We'd study how we best might serve
Our well-loved Nation to preserve;
Our ears no longer we'd present
To chaps who flap disarmament.

The Courteous Office Boy said, "Sir, with that advice I do concur; and so, to prove what we stand for, let's both go out and shout for war."

I beat him sharply with a stave and told him sternly: "Cease to rave! Let our one hope forever be—peace for this country great and free."

"Then why have you stood up and hissed the 'unpreparedness' pacifist?"

"Because, my son, to put it strong, his dope is plausible—but wrong. Let's boost for peace with all our might, and ready be to back our right for peace and all of its delight, by being well prepared to fight."

"Well," said the C. O. B., "by gravy, I guess I'll go and join the navy."

"When Freedom, from her mountain height,
Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night
And set the stars of glory there,"
And through a hundred years and more,
In spite of every force of ill,
The stars that Freedom set before,
Above our land are gleaming still,
And hundred million souls today
Stand 'neath the glory of their ray.

A hundred million may we stand
And pledge today these hearts of ours
To strive for aye to keep our land
Fresh in the vigor of her powers,
That still the stars that Freedom lit,
As glorious as they were of yore,
Upon her banner bright may sit
A hundred centuries and more.

* * *

I'd like to grab a trolley, a hackney or a bus, and hie away upon this day to mingle in the fuss, the uproar and confusion fine, with which, at Homeburg up the line, they whoop 'er up with fervor gay and boost for Independence Day.

The eagle never, never flew on wings so widely spread, as he will flap to fly away at Homeburg, up the line today. Nor rarer pearls will shed their lustre in the song or speech that Homeburg will employ to teach the rising young in just what way we won this Independence Day.

Nor will there be a cornet band will blare with half the noise that will be scattered through the land by Homeburg's good old cornet band and Homeburg's brave band boys.

Though every city celebrates our Independence Day, and every village jubilates in much the same old way, there's only just one place for mine, where Freedom's smile seems most divine, I like to slip away today to Homeburg up the line.

* * *

Oh, wake and call me early, call me early, mother, dear;
For tomorrow is the happiest day of all the glad new year;
Of all the glad new year, mother, the gayest, giddiest date,
And I got a package of dynamite, and I'm going to celebrate.

* * *

Blessings on thee, little man,
Barefoot boy, with cheeks of tan,
With your little stick of punk
And your firecracker and junk,
That is just the stuff for boys
When they want to make a noise,
Bless your joy, nothing dim it;
But please don't forget that you
Cannot put your joy-fest through
Here inside the city limit.

THE CLOSE OF DAY.

Across the Western ramparts
Are the crimson banners spread,
As the sun, in flaming splendor,
Low sinks to his ocean bed.

Calm angels of benediction
Stand the mountains, robed in snow,
While in misty, purple shadows
Vale and city lie below.

Gleams in reflected glory
Afar on cathedral spire,
Like a holy sign from heaven,
The Cross of the Christ, afire.

Darker the shadows are creeping
O'er city, mountain and dale,
And out of the velvet curtain
Comes the star of the evening, pale.

Lo, now in radiant beauty,
Rides the crescent moon, newborn;
The peace of night is upon us;
Peace and rest for the weary-worn.

SARA B. WRENN.