

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1918.

ONE WOMAN'S WORK.

The reading public, if it chances to run across the latest issue of the Newberg Graphic, will find the interesting announcement that Miss Margaret So-and-so (true name given), daughter of the Hon. and Mrs. John So-and-so (true names given), "who signed up for a liberty bond, went to Portland the first of the week to earn the money to pay for it by doing domestic work in the home of a well-to-do family."

Young men who are "looking around" might do well to put this down in their note books. "Let us go to a liberty bond, went to Portland the first of the week to earn the money to pay for it by doing domestic work in the home of a well-to-do family."

The guess may be ventured that the enterprising young citizen of Yamhill had been reading the "help" columns of "female" columns of The Oregonian. The women of Portland and Oregon are making the classified pages of this paper vocal with their cries for help.

There were four columns of closely set type, containing four or five hundred advertisements. Usually the demand is for "competent girl for general housework," or "cook," or "waitress."

Another of town concern is evidently after a female Admirable Crichton. He asks for a combined clerk for express, railroad, postoffice and telephone agency accounts; telegraphing ability a plus preferred; must have had some bookkeeping experience and be able to operate typewriter; necessary keep house in comfortable home; "well-situated," all departments; and "ten young ladies between 16 and 18 to act as cashiers and wrappers."

There is no run the entire gamut of the frantic calls, from chorus girls to "all-around lady compositors." There it is, all of it, a universal cry for the service of women in a hundred or more employments, some of which have not before been mentioned in the sex workers. It is an interesting part of The Oregonian, in its perfect reflection of a condition which has grown acute as the war progressed, and men have either gone to the trenches, or have become shipbuilders at wages before unheard of, or have gone into other occupations more remunerative than they have been following.

The first result is a rapid depletion of workers in many employments, and the second result is a sudden and general rise in wages. There is no sex now for idleness, except age or sickness, no excuse whatever. Lack of skill or experience, even, does not avail. Awkward hands are better than none at all, for they may be used as substitutes, in a thousand ways, for through competence.

It is no longer fashionable or creditable to be idle, for either sex. The drone is more than ever an incubus, and he or she is being made to know it either through a definite demand upon him or her for service, or through the more or less gentle compulsion of general opinion. Men who have fortunes, and other men who have nothing, have responded to the call to the colors, or to the other call to public duty; and women who have given little or no thought to anything but their families, their friends and private charities, are responding nobly to the innumerable demands on them. There is a woman in Portland who was a stenographer, and she married well, and she has a family, and no more; yet she graduates to do all her household work, and send her children to school, and then to appear at a certain headquarters for whatever she may do, usually work at the typewriter, all for her country's good. It is the graduates of these institutions who are taking others the art of serving and cooking

many of them, which is all right; but, nevertheless, we should like to see a census of the graduates in domestic science, so as to learn just what they are doing. It is quite certain that the short-cut method of many householders in utilizing their women for household work is not going to effect any permanent cure in the growing shortage. It is also quite certain that the work must be done somehow. The solution lies in part in an understanding of all honest work, by men and women, dignified employment, and that service at home by young women is quite as helpful and patriotic as service abroad, or downtown.

P. S.—There are two thousand applications, mostly from women, to the Portland School Board for positions as teachers and instructors. There are about thirty vacancies to fill. The total surplus is thus shown to be about nineteen hundred and seventy (1970). There must seek employment in the schools elsewhere, or find other work here. Who will explain why it is that the school jobs are enormously overworked, while other occupations are suffering from lack of help? Is it the wages? Or the hours? Or the congeniality of the task?

Here is room for the service of some public, or semi-public, organization, that will divert nearly two thousand women from places where they are not wanted to places where they are wanted.

GERMANY'S NEED OF OFFICERS.

Evidence accumulates that the German army is beginning to feel the drain upon its officer personnel. In this respect Prussian militarism is seen to have its defects, as well as its elements of strength. For the difficulty between the system under which officers are made in Germany and in the countries of the entente is a wide one, and in a long war the democratic idea is being proved to be the better.

There is a chasm between the mere "cannon fodder"—and his commissioned superiors that is almost incapable of being bridged. The aristocracy of rank does not encourage promotion from the ranks. The German nation is not so much a military nation as the United States and Italy. When the final battles are fought, this may prove a decisive factor. The recent offensive of the Germans is proving especially disastrous to its officers, who cannot be replaced.

Democracy's way is the better way, even in the conduct of a great war. WHO IS BOSS? The unanimity with which county Granges in Oregon are repudiating the Non-Partisan League is no less indicative of patriotic public sentiment than the expulsion from Winlock, Wash., of two organizers. Washington County rejected the league a day before the United States National Convention, and Yamhill, Marion, Columbia and other counties have done likewise.

It is not alone the earlier fault-finding with the war by league leadership and the transparent reason for belated words of patriotism that are heavy dues to another organization when they have a capable machinery of their own for obtaining new legislation if any be needed?

The boasted achievements of the Non-Partisan Legislature of Non-Partisan are the more in number. Oregon already has enacted many laws. Others pertain to sectional issues meaningless to Oregon voters. Importance of others may be judged by one which provides for compensation of persons who have served a term in prison. Just enough, it is true, but it is a law that will apply about once in one hundred years.

Another stunning measure gives the vote to women equal to state officers. Shall equal suffrage Oregonians are to an entire in number. Oregon already has enacted many laws. Others pertain to sectional issues meaningless to Oregon voters. Importance of others may be judged by one which provides for compensation of persons who have served a term in prison. Just enough, it is true, but it is a law that will apply about once in one hundred years.

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W. W. and all others who hide pro-Germanism behind the pretense that they only oppose profiteering, or that the war was instigated by men seeking exorbitant profits, are thus left without a leg to stand on. Arguments are exposed as a lying pretext for setting class against class in order to weaken the Nation for war. They are the most contemptible kind of traitors, compared with whom the man who frankly proclaims sympathy with Germany with its millions of women is dignified employment, and that service at home by young women is quite as helpful and patriotic as service abroad, or downtown.

TRAINING CAMP ENTERTAINMENT.

The commission on training camp activities of the War Department is beginning to find out that the American soldier has rather definite ideas as to what he wants in the way of theatrical entertainment, and that if cantonment theaters hope to receive his patronage they must cater to his taste. The tired soldier, it seems, is even more discriminating than the retired business man, for whose education so large a proportion of our entertainments has been devised in the past. It is an indication of the earnestness of those who have this detail in charge that a study of the kind of theatrical performance a soldier likes is being made with as much care as recently characterized the analysis of his predilections in the matter of books.

Musical comedy and vaudeville have the lead in popular favor. Drama has its devotees, but not much demand for tragedy. But the interesting feature of the disclosures of the investigators is that the taste of the new National Army is highly discriminating. Even though the camp theater is an innovation, and the soldier has had little opportunity to attend theaters in the past, critics have been surprised by the high standard that is universally demanded.

Thousands of men have had their first opportunity to see a legitimate show, says Chairman Fiedick, of the commission, "and it is an actual fact that in one of the Southern states scores of mountaineers visited the theater manager after the show was over and asked his permission to come again." Nevertheless, a comparatively poor performance would fail to obtain patronage. The conclusion is justified that the instinctive tastes of Americans, despite any lack of critical experience, is sound.

The "Liberty Theater," as the cantonment playhouse is called, represents an interesting experiment in developing the entertainment side of camp life. While other Governments have encouraged camp shows, never has gone so far as to build theaters and organize companies for their production. But Uncle Sam, in his capacity as theatrical producer, has found his problem no less perplexing than that of the metropolitan manager. The soldier must be permitted himself to be bored when off duty—and mediocrity bores him. It takes entertainment of good quality to induce him even to tear off the coupons of a "smileage book," which has been a gift to him.

Although the cantonment theaters are not money-making institutions, it has been found necessary to pay the price of admission to the bare cost of the class of entertainment which alone will arouse interest. But the increased price is paid cheerfully when the show is worth it. There is no "playing down" to these metropolitan audiences, for the part of the country and from every division of the social body. In its own modest way, indeed, it would seem that the training camp theater is doing its part in the elevation of the stage.

A CONFESSION OF GUILT.

No document published since the first year of the war is likely to have such momentous significance as the attitude of the German people as the secret memorandum of Prince Lichnowsky, German ex-Ambassador to London, which has become public through a breach of confidence on the part of a personal friend and is printed in part in The Oregonian.

It is nothing less than a confession of guilt on the part of Germany by a man who was an official participant in the negotiations leading up to the war, and who, therefore, has the best means of knowing the facts. The weight of the evidence is exactly what the story of events at that time as related by the allied governments and as revealed in the dispatches that each may be said to corroborate the other. There is no further room for doubt that the German government, in collusion with Austria, secretly and deliberately planned the war and fixed "the day" which had been toasted by officers of the German army and navy for years.

Francis has been the efforts of the militarists to prevent the publication of the denunciations of the Kaiser's policy by one of his highest diplomats, they have failed. Publication was stopped in Sweden only to be renewed in Germany, and the Pan-Germans take refuge from their embarrassment in a flood of excuses. But the Prince's indictment is strengthened by publication of a letter written by Dr. Muehlen, a former director of the Krupp company, which gives independent confirmation of the charge that a great war conspiracy came to a head in Berlin during July, 1914.

Thus disappears the pretense to the German people that they were plunged into a "defensive war" against a combination of nations which aimed to destroy them. They might have forgiven the deception if the expedition of "a short and merry war," ending in overwhelming victory at slight cost in life and paid for with a huge indemnity, had been realized. That dream has already vanished. In its place the German people have cost millions of men, have become physically and morally decadent, can escape bankruptcy only by a victory which can never be won, raise up a new enemy to replace each one that they overpower and have earned the execration of the world.

Germany may be buoyed up for a time with the exaggeration of gains which consist of mere patches of ground won at extravagant cost in life and in trainloads of wounded who glut the hospitals. But they must already begin to doubt whether the boasted victories are worth the price. The allies are already holding them, and as America throws more of her weight into the battle, the tide must turn against them, never to change. Then, when to the bitterness of defeat is added the realization that they have been duped, even the docile German people must turn against the men who have committed this colossal crime. The writings of Lichnowsky

may yet prove to be the most effective piece of propaganda which has appeared during the war, excelling in its consequences the laborious and world-wide product of the German organization. No less influential than the documents themselves is their source. These new denunciations of the Weltmacht policy do not come from humble Socialists or from brilliant editors appealing from the people like Hagedorn. One comes from a member of the aristocracy, the other from a leader of the new German plutocracy. That fact indicates that revolution against the degradation of Germany to the position of an outcast nation, extending upwards from the suffering masses to the titled and wealthy classes. It shows that the anti-war party in Germany is finding able and influential leaders.

But we should not delude ourselves as to what the men who do not denounce the crime of 1914 would consent to release the Poles, Alsatians and Danes from thralldom or to make reparation to the nations which Germany has wrecked until defeat compelled them to give up the contest of guilt to drive Germany to undo the wrongs of the past as well as those of this war. A combined military and psychological offensive will hasten the end, and these latest exposures will prove a most valuable weapon.

PEACE ON THE NORTHERN BORDER.

One hundred years ago today, on April 28, 1818, President Monroe published a proclamation giving force to the Rush-Bagot agreement, which provided in substance for disarmament by Great Britain and the United States on the Great Lakes. It is a curious fact that this compact, one of the most momentous in our history, should have been completed by a method that was far from diplomatic, the height of the "Force must help convince" of the British minister, and the unanimous vote of thirty United States Senators, but there is no record that it ever was formally ratified by the British government. It was assumed that Mr. Bagot had formal authority to bind his government, and indeed, although slight misunderstandings arose subsequently, the action of the British minister never was repudiated. There grew out of the Rush-Bagot convention also the "understanding," which has always prevailed, that there should be no armed collision on the boundary between the United States and Canada.

The Rush-Bagot compact, with all its far-reaching consequences, was the outcome of events which immediately followed the outbreak of the war in 1812. In 1815 had considerable naval forces on the lakes. All the vessels were of wood, for steel ships had not been invented, and steam had not then been used in ships of war. The lakes had not been connected by canal, and the water cut off from the ocean. No one could foresee that a time would come when vessels greater than the then-existing capital ships of the world's navies would pass freely from the ocean to the head of inland navigation, that working in the presence of the British fleet, the United States navy in 1815 had considerable naval forces on the lakes. All the vessels were of wood, for steel ships had not been invented, and steam had not then been used in ships of war. The lakes had not been connected by canal, and the water cut off from the ocean. 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