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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JULY 7, 1918.

## THE ALDERMAN DEMOTION.

The first official step in the plan to eliminate L. A. Alderman as Superintendent of the Portland public schools was taken when the board by a majority vote demoted him to the newly created job of head of war activities. Obviously, the majority hesitated at outright decapitation, either through some faint regard for the decencies or through some notion that the contract under which the Superintendent has been serving could not with impunity be violated. Or it may have been, and probably was, influenced by both considerations. Public sentiment, after all, is a little sensitive on the subject of the schools and their orderly administration, and a wish to escape the terms of a formal undertaking is not sufficient legal grounds, even for a municipality.

The trouble with the public schools is politics—not partisan politics, but school politics—and faction. The Superintendent has sought to maintain himself by politics, and he is the victim of politics. Perhaps there was no other way. He would say so, no doubt. We merely state the fact. The results speak for themselves, and with no uncertain voice.

One director who has served for several years on the board, though not consecutively, but who is familiar with the workings of the school system, has been long opposed to the retention of Mr. Alderman. He has found what seemed to him adequate reasons for a change. Two other directors, just elected, now join him. No one will say that they have acted upon information, obtained from investigation and from a matured opinion. They took the first opportunity to register their purpose to effect a change. They did what they intended to do when they were elected. They represent a faction and the interests and intentions of faction. If they had waited until another year had passed, and then, at the expiration of the Alderman contract, had acted, greater confidence might have been felt in the decision.

The Oregonian has already said that the public is a little sensitive about the schools; but toward some of the manifestations of political and class activity in the schools it would appear to be less than even a little sensitive. It has seen without serious emotion or protest the successful progress of the movement to take real control from the board and Superintendent and place it with the teachers. It has observed a system of life-tenure established, making it well nigh impossible to get rid of an inefficient teacher. It has suffered politicians to tamper with the organization, so that the rightful ultimate authority of the board was transferred to another body, and so that easy changes in personnel of directors might be made. It has then been so little interested in the management of the schools that it has suffered a small fraction—about 10 per cent—of the electorate to control school elections. Now the new policies are bearing fruit. Probably we shall have a new Superintendent every year or two, with each new incoming board.

The Oregonian has had no thought of saying that it was the duty of the board to retain Mr. Alderman indefinitely, or that a fair judgment of his services might not have led to his retirement. It has not for some time been at all sure that a change might not be beneficial. But it has wanted the question fairly and impartially determined, and it would have been content, as the public would have been content, to accept the decision of a board influenced only by considerations of the highest school service. But it cannot be pretended that a decision thus inspired has now been made. What assurance is offered that the choice of the Alderman successor will be determined by the merit of the appointee?

The outlook for the schools is disquieting. The board can repair the obvious injustice done the Superintendent by its hasty and arbitrary act in the election of a Superintendent who will have the courage, the independence and the experience to assert himself as the real head of the schools. The system needs just such a Superintendent. There is no other way out from a decline in efficiency, leading to downright demoralization.

## TEMPORARY IMMIGRATION.

There will be no quarrel with the Federal authorities for their action in suspending the immigration laws, as a war measure, so as to permit entry of Mexicans seeking employment. The need of labor, especially on the farms, is recognized, and relaxation of the regulations does not extend to Orientals. At the same time the temporary character of the sojourn of these Mexicans, admitted without reference to the literacy, contract labor and head tax sections of the immigration law, is emphasized. Employers of aliens are required to deposit a part of the wages of the immigrant to his credit in a postal savings bank at the port of entry, where it will be available to him with interest when he returns home.

Mexican labor is particularly needed for the farms and railroads of the Southwest. It has been employed, particularly on the latter, for some years, and has given general satisfaction. The movement this year has been incidentally interesting because of its revelations of German propaganda in our sister republic. Efforts to obtain laborers, even at high wages, have been retarded by stories circulated by the Germans that men coming to the United States, even temporarily, are liable to immediate conscription.

The number of Mexicans thus made available for work this year cannot be estimated, but by comparison with the need of harvest hands and other laborers it probably is not large. Promise of 75,000 Porto Ricans, obtained in a similar manner, is good only so far as it goes. There are single states which require more than that many additional hands to harvest their wheat alone. It seems plain that Americans will be compelled to rely chiefly upon themselves, and with labor's ranks continually depleted by the draft their task will grow constantly. It is recognized that there would be strong opposition to letting down the bars to Chinese coolies, and to avoid this course as the only remedy in a dire emergency it will be necessary for all who are able to work to do so to the limit of their abilities.

## WON BY HOBBY HORSES.

One is again reminded that it is only a pleasant little fiction that Oregon's initiated laws spring spontaneously from the people. An effort toward more or less spontaneity was witnessed in behalf of seven measures. Only two of them received a sufficient number of signatures. The one worth most serious consideration failed. It was an emergency war tax bill, and without its enactment either state war activities or the ordinary operations of state government will be hampered. It was a bill that can be enacted only by vote of the people. The Legislature is powerless to do more than submit it to vote.

Of the two bills that attained place on the ballot one voices the throbbing theory that notice of tax delinquency ought to be personal instead of public. The other has something or other to do with the scale of charges for publication of legal notices. Prosecution of a great war does not distract all of us from the pleasure of riding a spirited hobby. Some of us insist on our recreation. So it happens that a wealthy citizen and publisher devoted his money and energy to initiate a couple of well-nourished ideas on comparatively inconsequential matters pertaining to advertising. Nobody else cared a hoot about them.

But the war emergency tax measure was ditched. Also several doubtful measures, but ones pertaining to issues which the people are really thinking about met a like fate. Now the issue is so acute regarding war emergency funds that there is prospect of either an extra Legislative session or a test of a new law giving the Tax Commission power to submit tax measures.

Initiated measures, instead of springing from the people, usually spring from the pocketbook. The paid petition hawker is an essential to direct legislation. Just as money makes the mare go, it's money that rocks the hobby horse. Yet there are some who insist that a Legislature is not needed in a state where the people are their own lawmakers.

## MORE WORK FOR AMERICANS.

One of the great revolutions in public sentiment brought about by the war is in the attitude of the English people toward the Channel tunnel. Hitherto a storm of opposition has greeted every suggestion of the kind. Now they are not only willing but anxious that it be dug and they wish to entrust the job to Americans.

Opposition to the scheme rested on the insular position of the country, which made the sea its best defense, and traditional enmity to France, which has survived from the wars of the Plantagenet Kings and the war with Napoleon. Fear of French invasion was revived by the controversy which grew out of the British occupation of Egypt and rival claims in Central Africa. The scheme was first entertained by Napoleon, but was not taken up seriously until 1875, when a convention between the two governments was signed, a company was organized in each country and preliminary work was begun on each side. In 1883 Parliament stopped work as "not expedient" and the project was not revived till 1913, when Premier Asquith promised that inquiry should be resumed, but no decision had been reached when the war broke out. Then efforts to have work resumed became vigorous, and the change in public opinion was indicated by the resolution of Parliament on August 16, 1917, that the work was "not practicable during the continuance of the war," in contrast with the former decision that it was "not expedient." General F. V. Greene in the Yale Review expresses the opinion that the only objection of the British government is "the difficulty of finding the money and the labor," the French government having always favored the project.

This change is due to the conviction which the war has forced on the British people that modern science has broken down the barriers of their insular defense. Steam, electricity and the internal combustion engine have developed means of communication by sea and air which make their "silver streak" of small value as a barrier against invasion, while it remains a serious barrier against common action with France against an enemy. The conviction has grown that common aims have bound Britain and France together permanently without regard to any formal alliance, and that the physical bond should be drawn closer. Britons now realize the great service which the tunnel could have done in this war. It would have enabled them to hurry troops to the front with far greater speed and safety, would have released 1,500,000 tons of shipping for other tasks and would have set free a large part of the Navy to hunt the submarine in other waters.

According to General Greene, men who are in a position to judge consider it not too late for the tunnel to be made useful in the war, and it is being considered by large groups of capitalists and contractors in this country, who believe it is a job which Americans can do while the war is in progress, and "is a proper matter for our Government to undertake, with the consent, of course, of Great Britain and France." Engineers, contractors and makers of machinery are willing to place their studies at the disposal of the Government. The cost is estimated at $80,000,000, and it is believed that the work could be finished in less than four years; in fact, General Greene thinks it "may possibly be built in less than three years . . . in time to be a large factor in winning the war . . . certainly in time to be a most important element in rebuilding the world after the war."

As to American interest in the project, preservation of peace after the war "will depend for several generations to come upon community of action between France, Great Britain, Belgium and the United States." Britain must have direct rail connection with Belgium in order to put troops at Liege as quickly as Germany can put them at Aix; also with Marseilles and Brindisi and through them with Italy. Our interest in this matter is not greatly inferior to that of the other nations concerned. Not only the Kaiser but the German people are hostile to us. We can preserve our liberty and independence either "by maintaining an army and navy not only greater than those of Germany and Austria, but greater than those of any combination they can make against us, or by an alliance with Great Britain, France and Belgium," to which we shall contribute our full share. Anything which brings them into closer union is "a distinct advantage to us." "The stronger and more united" they are, "the more will Germany hesitate to bring on another war; and if she does precipitate another war, the more quickly will they be able to subdue her."

This demonstration of direct interest of the United States in the Channel tunnel, 3000 miles from our shores, shows that modern inventions and the war have broken down the insularity of this country in only less degree than that of Britain. An enemy of democracy in any part of the world is now our enemy, and we can no longer rest secure in our isolation, but must unite our forces with those of other democratic nations, and, by helping them to make their liberties secure, must make ourselves safe.

## A BASEBALL VACATION.

In the Pacific Northwest termination of professional baseball in midseason is apparently not primarily due to the productive occupations order of the military authorities. The public has temporarily lost interest in it. But that interest in baseball as baseball is not on the wane is plainly disclosed by the large attendance at the Sunday games of rival shipyard teams. The interest has shifted from professional to amateur or semi-professional ball. That and the absorption of the public in matters of graver consequence tell the story.

The casual observer might conclude that baseball has followed the soldiers across the sea. We who have failed to go the customary way read in the dispatches of games between Army and Navy and between various military units. They are attended by great crowds of American soldiers and sailors, and the French and the English follow the throngs. One must gain the conviction therefrom that baseball is under only a temporary eclipse. It is spreading out of its original bounds, and when it comes back in this country, as it will, it will be as a world sport.

It required something on the present order to introduce the game in England and France. There have been world tours by baseball clubs, but they attracted nothing more than polite attention in places where the game had not already gained standing. The public attended out of curiosity and wondered what it was all about. There was not much incentive to inquire. More of an essential to successful baseball than one ordinarily realizes is the enthusiasm of the persons in grandstand and bleachers. If the most devout fan will for a moment imagine himself as the only spectator at a first-class baseball game he may realize for once that it is not altogether the science of the game that attracts him.

The British and French who saw previous games were isolated. They did not understand the scientific aspects and there was not enough enthusiasm about them to make them wish to understand. Now they attend in company with a yelling, joyous crowd of transplanted Americans. Enthusiasm is contagious. It is one infection that man wants to catch. Without reasoning it out, probably, the Englishman or the Frenchman feels that whatever interests a crowd of other persons so amazingly must be worth while. So they are learning baseball. After a while their boys will be playing it and then it will have been established.

As for ourselves, we shall probably be content with baseball as a holiday luxury rather than a daily ration during the remainder of the war. There is work that must be done else the Nation perish. Recreation is essential, but it is not wholly seemly that athletic young men should be cavorting in pleasure parks for pay when fighting is to be done and ships are to be built.

## "BAD MEN" NOT GOOD SOLDIERS.

The somewhat common notion that "bad men" make good soldiers because, presumably, they like to fight and possess nerve, has failed to obtain confirmation from the experience of the American Army in the present war. It is being made plain that the kind of courage and intelligence which are required of a soldier are of the highest type. The so-called tough is most frequently only a bully. If he chances to be superior to his neighbors in physical strength he makes the most of it, but he does not stand the test in tight places. His lack of moral stamina is fatal to his success as a real fighting man.

Major-General Charles H. Martin, commandant of one of the American training camps, emphasized this fact recently in a righteous burst of indignation against the action of certain judges who have offered criminals their choice between going to prison and joining the Army. The problem in a slightly different form is not unfamiliar. A few years ago it was the practice of some courts to require enlistment in the Navy as a condition of mitigation of sentence. High officials of the Navy Department put an effectual check on the practice by refusing to accept recruits of bad moral character. The Army is now endeavoring to show that it is neither a reform school nor a place of punishment. Service, whether as a volunteer or under the draft, is an honor, not to be sullied by putting it on a plane with a prison sentence. While a prison record may not enable a man to escape service to the Nation, it is being recognized that special provision should be made by which the normally moral shall not be contaminated by evil company.

There is, however, an even more important reason why the criminal is worse than worthless on the fighting line, and this is that in the light of modern psychological study he is now seen to be mentally deficient in some way. The man who deliberately chooses the crooked path when the straight one lies before him, in the face of all the evidence that moral rectitude actually "pays," is deficient in reasoning powers. And war has become a highly scientific institution. Illiterates, even of good moral character, are at a disadvantage, and there is little room for the moron, who not only imperils himself by his lack of intelligence, but may imperil the safety of his squad or platoon.

It is necessary for a good soldier to comprehend the spirit and purpose of discipline, and while the secrets of grand strategy are not revealed to him he should understand the importance of implicit obedience on the part of himself and his unit. The principles of sanitation, of camouflage, of scientific marksmanship and of the scores of technical performance in the every-day life of the soldier require a degree of intelligence now regarded as incompatible with a deliberately chosen criminal career.

"A regiment of ex-convicts," says General Martin, "would please no one more than it would please the enemy." The statement evidently is meant to apply to the definitely "criminal class," and not to the victim of temptation who has paid the penalty and evinced a sincere desire to reform, but it contains a sound principle in the sense which General Martin meant to convey. If thugs and confirmed criminals are to be employed in any capacity in winning the war, their work will be far behind the front. The honor of the firing line is not for them.

## A ROSE BY ANOTHER NAME.

The effort to change the names of all roses and other flowers now bearing German names, inaugurated by an Eastern floricultural club, was to have been expected, but it will be considered with caution, if it is considered at all, by enthusiasts who have had experience with the many frauds which were practiced before the present system of nomenclature was stabilized. Rosarians in particular now have a rather elaborate piece of machinery by which names are fixed and opportunities for swindling by the use of false names are minimized. Return to anarchy in the naming of flowers would be highly undesirable.

It is proposed, for example, to rid our rose gardens of a hateful reminder of Prussian kultur by changing the name of the Kaiserin Augusta Victoria rose to Edith Cavell, the Frau Karl Druschki to Lusitania, the Gruss an Teplitz to President Wilson, and so on. Perhaps it will succeed, but there are difficulties. The present names have been accepted by the growers of many countries, and it will require acceptance by all of them to fix the new designations.

The frauds perpetrated by irresponsible nurserymen, in the sale of nonstandard roses, have run into enormous sums. The business of growing flowers is a world industry, and any movement for a change of names would require international trade approval. Somehow the result that would be accomplished does not seem to be worth the great labor required. We can think of many channels in which the same amount of expended energy would do more toward winning the war.

## CHURCH UNITY AFTER THE WAR.

It would not be surprising if the soldiers now in the trenches and in training should develop a mighty influence in the settlement of the issue of church unity, which has claimed increasing attention in recent years. While the statement that "the soldiers have abolished sectarianism" may be too sweeping, and at least premature, there is evidence that the spirit of co-operation has joined with the demand for abolition of non-essentials in a way altogether favorable to the plans of the church unionists. For the war has taught the need of co-operation in order to do efficient work. The mistakes of the allies at the outset which have been traced to lack of co-ordination have not been without their lesson for those engaged in non-military endeavors.

There is, for example, the testimony of leaders of the Knights of Columbus, returning from France, that the greatest feature of the war relief work in France is the hearty co-operation of the members of all denominations. The statement that where the Y. M. C. A. and the Red Cross have lacked facilities in certain instances they have been cheerfully aided by the Knights of Columbus, and that this assistance has been freely reciprocated where the Knights needed it is more than commonly significant. The Salvation Army and the Church Army have been co-operating in the same manner. French and American Catholics have been drawn together more closely than ever. Welfare workers in every department of the service seem to agree that, even if the soldiers have not actually "abolished sectarianism," they at least are coming to disregard it. And an excellent example of the possibilities of ultimate reduction of the number of denominations is being furnished by the actual co-operation of all forces where the desire to be helpful has been so strong as to overcome the selfishness of individuals. It is hardly possible for a normal individual to work long in the midst of such suffering as is being imposed upon the world by the Hun without experiencing a modification of his own ego. The workers themselves, as well as the soldiers, will be readier for the change as the result of what they have seen.

It is not expected that a definite plan of church union will be formulated within the sound of the cannon's roar, but it is not important, perhaps, that this should be done. The essential preliminary is growth of the spirit of concession, of recognition of the point of view of others, and particularly of strong desire that the change should take place. At the same time only the extreme visionaries predict, or even desire, that there shall be a grand amalgamation of all religions into a single denomination. But the number of denominations of the Christian church in the United States is now officially recorded by the census takers as 201, which does not take account of a few more sects of minute numerical importance, and there is quite general agreement that 201 denominations are too many; at least 150 too many, perhaps more. The problem is familiar enough to almost every community. The multiplicity of inefficient churches, sometimes of one denomination and sometimes of another, has long been a source of grave concern to thoughtful religious people.

Rev. William A. Cameron, pastor of a Toronto Baptist church, who has returned from France, where he served as chaplain with the rank of Captain, is one of many who have been impressed by the part played by the war in preparing the ground for the coming reform. He is quoted by the Boston Transcript as saying:

> The first impression I gained in Europe was that of the spiritual nobility of the soldiers. . . . The great war is calling out qualities which the men possessed all along, but which the church has never been able to call forth. . . . Suffering and sacrifice are revealing greatness of character and uniting the soldiers religiously. There is a cementing of the people of God that you haven't seen in other places. Denominations have been practically wiped away and the Y. M. C. A. has played a great part in bringing this about. . . . Don't you worry about the cleanness of your boys.

Death, suffering and sacrifice may accomplish that which all the years of peace failed to bring about. Possible nearness of death undoubtedly provokes reflection upon the distinction between essentials and non-essentials, but there is an even more powerful influence, and that is human sympathy. Undoubtedly there will be better understanding of one another by members of different sects; more tolerance of the other man's point of view. It must have been discovered by this time by a good many soldiers who inherited their prejudices that representatives of other denominations have neither hoofs, horns nor tails. This enlightening experience, and the respect born of mutual sacrifices and common suffering, already are bearing fruit.

Only an over-optimist would venture the prediction that there will be no further discussion of the legitimate freedom of the prophetic ministry, or of William Jennings Bryan's proposal that the Presbyterian church create a body of members whom he would call "counsellors" and who would correspond to the bishops of some other denominations, or of matters of church property. Such discussions are still to be expected and they are quite likely to be prolonged, but there are encouraging signs that they will be conducted in a different spirit than formerly prevailed and finally will be decided before the bar of a changed public opinion. If it only results in a substantial simplification of the complex denominational situation, it will be worth while. It is plain enough that 201 denominations are too many, but the precise number to which they shall be reduced, in order that efficiency shall be promoted while "healthy competition" is not wholly stifled, is relatively unimportant. It is enough to know that the movement is well under way, and safe to predict that our soldiers and other war workers will have a good deal to say as to how it is decided.

## ALL-YEAR SCHOOLS.

In an analysis of the results accomplished by the all-year school in districts where the method has been adopted, W. S. Deffenbaugh, of the United States Bureau of Education, makes out a strong case in favor of the practically continuous term. The subject is particularly interesting at this time because of the increasing seriousness with which the subject of education in general is being considered, and because there is a quite widespread demand that boys and girls shall make the best possible use of their precious school years.

Commissioner Claxton has pointed out that after deducting holidays, the annual school term in most of the American cities is not more than 180 days. This may be above the average, for in many cities and towns the term is considerably shorter, and in few cities is it longer. It means that "children who are never absent attend school less than half the days of the year, a little more than one hour in ten." It was not always so, as many persons still living can testify from their own experience. A generation or two ago not only the school day but the school year was longer in those districts which could afford to pay for them, and this condition still prevailed in most other countries in the normal times preceding the outbreak of the war. Mr. Deffenbaugh remarks that in the early days of the city school systems their sessions continued practically the entire year round. Vacations, he observes, were short and holidays were few. He adds:

> The prevailing custom was to divide the school year into four terms of twelve weeks each, with a vacation of a week at the end of each term. In some cities all the vacation came in Summer, with the exception of about a week at Christmas. That plan found favor and extended within a few years to all the cities. The Summer vacation was extended gradually, usually about a week at a time.

About half a century ago the common school holidays, in addition to Christmas and New Years, which fell in vacation time, were Saturday and Thanksgiving, and sometimes Mayday and the Fourth of July. The underlying reason for the gradual extension of the Summer vacation period is not plain. It may have been related to the notion that study is especially difficult in the Summer, but a considerable proportion of the pupils, especially in the larger cities, were more comfortable in the schoolroom than in the paved streets during the heated term. The "holiday spirit" was intensified at the same time, as the results show. A comparison of the length of term and daily sessions in eleven of the principal cities of the United States in 1841 or thereabouts and at present shows that the number of hours has been reduced from six or seven to five, and term from forty-eight or forty-nine weeks to from 175 to about 190 days.

Mr. Deffenbaugh says that the reduction in school time has come so gradually that the extent of it is not realized and is rarely discussed. Nevertheless, there has recently been a revival of interest in the subject. Those cities which have sought to palliate the situation by conducting vacation schools for a few weeks, "principally to keep children off the streets and to supervise their play," have not struck at the root of the matter. The Summer sessions designed to aid children who have failed to make up their deficiencies have had a more definite purpose, but have not affected the general principle. Apparently it was many years before the schools opened primarily for the purpose of keeping children off the street began to impress educators with the chief benefits they were conferring in the form of greater continuity and a definitely shortened period of total attendance before graduation.

The survey also reveals the fallacy of the old contention that the health of pupils required long vacations. Curiously enough, this did not seem to apply to youths who left school to go to work, for the vacations began to be extended before child labor laws were framed. Reports from a large number of superintendents, according to Mr. Deffenbaugh, indicated that the health of children attending school in the Summer was not injured, but improved. It was found, incidentally, that the danger from contagious diseases was less in Summer in a school building with its natural ventilation than in Winter when buildings were heated by artificial means. Mr. Deffenbaugh finds that, in the larger cities, the health of the pupils is better cared for upon the whole in school than out. This condition probably would not prevail where children uniformly went to the country for their vacations, and it will not prevail as to the members of the boys' working reserves now enlisted for war work, but the survey is meant to cover normal conditions. As to the effect of continuous mental work upon the mental health of the children, the opinion of Dr. Dana, professor of mental diseases at Cornell, is cited to the effect that "what passes for mental fatigue is for the most part due to such causes as poor ventilation, poor bodily nourishment, etc., and that American children can stand more school work in the course of a year without injury to health."

Financial objections have been foreseen by Mr. Deffenbaugh, who is prepared with data to meet them. The teacher, of course, receives proportionate additional pay where the longer term prevails, and he finds that with few exceptions they do not oppose the change to a work-year based upon vacations similar to those enjoyed by members of other professions. Statistics compiled by school authorities show that the average number of days lost by illness "has been actually less for the all-year teachers than for those taking the long vacation." No reason is given, but statistics are more than usually eloquent in this instance. It is not uncommon, however, for teachers imbued with love of their work to be "glad vacation is over," and to welcome labor as a blessed relief. But even the additional pay of teachers does not work out as an additional expense in the education of the youthful population. If the all-year school does enable the pupil to gain time to do eight years' work in six years, it would appear that an actual saving would be made.

One superintendent quoted by Mr. Deffenbaugh says that an additional reason for the change is that a much larger number of pupils would be part way through high school by the time they reached the compulsory education age limit, and that having gone part way, the chances would be greater that they would complete the course. And since the average wage of high school graduates is considerably higher than the average wage of eighth-grade graduates, getting more pupils through high school would improve the economic condition of the body of the people, and would be justified, even if it were not accomplished without additional expense.

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The difficulty of defining precisely what constitutes a non-essential industry in wartime is illustrated by the position of importance which the piano has suddenly attained as a liquidator of war debts. General Pershing has been buying mules for the Army in France and also woolen blankets from Spaniards, thereby conserving time and also cargo space which would be required to transport them across the Atlantic, but meanwhile the improved economic condition of Spain as a result of the war has created a heavy demand for musical instruments, apparently unchecked even by enormous prices. A further complication shows the intricacy of the problem. There is an embargo upon the export of wool, and a small amount of wool is utilized in the manufacture of piano actions. This required a special ruling relaxing the regulations, for although the quantity of wool is negligible it was necessary that a dangerous precedent should be avoided. Exchange of pianos for less melodious mules, however, has given general satisfaction.

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The common belief that death is the inevitable end of aviators who rise to be "aces," if they only continue in their risky business long enough, has prompted the suggestion that after a certain number of victories these men be retired with honor and not permitted to go on until fate overtakes them. But the plan takes for granted the inevitableness of death, which is refuted by the statistics, and it also fails to take account of the feelings of the aces themselves, who doubtless would be among the last to sanction it. Provision is already made for retirement with full honor of aviators who have acquitted themselves with credit but who feel that they have lost their "nerve," and no one thinks less of those who avail themselves of the privilege, but for a successful one, in full possession of all his flying faculties, to forego the excitement of just one more go at the enemy would be almost unthinkable. The issue for the present is safe in the hands of the aviators themselves.

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A world baseball league will be the next thing in the sporting line with the presidents of the republics (there will be no more Kings) pitching the first ball in each country and calling upon the World Court to decide which of them shall pitch the first ball in the championship series between continental leagues. The next thing will be a world's riveting league.

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Lawbreaking is hard to find in the sale of whisky which was 99 per cent water. The liquor was a lawful drink and the buyers broke no law, though they intended to. Was it a crime for the Bakers to represent that a lawful commodity was an unlawful one, when the truth of their statements would have outlawed the whole transaction? Let the lawyers argue it out.

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The death of Sultan Mohammed V will make practically no difference in Turkey, for he has been a mere dummy, the actual rulers being the arch-murderers, Enver and Talaat Pashas, who in turn did the bidding of Germany. If the allies should ever enter Constantinople, nothing but a wholesale hanging of such men should satisfy them.

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Jacob Schiff six years ago gave $100,000 to Cornell University for the promotion of studies in German culture. In view of events since that time he has asked the trustees of the fund to substitute the word "human" for "German." They are not the same thing.

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Whatever we decide upon as to the extension of the draft ages, it will not be based upon what the Germans may think about it. Those who are well informed know by this time that we are in the war to win, and the others do not count.

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A year in jail and a fine of $6000 for a Seattle bootlegger ought to give food for reflection to the fellows who still insist that "you can get all the booze you want in dry territory if you only know where to look for it."

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Roumania is "ready to ratify agreements with the central powers," according to the news reports. And she will be a good deal readier to unratify them after certain events have come to pass on the western front.

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It is surprising how many persons are getting along comfortably on their 1.6 ounces of sugar a day. There are a good many things one can do if one has a mind to do them.

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It must be mighty discouraging to Hindenburg, just as he was preparing for a renewal of his drive, to find that Foch is preparing to put the shoe on the other foot.

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Noon prayers are a good thing, but the most effective ones are those of the righteous. A season of preparation might not be out of order for some of us.

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With Uncle Sam growing sisal grass in Hawaii, the sisal barons of Yucatan would better beware lest they kill the goose that lays their golden egg.

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The Fourth of July fire record suggests that the pro-Germans also celebrated the day in their own peculiar way.

## With Oregon Poets.

### TIME'S MEMORIAL.

As the mother of days—meek Aurora,
on a night of the long, long ago,
Sadly thought of her children, departed, and made ready for people below.
Her latest-born gift of the Light Hours,
for use or abuse at their will,
A voice softly whispered above her,
when all was silent and still.

Most rev'rently bent she to listen, 'twas
the Great Creator that spake:
"I have reared on the hills eternal a
tribute to Time for your sake;
I pondered long on its placing, 'tis
there! in the Golden West!
A tablet of pearl to the mem'ry of your
day-children, passed into rest."

Then again, for a time, all was silent,
till the Sun God came into view;
From the arms of the pleading Aurora,
her infant maiden he drew;
And on the Young Day's features his
radiant brightness gleamed
Till by her reflected brilliance the
awakening world, golden, beamed.

Now Apollo's a treacherous monster, a
murd'rous villain is he,
Who destroys every child of that mother,
no matter how swiftly they flee.
As they steadily slip towards evening,
and the light from their eyes slowly
fades,
He inflicts the wound with shaft golden—they're Eternity—those precious
Days!

The while he is slowly receding, to
hide himself in the sea,
He bathes all the scene round about
him, ev'ry hill, ev'ry forest and lea
In the gore from his victim outpouring
from the tip of that tablet so fair
To the sands of the beach and the
ocean just to remind us he's there.

Then Night, so complacent and soothing, begins her dark veil to unfurl;
And, while the world is asleeping, with
her dews gently cleanses the pearl.
In the morn, when Aurora awakens
and again to the world kindly gives
Her offspring of Light and the Hours,
no sign of the tragedy lives.

For look, where the Creator placed it.
O, ages and ages long past!
Fair reminder of Time and Etern'ty, a
gem 'gainst the deep blueness vast.
In the heart of the Cascade Mountains
this immaculate whiteness has stood
Defying the storm and the tempest, we
earth-dwellers call it Mount Hood.

. . . . . .

Should we not, O people of Oregon, to
the God of all gods give great praise
For the gift to our state of this snow-
mount and for Aurora, goodmother
of Days,
Who gives us the light to behold it,
wrapt in magnificence rare,
A feast for the soul tuned to Nature, as
it rests so majestic'ly there?

EDITH J. PERNOT.
Portland, Or.

### TO YOU.

What if the days are dark and drear,
And cloud-mists crowd the sky;
What if the vagrant winds blow hard,
No reason that you should sigh.
The life you live each day apart
Is that of the supreme test,
To learn and know at the closing hour
You cheerfully did your best.

What of the storehouse of plenty,
Hoarded by scheming hands?
What of the million hungry mouths,
Throughout the far-stretched lands?
The grim-waste path you are treading
Is a finger of hated scorn,
Shadowing lives once happy,
Crushing the tender born.

What will you say when the time comes
And the question is put up to you?
Will you hang your head, not answer,
Say—what are you going to do?
The rust on your gold and silver
Is caused by the countless tears,
Forever a witness against you
Throughout the chaining years.

What if the nights are centuries long
Wait till the gold dawn breaks.
What if the birds refuse to sing,
No reason the heart should ache.
The smiles that are given in earnest-
ness,
Through tractless woods of life,
Sink to the depths of the hopeless soul,
Unaided, alone with strife.

What will you say, I wonder,
When the question is put up to you?
Will you cry for the rocks to hide you?
Say, what are you going to do?
Get busy and know the meaning
Of God and his infinite plan;
Crush the greed that is in you,
And learn to be a Man.

—HELEN WAY-CRAWFORD.
Springfield, Or.

### BE A BILLIKEN.

Be a billiken! Smile and say, "Gee,
but I'm feeling fine today!"
Salute your friend as you're passing
by, give him a wink that's deep
and sly,
As if to say "It's a secret, Bill, but—
gee, I'm glad that I'm living
still!"
Speak of the sunshine and the flowers,
tell how you love all the passing
hours;
Strive to believe it when you say "Gee,
but I'm feeling fine today!"
Be a billiken!

Be a billiken! Smile at all! Start,
though your capital's mighty
small;
Muster a smile when you go to work
and see how the muscles try to
shirk!
Proves right away you're a crab and
can't! Proves your habit of rail
and rant!
Lay off the grouch and put on a grin!
Lose no time, for delay is sin!
Pays big interest in every way, this—
"Gee, but I'm feeling fine today!"
Be a billiken!

Be a billiken! Try it out! Get a
grip on your fret and doubt;
Nothing helps like a cherry look—
better reading than any book;
Tells a story that all may share, gives
the gaff to our carking care;
Helps both you and your friends to
say, "Gee, but I'm feeling fine
today!"
So—be a billiken!

—GRACE E. HALL.

### WHAT THE LADS ARE FIGHTING FOR

The stars on Glory were gleaming, the
bugles sounding so gay,
The banners brightly were streaming,
as the laddies marched away;
Though hearts were aching with sadness, as they were marching
along
We waved them greeting of gladness
and cheered as they sang this
song.

"Oh, it's not for gain or glory, we're
marching away to war,
'Tis the mothers, sisters, sweethearts,
the lads are fighting for;
'Tis for them we follow Glory, far across
the ocean foam,
'Tis for them that we are fighting, and
for dear old home, sweet home."

"Cheer up, mother, sister, sweetheart,
though our going brings you pain,
Keep the home fires brightly burning,
'till the boys return again;
Send to us a cheery message, far across
the ocean foam,
To cheer us while we're fighting for
dear old home, sweet home."

E. S. SHARPE.