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America asks nothing for herself but what she has a right to ask for humanity itself. WOODROW WILSON.

PUNISHING A PRESIDENT

Nobody questions the right of German-born citizens of America to oppose President Wilson. Nobody questions the right of Candidate Hughes to accept and solicit their support.

But it is highly regrettable that an issue of the kind should have been projected into the campaign. We are in the midst of a world crisis. Europe is on fire. America has been repeatedly on the verge of being drawn into the inferno.

Greater complications than any yet encountered may at any time appear. Nobody knows what a day may bring forth. Even when everything seems most tranquil, an explosion may occur to suspend our peaceful country over the abyss of some new and distressing complication.

It is a time when there should be no divisions or factions in America. It is a crisis in which a divided country will essentially weaken the power of American diplomacy and tend to increase the probability of war.

Justice Hughes has expressed sentiments which are in accord with the German-American idea of neutrality. We are in thorough sympathy with him and his ideals.

What are Mr. Hughes' ideals with which the Freie Presse is in thorough sympathy? That newspaper is against President Wilson because of his notes on the sinking of the Lusitania. More than 100 American lives were lost in that disaster.

Washington named for the citizen-soldier who led the armies of the colonies to freedom from European control. Finally, it would be definite notice to every maddened belligerent nation that President Wilson in his stand for American rights and American lives did not represent the American people, that he has been rebuked by defeat for taking that stand, and that hereafter foreign chancelleries may hold lightly any diplomatic representations from Washington.

That is an issue that has been unfortunately projected into American politics and it is one that every American citizen, whether he be Republican, Democrat, Progressive, Socialist or Prohibitionist, must soberly and conscientiously face.

Some of our political cardinals who recently nursed boomlets can now appreciate the soliloquy of Cardinal Wolsey: "Farewell, a long farewell to all my greatness."

Politicians usually work for themselves, not for the public nor for any cause. Indeed it is a rule with them to shun causes until they have become popular and full of selfish devotion to anything or anybody is repellant to them.

Very likely politicians are not without their use, like the circus and the charity ball, but it is a mistake to take most of them seriously. The people who are truly useful go about their public work quietly, persistently and without any thought of personal gain.

One probable result of the European war is the loss by German students of Rhodes scholarships. It is reported that the trustees of the will of Cecil Rhodes will apply to the British parliament for a bill to abolish the Rhodes scholarships allotted to German subjects.

It is odd to remember that both the submarine and the airship are American inventions, like Colonel Lewis' machine gun, but we have left their development to other nations. Colonel Lewis, who is a retired United States officer, offered his gun first to his own country but it was rejected.

So he went to Europe with his invention and it was adopted by the British, French and Russians. The Germans are said to be making an imitation of it. We may possibly detect in this incident one of the reasons why the United States is so unprepared. We have spent money enough in the last twenty years to have plenty of machine guns, submarines and flying machines but it has been used for other purposes.

The sages who control our military affairs can put all the money we give them to more agreeable uses than buying guns and submarines. Who would waste cash on a machine gun when he can spend it in excessive prices for armor plate?

For a man who said he was not a candidate, Mr. Hughes lost less time in accepting than did every man who was an avowed candidate. The Russians are sweeping westward with irresistible momentum. No doubt if victory continues to favor them they will presently direct their attention to the south. Then it will be Bulgaria's turn to undergo famine and slaughter.

Nothing the matter with Portland. The inventor-manufacturer is the hero of this story. No. 167 of The Journal's industrial directory. Jack of all trades, in the ordinary slighting of the word, many here is a Portland worker who invents, makes and sells things that are not to be had elsewhere.

The refusal of a wealthy man to loan his brother a million dollars has been cited as a proof of sanity by the defenders of his will. One of these was a peculiar type of a feed roller mill for crushing oats, wheat and barley for stock food.

THE Honorable Ralph Williams, reactionary's onliest own Ralph, comes back from Chicago with joy on his tongue and glory in his eyes, announcing that the nomination of Hughes is a rout of the old guard and a victory for the people.

The Honorable Charles Fulton, also a well known pillar of the old guard, likewise hurries back to us with the glad tidings of how the Oregon delegation helped make the old guard bite the dust.

What Penrose knows, our Ralph knows and our Charley knows. The deep secrets in Smoot's breast and Root's breast and Murray Crane's breast and Barnes' breast are in our Ralph's breast and our Charley's breast.

It requires a great deal of fortitude for men who have been "routed" to shout for joy. With Penrose throwing up his hat and Smoot throwing up his hat and the Honorable Williams and the Honorable Fulton of Oregon throwing up their hats in ecstasy on the so-called ground that they have been licked by the people, we are afforded a grand example of Christian resignation and martyrlike consecration.

Perhaps, however, we have been confused in terms all along. Doubtless Roosevelt is an old guardman, and Pinchot an old guardman, and Hiram Johnson an old guardman and Raymond Robbins a reactionary.

On the other hand, Penrose is a progressive. Root is a progressive. Barnes is a progressive. Smoot is a progressive. Ralph Williams is a progressive. Charley Fulton is a progressive.

It was in the month of June, the month of brides, school commencements, political conventions and preparedness parades. THE latest panic of the jingoes hails from the Canadian border. Have you ever reflected upon our terrible unpreparedness along that frightful stretch of three thousand miles? For that a nation which joins lands with a nation which may some day be hostile to us, it never has been hostile since memory began to run and the chances are heavy that it never will be, but still it may.

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SMALL CHANGE. Another thing to be glad about: The centaloupes are losing their potato taste. It is hardly possible that Carranza assigned General O. Sego to his staff to look after the potato crop.

PROFESSIONAL VIEWERS WITH ALARM can get busy on the report that Hood River's strawberry crop may be 25 car loads shy. It might be a good plan for progressive and standpat wings of the G. O. P. to form a league to enforce peace between them.

OPPOSES ROSE FESTIVAL TAX. Portland, June 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have read your editorial on the proposed tax on "Taxes for the Festival," and feel constrained to offer a few words on the subject. It is perfectly natural for someone to object to a tax on the festival.

GRANT LAND APPLICATIONS. When you have traveled by the station called the County of Right, the rocks along the Columbia river highway are a spring bubbling up out of the ground at the side of the road.

JUSTICE TO THE PRESIDENT. From the Omaha World Herald. The member of many Progressives was indicated by Governor Johnson of California when he said in the convention just a few minutes before the blow fell: "Oh, how our souls sang in 1912! Oh, the glories of those days! And tonight, God help us, finds us sitting at the feet of Reed Smoot and Nicholas Murray Butler!"

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE. (Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. If the writer does not desire to have the name published he must so indicate.)

STANDING ON THE STEPS. Portland, June 16.—To the Editor of The Journal—There are two ways of enforcing laws in Portland? I have in mind the fact that it is unlawful for the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company to allow passengers to stand on the steps of streetcars.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF. There is general rejoicing at Newberg, Ore., over the fact that a new and better cannery is being built. Harry T. Drill, of Yamhill, has been elected president of the Yamhill high school to succeed L. P. Gamble, resigned.

THE BAKER HERALD submits a suggestion for a Fall Buying Week, or something similar, have the cut prices on many articles and make a frank open bid to stock up many ranchers and others in their winter supplies.

A NEW YORK COURT rules that an elevator is not a vehicle. Quite right, for a vehicle runs over people and an elevator runs over people and an elevator runs over people.

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