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When the inevitable shortcomings of democracy must come, then is the time for stout hearts to stand by their country and say that no matter what mistakes are made we will stand by our government and our country.—Ellis Root.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY

HERE is a frank and fair reply in President Wilson's speech before congress yesterday to Count Czernin's covert hint at peace in a recent speech before the Austro-Hungarian parliament.

January 24 Count Czernin said: The interests of the United States and Austria are less incompatible than they appear to be. Of the Czernin speech, Count von Reventlow, foremost advocate of Prussianism, said: Count Czernin's offer to open negotiations with Wilson endangers Germany's life and interests.

"We do not trust Czernin," said the German Tagliche Rundschau, and the German newspaper Die Post headed its violent attacks on the Austrian minister's speech as "Czernin's Fraternal Kiss for Wilson."

A significant episode is that the foreign committee of the Austro-Hungarian Reichsrath, after the speech, voted 15 to seven, its confidence in Count Czernin. With these incidents in mind, President Wilson's reference yesterday to Count Czernin's speech is profoundly significant.

Count Czernin seems to see the fundamental elements of peace with clear eyes and does not seek to obscure them. He sees that an independent Poland, no matter what sacrifices and concessions that may involve; and that national aspirations must be satisfied, even within his own empire, in the common interest of Europe and mankind.

This is a highly important utterance. It opens up possibility for bigger events than have come from any utterance of the president since his war speech in the first days of last April. It is a reply in kind to Czernin's declaration that the "interests of the United States and Austria are not incompatible" with peace. Its tone and its text will be encouragement to Czernin to make another forward step.

It puts the military masters of Germany in a trying situation. Their whole power must now go out to hold Czernin in leash and keep Austrian diplomacy under their control. It is fatal to fail. Austro-Hungary in separate peace negotiations would destroy the morale of German armies and German people and place the military masters of Germany in a most desperate situation.

important and to lawyers it is no doubt highly entertaining. It gives them something to exercise their wits upon. To the people, however, it seems true that a contract is a contract and they wonder when and how often they will be compelled to pay more and more for the privilege of hanging to the company's straps.

A GERMAN TO A GERMAN

WE ARE mad not to see where we are, and whither we are driving."

These words were written recently by a great German to another great German about Germany. The writer is Alfred Ballin, the shipping king of Germany. The recipient was a big industrial magnate. The letter was written the fourth of December, 1917. Here are other things Mr. Ballin said:

You and I know that the Americans are probably the most idealistic nation on the earth's surface. We know that they would not have entered the lists of our foes had they any doubt as to the justice of their cause. We are mad not to see where we are, and whither we are driving. In antagonizing America we have done a disastrous thing.

Here is a German of Germans, a junker of junkers, from whose eyes the veil of illusion has dropped. Beyond the ring of steel, back into the far flung peoples, he reads with the practiced eye of a man of business the thoughts of men and writes, "You and I know" that the Americans would not have entered this war "had they any doubt as to the justice of their cause."

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States is conducting a referendum among its members which purports to show the German business world the "disaster" that is being brought upon it by continuation of the war. That vote, when it is delivered, will more than ever convince Mr. Ballin and his kind that the German war lords in their mad career are destroying German people, German business and German prestige for the future.

Preaching the fell doctrine of hate, practicing the doctrine of hate and inspiring in others the practice of hate, the kaiser and his military aristocrats are creating a condition that more and more outlaws them, more and more makes their overthrow necessary to the peace and happiness of the earth. They are mad not to see where they are, and whither they are driving.

A very long, low lying vessel of very high speed with two guns of 96 tons each, throwing a projectile that weighs 1947 pounds, is a fighting ship added within the past 12 months to the British navy. The guns are in a single squat turret amidships and fire two rounds per minute. They are the product of the lessons of the war, their high speed and tremendous hitting power being relied upon to make them a highly effective craft in any action.

SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA

THE Smith and Jones neighborhoods lie about five miles apart on the road to town. In each community there are some 30 families, most of them of good old American stock without much foreign mixture, though in the Jones neighborhood there is a sprinkling of Swedes and Finns. The soil is much the same on all the farms, a substantial clayey loam well drained and yielding heavy crops when properly tilled.

The two neighborhoods are very much alike in externals, but their life is as different as storm and sunshine. The Smith neighborhood is always in a row. Three years ago it broke up into two bitter factions over the loss of Brother Higgins' steer. Half the neighborhood contended that Deacon Wilbur had shot it. The other half accused Higgins of shooting it himself in order to get Wilbur into trouble. The fued ended in an action for damages and a slander suit with a rich harvest for half a dozen lawyers.

Just now the Smith neighborhood is all stirred up over the question of immersion. An evangelist has come in preaching that sprinkling is a mere evasion of duty and wholly unacceptable to the authorities above. Everybody has taken sides. There have been two flat fights over it already and one young man is in jail. Mrs. William Jessing has sued her husband for a divorce on the ground that their religious opinions are incompatible.

team and family for eight hours of sturdy work and a prize dinner." The Smith neighborhood never has a good roads day. The people say they pay taxes and that is enough. If the county authorities can't fix the roads they won't be fixed, that's all. The horses, children and wives pay the penalty.

In the Jones neighborhood there is a dance every week or two in the schoolhouse, where ma, pa and the children all trip the light fantastic toe together to the music of Old Dan Tucker's fiddle. In the Smith neighborhood it is wicked to dance.

In the Jones neighborhood there is a speedy market for farm land at \$200 the acre. In the Smith neighborhood every other farm is for sale but there are no buyers. We wonder why. The land is just as fertile in one place as in the other.

Ed Howe of Potato Hill, Kan., who went to Florida this winter to keep warm, tells a sympathetic world in his monthly that he has been freezing ever since he arrived in the land of flowers. His mistake was made in not coming to Oregon, the true winter resort of the world, where the weather is never too hot nor yet too cold. We may perhaps send the shivering Mr. Howe a few early flowers to remind him of summer.

FALSE IN ONE, FALSE IN ALL

OUR more or less esteemed evening contemporary is an interesting study. Do you know that great heart that throbs for the people? Last year this great throbbing heart sobbed over the delinquent tax-payer. This year it sobbed, but in a different way, for it decided to accept his money.—Portland Telegram.

The above appears in an editorial in which the Telegram tells how virtuous it is. Its statement that The Journal refused the delinquent taxpayer's money last year, but this year "decided to accept his money," is a deliberate misrepresentation, a gross distortion of the facts.

The facts about the delinquent tax list are perfectly well known to the Telegram. It withheld enough of those facts to suit its purpose. In saying that The Journal accepted delinquent advertising this year, it declined to add that The Journal's acceptance was based on the ground that every cent received for such advertising is to be dedicated to war activities. The refusal of the Telegram to print the fact that The Journal receives for itself not one cent of the fee for the advertising, but in addition sacrifices the very considerable amount that it costs to print the advertisement, classifies the Telegram as a paper whose statements cannot at all times be trusted. If it deliberately misrepresents in this case, it will misrepresent in other, if not in any case.

The Telegram wanted the fee for this advertising for itself. Its bid was 75 cents per inch. The Journal's bid was 30 cents an inch, contingent on the understanding that the 30 cents an inch is to go to war activities. What the delinquent taxpayer will pay is 30 cents an inch, instead of the 75 cents an inch the Telegram wanted, and he will have the satisfaction of knowing that his 30 cents an inch did not go to the Telegram as a graft, but to aid those who are fighting in the war.

The Telegram defends this delinquent advertising graft because it wants the money. The delinquent taxpayer is delinquent on the rolls because he has not the money to pay his taxes. Under the delinquent advertising law he is punished for not having the money by piling up against him a lot of useless advertising charges and penalties merely to make business for newspaper publishers. A far better way to notify delinquents is through the mails at a mere fraction of the cost heaped upon the delinquent by the delinquent tax law.

Women with small properties go to county judges not infrequently and in tears, ask if there is not some way in which they cannot be saved from payment of this delinquent advertising extortion. It was because the county judges know how unjust and indefensible the delinquent advertising is, that in their annual convention last year, the county judges and commissioners of Oregon unanimously adopted a resolution demanding repeal of the law. The county clerks, in their annual convention, adopted a similar resolution unanimously.

The Telegram has a right to advocate this unjust system if it so desires. But it has no right to lie about The Journal's connection with the delinquent advertising in Portland or to lie about anything else or anybody else.

factor and now that is appearing. Florence and the two other towns mentioned above are situated in Lane county. It is reported that they plan to join hands in organizing a shipyard. Success awaits their enterprise if it is well managed.

It has been said time and again that Oregon's future lies on the sea. The opportunities of the war are bringing the truth of the saying home to us in the most practical way. Our sails should be seen on all the world's waterways and sometime they may be.

The World's Peace Foundation, a society of Boston highbrows, asks, "When shall we consider the war won?" and takes half a dozen pages to answer the question. We could make the answer shorter and better. Here is our shy at it: "When the kaiser sues for peace and promises to pay for the damage he has done."

MA PAER FLARES UP AT SPEECH

By Ralph Watson "You ought to know better," Ma Paer said indignantly to the man who was her husband; a in "you."

"Well," T Paer answered hesitatingly, as he squinted into the looking glass above the sink, "I don't vary vain, but I've got good eyesight."

"I should think you'd be ashamed to get your wife talked to in that heatedly," and he as innocent as a lamb. "T Paer beated facetiously: 'I don't get you talk about me just as embarrassed as anybody about it.'"

"What do you go around them high-brow places for, then?" Ma challenged. "The idea of you going with a bunch of real estate men and street car officials. That's no place for you to be in."

"I ain't afraid of 'em," T Paer said defiantly. "The realtors have sold me all the land I can buy, and Frank Griffith can't make me ride in his blooming car unless I want to. Why shouldn't I drink soup with 'em?"

"You can," Ma answered wittingly, and let Frank Griffith insult your "Oh, don't be so blamed touchy about it," T Paer grumbled. "I ain't going to tell you anything any more if you're going to talk to me like that. You mentions your name in the papers, and 'But before all them men," Ma expostulated in scandalized tones. "I'd like to catch that man Griffith talking about me like a bunch of wouldn't sit like a nunny and let him get away with it."

"I've walked past his garage," Ma said defensively. "What did he say about the six cent fare?" "He said that he wanted to see if you'd seen his manuscript," Ma said. "I bet he wrote it 'six cent fare'."

"That's what he meant, I guess," T Paer said. "He said the valuation fixed by the commission wasn't no fair and the company didn't like it."

of all being slacker. There might be a few laborers in them who had gone in to escape draft, but I think those men could be weeded out. But why judge us all for a few? You can't make me believe that the biggest share of the men were in this business before the United States declared war. I don't know of any other men who are a slacker than he is in the trenches. How many times do you publish the names of those killed or mangled in a shipyard or on the waterways?

Views of a Laborer Portland, Feb. 10.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have read in The Journal several articles appealing to the laborer to contribute to the shipyards. Some of these appeals are made by the shipyard companies and are usually supplemented by an appeal to the patriotic feelings of the worker. This is all very well to encourage and stimulate patriotism at all times; also to induce labor to make greater efforts to increase the production of the industry. But it seems to me there are other ways equally good if not better than sending so much appeal to the worker's patriotism to get a good substantial increase in wages, and particularly for common labor? The work performed by common labor is every bit as essential to production as skilled labor. Besides, the common laborer must do the hard, rough, dirty part of the work, and oftentimes for considerable less than half the pay demanded for the skilled work. Yet the common laborer must pay just as much for any articles which he purchases as his neighbor who is drawing two or three times as much.

What do you go around them high-brow places for, then? Ma challenged. "The idea of you going with a bunch of real estate men and street car officials. That's no place for you to be in."

Streetcar Suggestions Portland, Feb. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal—Since Portland is a growing city and is trying to get out of the city class, why not let those St. Johns street cars run on the tracks of the city, one shift at 5 a. m., another at 8 a. m., another at 11 a. m., and thus keep up a steady grind for the streetcar company. The cars would be running in several days and should be often enough to send cars to the barn. It would be more trouble to the city, but it would be a good deal cheaper to the men, with the shifts thus split up, but the pay day might be changed from weekly to monthly, and on the whole there would be saving.

On the farm we waited for daylight and for the dew to dry off before we made hay. But the industrial city knows no such thing as daylight and its unceasing track of hours worked.

A Consumer's Comment Portland, Feb. 8.—To the Editor of The Journal—I have read with some amusement the letter in today's Journal by J. P. Thompson of Eugene, in which he laments the potato situation. I quote from his letter: "Mr. Skelley of Portland bought about \$25,000 worth here last fall at prices averaging about 10 cents a bushel, and the farmers appeared to be very well satisfied. I sold last fall about 700 bushels at \$1.50, and have about 800 bushels more, a No. 1 stuff. If I have to sell at present prices it will mean a loss of \$100,000."

Shipyard Comparisons Kennett, Cal., Feb. 7.—To the Editor of The Journal—A few days ago while in San Francisco I remarked to a friend that there were more ships being constructed on the Columbia river and at Portland at the present time than at San Francisco proper. I would like for you to answer in your paper which has the greater ship building capacity, the Columbia river, or San Francisco.

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 accompany the name and address of the sender. If the writer desires to have the name published he should so state.]

A Shipworker on "Slackers" Portland, Feb. 11.—To the Editor of The Journal—A short time ago Dan J. Malarky made a speech which was published in your paper. It was a good one, and many of the men who were of the draft and working in the shipyards were nothing but slackers. What does Mr. Malarky mean by an assertion like that? Does he really think that we cannot enlist if we wanted to? Does he know they would send us back to work if we went to enlist? Surely we are not afraid of the draft. The government will not take us in the draft. Mr. Malarky states that we of draft age should join and let the shipyards be run by men who are not in the draft. I wonder if Mr. Malarky knows what that means. It is the men from 22 to 32 who are actually building the ships. Can Mr. Malarky believe that the government will not take us in the draft? Can he point out one over 35 who can't do a man's part? As a rule, cannot do that work. It takes youth, vitality and plenty of backbone to do this kind of work. Let Mr. Malarky try it himself and see how he thinks it goes. He is not the only one who has made this statement.

PERSONAL MENTION In Lincoln's Day, and Now Washington Gazette. The following is a list of names of the men who were in the Lincoln's Day, and now in the service of the United States Army.

Former Examiner in City Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Sargent of Salem were in the city last night. Sargent recently resigned from the office of state bank examiner.

Salvation Army Men Visit Paul Rader and A. W. McKee, representatives of the Salvation Army from Chicago, are arrivals at the Multnomah hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Stewart of Kelso are at the Carlton. Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Poole of Troutlake is at the Cornelia.

Men Should Sacrifice, Too From the Lowell (Mass.) Courier. Women are always being asked to make sacrifices; that is why they respond so quickly in war time. It surely is time now to begin harping on the duty of men in master of personal sacrifices.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Five score and nine years ago the shadow of his life faded from the cabin home way down in old Kentucky. The light of the soul that the Master Architect of the Universe then breathed into a mite of humanity, still shines down through the years.

Lincoln needed no more. The Creator had taken care that he should have no more, for there was a great work to do. His life was a struggle; his crude home, his fight for knowledge and truth, were foreordained to prepare him to give him strength for the greater trials and tribulations of his manhood.

THE COOS BAY WAGON ROAD CASE

Washington, Feb. 12.—If the government can prevail over the obstructive action of the house committee on public lands, which was reported yesterday, the bill to build a wagon road across the Coos Bay wagon road case with the Southern Oregon company, present owner of the lands granted to the wagon road company, and net about \$17,000, according to the company's calculations made by S. W. Williams, special assistant to the attorney general, in his recent statement before the public lands committee of the house.

Identical bills to effect a compromise under an offer made by the Southern Oregon company have been introduced by Senator Chamberlain and Representative Sinnott. If passed, this plan would give the government the wagon road land, valued at \$2,000,000. The government will be obligated to pay the company \$232,462, which represents the \$2.50 an acre secured to the company under the granting act, and will pay the unpaid taxes on the land.

Coos county has a claim for taxes amounting to \$266,683 and Douglas county claims \$42,162, in each case inclusive of penalties and interest, making a total of \$308,845. Adding the taxes to be paid on the Southern Oregon company the government will have a total bill of \$640,000, plus a small amount as costs in the courts, and plus the cost of the land to be granted to the company. The bills as introduced carry \$50,000 for classification, but Mr. Williams said the committee would not recommend that the bills be classified. Some members of the committee could not understand why a new cruise and classification of the lands in the Coos and Douglas counties have made cruises of the lands which are no doubt fairly accurate. The wilderness and the mountains are not made by any cruise not made by its own forces.

Balancing the expenditures the government will be called on to make under the compromise proposal against further litigation. The proposed legislation will have land worth fully \$1,000,000 more than it will pay out, and save perhaps years in returning the land to the Southern Oregon company has presented a statement of

HOW TO BE HEALTHY

SHELL SHOCK HYSTERIA—The war is giving new prominence to old ailments. Shell shock, for example, is a steady attention. One of every seven men discharged for disability on the west front is afflicted with this disease. Shell shock is not a disease peculiar to soldiers. It is a disease which is brought upon an old man by their war setting. A sergeant in the heavy artillery, 23 years old, a valuable non-commissioned officer, was killed in an artillery engagement. He stood the experience splendidly until he received a light wound and one of his legs long. Next evening he complained of a headache, and in 30 to 40 hours—the usual period for the development of the condition—he exhibited definite symptoms of hysteria. His physician said: "He sits throughout the day. He talks to no one. His memory seems intact, but there is plainly a profound change in his mind. He has suffered." The physician further described depression, loss of appetite and head ache.

turning the government over to him on the ground of the need of greater efficiency. Lincoln kept his temper—he usually did not hesitate to convey to the cabinet officer that the scheme was a very clever one, with only one embarrassment, viz, that the people had elected him—their president. Instead of the other party, and, such being the case, it was perhaps best that he should go on and finish the job. It was Lincoln who did finish the job. He remembered and there were many hours during the war when we had reason to congratulate ourselves that Lincoln did stick to his job. It would have been a tragedy if someone who wanted it had managed to get it.

There was a party then, as now, who wanted a more vigorous prosecution of the war. They wanted the troops moved back and the march begun before they knew the names of the regiments. They kept the headlines howling every day, "On to Richmond!" Well, one Saturday afternoon the march began. "On to Richmond!" Before noon the next day they were all back in the fortifications at Washington, the most bedraggled mob that ever ran away from a battle. It took us more than six months to recover from that disaster. Some folks want to try it again.

Men Should Sacrifice, Too From the Lowell (Mass.) Courier. Women are always being asked to make sacrifices; that is why they respond so quickly in war time. It surely is time now to begin harping on the duty of men in master of personal sacrifices.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

WAGON SIDELIGHTS

Prairie City has a new band of 25 members. The band was organized as a virtual adjunct of the local Home Guards company.

The "miming activity" in Baker county during the coming year, says the Herald, will be the "miming" of the history. Baker is at last getting the recognition it deserves for its legitimate historical resources.

It is the testimony of the Independent that the people of Woodburn "are becoming so accustomed to giving that we really believe they would be seriously disappointed if there were no more drives or tax payments in sight."

Best of all the "miming" stories is this from the Oregon Sun of January 30: "As evidence of summertime conditions during the winter in this section, the Sun of Saturday a sheet of ice inches high with heads fully developed. Some have begun on their gardens."

Representative Raker of California sought to make Oregon the "goat" before the government of the wagon road company through the state. He said the state apparently received the grant under certain conditions which it violated, and he did not understand how the state and the counties could go free and still get the tax money. Representative Sinnott straightened out this point later by introducing in the senate a bill which would grant the land in 1870 granting the land to the wagon road company subject to all the limitations provided by the act of congress.

Raker requested that a list of directors of the Southern Oregon company, owners of the grant, be supplied, and Mr. Williams obtained this information. The list of directors are: George D. Mallory, Simon and Gerain. It shows the directors are: W. H. Miner and H. S. Smith of Menasha, Wis.; Dorris Kramer of Madras, Oregon; North Bend, and F. C. Getty and C. G. Hockett of Empire, Or.

Ragtag and Bobtail

A Little Surprise on Hubby ROY WHITCOMB of Frankfort bought an automobile and promised to return home early in the afternoon and teach his wife how to drive, says the Indianapolis News. Thinking to surprise her husband, Mrs. Whitcomb got out alone and did well until she backed into a tree, smashing the top and rear fender. Returning home she got about the tree, this time smashing the lamp, radiator and a tire. The machine was hauled to a garage for repairs. She surprised her husband, all right.

Faithfulness Always Rewarded There is an elderly member of the faculty of a New England university, noted entomologist, who has retained in his employ a faithful cook for 20 years. Recently, says Harper's Weekly, the professor summoned her to his study in a ceremonious way, which was unusual. "Regina," he began, "you have been in my employ 20 years. As a reward I have determined to name the bug recently discovered after you."

Say Sammie Boys! Say, Sammie Boys, somewhere in France! Go into battle with us. Just enjoy your very chance, and lend our hearts with every blow that you may strike in the west and east. And glory in our boys who fight.

Nothing the Matter With Portland By H. S. Harcourt One sometimes wonders why partnerships and corporations fail to change their names when their partners have died or retired from the firm or corporation. After the death of William B. Scott, 108 Union avenue, with no Scott connected with it. It is entirely owned by C. H. Davis, the only leather belt manufacturer in Northern California. The North Pacific coast does a business of \$250,000 a year, an increase of \$100,000 in two years, employs 31 men at a wage of over \$40,000 a year, is bringing to Portland between \$100,000 and \$50,000 a year from Montana points which formerly went to Minneapolis and Chicago, and has customers in all industrial sections of Northern California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. And yet the name of the Scott who sold to Mr. Davis several years ago is limited with it. The cause, of course, business reasons for this.

Mr. Davis says his factory consumed the hides of 150,000 steers last year. The factory belt manufacturing plant is a steer hides into one belt which Mr. Davis says is the largest all leather belt in the world. It is for a Northern California sawmill. "Orders for belts requiring several hundred steer hides are not unusual," Mr. Davis says, "for the reason that we use only a strip reaching a sheet that the equipment of many spruce plants working for the government has had something to do with this, but still in our ordinary lines we are flush. The future looks very promising." Officers of this corporation are: C. R. Davis, owner; W. Verlan, sales manager; William Arratt, superintendent.

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

Belgium Under the German Heel BY BRAND WHITLOCK BEGINS IN NEXT SUNDAY'S JOURNAL TELL YOUR FRIENDS

Tomorrow, article No. 21 of this series: The Portland Knitting company.

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