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RECKLESS SENATORS AND AIRCRAFT SITUATION

One of the members of the United States Senate said, a few days ago, in a speech in the upper branch of Congress, that \$640,000,000 for aircraft "has been worse than squandered."

He might have said, as he did say by inference, that \$640,000,000 has been stolen.

That is a sample of some of the reckless speech of the members of that body, who are above the reach of libel laws.

They can say what they please, without fear of being called to account, excepting by other members of the Senate, or by that body acting as a whole.

The editor of the Scientific American, Mr. Walker, and his associates, close students and observers of such matters, recently made a thorough investigation of the aircraft situation.

What did they find?

They found that the program is three months behind.

Behind what?

Behind the time promised by over enthusiastic heads of departments.

Three months later in being carried through than the original time table specified.

That is a good deal.

Three months is not a long time, regarded as a section of eternity. It is a long time in war.

But it is not enough to discourage the country; not enough to warrant such reckless statements in the United States Senate.

The concluding words of the article above mentioned, in the Scientific American, are as follows:

Now with regard to the Liberty motor and the oft repeated statement that the "motor is a failure," and that "quantity-production has broken down," we take this opportunity to say that both of these statements are absolutely false.

It is true that the work of bringing the motor to the stage in which it would be ready for production in quantity, and of providing the machine tools, gages, etc., for quantity production have taken longer than was suggested. Even at that, the time consumed in proportion to the difficulty of the task that has been accomplished, has been remarkably short. The public disappointment has been due to over-sanguine prediction by men who did not know, men who were not familiar with the magnitude of the task.

Speaking from first-hand knowledge after a personal investigation by members of our staff conducted at Washington and at Detroit, we are in a position to say, first, that the Liberty motor, as it stands today, is a distinct success; secondly, that its production in quantity has commenced and is proceeding at an accelerating rate; thirdly, that these motors, as turned out by quantity-production methods, are standing up to the government tests, which, by the way, are more severe than those to which the best type of foreign motors are subjected; and lastly, that, not only will our aviation service possess the lightest motor for its power, but a more powerful motor than any other in existence today.

Therefore, we are glad of this opportunity, speaking with first-hand knowledge, to tell the American public that, though the delay, amounting to about three months is greatly to be deplored, the country will witness, from now on, a rate of output of motors and planes, that will go far to compensate for past disappointments.

The Statesman has reason to know that there is an accelerating speed now in the forwarding and training of men for air fighting; and in the functioning of all the work of getting the spruce for the planes to the places where it will go into the battle machines.

Three months behind schedule is the aircraft program; but it will catch up; and the American eagles of the air will from now on take an increasing proportion of the struggle for world democracy above the clouds, and become every day a greater factor in bringing the final victory that is sure to crown the standards of decency and order and good faith and a lasting peace on earth and good will among all men.

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THE ALL-HIGHEST SUFFERS.

There is no other tragedy of the war that quite equals the heart lacerations of that good and benevolent man the German emperor. We are informed by the Berliner Lokal-Anzeiger, a newspaper qualified to speak officially about the All-Highest, that on his recent visit to the battlefield near Queant, His Majesty's silence was broken only once when he remarked to an officer, "What have I not done to preserve the world from these horrors!"

To be sure. The world might have escaped all of it had it quietly submitted to German domination. All this has come about through an unholy resistance to kultur. The heathen in their blindness would not accept the salvation that was preached to them from the altar of Potsdam, and now civilization is drenched in blood and the missionary wrings his pious hands in anguish.

It is a deplorable spectacle thus to witness the suffering of a generous and noble nature, especially when we know that the whole tragedy could be ended at once by the unconditional surrender of the United States, France, Great Britain and Italy to Germany.—New York World.

MATCHES: AN OBJECT LESSON.

(American Economist.)

Editor American Economist: My wife spilled two boxes of matches—1000 matches of American make—on the floor. Would I pick them up and put them back in the boxes? I did. They had to be laid in all one way. It took me about forty minutes. While thus engaged I recalled a cartoon of some weeks ago in the American Economist which showed a room full of Japanese girls, ranging from 6 to 10 years, engaged in packing matches in small boxes. The legend said that these children

received 4 cents a day in wages, and the picture included the richly-dressed owner of the plant rubbing his hands in satisfaction and saying: "With wages at 4 cents a day it is cheaper than labor-saving machinery would be." At the Japanese rate of four-fourths of a cent per hour my pay for packing those thousand matches would have been about three-fourths of a cent. With matches on the free list of the Underwood Free-Trade Tariff, and with labor paid at the Japanese rate, it struck me that American match producers have a very unfair chance to compete with Japan, and that we ought to get back a Protective Tariff right off, without waiting for the war to end. And matches, I believe, are not the only things which Japan is selling so cheaper than we can make them for ourselves while paying ten to twenty times the wages paid in Japan. Yours very truly,

—F. E. Touston.
 Saginaw, Mich., April 26, 1918.

In this simple and homely illustration of the unfair competition permitted and promoted by the Underwood free trade tariff there is an object lesson which includes in its scope for more than the item of matches. The lesson relates to a large line of competitive products which the Orient with its cheap labor is sending to the country which pays the highest wages in the world—"ten to twenty times the wages paid in Japan." Probably the writer of the above letter had not thought much about this Oriental competition until his task of repacking a thou-

has just returned from a tour of the central empire. He means two revolutions, one for Austria and the other for Germany.

Over in Utah the Mormon church advises all widows to marry again. It used to be that the advice of that organization was to marry oftener. But that is reformed now.

French peasants are plowing and planting within two and a half miles of the greatest battle in history. They wear gas masks while they work in their fields and gardens. That is French thrift for you.

The Canadian and British recruiting officers are around again. They are after all the available men in the United States. These men may still enlist. In a little while it will be too late to enlist. They will be drafted.

Bull market in Wall street yesterday, and made more bullish by the further bottling up of Ostend. The highest prices on record were quoted. Steel common went to 19 1/2. A few years back this stock was going begging at 10 to 11 cents. The financial circles probably have some private tips. Any way, their buoyancy sounds good.

Like an echo out of the past comes word of the popularity of "Annie Laurie" with the British soldiers. "It is the queen of songs in the trenches," says Sir Alexander MacKenzie as quoted by the London Chronicle. The men who fought under the "Iron Duke" were bound in deeper fellowship by singing "Annie Laurie," and it is well that its vogue should abide.

Some idea of the labor situation in and around New York may be derived from the fact that a few days ago the New York World published 37 columns of "Help wanted—male" advertisements, as against four columns of "Situations wanted—male," and sixteen columns of "Help wanted—female" as against three-fourths of a column of "Situations wanted—female."

Vermont's commissioner of agriculture, E. S. Brigham, of St. Albans, has been in Washington consulting with Secretary of Agriculture Houston and Food Administrator Hoover, and takes home advice to the farmers of his state that has application throughout the country. Commissioner Brigham urges dairymen to check the tendency to kill off cattle because present conditions are not all that could be desired. To meet the high prices of grain the farmers are advised to raise more of their own feed. It may be well to do away with unprofitable cows, but a larger number of heifer calves should be saved. The world will have increasing need of any surplus dairy products we may have in this country. It requires courage and will power to tide over present difficulties, but those who do this will profit in the end. As the St. Albans Messenger puts it: "The farmer who keeps his good stock will have no reason to regret it when the balance sheet covering a period of years is struck."

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has just returned from a tour of the central empire. He means two revolutions, one for Austria and the other for Germany.

Over in Utah the Mormon church advises all widows to marry again. It used to be that the advice of that organization was to marry oftener. But that is reformed now.