

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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Who Started the War?

THE world war was no longer safely over than the college professors commenced to "debunk" the popular notions as to its origin. Allied propaganda was charged with having foisted on the open-throated Americans the blood-guiltiness of Germany and the lily-white innocence of France, the helplessness of Belgium and the chivalry of England. The revisionists set about to show that Germany was the babe in the woods, Russia the deep-dyed villain and France the close accomplice, while Belgium was a scheming confederate and England a ruthless bargainer for empire. Judge Ewart of Canada and Prof. Harry Elmer Barnes of Smith college have been the leaders in this "revisionist" school. The bias of the latter is so palpable that his findings are quickly brought in question.

Sidney B. Fay, also of Smith college, has recently made his contribution to the literature of war origins in a two volume work. His study is quite exhaustive, his approach more open-minded and his treatment more of an assembly of the facts than a lawyer's brief in an argument. He doesn't pile all the blame on any one country, nor yet does he give all an absolution by shouldering the responsibility on the militaristic system which dominated pre-war Europe. But his classification would fall with the "revisionists" who insist that the treaty of Versailles was wrong in putting the moral guilt on Germany and piling on the reparations as the works of penance for that guilt.

While the work of Mr. Fay is quite complete with the material at hand, which includes the state archives of Russia, Austria and Germany, it must be recalled that France and England have not yet published the full file of their war documents, so that the literature is by no means complete. Then from time to time there have been carefully written articles in such magazines as "Foreign Affairs" and "Current History" replying to certain phases of the work of the revisionist school. Barnes, et al, seem to start from the theory that the assassination of Sarajevo was inspired by the Serbian government; that it was timed at the instance of Russia whose minister Isvolsky, had leagued with Poincare of France to precipitate a general European war.

All of which sounds too much like the celebrated Potsdam conference where Emperor William was said to have adopted the same policy on behalf of the Central Powers. In April "Foreign Affairs" an article on "How the war came" points out notable omissions in Prof. Fay's work which would give quite a different cast to the involved diplomatic relations of the pre-war years. To settle the problem of the exact origin of the war the student must see its factors largely and see them whole. Looking through selective spectacles will not give a fair view of the situation, and that we have observed is the usual method of the revisionist school.

The question gets point when the committees are at work in Paris now revising the sum of German reparations. Pro-Germans of today claim either that the sum should be remitted or cancelled because Germany was either innocent or no more guilty than the allies. They are being punished not for starting the war but because they lost the victory. Suppose we reverse the situation. Had Germany won what about reparations? There is no doubt that tolls as heavy as could be laid would have been exacted from the defeated powers. Might, not satisfaction of justice would have prevailed. From the practical standpoint however scaling down the reparations should do good both to the late allies and to Germany. The restoration of wholesome conditions in central Europe will do much toward restoring healthier conditions in the rest of the world.

Who started the war? Austria and Germany, we still believe. The evidence of the Serbian-Russian-French plot preceding Sarajevo is too strained, too tenuous. The immediate cause of the war was Austria's harsh ultimatum to Serbia backed up as it was by Germany with full knowledge of the probable consequence of precipitating a general war because of Russia's coming to the support of Serbia. Russia's mobilization order undoubtedly helped defeat moves for peaceful resolution of the difficulty, but the major responsibility still lay with the central powers.

Running the Gauntlet

FRIENDS of a single board for the government of the state's higher institutions of learning will be disturbed by the news of the filing of a suit to test the constitutionality of the act of the recent legislature looking to the formation of a unified board. It is of course the privilege of any citizen to go into court in defense of his constitutional rights; but sometimes the resort to such a privilege bears the earmarks of being a public nuisance.

Smith, the Portland attorney in the case, is but the hireling. Other interests are back of the attempt to thwart the will of the legislature. It would not be surprising if some flaws were found in the enactment which might fail to square with the state's constitution, flaws which might prove fatal in the eyes of the highest court.

The principle is sound and worthy of putting into practice. We suspect that the animus back of the bill is not so much against the measure as to defer action till some more appropriate season, when political control might be more positive. In the meantime the institutions will "struggle along", and the knife-whetting may be expected to resume.

We feel like scolding Marion Talley for not sticking with her singing. She certainly isn't needed "down on the farm", while her marvelous voice can bring delight to thousands who attend grand opera. Maybe she is just a bit homesick for the old Missouri corn belt.

"Earn while you learn"—the barber trade," says classified ad in Everett paper. We know a lot of fellows who would answer that ad if they didn't think there was a catch in it somewhere.

"Milwaukie man, 67, missing; last seen riding in old Ford," says a Portland paper. But the story says he's been missing only since Tuesday, and there's little cause for alarm. He couldn't have found a place to park at that time.

Just when the Chinese nationalists are putting down revolt and the Mexican rebellion is collapsing, the Indians have to drop a bomb in Delhi to start trouble in a new place.

Mexican revolutions need not interfere with travel now. Airplanes fly right over the battle lines.

A Single Club Player



They Say...

Expressions of Opinion from Statesman Readers are Welcomed for Use in this Column. All Letters Must Bear Writer's Name, Though This Need Not be Printed.

Editor Statesman:

There is an old Greek proverb. I think it is, which is as follows: "When the gods would destroy, they first make mad." And this reminds me of the "ravings" found on the front page last Saturday of an evening paper published not more than a dozen miles from the dome of the state capitol. They were said indeed; almost despairing. Perhaps the author felt his political power and authority slipping.

The object of his particular "pet peeve" is the rebellious attitude of a majority of the members of the Salem city council. He actually called them "insurgents" and "rebels." To the writer of the article in said evening paper, it is unthinkable that the said councilmen should presume to think and act for themselves, instead of allowing the writer in said evening paper to dictate their actions. No doubt his ideas of a good councilman would be a mere puppet who accepted his dictation.

It is no secret among those who are moderately well informed concerning the inner workings of Salem's municipal government, that the so-called "Progressive policies" about which so much appears in the said evening paper, were formulated in the sanctum sanctorum of said paper, and that the mayor of said city is merely the "loud speaker" through which the said evening paper officially "broadcasts" its policies and principles.

In the interest of harmony and the city's welfare, the "rebels" should face a firing squad at sunrise, a la Mexico.
J. C. ADAMS, 743 N. 20th St.

Opinions of Marion County Editors

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Our attention was called, recently to an article in the Oregon Statesman regarding the development of rural communities and the part taken by the local newspapers in this development. It is very interesting to read and contains much food for reflection. This article will be found on page 10 of the issue of April 9. It relates the effort made by these papers for community development. We do not know who the author of this article is but it is certainly worth reading. Regarding the Tribune, the writer says, "He (meaning the editor) has been instrumental in getting a macadamized road built from Turner west to the Pacific highway south of Salem, which is paved through Minto pass to Eastern Oregon." The above is slightly overdrawn. We do not claim the honor, entirely, of getting the Cloverdale road designated as a market road. At the time the question of a market road connecting the Salem-Mill City road with the main highway was before the people the Salem Chamber of Commerce were set on the Battle Creek route. They began by placing the signs, directing people to the highway, at the intersection of Battle Creek road at the north limits of the City of Turner. This, then, was the beginning of the agitation for a market road for this section. The Salem chamber of commerce still held for the Battle Creek route. We considered that according to the market road law the road should go where it would benefit the greatest "number of farmers." The Battle Creek road had practically no feeders leading into it compared

Lay Sermons

A GOOD WORD FOR YOUTH
"When our sons shall be as plants grown up in their youth..."
And our daughters as corner-stones hewn after the fashion of a palace."
Psalm 144:12.

The season of baccalaureates will soon be with us again. Sermons and addresses will seek to clinch the lessons of self-control and worthy purpose which the schoolrooms have reiterated. The idealism of youth will be shown in stirring class mottoes, in student orations, and in youth's challenge to the problems of the day. In the next few weeks the seniors of high school and college will be in the hands of their parents. Proud parents will beam; younger brothers and sisters will envy their achievement. Lower classmen will give them right-of-way and even the faculty will relax their religious discipline.

Graduation exercises may not mean quite so much now as they formerly did, because now the schools are engaged in quantity production. Not even the teachers know all the graduates in the larger schools and colleges. But the appearance of these hundreds and thousands of young people gives a real picture of youth which ought not to be ignored. "Flaming youth" has been ablaze. The public eye has been dazzled by the extravagances, the excesses, even the crimes of modern youth. Folk have come to think of young people of today as undisciplined, self-willed, reckless in self-indulgence or in actual dissipation. Newspaper stories of parties, auto rides, and such would seem to indicate a general

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Editors Say:

RADIO BECOMES UNIVERSAL

The radio, only a few years ago an unknown feature of home entertainment, has assumed universal proportions with 20,000,000 sets in operation throughout the world. Nearly half of these are in use in the United States with the other half distributed well over the world. Use of radio is still growing, with exports from the United States setting a new high mark in 1923.

Great Britain and Germany have about 2,500,000 sets each, France 1,250,000, Japan 550,000, Argentina 350,000. Radios are found in practically every country and their uses appear unlimited. Byrd, getting ready to spend the long winter near the south pole, will listen in to programs from all parts of the world.

There is however, a great difference in the operation of the broadcasting stations in the various countries. In the United States, the radio broadcasting is a strictly commercial proposition with advertising the basis of the operating revenue. In the large European countries including the United Kingdom and Germany, broadcast stations are government operated. Sweden grants as concession to one company to operate the main stations and radio clubs care for the smaller ones. Australia is now preparing to take over the high powered stations.

Outside of this country, it is the general rule for owners of radio sets to pay a license to the government. The tax ranges from five cents in France to \$15 in Salvador, The British tax is \$2.45, German \$5.50, Australian \$5.85, Japanese \$5.

Here, then, we have two types of operation. One is by the government, with the possibility of competition in production of high class programs removed. The other is by the private stations as in the United States, where the injection, many times, of advertising which is displeasing to the listeners. In this country, however, we do have high class programs made possible by the outlay of large concerns for advertising by this method.