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IS IT WISE?

The conviction that Russia has not yet suffered enough defeat grows upon one. This conviction is followed by the thought that President Roosevelt is a little premature, though with the best possible intent, in his efforts for peace. We have contended, not without a horror of war in all its hellishness, that there will be no lasting peace between Russia and Japan until mastery beyond question has been thoroughly established by war to the bitter end.

For other nations' chief executives and rulers to intervene and force peace will bring about a cessation of hostilities and little else. Until one of the nations themselves are fully vanquished on the field of battle, and acknowledges the fact, there will be no lasting peace. If obliged by other nations to end the war both Russia and Japan will watch each other eternally and secret preparations will be the order of the day with both powers.

Roosevelt, great and good man that he is, is doing all in his power for the honor of this nation to negotiate peace, but the wisdom of this proceeding is a doubtful quantity. While we, as a people, one and all, deplore the awful sacrifice of human life, it may be best to have the matter fully settled now on the principle that one war is cheaper than two.

NORWAY.

Norway in seceding from the Sweden-Norway union claims the right to do so under the terms of the compact under which the two nations have been bound. It is stated that they applied to King Oscar of Sweden to supply them one of his sons as a king for Norway.

This Oscar refused to do, claiming that were he to do so he would be attacking his own title, as he still holds that he is king of Norway as well as Sweden. It seems that it would be a good thing, and a wise one, for Norway to settle down on the basis of a republic. All nations are drifting in this direction and ultimately the powers of Europe will adopt this plan of government. There is no excuse for any other governmental form. To declare there is reflects upon the intelligence of the common people of a nation.

If the people of any country are enlightened according to 20th century standards, they are capable of self-government. If they are unfit to the task of self-rule they are benighted and must have some person or power beyond their own choosing to guide them. They are incapable of choosing.

Norway is, we believe, fully capable of managing her affairs as a republic and the best thing to do is to start a republic and stick to it on these lines.

FOR FREE LOCKS.

Movement Started by Willamette Valley Development League.

The movement for government ownership of the Oregon City Locks was started good and strong at the meeting of the Willamette Valley Development League in Independence last week and there will be no let up in the agitation. People of Willamette valley cannot afford it. It is an outrage that 50 cents a ton on every article produced should be taxed up against farmers and manufactures in this valley because of a little obstruction in the river at Oregon City. Since the meeting the Portland

Telegram has interviewed a number of transportation people in the metropolises.

Here are some of the interviews: Captain James Shaver, of the Shaver Transportation Company—I do not think the Oregon City canal and locks should be tied up by private interests, which use water for adjacent mills and often leave the channels shallow, to the detriment of steamers. Government ownership would mean that they would be placed in good shape and always navigable.

Herbert Holman, of the Kellogg Transportation Company—I don't see why the Government maintains locks at the Cascades, and not on the Willamette. This river is entitled to the locks, as well as the Columbia.

Captain E. W. Spencer, of The Dalles Navigation Company—I have waited just 25 years for such a move. It would mean the tax would be removed on every bushel of wheat and other products of the valley and thus help every one. Most emphatically I favor Government ownership.

Manager Graham, of the Yellow Stack Line—The residents of the Willamette Valley between Portland and Eugene pay in the neighborhood of \$100,000 each year as tonnage at the locks. Whether the freight goes by rail or water the rates for transportation are on the same basis, hence the shippers and consignees must shoulder a portion of the tax of 50 cents a ton. Government ownership would obliterate this 50 cent tax and it would reduce freight charges just that much. They are the only locks in the United States covering the same amount of water that have so heavy a tax.

Captain George Conway, superintendent of the O. R. & N. water lines—The through tax on freight is 50 cents a ton and 25 cents on that loaded at the mills. To make the locks free might possibly invite competition on the upper river, but that would not hurt any one.

D. C. O'Reilly, of the Diamond O. Line—The free use of the locks would help Portland, the valley and state at large. The tax handicaps the river lines and retards the development of the upper valley and river business.

BEAVER CREEK.

Mrs. Stephens was a Corvallis visitor last Saturday.

Ed Hawkins was a Philomath visitor last Saturday.

John Daniels was a Corvallis visitor last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniels, and family visited with Mr. McBees and family last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bennett, of Philomath, were visiting at Frank Bennett's last Sunday.

Chas. Pein, who has been working at the Gleason saw mill, went home last Monday to attend his hay crop.

Several of our citizens who have been attending the Exposition have returned. They report a fine time.

The annual school meeting was held at the Beaver Creek school house last Monday. Wm. Park was elected school director and George Winters was elected school clerk.

Curious Bird Ways.

But how birds know when to go, and which way to turn, are things not yet well understood, because the flights are at night and the great movements start a long time before it really becomes necessary for the birds to go. They leave their winter homes (perhaps in Mexico) when there is no perceptible change in the weather and return from their breeding grounds in most cases while their food supply is at its very height—long before it is cold or the grass and weed seeds and insects begin to get scarce. In many cases, too, the young birds of the year, who have never left their homes before, lead the long procession in the great southward flight and are followed later by their parents.—St. Nicholas.

Worth Trying.

He—What can I do to prove my love for you, dearest?

She—Well, I don't know whether there is anything in it or not, but I have heard that absence makes the heart grow fonder!—Stray Stories.

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48-54

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THEFORD'S BLACK-DRAUGHT

Her Legal Aspects.

She—Mamma, you know, is quite a judge of human nature.

He—Judge! Gad! Sometimes she's more like a prosecuting attorney.—Puck.

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