

The Sentinel

A Weekly Newspaper With Plenty of Backbone

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National Editorial Association
 Oregon State Editorial Association
 Willamette Valley Editorial Association
 Lane County Editorial Association

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1917



'Tis the star spangled banner,
 Oh! long may it wave,
 O'er the land of the free
 And the home of the brave.

A WAR FOR WOMANHOOD.

We can easily understand why a person dislikes war and why he may shrink from offering his life to defeat the ambition of a blood-crazed kaiser. War is not a pleasant pastime and to imagine yourself impaled upon the bayonet of one of the puppets of German militarism and frightfulness is not a particularly pleasant sensation, nor likely to cause one to become enamored of life in the trenches.

But there are some things which a red-blooded man can not read about without a desire surging in his breast to avenge the terrible wrong.

The killing of innocent women and children in air raids upon defenseless cities and by torpedoing passenger vessels is enough to make the most peace-loving man want to pick up a gun and kill those responsible for such atrocities. The stories of the maiming of Belgian and French children by cruelly amputating ears and hands are enough to make a fighting demon out of the Navio himself.

We may differ in our opinions as to the cause of the war; we may differ slightly as to how we got into the war, but we can not differ in our determination to exterminate the monsters responsible for outrages such as these.

But these are not the worst.

If there is one thing for which a Christian nation stands, it is for gentleness toward womankind, for the protection of womanhood and the sanctity of the marital relation.

There are few of us who very severely criticize the father who takes the life of one who has violated his daughter.



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ter. How many married men are there who would not feel justified in abbreviating the licentious career of the home-destroying, home-defiling libertine?

If we fight, and kill if necessary, to keep these things out of our homes, what are we to do about the poor, defenseless Belgian and French peasants? Are we to feel no righteous indignation when we are informed that captive Belgian maidens are compelled to submit to being made breeding machines for the repopulating of the empire? Where is the man with red blood in his veins who can calmly think of the mother, not only compelled to satisfy a soldier's lust but to be an eye-witness of her daughter's defilement?

And if your blood is not already surging in your veins, if you still have no desire to avenge the wrongs inflicted upon womanhood by bloodthirsty monsters, read "The Horrors of Aleppo," as told by a German missionary who, in language befitting a disciple of the Lowly One, tells how, with the apparent approval of the imperial German government and without a protest from its agents, Armenian women and girls were compelled to march naked for the amusement of the soldiers and to suffer other indignities worse than death; how pregnant women died from the abuses to which they were forced to submit; how life was crushed from the babe born under such circumstances and the mother compelled to resume the march which meant certain death; how the naked bodies of the dead were left along the line of march or piled in funeral pyres.

It is hard to doubt the word of an accredited minister of the gospel, especially when his message has been put into pamphlet form, and more especially when he is a citizen of the country he condemns.

We would like to disbelieve these things but, unfortunately, all the reliable evidence we have supports their truth.

At first we doubted the truth of the reports of the mutilation of little children, but now many of the victims of German frightfulness have sought refuge here. We can not doubt the mute evidence of the earless heads of little children and the scarred stub where once was a little hand. The undeniable evidence has even reached Oregon.

There is, in our opinion, no atrocity too repulsive for those who have no respect for childhood. We doubt nothing that can be told of the crimes of those who would so cruelly mutilate three- and four-year-old children.

So this is not only a war for the liberty of the world, it is not only a war for world democracy, it is not only a war to avenge ruthless submarine warfare, it is not only a war to exterminate the militarism of Germany. It is a war for womanhood. It is a war to give woman the right to dispose of her own body, it is a war to protect maidenhood in its virtue and for the sanctity of the marital relation, it is a war to finally establish woman on an equality with man, it is a war to establish woman as the arbiter of her own destiny, as the home-maker, as the companion of the man of her own choosing, as the sole judge of how she will dispose her own virtues; it is a war to destroy forever the idea fostered by German militarism that woman is a breeding machine and that she has no voice in the regulation of her own affairs.

This is a war for humanity, it is true, but also for womanhood. Where is the man with soul so dead, with heart so weak, with blood so thin, that he is not ready to lay down life, if necessary, for the protection of womanhood?

Even the birds of the air and the beasts of the forests fight for their mates and their offspring. Are we mates and their offspring. Are any of us lower than these?

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country.

THE OREGONIAN LOSING PRESCIENCE.

It is not uncommon to hear the remark that it is fortunate that Mr. Wilson was reelected, because America would not have been behind Hughes as it is behind Wilson in this mighty crisis. Can that be so? If it is so, it assumes that many Americans are acting loyally from a coerced patriotism. We will be plainer. It assumes that the body of the democratic party would not support Hughes as president, in a struggle between our republic and the German autocracy, as the great body of the republican party is supporting President Wilson. Is the republican party more loyal than the democratic? We spurn the thought, and declare that where all are patriotic and brave and determined to see this war through if it takes a generation of time and all the money and the best blood we have, there can be no monopoly of loyalty, courage, or sacrifice in any party or group. All alike are Americans for America, in this war, and always. If some are not for America, they are for Germany. They cannot be for both.—The Oregonian.

In this editorial comment the usually prescient Oregonian shows deplorable ignorance in the gentle act of deduction.

Taken as a body the democrats are certainly as patriotic as the republicans, but if the Oregonian had given much study to the actions and temper of democratic congressmen it could hardly come to any other conclusion than that if Hughes had been elected the democratic congress would have attempted to block his every act that had for its

purpose the display of our red-blooded Americanism. Haven't they shown that by their actions towards the president of their own party? Haven't the president had to rely upon republicans in his awakening to duty of the great American republic? Haven't the republicans shown their patriotism in a far greater degree than the members of the president's own party?

What, then, could have been expected of democratic congressmen in support of a republican president elected upon a platform diametrically opposed to the craven phrases of their own platform?

Another point The Oregonian fails completely to take into consideration is the fact that the democrats made their campaign on the assumption that the election of Hughes meant war—and they fooled millions of people with that frazzled fragment of bloody shirt. They not only pulled the wool over the eyes of millions of credulous, patriotic citizens, but they made millions believe that the great manufacturers of war munitions were backing Hughes because they wanted war. The people could not realize that the democratic program was heading them for war by the shortest route.

War could not have been averted even by Hughes. Democratic congressmen would have blocked the Hughes program on the silly grounds that the interests had forced Hughes into war. The millions already of that mind would have believed the truth of such statements. There are many avenging those who voted for Wilson who think the interests inveigled even him into war.

The rank and file of the democrats are naturally as patriotic as the rank and file of the republican party. Possibly they are more so, for it takes patriots to stand steadfastly by a principle for forty years while those of opposite faith are enjoying the emoluments of office. But when fooled by the leaders of their own party, both before and after election, and believing the president had made serious mistakes of judgment, how could they be expected to be as militantly patriotic as the republicans are now when a democratic president is carrying out the very policies they contended would have to be carried out, and which they fervently believe are the only solution of a grave problem?

Democrats would have been patriotic, but the same spirit would not have been there. They would have felt that the sacrifice of life and limb could have been prevented by Wilson, and men cannot be expected to be militant patriotic over a war which they think might easily have been prevented. There are even republicans unpatriotic enough (if you wish to put it that way) as to say that many lives will be sacrificed because of dishrag diplomacy. There is a good basis upon which to judge what democrats would have said about Hughes if they thought the war might have been prevented.

Still another important point which The Oregonian fails to take into consideration is that democrats have never shown the same ability in solving national problems as the republicans—they have never shown the same foresightedness—and democratic congressmen could not be expected to see as quickly as the republicans have done that unreserved support of the president (whether he be right or wrong) is a national duty in times like these. They have not shown that foresightedness even in support of the president of their own party. What could be expected of them when called upon to support a republican?

Still another good reason why it is well that Hughes was defeated is that the democrats would now be saying "I told you so." As it is, the tables are turned, to the advantage of the losers. The Oregonian's lack of prescience in this instance is almost democratic.

THE TRUTH WILL OUT.

There were those who scoffed when, during the late lamented campaign, the ardent supporters of Hughes said that the campaign conducted by the democrats was carrying us with the most certain path into war with Germany. The Sentinel predicted that the siren-noted slogan "He kept us out of war" would return to plague those who used it.

But those who laughed then are now aware of the deadly truth of the prediction.

The revelations of Ambassador Gerard, published, undoubtedly, with the consent of his chief, the president, bear out every word of the prediction of the republicans. The German prime minister said, "Wilson was elected as a protest against war. He was elected on a peace-at-any-price platform. He will keep out of war at any price. Nothing will happen." Those are almost the exact words of the German. The ambassador tells us that the actions of Bryan and Wilson were construed in Germany to mean that we would overlook any insult and that the notes to Germany were for home consumption only.

We must admire the president for not attempting to suppress Gerard's story, which is such a severe criticism of Wilson diplomacy, but the story is little else than confirmation of the republican claims of the recent campaign.

The truth will out.

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 Choice one lot women's corset bras-sieres, each.....43c
 Boys' 50c high low neck, short sleeve sport shirts, each.....39c
 Men's \$1.25 short sleeve, high-low neck sport shirts, each.....75c

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