

# Polk County Observer

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## SOONER THE BETTER.

The entry of Italy in the great European war is regarded at Washington as a step toward peace. Not only will the military strength of Italy materially add to the aggregate power of the allies now contending against the forces of Germany, Austria and Turkey, but it is believed one effect of this new development will be to cause widespread depression and discouragement on the part of the people of Germany and Austria, and without the backing of public sentiment no nation can long continue at war. Moreover, the decision of Italy is likely to influence the action of Greece, Roumania and Bulgaria and it would not be surprising if all these nations should follow the example of the Italians. This would provide practically overwhelming odds against the Teutonic allies, whose sole remaining hope would be to get out as easily as possible.

Of course this does not mean that Germany and Austria are expected to "lie down" and submit to whatever may be demanded by their adversaries. On the contrary, the Teutonic forces still are intact and formidable, and apparently capable of standing off their enemies for perhaps an indefinite length of time. But with the "ring of steel" about them materially strengthened and drawn tighter, as it will be if Italy and the smaller neutrals mentioned join the war, Germany and Austria must necessarily abandon their hope of a decisive victory and change their plans from an offensive to a defensive campaign. And then, unless the allies should have a falling out among themselves, it would be only a question of time before the German allies would be forced to yield to the inevitable.

As affecting the general situation, both now and for the immediate future, the operations against Turkey are regarded as vastly important. The capture of Constantinople and the opening of the Dardanelles would give to the allies immense advantages, both by affording an outlet for Russian foodstuffs and other supplies, and an inlet for munitions and guns needed by the Russians, and also by releasing a large number of troops and war vessels now engaged in the operations against the Turks. To quickly gain this advantage it is anticipated the allies will redouble their efforts to bring the Turkish campaign to a successful culmination, and stirring news from that quarter is confidently predicted. In the minds of some close observers, moreover, it is believed that a decided defeat of the Turks will mean the beginning of the end, and that negotiations for peace may speedily follow.

That the United States will have an important part in these negotiations is entirely probable, for this nation is actually the last big world power not involved in the present wrangle and tangle. And it is intimated that President Wilson still holds himself in readiness to offer mediation whenever the signs seem to be propitious, which might be the case if control of the Dardanelles is wrested from the Turks. No matter how or when it comes, however, the American nation—both its official representatives and the public—will sincerely welcome the ending of the great strife and the resumption of peaceful relations between its world neighbors. It has been a terrible and distressing experience, which has been keenly felt by neutrals no less than by the actual belligerents, and the sooner it is over the better it will be for all concerned, which of course means for the world in general.

## AMERICAN RED CROSS.

While reports of the progress of the world-wide war naturally get most of the public's attention these days, the people of this country should not lose sight of the fact that the American Red Cross is doing a most worthy and humane work in all lands where the black shadow of war has brought sorrow and suffering. This great American organization, whose only stock in trade is good will and a desire to be of real service to suffering humanity, has contributed directly and freely to hospitals in France, Germany, Austria, Russia, Turkey, Syria, Palestine, Persia and Serbia. And from present indications Italy will soon be added to this list, with a possibility that Greece, Roumania and Bulgaria may also come in for a share of attention. It also has sent ambulance corps and sanitary squads to the principal battle fields of Europe, and has extended the helping hand to the Red Cross of the Netherlands and the British Red Cross Intelligence department. In Belgium it co-operates with the American relief committee. Wherever possible the American Red Cross works through established hospitals, missions or relief services and lets them take the credit. It seeks not even the glory of philanthropy.

From August to April the American Red Cross expended in cash contributions, salaries of surgeons and nurses, purchase of supplies and incidental expenses to get these goods and persons to Europe, the grand total of \$7,242,189. The balance in its

fund is now \$171,842. The organization probably will spend even more during the next six months, as the need will doubtless be greater. Therefore further gifts are desired. Those who contribute to the Red Cross have the satisfaction of knowing that every dollar so subscribed buys 100 cents worth of service and material, the administrative expenses being met from other sources.

## ANOTHER MEMORIAL DAY.

Another Memorial day has arrived, and once again the country cheerfully lays aside cares and duties to pay its respect to the memories of those who died that the nation might live, and also to those of the soldier veterans who still are with us, although their years are many and their numbers pathetically smaller than they were even a year ago. Memorial day is an anniversary appealing above all to the patriotism of the people. Sorrow for those who fell in the war is but one element in this anniversary. There are some things for which enlightened humanity is willing to die. Love of country is one. Men in their prime give up all to enter the ordeals of patriotic battle. Mothers tell their sons to go, and wives inspire husbands to respond to the calls to preserve a nation. In this respect the sacrifices of women are fully as great as those of men.

The millions of soldiers and sailors in the civil war averaged twenty-four years of age. That is not far beyond the period of boyhood. No matter what the attractions of the future may have been, and the vistas of life were bright before them, they held all as of less value than to support the government that asked for defenders. There have been cynics who disparaged patriotism, but they hold no enviable place in general esteem or history. Patriotism is a living force, a vital power in advanced human character, and those who have decried it awaken only scorn. Nor is patriotism a sentiment dependent on party or faction. A whole people is stirred by it to the profoundest depths. The affections are secondary to it and self-interest has no place in its manifestations. It deserves to be garlanded as one of the loftiest things of which the human race has any knowledge or conception. A national flag arouses a feeling that dominates both heart and intellect, putting all else in the background in time of grave emergency. Such, in its noble associations, is the day we celebrate.

It is well, moreover, for the younger generation of Americans to take an active part in the services of the day, that their patriotism may be stimulated and their understanding of the historic achievements of their fathers be made clearer. Memorial day is not alone for the veteran soldiers of the civil and the Spanish-American wars, but as the veterans themselves grow fewer the day of their tribute to their fallen comrades should be honored by all Americans as an occasion of patriotic demonstration. We should get better acquainted with the flag of our country and recall the gallant deeds that have been done beneath its glorious folds. And the annual Memorial day exercises at the Armory Sunday afternoon will help to accomplish this very thing.

## A GOOD YEAR.

The rains which have come during the past few days mean money in the pockets of Oregon farmers. The latter, in fact, have been wonderfully favored by the weather during the first part of the present crop growing season and, as a consequence, crops have made a start that scarcely could be excelled. Exceptional facilities were afforded for early spring work, and timely rains have now come to hasten the growth of crops already planted, prepare the soil for further work and insure a plentiful supply of grass and hay. The only unfavorable thing that has thus far occurred, in fact, has been a visitation of belated frosts in some sections, but the damage thus done has not been extensive or wholly irreparable, and, on the whole, things look very rosy, indeed, for the farmers of this state.

And it is a fine thing for the citizens of the state generally, no less than for the farmers themselves, that this is so. The agricultural interests of this state constitute the bedrock foundation of its prosperity and general welfare, for when the farmers do well it follows that all other interests share in the benefits and advantages. When the farmers are prosperous their prosperity gives an impetus to the prosperity of every other line of industry and trade, while of course all others are bound to suffer when the farmers are handicapped by reverses and misfortunes.

Everybody, therefore, is happy when the farmers are blessed with favoring conditions, and certainly the Oregon farmers have no cause for complaint this year. Barring unforeseen setbacks the present season should result in wonderfully rich returns to the farmers, and in congratulating them on this prospect the city dweller does not lose sight of the fact that later on this prospective farm prosperity will help along the interests which directly concern his own prosperity and material welfare.

The first call for harvest hands has made its appearance. Oklahoma will commence to harvest its wheat crop in about two weeks, and it has notified the federal authorities that Oklahoma farmers can furnish employment for 18,000 harvest hands in addition to those that may be picked up in the state. Wages will range from \$2 to \$3 a day "and board."

No man is as wise as he needs to be.



## INSTRUCTION NEEDED.

The meeting to be held in this city on Tuesday evening, under the auspices of the Oregon Social Hygiene society, is of peculiar interest to the men of Dallas, and consequently should have a large attendance. It is intended as a conference upon a vital subject, which is just now being given state-wide attention. Oregon is taking the initiative in this constructive work, and Dallas should willingly do its part to maintain its position as a leader along lines educational. A thoughtful discussion of the subject, coupled with instruction in social hygiene, by such men as Mr. A. F. Fleigel should particularly appeal to parents. It is better for the father to teach his son than to leave that duty to the hired man.

The question of social hygiene is one that reaches down into mankind far more deeply than any of our serious problems. Before real progress can be made in its solution mothers and fathers will have to appreciate the seriousness and the far reaching effects. False modesty and prudery will have to be banished and men and women will have to face facts equally important to both. Physicians tell us that more sickness is directly attributable to sexual vice and its ramifications than from any other cause. And hence the burden resting upon the parent is almost incomprehensible in its magnitude. Comparatively few parents realize even in a small degree their responsibility in this respect, and the object of the conference at the court house next Tuesday evening is for the purpose of impressing this responsibility upon the father, with whom it is the aim of the society to co-operate.

## RAPID RURAL CHANGES.

One-fourth of the telephone instruments operated by a leading company in the United States are placed in farmhouses, says the Globe-Democrat. The spread of this utility to hitherto lonely places has been surprisingly swift, and the service is cheap, often as low as 50 cents a month. No longer need a family living on a farm complain of isolation. They are in ready touch with neighbors, with local business, and the news of the world. A physician can be summoned without a long ride to get word to him. Since time is money the profits of the improvement are highly satisfactory. Yet the introduction of the telephone anywhere is comparatively recent.

Another ready servant for the farm is the electric current to supply power and light by wire transmission over considerable distances. Generated by water power the service is cheap, so cheap that the most conservative class on the soil concede its virtue. In some counties in Illinois, Indiana and elsewhere the current thus furnished has been installed on farms, with results so favorable that the work in the houses, barns and fields has been extensively lightened.

## AN UNCONVENTIONAL WAR.

When The Hague conventions were first published they were very impressive. The unsophisticated reader, as he went through the various articles, felt that the horrors which had characterized previous wars would be greatly mitigated in future conflicts. But the present war might be called unconventional. Every belligerent seems to follow its own will. When its attention is called to a flagrant violation of some convention it always has some excuse ready. The principal plea is that a particular convention is not binding because it was not ratified by all the parties to the present war. In view of the number of belligerents participating in the present unpleasantness, this excuse is usually available. But occasionally there is a violation of a convention

which every nation signed, because nobody in time of peace could urge any reasonable objection to it.

Last October the British destroyer Meteor captured the German steamer Ophelia and took it to Yarmouth. The prize court has just decided that it was a lawful prize. Germany protested that the Ophelia was a hospital ship and as such was immune from capture, according to The Hague convention. Great Britain admits that a genuine hospital ship is immune from capture, but insists that the Ophelia merely purported to be a hospital ship and that it was really masquerading as such for scouting purposes. Since the prize court was conducted by Great Britain, the British contention was naturally sustained. Such proceedings make a mockery of The Hague conventions, so far as clashes between belligerents are concerned. While the proposal of an international court, clothed with powers to enforce its judgments by force, may be a dream, there should be an international tribunal to pass on questions of fact in such cases as the seizure of the Ophelia. The present system is grotesque.—Globe-Democrat.

Italy has made no bones of saying that she is going to war for the sake of what she may get out of it. And to this extent she has been more honest than any of the other warring nations.

## UTILIZING SURPLUS BERRIES.

Each year thousands of bushels of strawberries go to waste in the larger producing centers of the United States because of low prices or some adverse condition. In many regions of the south 20 to 25 per cent of the crop is never gathered, because the prices toward the end of the season are too low to justify picking the fruit. This is a great loss that should be avoided. With the increasing demand for strawberry products, such as crushed fruit, jellies, preserves and marmalades, this loss can be greatly reduced, according to a new publication of the department of agriculture (F. B. 664.)

Within the last few years some of the manufacturers of food products have been putting up fresh strawberries in large quantities for use at soda fountains and in the manufacture of ice cream. This industry offers important possibilities to the producer, manufacturer and consumer. Several large manufacturers buy surplus strawberries and put them up in the field, while others ship the fruit to their home factory. One of the best methods of handling the fruit is as follows: Wash the berries thoroughly in cold water, put them into tight barrels with sugar in about equal weights, load in refrigerator cars and ship to a cold storage plant, where they can be held until needed. Sometimes the berries are crushed before being put into the barrels, but in most cases they are packed as nearly whole as possible. When ready for use they are taken from storage and manufactured into the various products. If the fruit is in good condition at the time it is placed in cold storage, it can be kept for a long time without to any great extent losing its flavor and fresh color.

The keeping of strawberries under refrigeration is a comparatively new undertaking, but results that have been secured indicate that in time this can be made an important industry. It is possible to keep the fruit in such a way that its quality is practically unimpaired. In a single storage house 6000 barrels of crushed sugared strawberries were held at a temperature between 36 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Proper storage is an important matter, for it will enable the grower to dispose of his surplus crop and at the same time will provide the consumer with a wholesome strawberry product throughout the year. When growers are banded together into a large association it often should be possible for them to manufacture strawberry byproducts at the producing center under the management of the organization.

The following publications of the department, which may be had upon application, contain information of value to the grower and shipper of strawberries:

- F. B. 664. Growing Strawberries in the south.
- F. B. 185. Strawberries.
- F. B. 193. Strawberries.
- F. B. 203. Canned Fruit, Preserves and Jellies.

The department's specialists in charge of club work will be glad to furnish additional information on canning and preserving strawberries, especially to groups of women and girls who wish to take up this activity.

Dr. Lowe says price does not mean value. The price of glasses give title to them only. Glasses, without knowledge and service back of them, are worth only the cost of raw material. Your eyes are worth more money than

most of us possess. Why take chances? Service comes first with him. His more than 23 years experience makes him a safe man for you to consult. He will be in Dallas, Tuesday, June 1. One day only. Don't forget.

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