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NOW GETTING READY.

While Dallas will not observe Independence day by general celebration, preparations are now well under way in various parts of this country for big gatherings on the glorious Fourth. Bands are being hired, orators engaged and program mapped out, and an occasional article in the papers reminds the public that more than ever the celebration of this year is to be made "safe and sane." In fact, there seems to be a general understanding that fireworks and noise will be reduced to a minimum this year, and although this may be discouraging to the manufacturer of fireworks and to the small boy who delights in such frills, it will be accepted with cheerful relief by the great majority of citizens, who are convinced there are other ways of making the Fourth "glorious" than by maiming a percentage of the youthful population and seriously impairing the nervous systems of the adult citizenship.

The observance of the coming Fourth, in fact, promises to follow more sensible lines than has been the case for many years, although it will be none the less patriotic and calculated to arouse and increase the loyalty of the American people. Sports, contests, orations, dedications and other appropriate exercises and attractions will be included in the programs, and in a large number of places special attention will be given to the suggested plan of giving prominence to newly naturalized citizens of this nation, with features to impress on them the duties and responsibilities of citizenship, and why, after assuming such a step, they owe this government their undivided loyalty and support. Then of course there will be plenty of the old-fashioned celebration of the day, in the shape of family outings, picnics and excursions. And everywhere there will be a liberal display of the American flag, while every true citizen will try to follow the advice of the president by "wearing the flag in his heart."

Such a celebration of the Independence day of this nation will be all that could be asked or wished, for it will be in truth both "safe and sane," yet encouraging to real patriotism and abundantly reminding of the blessings and advantages which the people of this land enjoy, at a time when similar blessings and advantages are denied the people of many other nations. This thought alone is enough to calm and sober the thinking people of this country, and to deter them from any inclination to indulge in a frivolous or frenzied celebration of their own great national holiday—the day that marks the anniversary of this nation's birth, and which this year will mean more than ever to every intelligent American citizen.

A SERIOUS QUESTION.

The recent action of the government in ordering the withdrawal of passports held by two American citizens now in Germany has suggested an interesting and really important question. The two men who thus incurred the official displeasure of the federal authorities are Leon Raines and Karl Recknagel, and their offense consisted of so far forgetting their oaths of allegiance as to issue circulars and grant interviews regarded as highly inimical to American ideals, principles and interests. Ordinarily their attacks on this government might have passed unheeded, by the attending circumstances tended to aggravate their offense and make it really serious. By taking a stand against their own government these men gave the Germans ground for believing that sentiment in America is divided—a belief that easily might have been reflected in Germany's reply to President Wilson's note of protest against the violation of international law and human rights.

But if American citizens traveling or sojourning in a foreign land are not to be permitted to voice violent criticisms against their government in a time of crisis, what of the American citizen at home who follows this plan? It often has been said of Americans that they criticize their government more freely and more severely than citizens of any other nation criticize their governments, and unquestionably there is considerable basis for this charge. Freedom of speech is regarded in this land as one of the "inalienable rights," yet it is a right that is frequently and outrageously abused by some. And when such abuse becomes an actual menace to public welfare it surely is time to draw a line, for public welfare transcends all other consideration. And for this all important reason freedom must stop at license, which endangers the rights and welfare of others or of the nation itself.

This is a time when national passions are easily aroused, and when the thoughtful, intelligent, patriotic citizen should make a special effort to combat this tendency and thereby help to avoid the danger which such

a situation is sure to bring. Unfair and unguarded criticisms of the government and its representative leaders should be carefully avoided, and there should be a sincere and general effort to avoid even the impression that the American people are not unanimous in their support of their own government and its policies. If an American citizen forfeits the protection of his government by attacking that government in the foreign press, does not the American citizen at home run the same risk by duplicating the offense? The two cases involve the same principle, at least, and the question is one which every American citizen should carefully ponder. And in case of doubt he should hasten to get his bearing by a return to the principle embodied in that excellent motto suggested by the president—"America first."

MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

The order of Elks, standing for the protection of unfortunate mothers and their offspring, whose main support have either died or failed to discharge that sacred duty, is expected to be represented sixty thousand strong at the Mothers' Pension convention to be held in San Francisco next month. Only a short time ago the pensioning of mothers for the abolishment of child-poverty was unknown. Today twenty-five states have adopted this system in some form, and during the present twelvemonth more than ten millions of dollars will be contributed to the support of families whose breadwinners have ceased to give aid, either through neglect or death.

It is proposed that at the forthcoming convention ways and means be devised to have the mothers' pension system taken over by the public school system of the various states, instead of coming under the jurisdiction of the county commissioners or the juvenile court as now, it being considered that under existing conditions this pension favors of criminality, which is deplored among the most intelligent leaders of the movement, although its practice gives the desired results.

New York last April passed a mothers' pension bill making it obligatory upon the state to assist mothers having one or more children under the age of sixteen, the annual payments being equal to an amount it would cost to support such children in a public institution, the only restriction under the statute being that the mother must be mentally and morally fit to care for her children. The placing of this system under the state is new, but must be considered as meritorious, and The Observer predicts that eventually a similar system will prevail in Oregon. It is the only system whereby the expense of maintaining the state's dependents may be equalized, and lifts to some extent the burden now resting upon the less fortunate counties.

ANOTHER INDICATION.

It is a matter of considerable satisfaction to note that the increasing activities of some of the leading industries of this country are not in any manner due to the great European war. The United States Steel corporation, for instance, reports that its factories and mills are now working to seventy-five per cent of their capacity, an increase of forty-five per cent in the past three months, and this in spite of the fact that less than one-fifth of the increased business represents European war orders.

In other words, more than four-fifths of the output of the steel mills of this country is now being used in domestic enterprises, chiefly in a revival of building operations, which is a most encouraging sign of a wholesome return of normal conditions in this land regardless of what is happening in other parts of the world. Representatives of capital and business enterprises appear to be regaining their confidence in the future, and they are taking advantage of the present opportunities to launch new enterprises and put the trade and industrial factors of this nation on a more substantial basis than ever before. Students of economic conditions insist that conditions are ripe for the most extensive development of business and industrial relations this nation has ever seen, and say this is sure to come regardless of the duration of the European war. And it would seem that such a movement is already under way, as shown by the fact that a large proportion of recently increased activities is traceable to strictly home conditions and has nothing whatever to do with the European war.

CONGRESS OF EDUCATION.

Educators, as well as many others in this country, are commencing to show an interest in a great educational convention which is to be held at Oakland, California, from August 18 to 25, and which is officially termed the World's Congress of Education. The annual session of the National Educational association will be held in connection with this so-called World's Congress of Education, and it is predicted the joint meetings will attract the greatest gathering of teachers and instructors ever assembled in this country. The meetings will be held in the new municipal auditorium, costing a million dollars and capable of seating 10,000 persons in its main arena, besides having a theater that will accommodate 2,500 persons and many smaller rooms, which hold from 1,000 down, available for committee and other meetings.

With the San Francisco World's fair only thirty minutes from the location of this great educational congress, and with numerous other attractions to draw educators and their

friends to California during the coming vacation period, one readily will believe the prediction that the teachers of this country will "storm Oakland in force" during the month of August. Of course all these visitors will have a good time, but they also will receive genuine benefit from what they see and hear at the great educational meeting. And it is this feature of the plan which most interests the general public, for every intelligent citizen has a personal interest in the advancement of education, which is the bulwark of liberty and the bedrock foundation of representative government.

THE FRANK CASE.

Governor Slayton of Georgia found it no easy task to reach a decision in the case of Leo Frank, condemned to die for the murder of a young girl under circumstances that made the crime peculiarly atrocious. The governor listened to the final appeals of those who argued for a commutation of Frank's sentence, and of the other side, insisting that the law should be allowed to take its course, and then went over the arguments and evidence very carefully and thoroughly, with evident desire to weigh every feature connected with this famous case and to have his own decision based on true justice, so nearly as he could determine it.

And in his final decision no one can truthfully say that he was hasty in arriving at conclusions, or failed to give a fair and full hearing to both sides, together with a careful and deliberate consideration of all the facts presented to his attention. His decision should, therefore, be accepted by the general public as a just and righteous finding, by one who made an honest effort to ascertain the real truth. Much of the sympathy for Frank, which manifested itself in Dallas to the extent that a petition for the commutation of his sentence went forward from here, was artificially created, and only those who know both sides of the story appreciate the weight of evidence against the convicted man. The governor's decision should be accepted as final, as already suggested, for his information concerning the case is far more complete than the information possessed by the public. His whole aim appears to have been to decide in accordance with truth and justice.

A FRANK ADMISSON.

Germany is apparently commencing to figure on problems that will confront that nation "after the war." A recent dispatch from Berlin, for instance, included the following significant observation: "Germany realizes that after the war about the only places where she will be able to rebuild her foreign commerce will be in neutral lands. Estrangement of the greatest of the neutrals might be a death blow to German business."

The inference of this frank statement is plain. German leaders know full well that even though they manage to secure the best terms they possibly can hope for at the conclusion of the war, the bitterness and enmities aroused by the protracted struggle will leave their nation without friends among neighbors now arrayed against them, and that the inevitable consequence will be the loss of much of the trade which Germany enjoyed previous to the commencement of the war. The result will be the necessity of finding new markets for the wares and products of Germany, and the most promising field will be the United States, which not only is a great consumer of such things as Germany has to sell, but has the wealth to pay for liberal purchases and also has a great abundance of such things as Germany needs for her own uses and for manufactures. Germany therefore already looks to this country as her principal market in future, and as the Berlin dispatch intimates, to cause the estrangement of this nation "might be a death blow to German business."

Without much question this point will impress itself on German leaders during their consideration of the pending American demands concerning submarine operation and the safeguarding of neutrals, and it may even have a strong influence in deciding the German reply. While some German commentators have scouted the value of American friendship, the cooler and more far-sighted leaders of that nation cannot fail to appreciate the fact that the loss of American friendship would be a severe blow to Germany. For it is not only the present that must be taken into consideration, but the period "after the war," when Germany will necessarily face many trying handicaps in her efforts to restore her commercial and industrial interests and again build up her foreign trade. To do this she will have to seek new markets, and this country offers a most promising field for such enterprise. It is safe to say, therefore, that Germany will not go out of her way to alienate the friendship of this nation, even though a yielding to the humane demands of President Wilson may come a trifle hard.

CHEAP ENTERTAINMENT.

Now is the time to work and plan for chautauqua. Eight dollars worth of entertainment can be gotten for a third that price by purchasing a season ticket. This reduces the price of each entertainment to such a nominal sum that it is really an injustice to one's self to miss any of them on account of the expense.

The chautauqua is probably of greater value to the young people than to their parents. The parents enjoy it fully but the young people retain the educating and uplifting influence to a greater degree than we



who have become more fixed in our intellectual habits. For this reason the people of high school and grammar school age should make special efforts to absorb the pleasures and benefits of the assembly, of the possibility of hearing Circillo's great band for the price of a picture show. With a season ticket these splendid entertainments cost only a dime each on the average.

The outlook for bountiful harvests in Polk county are exceptionally good, and there is no reason why the people of this balliwiek should not enjoy unusual prosperity during the coming year. While the prune crop is reported as being "spotted" the average yield will probably be above normal, and if fair prices prevail growers will realize handsomely from their orchards. The hop yards are in prime condition, speaking as a whole, and of this crop the same may be said regarding profits. Fully twenty per cent more acreage than ordinarily sown is in wheat, and prices for this staple, owing to the demand for foodstuffs abroad, are practically certain to be high. Clover, of which a large amount is raised in Polk county, is a bountiful crop. Taking it all in all the agriculturist and the horticulturist of this section should be contented with his lot.

One of the chautauqua's masterpieces will be an illustrated lecture by Father Patrick J. MacCorry of Kansas, when views and reproductions of famous paintings will be shown. It has been the good fortune of the writer to listen to this brilliant, powerful and dramatic speaker, and those who fail to hear him on this occasion will certainly miss a rare treat.

The unanimous re-election of Mr. Coad to membership on the board of education is a deserved compliment to that gentleman, who has served the district faithfully and well. He is familiar with the duties incumbent upon a director, and his return is unquestionably for the good of our educational interests, in which all show deep concern.

The present municipal administration, in the adoption of a number of new ordinances and the amendment of others that have outlived their usefulness, is fast getting into shape the laws that govern its subjects.

Mr. Bryan's plan for stopping the European war is like a lot of other fine-spun theories—it sounds well enough until it is closely analyzed and then shows the fatal defect of being unworkable.

The German government has taken steps to control all the principal crops of that nation as soon as they are harvested. Evidently preparing for a long pull in the tug of war.

BERRIES WILL BE DRIED.

Crop of 2000 Crates of Logans Is Expected at Sheridan. An estimated crop of 2000 crates of loganberries will be dried and prepared for market by the Sheridan Fruit Growers' association. This represents the first crop from the plantings in that vicinity. Picking in the yards will commence this week. Arrangements were completed last week with Roy Graves, a large prune grower south of that town, by the association to dry the crop. Mr. Graves says that the 2000 crates dried will weigh five tons and the market price for this product is 15 cents a pound. He also said that the crop was about one-tenth of what it would be when the vines were in full bearing. There are 100 acres in loganberries there, the largest single acreage being 50 acres owned by Thaddeus H. Howe of Chicago.

Rickreall Plans Celebration. Extensive preparations are in progress at Rickreall for a celebration of the Fourth of July. Committees have been appointed to look after the different arrangements and a good program is assured. The annual school picnic has made Rickreall so popular as a good place to go and enjoy one's self that the inhabitants have decided to hold a celebration of the Fourth on the fifth of July.

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