

Polk County Observer
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 Office.....517-519 Court Street
 Telephone.....Main 19

BY LEW A. CATES.

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NATIONAL DEFENSE.

No one would think of accusing ex-President Taft of being an alarmist. His modest conservatism has been manifest in all his dealings with public questions and his natural inclination is to avoid extremes and follow a middle course. When, therefore, Mr. Taft strongly urges increased preparedness for national defense, one feels that the former president is making this recommendation after careful thought and mature deliberation, and with positive conviction that he is right about it. Nor does Mr. Taft even leave this point obscure, for he sets forth the reasons that lead him to believe that larger preparedness for national defense is a question of pressing importance, which must be decided speedily by this government for the safety and welfare of the American people.

Addressing a meeting at Brooklyn recently, Mr. Taft said: "The danger of war with a foreign power is greater than ever before. The Atlantic and Pacific oceans were excellent barriers in the time of Napoleon. Now we need a navy and coast defenses sufficient to repel the convoy of any force sent against us. Any nation able to spare 250,000 men a month for invasion must be the measure of our naval and coast defense."

Those Americans who are inclined to oppose the policy of larger preparedness should make a note of this warning issued by the former president. To repeat his words: "The danger of war with a foreign power is greater than ever before." Mr. Taft may, or may not, have in mind just what power or powers are included in this menace, but there are several which may be included in the list of those which easily could "spare 250,000 men a month for an invasion of the United States." In fact, when we realize that there are more than 20,000,000 men engaged in the present European war it will be seen that at its close there should be no difficulty in detaching such a force as Mr. Taft suggests for operations here.

Mr. Taft has served both as secretary of war and as president of this nation and he therefore speaks with intimate knowledge of the shortcomings of our present system of national defense. As he so well points out, the Atlantic and Pacific oceans no longer constitute a barrier of defense. Modern science has revolutionized warfare, and especially naval warfare. What the British channel was as a means of defense to England one hundred years ago, the Atlantic ocean is to the United States now. We must prepare east and west for the possibility of invasion. Any country, as Mr. Taft says, which can spare 250,000 men for offensive purposes here, and supplement this force with an equal number in another month, would have either coast at its mercy. And it is time for the American people to bring themselves to a realization of this danger, and to prepare a "very adequate defense" before they are driven to it in the face of dire danger.

DR. DUMBA'S REWARD.

Dr. Constantin Dumba, the Austrian ambassador who recently was recalled from this country as a result of being detected in a nefarious conspiracy to foment strikes in American munition plants, is not to go without his reward. The Austrian emperor, so it is reported, has conferred an order of nobility on Dr. Dumba, thereby to show official approval of the retiring ambassador's services. In other words, the Austrian government evidently holds that Dr. Dumba performed no less than his duty in striving to advance the interests of his own nation even though his conception of this duty led him to undertake a thing flagrantly and dangerously inimical to American interests and the peace and welfare of the American people.

It is entirely within the right of the Austrian emperor to take this course, no doubt, yet it is a procedure that scarcely will contribute to American friendship and esteem for Austria as a nation. It amounts to nothing less than an intentional slap at the American government for insisting on protecting its own rights and interests—a virtual notice that Austria has no use for this nation unless she can use the latter for her own selfish purposes. Yet one readily can believe that had the situation been reversed Austria would have looked on

the offense of Dr. Dumba in a different light. This is a typical fault of several nations in connection with the present war, however—they expect more than they are willing to give or concede. They look only at one side of the question—their own side.

AUTO CAMPERS.

Dallas should provide a free camping ground for automobile tourists before the opening of the 1916 season, and invite these itinerant pleasure seekers to partake of its hospitality while journeying through this section of the Willamette valley. The movement has met with pronounced success in other towns to the south, notably Roseburg and Ashland, and the proposition should have the serious consideration of the business interests here. A considerable number of automobile tourists carry their own camping outfits, such as tents and cooking utensils, but they must necessarily purchase supplies, and these it is presumed would be bought locally if camping grounds within close proximity to the city were provided. There could be nothing detrimental to hostleries or garages in the undertaking, for those desiring to "put up" at these places would do so under any circumstances.

The national government is now perfecting plans to establish camping grounds for tourists in national forest reserves, and with the beginning of the new year more interest in the matter of out-of-door life will be manifested throughout the country than ever before. The plan here suggested, that of providing a camping ground adjacent to Dallas, would be but following in the footsteps of your Uncle Samuel, although in the latter case no profit could accrue to his subjects. By inviting tourists to stop with us over night, Dallas would naturally receive an unlimited amount of free advertising throughout the land, while nearly all business interests would profit by extending this privilege to the traveler.

In a communication to The Observer last summer Mr. Crider, who made an automobile camping trip to California, spoke in glowing terms of the communities making such provisions for the accommodation of the wayfarer, and commended the plan itself. One town mentioned in Mr. Crider's very readable letter went so far as to furnish fuel, water and other like necessities to the camper. The news soon spread among tourists and hundreds took advantage of the opportunity to spend the night amid pleasant surroundings and with a hospitable people.

While the Commercial club is easting about with a view to furthering the material interests of Dallas, it might with propriety consider the suggestion here offered. The plan has been worked out successfully in other places; it can be in Dallas.

SERBIA'S SAD PLIGHT.

The desperate plight of Serbia is enough to elicit honest sympathy, without laying the sympathizer open to the charge of unneutrality. Serbia, almost surrounded by enemies of vastly superior strength, is fighting pluckily and desperately for her very existence, and may have to give up the struggle unless the "unexpected" happens. We are told that even the women of Serbia are fighting side by side with their men folks, which sufficiently discloses the spirit of sheer desperation which prevails among the people there. But they are being crowded back, slowly but surely, gradually hemmed in and caught between the jaws of a great military trap closing from two directions, and unless relief reaches them soon it is inevitable they must succumb in the unequal contest.

Serbia has been the foothall of the present war from the start. In fact Serbia was made the pretext for the starting of this great conflict, which already has wrought wastes and losses unparalleled in history. An Austrian archduke was murdered in Serbian-Anstria, as one of the products of an attempt to hold a people in oppression against their will. Austria chose to hold Serbia responsible, and sent an ultimatum that could not be complied with, and that was not intended to be complied with. Though Serbia went unimaginally far in meeting this cruel demand, still Austria refused to be satisfied, and touched the match to the train of powder leading to the mine that blew up Europe.

The entire area of Serbia is only about 34,000 square miles. Its population before the war was 4,600,000. Since the outbreak of the war it has made heroic sacrifices to defend itself and maintain its integrity, and even if this hope is fulfilled it will be a sadly battered, sorrow-burdened and half-decimated nation that will survive. And it may not survive, for the odds are greatly against it at present and the great steamroller of the war is daily crushing the life out of this plucky little nation, whose only hope lies in the speedy arrival of relief from its ally friends.

Viewing this impending tragedy, together with all the other terrible destruction of life and property

throughout the battle area, one wonders whether the life of the Austrian archduke, whose assassination was made the pretext for the war, was really worth more than the scores and hundreds of thousands who have been sent to death to "avenge" this slight against royalty. In this case the scales of justice seem sadly out of balance.

MUTUAL INTERESTS.

The Portland Evening Telegram has resorted to questionable methods in its fight against the lumber mills and interests of the Willamette valley. With irradant front page articles this metropolitan sheet has been attacking Oregon's largest tax-payer, the Southern Pacific railroad, as well as the state's greatest revenue producer, the lumber industry. Portland is evidently the entire state with The Telegram. But Portland was only a small part of the state when the same irreproachable sheet so eagerly attacked the saloons and asked the state's support for statewide prohibition. Portland is the entire state in the untruthful and unwarranted attack that is receiving the attention of the winged newspaper.

"How do you stand? Are you for or against Portland? Are you in favor of seeing everything fledged away from us by the railroads? We permit impositions and exactions such as are steadily driving away from us payrolls already secured that have contributed mightily to our upbuilding. Is this business? Is this common sense? Why should we not fight any road that is fighting us? The Southern Pacific is not a Portland road in any sense except in the sense of exploitation. Portland is not in the field asking for anything but a square deal."

With such illogical and childish arguments The Telegram is attacking the very fiber of Portland's existence. It is cutting to the quick the hand that feeds that city. But the great fortune of the thing is that The Telegram does not very well represent Portland. The Chamber of Commerce, which has received virulence from the evening paper for its inactivity in the quarrel, pays little attention to the paper, and the citizens who have built up Portland while The Telegram has been striving for a livelihood among them, do not find much time to sympathize with its rabid utterances.

The Telegram doesn't think. The Willamette valley lumber industry needs, and needs badly, any slight advantage it has in railroad rates. Portland has the advantage of water transportation that is denied the valley. The Telegram attacks the railroad company because it gives the valley that advantage. That paper would see Portland enjoy the lumber business that the valley mills have. It would take this business from the valley. But what if the valley took the lifeblood from Portland by sending its orders for merchandise to California? What if the valley did not ship its crops to Portland for the brokers, and the jobbers, and the shippers to derive a profit therefrom? What if the valley refused to allow Portland to supply its markets with finished products? It is just possible that the illogical Telegram would sing a different song—perhaps its swan song.

"The Southern Pacific is not a Portland railroad," says The Telegram. Perhaps no more a Portland road than it is an all-Oregon road, as it should be. But if the Southern Pacific got too far away from Oregon and Portland to be forced to contribute its many thousands of dollars each year to the treasury of the state, not to mention the direct payments to the treasury of Multnomah county, and the city itself, then The Telegram would—well what would happen to it? If the Southern Pacific did not support thousands of Portland workmen, paying them top wages and enabling them in turn to pay their taxes into the beautiful city—something else again, isn't it? But the people of Portland are not to be influenced by such unwarranted attacks upon its heart strings. Portland cannot get along without the trade from the Willamette valley. It would perish miserably from the face of the earth. Portland can no better do without the Southern Pacific, even though that road "is not a Portland road in any sense except in the sense of exploitation," than it can do without the Willamette valley should such attacks as The Telegram is making be successful in ruining the prosperity of the valley through the crippling of its greatest industry. The Chamber of Commerce and citizens of Portland should put the lid on the attack and turn a deaf ear to anything of a character that threatens the great city's welfare.

THOUGHTFUL.

That the presence of the stars and stripes will make judicial proceedings in naturalizing aliens more impressive must be admitted by every patriotic citizen, and hence it may be said that in presenting the Polk county circuit court with a flag to be displayed on such occasions the Sons

of the American Revolution are promoting patriotism to a marked degree. The flag presented to Judge Belt last Thursday by a representative of the order is of silk, hand embroidered, and four by six feet in size. It will be held unfurled by a bailiff while applicants are taking the regulation oath to support the constitution and laws of the United States and to defend the flag of this country and what it represents, thus making this important ceremony still more impressive. It was thoughtful of the originator of the plan to furnish each court of the state with the emblem.

The National Institution for Moral Instruction has offered a prize of \$6,000 for a moral code. Are we to understand then that the ten commandments have become obsolete?

Chile now wants to borrow some \$15,000,000, and naturally is looking to this country to supply it. And as the United States is now in the business of accommodating its friends and neighbors, doubtless Chile will get what she wants.

OTHERS' OPINIONS

Don't Set the Brakes.
 Editor: It every citizen will display as loyal support as The Observer does to second the efforts of the men who today are trying to advance the interests of Dallas, three very desirable results will follow:

First, those men, whose generosity and patriotism prompt them to devote their time and energy for the common good, would feel that their efforts are appreciated.

Second, backed by the unanimous support of all citizens, projects could be more readily accomplished and difficulties attacked and surmounted with more courage and determination.

Third, every citizen, humble or great, poor or rich, will be more likely to secure benefits from the work of these men.

It is not necessary that we should all contribute money to the cause of attracting diversified interests to our city. It is not necessary that we should all contribute time to the work, but it is imperative that every man, woman and child should shout, sing and lip the praises of those who step aside from their daily tasks and take up the people's burden.

I hope you will pardon this intrusion into your columns and pardon also the degree of emphasis I seek to express in conveying the above thought to the public. As I have attempted for years to assist in accomplishing results of this kind, no man knows, better than I do, how hard it is to create a general, favorable sentiment for a good purpose when one-third of the community approve, one-third "damn with faint praise," and one-third are indifferent or opposed. Remember the story of the locomotive engineer, who was crowding on the last pound of steam to make the top of the hill, when the brakeman, a pessimist, who knew it couldn't be done, set the brakes. Don't be a brakeman who uses the brake. Get off and push. Dallas is over the divide. The hard sledding is past, if we all pull together and no one sets a brake.—Optimist.

R. L. Cornell, Missourian, printer, Monmouth seout master, musician and Normal school student, accompanied the Normal school orchestra to Dallas on Friday.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, S. S. Duncan, has been by an order of the County Court of Polk County, State of Oregon, duly appointed as the administrator of the estate of Irvin Dunn, deceased, and he has duly qualified as such administrator.

Therefore all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified and required to present the same properly verified, to the undersigned administrator at his office in the County house at McMinnville, in Yamhill County, State of Oregon, or to said administrator at the residence of H. L. Fenton, at Dallas, in Polk County, State of Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 25th day of October, 1915.
 S. S. DUNCAN,
 Administrator of said estate.

FRANK W. FENTON,
 Attorney for said estate.
 Date of first publication of this notice is October 26, 1915.
 Date of last publication of this notice is November 23, 1915.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned as executors of the estate of John H. Ground, deceased, have filed their final account in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Polk County, and that Saturday, the 30th day of November, 1915, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon of said day, at the court room of the said county court, in the city of Dallas, Oregon, has been appointed by said Court as the time and place for hearing of objections to the said final account, and the settlement thereof.

ROBERT F. GROUND
 WILLIAM H. GROUND
 JOHNNIE M. GROUND
 Executors of the estate of John H. Ground, deceased.
 L. D. BROWN & J. R. SIBLEY,
 57-51. Attorneys for the estate.

And this secret spake
 Life unto me:
 "Behold I am that which must
 ever surpass itself."—Zarathustra.

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 greater than in the one previous.
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