

Polk County Observer

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BRITISH CHANGE PLANS.

The withdrawal of British troops from the Sulvia bay and Anzac districts of Gallipoli peninsula indicates an important change of policy in connection with the Dardanelles campaign. The hopelessness of carrying this campaign to a successful conclusion, at least along the lines that have been followed, has been apparent for some time. It now is conceded, in fact, that the attempt to gain control of Gallipoli peninsula by a land attack from the west was a grievous mistake, a blunder that has cost the British dearly, without anything to show for it. Moreover, it is further held by military experts that the situation of the large British forces in the Sulvia and Anzac districts was one of imminent peril and likely at any time to develop into a genuine disaster. Therefore, the withdrawal of these forces is nothing less than an act of prudence, and the successful accomplishment of this difficult feat will doubtless cause no little satisfaction to the people of England, among whom there has been much outspoken criticism of operations at the Dardanelles and of those responsible for the repeated failures that have been met in that quarter.

No hint is given of the intended destination of the forces which have been withdrawn from Gallipoli, but the general and reasonable supposition is that they will either be used to reinforce and strengthen the ally forces now at Saloniki, or be sent to increase the British contingent which is preparing to defend the Suez canal from a threatened attack by the Turks. Apparently there is need of additional troops at both these points, and it is even possible the forces taken from Gallipoli may be divided between them. In any event it is clear that the change in British plans foreshadows some new move of importance and interest in connection with the great war, which has so many "fronts" that the public finds difficulty in keeping track of them all. For a time, however, interest will center at Saloniki and Suez, for developments of high importance may speedily occur at either of these points.

MILLION TRAINED MEN.

There are a million men in the United States who could respond to the colors in some form of military usefulness, if the call came. These are national guardsmen and ex-national guardsmen still of military age, ex-regular army men now in civil life, the majority now in civil life; the majority of the Spanish war veterans and men who have received training under authorized army officers in universities. There also are young men drilled under military men in high and private schools and ex-United States marines who have had land training. Officers of the United States army admit this would be a highly convenient army nucleus in time of emergency, but the government doesn't know where any of these men are except the national guardsmen. Roughly estimated there are 500,000 national guardsmen and ex-national guardsmen; more than 175,000 army and navy "alumni," between 180,000 and 200,000 Spanish war veterans and 75,000 college cadets.

War department figures show there are now 8765 officers and 120,693 enlisted men in the national guard, in the Spanish war, 223,235 volunteer of the colleges last year, there were 32,000 who had drill, and in the last 10 years 39,000 men have been graduated who had been trained two years. Figures for 10 years behind that easily make up the estimated total of 75,000 army officers say. As to the regular army alumni, an average of 13,000 fails to re-enlist each year. The total for 1914 was 14,349. Even with the loss through deaths since discharge, incapacitations, removal to other countries and old age, the figure for 20 years should be 175,000 to 200,000 men. Recent plans of enlistment in the war department call for three years with the colors and four in reserve. Before that, once a man's term of enlistment was up, the government gave no more attention to him.

VILLA GIVES UP.

"Pancho" Villa has run his course in Mexico and is ready to give up. His leading followers have signed an agreement of peace with representatives of the Carranza government, and Villa is planning to move over

into this country, where he has been promised a refuge such as would be afforded to any political refugee. It is pointed out that this will not forestall legal actions against Villa for alleged cattle transactions, and it is understood that certain claimants are anxiously waiting for Villa to come under the jurisdiction of American courts and law. As a choice between two evils, however, Villa probably will choose to face civil claimants, rather than a Mexican courtmartial and the prospect of a firing squad, and it is therefore likely that the erstwhile Mexican leader will soon be found on this side of the border, trying to get his private affairs in shape to lead a peaceful, quiet and inoffensive life.

With the elimination of Villa in Mexican affairs, the prospect for the restoration of peace and order in Mexico will materially brighten. For a long time in fact Villa has been the chief stumbling-block in the path of Carranza, who now should have little difficulty in smothering other factional opponents and bringing about conditions of general peace. And if Carranza can accomplish this and set up a stable government in Mexico, the outcome will go far toward justifying the policy which has been pursued by President Wilson, who always has insisted that the Mexicans should be allowed to work out of their troubles in their own way. Yet one can readily imagine that old General Huerta will be ready to say that he could have done the same thing, and much sooner, if he had been given the same chance that has been extended to Carranza. And possibly he could.

HELPING RURAL SCHOOLS.

The problem of strengthening the rural schools of this country is one of conceded importance, and is annually attracting more attention from those who sincerely have the welfare of the nation at heart. It is, therefore, gratifying to note that Secretary Lane of the interior department, in his recent annual report makes a strong argument in favor of federal aid for education in general, and especially for the country schools. In his analysis of the situation he calls attention to the fact that, notwithstanding the hundreds of large cities in the country and the thousands of prosperous towns, a large majority of the 22,000,000 school children of America are in rural schools and are not receiving training which will compare favorably with that received by the pupils of the towns and cities.

In the very nature of things, there must be a wide disparity in the facilities possible for these two classes of students, but there is no sound reason for such a discrepancy offered the quality of the instruction offered to them. The meager salaries which are paid rural teachers are, of course, at the bottom of the untoward conditions which prevail. Doubtless it is true that in many districts the supporters of the rural schools pay all that they can afford to pay, and even make sacrifices in order to maintain the system. But it also is true—unfortunately—that there are many rural school districts which pay only meager salaries to the teachers, merely to keep down expenses, and that this false economy brings lamentable results in inferior service.

Secretary Lane protests sharply against conditions which require teachers in many rural schools to accept the pay of day laborers, or even less, and it is to equalize these inexcusable inequities that the secretary urges systematic government aid and fostering supervision, without infringing upon any of the prerogatives of the states. It is easy to indulge in smooth platitudes about every boy and girl being able to get an education, but it is another thing to afford them a tangible opportunity to receive as good a chance as the better situated boy and girl. The rural pupils cannot expect the educational "palaces" of the big cities, but they should not be required to prepare themselves for the active battle of life in educational "hovels."

Secretary Lane is giving impetus to a movement which has been actuated for a good many years, and he is rendering valuable service in helping to solve a problem to which the states are giving more and more consideration from year to year. Every child is the ward of the nation, in the broadest sense of educational opportunities, and it is of prime importance that he should receive, as nearly as possible, the same chance as all others in the corresponding classification into which it is necessary to divide the school population.

WORTH TRYING.

The American Bankers' association, which has interested itself in the promotion of thrift among the people of this country, has promulgated a plan for saving and profitable investment which doubtless will appeal to many persons. Briefly stated, the formula calls for a saving of \$5 every week in a savings bank for four years, when \$1,000 is withdrawn to be invested in a six per cent real estate mortgage, and the remaining \$123.89 left to draw interest. The weekly deposits continue until another \$1,000 is saved, and then another mortgage is

purchased. In this manner, at the end of twenty-seven years, the investor will own \$17,000 in six per cent mortgages, and a bank account of \$779.22, from which an annual income of \$1,051.17 will accrue.

Obviously this plan has merits to make it attractive to many who may have the desire to save, yet who do not know just how to go about it in a systematic manner. This is the strong feature about the system proposed, for throughout the entire term suggested the saving unit is fixed, and fixed within the reach of thousands who hitherto have neglected to follow the old rule to put something away for a rainy day. It is a plan that is both simple and easy of execution and once started it will encourage and develop the habit of thrift. It should especially appeal to the young men and young women who are making their own way in life, although the same benefits and advantages are of course open to others. Many might adopt an even smaller unit of savings, but whether large or small the idea is calculated to be regular and persistent in saving something each week and putting it to work as soon as possible earning interest. And New Year's is a pretty good time to adopt a system of this kind.

THE GRIP.

Our old friend, the grip, is with us again. Before we got so well acquainted with him we used to accord him the more stately title, "la grippe." But now that we know him better and more definitely understand his methods, tactics and general plan of attack, we no longer follow the respectful and honorable form of address, but fall back on the plain everyday term which denotes, among other things, that degree of familiarity which breeds contempt.

But while we may entertain a feeling of contempt and disapproval of the grip in general form, we scrape and bow (also wince and groan) when he knocks at our personal door. For a visit of the grip is not exactly a pleasant or desirable experience, although there is no way to avoid it after our old friend has presented his card, in the shape of a few little germs that surreptitiously gain lodgment in the human body and immediately proceed to make themselves at home and get in their work. Very soon thereafter one commences to appreciate the real significance of the name which has been given to this insidious trouble-maker, for he truly takes a grip on his victims that leaves no room for doubt concerning his malevolent intentions and his ability to add a somber tinge to the joys of life. Thereafter it is a test of strength and staying powers to see which can win in this miniature tug of war. And you feel fortunate, indeed, if you finally manage to grip the grip by the throat and eject him from the door, bidding him to be on his way and leave you to recover and recuperate from the struggle.

Just as present it is claimed the entire country is in the throes of the worst epidemic of the grip that has been known for many years. Business, industries and schools are being seriously handicapped and impeded by this visitation, while the doctors are being worked to death to take care of the many victims. Thousands of scholars have been detained from the schools on account of the grip, while the percentage of cases among other classes of citizens is almost as alarming. Quite a number of instances are cited where the grip has caused the closing down of public schools, colleges and universities, while many business concerns and industrial plants are having their troubles on account of the same ailment spreading havoc among employes. In fact, it has become a very serious matter, which already has gone far beyond the limits of a joke. And the public is commencing to believe there are other things besides war which are what General Sherman said—in other words, they are beginning to place the grip in the same category.

There are two conclusive reasons why the very best man available, whoever he may be, should be chosen by the republicans. The first is, that in these critical times the country needs its strongest man at the head of the government. The second is that it will take the strongest man the republicans can put forth to beat the democratic nominee.

The rural mail delivery is the one law passed by congress that has brought more general satisfaction and relief to the great farming communities of the United States than any other measure passed by congress. And the farmers jealously guard their rights in this matter, having once received the service and knowing full well its great value to them.

It is claimed that the German kaiser has not smiled in a year. For that matter, however, during the same time there has been no sound of ribald mirth from London, Paris, Petrograd, or any of the other "war" capitals.

It must be what Sherman said war

is to conduct a newspaper and at the same time maintain a high place in the church, yet that is exactly the position of our esteemed brother of the Newberg Graphic, according to his own statement.

An exchange heads an editorial referring to the wealth of the members of the United States senate with "No Longer a Rich Man's Club." A number of newspaper men have since edged their way into the senate during the past few years while other rich senators who have since purchased newspapers have become poor through it, so the number of real rich men in the senate is getting very small.

The republican party will come back into power in 1916 not because political leaders want it to win, but because the rank and file of the American people are convinced that republican principles and administration are best for the industrial welfare and public service of the country. It will be a victory of the people and not a victory of the leaders.

With both the "big" national tickets placed in nomination before next fourth of July, the celebration of that holiday next year probably will be one of the liveliest this country has witnessed in a long time.

Merchants are agreed that the Christmas trade this year was better than for many years past. This is but further proof of the fact that prosperity prevails throughout this great republic of ours.

In some quarters, also, there is a tendency to wonder why the Ford peace makers did not make some attempt to end the Mexican war before tackling the European muss.

Ex-President Taft says he has no name in mind "that he cares to mention" for the next republican nomination. Mr. Taft always was a modest man.

No other nation in the whole world enjoyed a merrier Christmas this year, than did the good old United States.

Just the same, it will be some little time before you will notice that the days are growing longer.

Comparatively few conflagrations resulted from cotton whiskers.

Cologne, Germany, before the war had a population of 652,381.

New South Wales devotes 5,138,000 acres to wheat growing.

The plight of the people left in Serbia is said to be even worse than that of the Belgians. Apparently it is up to Uncle Sam to take another "orphan" nation under his wing.

BULLETIN

ONE CENT A WORD, PHONE 19.

FOR SALE—Choice building lots, or trade. Bollman and Staats. 73-1f.

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Portland School of Practical Forestry, 817-20 Dekum building, Portland, Oregon.

WANTED—Machine, cast and plate iron, brass and copper, and rubber, and rags of all kinds in fact, junk of all kinds. A. H. Halleck, Monmouth, Oregon.

FOR SALE—Sixty-acre dairy farm in Coos county; bottom land; half mile from postoffice; mile from school; on milk route; good water; good improvements. Will give terms. B. Folsom, Gail Hill, Dallas.

POSITION WANTED—Married man wants position on ranch in Dallas district. Understands stock, and poultry. References furnished. Family consists of wife and two children. Address Mobley, Box 58, Moore, Oregon.

AUTO FOR SALE—Studebaker seven-passenger; bought new last season; run only about 4000 miles; cost \$1,600. Will sell for \$850. May be seen at Shreeve's garage.

Trusting that our friends enjoyed a Merry Christmas, we wish one and all

A Happy New Year

Those who are not our customers should start the approaching New Year right by patronizing this store. Green trading stamps with purchases.

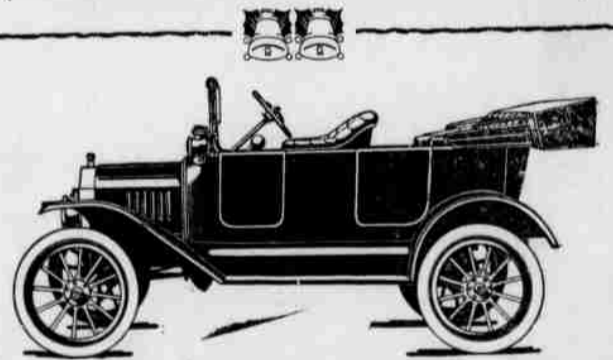
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