

The Herald

D. E. STITT, Editor.

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Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26, 1915.

Think American Talk American

Under the above caption the Portland Telegram gives out some very sound advice which is worth reading and heeding:

Events are running in such counter currents that the task of managing American National affairs has become a most delicate and difficult one. It is the plain, patriotic duty of the average American citizen to consider this fact seriously, and pay heed to President Wilson's injunction to think American and talk American.

The American mission is to preserve what we might term the balance of peace in the world, if that may be honorably done. It may not be the fact, but it is a warrantable assumption that there is diplomatic intrigue to involve this country in war with one or the other of the great belligerent powers of Europe. We can only judge of such purpose by interests and circumstances, and both indicate that if we are to avoid war it will require wary walking.

Each of the leading hostile powers has assumed an attitude quite at variance with the rules of warfare hitherto observed, and in that each apparently seeks to embroil this country with its foe. It may be that the situation arising as an exigency of war is without design so far as we are concerned.

Nevertheless, our course must be dictated by patience and coolness. It is no time to yield to sudden impulses, and above all it is no time for partisan criticism and a manifestation of lack of confidence in the men who are charged with the guidance of the nation through the present difficulty.

In existing circumstances we might refuse to deal commercially with either Germany or England and turn our attention to trade in other parts of the world; except, that established commerce is not to be dropped and new commerce developed as one lays off one suit of clothes and puts on another. On the other hand we may insist to our right to sail the high seas in legitimate trade, and subject to the reasonable and hitherto recognized conditions that war imposes. In the one event we would encounter serious crippling of our commerce, beyond the state of decrepitude in which it now survives. In the other course we may encounter war.

We would say offhand and with independent, botheaded pugnacity that our right was absolute, and it would not be long before our fighting banner would be fluttering with those of belligerent Europe. Whether we should be right or wrong, that would be the direst calamity of this warlike epoch. Yet, eventually, it may be forced up-

on us as the only course we can pursue.

It is more than expedient, therefore, that we keep in mind the high mission of this great American Nation in this world crisis—the mission of a level-headed, world-serving democracy that stands for constructiveness of peace rather than the destructiveness of war.

When the fury of the present conflict is spent the world expects this country to exercise a high and serviceable function, which is another consideration not to be dismissed if we are to remain distinctively American. As a people we need to exercise patience and cultivate wisdom.

We need to think American, talk American and give American support to those who must deal with all the practical difficulties of the situation.

STEPS TOWARD MILITARISM

"America and the Philippines."

There is located many, many miles away, in round numbers about eight thousand, a possession of the United States called the Philippines. Those familiar with the pages of history will recall that at the close of the Spanish-American War the Philippines were ceded to the United States by Spain.

It is especially of late years that the Philippines have been before the public eye. Some of the inhabitants of the islands want their independence and be free from our country to govern themselves. A bill known as the Jones bill providing for the free government of the Filipinos by themselves has been introduced but as yet has not passed.

Another thing that is bringing the Philippines under the public eye is because of the war in Europe. Because the islands are so far distant from our country it makes it difficult to guard them very carefully and because of this isolation and little guarding Japan has cast her greedy white eyes toward the islands.

Because of her greedy action the question comes to us, "Why do we still retain possession of them?" When anything is held by the government, the greatest good to the greatest number is to be expected; not so with the Philippines. It is the greatest good to the least number and is a special privilege, sharp and cutting, in the face of the greater number. Then why should we retain ownership of a few islands eight thousand miles from home?

By the Monroe Doctrine we say to foreign nations, "Keep out of the western hemisphere." Yet we through commercialism seize and own land in the eastern hemisphere. We are not living up to our word as American citizens.

Then again our ownership of the Philippines and other possessions lying in the Pacific is making us a commercialized nation and just as sure as history repeats itself, as our fair country enters more and more into large commerce and attempts to be a world power, it will surely perish and fall as have other nations that have entered the "ring" of commercialism.

Commercialism and Militarism are the hand maidens of Hell, the former stalks in front paving the way for the latter and when a large enough commercialized nation is raised, when it is necessary to continue a trade by jealousy, then comes Militarism and

in due time War and then—

Ah! people of America, we surely don't want our nation to follow in the footsteps of Rome, Germany, England, Russia or Japan. Let us keep to our selves. Our nation is self-producing or self-sustaining.

Before the war it was thought we had to wear foreign made goods, now we have awakened from our lethargy and produce them ourselves. Let us awake from another lethargy, that we may keep this free country of liberty by minding our own business. Let us set free the Filipino people, let us give up our possession in the far Pacific and get back to our own country and stay there.

Only a few reap any benefit from commercialism and militarism, but through minding our own business, solving our own political, social and economic problems the many may reap the good which we all have sown.

WILBERT F. CORNWELL,
Monmouth, Oregon.
February 9, 1915.

How the United States Rose From the Ocean

An interesting exhibit which will be shown by the United States Geological Survey at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, in San Francisco, will be the illustration of the development of the surface features of the United States and adjoining lands—the gradual rise of the continent from the primal ocean and the accompanying development of life—a pictorial story of progress from the early fish and the huge half-reptile creatures known as saurians to the higher mammals such as the great saber-tooth tiger and the giant hyena.

Report of Eighth Grade Examination Given Jan. 15, 1915

At the recent 8th grade examination given by the County School Superintendent, the following pupils completed the work:

Dallas, Dist. No. 2, Virgil Brock, William Young, Merle Ramey, Edwin Serr, Beatrice Springetien.

Oakpoint, Dist. No. 27, Imogene Richards.

Independence, Dist. No. 29, Henry Gentry, Vera Johnson, Charles Dawes, Claude Brown, Doraine Dickinson, Clayton Dickson, Mark I. Hanna, William McKinney, Leona Gaines.

Buena Vista, Dist. No. 33, Gail Prather.

Montgomery, Dist. No. 39, Leo P. Cox.

Highland, Dist. No. 64, Bertha Stapleton, William Prehn.

Valley Junction, Dist. No. 69, Cora King.

A cubic mile of river water weighs approximately 4,205,650,000 tons and carries in solution, on the average, about 420,000 tons of foreign matter. In all, about 2,735,000,000 tons of solid substances are thus carried annually to the ocean.—United States Geological Survey.

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