

The Herald

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UNEMPLOYED PROBLEM

There are 2,000,000 unemployed in the United States whose yearly earnings should be about \$1,250,000,000, said Theo. N. Vail president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. in the annual report of the company just issued. Those unemployed are living at the expense of savings, their friends or the public, he says, and what is needed to bring about their re-employment and the return of prosperity is a restoration of conditions which would inspire confidence in the securities of public service and manufacturing enterprises to enable them to obtain capital for extension and improvement. A billion dollars a year is needed he asserts, to put these enterprises in a position to meet the demands of the country, both as to "growing" and "going" concerns and if they could begin the expenditure of even a part of that sum "it would restore the normal conditions of employment, expenditure, consumption and production."

The Student Vote

Wisconsin liquor men are trying to bar college students from voting at municipal elections and have introduced a bill to that effect in the legislature. It is found that a majority of students vote dry, and the near-dry result of the last election in the city of Madison greatly alarmed the local brewing interests. "In practice," says the Daily Cardinal, college paper of Madison, "this bill would deprive the student of his ballot. The law would prevent him from voting in the college town where he lived and circumstances would prevent him from voting where the law ironically gave him the right to vote. An ignorant, morally-debauched hobo can cast a ballot in Madison, if he has been in Wisconsin for one year and a resident of the precinct for two days. Yet this bill would deprive relatively intelligent students the right to vote on the same terms."

A similar bill is pending in the legislature of Minnesota.

Who Makes War?

The Great Conflict has been condemned as "an intrigue of diplomats," as the "scheming of politicians and financiers," as "Kaiser made."

The assertion is made repeatedly that the mass of the people are always against war and that if this quarrel had been left with the people to deal with, they would have voted down war overwhelmingly.

Would they?

In the critical moments of the correspondence between Austria and Serbia, crowds were marching in Vienna, massing around the government offices demand-

ing the extreme measures. Before ever Germany began mobilization, the German population was talking war, not in any condemnatory spirit, but enthusiastically. The English government held back while the English public was crying out that not to participate in the war would be the blackest treachery.

Word comes from Athens that mobs are shouting, "Down with Turkey! We want war." They are making a hero of a minister who has retired because his advice was for war while that of the king was against war. They are hissing a minister who represents the peace party.

If Italy, after hanging over the pit of war for months, finally climbs in, it will be with the public approval. It will be despite the strong neutrality convictions of the government.

To say that king or czar or emperor, that a party or a class can make war, is to talk the worst kind of nonsense.—Toledo Blade.

Germany's Thunderbolt

"German Sea Power" was a subject that interested England in the years preceding the outbreak and a very interesting book with that title, written by two Englishmen, made its appearance in London a short time previous to the Serbian assassination.

It shows very clearly how alive England was to the preparedness of her rival, and furnishes most entertaining reading in the light of subsequent events.

"Anglo-German Antagonism" said the authors in the preface, "finds its most acute expression in naval policy, and it is believed in many quarters that the struggle will entirely be decided by naval conflict."

The book is a history of the growth of Germany as a sea power and was intended as a note of warning to English people. One cannot help after reading it but believe that England was expecting a war with Germany, was ready for it and that there is some truth in the German claim that England deliberately sacrificed Belgium in order to gain time enough to throw her army across the channel into France and thus prevent the capture of Paris.

Many of the forecasts of these English political writers have come true, but there remains one yet unaccomplished which is worthy of attention.

"The German naval authorities," says the book, "have in view a kind of war different from any which has hitherto been known. It was not to be a long drawn out contest in which patient courage, sturdy tenacity of purpose, and incapacity to recognize defeat can triumph after months or years of hostilities. The German fleet is intended to be used—and if used at all—like a thunderbolt."

Nearly eight months have elapsed since the war began and yet the two greatest fleets of warships in the world have not measured strength in a decisive battle. England is ready and anxious for it; confident in the superior power of her ships and their far greater number.

What is going on in the waters of the Baltic back of the Kiel canal is a mystery to all but the

Germans. Undoubtedly their fleet is being steadily augmented. At least one battleship and several smaller craft, to say nothing of submarines, were incomplete at the beginning of the war, and are being finished as fast as possible.

It is still the belief in England that Germany is waiting an opportunity and when she believes the right time has come, her fleet will be hurled against the greater power like a thunderbolt, with the determination to win in one day of supreme and fierce fighting such as the world has never known.—Telegram.

ABOLISHMENT OF THE DEATH PENALTY

In governmental affairs, Oregon is a state entirely different from most of the states of the Union. The governmental affairs of Oregon are entirely in the hands of the people—what the people says "goes!" The people are invested with all the rights that characterize a progressive government—the initiative and referendum, the recall, woman suffrage and others equally sacred and inviolate—rights not only to be cherished but also executed.

Have these rights benefitted the people? We need only to go to the results of the last election for the answer to the question. Then, one measure in particular was carried by referendum vote—the measure which it is to be hoped will light up the way for our sister states and humanity in general—the measure that abolished the death penalty forever (?)!

Thus it is we have abolished the death penalty. No more will it be possible for such scenes as the following to exist:

"On February 15, 1915, in the county jail in Chicago, Illinois, a man named Smith was hanged.

"The poor victim when led to the scaffold with his hands handcuffed behind his back was so weak that he stumbled and would have fallen had not the guards helped him.

"Broken in spirit, weak, pale and shivering, he was still the master of his will and with head erect, with an audible voice he recited the one hundred and twenty-first psalm, 'I will look unto the hills from whence cometh my help, my help cometh from the Lord, etc.'

"They strapped his ankles, his knees, around his stomach and elbows and then put on a cheese cloth robe. The jailer took down the noose, put it over Smith's head, drew the knot under his jaw, took a white cap, put it over his head and tied the string.

"Then stepping back, quickly threw up his hands as a signal. Another man threw a lever. The trap fell; the miserable human wretch dropped with a thud, upon a hard, twisted, strained, and through the thin cap over the face there was visible the impression of the tongue protruding and a stain on the cloth.

"His neck was not broken. When he kicked the straps off his ankles, the guards helped him out by taking his ankles in their hands and finally put back the straps. Smith was still quivering when the doctors examined his heart.

"The deputy sheriff was standing close to the dangling human being, watching the shoulders shake, the knees knock together, said: 'He is having a hard time. I don't think his neck is broken. If it is, it is high up close to the base of the brain. When that is the case they usually have a convulsion as

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he is now having.

"When all the doctors had finished examining him, a cot on wheels was run under Smith and he was flopped back in the cot and for 15 minutes the curious crowd of people around, looked, commented, etc.

"When the writer left the place they were still looking at the how dead brother who a few minutes before had been a living human being."

The words struck me. The brother, the spiritless one it is hardly to be printed. Such scenes are the most deplorable relic of cruelty and barbarism, but they exist in the year of our Lord, 1915, at the opening of this progressive twentieth century! The people of Oregon have it in their power to forever blot out such a stain, and with these powers to also blot out others to pave the way for her sister states in the name of humanitarian civilization.

People of Oregon, ye have struck the first blows that will unshackle the chains of ignorance and murder! Ye have struck them in the name of humanity and it is to be hoped that the blows ye have struck will be heard in every country of the globe, and not only heard but acted upon.

W. J. P. CORNWELL

Monmouth, Oregon

March 21, 1915.

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