

INDEPENDENCE ENTERPRISE

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W. J. CLARK.

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MEMBER OF THE STATE EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

MY PLEDGE

I, Citizen of the United States, willingly subscribe to the Third Liberty Loan in order that: My Country may never be ashamed of ME; I may be a true gentle man-gentle woman; I may work earnestly at whatever it is my privilege to undertake; I may honorably accomplish MY part to uphold our Liberty, our Manhood, our Womanhood—the best life offers; I may EARN my right to National Liberty; that I may honestly defend in ALL ways at all times my heritage of Freedom that it is our privilege to Fight for, Live for, Defend at any sacrifice; I shall NEVER fail my good friend, MY COUNTRY. That has given me home, education, protection; My children shall be able to state with pride, "MY father and MY mother are Americans and Patriots!" I shall ever honestly respect my God-given rights to "Liberty, Life and Pursuit of happiness"; that I may support my Country with my life, my fortune, my sacred honor; that I may give—give Love, Loyalty and Obedience; I will to "the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," fully realizing the magnitude of my trust and the value of National UNION for collective and individual happiness, life, liberty, PEACE! I may live "with malice toward none, with Charity—Love—for all!" I subscribe to "A Government of the people, by the people and for the people," obedient to the ONE RULER, God; to the LAW of God—for "Liberty is the fulfilling of the Law."

Every dollar that is spent to arm a soldier or a sailor, to feed or clothe one; every dollar that is spent for munitions or cannon, for coal to drive our warships and transport supplies, must come from the Treasury, and the Treasury has no source from which to obtain money except the people of the United States.

BUY LIBERTY BONDS and furnish the means to arm and feed our soldiers and make them victorious.

AMERICAN BLOOD WETS TRENCHES

Have YOU Proved Loyalty By Buying Liberty Bonds

BY JOHN LEISH TAIT

There are some tremendous lessons to be learned from the present status of the world strife. One of the most momentous of them all is a lesson to America and Americans—a lesson to you and me—a personal lesson which we shall do well to accept in its fullest, personal application. It is the lesson of INDIVIDUAL INTEREST in this war. The blood of American soldiers is wet upon the trenches, and the base hospitals are ministering to American wounded. The shadow of the Death Angel, "made in Germany," has fallen across your threshold and mine. It is no longer a thing detached and apart from us. We are in it. The blood of our sacrifice reeks upon the altar. It is now a personal affair. We—you and I—must back our boys in the trenches, or forever cease to claim rank and title as Americans. The time has come when there are but two classes in this country—Americans, who are for the war in which our boys are pouring out their blood, and traitors, who are either against the war or indifferent toward it. And indifference is now, if anything, more despicable than antagonism. There is one thing, at least, that most of us can do to prove our awareness of the situation and our loyalty to those who are fighting OUR battles over there; most of us can subscribe, in some degree, to the Third Liberty Loan. It is totally beside the issue to point out that these bonds are a good investment. The investment feature is not the thing in question. It may require some sacrifice to convert present holdings into holding of Liberty Loan Bonds. But as far as we can manage it, you and I, if we accept the great lesson of the hour and take our part in the baptism of American blood which is for the cleansing of the nations and the rehabilitation of the world, we must "come across"—and come quickly and with thankfulness that it is given to us to do even so little.

Industry, saving and lending to the Government are national needs and national debts. BUY LIBERTY BONDS.

SERIOUS SITUATION.

Men and industries are being worked to the limit in these trying times and managers of large enterprises lay awake nights figuring how to meet new conditions arising every 24 hours.

Take the western metal mining and refining industries as an illustration. They have been called on to double their output and then double again. They have met the government requirements at every turn, furnishing metals such as copper at established prices far under quotations at beginning of war.

At recent conference of copper producers with War Industries Board in Washington, it was decided to continue price of 23 1/2 cents on copper for seventy-five days.

Commenting on this the Mining Congress Journal says: "The smaller copper producers were greatly disappointed at this decision as their mines had been kept in operation at a loss in anticipation of an increase in price.

"It is feared that many of smaller operators will be forced to discontinue operations.

"In the face of the shortage of copper any plan which entails the shutting down of the smaller producers is dangerous if not disastrous.

"It was brought out at the recent hearing that one of the larger copper companies in order to increase its production has very largely increased the cost, and that the price fixed by the Government was not sufficient to permit this accelerated production and still leave a profit. In other words, the speeding up of the industry, so as to meet the war demand, naturally increases the cost of production. In this particular mine it was shown that an increase of one-third above normal production had reduced the saving from 71 per cent to 62 per cent of the metal content of the ore. If the government price is to be fixed below a proper cost, companies must either stand a loss or reduce production.

MINORITY MAY RULE.

Under the heading "Democratic Tyranny," the Louisville Courier Journal descants thus:

Congress has voted to submit to the Legislatures of the States a constitutional amendment for national prohibition. If three-fourths of the Legislatures vote to ratify the amendment then it becomes a part of our organic law and one year thereafter no man in this country will have the right to make, sell, transport, export or import intoxicating liquors.

In other words, three-fourths of the State Legislatures will have denied the other states the right to legislate for themselves and will have denied millions of citizens of all the states the personal liberty to make a drink or take a drink if they choose.

No Majority Rule.

Advocates of this proceeding affirm that it is in accordance with the rule of the majority in our system of democracy. But it is not in accordance with the rule of the majority; though even if it were it would be inconsistent with the spirit of real democracy, which never intrenches, except in extraordinary emergency like war, beyond certain lines on the personal liberty of the individual. If this amendment be ratified as required by the Constitution it will not have been sanctioned by a majority of the people, who will not have voted on it at all directly. In the case of Kentucky if the present Legislature ratifies the amendment the people of Kentucky will never have voted on it even indirectly, and in the cases of the Legislatures which are to be elected the question of the approval of this amendment will not be popularly voted or unconfused with other questions and the personal equations of the candidates, always largely influential in the election of a Legislature.

Our experience in following our own theory of democracy has proved that the founders of our system, to the extent to which they meant the functions of our Legislatures to be a medium of democracy rather than a check on democracy, made a mistake. This mistake has been acknowledged and corrected in the method of our choice of United States Senators. The evils of delegating to Legislatures the prerogatives of the people were so clearly demonstrated that we changed the Constitution, took away from the Legislatures the power to elect United States Senators and imposed it directly on the people. An election by a Legislature and one by popular vote are notoriously very different things, both in methods and results. The Legislature, composed in the main of politicians, is so small, comparatively, as to admit of manipulations and influences difficult or impossible in the larger field; and the "logrolling," "pork" trading, the wheels within wheels and the many indirect, unrelated and sinister factors which enter into the final result of a vote by the Legislature are often not only not representative of the popular will, but positively misrepresentative of it.

Raps State Legislatures.

That is why we have taken away from the Legislatures the power to elect our United States Senators. But we have not yet taken away from them the power to amend our Constitution. This plays peculiarly into the hands of those who subordinate all else to prohibition; for the devious ways by which Legislatures are worked are just the ways the prohibitionists like most to employ and with which they have been most successful.

The manner in which they have worked our National Legislature at Washington to submit this amendment is pertinent to this point; for nobody pretends that Congress has reflected popular sentiment in this matter or even reflected its own sentiment.

A constitutional amendment establishing national prohibition will deprive millions of American citizens of their rights without even the ascertained approval of a majority of American voters.—From The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky.

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