

## Eastern Clackamas News

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UPTON H. GIBBS  
Editor and Manager.

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### The Resignation of Secretary McAdoo

William G. McAdoo has been the strong man of President Wilson's cabinet and it will be with sincere regret that the news of his resignation will be received by everyone regardless of political faith.

It is not surprising however, that the strain has told on his energy and health, so that he feels unequal to the new task of reconstruction. This was unavoidable, but the other reason he gives should have been unnecessary, and would have been, if a sufficient salary had been paid him.

"The laborer is worthy of his hire," and those who occupy high positions of trust, should be adequately paid. It is not fair that talent of a high order should be made to pay for the privilege of serving the country. For that is what it amounts to, as the cost of living at Washington is such that the salary paid him is barely enough to pay house rent. Mr. Bryan when Secretary of State, was forced to lecture on Chatauqua platforms, in order to make both ends meet. For this he was much criticized, but the criticism should have been on Congress for not preventing the condition which made this a necessity.

The same is true of our diplomatic service, no one but a millionaire can afford to take an ambassadorship at one of the chief capitals of Europe. Thus the country is deprived of the services of able but poor men for these important posts. No other wealthy country expects this of its officials and the sooner it is remedied the better.

The best wishes of all will follow Mr. McAdoo into private life, that his health may be recuperated and his pocket book likewise.

### The President at the Peace Conference

There is considerable discussion over the advisability of the president going to France, to attend the peace conference. It is

not being carried on in a partisan manner, as both democrats and republicans are divided on the question. Those objecting urge the following reasons:

First—That vital domestic questions would probably arise pending his absence that would require his attention.

Second—That the president would outrank the prime ministers attending, and that this might result in embarrassment.

Third—That the unwritten law of the Republic forbids him leaving American soil while holding office.

Fourth—That he could take as important part in the conference by remaining at his desk, and that the journey would involve personal risk.

Personally we favor the idea, and do not think these objections insuperable. The worst contingency that we foresee, is the presence of Col. Roosevelt at the same time in Paris as the president. It will take all the French finesse to determine the delicate questions of etiquette in differentiating between honors due to the president and those to so distinguished an ex-president as Col. Roosevelt.

It is to be hoped that out of consideration for his hosts he will abstain from any embarrassing criticisms while on French soil.

While an admirer of the doughty colonel, we must confess that he renders himself open to the accusation which was hurled by a political opponent against Mr. Gladstone, of being "inebriated with the exuberance of his own verbosity."

### The Passing of the German Navy.

Seldom in history has a nation undergone such a humiliating ordeal, as was experienced by Germany, when the main part of her fleet was surrendered to the allies. SIC TRANSIT GLORIA MARIS thus passes the glory of the sea for her, upon which she had based so many fond hopes.

When the kaiser came to the throne, the German navy was more in name than anything else its ships could be counted on the fingers of the hands. Nor did the German people have any aspirations seaward. But the kaiser infatuated with the world dominion idea, soon saw that this could not be attained unless Germany was supreme on sea as well as on land.

So he went to work to educate his people up to the idea and develop a powerful navy. It took him many years, encountering much determined opposition, and indifference which he finally overcame, and built up a navy second only in size to that of Great Britain. The expenditure was enormous, and now the fleet has passed into the hands of the allies, among whom it will be distributed.

Great Britain will continue as in the past, to police the seas, in which duty she will be joined by the U. S. Thus will be insured to the whole world in its true sense, the freedom of the seas to which a powerful German navy was a constant menace.

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