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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1918

OREGON WEATHER

Rain in west; easterly winds

WHO WILL CONTROL?

Apparently one of the biggest questions confronting America is that of a merchant marine, and to formulate a policy as to its operation. President Wilson is said to have expressed his desire for a great fleet of ships to carry our nation's commerce and to that end favors the continuation of the government's shipbuilding plan.

Our government has invested, according to the press reports, upwards of \$4,000,000,000 in ships, mainly for the transportation of troops and supplies to France. Immediately peace is assured, additional ships will be available for export trade. It is generally understood that our government will operate these vessels for a time, but many congressmen scarcely favor the retention by the government of a monopoly of seagoing tonnage and favor a return to the pre-war conditions of private ownership of our merchant marine.

But the construction of most of this great fleet represents an outlay out of all proportion to their actual value in peace times-a price greater than most private parties can afford to pay for them. Their production being a war necessity, many of them were built regardless of cost. If taken over by private concerns this extra cost will probably be written off as necessary expense incidental to the war, and which would be the only method that would make them attractive to

The merchant marine question is outcome will be watched by the Am- seat in congress. erican public with keen interest.

FREE AMERICA TOO FREE

scrap for it, but, engineered by in the congressional body. Washington, the Americans twisted the British Lion's tail and settled the dispute, thus resulting in the near future," says Director Smith of too dirty for them to do. I think I have been done. We were lucky and the Star Spangled Banner—and they Portland, "will be to place the re-have been fiving and waving ever turned soldiers. However, sawmills." I only wish I could write a letter they left there and more than likely

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the temerity to reach out and pluck plenty of labor." its feathers-but here is where fools

rush in and Angels stay out.

Most of the fools came from Germany, Russia, Austria and a sprinkling from the sands of other nations. Their number was augmented by a few natural-born Americans. Many fine people came from those countries, who are now among our best and most loyal citizens, but the fools followed, having been told that am going to make one letter go the saw so much worse and the wounded this was "the land of the free and rounds. I don't know when I can were lying around in the rain and the home of the brave"—especially get it consored and mailed but will the home of the free, which only concerned them—and they were told pieces of shrapnel, but this division the truth. But an overindulgence of is ahead of the ones on either flank any one thing is likely to produce so we are getting a little and much evil, and here is where loyal Ameri-needed rest between Boche snells cans relaxed their watch-free America became too free.

United States has been honey-combed with German spies, the seed of ism is now knocking at our door, and al congress at Washington. Men yellow with dishonesty and possessing the propensities of a copperhead shape the destiny of our nation.

One of these is Victor Berger, of Milwaukee, elected by the pro-German socialists-a man four times inand now he is to take a seat in our

utterances, and one might name dozens of others who have proven themselves unfit to reside in America.

streak when put to the loyalty test pockets now. Well that is what I took care of him. He talked good at the beginning of the war.

America is the home of the freeteachings. Such men would, in time, rally to their cause a horde without stint," because they will.

one that will no doubt be hotly con- Milwaukee-with Wisconsin-some- surely ready for it. The Germans shells and can just hear the guns tested in the next congress, some fa-thing very rotten in that section of have not had time to use much gas voring government operation while Uncle Sam's domain, and Berger and I have only been in it once. I others bitterly oppose it, and the should never be allowed to take a I hope so for I have had enough. It

Massachusetts, the man who was a body to tag. These high explo- had all the war I want, but if the America is a great country, worth vilified by the Oregon Journal beWe were at the Toul front, but only finding. We have many proofs of cause he had the temerity to speak our machine guns went into action this fact. Columbus came all the out and state his convictions on mat- there. way across the ocean on a few planks ters national, is said to be booked Yesterday we saw a good air fight ended this struggle. Both the Gerto discover it. The Aztecs so loved for the chairmanship of the com- and the American plane set fire to mans and French were very comfortit that they gave their last son to mittee on foreign relations of the the German. They were high but able in dugouts fitted up with stoves, defend it. The Americans saw that senate when the republicans regain out while still very high and fell fight much. it would make a fine little home and control of that body after March 4. faster than the burning plane. I We reached our division objective took it away from the Indians. The Should Senator Lodge receive this know it will sound funny to you, but before we quit, but the cost seemed English, true to their policy of "to chairmanship, it would be fitting we all cheered just the same, for if pretty great to me, and I put a tag have and to hold," put up a fair recognition of his 25 years service the Boche get hold of an allied plane on more than one fellow I knew that

bird has grown, until no nation has now run at full capacity because of had a hard march to here but can

ROSCOE C. PLUMLEY GOES OVER THE TOP

In France, Oct. 3, 1918.

Dear Folks: do my best. It is pretty noisy and sometimes we are real busy dodging and aircraft. We went over the top at daybreak September 26, and have As a result of this open-hearted-ing, but the boys stayed with it like ness and do-as-you-like policy, the old "Vets" and left a good many dead and wounded Germans with trenches. The fog lifted suddenly it. and left us on an open hillside with did not have time to be afraid.

I was a pretty sick man the first That is because they let us keep it that way-but it can-day, but now it doesn't bother me, and take big chances, alone and in not be done by allowing such men nor do I see so much, for we are not bunches. to have a hand in running the gov- on the firing line so much. We have ernment, or tolerating their open plenty to do taking care of the of them with his bayonet before the stretcher-bearers.

I don't think Sherman knew much were all lying in a bunch. that would trample the Stars and about war, and trench warfare is a Stripes and holst the red flag. The picnic compared with this drive administration, in handling this stuff. This morning I washed and brand of human varmints, needs not shaved, the first time I have even and the boys and also one from Geo. for a moment fear that "the people" washed my face in nine days. All we have is a gas mask and our first while. Will write where I can. will not back him up "with power aid outfits. At night we dig a little hole in the ground and crawl in.

There is something wrong with We expect relief now and are Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of tion"-perhaps only to have part of

war in general as we don't get any papers up here, but I fell sure that this Yank drive will start the finish. I am feeling fine, but tired out and sleepy but by the time you get this I will be back having a rest and getting filled up again. October 6

We left the fighting front the night of October 3, after dark and are now just behind our own hig guns where we feel safe and getting more to eat and rest some. We sleep on mother earth, but have a blanket each and get along O. K. The guns are talking all the time and it sure does sound good to us. We know now what the big shells can do for we have been among the Hun's big shells for eight days. Thank God these are going the other way, for the shrapnel from the high explosive shells is hell and I pray I will never have to see again, what I saw The flag has grown and the old from 50 to 75 per cent capacity can in those eight days up there. We move around more and have a light at night. You see all marches near the front are at night and the country is all terrain the Yankees have taken from Huns and is just a mass of shell holes and ruins, therefore, is very hard to walk through in the dark. To make it better, it rains most of the time and there is mud.

I could go on with this stuff for a week, but it won't help you to write of our hard luck. I thought This is some place to write so I I had a tough time up there but I cold with almost no covering. We used our raincosts and some Boche blankets we could find for them, but it was awful and so for us fellows FOR RENT-Cottage 321 Rogue that had no holes in our hide and no broken bones, we shouldn't kick.

I am still dead tired and away be hind on sleep but this division is relieved and we are going back for had some very hot and nasty fight- real rest, where we can get some things we need and some we think we need.

I can carry all my personal bethe ones we lost. My battalion went longings in my pocket for I have over in a heavy fog and smoke bar- ditched everything but my razor and anarchy has been sown, Bolshevik- rage, and did not meet the Germans watch. I don't see how it runs but until we had advanced two miles it does and keeps good time even disloyalty has crept into our nation through the timber and their though it is rusted until I can't open

Boche machine guns on both sides of us have ever heard or expect to and big guns in front. Every man hear. An American plane flew over have been elected to office, to help fought like old timers and walked us and dropped some N. Y. Heralds up on machine gun nests like they with the news that the central powdid not know what was there. Some, ers were asking for peace under of course, fell, but so did the ma- President Wilson's terms. Since we chine guns. My first experience have heard more and I pray it is under fire came quick and I think true, and I really think, part of it dicted for his seditious utterances I was too d - mad to get scared, at least is true for the Huns are I saw a man fall a little to one side whipped for sure and we'll soon be of me and started to him, but soon on his own soil if he don't quit now. dropped and crawled up. He was Where we were, they now have Eugene B. Debs is another man hard hit and I started to cut his clear sailing to the Rhine and will who is accused of making seditious pack, etc., off so as to handle him, soon be there. I saw one place when a Boche sniper opened up on where a lieutenant I knew in this me. He put four shots right over regiment had shot, with his automame and one kicked up the dirt at my tic, four Germans and a German poside. It seems the Red Cross on our lice dog before they got him. Three Bob Lafolette, at one time loved arms makes a target they love to of the Germans and the dog were by many, displayed his broad yellow shoot at. We carry them in our dead. The fourth was wounded and made me mad and from that on I English and said the Yankees were wonderful fighters, but easy to kill.

> wounded as they are brought in by they got him. I guess some others got him for he was shot and they

> > Now for some more good news. In the last three days I have had about thirty letters, mostly from you folks October 9

Here I am still in the mud and still on ground taken from the Germans, but out of reach of their We expect to get out of here in the morning in auto trucks and get back think this game is about over and to where there are whole buildings sure jars to find what was a friend month. Believe me we need it after marching all over France and doing eight days up at the front. I have Germans want more I am willing to go back and do my share. Trench warfare is a picule compared to this drive stuff and would never have fell near us, the two Germans falling lights, etc., and neither side care to

they use them with our marks still read "Killed in Action." Once right on, then fly over our lines and sig- by our aid station a shell hit near nal the big gans where to drop their some of the boys and took both feet "One of our great works of the big shells. Nothing is too little or off of two men as clean as it could hatching of the American Eagle and the United States bureau of labor at must be bullet proof, for they have got them started to the field hospital have been flying and waving ever turned soldiers. However, sawmills as I want it, but as you know I would pull through, but the kaiser and camps which have been running can't. I don't know much about the can't give them back their feet.

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Young Courtney of Grants Pass was wounded in the leg. I had dinner with Herbert McKenzie after we came out. He is in our field hospital you know. Well I will close I am feeling fine only in need of sleep and a good rest. ROSCOE C. PLUMLEY, 363rd Infantry.

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