

# The Peace

A special section of the Oregonian  
By H. W. HARRIS

Subscription Rates  
One Year \$10.00  
Six Months \$6.00  
Three Months \$3.50  
Single Copies 10c

Advertising Rates  
Display, 10 cents per inch, Sunday  
and 5 cents per inch daily  
for 100 insertions. For longer  
rates apply to the publisher.

OFFICE, WHITE END OF B STREET  
Entered at the Postoffice at  
Coequille, Oregon, as Second Class Matter.



What does Germany suppose we have sent two millions of Americans to France for—just for a talk?

Germany's camouflage peace proposal got just the treatment it deserved. It was spurned verminously without leaving a trace.

Germany didn't mean that she was willing to accept President Wilson's fourteen conditions of peace, only that she was willing to organize a debating society to meet in some neutral country and discuss them.

One of the anomalies of our present schedule of postal rates is that a printed postal card without any writing beyond the address costs two cents to mail, while the same card can be placed in an unsealed envelope and mailed for one cent.

Unless there are more urgent reasons for keeping the clock an hour ahead than we know of, Senator Chamberlain will not increase his popularity at home by fathering a measure to protect the scheme through the winter. The fuel and lights that are to be saved at night now will be wasted in the morning.

The Socialist would hate to say all it thinks of the rich man who fails to line up for Uncle Sam by buying Liberty Loan bonds in this emergency; but it certainly would very much rather reason with him than to abuse him. He has the greater stake in this country of ours, and while our young men are sacrificing their lives to make his accumulations safe for him and his posterity, he ought to lend a hand by lending his dollars.

President Wilson meant that no dependence could be placed on any statement made or any pledge given by the ruling powers of Germany, who avowedly regard treaties as "mere scraps of paper." He couched his statement in diplomatic language, though, and politely asked:

"The president also feels justified in asking whether the Imperial Chancellor is speaking merely for the constituted authorities of the empire, who have so far conducted the war."

The only suggestion of the utter worthlessness of any agreement that might be made by the Imperial German government that one can find in this question is the word "merely." If it is the constituted authorities of the German empire "merely" the implication is that their offers are just hot air and nothing more.

## HINGES ON ALSACE-LORRAINE

With all her camouflage about accepting President Wilson's peace terms Germany isn't going to give up Alsace and Lorraine until she is beaten to her knees. It isn't altogether the loss of territory, of population and of prestige that their surrender involves which makes her cling to those winnings of the war of 1870 that counts either. They contain the principal iron deposits of the empire and without them she would be greatly handicapped in making preparations for "the next war," which she is counting on to reimburse her for the losses of this. So to give them up is not only present loss, but means lack of arms and munitions for the future.

It is for the same reason that the allies who are fighting to render future wars impossible, cannot consent to her retaining that French territory she took as the lot of victory. And just there is going to be one of the hardest and latest questions to settle in peace negotiations. Germany would much rather refund the billions of indemnity she exacted from France forty years ago than to give up the

Alsace and Lorraine. She would much rather refund the billions of indemnity she exacted from France forty years ago than to give up the

France and Germany have each gone in debt to the amount of \$27 in 1918. The total national debt of these countries is \$115 per capita, while that of Great Britain is \$280, France \$150 and Germany \$450. Liberty Loan bonds are without the slightest doubt the safest investment in the world. There is not another form of investment in this country or any other where a dollar of debt has so many dollars of property behind it as in the bonds of the United States of America. Nor is there another country on earth whose wealth equals our \$280,000,000,000. When you are asked to buy a Liberty Loan bond don't forget that it is in fact a mortgage on the United States.

## ONLY GERMAN CAMOUFLAGE

Strange, wasn't it, how mistaken we were in assuming that last Saturday night's bulletin brought peace any nearer, or that the Germans had become willing to accept any but a "made in Germany" peace?

Come to consider it down, in spite of all the camouflage Maximilian had spread in his talk to the Reichstag, German had no intention of accepting President Wilson's peace terms; and all she was proposing to do was to stop fighting and chew the rag about them. Indeed before there was time for an answer to Maximilian's proposition, it had been explained that Germany wouldn't think of assenting to two of Wilson's conditions—freedom for Poland and freedom for Alsace and Lorraine to become French again.

Maximilian proved himself as adept as Bismarck in concealing his real meaning under an avalanche of words. What was intended was to secure an armistice with all its slackening up of war work in America and its relaxing effects on the morale of the combatants; and at the same time get the breathing spell Fritz so badly needs and give him an opportunity to dig in and get through the winter before fighting could begin again. It was all of a piece with the whole Hun campaign of frightfulness and a sort of heady cunning.

There might have been a possibility of Kaiser Bill putting over some thing of the sort, too, in line with his great drive on the Italian front a year ago when Victor Emmanuel's army began to melt away under the notion that to welcome Bill's Hun as brothers would bring colonial conditions on earth. After Russia collapsed under the same sort of propaganda, the mask was off, though, and no other nation is ever going to weaken before those barbarians with any thought of getting off easy.

So before we knew what utter senselessness the Germans were ordered to commit in Belgium, we might have hailed an address like Chancellor Maximilian's as a sure harbinger of peace on earth and good will to men, ushering in millennial conditions.

As it is now, we all understand that it would be equivalent to giving Germany a chance to get ready for another war rivaling hell's horrors, to listen to talk of peace from men as utterly cruel and fiendish as the German war lords.

And this is just the view taken by President Wilson, the leaders of both parties in Congress, as well as by our European allies, after consulting with whom President Wilson has informed Prince Max that there can be no talk of an armistice while the German forces occupy any of the territory of our allies; and then asks the Chancellor whose spokesman he is in this matter. Also whether he really proposes to accept the president's terms. The latter question was answered in the negative even before the president's reply had been published; and it is now evident that there is as much need as ever that we should over-subscribe the Fourth Liberty Loan and answer Germany's peace offensive with force to the limit, until she succumbs and surrenders unconditionally.

Of course, neither Turkey nor Austria-Hungary is going to outlast the winter. Both are going to surrender on our terms in the near future, and then the Hun will get their bullets full of fighting if they want to keep it up in the spring.

## MONEY FOR CRIMES

Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, has introduced in Congress a resolution defining the terms on which the United States will make peace with

Germany. The resolution provides that the United States will make peace with Germany only on the following terms:

First—That all cities and towns destroyed by their enemies be reconstructed.

Second—That every dollar exacted from the population of occupied Belgium territory and France be repaid.

Third—That every ship sunk in violation of international law be replaced.

Fourth—That Alsace-Lorraine and the \$1,000,000,000 indemnity exacted from France in 1870 be returned.

Fifth—That every crime committed by the armies of the central powers in violation of international law be paid for in dollars and cents.

While there may be some doubt as to Germany's being able to pay all the money demanded by her in the first six provisions there can be no question about justice demanding that she should. But the seventh provides an absolutely inadequate penalty. Just think of the bill to be presented to Germany containing something like this:

Dr. to Jean Garcon, for one baby bayoneted, \$1,000.

No difference what the amount, the absurdity would be just the same, while other offenses even worse than murder might be substituted in place of a "baby bayoneted" that would seem even more bizarre.

The Kaiser ought to be tried by court martial and punished for murder a million fold, and so of every one whose responsibility for crime could be fixed, but a money statement is so inadequate that to propose it is so patently ridiculous.

## A Story That Grips

Here is something worth reading. It is from an account by Ralph A. Hayes of Secretary Baker's trip to France last spring. Being the Secretary of War's private secretary, Mr. Hayes had exceptional opportunities for observation. But read it; there are cheers and smiles and tears in it, and if at the last it doesn't grip you in a compelling way, you need an inoculation with the bacilli of patriotism.

At American headquarters one afternoon in the early days of the present drive, a long-distance telephone message went out to an engineer detachment, telling it to move to the aid of the British in the north; and before the receiver could be hung up we heard over the wire the wild, frenzied cheering that greeted the announcement that made those engineers part of the vanguard instead of the rearguard. Even at the actual front one does not find the satisfaction of inertia; for so aggressive has been the patrol by the Americans of the area in front of their wire that more than once we found that territory had lost its classic name of no-man's-land, and now was simply Yankee-land.

To those who love America greatly, but who love the world quite as much, there is no cause for sorrow in the jangling of what was once a "splendid isolation" and our coming each day into a closer-knit relationship with the free peoples of the earth.

Driving through Picardy on an afternoon in the opening stage of the March offensive, the automobiles of the secretary of war were stopped at a country railroad crossing while a freight train passed. Stopped also, and for the same reason, was a motor-ambulance driven by two young women who seemed to be Americans. The secretary of war approached the ambulance, introducing himself to the drivers, saying he assumed they were American girls.

We don't happen to be from the State," one of them replied; and the way she smiled as she cranked her machine made us unmarried men in the party very attentive. "We're English girls," she said; and then she added, "I guess, though, it comes to about the same thing now."

The ancients practised a ceremony through which those whose blood had mingled became brothers. Whether by this or other means, that relationship is somewhere sanctified each day by the men of our armies in France and Italy. When returning from his visit to the front trenches, the secretary of war asked to be driven to a spot near Lunerville where are situated the graves of some Americans. As he stood beside the little mounds of earth, another funeral procession slowly approached along the country road. They were lying to rest the body of a private of the American Army. In the group which followed to the grave the remains of him who had been Private Wilkinson, 117th Signal Battalion, was the band of his organization, the French padre and Protestant chaplain arm in arm, two choir-boys, a throng of soldiers, and, heartening to tell, a company of the motherly women of France. Around the new-made grave were other simple peasant people, and besides the

secretary of war, a French soldier, by the living hands of these good-hearted women who were but men that afternoon in 1870, but by way of the American flag.

From Over There a man brings back this thought: No one can support that undertaking moderately. No man can be for it somewhat. There is no golden mean, no middle ground of half-conviction. For them in France the issues are stark naked; they are life and death. We support them whole-heartedly or we do not support them at all. Generally applied, what can moderate backing or partial support mean but soldiers half equipped with rifles and gas-masks, half defended by barbed-wire and earthworks, half fed? Should that day come, the day which follows it would find no army at all to support. There are no alternatives but vigorous support or total non-support. Indifference is synonymous with disaster. Our countrymen overseas face enemies who have made a life profession of bearing arms. The men of our country have been put there by the operation of the most responsive machinery which a democratic people has been able to devise to record its own will. Once having put them there, half-hearted support is desertion.

The know that. No terror can be so haunting as the fear that the line in the rear may be wavering or doubtful.

So it is that the jungle of our coils given hope, and the hum of our factories speeding forward with redoubled effort, sounds to them in France as "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." It is borne across the ocean as a benediction for those who must pay the last full measure of devotion, and it carries, too, across the banks of the Rhine, there as a knell to those who hope that we may grant in grudging measure to our soldiers.

I wish that he who is of faint heart might go up and down the length and breadth of France where the hand of America has touched it; that he might see his country's people streaming in at the western seaports by hundreds of thousands with a spring in their step, a swing in their stride, a light in their eyes. I wish he who feared this nation had grown fat and sabby and afraid might see its sons Over There. I wish that he might see the revival of the heroic age in our history, the renaissance from which the unborn years will number.

For all of us alike, if there be anything in this land worth having and keeping, it will be saved most surely and speedily only when each of us throws upon the scales every particle of strength and energy and resources and devotion. And this America is worth it.

## GOING AFTER SLACKERS

Investigation has been instituted by Coos County Chairman Deseey Kreitzer of the Fourth Liberty Loan drive of the case of a Coquille valley rancher worth in stock and land about \$50,000 who is accused of having failed to subscribe in any liberty loan drive, purchase War Savings Stamps or give to any patriotic organization, says the Coos Bay Times.

A letter in inquiry was sent Wednesday by Mr. Kreitzer who does not wish to have the man held up to public scorn until he has had an opportunity to deny the charge or explain. Failure to respond will be considered a confirmation of the report, said Mr. Kreitzer.

## Wanted

Hides, Wool & Mohair and Chittam Bark, 1918 seal. Geo. T. Moulton.

## AFTER FOUR YEARS.

This Testimony Remains Unshaken. Time is the best test of truth. Here is a Grants Pass story that has stood the test of time. It is a story with a point which will come straight home to many of us.

Mrs. Amelia Lempha, 402 F. St., Grants Pass, Ore., says: "I suffered from rheumatic pains and there were times when I could hardly get around. I was so stiff and lame. At night I lay awake for hours on account of the pains, which went from one part of my body to another. I got up in the morning so stiff and lame it was all I could do to keep up. I tried many medicines and also used treatments but without the slightest relief. I finally started taking Doan's Kidney Pills. I was helped from the first and almost before I knew it I was free from the trouble." (Statement given in 1912.)

## A Later Statement.

On March 20, 1916, Mrs. Lempha said: "I am glad to confirm my former endorsement of Doan's Kidney Pills. I have never had anything give me so much relief as Doan's." Price 50c at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Lempha had. Foster-McClellan Co., Mfgs., Buffalo, N. Y.

**HELP BUILD THE BRIDGE**

An officer attached to the American Expeditionary Force in France sends the people back home this message:

**"Build a Bridge of Ships to France"**

Our shipbuilding program calls for the construction of hundreds of millions of dollars in ships for the United States coast supply by lanes and by increasing its Government War Loans.

Even if you don't buy a ship, you can help build that bridge of ships to France. We call them, also War Savings Stamps and Liberty Bonds.

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