



The Western World

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BANDON CAN SYMPATHIZE

Bandon feels a deep sense of sympathy towards Coquille in the latter's hour of distress. Having recently experienced a similar conflagration which wiped out a large part of the business district, local people possess a more vivid realization of what such a blow means to a town. Judging from early reports Coquille's loss is about half that suffered by the city of Bandon. However, coming at a time when industrial and business activity is on the increase, the effect will probably not be so keenly felt. Bandon's blow came while prosperity was on the wane, therefore its period of readjustment faced less optimistic prospects. Still it has gradually come back on a better and firmer foundation.

What has been true here will no doubt prove true in our sister city. The same spirit that built our large concrete structures in the burned area will assert itself at the county seat, intensified perhaps by the fact that more substantial business conditions exist. It is not the trait of a truly western town to lie down in the path of adversity. Coquille, with its progressive citizens is not a quitter, and when the debris is cleared away and the fine new structures rise to take the place of those consumed by the flames, it will, regardless of the heavy financial loss, be better off than before.

LABOR AND FREEDOM

The hope of labor lies in the opportunities for freedom; military domination, supervision, checks, bondage, lie in Prussian rule. So declares the executive committee of the American Federation of Labor.

This is a right and clear conception of the issues involved in this war for the working man. It is not through a German regime but through democracy that labor is to receive adequate recognition and its realization of its rightful place in the world.

All Americans are supremely and vitally interested in the war against German autocracy and none more than the workingman of America. To him freedom means everything.

The test is on whether the autocratic regime of Germany has bred better men than the free institutions of this country has—whether the independent men of America can fight so well, can manufacture such guns and aeroplanes and other instruments and munitions of war and put them into effective use as can the human product of German rule.

There is no doubt of the result, but it depends upon the whole American people and not alone upon our fighting men. We who remain in safety at home must do our part, work, economize, save and support the finances of the Government. Industry, saving, and lending to the Government are now national needs and national duties.

To be a patriot requires more than a mere vocal expression of loyalty. It means purchasing Liberty bonds.

THE FORUM

The Western World disclaims responsibility for the utterances in this column. It is presented as an open forum for discussion of public questions. The expressions and views advanced are those of the contributors; not the expressions and views of Western World. Contributions must be accompanied by the name of the writer; must be written on one side of the copy paper; and should not contain more than 500 words.

A Letter From Mr. Perkins

Editor Western World:
You people of the Pacific coast should feel thankful for your exceedingly mild winters, for the long, hard, cold winter east of the Mississippi has produced plenty of suffering and if you bear in mind the center of population is little west of Cincinnati you will see that the bulk of our population has had to bear with it; also there are too many of them for us to accommodate them in our coast country, so we are more or less fortunate in getting there first.

The day I left Marshfield was as fine a day as one could wish for, all the way to Portland people occupying the open part of the observation car with comfort. At all stations children were in evidence, some playing bare-footed. The Chinese pheasants were strutting about, in fact the whole Willamette Valley was like a huge park. Mt. Hood was a magnificent sight as the last rays of the sun hit it for it was covered with snow down to the timber line.

I left Marshfield at seven in the morning, the next morning at seven was in Spokane and no winter yet; left Spokane at 8:30. This day was also beautiful. No winter manifested itself until we gained the summit of the Rockies and then only by a trace of snow. But when we awoke in mid Montana the inhabitants told us it was 49 below zero, and from there to Chicago the car windows were so frosted you could not see out. The morning we entered North Dakota it was 35 below zero, and the

subscribing to and working for the Red Cross, saving food, and in every other way assisting the government to win the war. The canvass that is now being taken by the Bandon War-savings Stamp committee will show up the real patriots of this community. It will likewise show up the real slackers. The latter will have an opportunity to redeem themselves by making up for lost time. When the new system of "checking up" is in good working order every American in this community will be doing his share in proportion to his means and circumstances. If not he will be openly acknowledging himself a slacker.

Have you seen the display of birds in the "Library window" in the Anderson building? It is that of Miss Blanche Radley's audubon class, a juvenile organization of thirty members, now in the second year of study. The little folks demonstrate real ability as embryo artists. Their work is very interesting and educational and is developing a finer sense of appreciation for the beautiful bird life. The work is commendable and should be encouraged.

E. M. Harris, local mining engineer and chemist who attended the legislative session at Salem a year ago, when certain legislation detrimental to the black sand interests was introduced, has a very high opinion of R. N. Stanfield, then Speaker of the House, and who is now a candidate for U. S. Senator. He says Mr. Stanfield was not afraid to come out openly and vigorously for the right on several important questions in the face of strong opposition.

The path of the knitting bag leads not to an afternoon at bridge.

A timely Coos county slogan: "Solid for Simpson."

Stay with the ship boys, and we'll get a shipyard yet.

next morning in Minneapolis it was 20 below and three inches of snow.

To leave Minneapolis the trains had to go down the Mississippi and cross at Savana, Ill., and it took as long to get from Minneapolis to Chicago as it did from Marshfield to Minneapolis, for when we crossed the Mississippi we ran into snow two feet deep, badly drifted.

The winter had been very severe east of the Mississippi. In Chicago the snow was removed from the busiest streets but in the greater part of the city it was pushed aside for autos to pass; the walks were cleaned by piling the snow on that removed from the streets and it was as high as the second story windows. The law against soft coal burning was suspended for hard coal could not be purchased for love or money, and Chicago is the dirtiest place I ever saw. You can not keep your hands, face, neck and ears clean for 15 minutes at a time, and if you walk barefooted over the rugs in the hotel rooms your feet look like you had come out of the coal bin. There has been considerable suffering from coal shortage and the limit yet is from 300 to 500 lbs. at a time. The people with means have suffered with the poorer class for coal has been short since mid summer and those with money could not lay in a supply.

All people take the situation very seriously and there is great dissatisfaction with the powers that be, you hear it on the streets, on the street cars and trains, in hotel lobbies and at social gatherings. Yet about all people employ their idle time doing something for the boys in the camps and at the front. One old lady I have known all my life has knitted 16 sweaters for the boys, a young girl 14 years old has knitted 2 sweaters, some socks and wristlets and some of the boys enjoy this and knit for the boys; the ladies take their knitting to social gatherings the girls have knitting clubs and knitting bags are much in evidence.

This war has changed the whole tenor of serious-minded people's lives. At a public sale yesterday a barred Plymouth Rock rooster was sold and resold for the Red Cross and brought \$48.75. At a bread sale one loaf was auctioned off for the Red Cross and brought \$69. This was done by reselling it numerous times.

All people that have relatives in the service are proud of the fact and those opposed to America's attitude little understand the American people. Little pro-German sentiment is expressed and where indulged in, is roughly handled. At Byron, Ill., just west of Chicago, a pro-German found a rope around his neck and all that saved him was that old men prevailed upon the boys to let him go. The patience of the American people is at the breaking point in numerous ways.

The pastor of the most popular Congregational church in Washington announced he would address his audience Sunday, February 10, on the American conscience and Teddy Roosevelt. The church did not hold over half the crowd. The pastor talked on the American conscience in this war and all remained quiet, but at the mention of Teddy's name two rounds of cheers followed. When Wilson's name was introduced they remained quiet.

It has been my good fortune to make the acquaintance of several Princeton Alumnus and they say Wilson's lecture rooms were always filled for it was recognized he was a great scholar, but on the campus he never was popular.

Respectfully, F. N. PERKINS.

Carries a Broken Neck

Wm. E. Steward, of Riverton, was a caller this morning, says the Coquille Sentinel. He is the first man we ever saw walking about with a broken neck. March 7, 1917, a log struck him and cracked his skull as well as broke his neck. For four months he was paralyzed and he remained for over a year in a hospital at Sultan, Wash., whence he has just returned. His head is supported by a plaster cast enclosing his neck, making a rather inconvenient collar. Mr. Steward is in fair health otherwise and has gained over 30 pounds in weight since his accident. He is hoping that the time will come when only a stiff neck will remind him of the time when he was so near death. He had been engaged in logging in Washington for seventeen years past.

GOD AND DEMOCRACY'S STAKE.

The American people, indeed, have risked their all in this war—and it is a glorious thing to have done, for the needs and the ends amply justify it. If we are defeated it means not merely the loss of lives and treasure, but perhaps of our independence and our democracy. Yes, we may even say that if, with us, the allies are beaten and a peace dictated from Berlin shall result, it will set civilization back from three to five centuries, says the Living Church. Free democracy would, even so, sometime live again, but many generations would probably rise and fall before that would come to pass. Whatever progress we have made in solving the problem of democracy we have staked upon the outcome of the war—and wisely. With such a stake we cannot afford to lapse into hysteria. Amid all the rocking of the foundations of the world there is just one power that is absolutely stable, absolutely unshaken, absolutely certain to dominate in the final analysis, whatever be the vicissitudes that may come to pass. And that power is—Almighty God.

It is not only your wish and your privilege, but your duty as well to make the best possible use of your natural endowments and occult powers for your betterment, your upliftment, your enrichment in "body, mind and estate," says Nautilus. The plea that has often been put forth by the old thought that it may not be God's will that you should prosper in any but spiritual ways is nullified by the declaration of the Master's that "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom"—unto which all else is to be added—and that God is "more willing to give good gifts to his children than they are to receive them." Being a part of God as the wave is a part of the sea, and therefore with the same quality creativeness and the same material from which to create, you have "in the house" the stuff from which to build a life and a living and the same tool with which to manipulate it as is used by God—himself: Thought.

An inconclusive peace would mean that Germany would, in 15 years, be able to put into the field an army of 8,010,000 men against a total French army of 3,332,000, according to figures compiled by Andre Lefevre, deputy from Aix and former minister of finance. M. Lefevre estimates the number of survivors at 20 years of age in the two countries, out of 100,000 male births, at 72,950 for France and 70,605 for Germany. In spite of the greater wastage in Germany, the relatively smaller birth rate in France would reduce the latter's military strength to only a little over 40 per cent of that of her neighbor in 1933.

An English officer stationed in Africa has conceived the notion that poison gas, employed by the German army with deadly effect against human beings, may be diverted to a benevolent use by turning its deadly potency against the dreaded tsetse fly. It may be that a form of the gas exceedingly harmful to man will be found best adapted to the purpose, but if this is selected the operators entrusted with its administration will be protected by gas masks.

Now that speculation in butter and eggs has been eliminated by a voluntary arrangement just made by the food administration with representatives of all the country's butter and egg exchanges, will the renewal of it ever be allowed, when the war is over?

Mr. Hoover has warned the housewives against handling over their food supplies to crooks claiming to be government men, which will probably cause most housewives to say that if the crooks find anything in the house they hope they'll split.

The U-boat has been baffled, according to the optimists, and according to the kaiser it is to play its most destructive part in the war. Under the circumstances, we had better keep on looking for the pests.

Can it be the Prussians' slowing up in Italy is because they have learned that Venice, after all, is a venerable center of art and not an ammunition-producing headquarters, or has their pitcher blown up?

According to the department of agriculture, the 1917 corn crop is 3,191,083,000 bushels, the greatest by 60,000,000 bushels ever grown in this country, and a record yield of potatoes also is reported. Now will prices drop?

By perseverance and determination a man can cut himself with a safety razor. Through exercising these same qualities one can get one's self imprisoned in this country for abusing freedom of speech.

Switzerland has sealed her four frontiers and probably posted her navy to catch blockade runners and barricade climbers.

Western World—the Quick Print.

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