

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP

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AMERICAN EFFICIENCY

The first contingent of American troops has been safely landed in France. So complete and perfect was the transport system that not an accident or mishap occurred to either man or beast on the trip. Not even a case of serious sickness was developed and but little seasickness was experienced.

We can, therefore, conclude that our army, navy and transport service has been developed to a state of almost perfect efficiency. No other like feat of perfection of arrangements and the carrying out of the same in the transportation of a large body of troops has occurred in the world's history. Indeed, the transportation of troops from England to extreme southern Africa during the Boer war, is the only case which can be brought in comparison. Then there were no submarines lying in wait, eager to sink the soldier ships, as now. So the safe conduct of a large body of troops to a foreign land without accident or casualty, places American efficiency at the summit of perfection. It may be equaled in the transportation of other bodies of troops, but never will be surpassed.

This extraordinary feat must be a great disappointment to the German government, which places her only hope of victory upon the success of her U-boats. Undoubtedly these U-boats were instructed to sink our troop ships if possible, for the sinking of one troop ship would be of greater value in raising the drooping spirit of the German nation and a corresponding inspiration of terror to the American people, than the sinking of a score of Lusitanias in one day. The safe conduct of a dozen or more transports heavily loaded with troops through a sea-lane closely guarded by hostile submarines more than anxious to launch the deadly torpedo and plant destructive mines, proves that U-boats and sea mines are not invincible. At the same time it will knock the props from under German overconfidence. It will force the information upon the German people and financiers that the United States is her most formidable foe and that our soldiers and sailors understand the war game fully as well as the boastful militaristic German autocracy. In this light the most successful troop transit will be worth 1,000,000 men on the battle front, because if it has not destroyed the German hope of victory, it has been very decidedly shaken and we know that soldiers will never fight so well when they know that the goal of victory is impossible.

The absolute perfection in the working of plans for our great military movement is a most pleasing surprise to the American people. It proves to them that we have men directing our war activities who are masters in the art of war and who are capable of executing any duty

which may be developed. It inspires a confidence in the minds of the American people that their sons now in France and yet to go will be safeguarded and cared for in the best manner that human ingenuity can devise.

And our American boys will give a splendid account of themselves when placed on the firing line. Never fear. Most Americans believe that the trained American soldier is the best soldier in the world. He is inspired by the feeling that his country is the best and freest, that he is cared for and paid the best wages—better than the soldier of any country and that it is his duty and should be his pride to make good when brought to the test. The jittery conduct of our soldiers and sailors in all the wars of the past, is his inspiration.

German war lords have heretofore endeavored through boasting of their own almost perfect military machine, been inclined to minimize the American war power and the military effectiveness of an un-military and free people. They may have done so to encourage the German people to bear the unusual hardship and suffering they are now undergoing. But deep in their hearts these war lords know that they are now up against the most serious phase of the war. They know American soldiers are fighters, possibly not by experience, but by the history of the past. They should know it, because quite a large percentage of our soldier boys have German blood in their veins. They should know it because the American citizen is a man in the broadest sense defined by any nation in the world and that it is his patriotic duty to protect that manhood at all hazards. France knows the intrepidity and prowess of the American soldier because her soldiers fought alongside our revolutionary sires at Yorktown. England has a wholesome respect for the American soldier, gained in the many battles of the revolutionary war and at New Orleans when her veteran soldiery had to give way to the rifles of American frontiersmen.

Germany is yet to test American intrepidity. Undoubtedly she will be taught to respect the American soldier for what he is worth and, that is to say, the equal if not the superior of any soldier of the world. This is the first time that our government has sent her soldiers over to Europe to fight a first-class power. Both of our wars with England were on American soil and on the high seas. Our wars with Mexico and Spain were very small affairs compared with our present great struggle. But, then, we were not nearly so well prepared as we are now. In fact at no time in past history have we been prepared for war, for we have not been a war-loving nation. But now, though we have yet to train and season a great army, our state of preparedness is much better than most people supposed and the splendid success in transporting an equipped army corps to Europe is a most agreeable proof of the fact.

THE MAN FOR THE HOUR

Opinion is rapidly forming in the minds of many of our republican friends that it was most fortunate for our country when President Wilson was selected for president instead of Mr. Hughes.

Mr. Wilson is proving almost daily that he has an abundance of good practical horse sense to bring to bear on all problems relative to the war. Mr. Wilson had been tried for four years, was familiar with all diplomatic activities of his first administration and was opposed for re-election by the German Kaiser and his sympathizers in this country. Mr. Hughes, while very much of a

man and had been proven true to the positions of trust given him, was wholly untried as president. The country felt that there was a risk to run in the election of Mr. Hughes, while Mr. Wilson's methods and plans were fairly well known. In other words, the country felt that it would be unwise to change horses while crossing the stream.

Perhaps no other man in the nation could have brought about the harmony of purpose which now inspires the nation and so submerged partyism and political skulduggery as he. There are now no republicans nor democrats, for all are AMERICANS, spelled in very large capital letters.

Only a few days ago President Wilson manifested his good horse sense in insisting that the manufacture of wine and beer should not be suppressed as the uncompromising prohibis demanded. He was willing to prohibit the making of whiskey and to establish a rigid control in the sale of alcohol. While the president is a prohibitionist in principle, he felt that he was president of all the people and not of the prohibitionists only. He did not, nor would not allow the raising of an issue among the people at this time, for he knows that it will require the harmonious and united support of the American people to win the war. In the language of Abraham Lincoln he wants to do but one thing at a time and to do the big thing first.

His patient dealing with the Women Suffrage cranks which have infested the national capitol since his first inauguration, is another evidence of his extraordinary sense and good judgment. Personally he favors suffrage. But he is unwilling to make suffrage a national issue when national harmony and support is necessary to win the war. He cannot be swept from his feet by enthusiasts, no matter what the cause.

When the Lusitania was destroyed by a German submarine, a president of the Roosevelt type would have driven the country headlong into war. At that time a war with Germany would not have been supported by half the American people. Mr. Wilson felt that he must exhaust all diplomatic possibilities before resorting to the sterner arbitrament of the sword. He knew that the great American people must be educated up to the vital necessity before they would endorse a declaration of war. He was simply leading the people up to facts which he then knew would be events of the near future. For this reason he refused to become involved in a war with Mexico, which German intrigants were endeavoring to bring about. He did not want to be harried by the Mexican dog in the rear when it would require all of his energies to protect the American head from the assaults of the German dashund in the front.

Our country seems now safe from financial panics. Without the wise control of regional banks it is quite probable that we would now be in one of the worst financial panics of our history. We could not have loaned foreign nations nearly a billion dollars and at the same time floated two billions in national securities without bringing on financial disaster. Every broad minded thinker knows this to be true and that without Wilson and a democratic congress we would not have had the regional banks, which have broken the power of Wall street over the nation.

Therefore, the American people owe a debt of gratitude to Woodrow Wilson, for no other president has had the courage to, figuratively, take congress by the throat and make it do its duty to the people.

It makes no difference what his political sentiments may be, for first and over all, he is an American. He believes that the great American common people have been neglected too long. And, too, he believes that the wealth of our country be made to bear its full share in protecting her institutions.

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