

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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

Entered at the postoffice at Scio,
Oregon as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION, IN ADVANCE \$1.50
AT END OF YEAR 1.75
SIX MONTHS .75

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PRESIDENT WILSON'S REPLY

Probably the great majority of English speaking peoples have now read President Wilson's reply to Pope Benedicts peace letter to the warring nations. The president's reply is regarded by America, England and France as, perhaps, the leading state paper of the war, by any statesman of any country. His comprehensive understanding of the entire subject matter and the vital point upon which a lasting peace can be constructed, stamps him as the premier statesman of the world. His reply will doubtless be the keynote in the replies of all the allied nations.

When he states that a stronger guarantee that a peace pact will be maintained in the future by the German government than the kaiser and his advisers can give, he indicates that the government which violates a treaty with impunity and which says that a sacred treaty is but a scrap of paper to be adhered to or violated as best suits its purpose, he states a concrete fact which all democratic nations and every lover of democracy endorses.

The greatest enemy which the German people has to combat and which the world must combat, is the present German government. The kaiser and his advisers teach and have taught the German people for the past twenty-five years or more, a false and wrong theory of government. And it has been so thoroughly ground into the minds of the German people, that they actually believed that the autocratic theory was right. They have been taught to believe that the kaiser and his advisers were superior to average humanity and that they should dominate, not only the German people, but the entire world as well and that such dominance over the world would be the conferring of a great benefit upon the humanity of the world. They were led to believe that the great German war machine was so perfect, so well organized, so well trained that it would be invincible when thrown against the war power of any other nation, or all nations combined for that matter, and that these other nations could be forced to bear the entire expense of such war or wars through the huge indemnities which the victorious German armies would demand. Well, the German people are rapidly being undeceived. They were astounded when their great war machine was held up and turned back by the battle on the Marne and their eyes are being opened to the fact that German armies are not invincible by the constant and successful pressure of their enemies on their western and southern battle fronts.

Nevertheless all news of military reverses and heavy losses are withheld from the German people, the

information is sifting through and the opinion is rapidly forming that their government is deceiving them, that the German war machine is not unbeatable and that their boasted U-boats are not starving England.

When the German people learn that a continuance of the war means more and heavier reverses on the battle fronts with heavier and more sacrifices at home, they will do the one thing necessary to make peace possible by forcing the abdication of the kaiser and the retirement of his advisers.

President Wilson's reply will aid materially in the enlightenment. He points out the way by which hostilities may be brought to a close and it is only a question of how many more reverses at the battle fronts and how much longer the German people will submit to be starved, before they will be willing to submit to the only terms upon which a permanent peace can be constructed.

The American soldiers and the American people now know definitely what goal must be attained before the much desired world peace can be established. We are called upon to pay heavy price to make democracy safe for the peoples small or great throughout the world. Yet, while the price is great, the world has reached the point when either democracy or autocracy must go down. Nor is there a doubt in the mind of the thinking man which will lose out and whether civilization is to go forward or backward. Autocracy, once necessary to the world, has served its purpose. Men have become too progressive to submit to the blighting ignorance which must maintain in order to sustain or submit to the domination of autocracy.

SELECT GOOD MEN

In a few months Oregon will be in the throes of another primary political campaign and it behooves the people to select men as candidates for office who would make capable, careful and efficient officials. Particularly, at this time, when the Federal government is expending enormous sums of money and may continue to do so for months and mayhap years, do we need men for state and county offices who will administer them rigidly economical. When so many of our young men will be called to service under the colors, our state and counties should undertake no improvements other than what absolute necessity requires.

Because of the fact that we are engaged in the world war, the end of which no one can foresee, a halt should be called in the hard road surface plans. It would be wisdom to sell no more road bonds than have already been sold, especially at a price below par value. This in addition to the very high price and scarcity of labor should so impress the State Road commission that a halt should be called on every line connected therewith.

Let the automobile tax be devoted, principally, to repairing roads until the war is over, when labor is more plentiful and cheaper. Then a state work would, perhaps, be a boon to the returned soldier. Also, double the mileage of road can be built at the same cost.

With the extreme high cost of living butting up against the people every possible reduction in taxation should be made. Old buildings should be made to do for a few years longer and no new enterprises of any character, unless they are positively necessary, should be taken on.

We have a great war to win and it may and doubtless will, require the entire resources of the nation in men and money to win it. It, therefore, is imperative that all local expenditures be cut to the lowest

limit and we want men in the legislature and in the county courts, who are known economists and patriots in the largest sense. Good roads, fine state, college and county buildings are desirable, but they should be considered secondary to the winning of the war.

\$2.20 WHEAT

\$2.20 is the price the government has fixed as the standard price for the present year. This is the Chicago price for standard wheat and unless Portland is made a primary point of purchase, the Portland price will be about \$1.90 per bushel. That would mean about \$1.75 per bushel here.

This is hardly a fair rating for the Pacific coast, for wheat can be delivered in the European market as cheaply from Portland as it can from Chicago or St. Louis, under normal conditions and, as there are a large number of ships building for the government on this coast, they should go far towards returning the normal condition of transporting wheat to Europe via the Panama canal. Another feature. The government desires to stimulate the growing of wheat in the northwest. But the cutting out of Pacific coast cities where wheat for export centers, from being depots of primary purchase by the government, is not encouraging to the wheat farmer. There is no reason for penalizing Oregon farmers by the assumption that their wheat products must be transported to the Atlantic seaboard over the railroads. But there are several reasons why freighting through the canal should be stimulated and the northwest farmers encouraged to grow greater wheat crop next year.

One and a very excellent reason that it will greatly reduce the car shortage which is sure to be on when the moving of the present crop is in full blast. Even now it is next to impossible to get a car for local freighting and to congest freight traffic as it was last winter, will discourage rather than encourage the wheat grower.

Whether the Pacific coast cities were purposely overlooked in selecting cities of primary purchase, The Tribune is not informed. But there is injustice in making the Oregon wheat grower sell his product for 50 cents less than the Illinois farmer is paid. The government should administer justice more evenly.

Equalization Notice

The County Board of Equalization will meet at the court house at Albany, Oregon, Monday, September 10, 1917 and remain in session one week for the purpose of publicly examining the assessment roll and to correct errors in the valuation, descriptions or quality of land, lots or other property. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the appointed time and place and, if it shall appear to said board that lands, lots or other property be assessed twice or assessed in the name or names of any person or persons not the owner thereof, or assessed under or beyond its value, or any lands, lots or other property not assessed they will make the proper correction.

E. L. FISHER, County Assessor.

Notice of Final Settlement

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned as executor of the last will and testament of Isaac C. Bates, deceased, has filed in the County Court for Linn County, Oregon, his final account as such executor, and that Monday, the 17th day of September, 1917, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. has been fixed by said Court as the time for hearing of objections to said account and the settlement thereof. Dated and first publication hereof August 16th, 1917.

C. C. Bryant, Attorney.
R. Shelton, Executor.

The Scio Tribune, \$1.50 per year

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