

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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

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AMERICA'S POSITION IN THE WAR

When the United States declared war upon the German kaiser last spring, it was then generally supposed that supplying the allies with food, munitions of war, loaning money and building ships for them, would be the extent of our participation in the war. Then France, in particular, desired that we should send a small body of troops over there as a sort of stimulant to the perseverance of both the French and English in the struggle. Now the outlook is that the United States will have not less than 1,000,000 of men on French soil ready to participate in opening of the campaign next spring and double that number before the end of the year. Indeed it begins to look as if both England and France expected the United States to assume a leading part if not the chief responsibility in the conduct of the war. In other words, we entered the war expecting to play but a minor part in the game, to have one of the leading parts thrust upon us.

This leading part in the management and direction of the war may be necessary, for neither upon land or sea have the leading allied powers manifested any special skill or ability in the direction of either sea or land forces. England has yet to develop her Wellington and France her Napoleon, for they are yet to appear. So, if the United States shall develop military commanders of the quality of Grant, Lee, Stonewall Jackson or Sherman, the allied armies at the battle fronts in France and Belgium, will do well to place such an one in chief command.

As a matter of fact, no military commander of unusual ability has been developed on either side across the water. The German Mackensen seems the best bet so far. Nor do the English or French governments seem to develop men of power in statecraft, to direct the war along successful lines. Both sides seem to have developed a policy of wear-the-other-fellow-out, rather than to get in and deliver a knockout blow.

For some reason the English navy has, as yet, proven a very small factor in the war other than to keep the German navy bottled up in the Keil canal. Until the United States had sent a fleet of destroyers over there, the German undersea boats were simply playing ducks and drakes with English shipping. The U-boat was a nut the English navy seemed unable to crack.

Should England, when the United States gets a large army over there, attempt to shift the chief burden upon us, she will prove the worst of dastards. We do not expect her to do so. Yet her government and chief men at home must manifest more ability to conduct a great war, than they now do, to inspire the English people with the confidence they should have. Her generals at

the battle fronts must exhibit more skill and ability to win campaigns, if the war is to amount to more than a draw.

In order to bring about a team work which will win victories of importance, one central directing head is necessary. With English, French and Italian commanders each, practically, conducting a separate war, there can be no overwhelmingly telling result, necessary to win the war without one fixed central purpose. This may be reached by a council of war by the commanders of the several armies agreeing upon a fixed plan or by one who commands all the armies.

During the Civil war no great headway towards subduing the rebellion was made until Grant was made commander of all the armies. Then team work began and the death knell of the confederacy was rung.

A commander-in-chief of all the allied armies is absolutely essential. It is doubtful if the war is won without. Has England the man? Has France the man? It is doubtful, or he would have been developed ere this. Lord Kitchener might have been the man had he lived, for he seemed to have a better concept of the magnitude of the war than any other man of the allies. Has the United States the man and, if so, will the armies of England and France submit to his command?

There is no discount upon the bravery and fighting ability of the English Tommy or the French Poilu. Only the directing head seems lacking and the outlook is he must come from the American army.

So whether we like or expected it, the American army and navy is destined to play a leading part in war. No wonder German hatred is greater towards the American people than towards, even the English. She has more to fear from American men, American guns, American inventions and American resources than any other nation. Without America, Germany might have won the war. With America against her Germany is absolutely sure of defeat and the Hohenzollern dynasty doomed to annihilation, for such a conclusion is America's price of peace.

PUBLIC ECONOMY NECESSARY

Oregon is said to be the heaviest taxed per capita of any state in the union. That is to say the total of the levies for state, county, city, school and road districts, makes a total that amounts to a heavy load upon the taxpayers.

Now the people, as a rule refuse to reduce their tax levies for schools and roads. They think the very best school facilities are none too good for their boys and girls. They also think that roads, servicable alike in winter and summer, are both necessary and desirable for, besides the general levies for roads and schools, nearly all localities vote special levies for these purposes or make donations.

Nevertheless they are liberal in the sums of money voted for local schools and roads, the people demand, during these war times, that rigid economy shall maintain in the management of city, county and state affairs. They demand that every employe not strictly necessary in an economical conduct of public affairs shall be discharged, that numerous expensive state commissions shall be abolished and that no public improvement of any character not vitally necessary shall be undertaken until, at least, the close of the war in which we are now engaged. The people expect to subscribe for numerous war loans and to donate frequently to Red Cross and other funds deemed necessary for the comfort and welfare of our soldier boys. In other words, they

deem the winning of the war as of first and of gravest importance and that all city, county, state and national expenditures for other than necessary running expenses and for the maintenance and prosecution of the war, shall be eliminated until peace shall again be restored.

These eliminations should include irrigation projects, public buildings, river and harbor improvements on the part of the nation, public buildings, road paving projects, new eleemosynary plans, etc., on the parts of state, county, city and school districts. Our main business now is war and all of the things above mentioned can be postponed until normal conditions are again restored. We do not know what demands the war is yet to make upon us and, therefore, we should cut every expense, privately and publicly, without crippling private or public industries we can and devote our energies to the things calculated to win the war. So it is up to our congressmen, legislators, county courts, city councils, etc., to set aside any and all public undertakings not vitally necessary to this end.

However these eliminations should not apply to the maintenance of our roads, public buildings and bridges. To neglect to make necessary repairs to things, is simply wasteful extravagance. But the postponement of the erection of new buildings, paving roads, building new bridges, etc., will not greatly inconvenience anyone and it will enable us to devote a greater percentage of our resources to the winning of the war.

Governor Withycombe's economy play in the flax experiment and in his own office, came a little late. He should have commenced firing Crawfords more than two years ago to make the play seem consistent. With the primaries only six months away, his late action has a flavor of personal interest too closely connected with the primary contest for nominations.

Pinchot on Waterpower

(Continued from page 1)

3. Where public development is not desired, the right to use waterpower sites should be leased for periods long enough to permit sound, attractive and profitable investment, but never longer than 50 years. At the end of each lease all rights should return to the people who gave them.

4. In order to protect the consumer against extortion, rates and service should be regulated by federal authority when state or local authorities fail to do so.

5. Reasonably prompt and complete development and continuous operation, subject to market conditions, should be required. Already millions of water horsepower are held out of use to further monopoly by private corporations.

6. Corporations or individuals who make money out of rights granted by the people should share their profits with the people.

7. The public has a right to complete information about every business based on the use of public property.

These are the principles for which the friends of conservation have been contending. Many waterpower men believe them to be fair and sound. They will, I hope, commend themselves to you as wise and reasonable. I am writing to ask your support for immediate legislation, based upon them, when congress meets.

As the president has said: "The supreme test of the nation has come. We must all speak, act, and serve together."

Gifford Pinchot.

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