

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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MEMORIAL DAY.

Fifty-one years ago, the first Memorial Day, May 30, was observed. "Decoration Day" was the first name used, but the name was not considered comprehensive and "Memorial" was substituted.

The Grand Army of the Republic was organized late in 1866 or early in 1867, in Illinois. The organization quickly spread to other states, when a supreme or national encampment became necessary and such was organized and selected General John A. Logan as the first commander-in-chief. He it was who issued the first official order for the observance of Memorial Day.

Only the G. A. R. boys and their families observed the day for several years by marching from their halls, going through with the ritualistic work and bedecking the graves of their dead comrades with flowers. But the beautiful custom soon caught on and the people generally devoted the day to caring for the graves of their loved ones and covering them with flowers.

When the Civil War veterans marched to the cemeteries in observance of this first Memorial Day their step was vigorous. They were then just in the prime of manhood and in the full flush of the activities of life.

Fifty-one years have been added to their ages since and the once vigorous and active veteran is now a tottering old man, soon to answer "here" to the rollcall on the "other shore." Many, very many, have already passed to the Great Beyond and their graves can be found in every "City of the Dead."

When the war with Spain was ended the veterans of that war joined the G. A. R. in observance of the day; for they, too, had the graves of comrades to decorate with flowers. And when the present, the greatest of all wars is over, the surviving veterans will march with the veterans of the Civil and Spanish wars to the cemeteries in memory of the comrades whose graves may be in England, sunny France, or destroyed Belgium.

Nor will these graves in foreign lands be forgotten. The British Tommy nor the French Poilu will not forget the comrade in arms who fought at their side that the world might be freed from Kaiserism. Oh, no. These war worn veterans of France and Britain and Belgium and Italy will have cause to remember with affection the dead comrade, who fought for the freedom of mankind. They, too, will march to the "cities of their dead" and deck with flowers the grave of the comrade who gave his life in the cause of humanity.

So our Memorial Day is destined to grow. As the custom has been adopted by all, civilian as well as veteran in our own broad land since the days of the Civil war, so will the observance of the day be extended to embrace the civilized world, for

all mankind will have cause to remember the deeds which their boys and our boys are now doing on the blood stained battlefields of Europe.

In America, Memorial Day has come to be a day devoted to teaching lessons of patriotism. Not only are our thoughts directed in loving memory of those who died that "a government of the people, by the people, for the people" should not perish from the earth, but our duty as citizens to preserve what the living and dead veterans won, is taught as well. Let us hope that our English, French, Italian and Belgian comrades and friends will teach like lessons of patriotism in their home lands and ever keep the home fires burning, with the thought that all mankind are alike interested in maintaining a world democracy, that men and women may be free to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Let us hope that the peoples of all nations will remember the enormous cost of blood and treasure which has been expended in the past and which is now being devoted without limit to destroy autocracy, to destroy the selfish idea of the divine right of kings to rule, and to establish the divine right of the freedom of mankind, to be governed by no man or class of men without their own consent.

No war is justifiable unless it is for the purpose of making men free. All wars in which the United States has engaged, with one exception, has been for this purpose. This is the great cause of the present war. And when all men are free and have gained the right of self government, then wars will cease. When men have secured the right to govern themselves they will not deny that right to others.

So let us perpetuate Memorial Day and remember with loving affection the dead in all lands who died to make men free, that they and we and all mankind may enjoy the privileges which Nature and Nature's God intended we should. Let us extend the custom of observance of Memorial Day until it embraces the people of all lands; in one universal thought among all nations that all men of a right, are and should be free, equal and entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

AMERICAN PATRIOTISM

The American people may be said to be somewhat difficult to arouse to the importance of a national crisis, as at the present time, for instance. But when they are aroused they come with an irresistible force. When a patriotic presentation of duty is made to the average American citizen, a duty in defense of the nation, the response is rarely lacking.

President Wilson was undoubtedly right when he delayed our participation in the war as long as possible. He knew that the people must be fully aroused to the danger which was facing civilization by the world's greatest enemy of mankind before they would generally endorse the war. If war had been declared immediately after the sinking of the Lusitania, it is doubtful if a majority of the American people would have given their support to it. But after atrocity after atrocity had been committed, and after President Wilson had failed to adjust matters with diplomacy, war was declared, with the entire American people practically behind the declaration.

When the first call for troops was made, men from almost every occupation and profession promptly rallied to the colors. When the first call for a Liberty Loan from the people was made, the quota was largely oversubscribed. Likewise, the second and third calls.

When the Red Cross asked the people for a hundred million dollars to carry on its work, the amount called for, and more, was supplied

within a few days. The same patriotic response for the Y. M. C. A. and the second Red Cross call was as promptly answered overwhelmingly.

When it was announced that England and France and Italy must have wheat and only the United States could supply it, the American people willingly eat corn bread and shipped this wheat.

When all of the allied nations asked for munitions of war and to borrow money with which to pay for them, their wants were promptly supplied. When the selective draft law was enacted and men called to the colors, every call has been responded to as patriotically as if they had volunteered.

It is doubtful if the war would have been won without the help in munitions, money, food and men which America has supplied and is supplying in unstinted quantities.

Certainly, America will materially shorten the war. American ships, American food, American money and American men mean more to the world today than ever before. Indeed, the Kaiser would very nearly have brought England to her knees with his submarines had America refused her aid.

Nor are American resources being greatly taxed as yet by the war demands. If necessary, we can supply ten millions of men, arm and equip them and send them "over there." The Kaiser made the mistake of his life when he practically forced America into the war. Because the American people were so busily engaged in making money he thought we could not be provoked into going to war, especially with his boasted invincible war machine. But he has found to his sorrow that America could lay aside the industries of peace for those of war. He will also find that it is characteristic of the American people that when they undertake a job they will not quit until the job is finished, no matter what the cost may be.

The patriotism of the American people is equal to any emergency. Slow to become involved in war, and slow to be awakened to the necessity of war, they are not slow when the die is cast. And American troops, though taken from the field, the shop and the counting room, are not a foe to be despised. England and Spain and Mexico know the intrepidity of the American soldier too well. Neither of these nations would have spoken in ridicule of the Yankee soldier as the Kaiser is said to have spoken. Oh, no. As England and France have welcomed our boys "over there" because they know the value of the assistance of the American troops, so is the Kaiser forced to know their prowess and invincibility. He, too, when this war is over, will have learned to respect the American soldier and sailor. Our boys "over there" and yet to go will deliver the goods, never fear. They know that every dollar and every man, woman and child in their home land are loyally and patriotically behind them in this fight for humanity.

It will be somewhat puzzling to the general public to conceive what kind of a campaign Senator McNary and ex-Governor West will make for the senatorial toga, beginning with March 4, next year. When we remember the proposition made by the ex-governor that all candidates, including himself, retire from the primary campaign in favor of Senator McNary, we must conclude that the senator is satisfactory to the ex-governor and we cannot expect that the ex-governor will campaign as vigorously against Senator McNary as he would have campaigned against Mr. Stanfield had he been the Republican nominee. Yet when Mr. West accepted the candidacy he assumed the responsibility of en-

deavoring to have himself elected. Many of ex-Governor West's friends will be satisfied if Senator McNary shall be elected, and it is also fair to assume that the Stanfield supporters want neither McNary nor West. They think both are tarred with the same stick. However, as the Jefferson Review says, "the prescription is labeled and the directions say 'take it.' " So there you are. Most of us will say "bully" if either is elected.

Walter Pierce, democratic candidate for governor, will be found to be a much stronger candidate before the people than his vote at the primary election would indicate. Governor Withycombe, on the other hand, will be much weaker before the people than his primary vote indicates. When Mr. Pierce's character as a public man is thoroughly investigated it will gain him strength and when Governor Withycombe is thoroughly sifted it is sure to lose him votes. In fact, the summer may develop a veritable "hoss" race for the governor's chair.

Deputy Sheriff J. R. Frum, now that he has been eliminated from politics, will enlist in the army. The Tribune is informed. But he fears his pay will be small and his grub scanty should he be required to subsist on the proceeds of the Liberty bonds which his late competitors subscribed for.

A great many of our exchanges send two copies of their publications to this office, one addressed to The Santiam News and the other to The Tribune. One year ago the Santiam News ceased to exist, other than as merged with The Scio Tribune. This paper now owns the presses, type, good will, etc., of the News and one copy of our exchanges is sufficient for our needs.

Bills are out for the thirtieth pioneer picnic at Brownsville on June 5, 6 and 7. Also for the forty-sixth Oregon pioneers meet and the Indian war veterans in Portland June 20, the veterans' business meeting being on June 19.

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