

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

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

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AMERICA IN THE WAR.

England, France and Italy now freely admit practically that America has saved the war for the allies and Germany now knows that her defeat will be due to American man power, munitions, ships and food products. Indeed without America's aid it is quite probable that the kaiser would now be dictating terms to the allied powers.

When German propaganda undermined Russia and destroyed her military power, which enabled the kaiser to withdraw a major portion of his troops from his eastern front and reinforce the western front with them it gave him a superior man power over the allied armies and brave as they are, beat them back both toward Paris and the North sea. Seemingly all that the English and French armies could do was to stubbornly fall back in good order, contesting every inch of the ground. But American troops had arrived and were rapidly being prepared to participate on the firing line. Their number was rapidly increasing week by week until the man power of the allied arms was superior to that of the Germans.

The second battle of the Marne resulted favorably to the Huns, but when the third battle of this small but important river was on, the Huns found the "Rainbow" and other American divisions confronting them. Being driven back somewhat General Liggett did not fancy giving ground and proposed commencing an offensive. It was intimated to him that his men were as yet unable to make an offensive successful. He replied: "The hell we can't! Wherever I tell my boys to go, they go." And his boys did go, and the French and English as well.

They are still going and going so rapidly that they do not give the Huns time to form a line of defense strong enough to stop their going. So desperate do our American boys fight that the crown prince, commanding the Huns, placed his very best and as he thought unwhippable troops in front of and opposed to the American boys. But these Americans, the soldiers which the kaiser said could not fight, keep going and the picked German battalions, who boasted that they could not be licked, are going too; but they are going in front of our boys in spite of the most desperate fighting of the war, that is to say what is left of them.

The Tribune will not say that the Hun army has started on its march to Berlin. Yet as the best force the kaiser seems to be able to muster is unable to stop the going of the allied armies, the roadway to Berlin seems about the only direction the

Huns can travel except it be as prisoners of war going to the rear.

Nor is the fighting quality of our American boys the only surprise to their French and English comrades. The rapidity with which huge docks, warehouses and railroads are constructed seems to almost paralyze those slow going Europeans. They were wholly unacquainted with American speed. They had never seen so many labor saving devices and huge lifting cranes as the Americans employed.

America one year ago was almost wholly unprepared for war. But in this one year she has made as much progress as England had made in three years. Even Secretary of War Baker, until his trip to Europe, did not seem to realize the necessity of speeding up. But when he returned things began to move. He displaced men failing to get results with such men as Schwab, Ryan and others. Then things began to move with a speed surprising to even the Americans themselves.

In one year the American man power seems to be fairly well organized and we are manufacturing war material, airplanes, ships, etc., at a rate never before known in the world. We are conserving food and doing it willingly in a manner which is even surprising to ourselves. Our troopships are transporting Yankee soldiers at the rate of 3,000,000 per year to the battle zone and without loss from the kaiser's only sea power his U-boats.

And this is America's accomplishment in one year where many of the machines to manufacture war material had to be made, shipyards established, etc. One year ago Henry Ford was building nothing but automobiles. Now he is building his "Eagle" U-boats at the rate of one each day and they have a speed of nearly 40 miles per hour when under full headway at sea.

No wonder France and England are surprised and overjoyed at the tremendous energy and ability of their American ally. No wonder the kaiser and his war lords are beginning to read the handwriting on the wall. They know deep in their hearts that their doom is sealed despite the dastardly frightfulness they have employed—a frightfulness which only makes our American boys over there fight harder and the Americans at home gear up their speed in supplying the munitions and food with which to fight. The kaiser did not know the power of the giant he aggravated into war. He knows now.

PRISON GOVERNMENT LAX.

When Governor Withycombe assumed the gubernatorial office nearly four years ago, he found the penitentiary had been placed under the administration of the state board of control. This did not suit the governor who insisted that the state prison be turned over to himself for management. The other members of the board quietly acquiesced to his wishes. Consequently any rules, regulations, etc., which Governor Withycombe might desire or his selection of penitentiary officials have been endorsed without question by the associate members of the board. The result is the penitentiary management has been in a muddled condition since.

First, the governor's pet flax industry came under the spotlight and a new manager had to be appointed. Then the prisoners began to raise Cain and the governor sent out the S. O. S. signal. No less than three superintendents have been placed in charge since the governor has had control. The last, Mr. Murphy, seems unable to keep the prison birds placed in his care. At least his trustees seem to skip whenever they desire and the prison superin-

tendent, guards and the governor's state police seem powerless to catch the runaways.

Probably there have been more escapes during Governor Withycombe's administration and fewer apprehensions than during any preceding administration. The Tribune will not undertake to say what is the cause of the seeming failure in the conduct of the pen. We can only cite results.

Governor Withycombe now seems inclined to condemn the trusty system. He thinks not more than 25 per cent of the trustees are incurably bad. But on the account of the bad ones the other 75 per cent should be shorn of the trusty privilege, he argues.

We are inclined to think the governor's present frame of mind is correct. If a prisoner proves himself worthy of the trusty privilege he might as well be paroled and sent home to remain during good behavior.

In the case of Bennett Thompson and several other murderers, the mistake was made when the state abolished capital punishment. What does the life timer care for the risk he assumes when he breaks out or if a trusty walks away? A little punishment in the way of bread and water and a dark cell has no terror for them if the liberty attempt proves abortive. They would be willing to undergo far greater risks to be free.

A campaign will now probably be pulled off to create sentiment to build a new pen. No doubt a new one is needed to make these state guests (?) more comfortable. The building has served fairly well in the past and other governors and superintendents have been able to prevent escapes. The building could not have become simply a makeshift prison in four years.

Simply an iron rule to control these law breakers should be adopted. A prison should be made a place of punishment to be dreaded by he who contemplates breaking the law. The sooner society concludes that murderers and thieves cannot be reformed and the punishment for crime made so severe that it will be deterrent, the better. Criminals cannot be controlled by kindness. They can be ruled thru fear only and the punishment for crime should be made severe and certain.

Is it possible that the penitentiary authorities are secretly conniving in the escape of prisoners from the state penitentiary for the purpose of manufacturing public opinion in favor of erecting a new building in which to cage our state boarders? The Portland News says there are 14 escapes from the prison, 13 now at large. Yet the prison officials are making no great effort to capture them. A new prison is not needed so badly as new officials who will perform the duties for which the state pays them. Also a new governor would not probably permit such lax discipline as seems to prevail down there. No prison, no matter how secure, would amount to anything more than the present ent buildings if the convicts are made trustees and permitted to roam about Salem at will. It is a public official's duty to do the best he can with the means at hand. The present management down there needs fixing in some way.

The Albany Democrat is getting to be quite a purloiner of news items from the columns of The Tribune. We notice two thefts in last Friday's edition of that paper. We might prosecute the Democrat editor and have him sent down to Salem. But what's the use? Murphy would make a trusty of him and he simply would walk away. So we will just have to grin and bear it; or, we might do some purloining from that paper in order to even matters up.

Governor Is Not the Legislature.

The Tribune concedes the governor is not the law making power. No such conclusion could be drawn from our article which the Oregonian uses as a text for remarks. But the governor can and does exercise an influence over the activities of the legislature when he choose to do so. This is why The Tribune criticized Governor Withycombe's activities when the road bond bill was pending. If he will, the governor can wield a larger influence on legislative matters than any member of that body. Governor Withycombe's failure to influence the objectionable features of the bonding measure submitted to the people is the cause of what The Tribune offered.

We were informed at first hand that the governor was favorable to giving the people choice between bonds and a direct tax. But he changed his mind over night in favor of the bonds. Why this sudden change? Certainly some of the Portland bunch had been giving orders to the governor. Portland wanted the bonds. Portland furnished the votes to carry the bonding measure, costing \$6000 or about that amount. Of course Portland is pleased and the Oregonian is pleased with the activities of the good roads commission. Their pet project, the Columbia highway, has been completed. This was the secret purpose of the measure hatched at a banquet in Portland and by Portland people. The rest of the state can go hang so far as road matters are concerned. Outside of Portland the road bond measure was defeated. Therefore it is not the state but Portland which is responsible for the \$6,000,000 bond measure. Governor Withycombe did not raise his hand to prevent Portland's assault on the state treasury to build a joy riding boulevard from that city to Seaside. This is why The Tribune opposed the bonding measure. If the proceeds of the bonds were being expended on roads thru out the state then The Tribune might be silent, yet regard the measure as being unwise and premature.

THE TRUSTY SYSTEM.

Last Thursday, just after The Tribune was off the press, Warden Murphy and a penitentiary guard were in town making inquiries for three trusty prisoners who had just walked away the evening previous. Counting these nine trustees had eloped during the three previous days.

Something must be wrong with our penitentiary when so many of the inmates refuse to stay put. Eleven escapes in less than two weeks is evidence that something is wrong either with the management or building.

The fact that a large majority of the escapes are trustees would indicate that the trusty system should be abandoned. In fact, when a prisoner by good conduct earns the privilege of being made a trusty he could with the same propriety be released on parole. The parole is but making the trusty business broader and would not involve the expense of rewards and trouble to the penitentiary guards and state police.

The steel hull of a 12,000-ton steamer was completed in 24 days and launched. This is record for hulls of this class for any shipyard in the world. The vessel was launched from the Alameda yards, San Francisco.

Four escapes from the state pen have been returned. They are Thurber who escaped with Thompson, Kelly, Armstrong and Jones. Thompson, like Baldwin, seems to have well, disappeared.

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